

Table 2-1. Summary of Policy Agendas Project Datasets.

Dataset	Period Covered	Source	Unit of Analysis	Number of Cases	Number of Variables
Congressional Hearings	1946–1994	CIS Abstracts	Hearing	67,291	20
US Public Laws	1948–1994	<i>CQ Almanac</i> Appendix	Public Law	16,318	17
Congressional Quarterly	1948–1994	<i>CQ Almanac</i>	Story	12,583	37
US Budget Authority	1947–1997	<i>Budget of the United States</i>	OMB sub-function	115	1
<i>New York Times</i>	1947–1994	<i>NYT Index</i>	Story abstracts	36,403	20

Table 2-2. Major Topic Categories.

1. Macroeconomics
2. Civil Rights
3. Health
4. Agriculture
5. Labor, Immigration, and Employment
6. Education
7. Environment
8. Energy
10. Transportation
12. Law, Crime, and Family Issues
13. Social Welfare
14. Community Development and Housing
15. Banking, Finance and Domestic Commerce
16. Defense
17. Space, Science, Technology, and Communications
18. Foreign Trade
19. International Affairs
20. Federal Government Operations
21. Public Lands and Water Management

Additional Major Topics Used for *New York Times Index* Only

24. State and Local Government Administration
 26. Weather and Natural Disasters
 27. Fires
 28. Arts and Entertainment
 29. Sports and Recreation
 30. Death Notices
 31. Churches and Religion
 99. Other, Miscellaneous, and Human Interest
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Table 2-3. Health Care Subtopics.

300	General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics)
301	Health Care Reform, Health Care Costs, Insurance Costs and Availability
303	Medicare and Medicaid
306	Regulation of Prescription Drugs, Medical Devices, and Medical Procedures
307	Health Facilities Construction and Regulation, Public Health Service Issues
309	Mental Illness and Mental Retardation
310	Medical Fraud, Malpractice, and Physician Licensing Requirements
311	Elderly Health Issues
312	Infants, Children, and Immunization
313	Health Manpower Needs and Training Programs
315	Military Health Care
332	Alcohol Abuse and Treatment
333	Tobacco Abuse, Treatment, and Education
334	Illegal Drug Abuse, Treatment, and Education
349	Specific Diseases
398	Research and Development
399	Other

Table 2-4. Major Spending Classifications Used by OMB.

Code	Title
050	National Defense
150	International Affairs
250	General Science, Space, and Technology
270	Energy
300	Natural Resources and Environment
350	Agriculture
370	Commerce and Housing Credit
400	Transportation
450	Community and Regional Development
500	Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services
550	Health
570	Medicare
600	Income Security
650	Social Security
700	Veterans Benefits and Services
750	Administration of Justice
800	General Government
900	Net Interest
950	Undistributed Offsetting Receipts

Sources: See Appendix A, Table A-2.

Table 2-5. Selected Textual Summaries from Four Datasets.

Topic Code	Entry Summary
Hearings	
301	Federal health care spending
301	Health care reform and the role of medical technologies
301	Health maintenance organizations and hospitals providing managed health care
301	Health care access problems of disadvantaged and minority persons
301	Hospital financial practices and issues
CQ Stories	
301	Minority Health: a non-controversial draft bill to authorize at least \$144 million in fiscal 1994 to improve the health of minorities.
301	Alternative Health-Care Proposals: alternative plans made by Congress as opposed to the Clinton plan
301	Health Care Debate Takes Off: Congress gets up to speed on the complex economics and policies driving the US health care system
301	Health care program with included tax increase on the wealthy.
301	Health care reform bill to impose national limits on health spending and expanded access to health insurance for pregnant women, children and those who worked for small businesses.
Public Laws	
301	Amend the Public Health Service Act to provide an improvement in the health of members of minority groups
301	Provide federal assistance in establishing and expanding health maintenance organizations.
301	Revise and extend the program for the establishment and expansion of the health maintenance organizations.
301	Enact the Health Maintenance Organization Amendments of 1978.
New York Times Index	
3	Pres. Clinton's plan to save \$35 billion from Medicare over next four years
3	Column article on both governmental and employers' long-term care policies and state intervention
3	Cost of health services should be distributed uniformly in all the states by financing it nationally
3	Hillary Clinton will appear before five committees of congress during hearings on Admin's health care plan
3	Letter from Western Pennsylvania Blue Cross executive officer explains how Penn. keeps percentage of people without health insurance under 10 percent

Table 2-6. Types of Information Systems.

Purpose of the System	Substantive Base of the Initial Indexing System	Example
Information Retrieval	Low	THOMAS, other key-word based systems
Pattern Recognition	Medium	Nominate
Trend Recognition	High, in one issue-area	CPI, other economic indicators
Parallel Trend Recognition	High, in many issue-areas	Policy Agendas Project