Examples of previous research topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Data source(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the death penalty deter murders?</td>
<td>U.S. Justice Department crime statistics; Book of the States</td>
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<td>Are more senior members of Congress able to bring more “pork barrel” spending to their districts?</td>
<td>Rice University data set on federal spending disaggregated to CD level; Congressional Directory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is housing quality racially segregated in Boston?</td>
<td>Census bureau data</td>
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<tr>
<td>What role does congressional committee politics play in the geographic allocation of federal spending on science and technology</td>
<td>Rice University data set on federal spending disaggregated to CD level; Congressional Directory</td>
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<td>Do political contributions to congressional candidates from PACs interested in gay rights increase representatives’ support for those rights?</td>
<td>FEC data; Roll call data (ICPSR)</td>
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<td>Did the increase in the drinking age in the early 1980s reduce drunk-driving fatalities among teenagers?</td>
<td>Book of the States; Bureau of Justice Statistics data</td>
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<td>What factors influence Latino immigrants to naturalize?</td>
<td>Private survey</td>
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<td>Do congressional districts with more members of environmentalist groups elect more environmentalist members of Congress?</td>
<td>Sierra Club membership data; ICPSR roll call data</td>
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<td>What explains the number of home runs hit each year by major league baseball teams?</td>
<td>Baseball statistical almanacs; SABR home page</td>
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<td>Do actions taken by the U.S. to punish terrorism increase or decrease the number of terrorist actions aimed at the US?</td>
<td>Coding of NY Times articles; Rand Corporation terrorism yearbook</td>
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<td>Are some sports agents able to negotiate better contracts for their clients than others?</td>
<td>Basketball statistical almanacs; client lists from agents</td>
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