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Corruption in metropolis

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Corruption in the United States

The federal system of American governance was intended to impede the gross misuse of power; however, corruption is as much a part of our system today as it is around the world.

This research reflects on the institutions and systems that may cause or adjudicate corrupt behavior in local government. The author contrasts cross-nations and cross-states hypotheses and includes U.S. county specific variables.

The author chose to use a Generalized Linear Model in order to express the likelihood of corruption occurring when independent variables are present.

The study sample includes:
- 50 counties with charges filed against a local official
- 50 randomly sampled counties with no charges filed.
- Charges were filed by the Department of Justice between 2001 and 2006.

### Corruption in U.S. Counties

- What environmental and institutional factors impact local government corruption?

#### Institutional Factors:
- Structure
- Size of Government
- Elections

#### Environmental Factors:
- Development
- Educated Citizenry
- Employment

### Data

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- 50 randomly sampled counties with no charges filed.
- Charges were filed by the Department of Justice between 2001 and 2006.

### Measurement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2 Structure</th>
<th>Model 3 Election</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>1.333 (4.733)*</td>
<td>1.257 (3.841)*</td>
<td>1.140 (3.097)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Employment</td>
<td>1.120 (6.310)**</td>
<td>1.824 (7.056)**</td>
<td>1.081 (4.116)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanity</td>
<td>-1.166 (3.616)*</td>
<td>-1.167 (1.156)</td>
<td>-.130 (0.229)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Findings

County corruption is more likely a function of environmental factors than institutional factors, similar to findings in developing countries.

Strong relationship between low-employment and corruption implies corrupt officials may be a product of a poor economy or react to the poor economy. Further research is necessary to clarify this interesting finding.

The possibility of audit and evaluation by the federal government is not a deterrent. Instead, the audit process may be a suitable tool to identify corruption.

A county manager may decrease the likelihood of corruption.