

World Handbook of Political Indicators IV: Preliminary Data (4/2002)

J. Craig Jenkins and Charles Lewis Taylor
Ohio State University and Virginia Polytechnic & State University

The World Handbook of Political Indicators IV builds on the events data tradition of the previous editions of the World Handbook of Political and Social Indicators to provide data on patterns of civil conflict and political instability globally. This provides an outline of the indicators and some basic information on this preliminary edition of World Handbook (hereafter WHIV) data. It is important to underscore that these are preliminary data that have not been validated by us in terms of event form reliability beyond those tests conducted by the constructors of the data—Virtual Research Associates, Inc. (www.vranet.com). VRA is the private company that has developed a patented parser (Knowledge Manager™), which was used to construct the associated data set. While VRA has conducted internal tests and we regard these data as of high quality suitable for scientific purposes, later editions of WHIV data may depart from these estimates due to improvements in the parser and the event protocol definitions that define specific events. (For further information on Knowledge Manager™ or VRA, contact Doug Bond at Doug.Bond@vranet.com or Joe Bond at Joe.Bond@vranet.com). It is also important to note that the event forms used in this version are at a higher level of generality than those that will be used in the final edition of WHIV. For the most part, these data are aggregated to the “cue” level. WHIV will have more refined breakdowns of event forms as well as more specific details on types of actors. At this point, we anticipate that WHIV data will become available by winter 2006 depending on the outcomes of reliability tests and data management tasks in the coming year.

This version of the data covers annual estimates of total event counts, action counts, direct (i.e. contentious) actions, violent and forceful actions and then breakdowns by civil vs. state sector actors. It also includes proportions (or percentages) of action events relative to the total country count of actions, a breakout by the basic categories in the IDEA data system (Integrated Data for Event Analysis, see www.vranet.com/idea), and summary measures of country stability indicated by conflict carrying capacity and “country stability” (Jenkins and Bond 2001), Goldstein weighted means of events, and a breakout of international vs. domestic events. IDEA is a comprehensive event framework, which includes 4 levels of event form (ranging from the distinction between events and actions, down to very specific events, such as “protest demonstrations” and “property seizure”). Cue level events, such as reported in this preliminary data, are level 2 events in the IDEA hierarchy. For further information on the IDEA event hierarchy, see the above mentioned website.

Below are the more specific meanings of the variable headings provided in WHIV

All Events = count of all events coded by Knowledge Manager™ based on the protocol definitions in place in spring 2002.

All Actions = count of all actions (and thereby removing statements about, e.g. weather, market status, etc.)

Direct Actions = count of contentious or extra-institutional actors regardless of actor.

All Violent Actions = count of actions involving direct use of violence or the threat thereof.

All Forceful Actions = count of actions involved direct use of force (narrower than violence).

Normalized Actions = percent of events that are actions (actions/events X 100)

Normalized Direct Actions = percent of actions that are direct (direct actions/all actions X 100)

Normalized Violent Actions = percent of actions that are violent (violent actions/all actions X 100)

Normalized Force = percent of actions that entail force (force actions/all actions X 100)

All Civil Events = count of all event involving civil (i.e. non-state) actors

All Civil Actions = count of all actions by civil actors

All Civil Direct Actions = count of all direct actions by civil actors

All Civil Violent Actions = count of all violent actions by civil actors

Civil Force = count of all forceful actions by civil actors

Normalized Civil Actions = percent of civil events that are civil actions (civil actions/civil events X 100)

Normalized Civil Direct Actions = percent of civil actions that are direct (civil direct actions/civil actions X 100)

Normalized Civil Violent Actions = percent of civil actions that are violent (violent civil actions/civil actions X 100)

Normalized Civil Force Actions = percent of civil actions that entail force (force civil actions / civil actions X 100)

All Government Events = count of events involving government (i.e. state sector) actors

All Government Actions = count of actions by government actors

Government Direct Actions = count of direct actions by government actors

Government Violent Actions = count of violent actions by government actors

Government Force Actions = count of force use by government actors

Normalized Government Actions = percent of government events that are actions (government actions/government events X 100)

Normalized Government Direct Actions = percent of government actions that are direct actions (government direct actions/government actions X 100)

Normalized Government Violence Actions = percent of government actions that are violent (government violent actions/government actions X 100)

Normalized Government Force Actions = percent of government actions that involved force (government force actions/government actions X 100)

Conflict Carrying Capacity = Normalized Civil Direct Actions X Normalized Government

Direct Actions X Normalized Violent Actions/Contentious Actions

CS = curvilinear version of CCC score adjusted to capture the “slippery slope” of conflict and the reciprocal interaction of civil and governmental contentious actions

Sanction Rating = ??

Violence Rating = ?

Threats = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Threat”

Demonstrations = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Demonstrate”

Reduction = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Reduction”

Yield = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Yield”

Comment = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Comment”

Consult = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Consult”

Approve = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Approve”

Promise = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Promise”

Grant = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Grant”

Reward = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Reward”

Agree = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Agree”

Request = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Request”
Propose = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Propose”

Reject = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Reject”

Accuse = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Accuse”

Protest = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Protest”

Deny = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Deny”

Demand = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Demand”

Warn = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Warn”

Threaten = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Threaten”

Demonstrate = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Demonstrate”

Sanction = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Sanction”

Expel = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Expel”

Seize = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Seize”

Force = percent of actions in IDEA cue category for “Force”

Goldstein = mean Goldstein weight of all events (using Goldstein 1991 weighting scheme)

Domestic Conflict = sum of Goldstein weighted conflict events for domestic events

Domestic Cooperation = sum of Goldstein weighted cooperation events for domestic events

International Conflict = sum of Goldstein weighted conflict events for international events

International Cooperation = sum of Goldstein weighted cooperation events for international events

Average Domestic Conflict = mean Goldstein weight of domestic conflict events

Average Domestic Cooperation = mean Goldstein weight of domestic cooperation events

Average International Conflict = mean Goldstein weight of international conflict events

Average International Cooperation = mean Goldstein weight of international cooperation events

Date = mean date of the year in question (i.e. 7/1)