The WomanStats Database

Organization, Accessibility and Cross-Compatibility
WomanStats: Introduction

• Variables and scales.
  • 296 variables: Practice, Law, Data, and Sales
• Access
  • 100% free access – thanks to many generous donors
• Coverage
  • All nations with over 200K in populations are included
• Data Sources
  • Gov, IGO, NGO, Journals, Newspapers, Interviews, In Situ, etc
• Data Types
  • Qualitative – Quantitative, Urban vs. Rural, Regional, Religion
• Standardization
  • All data sources are broken up into their respective variables
Measures of Security

Following Martha Nussbaum’s lead (1995, 2000), we are most interested in the following 9 clusters of variables concerning the status of women:

- Women’s Physical Security
- Women’s Economic Security
- Women’s Legal Security
- Women’s Security in the Community
- Women’s Security in the Family
- Security for Maternity
- Women’s Security Through Voice
- Security Through Societal Investment in Women
- Women’s Security in the State
**Specific Variables of Interest**

Of the 300 variables available in the WS Database the follow may be especially interesting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of Marriage</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Dependence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Crimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dowry Related Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking and prostitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femicide/Infanticide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Harassment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a woman able to insist that her husband wear a condom?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equal access to health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land ownership and property rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does a women have control over her fecundity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce, custody and inheritance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scales of Interest

- Female Genital Mutilation
- Differential Access to Health Care
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault (Incidence and Conviction)
- Rape Assault (Incidence and Conviction)
- Murder
- Honor Killings
- Infanticide and Sex-Selective Abortion
- Polygyny

- States of Concern to the International Community
- Women’s Physical Security
- Inequity in Family Law
- Trafficking
- Discrepancy Between Law and Practice
- Required Dress Codes
- Intermingling in Public
- Breastfeeding and Maternal Protection (Europe)
- Income Discrepancy (Europe)
Scale Results

Gov Compliance CEDAW  Incidence of Polygyny  Family Law Equality

Physical Security  Trafficking in Women  Sex Ratios
Reliability and Validity

- Inter-coder Reliability
  - Recruited only the highest social science performers.
  - Rigorous 3-month training process.
  - 95-100% Reliability score.
  - Weekly training and methodology course.
  - Data is continuously combed for errors or inaccuracies.

Validity
- Only sources approved by the PI’s are combed for data.
- No blogs, or wiki sources.
- If validity is questionable it is not approved.
- Full bibliographic data is provided for verification.
Accuracy

Especially difficult to assess cross-nationally.

- Does high reported rape mean that there is a significant problem?
  - or high levels of enforcement?
  - or both or neither?
- Definitions (for example)
  - Is it considered rape if a husband is the perpetrator?
  - Is rape a separate crime, or part of domestic violence & assault?
- Reporting
  - If the woman does not testify can the State still prosecute on her behalf?
  - What about cultural perception - does the woman even consider it wrong?
Statistics

What types of statistical methods are possible?
- The majority of the scales are 5 point ordinal scales.
- Most are normally distributed or can be transformed into a normal distribution.

Statistical methods
- Correlation analysis
- Ordinal Logistic Regression
- Multinomial Logistic Regression
- And in a few months - time series analysis.
- Structural Equation Modeling
Theoretical Framework

Inter and Intra State Violence

Violent Societal Norms

Women as Inferior “Other”

Domestic Repression

Discrimination and Violence Against women
Published Findings

- **Baker Journal: Women’s physical security and state violence**
  - 66% of countries with high levels of physical insecurity for women are also engaged in international conflict (vs 51%)
  - 3% will Escalate to war (vs 2.6% for all others)
  - 23% will be first to use force (vs. 19%)
  - Explains 15% of likelihood of going to war

- **International Security**
  - Women’s Security is inextricably linked to state security.
  - More women have died in non-war violence than during active military conflict

- **Columbia University Press (forthcoming book)**
  - *Sex, War and World Peace: Details of theoretical framework*

- **Journal of Peace Research**
  - Gender Violence is a better predictor of democracy, wealth and development than GEM, GDI, and CIRI