BlackEconomics.org®

"Mini Dataset: Socioeconomic and Political Profiles of I-20X States"

The topic dataset covers the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. It resulted from two earlier BlackEconomics.org submissions: "Is Mississippi Configured for Black Self-Determination?," which provides substantial statistics on Mississippi; and "Moving Up the Economic Track," which discusses Black American efforts to develop and construct a high-speed rail project along the I-20X corridor that is expected to span the five states.[1]

The mini dataset features 23 socioeconomic and political variables for each state. We begin with Black American People representation in the states' populations to establish a measure against which to assess "representativeness." The following groupings of variables are included:

1. Top five cities by population (Black American People percentage in the population)
2. Black representation in the workforce of state governments.
3. Black representation in states' public schools as students and as employees.
4. State academic performance on 8th grade standardized mathematics and reading assessments.
5. States' entrepreneurship (employer and nonemployer firms) and the percentage of Black American People ownership of the firms.
6. Black representation in state houses (Governors, Lieutenant Governors, House of Representatives, and Senators).
7. Black representation on states' Supreme Courts.
8. Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the states.
9. Blacks in states' higher education systems as students and as employees.

While this mini dataset may be used for a variety of purposes, we urge users to make assessments of representativeness. That is, consider assessing the extent to which Black American People participate and capture our fair share of opportunities with respect to these socioeconomic and political variables at a rate or level that is commensurate with our representation in the population.

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[1] The latter submission referenced the Finley Group, Inc., whose President, Mr. Richard Finley, suggested the development of the mini dataset of state profiles that is discussed in this Note after reading the former submission.