

Web Appendix: Data Sources

The annual state-by-state GDP data and deflators were obtained from the BEA web site:

<http://www.bea.gov/regional>.

The BEA provides the following cautionary note:

“There is a discontinuity in the GDP by state time series at 1997, where the data change from SIC industry definitions to NAICS industry definitions. This discontinuity results from many sources, including differences in source data and different estimation methodologies. In addition, the NAICS-based GDP by state estimates are consistent with U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) while the SIC-based GDP by state estimates are consistent with U.S. gross domestic income (GDI). This data discontinuity may affect both the levels and the growth rates of the GDP by state estimates. Users of the GDP by state estimates are strongly cautioned against appending the two data series in an attempt to construct a single time series of GDP by state estimates for 1963 to 2007.”

To splice the two series together, I used the one year of overlap (1997) to calculate a factor based on the ratio of the two different values for GDP, for each state. Then, I multiplied the remaining years (1998-2008) by the state-specific factor.

The youth share was constructed based on information from the US Census, available for both census and non-census years for various age groups at:

<http://www.census.gov/popest/archives/index.html>.

When different Census data sources contained different population estimates for the same year, the most recent numbers were used.

The birth rates were obtained from assorted volumes of the United States Vital Statistics as compiled by the US Department of Health and Human Services. All data for the birth rate variables can be found on the Center for Disease Control web site at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/vsus/vsus.htm>.

I used the unadjusted birth rates to keep consistency over time.

The Current Population Survey March supplement was downloaded from the Minnesota Population Center web site at:

<http://usa.ipums.org/usa>.