PREDICTORS OF FY2010 FEDERAL SPENDING IN THE UNITED STATES

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This quantitative study investigates total federal spending per capita and the various major categories of federal spending across the American states for FY 2010. The demographic, socio-economic, and political predictors of per capita federal spending across the states are explored through multivariate regression analysis. The key independent variables in this study are population density, poverty rate, percentage 65 and older, bureaucrats per capita, tax capacity, seniority, and the percentage of the vote for Obama. Total federal spending per capita and the major categories of federal spending for FY2010 across the 50 states serve as the dependent variables in this analysis. The multivariate regression analysis revealed bureaucrats per capita, population density, percentage of individuals 65 and older, House seniority, and percentage of votes for Obama were statistically significant. Furthermore, this study utilized ANOVA to test if region has played a declining role in the distribution of federal spending. The data analysis revealed region is explaining less of the variance in federal spending, and the disparity across regional divisions has been steadily declining since 1975.