

Comparison of Four Data Sets
Congress, the Press, and Political Accountability
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	First Data Set	Second Data Set	Third Data Set	Fourth Data Set
Unit of analysis	article	article	dyad ^a	citizen
Number of cases	8,003	2,175	242	675
Newspapers	25	12	67	36
Representatives	25	6	187	100
Articles	8,003	2,175	61,084	25,868
Variables:				
From original data	68	68	47	47
From secondary sources	6	6	51	51
From NES	-	-	-	2,196
Recoded	48	48	59	60
Process	3	3	8	12
TOTAL	125	125	165	2,366
Sample of newspapers	stratified random	random	nonrandom	nonrandom
Sample of representatives	random	random	complete	complete
Error correction	exhaustive	exhaustive	sampling	sampling
Articles coded for content	yes	yes	no	no

Note: a Representative/newspaper dyad (one newspaper covering one representative).

Sources: All information about newspaper coverage (1/1/93 to 11/8/94) was obtained in 1995 from the DataTimes division of the Dow Jones News Service and the Nexis service of Reed Elsevier's Lexis-Nexis. The fourth set is a merger of the third set and the 1994 National Election Study.