Obstetric Malpractice Data Codebook

STATENAT: State of occurrence (NCHS/CDC coding)


State: Name for STATENAT (string variable)

DATAYEAR: Year
• Years 1995 to 2004

Month: Month
  1 January to 12 December

Computed variables for # of obstetric-related malpractice suits, rate of obstetric-related suits, and average payment in obstetric-related suits using data from the National Practitioner Data Bank and CDC/Vital Statistics Data on births
• Separated out obstetric-related malpractice cases (N = 25,650 for 1990-2011 period)

Avepay: Average payment in OB-related malpractice suits with a judgment or settlement in the previous year in the state, adjusted into 2001 dollars
\textbf{Ttlbirths:} All births in state in previous year (based on CDC/Vital Statistics Data)

\textbf{TtlOBsuits:} # of OB-related malpractice suits in state in previous year

\textbf{Litig}

- Computed variable from 0 to 1
  - 0: Most plaintiff-friendly environment (no caps on damages, unreformed Joint and Several Liability rule, high number of suits and high average payouts in suits)
  - 1: Most physician-friendly environment (caps on damages, reformed Joint and Several Liability rule, low number of suits and low average payouts in suits)

- More details in Litigiousness Coding.xls