

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN DATASETS

Concepts	Measurement and Methods	Scope
How do the authors of the dataset define their variables?	How did the authors of the dataset create their variable? Are they combinations of other variables? If so, what method did they use to combine them?	How many countries are covered in the data?
Do they break concepts down into dimensions and indicators?	What sources did they use to build the dataset?	How many years?
Do you think they use the right definitions?	What type of variables do they create? Numeric? Categorical? Is the level of precision appropriate for the concept?	Does the scope change over time?
How do their indicators differ from the underlying concepts?	Did they use more than one expert to assess a variable? Did they cross-check their answers (measure inter-coder reliability)?	Does the scope change the results you might get from the data?
	Do they have formal estimates of error around their variables?	