

Aggregating the Results: Most and Least Corrupt States

What are the most and least corrupt states, taking all three government branches into account? Although there is always some information lost in aggregation, which is particularly important in the measurement of corruption, it is still an important question. We simply add the median scores of each government branch and calculate the aggregate score of a state. The table below presents the states whose aggregate scores are in the highest (i.e., most corrupt) and lowest (i.e., least corrupt) quartiles. With respect to illegal corruption, Arizona is perceived to be the most corrupt state, followed by a second group of states, which includes California and Kentucky, and third group that includes Alabama, Illinois, and New Jersey. Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, the Dakotas, and Vermont are perceived to be the least corrupt states, followed by a second group of states that includes Michigan and Oregon. Kentucky is not only perceived to be *illegally corrupt* but also *legally corrupt*. With respect to legal corruption, Kentucky is the most corrupt state followed by Illinois and Nevada while Massachusetts is the least corrupt state followed Michigan, Oregon, and Vermont. It is all bad news for Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, New Mexico, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania as their aggregate scores are in the highest quartiles of both illegal and legal corruption. Not so bad news for the Dakotas, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, Vermont, and Wyoming, which are perceived least corrupt both *illegally* and *legally*.

Most and Least Corrupt States

| Illegal Corruption | | Legal Corruption | |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Most Corrupt | Least Corrupt | Most Corrupt | Least Corrupt |
| Arizona | Idaho | Kentucky | Massachusetts |
| California | Maine | Illinois | Michigan |
| Kentucky | Massachusetts | Nevada | Oregon |
| Alabama | New Hampshire | Mississippi | Vermont |
| Illinois | North Dakota | New Jersey | Iowa |
| New Jersey | South Dakota | Alabama | Minnesota |
| | Vermont | | Nebraska |
| | Michigan | | |