Chapter 9 Questions and Exercises

As we noted in Chapter 7, one of the main sources of data about municipal governments is the US Census Bureau’s Census of Governments, conducted once every five years (in years ending in “2” and “7”). The amount of revenue collected by state and municipal governments within each state and the sources of this revenue are published in the Census of Governments’ report “Finances of Municipal and Township Governments.” The latest version (released in 2017) can be found at

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2017/econ/gov-finances/summary-tables.html>.

Using data from this source for any three states of your choosing, discuss the following issues—first for the state government and then for local governments in those states:

1. What percentage of the state revenue is spent on

* highways and roads
* air transportation
* parking facilities
* sea and inland port facilities

1. What percentage of local government revenue is spent on

* highways and roads
* air transportation
* parking facilities
* sea and inland port facilities

1. What percentage of state government revenue is spent on

* sewerage
* solid waste management
* parking facilities
* sea and inland port facilities
* water supply
* electric power
* gas supply

1. What percentage of local government revenue is spent on

* sewerage
* solid waste management
* parking facilities
* sea and inland port facilities
* water supply
* electric power
* gas supply

1. Do you find large differences in these percentages across the states you selected and local governments within them? What might explain these differences if you find them?