

ACLED — Latin America & Caribbean

2017–2026

Variable Codebook

ACLED — Latin America & Caribbean

Political violence, demonstrations, and strategic developments across Latin America and the Caribbean

N = 177,616 rows | 19 variables

Note: Unit of observation is the weekly aggregated cell: one row = one week × country × admin1 × event type. V-Dem and COW/trade variables are country-year measures merged onto all weekly rows for that country. Countries and territories not covered by V-Dem or COW appear as missing for those variables. Ocean and territory rows (e.g., Arctic Ocean, International Waters) are always missing these covariates.

ACLED (acledata.com) | V-Dem (v-dem.net) | COW Project (correlatesofwar.org)

Notes on Variable Coverage

Coverage varies by variable. The Coverage column uses the following symbols:

- ✓ All rows — present for every row in the dataset.
- ⚠ Partial — present for a subset of rows; reason shown in red.

Unit of observation: one row = one week × country × admin1 × event type. V-Dem and COW/trade variables are country-year measures merged onto all weekly rows for that country — rows for countries not covered by V-Dem or COW, and all ocean/territory rows, will be missing these covariates. POPULATION_EXPOSURE is missing for ocean designations and remote/unregistered locations.

Variable Coverage Summary

All 26 variables listed by section. V-Dem and COW/trade variables are country-year measures — missing rows indicate countries or territories not covered by those sources.

Variable	Section	Meas. Type	Coverage
Identifiers & Administrative			
ID	Identifiers & Administrative	ID	✓ All rows
year	Identifiers & Administrative	Integer	✓ All rows
WEEK	Identifiers & Administrative	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	✓ All rows
country	Identifiers & Administrative	Categorical	✓ All rows
REGION	Identifiers & Administrative	Categorical	✓ All rows
ADMIN1	Identifiers & Administrative	Categorical	✓ All rows
Event Classification			
DISORDER_TYPE	Event Classification	Categorical	✓ All rows
EVENT_TYPE	Event Classification	Categorical	✓ All rows
SUB_EVENT_TYPE	Event Classification	Categorical	✓ All rows
Event Counts & Casualties			
EVENTS	Event Counts & Casualties	Count	✓ All rows
FATALITIES	Event Counts & Casualties	Count	✓ All rows
POPULATION_EXPOSURE	Event Counts & Casualties	Continuous	⚠ 22,397 (~13%) rows missing
Geography			
CENTROID_LATITUDE	Geography	Continuous	✓ All rows
CENTROID_LONGITUDE	Geography	Continuous	✓ All rows
V-Dem Democracy Indices			
v2x_polyarchy	V-Dem Democracy Indices	Continuous (0–1)	⚠ 55,740 (~31%) rows missing
v2x_libdem	V-Dem Democracy Indices	Continuous (0–1)	⚠ 55,740 (~31%) rows missing — same country pattern as v2x_polyarchy
v2x_partipdem	V-Dem Democracy Indices	Continuous (0–1)	⚠ 55,740 (~31%) rows missing — same country pattern as v2x_polyarchy

Variable	Section	Meas. Type	Coverage
v2x_delibdem	V-Dem Democracy Indices	Continuous (0–1)	⚠ 55,740 (~31%) rows missing — same country pattern as v2x_polyarchy
v2x_egaldem	V-Dem Democracy Indices	Continuous (0–1)	⚠ 55,740 (~31%) rows missing — same country pattern as v2x_polyarchy

Identifiers & Administrative				
Variable	Source	Meas. Type	Description & Notes	Coverage
ID	ACLED	ID	Unique row identifier for each weekly aggregated record. One row = one week × country × admin1 × event type cell.	✓ All rows
year	ACLED	Integer	Calendar year of the week. Range: 2017–2026.	✓ All rows
WEEK	ACLED	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	ISO week ending date (Saturday). Identifies the seven-day window to which the aggregated event counts belong.	✓ All rows
country	ACLED	Categorical	55 unique countries, territories, and ocean designations.	✓ All rows
REGION	ACLED	Categorical	ACLED sub-regional classification for the country. › South America › Central America › Caribbean › North America › International Waters	✓ All rows
ADMIN1	ACLED	Categorical	First-level administrative division (province, state, or region) of the events.	✓ All rows

Event Classification				
Variable	Source	Meas. Type	Description & Notes	Coverage
DISORDER_TYPE	ACLED	Categorical	Broad disorder category. An observation may fall in multiple types (semicolon-delimited). › Political violence › Demonstrations › Strategic developments › Political violence; Demonstrations	✓ All rows
EVENT_TYPE	ACLED	Categorical	Primary ACLED event type. Six mutually exclusive categories. › Violence against civilians › Battles › Explosions/Remote violence › Protests › Riots › Strategic developments	✓ All rows
SUB_EVENT_TYPE	ACLED	Categorical	Sub-classification within event type. 24 unique values in this regional extract. › Abduction/forced disappearance › Agreement › Air/drone strike › Armed clash › Arrests › Attack › Change to group/activity › Chemical weapon › Disrupted weapons use › Excessive force against protesters › Grenade › Headquarters or base established	✓ All rows

			› Looting/property destruction › Mob violence › Non-state actor overtakes territory › Non-violent transfer of territory › Other › Peaceful protest › Protest with intervention › Remote explosive/landmine/IED › Sexual violence › Shelling/artillery/missile attack › Suicide bomb › Violent demonstration	
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Event Counts & Casualties				
Variable	Source	Meas. Type	Description & Notes	Coverage
EVENTS	ACLED	Count	Number of distinct ACLED events aggregated into this row (same week × country × admin1 × event type).	✓ All rows
FATALITIES	ACLED	Count	Total reported fatalities across all events in this row. Includes combatant and civilian deaths.	✓ All rows
POPULATION_EXPOSURE	ACLED	Continuous	Estimated population residing in the area affected by the events. Missing for 22,397 (~13%) rows — primarily ocean designations and remote/unregistered locations.	⚠ Partial 22,397 (~13%) rows missing

Geography				
Variable	Source	Meas. Type	Description & Notes	Coverage
CENTROID_LATITUDE	ACLED	Continuous	Latitude of the admin1 centroid in decimal degrees.	✓ All rows
CENTROID_LONGITUDE	ACLED	Continuous	Longitude of the admin1 centroid in decimal degrees.	✓ All rows

V-Dem Democracy Indices				
Variable	Source	Meas. Type	Description & Notes	Coverage
v2x_polyarchy	V-Dem	Continuous (0–1)	Electoral Democracy Index. To what extent is the ideal of electoral democracy achieved? Aggregates free elections, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and suffrage. Country-year value merged onto all weekly rows for that country. Missing: 55,740 (~31%). Countries with partial V-Dem coverage: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador....	⚠ Partial 55,740 (~31%) rows missing

			Countries with no V-Dem coverage: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Belize, British Virgin Islands...	
v2x_libdem	V-Dem	Continuous (0–1)	Liberal Democracy Index. Combines electoral democracy with protections of individual liberties, rule of law, and judicial independence. Country-year value.	 Partial 55,740 (~31%) rows missing — same country pattern as v2x_polyarchy
v2x_partipdem	V-Dem	Continuous (0–1)	Participatory Democracy Index. Emphasizes active citizen participation: civil society organizations, direct democracy, and local governance. Country-year value.	 Partial 55,740 (~31%) rows missing — same country pattern as v2x_polyarchy
v2x_delibdem	V-Dem	Continuous (0–1)	Deliberative Democracy Index. Assesses whether political decisions stem from reasoned public deliberation rather than coercion or propaganda. Country-year value.	 Partial 55,740 (~31%) rows missing — same country pattern as v2x_polyarchy
v2x_egaldem	V-Dem	Continuous (0–1)	Egalitarian Democracy Index. Assesses equal distribution of rights and freedoms across social groups (gender, ethnicity, class). Country-year value.	 Partial 55,740 (~31%) rows missing — same country pattern as v2x_polyarchy