

## [EconSouth Third Quarter 2013](#)

**“Big Data: Government’s Next Frontier?”** by Nancy Condon, an associate editor for *EconSouth*

### **Discussion questions**

1. What two areas highlighted in the article are examples where big data has had an impact in the state of Georgia?
2. How does data help to keep parolees from returning to prison and keep students in school?
3. What advantages do data programs have over paper and pencil calculations or human instinct when it comes to predicting the future?
4. What sort of data does the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles consider in its data calculations to predict the risk of recidivism (returning to crime)?
5. What are some of the problems big data is able to help Georgia State University solve? Why is this data particularly useful to urban public research institutions like Georgia State?
6. Carolyn Bordeaux of Georgia State University says that “there are dozens and dozens of government services that could benefit from big data.” Can you think of other applications like the programs discussed in the article where big data might be useful?

### **Related links**

[“DUE SOUTH: Georgia: Data-Driven Reforms to Parole Supervision Practices,”](#) Justice Policy Institute, May 2011

Read an article on the success of Georgia’s data-driven program.

[“How a Little Data Can Solve One of Higher Education’s Biggest Problems,”](#) Jeffrey Selingo, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 20, 2013

The article highlights how Georgia State University’s use of data programs helps keep students in school.

[“Big Data: Government’s Next Frontier,”](#) *Extra Credit*, Spring 2014

Summary of the *EconSouth* article published in the Atlanta Fed’s *Extra Credit* newsletter.