

THE STATE TRAFFIC FATALITY DATA SET

The data are for the “lower 48” U.S. states (excluding Alaska and Hawaii), annually for 1982 through 1988. The traffic fatality rate is the number of traffic deaths in a given state in a given year, per 10,000 people living in that state in that year. Traffic fatality data were obtained from the U.S. Department of Transportation Fatal Accident Reporting System. The beer tax is the tax on a case of beer, which is an available measure of state alcohol taxes more generally. The drinking age variables in Table 8.1 are binary variables indicating whether the legal drinking age is 18, 19, or 20. The two binary punishment variables in Table 8.1 describe the state’s minimum sentencing requirements for an initial drunk driving conviction: “Mandatory jail?” equals one if the state requires jail time and equals zero otherwise, and “Mandatory community service?” equals one if the state requires community service and equals zero otherwise. Total vehicle miles traveled annually by state was obtained from the Department of Transportation. Personal income was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the unemployment rate was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Data Series:

Series	Descriptions
state	State ID (FIPS) Code
year	Year
spircons	Spirits Consumption
unrate	Unemployment Rate
perinc	Per Capita Personal Income

emppop	Employment/Population Ratio
beertax	Tax on Case of Beer
sobapt	% Southern Baptist
mormon	% Mormon
mlda	Minimum Legal Drinking Age
dry	% Residing in Dry Counties
yngdrv	% of Drivers Aged 15-24
vmiles	Ave. Mile per Driver
breath	Prelim. Breath Test Law
jaild	Mandatory Jail Sentence
comserd	Mandatory Community Service
allmort	# of Vehicle Fatalities (#VF)
mrall	Vehicle Fatality Rate (VFR)
allnite	# of Night-time VF (#NVF)
mralln	Night-time VFR (NVFR)
allsvn	# of Single VF (#SVN)
a1517	#VF, 15-17 year olds
mra1517	VFR, 15-17 year olds
a1517n	#NVF, 15-17 year olds
mra1517n	NVFR, 15-17 year olds
a1820	#VF, 18-20 year olds
a1820n	#NVF, 18-20 year olds
mra1820	VFR, 18-20 year olds
mra1820n	NVFR, 18-20 year olds
a2124	#VF, 21-24 year olds
mra2124	VFR, 21-24 year olds
a2124n	#NVF, 21-24 year olds
mra2124n	NVFR, 21-24 year olds
aidall	# of alcohol-involved VF
mraidall	Alcohol-Involved VFR
pop	Population
pop1517	Population, 15-17 year olds
pop1820	Population, 18-20 year olds
pop2124	Population, 21-24 year olds
miles	total vehicle miles (millions)
unus	U.S. unemployment rate
epopus	U.S. Emp/Pop Ratio
gspch	GSP Rate of Change