# Homework #4–5

# Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) in action

With R, so far you know how to read in, clean, explore, and visulaize data. You're at the point where can use these skills to start to answer research questions at a larger level. Brady and Li (2013) wrote "Trends in Alcohol and Other Drugs Detected in Fatally Injured Drivers in the United States, 1999-2010" (http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2014/01/27/aje.kwt327.full.pdf+html) using the same publically available FARS data (from the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration) that we've been working with in class. For this homework, you will be replicating some of the results in that article.

#### Questions about the article (due for Homework #4)

First, read through the paper to get a feel for Brady and Li's motivation for conducting this study, research question, and their overall results. Then, think about how they used the FARS dataset to answer their research question, and answer the following questions about the article. For many of these questions, you will need to consult the FARS documentation file (https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812316).

- 1. In the in-course exercises, we have been analyzing data with accident as the observation unit. This study uses a different observation unit. What is the unit of observation in the Brady and Li study? When you download the FARS data for a year, you get a zipped folder with several different datasets. Which of the FARS datasets provides information at this observation level (and so will be the one you want to use for this analysis)?
- 2. This study only analyzes a subset of the available FARS data. Enumerate all of the constraints that are used by the study to create the subset of data they use in their study (e.g., years, states, person type, injury type). Go through the FARS documentation and provide the variable names for the variables you will use to create filter statements in R to limit the data to this subset. Provide the values that you will want to keep from each variable.
- 3. The study gives results stratified by age category, year, year category (e.g., 1999–2002), alcohol level, non-alcohol drug category, and sex. For each of these stratifications, give the variable name for the FARS variable you could use to make the split (i.e., the column name you would use in a group\_by statement to create summaries within each category or the column name you would mutate to generate a categorical variable). Describe how each of these variables are coded in the data. Are there any values for missing data that you'll need to mutate to NA values in R? Are there any cases where coding has changed over the study period?

# Set up an R Project (due for Homework #4— just the set-up of the project, not completion of all files within the project)

Now that we are doing larger-scale projects in R, you should set up your work as an R Project. Take the following steps to create a project for this assignment:

- 1. In RStudio, "File" -> "New Project" -> "New Directory". Navigate to the directory on your computere where you'd like to save your project and save the project.
- 2. This will save a new directory on your computer. It will only have one file in it, a ".Rproj" file.
- 3. Add the following subdirectories:
  - data-raw: This is where you'll put the raw FARS data you download from the Department of Transportation's website. You will store all the yearly files in a subdirectory of data-raw called yearly\_fars\_data. In the data-raw directory, you will also store an R script called "clean-data.R" that cleans the data into the final dataset you'll use for analysis. This script will include code defining a function called clean\_yearly\_person\_file that will fully clean one year's data, as

well as a loop that applies this function to every study year to create one large cleaned dataframe called clean\_fars that you will save in the data subdirectory. More details are given later in this assignment on the code that should be included in "clean-data.R".

- data: This is where you will store the cleaned dataset you'll use for analysis. You will store this cleaned data as "fars\_data.Rdata". This file will be the output from the "clean-data.R" script in the data-raw subdirectory.
- R: This is where you will save an R script called "fars\_analysis.R". This script will include the code where you define three functions (perc\_cis, test\_trend\_ca, and test\_trend\_log\_reg) to analyze the cleaned FARS data. More details are given about writing these functions later in the assignment.
- writing: This is where you'll save a file called "fars\_analysis.Rmd" that replicates some of the analysis in the Brady and Li paper. This document should render a file that looks like the example "fars\_analysis.pdf" document. If you have TeX on your computer, render this as a pdf; otherwise render it as a Word document.

To turn in this final homework (Homework #5), you will push your entire project directory to GitHub and send Rachel and me the link. (We will work on setting this up in an in-course exercise.)

*Hint:* Throughout this homework, remember that if you're working at the console, your working directory by default is your project directory. If you're working on an R Markdown file, the default working directory is the directory where that .Rmd file is saved.

# Pull the raw data and save it locally (due for Homework #4)

FARS raw data is available by year from here. Download the zipped FARS "dbf" data files for all years and save the "person" file for each year locally.

You may choose one of the following ways to do this step:

- If you are feeling less ambitious, you can download the files by hand. Extract the "person" file for each year and save all these in data-raw/yearly\_person\_data.
- If you want an extra challenge, try to save download and save this data directly using R. If you do this, save your code in an R script called "download-data.R" in the data-raw subdirectory of the project. If you do this, you may find the download.file function very useful, as it can download a file with ftp. You'll need to check the naming conventions for the FARS ftp files. These conventions are different for 1999 and 2000 compared to other years, so you'll need an if / else statement within the function or loop you write. For example, for 1999, you need to download the data from ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/fars/1999/DBF/FARSDBF99.zip while for 2001 you need to download the data from ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/fars/2001/DBF/FARS2001.zip. Save these zipped files in a separate subdirectory of data-raw (e.g., yearly\_fars\_data). You can then write more code to unzip each file, extract the "person" data, convert it to a .csv file, and write those to the yearly\_person\_data subdirectory of data-raw. I will include an example of this code in the final homework solution.

Your final output of this step should be a yearly\_person\_data subdirectory in the data-raw subdirectory with a separate "dbf" or "csv" file for each year that contains the person-level FARS data for that year.

#### Write a script to generate a clean dataset (due for Homework #4)

Next, you will write some code to create a clean version of the data.

First, write a function called clean\_yearly\_person\_file that inputs year and outputs a cleaned dataframe for that year. Save this function to "clean-data.R" in the data-raw subdirectory.

The cleaned yearly dataset should have filtered out any observations that should be excluded from analysis based on the Brady and Li paper (e.g., non-drivers, fatality not within one hour, etc.). It should have the following variables:

- unique\_id: A unique identifier for each driver.
- sex: A factor with levels of "Male" and "Female".
- year: An integer with the 4-digit study year.
- agecat: A factor with age categories, as defined in Figures 1 and 3 of the Brady and Li paper.
- drug\_type: A factor with the levels "Alcohol", "Cannabinoid", "Depressant", "Narcotic", "Stimulant", and "Other". These categorizations are based on categories defined in the FARS data documentation.
- positive\_for\_drug: Logical, whether that driver tested positive for that drug. For "Alcohol", this is based on a BAC ≥ 0.01 g/dL, as specified in the Brady and Li paper.

Note that this is not a tidy dataset—there are two levels of observation in this dataset (person and person-drug combination), which results in lots of repeated information (e.g., age\_cat will be the same for a person across all their observations for different drugs). However, this data frame is in a format that will make it quick and convenient to write code to replicate results in the paper.

Here is an example of how the function should work, with an example of how the output dataframe should look (I'm grouping by drug\_type to show how each person now has a listing for each of the drug categories, including "Alcohol", with either TRUE, FALSE, or NA):

```
data_1999 <- clean_yearly_person_file(1999)
data_1999 %>%
  group_by(drug_type) %>%
  slice(1:3)
## Source: local data frame [18 x 6]
## Groups: drug_type [6]
##
##
                              year
           unique_id
                                          agecat
                                                   drug_type positive_for_drug
                         sex
##
               <chr> <fctr>
                             <dbl>
                                          <fctr>
                                                      <fctr>
                                                                          <lgl>
## 1
      60003_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999 25--44 years
                                                     Alcohol
                                                                          FALSE
## 2
      60006 1 1 1999
                        Male
                              1999
                                      < 25 years
                                                     Alcohol
                                                                           TRUE
                              1999 45--64 years
## 3
      60013_1_1_1999
                        Male
                                                     Alcohol
                                                                          FALSE
## 4
      60003 1 1 1999
                        Male
                              1999 25--44 years Cannabinoid
                                                                          FALSE
## 5
      60006_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999
                                      < 25 years Cannabinoid
                                                                          FALSE
      60013 1 1 1999
                              1999 45--64 years Cannabinoid
                                                                          FALSE
## 6
                        Male
                                                  Depressant
      60003_1_1_1999
                              1999 25--44 years
                                                                          FALSE
## 7
                        Male
## 8
      60006_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999
                                     < 25 years
                                                  Depressant
                                                                          FALSE
      60013_1_1_1999
                              1999 45--64 years
## 9
                        Male
                                                  Depressant
                                                                          FALSE
## 10 60003_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999 25--44 years
                                                    Narcotic
                                                                          FALSE
## 11 60006_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999
                                      < 25 years
                                                    Narcotic
                                                                          FALSE
## 12 60013_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999 45--64 years
                                                    Narcotic
                                                                          FALSE
## 13 60003_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999 25--44 years
                                                       Other
                                                                          FALSE
## 14 60006_1_1_1999
                              1999
                                      < 25 years
                                                       Other
                                                                          FALSE
                        Male
## 15 60013_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999 45--64 years
                                                       Other
                                                                          FALSE
                              1999 25--44 years
## 16 60003_1_1_1999
                        Male
                                                   Stimulant
                                                                          FALSE
## 17 60006_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999
                                     < 25 years
                                                   Stimulant
                                                                          FALSE
## 18 60013_1_1_1999
                        Male
                              1999 45--64 years
                                                   Stimulant
                                                                          FALSE
```

If you are struggling with writing this function, I've included some step-by-step tips at the end of this document.

Next, copy the following code into your "clean-data.R" script. You will use this code to loop through all the study years, apply your function to each year, join all the years together to create a single dataset, and save that dataset in the data subdirectory.

```
# Apply the function to clean the data across the study years
for(study_year in 1999:2010){
   df <- clean_yearly_person_file(study_year)</pre>
```

```
if(study_year == 1999){
   clean_fars <- df
} else {
   clean_fars <- rbind(clean_fars, df)
}
save(clean_fars, file = "data/clean_fars.RData")</pre>
```

Note: Be sure that when you run this code, your working directory is the project directory.

After cleaning the data, you should have one large dataset called clean\_fars. It should be saved in a file called "clean\_fars.RData" in the data subdirectory. Summary statistics for your cleaned data should look something like this (do not worry if they do not exactly match— or if they don't exactly match numbers from the Brady and Li study— but they should be in the general ballpark):

```
load("../data/clean_fars.RData")
dim(clean_fars)
## [1] 163128
                   6
length(unique(clean_fars$unique_id))
## [1] 25593
summary(clean_fars)
##
     unique id
                                              year
                                                                  agecat
                            sex
                                                :1999
##
   Length: 163128
                        Male :126318
                                                        < 25 years :40692
                                        Min.
                        Female: 36804
    Class :character
                                        1st Qu.:2002
                                                        25--44 years:64116
    Mode :character
##
                        NA's :
                                        Median:2004
                                                        45--64 years:41766
                                                        65 years + :16494
##
                                        Mean
                                                :2004
##
                                        3rd Qu.:2007
                                                        NA's
                                                                         60
##
                                                :2010
                                        Max.
##
          drug_type
                         positive_for_drug
##
    Alcohol
               :27188
                        Mode :logical
##
    Cannabinoid:27188
                         FALSE: 133621
                         TRUE: 17575
##
    Depressant :27188
    Narcotic
               :27188
                         NA's :11932
##
##
    Other
               :27188
    Stimulant
              :27188
```

If you have cleaned your data correctly, you should be able to run the following code to show measurements of the prevalence of positive drug tests over the full study period by drug type and get results that are fairly similar to those shown below (this table will be included in your "fars\_analysis" document):

Drug type	F 1999-2002	F 2003-2006	F 2007-2010	M 1999-2002	M 2003-2006	M 2007-2010
Alcohol	27.0	24.5	27.2	43.4	43.1	43.6
Cannabinoid	2.7	5.4	6.9	5.6	9.9	11.5
Depressant	3.3	3.7	4.6	1.9	2.3	3.0
Narcotic	4.1	4.7	6.7	2.1	3.2	3.8
Other	5.5	6.4	6.9	4.1	4.3	4.1
Stimulant	7.0	8.7	8.2	10.1	11.5	8.9

#### Figures (due for Homework #5)

Use the cleaned dataset to recreate the three figures from the Brady and Li paper in your "fars\_analysis" document. The final figures should look similar to the ones shown in the example "fars\_analysis.pdf" document.

#### Write functions for fars\_functions.R (due for Homework #5)

You will write three functions to help analyze the cleaned FARS data. Details are given for each function below. You should save the code defining these functions in a file called "fars\_functions.R" in the R subdirectory.

#### Confidence intervals for proportions (perc\_cis)

The text of the results gives estimates of percentages of drivers fatally injured who tested positive for a given drug by year, along with 95% confidence intervals for these percentages.

Write a function called perc\_cis that inputs x (number of drivers testing positive for a drug) and n (total number of non-missing observations) and outputs a character vector for the percentage of drivers testing positive and the associated 95% confidence interval.

Within the code of this function, you will first want to calculate the proportion of drivers that test positive:

$$\hat{p} = \frac{x}{n}$$

Then, you can calculate an estimate of the standard of this proportion:

$$se(\hat{p}) = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}}$$

Then calculate the upper and lower 95% confidence intervals as:

$$\hat{p} \pm 1.96 * se(\hat{p})$$

Finally, convert the proportion and its 95% CI to percentages, round the values, and paste everything together to create a one-element character vector that you could include in the text of results or in a table. For

example, you would change a proporation of 0.1011 with confidence intervals of 0.0951 and 0.1070 to "10.1% (9.5%, 10.7%)".

Here is an example of running the function when 9,000 drivers test positive for a drug out of 23,000 total observations:

```
perc_cis(x = 9000, n = 23000)
## [1] "39.1% (38.5%, 39.8%)"
```

Once you've written the perc\_cis function, you will use it to generate a table with percentages and 95% CIs by drug type for the years 1999 and 2010 (see the example "fars\_analysis.pdf" document).

#### Testing for trend using Cochran-Armitage trend test (test\_trend\_ca)

You can use the prop.trend.test function, which comes with base R in the stats package, to conduct a Cochran-Armitage test for trend in the proportion of drivers fatally injured who tested positive for a given drug. In the results from this function, the  $Z^2$  statistic for the Cochran-Armitage test is given as the element statistic and its p-value is given by p.value. You can get the absolute value of the Z-statistic (closer to what is reported in the Brady and Li paper) by taking the square root of the  $Z^2$  statistic. This function requires you to input a summary of the data: x, a vector with the number of drivers testing positive in each year, and n, a vector with the total number of non-missing observations in each year.

For example, to test for a trend for alcohol, you can run:

```
## 1.059612
ca_alcohol$p.value
```

```
## [1] 0.289321
```

Write a function that will input the clean\_fars dataset and drug (a character vector giving one of the drug types or "Nonalcohol" for all non-alcohol drugs). The function should output a one-row dataframe with one column for the absolute value of the Z test statistic for the Cochran-Armitage trend test over the 12 study years for that drug and one column for the associated p-value. You will need to use an if / else statement within your code to run separate summarizing code for "Nonalcohol" versus other drug types. Set data to have a default value of clean\_fars.

Here are some examples of calls and output from the function you will write:

```
test_trend_ca(drug = "Stimulant", data = clean_fars)

## # A tibble: 1 × 2

## Z p.value

## <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 0.6 0.531

test_trend_ca(drug = "Alcohol")
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 × 2
##
         Z p.value
##
     <dbl>
              <dbl>
## 1
       1.1
             0.289
test_trend_ca(drug = "Nonalcohol")
## # A tibble: 1 × 2
##
         Z p.value
##
              <dbl>
     <dbl>
## 1
       9.9
```

Once you've written the function, you will use lapply to apply it over all the drug categories (including all non-alcohol drugs), using the code below or similar code, to generate a table of results for tests of trends over the study years. You will use this code to write one of the tables in your "fars\_analysis" R Markdown document.

#### Testing for trend using logistic regression (test\_trend\_log\_reg)

It turns out there are other ways to code for a trend test. Based on Agresti (Categorical Data Analysis, Third Edition, 2013):

The Cochran-Armitage trend test seems unrelated to the linear logit model. However, this test statistic is equivalent to the score statistic for testing  $H_0: \beta = 0$  in that model. ... The Cochran-Armitage trend test (i.e., the score test) usually gives results similar to the Wald or likelihood-ratio test of  $H_0: \beta = 0$  in the linear logit model. The asymptotics work well even for quite small n when  $n_i$  are equal and  $x_i$  are equally spaced.

In our case, the approximation by the Wald statistic should work very well—we have a large n (total number of observations), the number of observations are fairly well distributed across the years ( $n_i$  denote the number of observations in each year, and we don't have lots in some years and few in others), and the years ( $x_i$  in this notation) are evenly spaced.

Here is a more practical comment on the choice of how to test for trend in proportions from an R help thread:

It [i.e., the Cochran-Armitage test for trend] was taught us (epidemiologists) in the courses before we got our hands on logistic regression. . . . I do not know of any advantages for the test over logistic regression or Poisson regression. You can take an ordered factor (or a non-ordered on if the levels are properly set up, coerce to numeric and do logistic regression with the numeric result and get pretty much the same result, and you would be doing so in the context of a much more flexible modeling environment. So I see it mainly as of historical interest, something to use when you only have a device that cannot run R.

— David Winsemius

A linear logit (or logistic) model for the probability of a driver testing positive for a drug regressed on year is:

$$logit(\pi_i) = \alpha + \beta y_i$$

where  $y_i$  is the year of observation i and  $\pi_i$  is the probability a driver in that year tests positive for a given drug.

Remember that you can fit a logistic model like this in R using glm with family = binomial(link = "logit"). You can find the Wald statistic for testing  $H_0: \beta = 0$ , as well as its p-value, in the coefficients element of the summary of the model object. For example, for alcohol, you could run:

The Wald statistic for a test of  $H_0: \beta = 0$  is 1.06, with a p-value of 0.289.

Write a function to fit the logistic model shown above to a specific drug category (including "Nonalcohol": all non-alcohol drugs). The function should take the same inputs as the function that you wrote for the Cochran-Armitage test (drug and data) and should create the same output (a one-row dataframe with test statistic and associated p-value), but in this case, the function should output the Wald statistic testing if the coefficient for year in the logistic model is zero  $(H_0: \beta = 0)$ . Set data to have a default value of clean\_fars.

Here are some examples of running the function you will write:

```
test_trend_log_reg(drug = "Stimulant", data = clean_fars)
## # A tibble: 1 × 2
##
         Z p.value
##
     <dbl>
             <dbl>
## 1 -0.6
             0.531
test_trend_log_reg(drug = "Alcohol")
## # A tibble: 1 × 2
##
         Z p.value
##
     <dbl>
             <dbl>
## 1
             0.289
       1.1
test_trend_log_reg(drug = "Nonalcohol")
## # A tibble: 1 × 2
##
         Z p.value
##
     <dbl>
             <dbl>
## 1
       9.9
```

You will use lapply with this function (using the code below of something similar) to create a table of test statistics and associated p-values for trend in proportions of fatally injured drivers that tested positive for specific drug categories. Again, this table will go in your "fars\_analysis" document.

# Write "fars analysis" document (due for Homework #5)

Create an R Markdown document in the writing subdirectory and call it "fars" analysis.Rmd".

You should start the document by including a code chunk that loads all required libraries and also loads the cleaned dataset you created and all of the functions you wrote in "fars\_functions.R". For example, this chunk might look like:

```
library(dplyr)
library(tidyr)
library(ggplot2)

load("../data/clean_fars.RData")
source("../R/fars_functions.R")
```

The final document should look like the example "fars\_analysis.pdf" document. Render to pdf if you have TeX on your computer. Otherwise, render to a Word document.

### Tips for writing the function to clean yearly data

- First, read in your data and convert all the column names to lowercase (e.g., colnames(df) <- tolower(colnames(df))).
- Limit to only the variables you'll need to either filter the data or for the final cleaned data.
- Filter the dataset so it only includes drivers with fatal injuries. Once you have done this filtering, remove the variables you used for the filtering (e.g., per\_typ), as you won't need these variables for anything else.
- Create a unique\_id. You can do this by uniting the variables for st\_case, veh\_no, and per\_no. To be unique when you join multiple years, year needs to be pasted on to this unique identifier.
- Limit to study states and then remove the state variable.
- Convert sex to a factor with levels "Male" and "Female". Make sure that you convert any codes for missing values into NAs.
- Use measured alcohol blood level to create Alcohol (logical for whether alcohol was present). Again, make sure that you convert any codes for missing values to NA. Use the definition from the paper to determine whether alcohol was present based on BAC results. Once you've created an Alcohol variable, remove the alc\_res variable.
- Specify missing values for the lag hours and lag minutes. Because the missing value codes for lag hours changed during the study period, you'll need to use an if / else statement for this part. (As a note, there seem to be some cases from 2008 and earlier where 999 also codes for missing values for lag hours.) Limit to deaths within an hour of the accident then remove the variables for lag hours and lag minutes.
- Convert and codes for missing age to NA. Again, because this coding changed during the study, you'll need an if / else statement.
- Use age to create age categories (agecat) and then remove age variable. You may find the cut function useful for this.
- Gather all the columns with different drug listings (i.e., drugres1, drugres2, drugres3). Convert from the numeric code listings to drug categories (use the FARS documentation to figure out categories from codes). If you get *really* stuck on this part, I've included some example code below for what I've used in my function from this part through the end of the function.
- Filter out any observations in this "gathered" dataset where both alcohol and drug data are missing.
- Create a subset of the data (save as a different object rather than writing over your old object) with only individuals with at least one non-missing listing for drugs. Group by person and drug type, add a has\_drug column that is always TRUE, and then spread this subset out so each drug has a separate column. Use fill = FALSE when you spread. Before you spread, you will need to add unique row numbers (mutate(row\_num = 1:n())) for the spread to work properly, but then you can remove this row\_num variable as soon as you make the spread.

• Join this spread dataset back into the full dataset using a full join and remove all drugres columns from the dataset. Remove the "None" column. Gather all drug categories (including Alcohol), with key drug\_type and value positive\_for\_drug. Convert drug\_type to a factor.

```
# Gather all the columns with different drug listings (i.e., `drugres1`,
# `drugres2`, `drugres3`). Convert from the numeric code listings to
# drug categories.
gathered_df <- df %>%
 tidyr::gather(drug number, drug type raw, contains("drugres")) %>%
  dplyr::mutate(drug_type = ifelse(drug_type_raw %in% 100:295,
                                   "Narcotic", NA),
                drug_type = ifelse(drug_type_raw %in% 300:395,
                                   "Depressant", drug_type),
                drug type = ifelse(drug type raw %in% 400:495,
                                   "Stimulant", drug_type),
                drug_type = ifelse(drug_type_raw %in% 600:695,
                                   "Cannabinoid", drug_type),
                drug_type = ifelse(drug_type_raw %in% c(500:595, 700:996),
                                   "Other", drug_type),
                drug_type = ifelse(drug_type_raw == 1,
                                   "None", drug_type),
                drug_type = factor(drug_type)) %>%
 dplyr::select(-drug_type_raw, -drug_number) %>%
  # Filter out any observations where both alcohol and drug data is missing
 dplyr::filter(!(is.na(Alcohol) & is.na(drug type)))
# Create a subset with only individuals with at least one non-missing
# listing for drugs
non_missing_drugs <- gathered_df %>%
 filter(!is.na(drug_type)) %>%
 group_by(unique_id, drug_type) %>%
  summarize(has_drug = TRUE) %>%
 ungroup() %>%
 mutate(row_num = 1:n()) %>%
  spread(drug_type, has_drug, fill = FALSE) %>%
  select(-row_num)
# Join this back into the full dataset
df <- df %>%
 dplyr::select(-contains("drugres")) %>%
 dplyr::full_join(non_missing_drugs, by = "unique_id") %>%
  dplyr::select(-None) %>%
 tidyr::gather(drug_type, positive_for_drug, Alcohol, Cannabinoid,
                Depressant, Narcotic, Other, Stimulant) %>%
 dplyr::mutate(drug_type = factor(drug_type))
```