**Research Proposal: The Impact of the SAFE Act (2013) on Gun-Related Crime in NYC**

**1. Data Sources: APIs and Web Scraping**

For this research project, I will be using publicly available APIs and datasets to analyze gun-related crimes in New York City. The primary sources include:

* **NYC Open Data (NYC Crime Data API):** This dataset provides detailed information on gun-related crimes, including shooting incidents and arrests. The API is freely accessible and does not require an access key. [NYC Open Data API](https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Public-Safety/NYPD-Shooting-Incident-Data-Year-To-Date-/5ucz-vwe8/about_data)
* **State of New York – Open Data NY (data.ny.gov):** This source provides firearm-related crime statistics at the state and county levels. It is also freely accessible. [State of New York Open Data](https://data.ny.gov/Public-Safety/Index-Violent-Property-and-Firearm-Rates-By-County/34dd-6g2j/about_data)
* **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) API:** This source will provide demographic control variables such as population, poverty levels, and income levels over time. Accessing this data requires API registration, which I have completed. [BLS API](https://www.bls.gov/developers/api_signature_v2.htm)

**2. Variables to be Collected**

Three key variables will be collected for this study:

* **Gun-related crime data:** This includes the number of shooting incidents, homicides, and gun-related arrests in NYC.
* **Legislation changes:** Dates and specifics of gun control laws passed in NYC, particularly the SAFE Act of 2013, will be collected from government and legal sources.
* **Demographic and socioeconomic factors:** Data on population density, poverty rates, and income levels in NYC will be gathered to serve as control variables in the analysis.

**3. API Access and Authorization**

* **NYC Open Data and State of New York Open Data APIs**: Both sources are open-access and do not require an authorization key.
* **BLS API**: Requires registration to obtain an API key. Below is the confirmation email received upon successful registration. A screenshot of a computer

  AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**4. API Terms and Conditions**

* **BLS API Terms of Service:** This API is publicly available, but users must comply with restrictions on excessive API calls and attribution requirements. Full details can be found here: [BLS Terms of Service](https://www.bls.gov/developers/termsOfService.htm).
* **NYC Open Data Terms:** The data is freely available for research purposes, but redistribution and commercial use may require additional permissions.
* **State of New York Open Data Terms:** This data is publicly accessible, but proper attribution is required when using it for research.

**5. Research Question**

The primary research question is:

**"What was the impact of the SAFE Act (2013) on gun-related crime rates in New York City?"**

I will conduct a time series analysis to examine trends in gun crimes before and after the SAFE Act was implemented, assessing whether there was a statistically significant reduction in firearm-related incidents.

**6. Background and Academic Motivation**

This study is motivated by the broader policy debate surrounding gun control legislation in the United States. Following high-profile mass shootings, including the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012, various legislative measures, such as the SAFE Act, have been enacted to curb gun violence.

By analyzing historical crime data and demographic trends, this research aims to assess the effectiveness of such legislation in reducing gun-related crimes. The findings will contribute to the policy discourse on firearm regulations and their impact on public safety.