

Documentation for Seatbelts Data

Seatbelts is a balanced panel from 50 U.S. States, plus the District of Columbia, for the years 1983-1997. These data were provided by Professor Liran Einav of Stanford University and were used in his paper with Alma Cohen: “The Effects of Mandatory Seat Belt Laws on Driving Behavior and Traffic Fatalities,” *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2003, Vol. 85, No. 4, pp 828-843

Variable Definitions

Variable	Definition
<i>fatalityrate</i>	Number of fatalities per million of traffic miles
<i>sb_usage</i>	Seat belt usage rate
<i>speed65</i>	Binary variable for 65 mile per hour speed limit
<i>speed70</i>	Binary variable for 70 or higher mile per hour speed limit
<i>ba08</i>	Binary variable for blood alcohol limit $\leq .08\%$
<i>drinkage21</i>	Binary variable for age 21 drinking age
<i>income</i>	Per capita income
<i>age</i>	Mean age
<i>primary</i>	Binary variable for primary enforcement of seat belt laws
<i>secondary</i>	Binary variable for secondary enforcement of seat belt laws
<i>vmt</i>	Millions of traffic miles per year. (Note: Number of fatalities = <i>fatalityrate</i> × <i>vmt</i>)
<i>state</i>	State
<i>year</i>	Year
<i>fips</i>	State ID Code