Capstone Outline

Gun Deaths

Initially sought to focus on Murder/Suicide deaths of children, spouses, friends, co-workers, others prior to subject taking their own life. Still attempting to address this but data useful for statistical analysis is limited.

Shifting focus to suicide by firearm, where legislation might prove beneficial from a public health perspective (addresses CDC limitations on data use). Also investigating accidental deaths of children by firearm.

Investigate impact of geography, politics & gun laws, economic conditions, health conditions, other factors on prevalence of deaths connected to firearms.

Questions to Answer

1. Are mortality rates influenced by gun ownership rates?
2. Are mortality rates influenced by geographical region?
3. Does the strength of gun control laws influence homicide, suicide, accidental firearm fatality rates?
   1. Gun death data from CDC and GVA
   2. Gun law grades, rankings from Giffords Law Center, Boston University School of Public Health and Guns and “Ammo Best States for Gun Owners” rankings
4. Do specific categories of gun control laws influence specific categories of mortality?
   1. Waiting periods and background checks
   2. Gun safety and storage requirements
   3. Buyer restrictions
   4. Restrictions on specific weapons/ammunition
   5. Domestic violence restrictions
   6. High-risk restrictions
   7. Concealed carry permitting
5. Are mortality rates influenced by other population factors?
   1. Age distribution
   2. Population density
   3. Household Characteristics: marriage rates, divorce rates, single-parent homes, single householders
   4. Education levels
   5. Veteran population
6. Are mortality rates influenced by economic factors?
   1. Income level
   2. Labor participation rates, male & female
   3. Job growth rates
   4. Employment by economic sector

CDC Detailed Mortality Data: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>

Gun Violence Archive (GVA): <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

Boston University School of Public Health: <https://www.statefirearmlaws.org/table.html>

Giffords Law Center: <http://gunlawscorecard.org/>

Guns & Ammo 2015 Rankings: <http://www.gunsandammo.com/network-topics/culture-politics-network/best-states-for-gun-owners-2015/>

Guns & Ammo 2017 Rankings: <http://www.gunsandammo.com/second-amendment/best-states-for-gun-owners-2017/>

Census Data: <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/2016/>