1. **Are you requesting aggregate data or record level data?**

We are requesting record-level data.

1. **From which data source(s)? (Birth certificate, death certificate, fetal death certificate)**

Birth certificate, Death Certificate, Fetal Death Certificate

1. **Which specific data elements are requested and for which year(s)? For record level data, please provide a completed data item checklist for all variables requested**: [https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/vstat/corpdoverview.shtm](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dshs.texas.gov%2Fchs%2Fvstat%2Fcorpdoverview.shtm&data=05%7C02%7Cdas194%40purdue.edu%7C61bb0f1b9c2b453f7f7508dc97a48df5%7C4130bd397c53419cb1e58758d6d63f21%7C0%7C0%7C638551983104809496%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nG0xMb%2F8Zqf%2FjpugPIwGd1n%2Bf6as6xn2%2FiPVtdYG%2F2g%3D&reserved=0)

We have attached the relevant checklists to this email.

1. **What is the level of individual identification associated with the requested data?**

We are requesting record-level birth, death, and fetal death records without any directly identifiable personal information (e.g., name, exact date of birth, or exact street address). We only need geographic identifiers at the city, county, zip code, and census tract levels. We will also need month and year for births and deaths.

1. **Who is requesting those specific data and what is your affiliation (i.e., university, hospital, non-profit, etc.)?**
2. Principal investigator: Jillian Carr, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Purdue University
3. Somdeepa Das, PhD Student, Department of Economics, Purdue University
4. Tong Li, PhD Student, Department of Economics, Purdue University
5. **What is the purpose or intended use of those specific data?**

We intend to use data on births and deaths to study the impact of alcohol availability and consumption on general and alcohol-related morbidity, infant health outcomes, and perinatal mortality in Texas. By leveraging the variation in alcohol sale regulations throughout Texas jurisdictions, we aim to analyse the impact of variable alcohol availability on public health outcomes. Specifically, we will compare regions that are dry (no alcohol sales allowed) to regions that are partially or fully wet (all alcohol sales allowed). The geographic variation in alcohol policy within Texas allows us to examine the impact of alcohol availability on a broader population over an extended period.

Previous research has often focused on policies like minimum legal drinking age laws or blue laws (Sunday sale bans), which create only limited variation in alcohol availability and are constrained by their focus on certain age groups or specific times of the year. Our study will offer a comprehensive analysis, by focusing on a policy change that potentially affects the entire population of a jurisdiction over a longer time frame. Additionally, we will also explore the impact of in utero alcohol exposure on infant health outcomes and perinatal mortality, areas that have been relatively underexplored in existing literature.

In Texas, cities or counties can decide to allow or ban alcohol sales through public referendums known as local option elections. We have access to the records from these elections since 1939. Each successful policy change liberalizes alcohol regulations in the respective jurisdiction, allowing us to study the subsequent health impacts. The birth and death records serve as our primary outcome variables, providing concrete measures of the health impacts associated with varying levels of alcohol availability.

The geographic information associated with the birth and death records is crucial for this project because the treatment or policy change occurs at the city or county level. We will aggregate births and death records up to cities or counties for each month, and link them to the election data and controls. Any tables/figures generated from aggregated data will strictly adhere to the data suppression guidelines for Texas Vital Statistics.

The research output from this project will be prepared for publication in peer-reviewed economics and public health journals, contributing to the body of knowledge in these fields and supporting evidence-based policy-making.

1. **What are the applicable federal or state regulations authorizing you or your entity to receive the data? If you are unsure of any federal or state regulations specific to your group's ability to receive data, it is fine to leave the question blank.**

We are not aware of any federal or state regulations that would prevent us from requesting or handling this data. Our college and department frequently manage administrative data and are equipped with robust security and computational infrastructure to safeguard the data. Additionally, Purdue’s Office of Legal Counsel will also ensure that all data agreements we execute comply with legal requirements.

1. **Does your request involve linkage to another data source? If “yes,” please answer the following:**

Yes, our request involves linkage to another data source. We will aggregate birth and death records (counts, measures of health outcomes, and control variables) by month to the city and county levels. These aggregated data will be linked to data on local option elections by the corresponding month and city or county level. The election data measures successful policy changes, which is the treatment that we are interested in. We will also link to city- and county-level demographic control variables from publicly-available data like the American Communities Survey.

We will be performing the linkage ourselves, so we’re not sure that the following questions are relevant. Please let us know if we have misinterpreted this.

* 1. What kind of linkage are you proposing? (Deterministic or probabilistic)
  2. What variables do you intend for CHS to use in the linkage?
  3. Briefly describe the external data source(s), including the average or estimated number of records you anticipate sending to CHS for the linkage.
  4. Are you proposing a one-time or re-occurring linkage? If re-occurring, please specify the frequency.

1. **Are there grant-funded or contract-related deadlines or deliverables related to this request that we should be aware of?**

No. The end goal of this research is academic publication. There are no external deadlines for that outcome.