THE STATE TRAFFIC FATALITY DATA SET

The data are for the “lower 48” U.S. states (excluding Alaska and Hawaii), annually for 1982 through 1988. The traffic fatality rate is the number of traffic deaths in a given state in a given year, per 10,000 people living in that state in that year. Traffic fatality data were obtained from the U.S. Department of Transportation Fatal Accident Reporting System. The beer tax is the tax on a case of beer, which is an available measure of state alcohol taxes more generally. The drinking age variables in Table 8.1 are binary variables indicating whether the legal drinking age is 18, 19, or 20. The two binary punishment variables describe the state’s minimum sentencing requirements for an initial drunk driving conviction: “Mandatory jail?” equals one if the state requires jail time and equals zero otherwise, and “Mandatory community service?” equals one if the state requires community service and equals zero otherwise. Total vehicle miles traveled annually by state was obtained from the Department of Transportation. Personal income was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the unemployment rate was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

These data were graciously provided by Professor Christopher J. Ruhm of the Department of Economics at the University of North Carolina.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Series** | **Descriptions** |
| state | State ID (FIPS) Code |
| year | Year |
| spircons | Spirits Consumption |
| unrate | Unemployment Rate |
| perinc | Per Capita Personal Income |
| emppop | Employment/Population Ratio |
| beertax | Tax on Case of Beer |
| sobapt | % Southern Baptist |
| mormon | % Mormon |
| mlda | Minimum Legal Drinking Age |
| dry | % Residing in Dry Counties |
| yngdrv | % of Drivers Aged 15-24 |
| vmiles | Ave. Mile per Driver |
| breath | Prelim. Breath Test Law |
| jaild | Mandatory Jail Sentence |
| comserd | Mandatory Community Service |
| allmort | # of Vehicle Fatalities (#VF) |
| mrall | Vehicle Fatality Rate (VFR) |
| allnite | # of Night-time VF (#NVF) |
| mralln | Night-time VFR (NFVR) |
| allsvn | # of Single VF (#SVN) |
| a1517 | #VF, 15-17 year olds |
| mra1517 | VFR, 15-17 year olds |
| a1517n | #NVF, 15-17 year olds |
| mra1517n | NVFR, 15-17 year olds |
| a1820 | #VF, 18-20 year olds |
| a1820n | #NVF, 18-20 year olds |
| mra1820 | VFR, 18-20 year olds |
| mra1820n | NVFR, 18-20 year olds |
| a2124 | #VF, 21-24 year olds |
| mra2124 | VFR, 21-24 year olds |
| a2124n | #NVF, 21-24 year olds |
| mra2124n | NVFR, 21-24 year olds |
| aidall | # of alcohol-involved VF |
| mraidall | Alcohol-Involved VFR |
| pop | Population |
| pop1517 | Population, 15-17 year olds |
| pop1820 | Population, 18-20 year olds |
| pop2124 | Population, 21-24 year olds |
| miles | total vehicle miles (millions |
| unus | U.S. unemployment rate |
| epopus | U.S. Emp/Pop Ratio |
| gspch | GSP Rate of Change |