Preliminary Legislative Data from California and Codebook

These materials demonstrate the feasibility of completing a longitudinal dataset of state-level firearms legislation. Below are raw data on firearms legislation from 1970 to 2010 for California. This dataset demonstrates how we structure these legislative data for quantitative purposes. All variables are coded at the year level and the state is identified with Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) to facilitate merging these legislative data with other datasets. These legislation data were gathered with the proposed methods in our NSF project description. The code book for these data is presented on Page 2 presents the codebook for these data.
**General Aspects of Firearms Legislation Data**

- All data are coded at the year level and for each state. Thus, the data can be referred to as *state-year level data*. However, laws may be subject to change mid-year. In cases where a law became effective or was repealed mid-year, that year was coded to reflect what the majority of the year’s law status represented.
  - For example, Alabama repealed its 2 day waiting period for handguns effective August 1, 2000. Since August 1 is more than 50% of the year 2000, the year of 2000 shows that Alabama had a 2 day waiting period in effect for the whole year.

- Four classes of firearms are mentioned in this data. “Saturday Night Specials” (A.K.A “Junk Guns”), which are low quality and inexpensive firearms. Handguns, which include both revolvers and semi-automatic pistols. Long guns, which include rifles and shotguns (no discrepancy is made for semi-automatic or manual action style firearms here). And finally, Assault Weapons, which may vary from state to state depending on the definition, but in general include AR and AK style firearms with pistol grips and detachable magazines and/or fully automatic pistols and rifles.

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**Variables and Codes in Firearms Legislation Data**

- **hg_ban**: State law prohibits the possession of a handgun.
  - 0 = No
  - 1 = Yes

- **sns_ban**: State law prohibits possession, sale, and/or manufacture of “Saturday Night Specials”.
  - 0 = No
  - 1 = Yes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aw_ban</td>
<td>State law prohibits the possession of an Assault Weapon.</td>
<td>0 = No, 1 = Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hg_permit</td>
<td>State law requires a permit to purchase a handgun.</td>
<td>0 = No, 1 = Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lg_permit</td>
<td>State law requires a permit to purchase a long gun (includes rifles and shotguns)</td>
<td>0 = No, 1 = Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regis</td>
<td>State law requires a central registry of firearm sales in the State. This does not include records that are maintained by dealers and local law enforcement.</td>
<td>0 = No Registry, 1 = Handguns only, 2 = Long guns only, 3 = Assault Weapons Only, 4 = All firearms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bgcheck</td>
<td>State law requires background check that is performed by the state prior to sale. This includes permit to purchase systems that require a background check. This is SEPARATE from the NICS background checks required by Federal law.</td>
<td>0 = No, 1 = Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>private</td>
<td>State law requires a background check prior to a private sale.</td>
<td>0 = No, 1 = Yes, for all private sales/transfers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 = Yes, but gun shows are exempt
3 = Yes, but only for gun shows

wait: State law mandates a waiting period for firearm sales.

0 = No
1 = All firearms
2 = Handgun only
3 = Long Gun only
4 = Assault Weapons only

wait_len: Number of days for waiting period.

## = Number of days
0 = NO WAITING PERIOD

pur_age: Minimum age to purchase a handgun.

## = Age
0 = NO MINIMUM AGE

one_gun: State law restricts persons to one gun purchase per month.

0 = No
1 = Yes

deal_lic: State law requires dealers to obtain a state or local license.

0 = No
1 = All firearms
2 = Handgun only
3 = Long Gun only
4 = Assault Weapons only

pos_age: Minimum age for youth to possess a handgun

## = Age
0 = NO MINIMUM AGE

ccw: Conceal Carry Weapon (CCW) Status of the State
0 = Conceal Carry Prohibited
1 = State “May Issue” CCW permits
2 = State “Shall Issue” CCW permits
3 = State permit not required for CCW
4 = State permit not required, but can be issued