

### Documentation for Seatbelts Data

**Seatbelts** is a unbalanced 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 useage</i>     | Seat belt useage 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>drinkingage21</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>vmturban</i>      | Millions of traffic miles per year on urban roads  |
| <i>vmtrural</i>      | Millions of traffic miles per year on rural roads  |
| <i>state</i>         | State  |
| <i>vmt</i>           | Millions of traffic miles per year: $vmt = vmturban + vmtrural$<br>(Note: Number of fatalities = $fatalityrate \times vmt$ ) |
| <i>year</i>          | Year   |
| <i>fips</i>          | State ID Code  |