Description of the gun control laws data

These data were taken from “Firearm legislation and firearm mortality in the USA: a cross-sectional, state-level study” by Kalesan et. al. (2016). The data are on the course website, and more information can be found

http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/10/health/gun-laws-background-checks-reduce-deaths/

VARIABLE DESCRIPTIONS

• Y: Vector of the number of firearm-related deaths in 2010 in each state (the states are in alphabetical order, as seen by names(Y) in R).

• N: Vector of state populations in 2010.

• Z: A 50 × 5 matrix with [i, j] element equal to the value of confounder j in state i. The five columns are:
  1. 2009 firearm death rate per 10,000 people
  2. Firearm ownership rate quartile
  3. Unemployment rate quartile
  4. Non-firearm homicide rate quartile
  5. Firearm export rate quartile

• X: A matrix with [i, l] element equal 1 if state i has law l and zero otherwise. The laws are described in the column names (colnames(X) in R) and Table 1 of the paper.

For complete details see the original paper and its supplement posted on the course website.