

bridging the gap

Research Informing Policies & Practices
for Healthy Youth

State Safe Routes to School-related Laws, 2005-2011 Codebook, v.1

Last Update: November 14, 2011

For information about these data or codebook:

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Overview

This codebook and the associated data file were compiled by the Bridging the Gap (BTG) Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). The data are based on coded state statutory and administrative (regulatory) laws (hereafter referred to as “state laws”) compiled by The MayaTech Corporation under contract to BTG.

The data reflect state laws effective as of January 1 of each year, 2005-2011. The baseline year of 2005 was chosen as that is the year that The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109-59; SAFETEA-LU) was enacted by Congress. SAFETEA-LU included safe routes to school-related provisions. Although SAFETEA-LU was not enacted until August 2005, we chose to create a 2005 baseline with the state law data to assess the extent to which states have existing or other laws “on the books” that might facilitate or inhibit safe routes to school. Most of these laws have been “on the books” for an extended period of time and were created for safety reasons not specifically related to safe routes to school.

In addition to the data compiled for BTG by MayaTech, there are additional variables included that were compiled by legal researchers at UIC that reflect state-mandated minimum bussing distances and hazardous route exemptions to the minimum bussing distance laws. These data also were compiled based on laws “on the books” in each state and were verified with state department of education officials.

The data set contains a combination of ordinal, dummy, and categorical variables and are labeled as such in the dataset and codebook. In most instances, the dummy variables simply reflect recoding of the ordinal variables.

For purposes of linking these data with other data sets, it is important to link on year and state Federal Information Processing Standards code (stfips in the data file).

The UIC data file associated with this codebook is:

btg_SRTS_hazlaw_2005_2011_with_dummyvars_03Nov11.xlsx (Excel) OR
btg_SRTS_hazlaw_2005_2011_with_dummyvars_03Nov11.dat (STATA v. 11.2).

This codebook was generated on November 14, 2011 by Jamie Chriqui.

Variables in the BTG State Safe Routes to School Data File

year Coding Year (Laws in effect as of 1/1/XXXX)

type: numeric (int)
range: [2005,2011] units: 1
unique values: 7 missing .: 0/357

tabulation: Freq. Value
51 2005
51 2006
51 2007
51 2008
51 2009
51 2010
51 2011

state State Name

type: string (str20)
unique values: 51 missing "": 0/357

examples: "Georgia"
"Maryland"
"New Jersey"
"South Carolina"

warning: variable has embedded blanks

stfips State Fips Code

type: numeric (byte)
range: [1,56] units: 1
unique values: 51 missing .: 0/357

mean: 28.9608
std. dev: 15.6988

percentiles: 10% 25% 50% 75% 90%
 8 16 29 42 50

OthStaCt

Other Law Citation: Statutory

```

type: string (str244)
unique values: 69          missing "": 0/357
examples: "FLA. STAT. ANN. §§ 1006.23, 1013.36, 316.1895,
          163.3177"
          "ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 29 § 2074 (2001) "
          "N.Y. EDUC. LAW §§ 806 (eff. 1941); N.Y. GENERAL
          MUNICIPAL LAW § 208-a (eff. 1956); N.Y. HIGHWAY LAW §
          118 (eff. 1936) N.Y. VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW § 1180,
          N.Y. VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW §§ 1620 et. seq."
          "S.C. CODE ANN. §§ 59-17-150, 56-5-740 (eff. 1977),
          57-7-23 (eff. 1962) and 57-7-230 (eff. 1969) "
warning: variable has embedded and trailing blanks

```

OthRegCt

Other Law Citation: Regulatory

```

type: string (str244)
unique values: 51          missing "": 3/357
examples: "8 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 20-70-160 (eff. 2004); 24 VA.
          ADMIN. CODE § 30-91-110 (eff. 1/1/2005)"
          "N.J. ADMIN. CODE §§ 5:21-4.5 (eff. 2004), 6A:27-11.4
          (eff. 2001, expires 7/8/2010)"
          "NA"
          "NEV. ADMIN. CODE § 389.2944 (7)(a) (eff. 2000) "
warning: variable has embedded and trailing blanks

```

schlsite

Dummy: Law Addresses Walk/Bike Safety in School Siting Provisions

```

type: numeric (byte)
label: schlsitelbl
range: [0,1]          units: 1
unique values: 2          missing .: 0/357
tabulation:
  Freq.  Numeric  Label
      250      0  Law does not address
           walking/biking safety
      107      1  Law addresses walking/biking
           safety

```

engidhaz Ordinal: (Engineering) Identifying Hazardous Routes to School

type: numeric (byte)
label: engidhazlbl

range: [0,2] units: 1
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	239	0	No law
	24	1	Law encourages a political entity to identify hazardous routes to school
	94	2	Law requires a political entity to identify hazardous routes to school

engconst Ordinal: (Engineering) Maintain or Construct Sidewalks Near Schools

type: numeric (byte)
label: engconstlbl

range: [0,2] units: 1
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	183	0	No law
	98	1	Law encourages a political entity to maintain or construct sidewalks near schools
	76	2	Law requires a political entity to maintain or construct sidewalks near schools

engtraf Ordinal: (Engineering) Constructing Traffic Control Measures

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: engtraflbl

      range: [0,2]          units: 1
unique values: 3          missing .: 0/357

      tabulation: Freq.  Numeric  Label
                  156      0  No law
                  53      1  Law encourages a political
                        entity to construct traffic
                        control measures near schools
                  148      2  Law requires a political entity
                        to construct traffic controls
                        measures near schools
```

edschsaf Ordinal: Pedestrian or Bicycle Safety Education: Students

```
      type: numeric (byte)
      label: edschsaflbl

      range: [0,2]          units: 1
unique values: 3          missing .: 0/357

      tabulation: Freq.  Numeric  Label
                  242      0  No law
                  31      1  Law encourages a political
                        entity to provide pedestrian or
                        bicycle safety education to
                        students
                  84      2  Law requires a political entity
                        to provide pedestrian or bicycle
                        safety education to students
```

edpubsaf

Ordinal: Pedestrian or Bicycle Safety Education: Public

type: numeric (byte)
label: edpubsaf1bl

range: [0,2] units: 1
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	294	0	No law
	14	1	Law encourages a political entity to provide pedestrian or bicycle safety education to the public
	49	2	Law requires a political entity to provide pedestrian or bicycle safety education to the public

enfspeed

Ordinal: (Enforcement) Establishing School Speed Zones

type: numeric (byte)
label: enfspeed1bl

range: [0,2] units: 1
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	41	0	No law
	25	1	Law encourages a political entity to establish school speed zones
	291	2	Law requires a political entity to establish school speed zones

enfguard Ordinal: Enforcement) Employment of School Crossing Guards

type: numeric (byte)
label: enfguardlbl

range: [0,2] units: 1
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/357

tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label

200	0	No law
122	1	Law encourages a political entity to employ school crossing guards
35	2	Law requires a political entity to employ school crossing guards

encaware Ordinal: (Encouragement) Establishes a Walk to School Day or some other awareness provision

type: numeric (byte)
label: encawarelbl

range: [0,2] units: 1
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/357

tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label

337	0	No law
7	1	Law encourages a political entity to establish awareness efforts
13	2	Law requires a political entity to establish awareness efforts

dedtaxpb Dummy: Dedicated Taxes for Pedestrian or Bicycle Infrastructure

type: numeric (byte)
label: dedtaxpblbl

range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label

319	0	Law does not address dedicated taxes for projects
38	1	Law includes taxes dedicated for pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure projects

engconst_any

Dummy: Any law addressing maintain/construct sidewalks near schools

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl

range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	186	0	no
	171	1	yes

engconst_req

Dummy: Require maintain/construct sidewalks near schools

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl

range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	277	0	no
	80	1	yes

engtraf_any

Dummy: Any law addressing traffic control/calming near schools

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl

range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	157	0	no
	200	1	yes

engtraf_req

Dummy: Require traffic control/calming near schools

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl

range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	220	0	no
	137	1	yes

enfspeed_any

Dummy: Any law addressing speed zones around schools

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl

range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	42	0	no
	315	1	yes

enfspeed_req

Dummy: Require speed zones around schools

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl

range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	67	0	no
	290	1	yes

enfguard_any

Dummy: Any law addressing crossing guards around schools

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl
range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357
tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label
 207 0 no
 150 1 yes

enfguard_req

Dummy: Require crossing guards around schools

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl
range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357
tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label
 322 0 no
 35 1 yes

edschsaf_any

Dummy: Any law addressing ped/bike safety: students

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl
range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357
tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label
 242 0 no
 115 1 yes

edschsaf_req

Dummy: Require ped/bike safety: students

```
      type: numeric (float)
      label: yesnolbl

      range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                units: 1
                                missing .: 0/357

      tabulation: Freq.  Numeric  Label
                  273     0      no
                  84     1      yes
```

edpubsaf_any

Dummy: Any law addressing ped/bike safety: public

```
      type: numeric (float)
      label: yesnolbl

      range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                units: 1
                                missing .: 0/357

      tabulation: Freq.  Numeric  Label
                  294     0      no
                  63     1      yes
```

edpubsaf_req

Dummy: Require ped/bike safety: public

```
      type: numeric (float)
      label: yesnolbl

      range: [0,1]
unique values: 2                units: 1
                                missing .: 0/357

      tabulation: Freq.  Numeric  Label
                  308     0      no
                  49     1      yes
```

encaware_any Dummy: Any law addressing establishing a walk to school/other awareness effort

```
      type: numeric (float)
      label: yesnolbl

      range: [0,1]          units: 1
unique values: 2          missing .: 0/357

      tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
                  338     0       no
                  19     1       yes
```

encaware_req Dummy: Require establishing a walk to school/other awareness effort

```
      type: numeric (float)
      label: yesnolbl

      range: [0,1]          units: 1
unique values: 2          missing .: 0/357

      tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
                  338     0       no
                  19     1       yes
```

admfund_any Dummy: Any law addressing state or local funding/policy for SRTS efforts

```
      type: numeric (float)
      label: yesnolbl

      range: [0,1]          units: 1
unique values: 2          missing .: 0/357

      tabulation: Freq.   Numeric  Label
                  319     0       no
                  38     1       yes
```

admfund_req

Dummy: Require state or local funding/policy for SRTS efforts

type: numeric (float)
label: yesnolbl
range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	326	0	no
	31	1	yes

es_dist

Continuous: Elementary School Min Bussing Distance

type: numeric (float)
range: [0,5] units: .1
unique values: 8 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Value
	182	0
	49	1
	28	1.5
	70	2
	7	2.5
	7	3.5
	7	4
	7	5

es_notes

Elementary School Min Bussing Distance Notes

```
type: string (str85)
unique values: 4          missing "": 231/357
  tabulation: Freq. Value
                231 ""
                7  "Only certain types of districts reqd to
                   transport kids living 1.5+ mi"
                7  "Required for ES (K-6 or K-8)"
                105 "School board decision"
                7  "suggestive mileage requirements: Jr/Sr
                   High: 2.5 mi from city line; 3 mi from
                   school"
warning: variable has embedded blanks
```

ms_dist

Continuous: Middle School Min Bussing Distance

```
type: numeric (float)
range: [0,4]          units: .1
unique values: 7      missing .: 0/357
  tabulation: Freq. Value
                197 0
                21 1
                42 1.5
                76 2
                7 2.5
                7 3.5
                7 4
```

ms_notes

Middle School Min Bussing Distance Notes

```
type: string (str85)
unique values: 4          missing "": 231/357
  tabulation: Freq. Value
                231  ""
                7   "Only certain types of districts reqd to
                7   transport kids living 1.5+ mi"
                7   "Optional for MS if includes 7-8 grade"
                105  "School board decision"
                7   "suggestive mileage requirements: Jr/Sr
                High: 2.5 mi from city line; 3 mi from
                school"
warning: variable has embedded blanks
```

hs_dist

Continuous: High School Min Bussing Distance

```
type: numeric (float)
range: [0,4]          units: .1
unique values: 8      missing .: 0/357
  tabulation: Freq. Value
                210  0
                14  1
                35  1.5
                56  2
                14  2.5
                14  3
                7   3.5
                7   4
```

hs_notes

High School Min Bussing Distance Notes

```
      type: string (str85)
unique values: 5                missing "": 224/357
  tabulation: Freq. Value
              224 ""
              7  "Only certain types of districts reqd to
                transport kids living 1.5+ mi"
              7  "Optional for HS"
             105  "School board decision"
              7  "district determination for HS"
              7  "suggestive mileage requirements: Jr/Sr
                High: 2.5 mi from city line; 3 mi from
                school"

warning: variable has embedded blanks
```

es_dist_cat

Categorical: ES bussing distance

```
      type: numeric (float)
label: es_dist_cat, but 1 nonmissing value is not labeled
  range: [0,3]                units: 1
unique values: 4              missing .: 0/357
  tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label
              182      0
              49       1 <=1
              98       2 >1-2
              28       3 >2
```

ms_dist_cat

Categorical: MS bussing distance

```
      type: numeric (float)
label: distancecatlbl, but 1 nonmissing value is not labeled
  range: [0,3]                units: 1
unique values: 4              missing .: 0/357
  tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label
              197      0
              21       1 <=1
              118      2 >1-2
              21       3 >2
```

hs_dist_cat

Categorical: HS bussing distance

type: numeric (float)
label: distancecatlbl, but 1 nonmissing value is not labeled

range: [0,3] units: 1
unique values: 4 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	210	0	
	14	1	<=1
	91	2	>1-2
	42	3	>2

hazlaw

Dummy: hazardous routes exemption to min bus distance

type: numeric (float)
label: hazlawlbl

range: [0,1] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/357

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	252	0	no
	105	1	yes