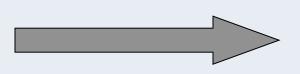
Creating a Public Health Law Database







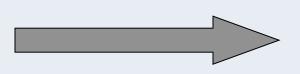
February 2010

Jennifer Ibrahim, PhD, MPH

Temple University, Department of Public Health

Creating a Public Health Law Database





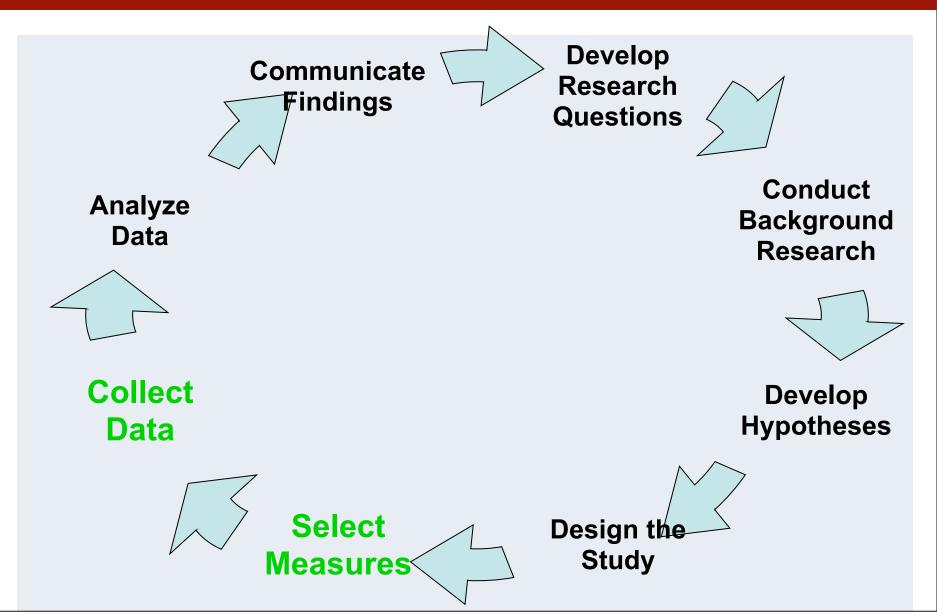


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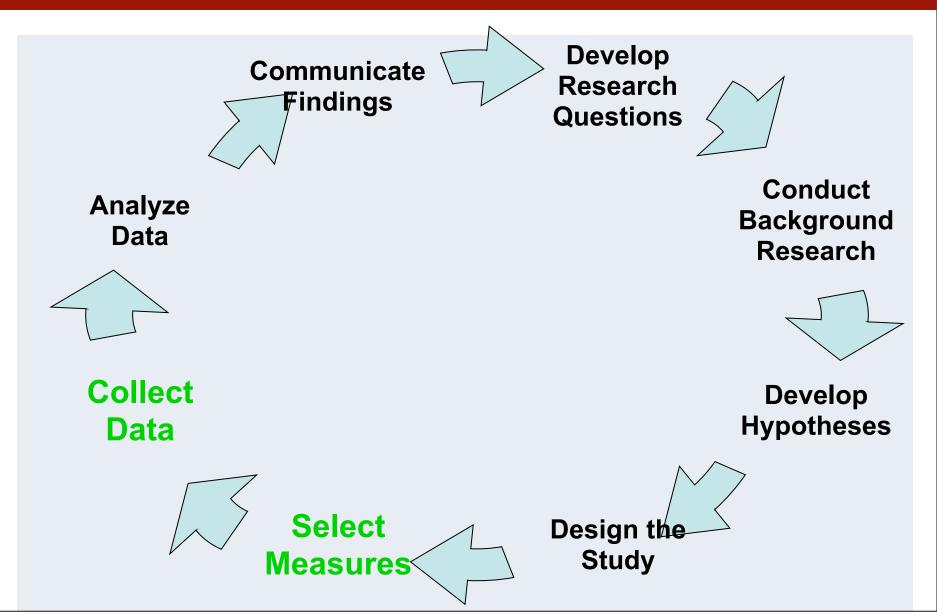
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Designing a Research Proposal



Designing a Research Proposal



Overview of Database Creation

- 1. Develop a potential list of legal measures
- 2. Test the measures with pilot data collection
- 3. Define variables and values
- 4. Create a codebook and protocol
- 5. Conduct the research and record raw data
- 6. Check for quality
- 7. Deriving new variables
- 8. Finalize codebook and protocol

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Develop Measures

- Document characteristics of the law
 - Dichotomous, Categorical, Ordinal or Continuous
- Consider the level of the law
- Consider the source of the law

Types of Law by Level and Source											
Laval	Source										
Level	Legislative	Executive	Judicial	Electoral	Special						
Federal	Statutes	Regulations			Constitutions						
State	Statutes	Executive Orders	Case Law (Common	Initiatives	Constitutions						
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Challenges to Measuring Law

Inter-jurisdictional differences

Enactment v. effective dates

Changes in law over time

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Creating a Database of Cell Phone Laws

Creating a Database of Cell Phone Laws

Starting the Search

- LexisNexis, Westlaw, publically available state databases, including google.com
- Initial search terms:
 - mobile or telephone, cell!, text! w/20 driv! or motor! or oper!"
- In one state alone, this returns 643 entries
 - "textual", "cellulose", biological "cell"

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Conducting the Search

- Modified search terms:
 - "mobile telephone or cell phone or cellphone or cellular telephone"
- NC: 89 results, only 3 related to distracted driving
 - N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-11(6)(2009)
 - N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-137.3(b)(2009)
 - N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-137.4(b)(2009)
- CA: 0 results, but we knew of at least 1 law
 - Use google & contacted state administrative bodies
 - Search LexisNexis or Westlaw again
 - Modified search terms as needed and repeat total search

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Law as Text

Cal Veh Code § 23123. Hand-Held Wireless Telephone: Prohibited Use

- (a) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving.
- (b) A violation of this section is an infraction punishable by a base fine of twenty dollars (\$20) for a first offense and fifty dollars (\$50) for each subsequent offense.
- (c) This section does not apply to a person using a wireless telephone for emergency purposes, including, but not limited to, an emergency call to a law enforcement agency, health care provider, fire department, or other emergency services agency or entity.

[...]

(h) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2008, and shall remain in effect only until July 1, 2011, and, as of July 1, 2011, is repealed.

Added and repealed Sec. 4, Ch. 290, Stats. 2006. Effective January 1, 2007. Operative July 1, 2008. Repeal operative July 1, 2011. Amended Sec. 2, Ch. 214, Stats. 2007. Effective January 1, Operative July 1, 2008

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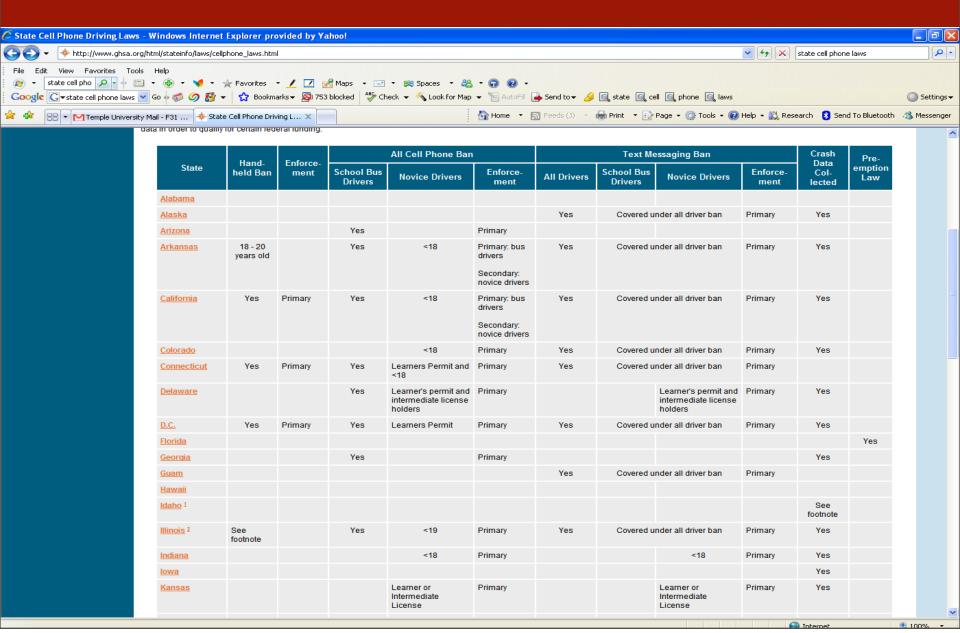
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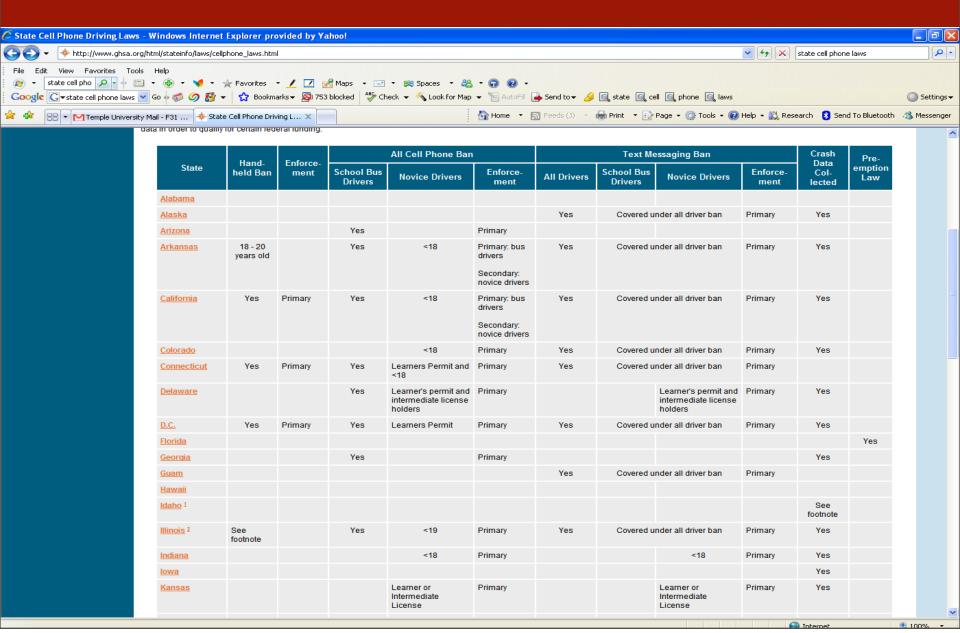
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Using Available Data



Using Available Data



Documenting your Protocol

- Source(s) of Information
- Data collection process
- Final coding scheme
- Data entry process
- Data monitoring
- Data management

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Cell Phone Database Protocol

PROTOCOL

Goal: To compile a database of state-level distracted driving laws for the time period of January.

1, 1980 to March 1, 2010, including all the materially significant attributes of the laws.

A. Primary Data Collection.

- Two students are assigned to the initial data collection. Student #1 is assigned to collect laws for the states of Alabama through Mississippi and Student #2 is assigned to collect the laws for the states of Missouri through Wyoming.
- Using Westlaw and LexisNexis, each student conducts independent searches for laws that regulate the use of any and all mobile telecommunication devices while operating a motor vehicle. The following steps are used:
 - a. Each student begins the search using the following terms: "cell phone" "cellphone," "cellular phone," "wireless telephones," "test," and "hands-free,". The students will also use the wildcard functions to search "cell!," and "test!" to search for any important variations of the terms.

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Define Variables and Values

- Name of the variable "Anymobilecomm"
- Label or definition of the variable
 - "Law regulating mobile communications while driving"

Valid Values

- Type Dichotomous
- Values

Standard Attributes Label Law regulating mobile communicatio ns while driving			Value	Count	Percer
I I I	Standard Attributes La	ibel	regulating mobile communicatio ns while		

Missing Data

.0% 100.0% 0%.

AnyMobileComm

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- Type Dichotomous
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Standard Attributes Label Law regulating mobile communicatio ns while driving			Value	Count	Percer
I I I	Standard Attributes La	ibel	regulating mobile communicatio ns while		

Missing Data

.0% 100.0% 0%.

AnyMobileComm

{0, No}...

None

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10

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Develop a Coding Scheme

Aliananafi	DaviseDaint	Filathada	الحمما	Database	13 15 001								
Cell_Pho	Cell_Phone_database. 8.12.09.sav [DataSet1] - SPSS Statistics Data Editor												
<u>File Edit Y</u>	ile <u>E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew <u>D</u> ata <u>I</u> ransform <u>A</u> nalyze <u>G</u> raphs <u>U</u> tilities Add- <u>o</u> ns <u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> elp												
	Name	Туре	Width	Decimals	Label	Values	Missing	Сс					
1	State	String	2	0	State abbreviation	None	None	2					
2	FIPSCode	Numeric	2	0	Federal Information Processing Standard Codes	None	None	3					
3	Iteration	Numeric	1	0		None	None	5					
4	BeginDate	String	8	0	The effective date of the law	None	None	8					
5	EndDate	String	8	0	The date the law will no longer be in effect	None	None	8					
6	AnyMobileC	Numeric	1	0	Law regulating mobile communications while driving	w regulating mobile communications while driving {0, No} None							
7	Type_Com	Numeric	1	0	Mode of communication regulated (all, talk, text)	{O, Not specified}	None	15					
8	RegulatesAl	Numeric	1	0	Law regulates talking, texting and other messaging	{O, No}	None	8					
9	TalkOnly	Numeric	1	0	Law regulates talking only (not texting)	{O, No}	None	8					
10	TextOnly	Numeric	1	0	Law regulates texting only (not talking)	{O, No}	None	8					
11	AnyCommD	Numeric	1	0	Law pertains to any device capable of sending messages	{O, No}	None	13					
12	CellPhone	Numeric	1	0	Law pertains to cell phones	{O, No}	None	8					
13	PDA	Numeric	1	0	Law pertains to other messaging devices not including two way radios	{0, No}	None	8					
14	TwoRadioR	Numeric	1	0	Law pertains to two way radios	{0, No}	None	8					
15	HeadSetBan	Numeric	1	0	Law bans the use of headsets while driving	{0, No}	None	8					
16	AllDrivers	Numeric	1	0	Law regulates all drivers	{0, No}	None	8					

Law regulates "novice" drivers or those holding provisional licenses, leaner's permits etc

Accident report must indicate that a cell phone was in use at the time of the accident

State declaration limits the ability of localities to make laws with provisions concerning the us.

ParkedCar Friday, March 19, 2010

Handsfree

Emergencγ...

EmergServ...

SchoolBus...

Under18Te...

Preemption...

MandatoryR... Numeric

AnyExempti... Numeric

StartStopCall Numeric

Numeric 1

Numeric

Numeric

Numeric

Numeric

Numeric

Numeric 1

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Law regulates school bus drivers

Law provides at least one exemption

Exemption is provided for parked cars

Exemption is provided for initiating or terminating a call

Exemption is provided for emergency service personnel

Exemption is for provided for use of a device with a hands-free option

Exemption is provided for use of the device in an emergency situation

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{0, No}...

None

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8

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Developing a Codebook

AnyMobileComm

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Label	Law regulating mobile communicatio ns while driving		
Valid Values	0	No	0	.0%
	1	Yes	70	100.0%
	8	Don't Know	0	.0%
	9	Missing Data	0	.0%

Type_Communication

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Label	Mode of communicatio n regulated (all, talk, text)		
Valid Values	0	Not specified	20	28.6%
	1	Texting only	6	8.6%
	2	Talking only	2	2.9%
	3	All talking and messaging	42	60.0%

RegulatesAllMessaging									
		Value	Count	Percent					
Standard Attributes	Label	Law regulates talking, texting and other messaging							
Valid Values	0	No	28	40.0%					
	1	Yes	42	60.0%					
	8	Don't Know	0	.0%					
	0	Missing Data	0	.0%					

TalkOnly

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Label	Law regulates talking only (not texting)		
Valid Values	0	No	80	97.1%
1	1	Yes	2	2.9%
1	8	Don't Know	0	.0%
	0	Missing Data	0	.0%

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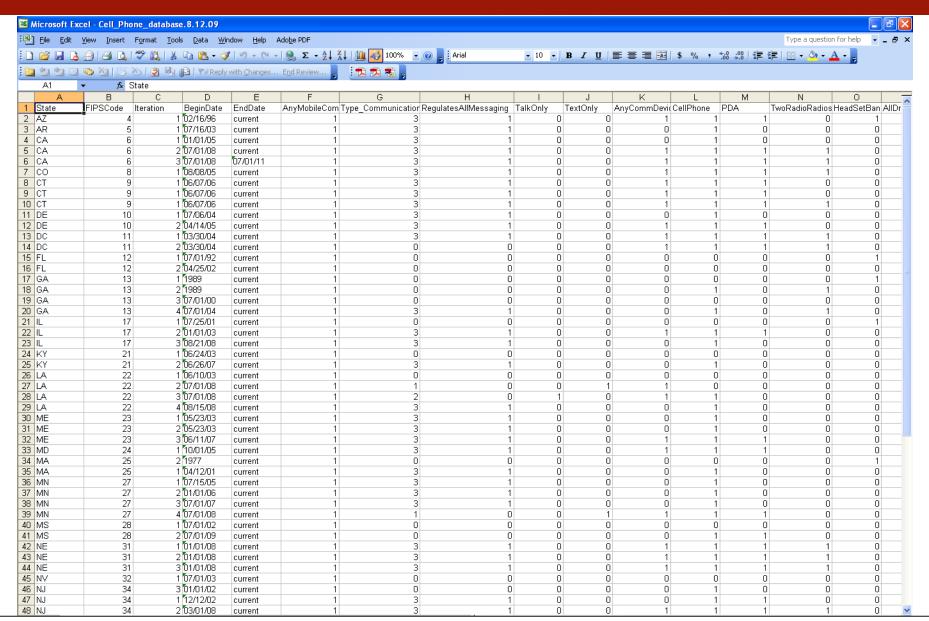
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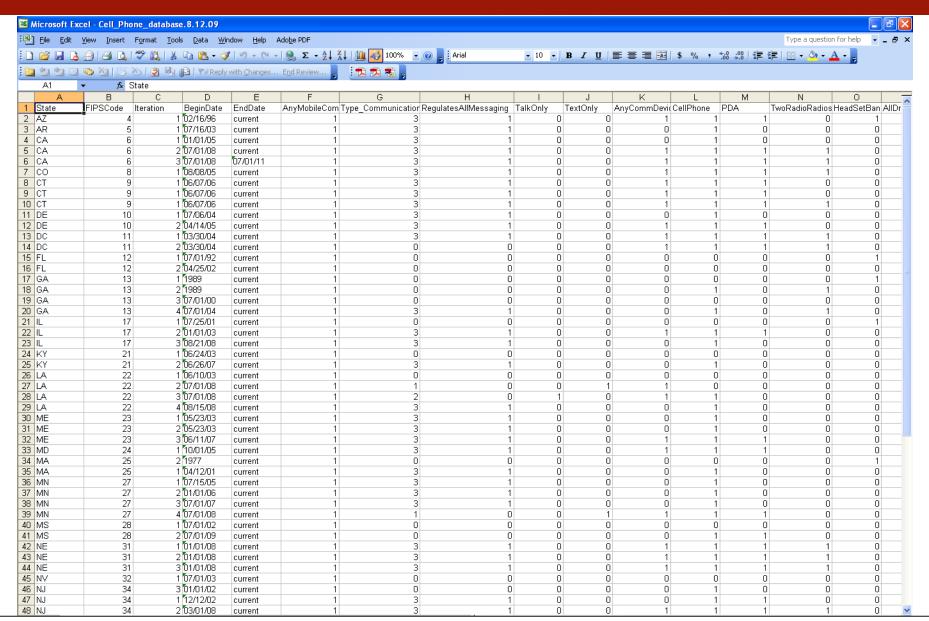
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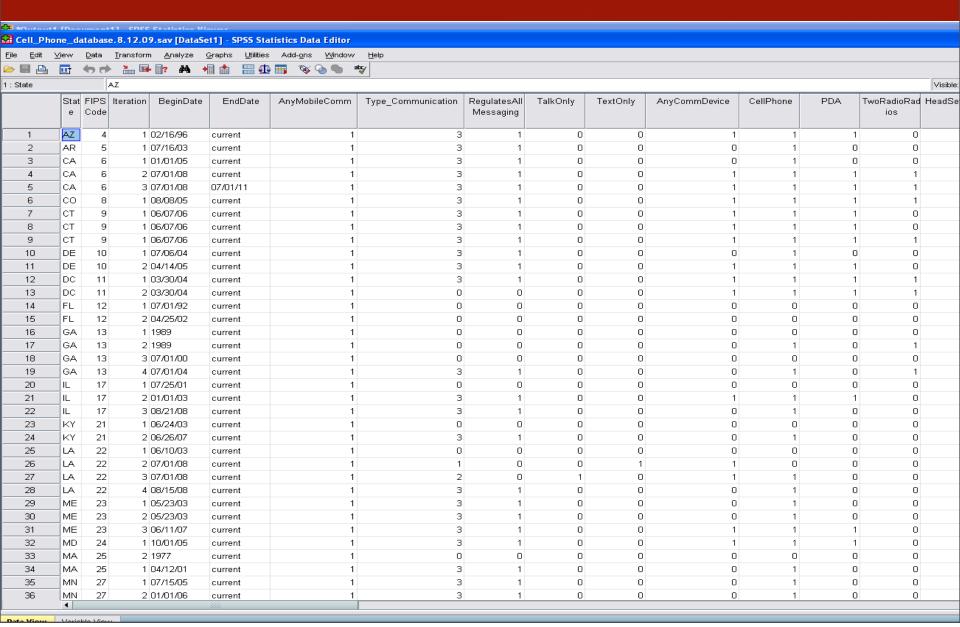


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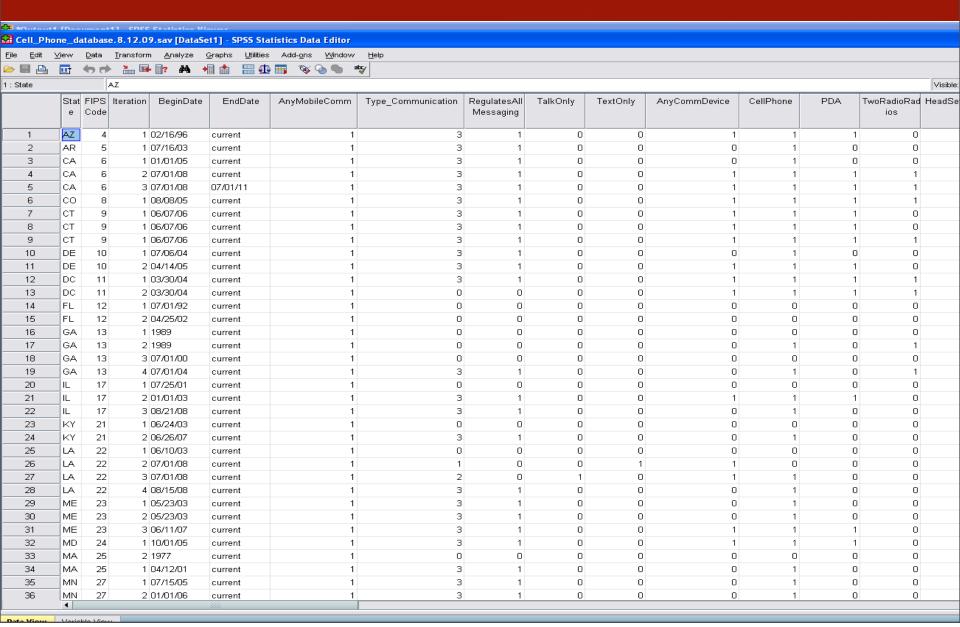
Public Health Law Research: Making the Case for Laws that Improve Health

Import Data into Analytic Software



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Additional Considerations

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- Final Codebook and Protocol
- Merging Datasets
- Web-Based Legal "Databases"

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