

WHAT FACTORS AFFECT GUN CONTROL LAWS FOR EACH STATE?

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This paper examines what factors affect how strict or how lax each state is with their gun control laws. The dependent variable is the Brady Campaign scores for each state with higher scores representing stricter gun control laws (California being the strictest ranked at 79, and the lowest being Utah ranked at 0). There are seven specific independent variables that were chosen and then tested to the Brady Campaign to see how each variable affected the rank of the state. Out of the seven independent variables five of them proved to be statistically significant which were the violent crime rate, percent vote for Obama, percent that graduated college, percent poverty, and region. While these variables played the most important role in the Brady scale, the percent black population and per capita income had very little significance.