While there are a multitude of suspected motivations and circumstances for the mass shootings that have occurred in the U.S., two factors remain true for perpetrators of mass shootings; they were able to acquire firearms without great difficulty and they were able to execute their plans without intervention.

It is notable that over half of the states in the U.S. have remarkably lax gun laws and that the vast majority of ground transportation between states is virtually unregulated. Considering these factors, it may be possible to prove that the contiguity of states with lax gun laws compromises the effectiveness of stricter gun laws in neighboring states, resulting in higher incidence of mass shootings.

**GUN LAW CONTIGUITY AND MASS SHOOTINGS**

Statistical Analysis: To further verify the hypothesis, a regression was run to find statistically significant correlations between the number of incidents (dependent variable) and gun law score, (independent variables) in contiguous states. Unfortunately the relationship between these variables proved negative with the exception of population. The probably score for all dependent variables was close to 1, with the exception, population, scoring virtually zero. Further statistical spatial analysis looking at the relationship between mass shooting incidents and gun laws in contiguous states were more encouraging, but ultimately also proved negative.

While my hypothesis was not supported by this analysis, a number of refinements could go a long way in developing my hypothesis. Finding a method to integrate the gun law and population variables could produce more significant results. The isolation of states like New Jersey, with low incidents and high gun law score, contrasted with California's high incidents and high gun score continue to make me suspect that exposure to states with low gun law scores is meaningful. Perhaps comparing border lengths or road access from adjacent states and state gun laws would reveal statistical significance. States such as Hawaii and New Jersey, and countries like Australia continue to be compelling examples of gun law efficacy in instances of isolated and buffered exposure to lax gun laws.