**Research Question Submission:**
**Civilian Complaints Against New York City Police Officers**
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I would like to examine a dataset from ProPublica entitled "Civilian Complaints Against New York City Police Officers [1]." The dataset was released in July of 2020 by New York City's Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), an independent agency whose purpose is to "receive, investigate, …, and recommend action on complaints against New York City police officers alleging the use of excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language [2]." Before this summer, a New York state statute prevented the disclosure of "personnel records" for law enforcement officers, including CCRB complaint data [3]. However, with increasing pressure from anti-police brutality protests across the country, this statute was repealed, and complaint data was made public [4].

When a complaint is filed, the CCRB determines whether the complaint is substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded. The board may also exonerate the officer in question. The CCRB's definitions of these potential outcomes can be found in [5]. For substantiated cases, the board will recommend disciplinary action for the officer. The NYPD can choose whether they will carry out the recommended action. The newly released data shows that complaints are overwhelmingly determined to be unsubstantiated. ProPublica reported that the NYPD often obstructs CCRB investigations by "withholding significant evidence … of alleged abuse [6]."

This dataset provides information about closed complaints filed against officers who (1) were on the police force when the data was released and (2) had at least one complaint where the outcome was substantiated [1]. The columns include the officer's name and rank, the race, gender, and age of the complainant and officer, the type of allegation, the reason for initial contact with the complainant, and the complaint's outcome. A description of the allegation is also provided (e.g., "gun pointed," "threat of force," "vehicle stop," "pepper spray").

I am interested in using this dataset to develop a logistic regression model predicting the likelihood of a substantiated outcome. I would like to compare the probability of a substantiated outcome for white versus non-white complainants, white versus non-white officers, female versus male complainants, and female versus male officers. I'd also like to consider the likelihood of a substantiated outcome for high-ranking versus low-ranking officers [7], and physical versus non-physical allegations.

**Sources**

[1] ProPublica. Civilian Complaints Against New York Police Officers. (July 2020). Retrieved from https://www.propublica.org/datastore/dataset/civilian-complaints-against-new-york-city-police-officers.

[2] NYC.gov. New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board: About. Retrieved from https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ccrb/about/about.page.

[3] New York State Assembly. Bill Number A09332.  Retrieved from https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&bn=9332&term=2015&Summary=Y&Memo=Y#:~:text=JUSTIFICATION%3A%20%C2%A7%2050%2Da%20of,criminal%20defense%20lawyers%20from%20using.

[4] The New York Times. N.Y. Bans Chokeholds and Approves Other Measures to Restrict Police. (June 2020). Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/nyregion/50a-repeal-police-floyd.html.

[5] NYC.gov. New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board: Case Outcomes. Retrieved from  https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ccrb/investigations/case-outcomes.page#:~:text=Unsubstantiated%3A%20means%20the%20available%20evidence,or%20did%20not%20commit%20misconduct.

[6] Eric Umansky and Mollie Simon. The NYPD Is Withholding Evidence From Investigations Into Police Abuse. (August 2020). Retrieved from  https://www.propublica.org/article/the-nypd-is-withholding-evidence-from-investigations-into-police-abuse.

[7] Los Angeles Police Department. Sworn Police Officer Class Titles and Job Descriptions. Retrieved from https://www.lapdonline.org/join_the_team/content_basic_view/9127.