Cook County Regional Gang Intelligence Database

Introduction and Background

I chose the Cook County Regional Gang Intelligence Database dataset from ProPublica. It can be found here: https://www.propublica.org/datastore/dataset/cook-county-regional-gang-intelligence-database. This data was obtained from a gang database from a sheriff's office and jail in Cook County, IL as well as other law enforcement agencies. The data mostly portrays information about criminals located within IL and IN, but there are also other states located in some data as well. The data includes specific physical characteristics of each gang member such as gender, height, weight, eye color, hair color, race, and age. The set also includes unique information such as what gang the criminal belonged to, what suburb he/she lived in, if the criminal had tattoos or not, and other questions related to gang affiliation.

I chose this dataset because I live in Elgin, which is a city in Cook and Kane County in the northern part of Illinois. I have never really witnessed or have been concerned with any gang affiliation within my community in Illinois, so I am curious as to what information and what trends are associated with different gang intelligence around my city. Binary Logistic regression is used to predict if something is true (1) or false (0). I will use binary logistic regression to analyze this dataset with specific questions of my interest.

Project Objectives:

- How many male gang members are located in Elgin, South Elgin, or Streamwood in comparison to other IL cities in Cook County?

- What is the probability a gang member is of black race and below the age of 35?

- What is the probability a gang member is of Hispanic ethnicity and carries a weapon?

These questions will give me great insight into gang intelligence around my community.

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