**Project Writeup Components**

TITLE:

Public Perception of the Court System

ABSTRACT:

The cost of collecting, storing, and maintaining data s decreased allowing for more organizations to be able to work with data. It is now common for companies to collect data to use the for decision making. With the expansion of data collection, it is possible to use data in places areas that may not have thought of implementing data decisions, such as social justice. It is important as a nation to have a criminal justice system that citizens believe and trust in. It is the backbone of our country and can also be the cause of civil unrest and protests if there are real or perceived aspects of the system are unjust. Public Opinion on the Courts in the United States, dataset looks at the perception of the court system for different races to see if people have different feeling. This dataset will be analyzed to see what insights it holds about the public perception of the court system. This research paper will look at the hypothesis, the objectives of the study, give an overview of the study, conduct a literature review, look at the research design, discuss findings, and make recommendations based on the finding.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS:

There are 3 questions that are the focus on the analysis.

Question 1: Do different races have different perceptions of the court system?

Null Hypothesis: Since everyone has different experiences with the court, there is no significate difference between race and perception of the court system.

Alternative Hypothesis: There is a strong difference of perception of the court system with minorities having a negative feeling towards the court system.

Question 2: What experience contributes most to people’s perception of the court?

Null Hypothesis: People perception of the court system can be influenced by serval sources and each person will measure these experiences differently, so there will not be a strong a single experience that will more strongly influence people feelings to the court.

Alternative Hypothesis: There is going to be an experience that influences people to either trust or distrust the court system.

Question 3: Do people of different races that know someone or have had a personal experience with the court, feel like they have been treated differently by the court system?

Null Hypothesis: Since people have different experiences, there will be no relationship between race and how they were treated by the court for people that either know someone or have had personal experience with the court.

Alternative Hypothesis: People of different races that know someone or have had a personal experience with eh court system, will have different feeling of how they were treated and the outcome of the case.

INTRODUCTION:

For the capstone project I will be using public dataset “Publish Opinion on the Courts in the United States, 2000” located at https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR03864.v2. This dataset was available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD). The National Archive of Criminal Justice Data is an organization created 5 decades ago to provide qualitative data on criminal justice issues. It is a small organization that has a large impact for its size based on giving grants from the department of justice and other federal sources to have studies completed.

Understanding how the public perception about private sectors can help lawmakers identify areas that should be looked at for reform. It makes sure that they are focusing on areas that communities want changed and can help identify systematic inequalities.

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this research paper is to understand if there is a difference in perception of the court system based on race and if there is a difference, where does it stem from. Criminal justice reform is a common topic of discussion, but it is needed to know where to start. This study can help give direction and areas of additional focus.

OVERVIEW OF STUDY:

The dataset being utilized for this project is from Rottman, David B., Hansen, Randall, Mott, Nicole, and Grimes, Lynn (2000) and is titled Public Opinion on the Courts in the United States. As stated in the previous overview, the purpose of this data set was to understand the different perceptions of the court system to see if different races had different thoughts and feeling on the court system. This dataset has a lot of information. There is a total of 90 variables for the 1,567 observations. This shows that there will be variety of ways that the data will be analyzed.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

There are several scholarly publications that also look at this dataset. I have refrained from reviewing them at this point to make sure that I am being impartial during my analysis. My reviews are based on reading the abstract only for articles that were focused on the similar questions as mine.

Sun, Ivan Y., Wu, Yuning. (2006), reviews what demographics are the best predictors of the court system. It looks at race, gender, and recent experiences to be able to determine how people will feel about the court system. This can be used at help any findings for question 1.

Peterson, G., Hare, C., & Wrighton, J. Mark. (2012) is a study looking at judicial elections and the perception of the court system based on them. This will help see if their perception has more to do with that is happening in local elections and not with the court system at all.

Finally, Granot, Y., Balcetis, E., & Stern, C. (2017) look at crime by zip code. This could be used to see if the difference in perception has to do with the crime rate in different areas. This study focuses specifically on perceptions when people have gone through the court system. This can be used when looking at my third question, if people have different perceptions once they have personal experience with the court system.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

* Methodology

The dataset being analyzed used qualitative research methods. The analysis being completed is to help understand the data and would be considered more as an exploratory methodology. While historically reform and social movements tend to happen when there is perceived difference in treatment for different people, it would be difficult predict this since there are so many unpredictable factors involved.

* Methods:

I have a plan for how to analysis the data that is listed below. If there are changes to this while completing the analysis, they will be documented appropriately.

First, I am going to analyze the data blind, meaning I am not going to look what the numeric values mean for non-numeric data such as gender and race. This will ensure that I am not looking trying to prove what I currently believe but find conclusion based on the data alone.

Second, I plan on grouping similar questions together. The survey asked several questions using different verbiage. This might be similar questions like “People were treated with dignity and respect?” and “People were treated politely?” These are very similar questions and I want to see if these have a strong correlation. This will allow me to draw conclusions on large topics instead of singular questions.

Third, I will look to see if there is a correlation between these larger groups of questions. What I would be looking to see is if people scored high in treatment questions does that mean it is more likely they will score high in outcome questions and believe that the outcome was fair. The difficult part of this is deciding how to compare these larger group together. Depending on the correlation and variance on the relationships within the groups, I may be able to pick a single question to represent the group as a hole. But this would not work if there is not a strong correlation (either negative or positive) and a low variance between the data points. If I am not able to find correlation between the large groups, I will need to pick single questions with different overall themes and see if they are correlated one question at a time.

* Limitations:

Limitations in the data would be the number of observations and the year that it was conducted. This study took place in 2000 and there have been several social movements, highly publicized stories bringing inequality to light, and changes since that time. Most notably would be Black Lives Matter, Me Too, Freddie Gray murder, and the ongoing murder of Ahmaud Arbery. Since all these large changes have happened in the last 10 years, people could have very different feelings of the court system today then what they did 20 years ago. This should be considered when recommending action from this dataset.

There was a total of 1,567 interview done to complete this dataset. Depending on the demographics, it is possible that there may not be enough of a sample to make the finding statistically significant. If taking a subset of the data, it is important to know how many observations are being used to ensure that any conclusions are valid.

* Ethical considerations:

There are real stories behind these numbers and had their lives impacted by the criminal justice system. It is imperative to ensure that no personal information is released and that any conclusions drawn from this are genuine and do not overreach. These are 2 reasons to keep it as blind data to ensure that no biases are used when looking for relationships and correlations in the data.

FINDINGS:

Here I will report the finding and show visuals to help tell the story of the data. I will refer to the null and alternative hypothesis when discussing my findings to ensure that I am answering the business questions that were outlined.

CONCLUSION:

Here I will summarize the significant findings in the report and how understanding these finding can help society as a hold.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In this section I will make recommendations to additional areas that should be studied to help change the perception of the court system.

REFERENCES:

Granot, Y., Balcetis, E., & Stern, C. (2017). Zip code of conduct: Crime rate affects legal

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