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Final Project Proposal

Topic: Analyzing the disproportionate impact of police brutality on racial minorities and how it affects economic measures of development in local communities.

Systemic racism is ingrained in many of America's longstanding institutions. With the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, there has been widespread attention to the prevalence of police brutality and its disproportionate focus on Black Americans. Not only does police brutality result in the senseless killings of so many individuals in this country but it also impacts the communities in which such killings occur.

We are interested in examining the effects of policing rates and police brutality on societal measures of development, namely economic development measures. How does police brutality relate to the economic adversity of the community in which it occurs? Is there some connection between policing rates and economic development of a community? Are we able to predict the economic development of a community based on policing data?

The rates of police brutality vary greatly from city to city. We are interested in comparing the rates of police brutality in many cities across the US. And we can observe if some circumstances make some areas safer than others. By doing case studies on a few specific cities, and combining research and rates over time, we can explore what policies or measures may affect the rates of police brutality, and what we can learn from them

With the recent BLM movement, there has been a huge push towards defunding the police and putting that money towards social services for mental health, domestic violence and homelessness, among others. We're interested in exploring if past fluxuations in police funding has significantly impacted racial policing or police brutality, and our results will ideally better inform people's decisions about whether defunding the police would incite change for the better. We would present this material through a narrative track that walks our users through a robust story supported by data through research that concludes with a call to action for greater awareness or organizations that need the support.

Datasets:

https://openpolicing.stanford.edu/findings

https://mappingpoliceviolence.org

https://medium.com/data-stewards-network/ongoing-data-driven-efforts-to-address-racial-inequality-49e40ee05fee