**Final Research Question:** Is police violence against minority groups associated with party leanings and demographics in congressional districts?

**Description**

**- A brief description about the question**

This question is situated at the intersection of race and politics, and aims to determine if there is an association between political representatives at a national level and police violence at a domestic level. Police killings are an extremely relevant issue in the United States, with many recent high-profile cases of police brutality.

In the process of answering our research question, we will analyze how different minority groups are treated by police, which has been analyzed extensively in previous years. One factor in particular that we will measure with this question is the number of killings of Black people in majority white areas, compared to the number of killings of white people in majority Black areas. We will also control for the political party of representatives, which will allow us to see how political party is related to police killings while adjusting for the populations of each race. This question will not allow us to make causal claims, but it will open up further research by examining associations.

**- What have others studied about this issue, what did they find**

The politics of police and policing are well documented. Republicans have tended towards greater support and confidence in police, while Democrats take a moderately more critical approach to the police; however, many Democrats have also historically sought to strengthen police power and have often supported “tough on crime” measures that empowered police (Allen, 2021).

A 2017 analysis by the Pew Research Center found that Republicans had greater confidence than Democrats in the ability of police to treat people from different racial groups equally (Brown, 2017). Anecdotal reports in national media analyzed police brutality settlements and found that there were lower settlements in conservative counties that voted for Trump (Benincasa, 2020). These reports, while not extensive, demonstrate how political ideology of an area may provide information about police accountability efforts or could conceivably influence local policy preferences about police.

However, our research question is novel in that the relationship between national political representation and policing has not been extensively studied.

There have been previous submissions to USCLAP about similar issues. However, the paper we encountered discusses the likelihood of police violence in terms of race, whereas we are looking at associations between political parties and police violence. This paper does discuss political parties to some extent, but the conclusion they draw about political party is not their central thesis.

<https://www.causeweb.org/usproc/sites/default/files/usclap/2019-2/Police%20Violence%20and%20Racial%20Minorities.pdf>

**- Include data sets or links to data sets**

[**https://airtable.com/shroOenW19l1m3w0H/tblxearKzw8W7ViN8**](https://airtable.com/shroOenW19l1m3w0H/tblxearKzw8W7ViN8)

**Detailed Core Methods**

* Using the longitude and latitude variables, we will create an interactive map that shows the exact locations of the incidents.
* For all the variables listed below, remove the rows with missing values. This will reduce the number of observations from 10117 to 6585.
* First, analyze the proportions of the minority victims on the interactive map and compare it with the demographics.
* Conduct a z-test to see whether the proportions of minority victims in the Republican congressional districts is higher or if there is a statistically significant difference.
* Create bar charts to analyze trends in the police violence targeted towards oppressed groups. Add facet by features to compare locations.
* Conduct any other relevant statistical tests on categorical variables (**we know that this one is not detailed enough because we need guidance on this**)

**Variables of Interest**

* gender: the gender of the victim
* age: the age of the victim
* race: the race of the victim
* state: state where the incident took place
* Agency\_responsible: what police department was responsible for the incident
* congressional\_district\_113: congressional district that the incident took place in
* latitude: latitude of where the incident took place
* longitude: longitude of where the incident took place
* congressperson\_party: political party of the congressperson in the district
* Pop\_total\_census\_tract: population count within a census tract
* Pop\_white\_census\_tract: percentage of population within a census tract that is white
* pop\_black\_census\_tract: percentage of population within a census tract that is black
* pop\_asian\_census\_tract: percentage of population within a census tract that is asian
* pop\_pacific\_islander\_census\_tract: percentage of population within a census tract that is pacific islander.
* pop\_native\_american\_census\_tract: percentage of population within a census tract that is native american.

**References**

Allen, J. (2021, July 3). *Crafting midterm message, Republicans seize on crime spikes*. NBCNews.com. Retrieved April 20, 2022, from https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/crafting-midterm-message-republicans-seize-crime-spikes-n1272652

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Brown, A. (2017, January 13). *Republicans more likely than Democrats to have confidence in police*. Retrieved April 23, 2022, from https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/13/republicans-more-likely-than-democrats-to-have-confidence-in-police/