CS 109A: Final Project
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Police Violence in the US

Problem statement

Social reform does not happen by chance: it is usually spurred by awareness movements and activism. The modern Progressive Movement partially revolves around police reform in response to the many injustices that have involved law enforcement officers: from Trayvon Martin to George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, and uncountably other instances. Black Lives Matter and other awareness and activist groups are now calling for change. This project will investigate the correlates and causes of police violence across the country, including race and other demographics.

Project goal: to model some aspect of police violence in the US, at some geographic level (city, county, etc.), in order to investigate trends over time and associations with demographic, health, economic indicators, etc. Questions you could try to answer: just how overwhelming is the evidence of discrimination in police violence? Are there geographic differences in these injustices? Has the frequency of police violence towards the citizens it tries to protect increased over the last 4 years?

Data Recources

1. **Fatal Police Shootings Data**
   Washington Post's Police Shootings Repository on Git

2. **Crime Data**
   Bureau of Justice Statistics

3. **Other Data Sources**
   500 Cities Project
   Police Data Initiative US Census Bureau for Demographic Data Princeton's guide to resources about Black Lives Matter Data for Black Lives

High-level project goals

1. Compile and combine various sources of publicly available data on police violence along with data on demographics, geography, economics, etc.

2. Explore and visualize the data to illustrate time trends and geographic differences across the US

3. Model the rate of some type of police violence (like fatal police shootings) in order to measure the associations with various different demographic and other indicators.

References

1. "What the data say about police brutality and racial bias..."
2. Washington Post's Fatal Force - 2019
3. Black Lives Matter