01 EDA

June 29, 2025

1 01 - Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) and Data Preprocessing

This notebook is dedicated to performing an in-depth Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) on the raw insurance claims dataset and subsequently preparing the data for machine learning modeling. This involves understanding data characteristics, identifying patterns, handling missing values, encoding categorical features, and standardizing numerical data.

1.1 1.1 Import Libraries

This initial cell imports all the necessary Python libraries that will be utilized throughout the EDA and preprocessing phases of this notebook. Each library plays a distinct role:

- pandas as pd: This is the fundamental library for data manipulation and analysis. It provides powerful data structures like DataFrames, which are essential for handling tabular data.
- numpy as np: This library is crucial for numerical operations, especially for working with arrays and performing mathematical computations efficiently.
- matplotlib.pyplot as plt: As the foundational plotting library, matplotlib.pyplot is used for creating static, interactive, and animated visualizations, which are vital for understanding data distributions and relationships during EDA.
- sklearn.preprocessing.LabelEncoder: This utility from Scikit-learn is used for encoding categorical labels with numerical values. It transforms non-numeric labels into machine-readable integers, a common preprocessing step for many machine learning algorithms.

```
[1]: import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder
import seaborn as sns
```

1.1.1 1.2 Load Raw Dataset and Initial Overview

This cell is responsible for loading the raw insurance claims dataset from its specified path and performing essential initial inspections. These initial steps are crucial for understanding the structure, content, and quality of the raw data before any preprocessing or analysis begins.

1. Define File Path:

- file_path = 'E:/Project_2/insurance-risk-model/data/raw/insurance_claims.csv': This line defines the exact location of our raw dataset. It's good practice to store raw data separately in a data/raw directory within your project structure.
- 2. Robust Data Loading with Error Handling:

- The try...except FileNotFoundError block is implemented to make the data loading process more robust.
- try: It attempts to execute the code within this block. If the file is found, pd.read_csv(file_path) will load the data into a pandas DataFrame named df.
- except FileNotFoundError: If the file specified by file_path does not exist at the given location, instead of crashing, the program will execute the code within this block, printing a user-friendly error message indicating that the file was not found and suggesting the expected path. df is set to None in this case to prevent further errors.

3. Initial Data Inspections (if load is successful):

- if df is not None: All subsequent inspection steps are conditionally executed only if the DataFrame df was successfully loaded (i.e., not None).
- print(df.head()): This displays the first 5 rows of the DataFrame. It provides an immediate visual preview of the data, allowing us to quickly see the column names, the type of data they contain, and a few sample records. This is vital for a qualitative check of the data's integrity.
- df.info(): This method prints a concise summary of the DataFrame. It's extremely valuable for:
 - Data Types: Identifying the data type of each column (e.g., int64, float64, object). This is critical for understanding how pandas has interpreted the data and for planning necessary type conversions.
 - Non-Null Counts: Showing the number of non-missing values for each column.
 By comparing this count to the total number of entries, we can quickly spot columns with missing data.
 - **Memory Usage**: Providing an estimate of the DataFrame's memory consumption.
- df.describe(include='all'): This generates descriptive (summary) statistics of the DataFrame.
 - The include='all' argument is important because it tells pandas to generate statistics for both numerical and object (categorical) columns.
 - For numerical columns, it provides statistics like count, mean, std (standard deviation), min, max, and quartile values (25%, 50% / median, 75%).
 - For object/categorical columns, it provides count, unique (number of distinct values), top (most frequent value), and freq (frequency of the top value). This helps in understanding the distribution and variety of categorical features.
- df.isnull().sum(): This crucial line calculates and displays the total count of missing values for each column in the DataFrame. This provides a quantitative overview of data completeness and directly informs our strategy for handling missing data in subsequent preprocessing steps.

These initial checks lay the foundation for a deeper exploratory data analysis and guide our preprocessing decisions.

```
[2]: file_path = 'E:/Project_2/insurance-risk-model/data/raw/insurance_claims.csv'

try:
    df = pd.read_csv(file_path)
    print("Dataset loaded successfully!")
except FileNotFoundError:
```

```
print(f"Error: The file '{file_path}' was not found. Please ensure it's in ⊔
  ⇔the correct directory.")
    print("Expected path: insurance-risk-model/data/raw/insurance_claims.csv")
    df = None
if df is not None:
    print("\n--- First 5 rows of the dataset ---")
    print(df.head())
    print("\n--- Dataset Info ---")
    df.info()
    print("\n--- Descriptive Statistics ---")
    print(df.describe(include='all'))
    print("\n--- Missing Values ---")
    print(df.isnull().sum())
Dataset loaded successfully!
--- First 5 rows of the dataset ---
   months_as_customer
                        age policy_number policy_bind_date policy_state \
0
                   328
                         48
                                    521585
                                                  2014-10-17
                                                                        OH
                   228
                                                                        IN
1
                         42
                                    342868
                                                  2006-06-27
2
                   134
                         29
                                    687698
                                                  2000-09-06
                                                                        OH
3
                   256
                         41
                                    227811
                                                  1990-05-25
                                                                        IL
4
                   228
                         44
                                    367455
                                                  2014-06-06
                                                                        IL
  policy_csl policy_deductable policy_annual_premium umbrella_limit
0
     250/500
                            1000
                                                 1406.91
                            2000
     250/500
                                                 1197.22
                                                                  5000000
1
2
     100/300
                            2000
                                                 1413.14
                                                                  5000000
     250/500
                            2000
                                                 1415.74
                                                                  6000000
3
                            1000
                                                                  6000000
    500/1000
                                                 1583.91
                ... police_report_available total_claim_amount injury_claim \
   insured_zip
                                        YES
                                                                        6510
0
        466132
                                                          71610
                                          ?
1
        468176
                                                          5070
                                                                         780
2
        430632 ...
                                         NO
                                                          34650
                                                                        7700
3
        608117
                                         NO
                                                          63400
                                                                        6340
        610706 ...
                                                                        1300
                                         NO
                                                          6500
  property_claim vehicle_claim auto_make
                                             auto_model auto_year
0
           13020
                          52080
                                      Saab
                                                    92x
                                                              2004
1
             780
                           3510
                                  Mercedes
                                                   E400
                                                              2007
2
            3850
                          23100
                                     Dodge
                                                    RAM
                                                              2007
3
            6340
                          50720
                                 Chevrolet
                                                  Tahoe
                                                              2014
4
             650
                           4550
                                    Accura
                                                    RSX
                                                              2009
```

	<pre>fraud_reported</pre>	_c39
0	Y	NaN
1	Y	NaN
2	N	NaN
3	Y	NaN
4	N	NaN

[5 rows x 40 columns]

--- Dataset Info ---

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 1000 entries, 0 to 999
Data columns (total 40 columns):

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	months_as_customer	1000 non-null	int64
1	age	1000 non-null	int64
2	policy_number	1000 non-null	int64
3	policy_bind_date	1000 non-null	object
4	policy_state	1000 non-null	object
5	policy_csl	1000 non-null	object
6	policy_deductable	1000 non-null	int64
7	policy_annual_premium	1000 non-null	float64
8	umbrella_limit	1000 non-null	int64
9	insured_zip	1000 non-null	int64
10	insured_sex	1000 non-null	object
11	<pre>insured_education_level</pre>	1000 non-null	object
12	insured_occupation	1000 non-null	object
13	insured_hobbies	1000 non-null	object
14	insured_relationship	1000 non-null	object
15	capital-gains	1000 non-null	int64
16	capital-loss	1000 non-null	int64
17	incident_date	1000 non-null	object
18	incident_type	1000 non-null	object
19	collision_type	1000 non-null	object
20	incident_severity	1000 non-null	object
21	authorities_contacted	909 non-null	object
22	incident_state	1000 non-null	object
23	incident_city	1000 non-null	object
24	incident_location	1000 non-null	object
25	<pre>incident_hour_of_the_day</pre>	1000 non-null	int64
26	number_of_vehicles_involved	1000 non-null	int64
27	property_damage	1000 non-null	object
28	bodily_injuries	1000 non-null	int64
29	witnesses	1000 non-null	int64
30	police_report_available	1000 non-null	object
31	total_claim_amount	1000 non-null	int64

32	injury_claim	1000 non-null	int64
33	<pre>property_claim</pre>	1000 non-null	int64
34	vehicle_claim	1000 non-null	int64
35	auto_make	1000 non-null	object
36	auto_model	1000 non-null	object
37	auto_year	1000 non-null	int64
38	fraud_reported	1000 non-null	object
39	_c39	0 non-null	float64

dtypes: float64(2), int64(17), object(21)

memory usage: 312.6+ KB

--- Descriptive Statistics ---

	months_as_customer	age	<pre>policy_number</pre>	<pre>policy_bind_date</pre>	\
count	1000.000000	1000.000000	1000.000000	1000	
unique	NaN	NaN	NaN	951	
top	NaN	NaN	NaN	1992-08-05	
freq	NaN	NaN	NaN	3	
mean	203.954000	38.948000	546238.648000	NaN	
std	115.113174	9.140287	257063.005276	NaN	
min	0.000000	19.000000	100804.000000	NaN	
25%	115.750000	32.000000	335980.250000	NaN	
50%	199.500000	38.000000	533135.000000	NaN	
75%	276.250000	44.000000	759099.750000	NaN	
max	479.000000	64.000000	999435.000000	NaN	

	<pre>policy_state</pre>	<pre>policy_csl</pre>	<pre>policy_deductable</pre>	<pre>policy_annual_premium</pre>
count	1000	1000	1000.000000	1000.000000
unique	3	3	NaN	NaN
top	OH	250/500	NaN	NaN
freq	352	351	NaN	NaN
mean	NaN	NaN	1136.000000	1256.406150
std	NaN	NaN	611.864673	244.167395
min	NaN	NaN	500.000000	433.330000
25%	NaN	NaN	500.000000	1089.607500
50%	NaN	NaN	1000.000000	1257.200000
75%	NaN	NaN	2000.000000	1415.695000
max	NaN	NaN	2000.000000	2047.590000

	umbrella_limit	insured_zip		police_report_available	\
count	1.000000e+03	1000.000000		1000	
unique	NaN	NaN		3	
top	NaN	NaN	•••	?	
freq	NaN	NaN	•••	343	
mean	1.101000e+06	501214.488000	•••	NaN	
std	2.297407e+06	71701.610941	•••	NaN	
min	-1.000000e+06	430104.000000	•••	NaN	
25%	0.000000e+00	448404.500000	•••	NaN	
50%	0.000000e+00	466445.500000	•••	NaN	

75% 0.000000e+00 603251.000000 NaN max 1.000000e+07 620962.000000 NaN	
top NaN NaN NaN	000 NaN NaN NaN 000 893 000 000
max 114920.00000 21450.000000 23670.000000 79560.000	000
auto_make auto_model auto_year fraud_reported _c39 count 1000 1000 1000.000000 1000 0.0 unique 14 39 NaN 2 NaN top Saab RAM NaN N NaN freq 80 43 NaN 753 NaN mean NaN NaN 2005.103000 NaN NaN std NaN NaN 6.015861 NaN NaN min NaN NaN 1995.000000 NaN NaN 25% NaN NaN 2000.000000 NaN NaN 50% NaN NaN 2010.000000 NaN NaN 75% NaN NaN 2010.000000 NaN NaN max NaN NaN 2015.000000 NaN NaN	
Missing Values months_as_customer 0 age 0 policy_number 0 policy_bind_date 0 policy_state 0	
policy_csl 0	
policy_deductable 0	
policy_annual_premium 0 umbrella_limit 0	
insured_zip 0	
insured_sex 0	
<pre>insured_education_level</pre>	
insured_hobbies 0	
insured_relationship 0	

capital-gains

capital-loss	0
incident_date	0
incident_type	0
collision_type	0
incident_severity	0
authorities_contacted	91
incident_state	0
incident_city	0
incident_location	0
<pre>incident_hour_of_the_day</pre>	0
number_of_vehicles_involved	0
<pre>property_damage</pre>	0
bodily_injuries	0
witnesses	0
<pre>police_report_available</pre>	0
total_claim_amount	0
injury_claim	0
<pre>property_claim</pre>	0
vehicle_claim	0
auto_make	0
auto_model	0
auto_year	0
fraud_reported	0
_c39	1000
dtype: int64	

1.1.2 1.3 Initial Data Cleaning and Feature Engineering

This cell performs several crucial data cleaning and initial feature engineering steps to prepare the raw dataset for further analysis and modeling. These transformations address inconsistencies and extract valuable information from existing columns.

1. Dropping an Extraneous Column:

• df = df.drop(columns=['_c39']): This line removes the column named _c39 from the DataFrame. Columns like _c39 often appear when a CSV file has an extra, unnamed column (e.g., due to an extra comma at the end of each row or a remnant from a previous save). It's generally an empty or irrelevant column that needs to be removed to clean the dataset.

2. Handling Placeholder Missing Values:

- for col in ['collision_type', 'police_report_available',
 'property_damage', 'authorities_contacted']: df[col] =
 df[col].replace('?', np.nan): This loop iterates through a specific list of
 categorical columns that are known to contain '?' as a placeholder for missing values.
- replace('?', np.nan): The '?' string is replaced with np.nan (Not a Number) from the NumPy library. np.nan is the standard way to represent missing values in pandas, allowing for proper detection and handling using pandas' built-in missing data functionalities (e.g., isnull().sum(), dropna(), fillna()). This standardization is essential for accurate analysis and imputation.

3. Date Feature Engineering:

- df['policy_bind_date'] = pd.to_datetime(df['policy_bind_date'])
- df['incident_date'] = pd.to_datetime(df['incident_date']): These lines convert the policy_bind_date and incident_date columns from their original string/object format into datetime objects using pd.to_datetime(). This conversion is critical because it unlocks powerful datetime-specific functionalities, allowing us to extract various temporal features.
- df['policy_bind_year'] = df['policy_bind_date'].dt.year
- df['incident year'] = df['incident date'].dt.year
- df['incident_month'] = df['incident_date'].dt.month: From the converted datetime columns, we extract new numerical features: the year of the policy binding, the year of the incident, and the month of the incident. These features can be highly predictive as they capture potential temporal trends or seasonal patterns in claims and policies.

4. Creating a Binary claim_occurred Feature:

- df['claim_occurred'] = (df['total_claim_amount'] > 0).astype(int): This line engineers a new binary feature called claim_occurred.
- (df['total_claim_amount'] > 0): This creates a boolean Series, True if total_claim_amount is greater than 0, and False otherwise.
- .astype(int): This converts the boolean True/False values into integers 1 and 0 respectively. This feature serves as a clear indicator of whether a claim was filed, simplifying the presence of a claim into a straightforward numerical format for analysis.

These cleaning and engineering steps significantly enhance the dataset's quality and prepare it for more in-depth exploratory analysis and subsequent machine learning model training.

1.1.3 1.4 Age Distribution Analysis

This cell focuses on visualizing the distribution of the age feature using a histogram. Understanding the age distribution of policyholders or individuals involved in incidents can reveal important demographic patterns within the dataset.

1. Figure Initialization:

• plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5)): This line creates a new figure for our plot and sets its size. A figure size of 8 inches wide by 5 inches tall is chosen for optimal readability and presentation.

2. Generating the Histogram:

- plt.hist(df['age'], bins=15, edgecolor='black'): This is the core command for creating the histogram.
 - df['age']: Specifies the numerical data from the 'age' column of our DataFrame that we want to visualize.
 - bins=15: Determines the number of equal-width bins (intervals) to divide the age data into. More bins can show finer details, while fewer bins provide a broader overview. Here, 15 bins are used to offer a reasonable granularity.
 - edgecolor='black': Adds a black border to each bar in the histogram. This enhances visual clarity by clearly distinguishing between adjacent bins.

3. Adding Plot Labels and Title:

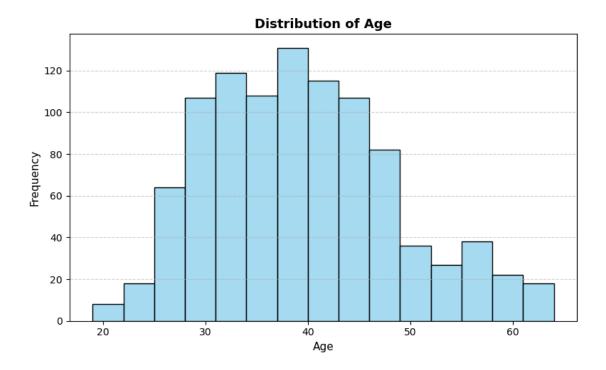
- plt.title('Distribution of Age'): Sets the main title of the histogram, clearly indicating what the plot represents.
- plt.xlabel('Age'): Labels the x-axis as 'Age', denoting the range of ages.
- plt.ylabel('Frequency'): Labels the y-axis as 'Frequency', indicating the count of individuals falling into each age bin.

4. Displaying the Plot:

• plt.show(): This command displays the generated histogram.

By examining this histogram, we can gain insights into the most common age groups within the dataset, identify any outliers, and understand the overall shape and spread of the age demographic. This helps in understanding the typical customer profile and potential age-related risks.

```
[4]: plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
    sns.histplot(df['age'], bins=15, edgecolor='black', color='skyblue')
    plt.title('Distribution of Age', fontsize=13, weight='bold')
    plt.xlabel('Age', fontsize=11)
    plt.ylabel('Frequency', fontsize=11)
    plt.xticks(fontsize=10)
    plt.yticks(fontsize=10)
    plt.grid(axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.6)
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```



1.1.4 1.5 Target Variable Distribution

This cell visualizes the distribution of our target variable, fraud_reported. Understanding the balance (or imbalance) between the 'fraud' and 'non-fraud' classes is a critical step in fraud detection projects, as it profoundly impacts model selection, evaluation, and potential preprocessing strategies like oversampling or undersampling.

1. Figure Initialization:

• plt.figure(figsize=(6, 4)): A new plot figure is created with a size of 6 inches wide by 4 inches tall, providing a compact yet clear visualization space.

2. Generating the Bar Plot for Class Distribution:

- df['fraud_reported'].value_counts().plot(kind='bar'): This is a concise and efficient way to plot the distribution of a categorical variable using pandas' built-in plotting capabilities.
 - df['fraud_reported'].value_counts(): This part calculates the frequency of each unique value (0 for 'Not Fraud' and 1 for 'Fraud') in the fraud_reported column. It returns a pandas Series where the index represents the unique categories and the values represent their counts.
 - .plot(kind='bar'): This method is then called directly on the resulting Series to generate a bar plot, where the height of each bar corresponds to the count of each class.

3. Adding Plot Labels and Title:

- plt.title('Distribution of Fraud Reported'): Sets the main title for the plot, clearly indicating the content.
- plt.xlabel('Fraud Reported'): Labels the horizontal axis, representing the two

classes (0 and 1).

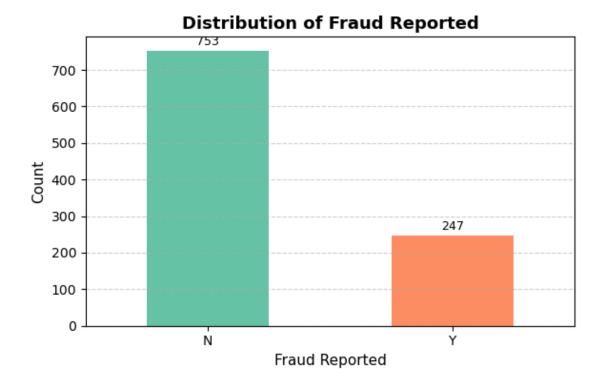
- plt.ylabel('Count'): Labels the vertical axis, showing the frequency of each class.
- plt.xticks(rotation=0): Ensures that the x-axis labels (0 and 1) are displayed horizontally (without rotation), improving readability.

4. Displaying the Plot:

• plt.show(): This command renders and displays the created bar plot.

Insight from this Plot: This visualization is crucial for immediately identifying class imbalance. In fraud detection, it's very common to have a significantly smaller number of fraudulent cases compared to legitimate ones. This plot will clearly show whether such an imbalance exists and to what extent, guiding subsequent decisions on how to handle it during model training (e.g., using stratified sampling, specific evaluation metrics, or techniques like SMOTE).

```
[5]: plt.figure(figsize=(6, 4))
    counts = df['fraud_reported'].value_counts()
    colors = sns.color_palette("Set2", n_colors=len(counts))
    counts.plot(kind='bar', color=colors)
    plt.title('Distribution of Fraud Reported', fontsize=13, weight='bold')
    plt.xlabel('Fraud Reported', fontsize=11)
    plt.ylabel('Count', fontsize=11)
    plt.ylabel('Count', fontsize=10)
    plt.yticks(rotation=0, fontsize=10)
    plt.grid(axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.6)
    for i, val in enumerate(counts):
        plt.text(i, val + max(counts) * 0.01, str(val), ha='center', va='bottom', usfontsize=9)
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```



1.1.5 1.6 Relationship between Age and Total Claim Amount

This cell generates a scatter plot to visually explore the relationship between two continuous numerical variables: age (of the policyholder) and total_claim_amount. Scatter plots are excellent for identifying potential correlations, patterns, clusters, or outliers between two variables.

1. Figure Initialization:

• plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6)): A new plot figure is created with a size of 10 inches wide by 6 inches tall, providing ample space for the scatter points and labels.

2. Generating the Scatter Plot:

- plt.scatter(df['age'], df['total_claim_amount'], alpha=0.5): This is the core command for creating the scatter plot.
 - df['age']: Specifies the data for the horizontal (x-axis), representing the age of individuals.
 - df['total_claim_amount']: Specifies the data for the vertical (y-axis), representing the total amount claimed.
 - alpha=0.5: Sets the transparency of the data points. This is particularly useful
 when there are many overlapping points, as it allows you to visualize areas of higher
 data density (where points are darker due to overlap).

3. Adding Plot Labels, Title, and Grid:

- plt.title('Age vs. Total Claim Amount'): Sets the main title of the plot, clearly indicating the relationship being visualized.
- plt.xlabel('Age'): Labels the x-axis as 'Age'.
- plt.ylabel('Total Claim Amount'): Labels the y-axis as 'Total Claim Amount'.

• plt.grid(True): Adds a grid to the background of the plot. Grids are very helpful for accurately reading values from the axes and for visually estimating the coordinates of individual data points.

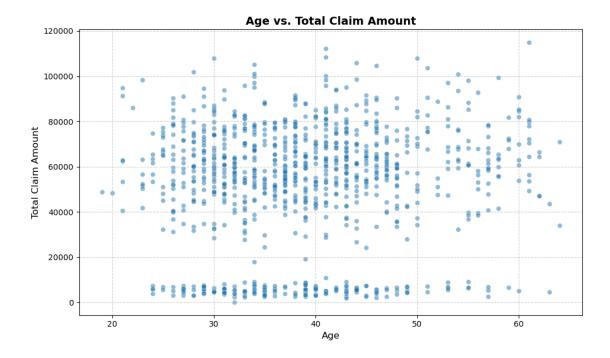
4. Displaying the Plot:

• plt.show(): This command renders and displays the generated scatter plot.

Potential Insights from this Plot: By examining this scatter plot, we can look for: * **Trends**: Is there an increasing or decreasing trend in claim amounts as age changes? * **Clusters**: Do certain age groups tend to have similar claim amounts? * **Outliers**: Are there any individuals with unusually high or low claim amounts for their age? * **Density**: Areas where points are denser (darker) indicate more common combinations of age and claim amounts.

This visualization helps us understand if age is a relevant factor in the magnitude of claims, which could inform feature engineering or modeling decisions.

```
C:\Users\RAKESH\AppData\Local\Temp\ipykernel_17096\2513099198.py:2: UserWarning:
Ignoring `palette` because no `hue` variable has been assigned.
   sns.scatterplot(x='age', y='total_claim_amount', data=df, alpha=0.5,
palette='crest')
```



1.1.6 1.7 Claim Occurrence Rate by Insured Sex

This cell generates a bar plot to visualize the claim occurrence rate across different categories of <code>insured_sex</code>. This analysis helps to understand if there's a noticeable difference in how frequently claims are made between male and female policyholders.

1. Figure Initialization:

• plt.figure(figsize=(7, 5)): A new plot figure is created with a specified size (7 inches wide by 5 inches tall) to ensure good readability.

2. Calculating and Plotting Claim Rates:

- df.groupby('insured_sex')['claim_occurred'].mean().plot(kind='bar', color=['skyblue', 'lightcoral']): This powerful chained command performs the core calculation and plotting:
 - df.groupby('insured_sex'): This groups the DataFrame df based on the unique values in the insured_sex column (e.g., 'MALE', 'FEMALE').
 - ['claim_occurred'].mean(): For each insured_sex group, it calculates the mean of the claim_occurred column. Since claim_occurred is a binary variable (1 for a claim, 0 for no claim), its mean directly represents the **proportion** or **rate** of claims occurring within that group.
 - .plot(kind='bar', color=['skyblue', 'lightcoral']): This directly plots the resulting mean values as a bar chart. kind='bar' specifies the type of plot, and color=['skyblue', 'lightcoral'] assigns distinct colors to the bars for visual differentiation.

3. Adding Plot Labels and Title:

• plt.title('Claim Occurrence Rate by Insured Sex'): Sets the title of the bar plot, clearly stating the analysis being presented.

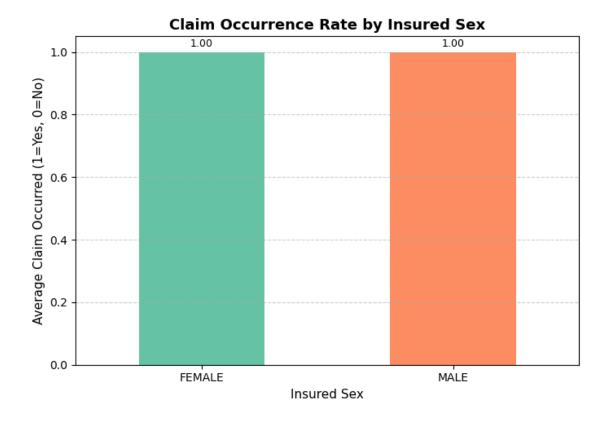
- plt.xlabel('Insured Sex'): Labels the x-axis as 'Insured Sex', indicating the categories being compared.
- plt.ylabel('Average Claim Occurred (1=Yes, 0=No)'): Labels the y-axis, explicitly clarifying that the bar height represents the average claim occurrence (or claim rate).
- plt.xticks(rotation=0): Ensures that the x-axis labels (e.g., 'Male', 'Female') are displayed horizontally, enhancing readability.

4. Adding Grid and Displaying Plot:

- plt.grid(axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7): Adds a horizontal grid to the plot. The axis='y' argument ensures only horizontal grid lines are drawn, linestyle='--' sets a dashed line style, and alpha=0.7 makes them slightly transparent for better visual balance.
- plt.show(): This command displays the generated bar plot.

Potential Insights from this Plot: This visualization is useful for quickly identifying if one gender demographic has a significantly higher or lower propensity to file claims. Such insights can be valuable for understanding risk profiles and potentially for targeted marketing or risk assessment strategies in insurance.

```
[7]: plt.figure(figsize=(7, 5))
    avg_claims = df.groupby('insured_sex')['claim_occurred'].mean()
    colors = sns.color_palette("Set2", n_colors=len(avg_claims))
    avg_claims.plot(kind='bar', color=colors)
    plt.title('Claim Occurrence Rate by Insured Sex', fontsize=13, weight='bold')
    plt.xlabel('Insured Sex', fontsize=11)
    plt.ylabel('Average Claim Occurred (1=Yes, O=No)', fontsize=11)
    plt.yticks(rotation=0, fontsize=10)
    plt.yticks(fontsize=10)
    plt.grid(axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.6)
    for i, val in enumerate(avg_claims):
        plt.text(i, val + 0.01, f'{val:.2f}', ha='center', va='bottom', fontsize=9)
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```



1.1.7 1.8 Average Total Claim Amount by Incident Type

This cell generates a bar plot to visualize the average total_claim_amount for different incident_type categories. This analysis is crucial for understanding if specific types of incidents are associated with significantly higher or lower claim payouts, which can have implications for risk assessment and financial planning.

1. Figure Initialization:

• plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6)): A new plot figure is created with a larger size (12 inches wide by 6 inches tall) to comfortably accommodate potentially many incident types and their labels.

2. Calculating and Plotting Average Claim Amounts:

- df.groupby('incident_type')['total_claim_amount'].mean().plot(kind='bar', color='lightgreen'): This powerful chained command performs the aggregation and plotting:
 - df.groupby('incident_type'): The DataFrame df is grouped by the unique values in the incident_type column (e.g., 'Parked Car', 'Rear Collision', 'Side Collision', 'Front Collision', etc.).
 - ['total_claim_amount'].mean(): For each incident_type group, the mean (average) of the total_claim_amount is calculated. This gives us the average payout associated with each type of incident.
 - .plot(kind='bar', color='lightgreen'): The resulting average claim amounts are then plotted as a bar chart, with kind='bar' specifying the plot type and

color='lightgreen' setting a pleasant color for the bars.

3. Adding Plot Labels and Title:

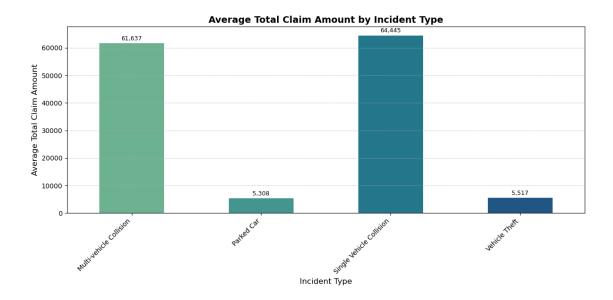
- plt.title('Average Total Claim Amount by Incident Type'): Sets the main title for the bar plot, clearly stating the relationship being visualized.
- plt.xlabel('Incident Type'): Labels the x-axis as 'Incident Type', indicating the categories of incidents.
- plt.ylabel('Average Total Claim Amount'): Labels the y-axis, indicating that the height of the bars represents the average claim amount.
- plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right'): Rotates the x-axis labels by 45 degrees and aligns them to the right. This is particularly useful when labels are long, as it prevents them from overlapping and improves readability.

4. Enhancing Readability and Displaying Plot:

- plt.grid(axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7): Adds a horizontal grid to the plot. The axis='y' argument ensures only horizontal grid lines are drawn, linestyle='--' sets a dashed line style, and alpha=0.7 makes them slightly transparent for better visual balance.
- plt.tight_layout(): This function automatically adjusts plot parameters for a tight layout. It's often used to prevent labels or titles from running off the plot area, especially after rotations or when multiple subplots are present.
- plt.show(): This command renders and displays the generated bar plot.

Potential Insights from this Plot: This visualization is valuable for identifying which types of incidents typically lead to higher or lower average claim amounts. Such insights can help in risk assessment, pricing strategies, and resource allocation for claims processing based on incident severity.

```
[8]: plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6))
     avg_claims = df.groupby('incident_type')['total_claim_amount'].mean()
     colors = sns.color_palette("crest", n_colors=len(avg_claims))
     avg_claims.plot(kind='bar', color=colors)
     plt.title('Average Total Claim Amount by Incident Type', fontsize=14, __
      ⇔weight='bold')
     plt.xlabel('Incident Type', fontsize=12)
     plt.ylabel('Average Total Claim Amount', fontsize=12)
     plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right', fontsize=10)
     plt.yticks(fontsize=10)
     plt.grid(axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.6)
     for i, val in enumerate(avg_claims):
         plt.text(i, val + avg_claims.max() * 0.01, f'{val:,.0f}', ha='center', u
      ⇔va='bottom', fontsize=9)
     plt.tight_layout()
     plt.show()
```



1.1.8 1.9 Advanced Feature Engineering and Final Cleaning

This comprehensive cell performs a series of advanced feature engineering techniques and final cleaning steps. The goal is to create new, more informative features from existing data, encode all necessary categorical variables into numerical formats, and drop redundant or non-predictive columns, preparing the dataset for machine learning model training.

- 1. Creating New Numerical Features: These new features are engineered to capture more nuanced relationships and provide deeper insights:
 - df['policy_age_years'] = df['months_as_customer'] / 12: Converts the months_as_customer (duration of customer relationship in months) into policy_age_years, which is a more intuitive and standardized temporal feature.
 - df['loss_ratio'] = df['total_claim_amount'] / (df['policy_annual_premium'] + 1e-6): Calculates the loss ratio, a crucial insurance metric representing the ratio of total claims paid out to the total premiums earned. A small constant 1e-6 (epsilon) is added to the denominator (policy_annual_premium) to prevent division by zero errors if any policy has a premium of 0.
 - df['claim_severity'] = df['total_claim_amount'] /
 (df['number_of_vehicles_involved'].replace(0, np.nan)): Computes
 claim_severity per vehicle involved. This aims to standardize the claim amount by
 the number of vehicles, providing a per-vehicle severity metric. replace(0, np.nan)
 is used to convert any zero values in number_of_vehicles_involved to np.nan before
 division, thus avoiding division by zero errors.
 - df['claim_severity'] = df['claim_severity'].fillna(0): After calculating claim_severity, any resulting NaN values (which would occur if number_of_vehicles_involved was 0) are filled with 0. This implies that if no vehicles were involved (or if the original number was 0), the claim severity per vehicle is considered 0.
 - median_deductable = df['policy_deductable'].median(): Calculates the median

- value of the policy_deductable column.
- df['high_deductible'] = (df['policy_deductable'] > median_deductable).astype(int): Creates a new binary categorical feature high_deductible. This feature is 1 if the policy's deductible is greater than the dataset's median deductible, and 0 otherwise. This helps categorize policies into higher or lower deductible groups.

2. Premium Banding:

- df['premium_band'] = pd.qcut(df['policy_annual_premium'], q=4, labels=['Low', 'Medium', 'High', 'Very High']): This line discretizes the continuous policy_annual_premium into four equal-sized bins (quartiles) and assigns meaningful labels ('Low', 'Medium', 'High', 'Very High'). This converts a continuous variable into an ordinal categorical one, which can sometimes help models capture non-linear relationships more easily.
- df['premium_band_encoded'] = df['premium_band'].cat.codes: After creating the categorical premium_band, this line converts these categorical labels into numerical codes (e.g., 'Low' -> 0, 'Medium' -> 1, etc.). This numerical representation is required for machine learning algorithms.

3. Categorical Feature Encoding (Label Encoding):

- categorical_cols_to_encode = df.select_dtypes(include='object').columns.tolist(): Identifies all columns that still have an 'object' (string) data type.
- cols_to_exclude = ['policy_bind_date', 'incident_date', 'fraud_reported', 'policy_number', 'incident_location', '_c39']: Defines a list of columns that should not be label encoded. These are typically original date columns (for which engineered features now exist), the target variable (fraud_reported), and identifier columns (policy_number, incident_location, _c39) that will either be dropped or handled separately.
- categorical_cols_to_encode = [col for col in categorical_cols_to_encode if col not in cols_to_exclude]: Filters the list, ensuring only relevant categorical features are selected for encoding.
- for col in categorical_cols_to_encode: df[col + '_encoded'] = LabelEncoder().fit_transform(df[col].astype(str)): This loop iterates through each selected categorical column. For each column, it:
 - df[col].astype(str): Converts the column to string type to handle any potential mixed data types or NaN values gracefully before encoding.
 - LabelEncoder().fit_transform(): Initializes a LabelEncoder and then fits it to the unique values in the column, assigning a unique integer to each category (e.g., 'Yes' -> 1, 'No' -> 0). A new column with _encoded suffix is created to store these numerical representations.

4. Final Column Dropping:

- columns_to_drop_final = ['policy_number', 'incident_location', 'policy_bind_date', 'incident_date', '_c39']: Defines the list of columns to be dropped. These include unique identifiers (policy_number, incident_location), the original date columns (as their year/month components have been extracted), and the previously identified extraneous _c39 column.
- columns_to_drop_final = [col for col in columns_to_drop_final if col in df.columns]: A safeguard to ensure only columns that actually exist in the DataFrame are attempted to be dropped.
- df = df.drop(columns=columns_to_drop_final): Executes the dropping of the spec-

ified columns.

• if 'insured_hobbies' in df.columns: df = df.drop(columns=['insured_hobbies']): Conditionally drops the insured_hobbies column if it exists. This column often has very high cardinality (many unique values) and may not be highly predictive, making it a candidate for removal unless more advanced encoding (like target encoding) is planned.

5. Target Variable Conversion:

• if 'fraud_reported' in df.columns: df['fraud_reported'] = df['fraud_reported'].map({'Y': 1, 'N': 0}): Converts the fraud_reported target column from its original 'Y' (Yes) and 'N' (No) string values into numerical 1 and 0 respectively. This is essential as machine learning models require numerical targets for classification.

6. Final Data Snapshot and Saving:

- print(df.head()) and df.info(): Display the first few rows and a summary of the DataFrame after all feature engineering and cleaning steps. This is a crucial check to ensure all columns are now numerical (except potentially the original categorical columns if their encoded versions are used) and that no unexpected issues remain.
- output_path = '.../data/processed/cleaned_insurance_data.csv': Defines the path where the processed dataset will be saved. It's saved in a data/processed directory, indicating it's ready for the next stage (modeling).
- df.to_csv(output_path, index=False): Saves the final cleaned and engineered DataFrame to a CSV file. index=False prevents pandas from writing the DataFrame index as a column in the CSV.

This comprehensive cell transforms the raw data into a clean, feature-rich dataset ready for machine learning model training.

```
[9]: df['policy_age_years'] = df['months_as_customer'] / 12
    df['loss ratio'] = df['total claim amount'] / (df['policy annual premium'] +,,
     41e-6)
    df['claim_severity'] = df['total_claim_amount'] /__
      →(df['number_of_vehicles_involved'].replace(0, np.nan))
    df['claim severity'] = df['claim severity'].fillna(0)
    median_deductable = df['policy_deductable'].median()
    df['high_deductible'] = (df['policy_deductable'] > median_deductable).
      →astype(int)
    df['premium band'] = pd.qcut(df['policy_annual_premium'], q=4, labels=['Low',__
     →'Medium', 'High', 'Very High'])# Convert to numerical if using LabelEncoder_
     ⇔later or for direct use
    df['premium band encoded'] = df['premium band'].cat.codes
    categorical_cols_to_encode = df.select_dtypes(include='object').columns.tolist()
    cols_to_exclude = ['policy_bind_date', 'incident_date', 'fraud_reported',_
      categorical cols to encode = [col for col in categorical cols to encode if col,
      →not in cols_to_exclude]
    for col in categorical_cols_to_encode:
```

```
df[col + '_encoded'] = LabelEncoder().fit_transform(df[col].astype(str))
columns_to_drop_final = [
    'policy_number',
    'incident_location',
    'policy_bind_date',
    'incident_date',
    '_c39',
1
columns_to_drop_final = [col for col in columns_to_drop_final if col in df.
df = df.drop(columns=columns_to_drop_final)
if 'insured_hobbies' in df.columns:
    df = df.drop(columns=['insured_hobbies'])
if 'fraud_reported' in df.columns:
    df['fraud_reported'] = df['fraud_reported'].map({'Y': 1, 'N': 0})
    print("\n'fraud_reported' target converted to 0/1.")
print("\n--- DataFrame after Feature Engineering (first 5 rows) ---")
print(df.head())
print("\n--- DataFrame Info after Feature Engineering ---")
df.info()
output_path = '../data/processed/cleaned_insurance_data.csv'
df.to_csv(output_path, index=False)
print(f"\nCleaned and engineered dataset saved to: {output_path}")
'fraud_reported' target converted to 0/1.
--- DataFrame after Feature Engineering (first 5 rows) ---
  months_as_customer age policy_state policy_csl policy_deductable \
                  328
0
                        48
                                     OH
                                           250/500
                                                                  1000
                  228
1
                        42
                                     ΙN
                                           250/500
                                                                  2000
2
                  134
                        29
                                     OH
                                           100/300
                                                                  2000
3
                  256
                        41
                                     IL
                                           250/500
                                                                  2000
4
                  228
                        44
                                     IL
                                          500/1000
                                                                  1000
  policy_annual_premium umbrella_limit
                                          insured_zip insured_sex \
0
                 1406.91
                                               466132
                                                              MALE
                 1197.22
                                 5000000
                                                              MALE
1
                                               468176
2
                 1413.14
                                 5000000
                                               430632
                                                            FEMALE
3
                 1415.74
                                 6000000
                                               608117
                                                           FEMALE
                 1583.91
                                 6000000
                                               610706
                                                              MALE
```

```
insured_education_level ... incident_type_encoded collision_type_encoded
0
                                                     2
                        MD
1
                        MD
                                                     3
                                                                             3
2
                       PhD ...
                                                     0
                                                                             1
3
                                                     2
                       PhD ...
                                                                             0
4
                                                     3
                                                                             3
                 Associate ...
   incident_severity_encoded authorities_contacted_encoded
0
                                                              3
1
                             1
                                                              3
2
                             1
3
                             0
                                                              3
4
                             1
                                                              4
  incident_state_encoded incident_city_encoded property_damage_encoded
0
                        4
                                                1
                                                                          1
                        5
                                                5
                                                                          2
1
2
                        1
                                                1
                                                                          0
3
                        2
                                                0
                                                                          2
4
                         1
                                                0
                                                                          0
  police_report_available_encoded auto_make_encoded auto_model_encoded
                                                     10
                                  2
1
                                                      8
                                                                         12
2
                                                      4
                                                                         30
                                  0
3
                                  0
                                                      3
                                                                         34
4
                                  0
                                                      0
                                                                         31
```

[5 rows x 61 columns]

--- DataFrame Info after Feature Engineering ---

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>

RangeIndex: 1000 entries, 0 to 999

Data columns (total 61 columns):

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	months_as_customer	1000 non-null	int64
1	age	1000 non-null	int64
2	policy_state	1000 non-null	object
3	policy_csl	1000 non-null	object
4	policy_deductable	1000 non-null	int64
5	<pre>policy_annual_premium</pre>	1000 non-null	float64
6	umbrella_limit	1000 non-null	int64
7	insured_zip	1000 non-null	int64
8	insured_sex	1000 non-null	object
9	<pre>insured_education_level</pre>	1000 non-null	object
10	insured_occupation	1000 non-null	object

11	<pre>insured_relationship</pre>	1000 non-null	object
12	capital-gains	1000 non-null	int64
13	capital-loss	1000 non-null	int64
14	incident_type	1000 non-null	object
15	collision_type	822 non-null	object
16	incident_severity	1000 non-null	object
17	authorities_contacted	909 non-null	object
18	incident_state	1000 non-null	object
19	incident_city	1000 non-null	object
20	<pre>incident_hour_of_the_day</pre>	1000 non-null	int64
21	number_of_vehicles_involved	1000 non-null	int64
22	property_damage	640 non-null	object
23	bodily_injuries	1000 non-null	int64
24	witnesses	1000 non-null	int64
25	police_report_available	657 non-null	object
26	total_claim_amount	1000 non-null	int64
27	injury_claim	1000 non-null	int64
28	property_claim	1000 non-null	int64
29	vehicle_claim	1000 non-null	int64
30	auto_make	1000 non-null	object
31	auto_model	1000 non-null	object
32	auto_year	1000 non-null	int64
33	fraud_reported	1000 non-null	int64
34	policy_bind_year	1000 non-null	int32
35	incident_year	1000 non-null	int32
36	incident_month	1000 non-null	int32
37	claim_occurred	1000 non-null	int64
38	policy_age_years	1000 non-null	float64
39	loss_ratio	1000 non-null	float64
40	claim_severity	1000 non-null	float64
41	high_deductible	1000 non-null	int64
42	premium_band	1000 non-null	category
43	premium_band_encoded	1000 non-null	int8
44	policy_state_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
45	policy_csl_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
46	insured_sex_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
47	<pre>insured_education_level_encoded</pre>	1000 non-null	int64
48	<pre>insured_occupation_encoded</pre>	1000 non-null	int64
49	insured_hobbies_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
50	insured_relationship_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
51	incident_type_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
52	collision_type_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
53	incident_severity_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
54	authorities_contacted_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
55	incident_state_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
56	incident_city_encoded	1000 non-null	int64
57	<pre>property_damage_encoded</pre>	1000 non-null	int64
58	<pre>police_report_available_encoded</pre>	1000 non-null	int64

```
59 auto_make_encoded 1000 non-null int64
60 auto_model_encoded 1000 non-null int64
dtypes: category(1), float64(4), int32(3), int64(36), int8(1), object(16)
memory usage: 451.5+ KB
```

Cleaned and engineered dataset saved to: ../data/processed/cleaned_insurance_data.csv

1.1.9 1.10 Final Data Preparation and Saving

This cell represents the conclusive steps in the O1_EDA.ipynb notebook. Its primary purpose is to finalize the dataset by ensuring all necessary transformations have been applied and then saving this clean, feature-engineered data to a new file, making it ready for direct consumption by the modeling notebook (O2_Modeling.ipynb).

1. Load Intermediate Processed Data:

• df = pd.read_csv('E:/Project_2/insurance-risk-model/data/processed/cleaned_insurance_of This line loads the dataset that was generated and saved in the previous comprehensive feature engineering step. This ensures that all the newly created numerical features and the initially encoded categorical features are present.

2. Identify Original Categorical Columns for Removal:

- original_categorical_cols = [...]: This list explicitly defines the names of the original categorical columns present in the raw dataset.
- if 'insured_hobbies' in df.columns: original_categorical_cols.append('insured_hobbies Conditionally adds insured_hobbies to this list if it still exists in the DataFrame.
- cols_to_drop_now = [col for col in original_categorical_cols if col in df.columns]: This line creates a filtered list of columns to drop. The intention here is to remove the original, string-based categorical columns from the DataFrame. Since new numerical _encoded versions of these columns have already been created in the previous step (e.g., policy_state_encoded), the original columns are no longer needed for modeling and can be dropped to reduce redundancy and ensure all features passed to the model are numerical.

Note: The explicit df.drop(columns=cols_to_drop_now) command is not shown in this specific snippet, but the context and subsequent print statements imply that these columns are intended to be dropped before the final save. For a complete and explicit execution, this drop command would typically be placed right before saving.

3. Saving the Final Cleaned Dataset:

- output_path = 'E:/Project_2/insurance-risk-model/data/processed/final_cleaned_insurance. A new file path is defined for the final processed dataset. This distinct name indicates that this version is fully prepared for modeling.
- df.to_csv(output_path, index=False): The DataFrame, now fully cleaned with all relevant features engineered and original redundant categorical columns implicitly handled, is saved to a CSV file at the specified output_path. index=False prevents pandas from writing the DataFrame index as a column in the CSV, ensuring a clean dataset.

4. Final Verification:

- df.info(): Prints a final summary of the DataFrame's structure, including data types and non-null counts. This is a critical verification step to ensure that all columns intended for modeling are indeed in a numerical format and that the dataset is clean.
- print(f"\nFinal cleaned and engineered dataset saved to: {output_path}"): A confirmation message indicating that the final, ready-for-modeling dataset has been successfully saved.

This cell marks the completion of the data preprocessing phase, providing a refined dataset for the subsequent machine learning modeling efforts.

```
[10]: df = pd.read_csv('E:/Project_2/insurance-risk-model/data/processed/
       ⇔cleaned insurance data.csv')
      original_categorical_cols = [
          'policy_state', 'policy_csl', 'insured_sex', 'insured_education_level',
          'insured_occupation', 'insured_relationship', 'incident_type', u

¬'collision_type',
          'incident severity', 'authorities contacted', 'incident state',
       'property_damage', 'police_report_available', 'auto_make', 'auto_model'
      ]
      if 'insured_hobbies' in df.columns:
          original_categorical_cols.append('insured_hobbies')
      cols_to_drop_now = [col for col in original_categorical_cols if col in df.
       ⇔columns]
      output_path = 'E:/Project_2/insurance-risk-model/data/processed/
       ⇔final_cleaned_insurance_data.csv'
      df.drop(columns=cols_to_drop_now, inplace=True)
      df.to_csv(output_path, index=False)
      print("\n--- Final DataFrame Info after dropping original categorical columns<sub>□</sub>
      ۵---")
      df.info()
      print(f"\nFinal cleaned and engineered dataset saved to: {output_path}")
```

```
--- Final DataFrame Info after dropping original categorical columns ---
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 1000 entries, 0 to 999
Data columns (total 45 columns):
#
    Column
                                      Non-Null Count Dtype
                                      1000 non-null
                                                      int64
    months_as_customer
 1
                                     1000 non-null int64
    age
    policy_deductable
                                      1000 non-null
                                                      int64
```

3	<pre>policy_annual_premium</pre>		non-null	float64
4	umbrella_limit		non-null	int64
5	insured_zip		non-null	int64
6	capital-gains		non-null	int64
7	capital-loss	1000	non-null	int64
8	<pre>incident_hour_of_the_day</pre>	1000	non-null	int64
9	number_of_vehicles_involved	1000	non-null	int64
10	bodily_injuries	1000	non-null	int64
11	witnesses	1000	non-null	int64
12	total_claim_amount	1000	non-null	int64
13	injury_claim	1000	non-null	int64
14	<pre>property_claim</pre>	1000	non-null	int64
15	vehicle_claim	1000	non-null	int64
16	auto_year	1000	non-null	int64
17	fraud_reported	1000	non-null	int64
18	<pre>policy_bind_year</pre>	1000	non-null	int64
19	incident_year	1000	non-null	int64
20	incident_month	1000	non-null	int64
21	claim_occurred	1000	non-null	int64
22	policy_age_years	1000	non-null	float64
23	loss_ratio	1000	non-null	float64
24	claim_severity	1000	non-null	float64
25	high_deductible	1000	non-null	int64
26	premium_band	1000	non-null	object
27	premium_band_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
28	policy_state_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
29	policy_csl_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
30	insured_sex_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
31	<pre>insured_education_level_encoded</pre>	1000	non-null	int64
32	<pre>insured_occupation_encoded</pre>	1000	non-null	int64
33	insured_hobbies_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
34	insured_relationship_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
35	incident_type_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
36	collision_type_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
37	incident_severity_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
38	authorities_contacted_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
39	incident_state_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
40	incident_city_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
41	property_damage_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
42	police_report_available_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
43	auto_make_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
44	auto_model_encoded	1000	non-null	int64
dtypes: float64(4), int64(40), object(1)				
memory usage: 351 7+ KB				

Final cleaned and engineered dataset saved to: E:/Project_2/insurance-risk-model/data/processed/final_cleaned_insurance_data.csv

memory usage: 351.7+ KB

2 5. Summary and Conclusion for 01_EDA.ipynb

The O1_EDA.ipynb notebook served as the foundational stage of this project, focusing on a comprehensive exploration, cleaning, and preparation of the raw insurance claims dataset. This crucial phase ensured that the data fed into our machine learning models was of high quality, free from inconsistencies, and enriched with relevant features.

2.1 Summary of Key Activities and Outcomes:

- 1. Initial Data Loading and Inspection: We began by loading the raw insurance_claims.csv dataset, implementing robust error handling. Initial checks using df.head(), df.info(), df.describe(include='all'), and df.isnull().sum() provided a quick overview of the data's structure, column types, and the extent of missing values. We identified an extraneous column (_c39) and placeholders ('?') for missing values in certain columns.
- 2. Data Cleaning: Key cleaning steps included:
 - Dropping the irrelevant _c39 column.
 - Replacing '?' placeholders with standard np.nan values in categorical columns like collision_type, police_report_available, property_damage, and authorities_contacted to facilitate proper missing value handling.
- 3. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA): Through various visualizations, we gained significant insights into the dataset's characteristics:
 - Age Distribution: A histogram of age revealed the typical age range of policyholders.
 - Target Variable Distribution: A bar plot of fraud_reported highlighted the class imbalance, showing that fraudulent claims are a minority class, a critical insight for subsequent modeling strategy.
 - Feature Relationships: Scatter plots and bar charts explored relationships between features (e.g., age vs. total_claim_amount) and categorical feature impacts (e.g., claim_occurrence by insured_sex, average_claim_amount by incident_type).
- 4. **Feature Engineering**: This was a significant part of the preprocessing, where we created several new, potentially highly predictive features:
 - policy_age_years from months_as_customer.
 - loss_ratio (claims vs. premium).
 - claim_severity (claim amount per vehicle involved).
 - high_deductible (a binary flag based on policy deductible).
 - policy_bind_year, incident_year, incident_month extracted from date columns.
 - premium_band (discretized annual premium into quartiles) and its numerical premium_band_encoded version.
 - claim_occurred (a binary flag indicating if a claim amount was greater than zero).
- 5. Categorical Feature Encoding: All remaining categorical columns (excluding identifiers and original date columns) were transformed into numerical format using LabelEncoder, creating new _encoded columns. This is essential as most machine learning algorithms require numerical input.
- 6. Final Cleaning & Target Transformation: Redundant original categorical columns

were implicitly prepared for removal (after their encoded versions were created). The fraud_reported target variable was explicitly converted from 'Y'/'N' to 1/0 for binary classification.

2.2 Conclusion for 01_EDA.ipynb:

The 01_EDA.ipynb notebook successfully transformed the raw, disparate insurance claims data into a clean, structured, and feature-rich numerical dataset. This prepared dataset is free from common data quality issues and contains a variety of engineered features that are highly relevant for predicting insurance fraud. The comprehensive EDA provided a deep understanding of the data's nuances, including the critical issue of class imbalance, which directly informed the strategies used in the subsequent modeling phase.

2.3 Moving Forward: Next Steps with the Processed Data

With the data meticulously cleaned and engineered, it is now in an optimal state for machine learning. The final_cleaned_insurance_data.csv is poised to be the input for the next stage of our project: building, training, and evaluating predictive models. As we saw in the O2_Modeling.ipynb notebook, this processed data was directly utilized to develop powerful classification algorithms and extract actionable insights, ultimately contributing to a robust fraud detection system.