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DA3 Cohort Capstone Project

Executive Summary

Title: Demographics of Police Use of Deadly Force

Nationwide protests over police accountability and racial justice have reenergized longstanding efforts [to fundamentally change](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/06/15/mental-illness-is-health-issue-not-police-issue/)how police departments respond to emergencies. I will examine United States police involved killings and U.S. State Census data from 2000- 2016 to determine if age, mental illness, or racial prejudices may have contributed to the use of lethal force during police arrests.

I am interested in many areas of law enforcement, my brother is chief detective with the Polizei in Regensburg, Germany and my wife is a Federal Special Agent with the OIG. We have had many discussions with how police are trained, interactions with the public, and how law enforcement has changed, especially over the time she has served. I want to take analyze data to see if any trends are patterns exist which may indicate prejudicial or preferential treatment of individuals related to fatal shootings.

Data Questions

**I. Risk and Threat** – Are there differences in the percentage of police interactions for different racial groups, age groups, and for individuals with mental health issues? Compare the rates of police interactions involving minority groups, age groups and people with mental illness to determine if prejudices may have played a role in the fatality of the interaction.

**II. Age, Race or Mental Illness** - is use of lethal force applied at different rates to ethnic / racial minorities or mentally challenged individuals? Examine police events to determine whether lethal force is applied differently by police officers, giving rise to a disproportionate rate of deaths among racial or ethnic minority groups, gender, age groups, or those with mental illnesses.

**III. Police Department Trends** – Are there trends or patterns for certain police departments or geographic areas where interactions with the public involve deadly force? Has there been significant increases or decreases year to year for fatal shootings?

MVP: Minimal Viable Product

The presentation will include a series of summarized data visualizations to indicate the findings of the data analysis, along with a Power BI dashboard. The dashboard will allow the user to change different parameters to see various analytical statistics for police departments in different geographical areas.

By aligning data from the police and US State Census data, this solution will provide the capability to analyze fatal police shooting incidents by location. The addition of police data allows for further insight into the behavior of regional police forces.

Schedule

1. Get the Data - 11/15/2020

2. Clean & Explore the Data – 11/20/2020

3. Create Presentation and App - 12/17/2020

4. Internal Demos 12/19/2020

5. Demo Day 1/7/2021

Data Sources

Police Fatalities: <https://data.world/awram/us-police-involved-fatalities/workspace/file?filename=z_old_data.csv>

State Census Information: <https://data.world/aaronhoffman/census-gov-state-quickfacts/workspace/file?filename=census_state_quickfacts.csv>

Regions data: <https://github.com/cphalpert/census-regions.githttps://github.com/cphalpert/census-regions>