Case Study Model Engineering Project

Project Aim:

* Develop a predictive model to help the HR department estimate the number of daily standby rescue drivers needed.
* The new model should have a higher percentage of standbys being activated than the current approach.
* Situations where there aren't enough standby drivers should be minimized.

Understanding the Dataset:

Columns:

* date: The specific day for which the data is recorded.
* n\_sick: The number of rescue drivers who reported sick on that day.
* calls: The number of emergency calls received on that day.
* n\_duty: The total number of rescue drivers who were available and on duty for that day.
* n\_sby: The number of drivers kept on standby for that day.
* sby\_need: The actual number of standby drivers who were called into action on that day.
* dafted: The number of additional drivers that were needed beyond the available standby drivers because there weren't enough standbys.

After checking the info() of the dataset, following can be interpreted:

* We have 1152 rows and 7 columns of data.
* There are no null values.

Summary Statistics:

Number of Sick Drivers (n\_sick): The dataset reveals an average of approximately 69 drivers reporting sick daily.

The count of sick drivers can vary, with the lowest reported being 36 and the highest reaching up to 119.

The standard deviation of around 14.29 indicates that the number of sick drivers on a given day typically deviates from the mean by about 14 drivers.

Number of Emergency Calls (calls): On average, the service receives around 7,919.53 emergency calls daily.

The volume of calls can swing between a minimum of 4,074 to a peak of 11,850.

The standard deviation stands at approximately 1,290.06, suggesting a moderate day-to-day variation in the number of calls.

Number of Drivers on Duty (n\_duty): The average number of drivers on duty each day is approximately 1,820.57.

This count ranges between 1,700 to 1,900 drivers.

The standard deviation of around 80.09 indicates a relatively stable number of drivers on duty across days.

Number of Standby Drivers (n\_sby): In line with the current planning approach, there's a constant of 90 standby drivers available every day.

Number of Standby Drivers Activated (sby\_need): On average, about 34.72 standby drivers are activated daily.

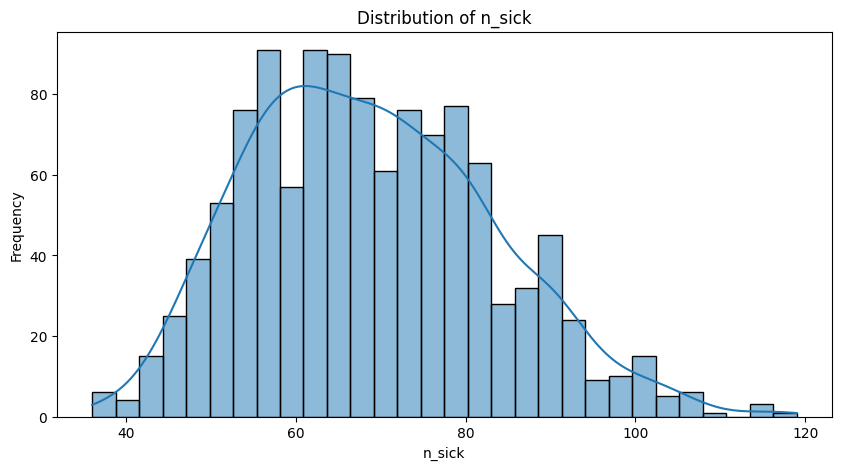
The range is broad, with some days requiring no standby drivers, while on more demanding days, as many as 555 standby drivers might be activated.

Number of Additional Drivers Needed (dafted): The dataset reports an average requirement of approximately 16.34 additional drivers daily, beyond the available standby drivers.

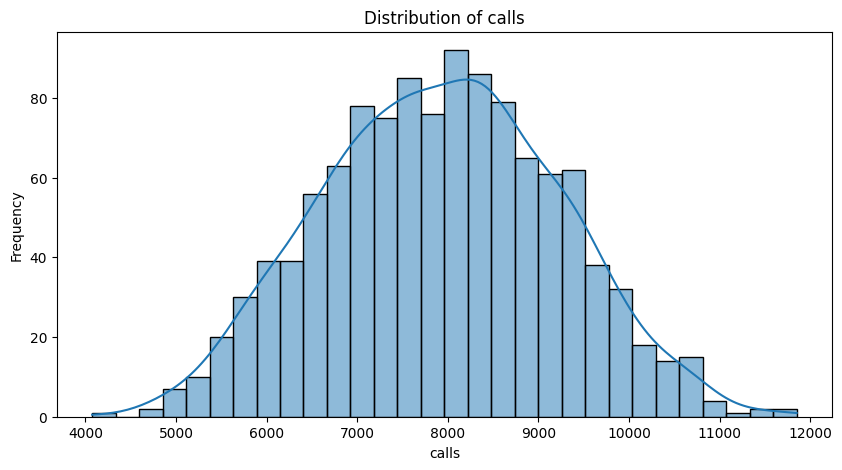
The need can vary drastically, with many days not requiring any additional drivers, while on certain challenging days, the demand can surge to as many as 465 additional drivers.

The standard deviation of 53.39 reflects the considerable variability in this measure.

Initial Data Analysis

1. Distribution of n\_sick-

* The dataset unveils that the majority of days witness a count of sick drivers hovering between 60 and 80.
* The distribution of sick drivers presents a roughly normal shape. However, a closer observation hints at a slight rightward skew, indicating occasional days with a higher-than-average number of sick drivers.

1. Distribution of calls-

* The service's daily emergency call volume predominantly oscillates around 7,500 to 8,500 calls.
* The distribution is a bell-shaped curve, characteristic of a normal distribution, underscoring a consistent pattern in emergency calls with minor day-to-day fluctuations.

1. A graph of a distribution of siby need

   Description automatically generatedDistribution of sby\_need-

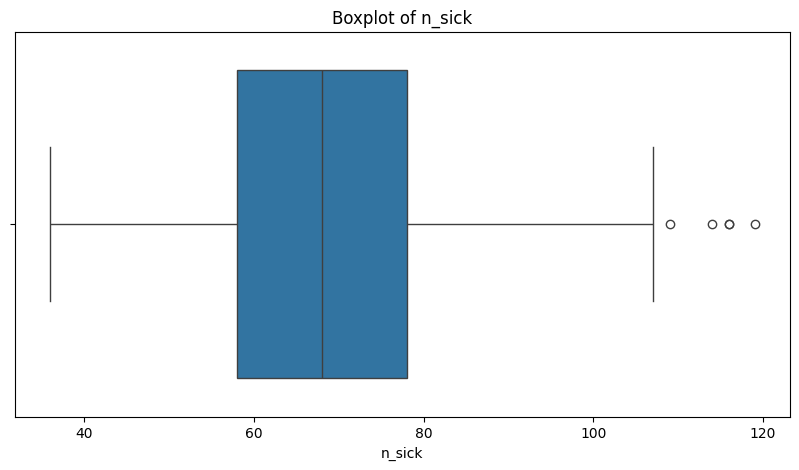
* A significant portion of days necessitates the activation of only a minimal number of standby drivers, if any. This is evident from the pronounced peak at the distribution's onset.
* Yet, the distribution unveils a long tail pointing towards days with exceptionally high standby driver activation. While these days are rarer in occurrence, their existence underscores the unpredictability of demands and the critical need for efficient HR planning.

1. A graph of a number of people

   Description automatically generated with medium confidenceDistribution of dafted-

* The prevailing trend indicates that most days are well-managed with the available pool of standby drivers, negating the need for any additional drivers.
* However, the distribution also brings to light occasional days marked by a pronounced demand for additional drivers, over and above the standby pool. These outlier days, although infrequent, represent potential challenges and stresses the importance of a more dynamic and predictive allocation of resources.

Checking for Outliers:

Outliers in Sick Drivers (n\_sick) –

* Most of the data points for sick drivers are clustered around the median, with a few outliers visible on the higher end. These represent days with an unusually high number of sick drivers.

A blue rectangular box with numbers

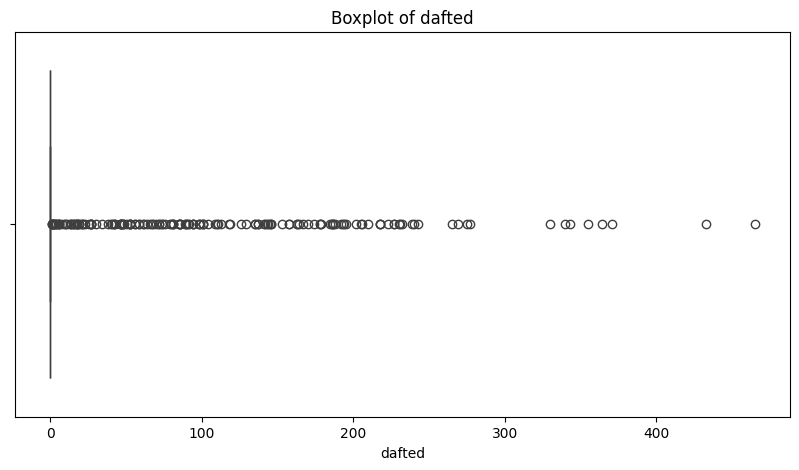
Description automatically generated with medium confidenceOutliers in Emergency Calls (calls) –

* 3 outliers were detected.
* The majority of data points for emergency calls are closely packed, with a few outliers on both the lower and higher ends.

A graph with numbers and lines

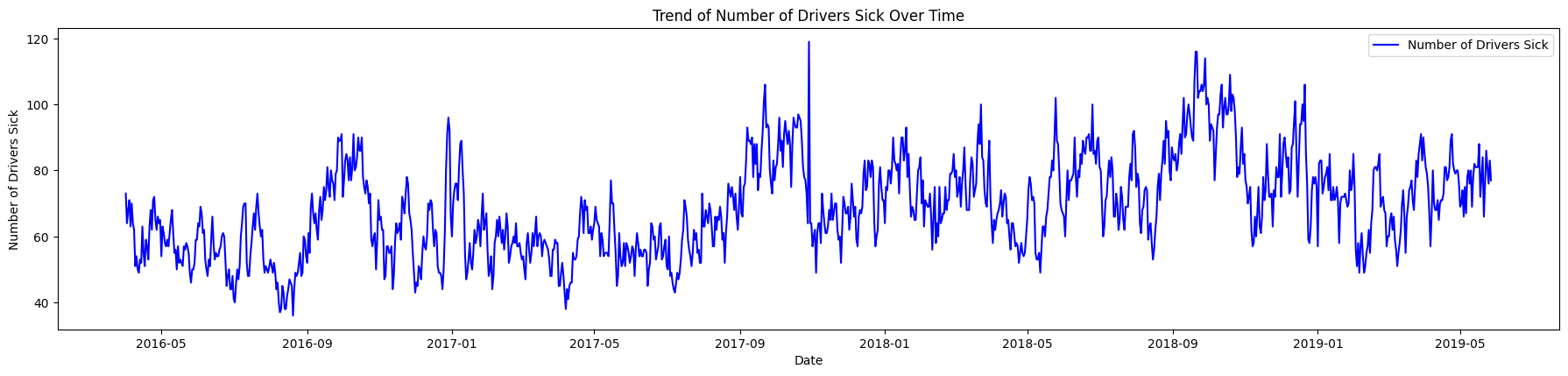
Description automatically generated with medium confidenceOutliers in Standby Drivers Activated (sby\_need) –

* The Number of Standby Drivers Activated has a considerable number of outliers, with 256 days falling outside the typical range. This indicates the inherent unpredictability in the demand for standby drivers.
* This distribution has a clear right-skew, with a considerable number of outliers on the higher side. These represent days when an unusually high number of standby drivers were activated.

Outliers in Additional Drivers Needed (dafted) –

* 171 outlier days were identified.
* A significant portion of the data points are clustered around zero, indicating that on many days, no additional drivers were needed. However, there are several outliers on the higher end, showcasing days with a high demand for additional drivers beyond the standby pool.

Time-Series Analysis

Number of drivers sick over time

* There seems to be a recurring pattern or seasonality in the number of drivers calling in sick. This is evident from the peaks and troughs observed in the graph.
* We can see that more people are falling sick in between the months of September to January. This can be because of the cold weather so we need to keep in mind this insight while prediction.

Trend of Emergency Calls over time

* The number of emergency calls also displays a seasonal pattern.
* Additionally, there appears to be a slight upward trend in the number of emergency calls over time, indicating that the volume of calls might be increasing.A graph showing a sound wave

  Description automatically generated with medium confidence This suggests that certain times of the year may consistently require more standby drivers.
* The slight upward trend in emergency calls implies that the demand for rescue services is growing. This trend should be factored into future planning.

A green line graph with white text

Description automatically generatedTrend of Standby Drivers Activated over time

* There is a visible seasonality in the number of standbys activated in correlation with “Number of drivers sick over time”.
* It's evident that on several days, no standbys are activated, while on other days, a significant number are activated.

A graph showing a number of red lines

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceTrend of Additional Drivers needed over time

* While the number remains fairly low, we can see that there are certain days when additional drivers are needed due to a lack of standbys. This highlights the inefficiency in the current approach of a fixed number of standbys.

Correlation Analysis

1. n\_sick (Number of Drivers Called Sick)

* Shows a moderate positive correlation with `n\_duty` (0.459501). This suggests that as the number of drivers on duty increases, there's a corresponding increase in the number of drivers calling in sick.
* The correlation with `calls` is weakly positive (0.155371), indicating a slight association between the number of drivers calling in sick and the number of emergency calls.

2. calls (Number of Emergency Calls):

* It shows a strong positive correlation with `sby\_need` (0.677468). On days with more emergency calls, there's a greater need to activate standby drivers.
* There's also a strong positive correlation with `dafted` (0.557340). This means that when emergency calls increase, there's often a need for additional drivers beyond the standby drivers.

3. n\_duty (Number of Drivers on Duty)

* Shows a weak positive correlation with both `sby\_need` and `dafted`. This suggests that even as the number of drivers on duty increases, there's still a need for standby drivers and, occasionally, additional drivers.

4. sby\_need (Number of Standbys Activated)

* The extremely strong positive correlation with `dafted` (0.945168) is significant. It reveals that on days when more standby drivers are activated, there's also a higher need for additional drivers. This highlights a challenge in resource allocation and indicates that the current number of standby drivers might not be adequate.

**Feature Engineering**

I have implemented following feature engineering steps in order to enhance my dataset for better understanding and modeling-

Date-related Features:

Year, Month, Day, and Day of the Week: These features break down the date into its components, capturing the temporal structure. This helps the model recognize patterns like end-of-month effects, yearly trends, or weekday-specific patterns.

Is Weekend: Weekends might have different patterns compared to weekdays due to fewer working days, more recreational activities, etc. By distinguishing between them, the model can understand these patterns.

Quarter: Some patterns, like quarterly business cycles or seasonal changes, might be captured at the quarter level.

Lag and Rolling Features:

Lagged Features: Previous days' data can influence the current day's values. For instance, a spike in drivers calling in sick might have cascading effects for a few days.

Rolling Mean and Standard Deviation: These capture the local average and variability. For instance, if there's a sudden spike in the number of drivers calling in sick, comparing it to the rolling mean can give context.

Day-to-Day Difference: This captures daily fluctuations. A sudden change might indicate anomalies or specific events.

Ratios and Interactions:

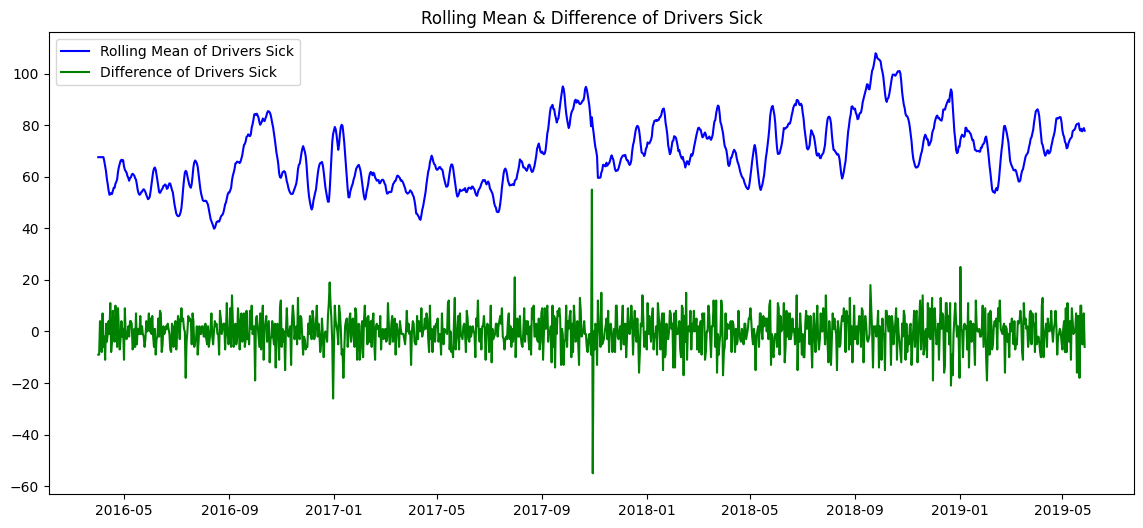
Sick to Available Ratio: By understanding the proportion of drivers who called in sick relative to available drivers, we can gauge the strain on the available resources.

Emergency Call to Driver Ratio: This ratio captures the demand (emergency calls) relative to the supply (available drivers). It can help in resource allocation and planning.

Sick Calls Interaction & Calls Driver Interaction: Interaction terms capture combined effects. For instance, days with both high sick calls and emergency calls might be particularly challenging. Similarly, understanding the relationship between demand and total resources can provide insights into operational efficiency.

Post Feature Engineering EDA

Rolling mean and difference of sick drivers-



* The rolling mean of drivers calling in sick seems relatively stable, but there are noticeable peaks at specific times.
* The day-to-day difference for drivers calling in sick fluctuates around zero but does show occasional spikes and troughs. This indicates sudden increases or decreases in sick calls on certain days.

Rolling mean and difference of emergency calls –

A graph of a graph of a wave

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

* The rolling mean for emergency calls shows a slight upward trend over time, suggesting an increase in emergency call volume.
* The day-to-day difference in emergency calls also fluctuates, with some days experiencing sharp increases or decreases in calls.

A graph with orange lines

Description automatically generatedCorrelation Analysis with Number of Standbys Activated –

* The number of standbys activated (sby\_need) has a very high correlation with the rolling mean of emergency calls, the day-to-day difference in calls, and the interaction between sick drivers and calls.

A graph of a number of drivers sick

Description automatically generatedDrivers Sick by Month –

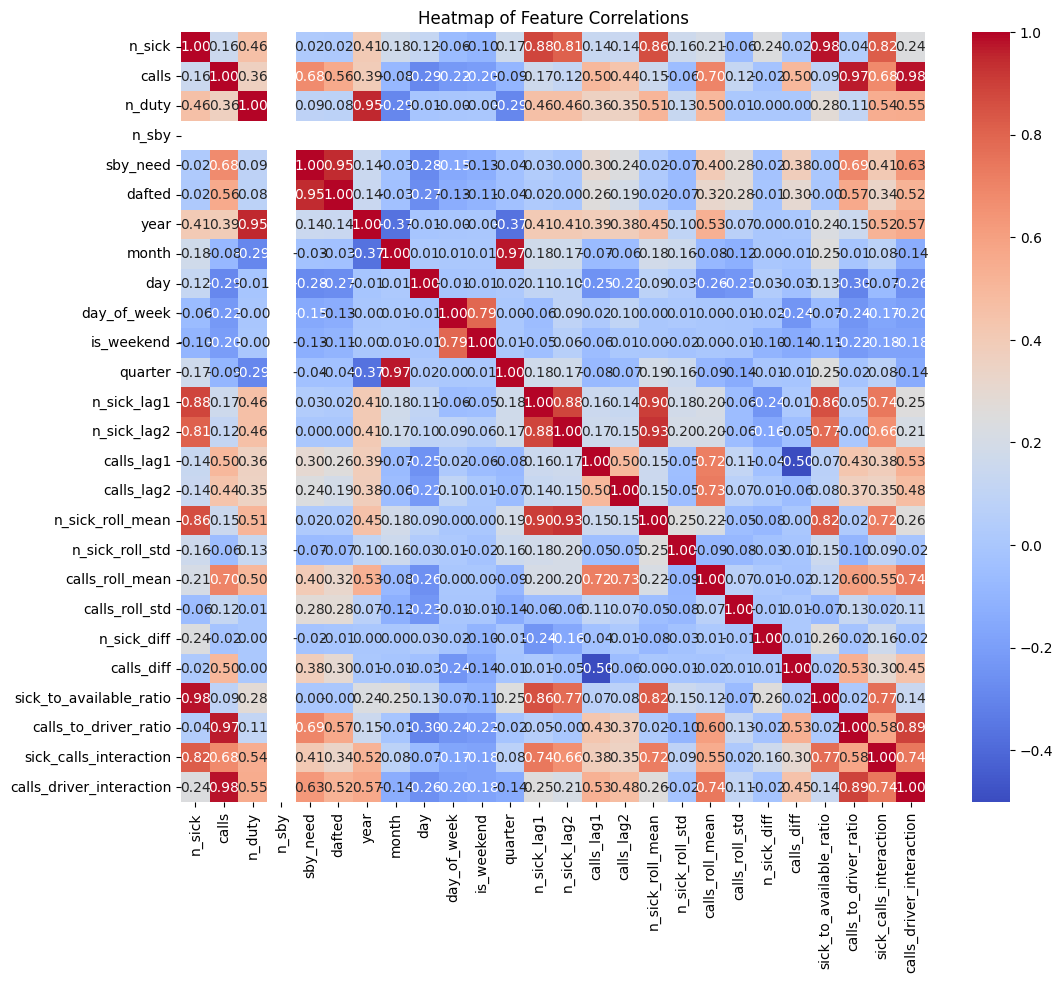
* Some months, especially in the middle and end of the year, tend to have a higher average number of drivers calling in sick. This could be indicative of seasonal factors or events in those months affecting driver availability.

A comparison of a graph

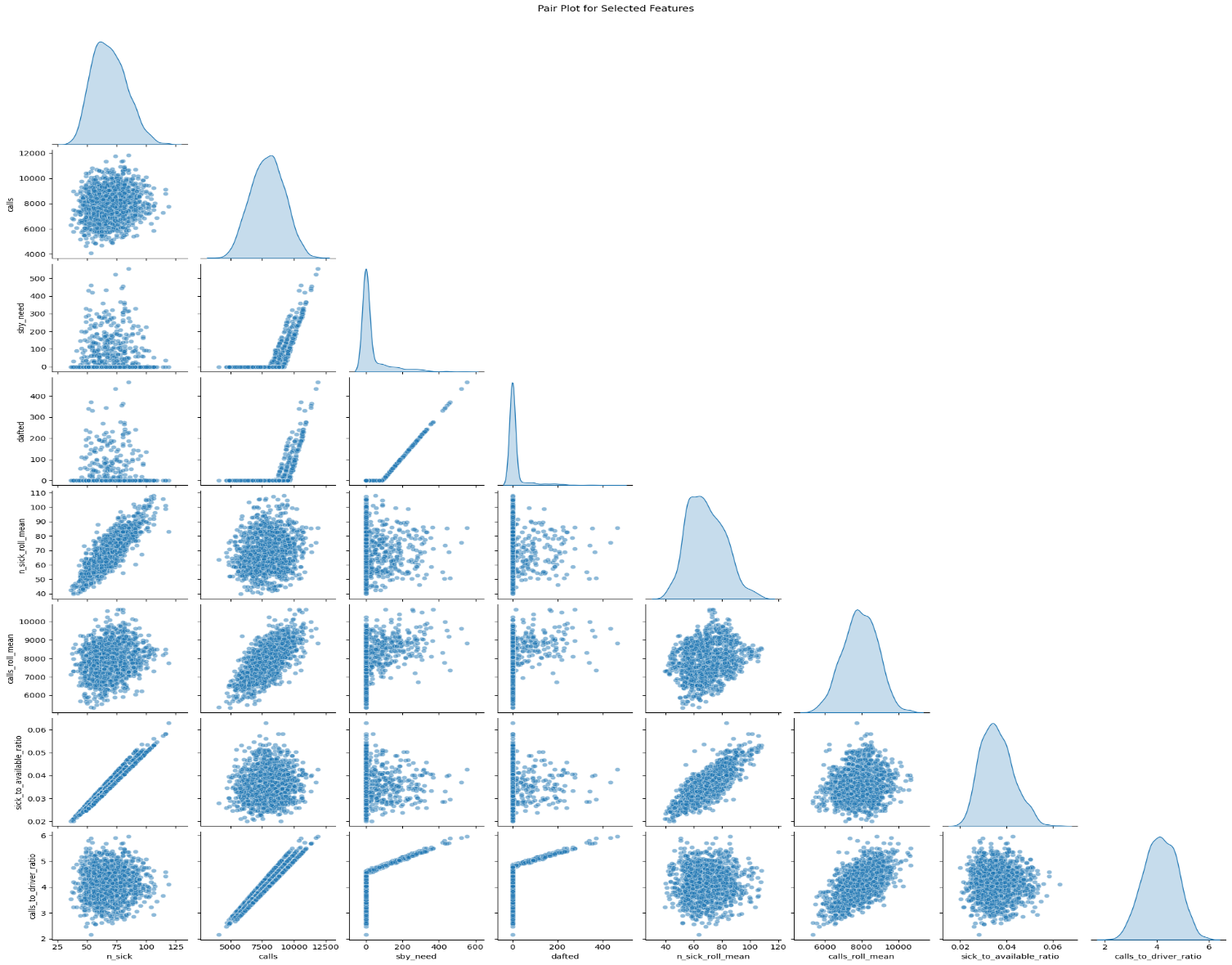
Description automatically generated with medium confidenceBox Plots-

* The rolling mean of drivers calling in sick has a relatively compact interquartile range (IQR), indicating that most days have a consistent average number of sick calls. There are a few outliers suggesting unusually high or low sick calls on certain days.
* The day-to-day difference in emergency calls has a wider IQR, highlighting the variability in daily call volume changes.

Heatmap of Correlations-



* As seen in the correlation bar plot, sby\_need has strong correlations with several features, emphasizing their importance in predicting the number of standbys needed.
* There's a strong positive correlation between the rolling mean of drivers calling in sick and the day-to-day difference in emergency calls. This indicates that when more drivers call in sick on average, there might be more variability in emergency calls.

Pair Plots-

‘n\_sick’ vs. ‘sby\_need’: There's a slight trend suggesting that as the number of sick drivers increases, the need for standby drivers might also increase.

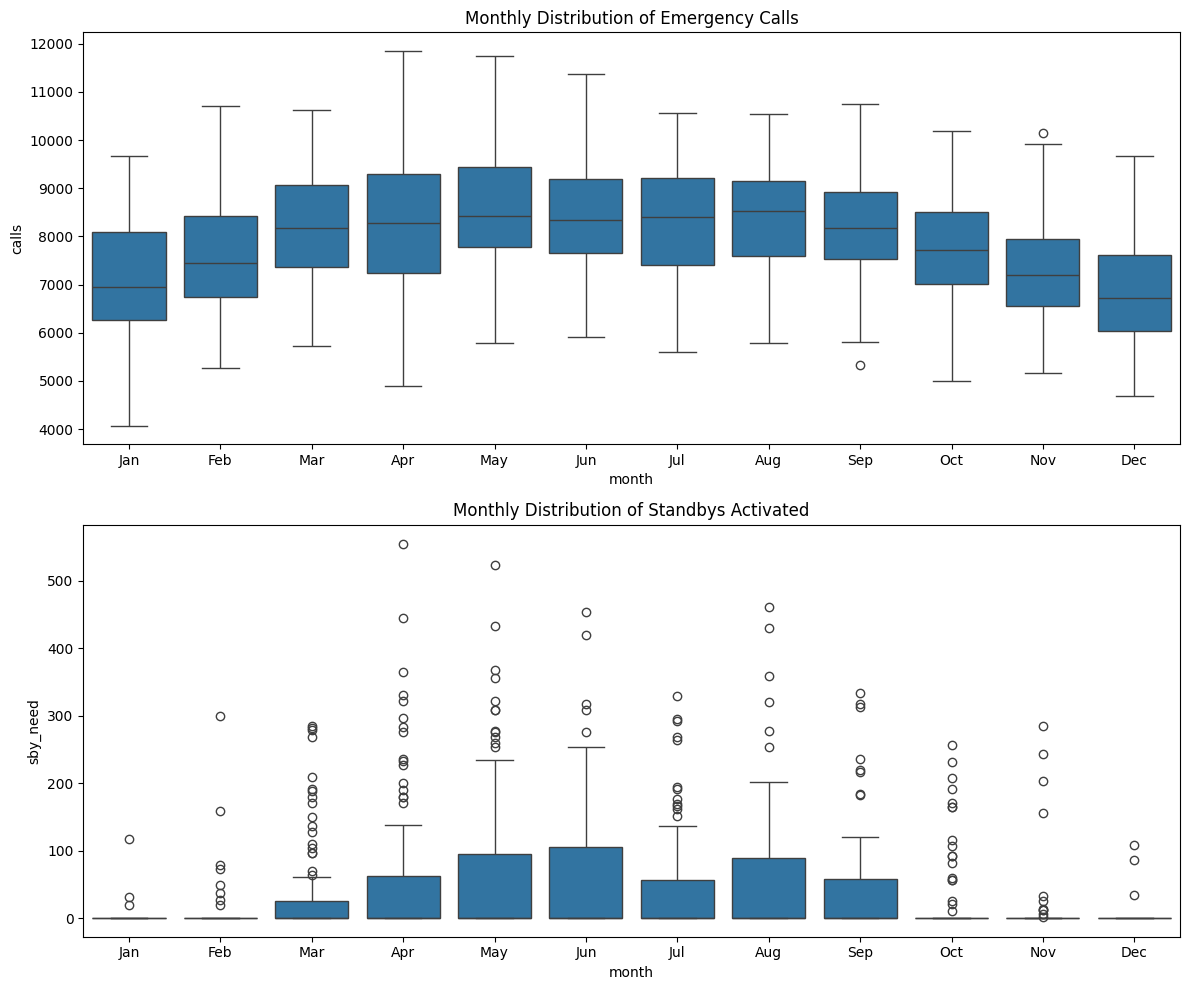
‘n\_sick’ vs. ‘n\_sick\_roll\_mean’: As expected, there's a strong positive relationship since the rolling mean is derived from the n\_sick feature.

‘calls’ vs. ‘sby\_need’: There seems to be a positive trend suggesting that as emergency calls increase, the need for standby drivers also goes up.

‘calls’ vs. ‘calls\_roll\_mean’: Strong positive relationship, which is expected since the rolling mean is derived from the calls feature.

‘sby\_need’ vs. ‘dafted’: A positive relationship is evident. Days with higher standby needs also tend to have more drivers drafted from their days off.

Monthly Analysis-

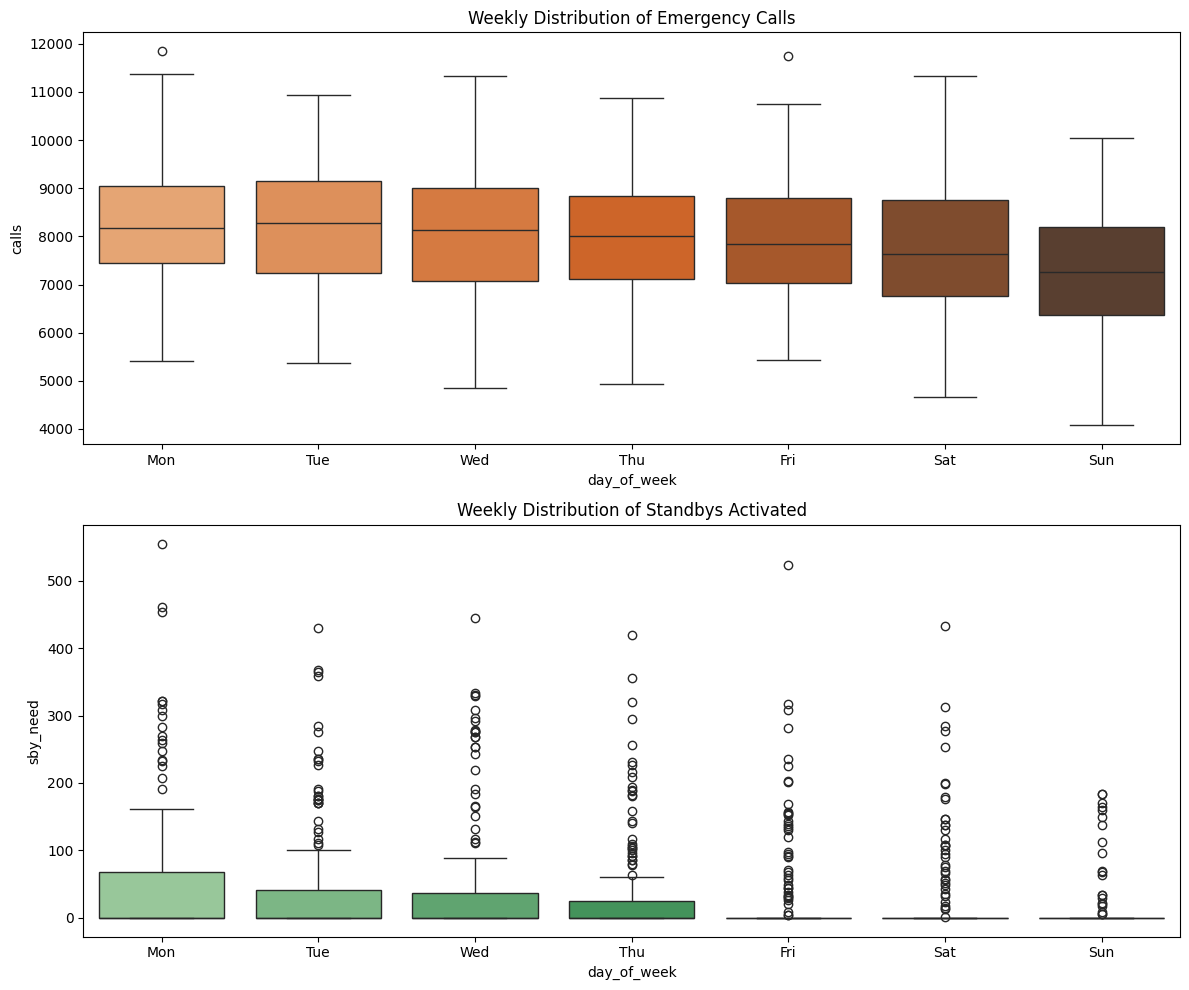


Emergency Calls: The months of January, February, November, and December seem to have a higher median number of emergency calls. This could be attributed to factors like winter-related accidents or illnesses, holidays, etc.

Standbys Activated: The requirement for standbys is higher in the months of January, February, November, and December. This aligns with the higher number of emergency calls observed in these months. The need for standbys remains relatively consistent across the other months, but there's a noticeable dip in June and September.

Outliers: There are certain outliers observed, especially in months like January, indicating days when the standby activations were unusually high.

Weekly Analysis-



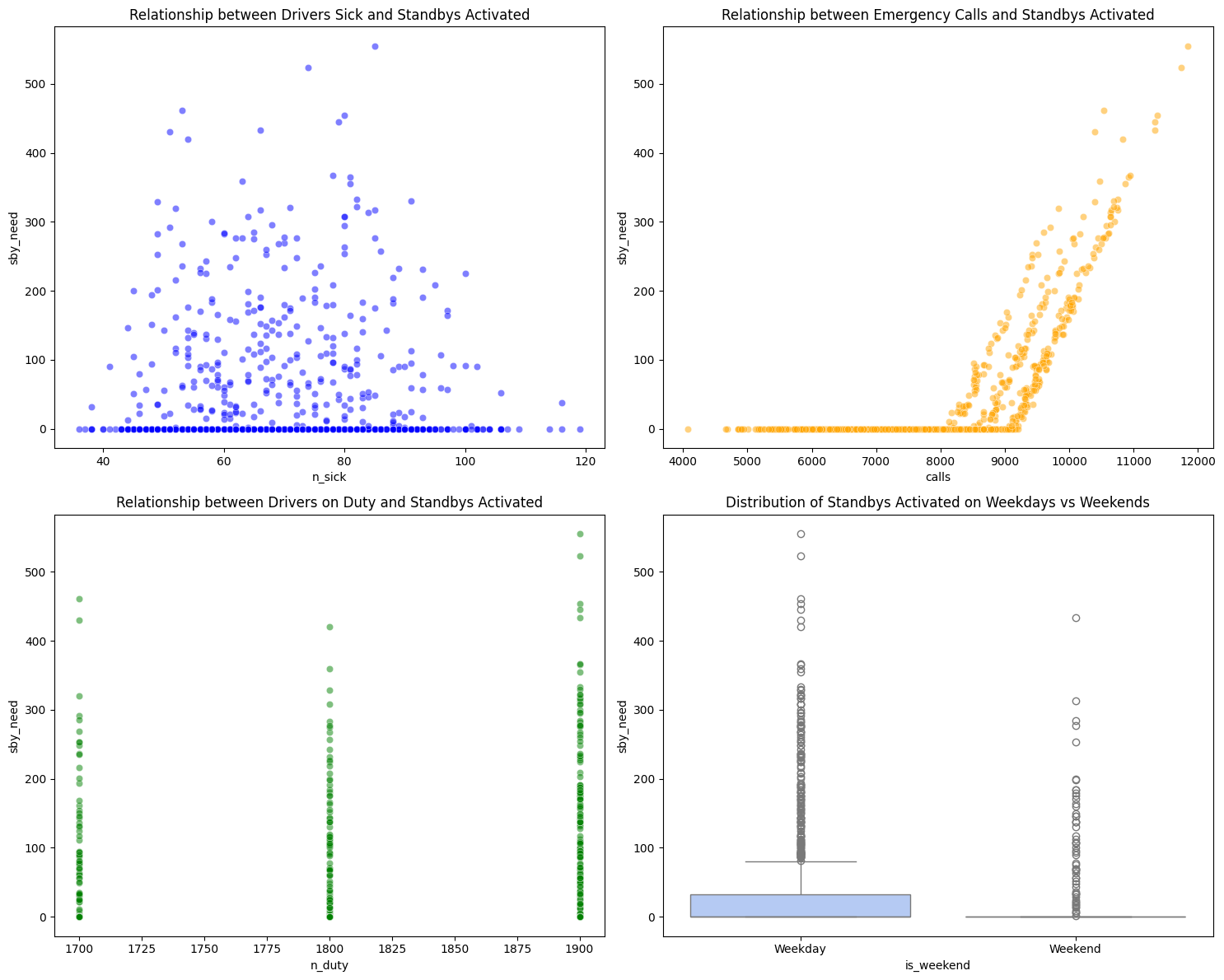
Emergency Calls: There appears to be a distinction between weekdays and weekends, with weekdays generally having a higher median number of emergency calls.

Mid-Week Surge: Wednesday seems to have a higher median and wider distribution compared to other days. This might indicate a higher variability in the number of calls received on Wednesdays. There's a noticeable drop in calls during the weekends, especially on Sundays.

Standbys Activated: Just like the emergency calls, standbys activated also show a higher median on weekdays, especially around mid-week. The number of standbys activated remains relatively consistent from Monday to Friday, with a slight dip on weekends.

Outliers: There are certain outlier days observed across the week, indicating specific days when the standby activations were unusually high or low. This could be due to special events, holidays, or other external factors.

Relationship Analysis:



Relationship between Drivers Sick and Standbys Activated (Top-left Plot - Blue): There seems to be a positive correlation between the number of drivers who called in sick and the number of standbys activated.

Insight: On days when more drivers call in sick, there's a corresponding increase in the activation of standby drivers. This relationship makes sense, as the absence of regular drivers would necessitate the use of standby resources to cover the shortfall.

Relationship between Emergency Calls and Standbys Activated (Top-right Plot - Orange): There's also a positive correlation between the number of emergency calls and the number of standbys activated.

Insight: This indicates that on days with a higher volume of emergency calls, more standby drivers are activated to handle the increased demand. This underscores the importance of having a flexible and responsive system to handle variations in emergency call volumes.

Relationship between Drivers on Duty and Standbys Activated (Bottom-left Plot - Green): The relationship here seems less direct, with a spread of points. However, there might be a slight trend indicating that as the number of drivers on duty increases, the number of standbys activated might decrease.

Insight: Having more drivers on duty can potentially reduce the need for activating standbys. However, other factors, like the actual number of emergencies or unexpected driver absences, will also play a role.

Distribution of Standbys Activated on Weekdays vs Weekends (Bottom-right Plot - Cool-warm Palette): The median number of standbys activated seems to be slightly higher on weekdays compared to weekends. There's also a broader range and more variability in the number of standbys activated on weekdays.

Insight: This might indicate a higher demand or more unpredictability during weekdays. This can be due to a variety of factors, including increased traffic, more people at work leading to potential workplace emergencies, or simply more activities taking place during weekdays.

**Feature Selection and Standardization**

In this step, The dataset is divided into features and the target variable.

We need to predict the sby\_need, which represents the number of standby drivers that were activated on a given day.

And then we will standardize the data to ensures that all features contribute equally to the model's performance.