

Project Proposal

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Project Proposal: Predicting Divorce for Young Adults

In the U.S., divorce rates marriage rates likelihood of ending in the first 7 years younger generations have different attitudes towards marriage, marry later same-sex marriage and changing legal attitudes To link to text that says,e.g., “example link” use example link

(1) the hypothesis and research questions

Research question: What types of people are most likely to divorce? We expect that certain social and political views affect the health and length of a marriage. Those characteristics will allow us to predict who is most likely to get a divorce or remain married.

(2) data experiment design

For married individuals ages 25 to 45, we will predict the probability of getting a divorce within the first seven years of marriage based on the respondent’s social views and history, include attitudes about pornography, fundamentalism of religious views, and instances of premarital sex or extra-marital sex. Our analysis will also use standard factors such as education, race, age when married, years married, religion, political views and having children.

(3) the data

We will use data from the General Social Survey from years 1990 to 2014, approximately a generational cohort. The data is available as a cumulative file of cross-sectional samples from all years 1972 to 2014, but we are limiting our selection based on the availability of specific variables.

(4) proposed processing methods

Using the train-validate-test method, we will separate our available data in to a 70-15-15 split.

(5) proposed analytical methods

We will test three methods of analyzing the data for predictions: 1. Logistic regression 2. Decision trees 3. Random forest

Based on the accuracy results of each method, we will determine the best model for prediction and apply that for our insight.

(6) ethical considerations of such a project

This could affect real-life relationships, depending on how the results are used, especially if marriage counselors included it as a tool in their work. Unfortunately, someone might be influenced to consider a divorce who wouldn’t have or a couple might not get married who had thought about it, if the prediction indicates that

their marriage is unlikely to last. On the other hand, this could provide support for dating services that cater to those looking for long-term relationships by identifying personal factors that contribute to marriage longevity.