**EXERCISE – Proving police racism in a mid-sized US conurbation**

**You are going to investigate police arrests in the Champaign-Urbana area in east-central Illinois. The aim is to prove that disparities in the arrest patterns between the two parts of the metropolitan area are influenced by race. You have FOI’d data on arrests going back 5 years. The two towns are 16 percent black, according to the 2010 census, but, in each of the years the data covers, more than 40 percent of the arrests were of black people.**

**You may be able to prove police racism statistically, or by finding other stories in the data.**

**Ask the trainers for any help you need, but please do NOT search the internet for more information – this data relates to a real story, which we will discuss at the end of the exercise.**

**The data is** [here](http://bit.ly/CIJ021217)**: or type in http://bit.ly/CIJ021217**

**For background – the wikipedia entry is copied below:**

The **Champaign–Urbana metropolitan area**, also known as **Champaign-Urbana** and **Urbana-Champaign**, is a [metropolitan area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_metropolitan_area) in east-central [Illinois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois). It is the 191st largest metropolitan area in the U.S. It is composed of three counties, [Champaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champaign_County,_Illinois), [Ford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ford_County,_Illinois), and [Piatt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piatt_County,_Illinois). The [Office of Management and Budget](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_of_Management_and_Budget) has designated the three-county Champaign-Urbana area as one of its [metropolitan statistical areas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_statistical_area) (the **Champaign-Urbana, IL MSA**), which are used for statistical purposes by the [Census Bureau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) and other agencies.

The area has a population of 231,891 as determined by the 2010 U.S. Census.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champaign%E2%80%93Urbana_metropolitan_area#cite_note-1) The area is anchored by the principal cities of [Champaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champaign,_Illinois) and [Urbana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urbana,_Illinois) and is home to the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Illinois_at_Urbana-Champaign), the flagship campus of the [University of Illinois system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Illinois_system). (University students, even those from outside the area, are included in Census figures if they were counted by the federal Census).

Journalists frequently treat the metropolitan area as just one city. For example, in 1998, [*Newsweek*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newsweek) included the Champaign-Urbana Metropolitan Area in its list of the top ten tech cities (outside the [Silicon Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silicon_Valley)).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champaign%E2%80%93Urbana_metropolitan_area#cite_note-2) Champaign-Urbana also ranked tenth as one of the top twenty-five [green cities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_cities) in the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), in a survey made by [*Country Home*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country_Home_(magazine)) magazine.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champaign%E2%80%93Urbana_metropolitan_area#cite_note-3)