DSC530

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Final Project

I went into this project wanting to know the relationships between victim age, offender age, year of death, additional victims, and additional offenders. After exploring and analyzing the data, I’ve come to the conclusion that there do appear to be some correlations; however, I don’t believe that there is causation between the variables. One thing that surprised me was how close the percentages for both victim and offender ages are. I would have thought that there would be more of a gap, especially once the offenders got older.

One variable that I would have liked to explore more would be the offender age, but the sheer number of unknown responses distorted this figure. In some cases, I removed the number of unknowns where I thought the other variables would not be negatively affected. To remove all of the unknown responses in every case, would I believe, have distorted the other variables.

The variable I think would have been most helpful is the solved rate for homicide cases. If more cases would have been solved, this could have potentially improved the statistics for offender ages. More solved cases could also have affected the counts for additional victims and additional offenders because there is a possibility that some crimes would have been linked together.

I made two assumptions at the start of this project that were incorrect. First, I thought the homicide rate would peak in early 1980’s with a decrease through the 1990’s and then rise again in the 2000’s. There were actually two peaks: one in 1980 and again in the miis-1990’s. Secondly, I thought there would be more disparity between the victim and offender ages. I assumed the victim ages would remain younger as the offender ages increased. This was true for the ages between 70 – 100, of which there wee no victims. However, up until the age of 70, the ages between the two groups stayed close.

My greatest challenge in this project was the regression testing. It’s what I struggled with the most, and I need more practice before I become proficient with it. Other than that, this was an interesting project, and I enjoyed exploring and analyzing this data.