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Problem Statement

Cities spend a lot of money on payouts for police misconduct, even though the claims behind these payouts are often incomplete. The city of Atlanta spent \$4.76M over 5 years and wants to know the circumstances of these claims to prevent wasting taxpayer money in the future.

Goal The city of Atlanta wants to better understand the details behind payouts for police misconduct — in particular whether there is a trend in payouts, data gaps in claims, and whether specific claim types drive these payouts. The city is aware that records are not perfect due to strained reporting and logging resources within city departments.

Data Cleaning & Transformation

After loading the data from Github into [Google Colab](#) a data quality check was done confirming the shape, column names, rows, and inspecting the variable `summary_allegations`. A missingness check was done to understand the completeness of the dataset, including where records were partially or fully missing. Next, `summary_allegations` was split into multiple columns with text normalization (mapping) to make reporting more transparent with a table view to confirm the new split. In addition, a bar chart with the top 10 most missing fields was created after running a missingness audit to give a quick view potentially informing further analysis in Tableau. Some easy calculations were done in Tableau to maintain a concise dataset instead of adding columns, such as year (from date), total payout, median payout, case count, and award buckets (bins).

How to navigate this Tableau Public Data Story

Each tab at the top is like a part of a story (or slide) with representing a topic.

- **Slides:** contains a header of the core topic
- **Summary:** the paragraph at the top of a selected slide covering key insights
- **Interactive filters:**
 - Each slide contains a set of filters such as Year and Allegation Category, designed to let the user explore different views (or cuts) of the data for focus areas to highlight.
 - Tooltips are used for additional insight and some data features color formatting to indicate intensity in a metric such as differences in Amount Awarded.
 - Reference lines were added to show averages and medians to help cut through the noise on data authenticity due to the presence of gaps and outliers.

Tips:

- Use filters to explore specific time periods or allegation types.
- Compare demanded vs awarded amounts for negotiation insights.
- Export snapshots or views for additional analysis.

*Filter examples in Tableau Public.

Source & Reference

Fischer-Baum, R., & Lemon, J. (2021, March 3). *Police misconduct costs cities millions every year — but that's where the accountability ends* [Data set]. FiveThirtyEight.

<https://github.com/fivethirtyeight/police-settlements/>