Incarceration Rates by Race and Gender in the U.S.

Blake Lin

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In this report, we are using the data from National Longitudinal Survey of Youth to analyze the Incarceration status by race and gender.
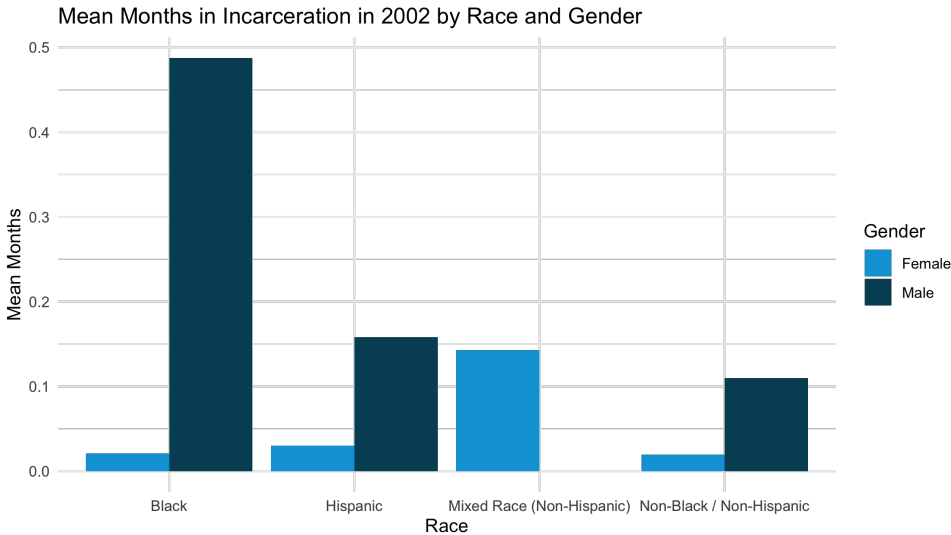

Figure 1: Mean Months in Incarceration in 2002 by Race and Gender

In figure 1, we can see the average month under incarceration of different race and gender. Black male has the highest number of approximately 0.5 which means they are incarcerated for almost 5 months on average. We can also see that Male has higher numbers than females across all races. (Note: the problem of zero mean in mixed race male might be the result of small cells.)

Table 1: Mean Months in Incarceration in 2002 by Race and Gender

Gender	Black	Hispanic	Mixed Race Non Hispanic	Non Black Non Hispanic
Female	0.0211268	0.0298013	0.1428571	0.0193192
Male	0.4876712	0.1579509	0.0000000	0.1099476

In table 1, we can see the actual numbers of the mean months in incarceration.

Table 2: Regression Output. Omitted category is Black Females.

	Dependent variable:
	Incarceration in 2002
Hispanic	-0.159^{***}
	(0.038)
Mixed Race (Non-Hispanic)	-0.174^{**}
	(0.083)
Non-Black / Non-Hispanic	-0.189^{***}
	(0.035)
Male	0.194^{***}
	(0.022)
Constant	0.155^{***}
	(0.026)
Observations	8,621
R^2	0.015
Adjusted R^2	0.014
Residual Std. Error	1.019 (df = 8616)
F Statistic	32.033^{***} (df = 4; 8616)
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

In table 2, we have the regression output, and the omitted category is "Black Females".

Being hispanic, mixed race, or non-black / non-hispanic would both decrease the months being in incarceration, and a male would increase the expected months in incarceration for almost 2 months on average. All of the variables we used are statistically significant under a 95% level.