Information Seeking Assignment 1

CLASS: INFO 600

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Data Set 1 Question: **How much crime is done in the US and by what racial demographic?**

1. An APA-formatted data citation (including URL)

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) (2013,) Crime in the United States 2013

Link: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/tables/table-43>

2. Details of the license or terms of use (include a link if needed)

None public government information under Freedom of Information Act

3. About one paragraph describing why these data are interesting

This data set is very interesting because in our society we are currently confronted with massive amounts of racially charged rhetoric surrounding crime. When looking at the raw data numbers from the FBI you can see a different picture being presented that suggest a different narrative. In our current political climate we hear that illegal residents in the US commit the largest amounts of crime and contribute to making our society more dangerous. Particularly from the current presidential administration we hear that illegal residents are responsible for the majority of rapes, and violent crimes. The raw data simple does not support this assumption. When looking at the actual data you can see which ethnic and racial groups commit what crimes. This fair an honest analysis would help to remove racial tensions and fear from our society.

4. Potential data users and decision-makers for this data

Police and local law enforcement, advocacy groups and non-profit organization, public and private schools, correctional department, Politicians, Sociologist, Psychologist, Psychiatrists, youth and community outreach programs, mayors and city officials

5. Three questions this data might help to answer; note additional sources needed if

Applicable

Question 1: Can race and age be a determining factor to an individual’s propensity to commit a crime?

Question 2: Does the media in the US provide adequate disclosure and investigations of crime based on the racial background of the arrested perpetrators?

Question 3: Is the media biased in reporting on crimes that transpire based on race?

Data Set Question 2**: Which States in the US Data Set Question have the highest gun violence and why?**

1. An APA-formatted data citation (including URL)

Center for Disease Control And Prevention,( 2014-2015, December 22 2016). Firearm Mortality Rate

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm>

2. Details of the license or terms of use (include a link if needed)

None

3. About one paragraph describing why these data are interesting

Firearms are a traditional right of ownership in the United States. Given this right and the current gun laws why do specific states have higher instances of firearm mortality related deaths than others? The right to bear arms still remains a controversial constitutional right in America. Many advocates on both sides of the political spectrum have been unable to provide viable solutions to the proliferation of guns and the sharp rise in gun violence across the US when compared to other industrialized nations. In breaking down firearm mortality rates by states and regions would it be possible to see which states have the lowest rates and why? Does the answer to resolving the higher rates of firearms deaths in certain states revolve around mental health issues, the availability of guns, or the level of firearm law enforcement? Without clear and through analysis of the data the question of background checks, and fire arms, law enforcement will remain center stage in determining why certain states exceed others in gun related deaths.

4. Potential data users and decision-makers for this data

Federal, State law enforcement, gun advocacy groups, state and local politicians, criminal lawyers, gun owners, potential gun owners

5. Three questions this data might help to answer; note additional sources needed if

Applicable

Question 1: Does the geographical location of a state determine the level of firearm death?

Question 2: Do states with higher background checks have lower firearm deaths when compared to states with low background checks?

Question 3: Does the origin of the firearm purchase play a role in the nullifying data results?

Example: What if the guns used in the deaths of a particular state come from another state?

Data Set 3 Question: **How often are police fired, prosecuted, or convicted for misconduct?**

1. An APA-formatted data citation (including URL)

Cato Institute (2010, January thru December). National Police Misconduct Reporting Project

Link: <https://www.policemisconduct.net/databases/>

2. Details of the license or terms of use (include a link if needed)

None

3. About one paragraph describing why these data are interesting

This data is extremely important in our society today as the public continues to witness constant video and cell phone footage of police misconduct. The issue has become polarized due to the underlying racial and social tensions that still exist in America today. With the advent of Freddy Gray, and many other individuals who have died while in police custody question remain about how minorities and the greater public can trust police to act according to the stipulations in the law of protecting human life. I chose this data set to reveal specific and disturbing instances of police misconduct, and the various out comes of these events after they were reported by individuals and the general public. This data can shed light on how egregious actions can be perpetrated by the law enforcement against the very citizen they are sworn to protect.

4. Potential data users and decision-makers for this data

Federal and Local law enforcement, ACLU, Law Schools Justice Department, Civil Rights Groups, politicians, research and policy think tanks, general public

5. Three questions this data might help to answer; note additional sources needed if

Applicable

Question 1: Is police misconduct a major threat to the general public at large?

Question 2: Is misconduct reported to authorities on the Federal level, like the FBI for them to adequately address the issue and keep the general public informed?

Question 3: When other police witness officers engaged in misconduct do they report it?