**Project 1 Q and Analysis**

Q2: What are the top 5 highest-sentencing offenses in Texas? How does murder-sentencing in the major Texas cities compare to murder-sentencing in Texas as a whole?

Analysis:

My first goal was to obtain the top 5 highest-sentencing offenses in Texas, which are: Murder, Pollution, Kidnapping, Organized Crime, and Sexual Assault. The one oddball in this chart is Pollution. After some research and a deeper dive into these specific crimes, I discovered that there were individuals in this dataset that had extremely high sentences (about 48 years average) for “unauthorized disposal” of toxic waste and materials, in violation of an environmental act. A few examples are pollution of waterways, underground tank violations (causing leakage into groundwater), and disposal on government property such as state parks. Two of these individuals had multiple violations and were given high sentences, causing a big increase in the average sentence years.

With murder being the highest-sentencing crime in Texas, I wanted to look at murder sentences in five counties containing the major cities: Harris (Houston), Dallas (Dallas), Terrant (Fort Worth), Bexar (San Antonio), and Travis (Austin) counties. We know that the average murder sentence in Texas is 56 years, and we see that Harris, Dallas and Terrant county are all above that state average at 58.8, 57.2 and 58.1, respectively. We also see that Bexar county and Travis county are below the state average at 49.8 and 54. When comparing the number of murder offenses for each county with the average sentence, we see that Bexar county has a high number of offenses (1,272) and a lower-than-average sentence rate. Terrant county only has 983 murder offenses but has an above average sentence rate at 58.1 years.