Predicting Drunk Driving

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Motivation

- Fremont County, Wyoming had 27 fatal traffic accidents involving alcohol per 100,000 people
- Morris County, New Jersey had 0.2 fatal traffic accidents involving alcohol per 100,000 people
- What accounts for the disparity in these traffic fatalities?

Background

- Over 30000 people die in motor vehicle accidents every year
- Alcohol-impaired driving incidents account for about 30% of these deaths
- Cost of alcohol-related crashes generally exceeds the cost of non-alcohol related crashes

Question

- What factors contribute to drunk driving at an individual and socioeconomic county-level?

Data Description

- Primary data comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) through the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)
  - Datasets containing information about the vehicle, accident, and people involved
- Supplementary data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau through the American Community Survey (ACS)
  - Provides economic, social, and demographic data at county and state levels

Google BigQuery

- Cloud base serverless analytics data warehouse
- Platform for performing SQL analysis
- Designed to process GB/PB scale data
- Data reading and writing available via Hadoop, Spark and Cloud Dataflow
- Data ingestion abilities available from Google Cloud Storage, Google Cloud Datastore or livestream
- Facilitates collaboration in an infrastructure-less environment

Data Visualization

- Shiny
- Leaflet
- Choroplethr

Variable Description

- Attributes characterized by:
  - Driver: Indicator for drunk driving, Sex, Age, Driver history (past suspensions, DWI and speeding convictions), Indicator for death at scene of accident/en route to a medical facility
  - Vehicle: Vehicle speed prior to crash, Extent of damage
  - Accident: Number of fatalities
  - County-level attributes: Total population, Population by sex, 12-month income to poverty level ratio, Health insurance coverage by sex

Logistic Regression

Random Forest

Conclusions

Future work

- Extend the study to state level and factor in additional years
- Predict whether drunk driving was involved at an accident level
- Analyze whether time of day and weekday/weekend status affects drunk driving incidence