

JUSTFAIR MICHIGAN



THE QUEST FOR DATA

JUSTFAIR Michigan

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INTRODUCTION

who we are:

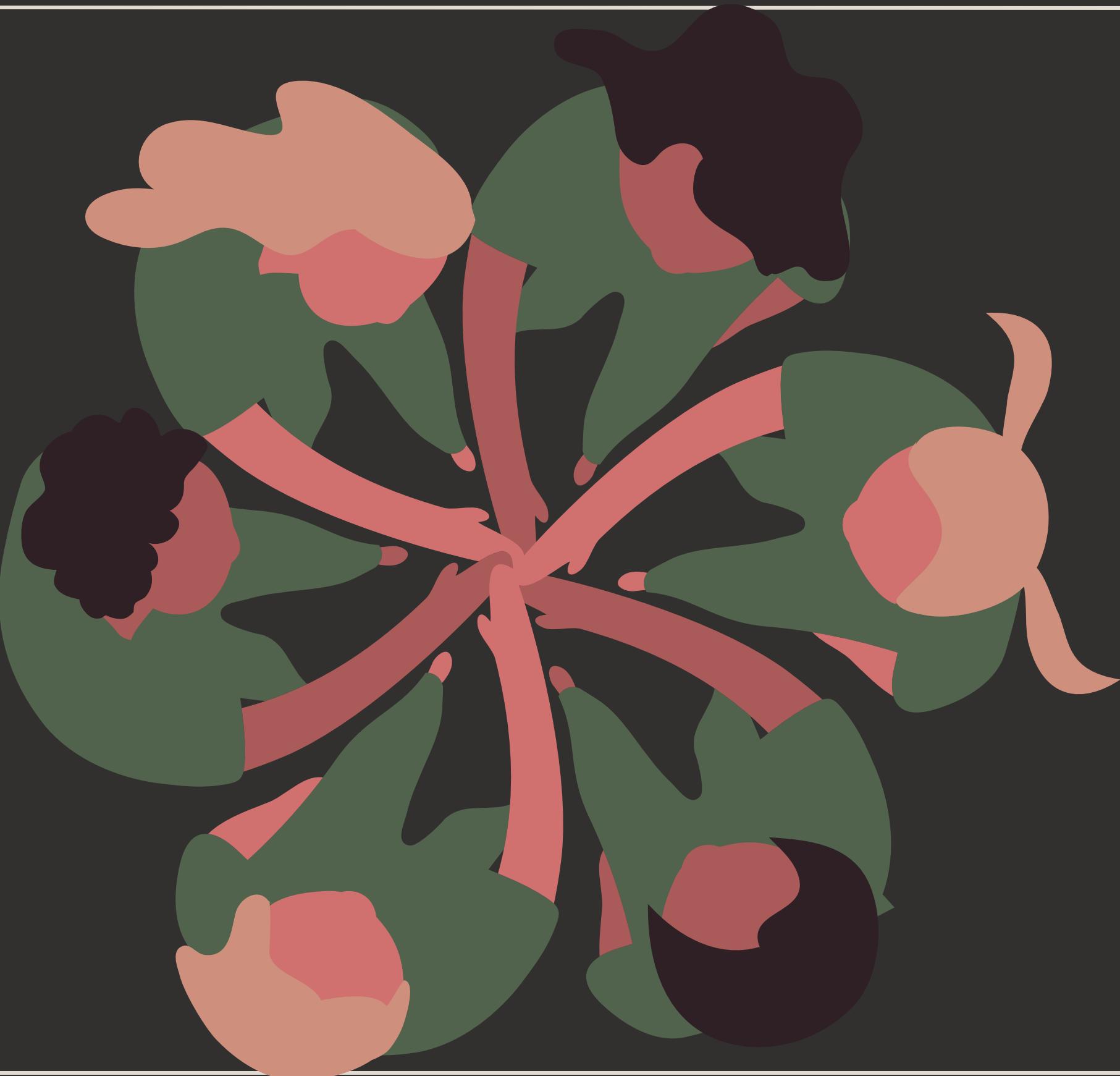
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Data Science Majors at MSU



BROAD SCOPE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

JUSTFAIR Mission

- JUDicial System Transparency for Fairness through Archived/Inferred Records
- Compile a public database
- Links demographics and sentencing decisions
- Analyze and draw conclusions





methods used:

- `urllib.request` library
- looping
- Jupyter Notebook
- HPCC

WEB SCRAPER

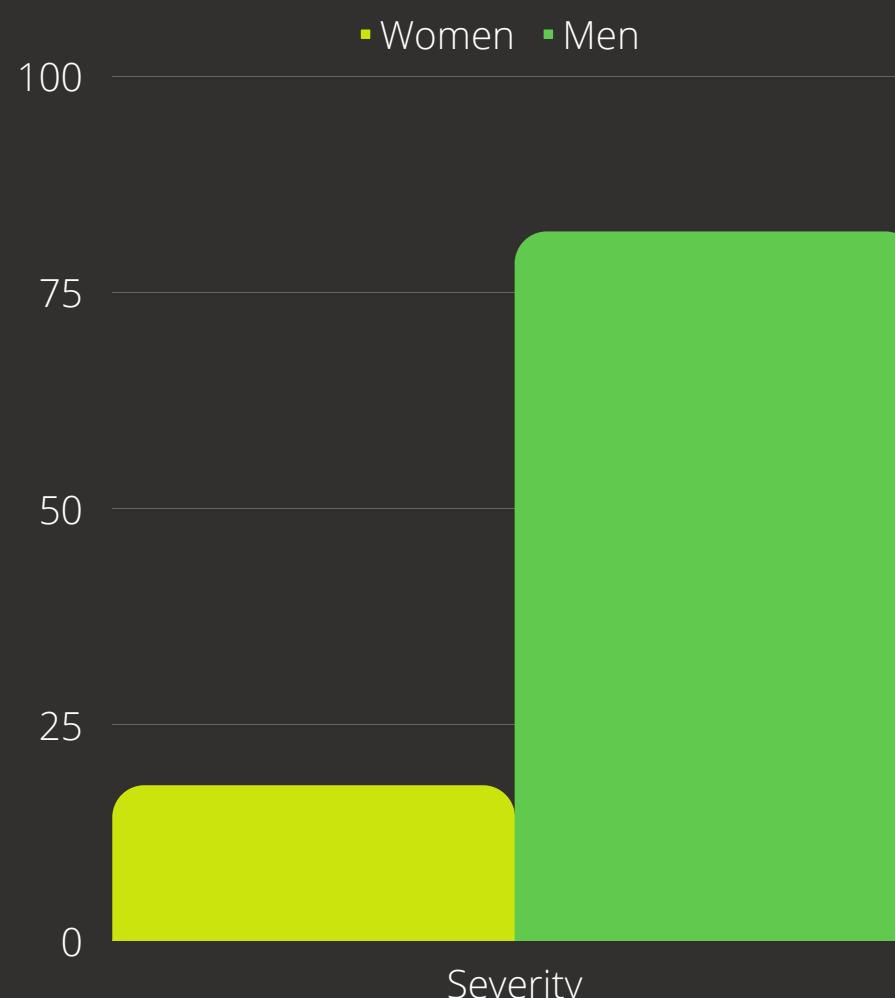
Court of Appeals / Michigan Supreme court data:

- Judge, district, attorney information
- Defendant name
- Dating as far back as 1961
 - **360,426 pages of data**, with more being added **each day**.



EXAMPLE DATA

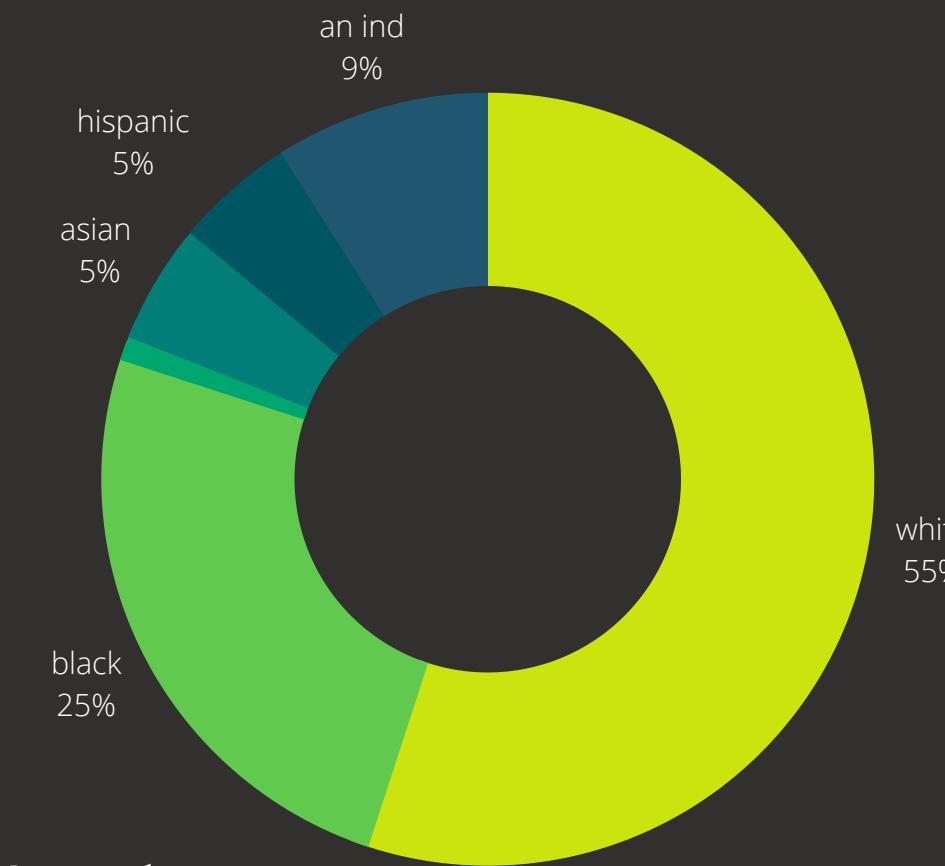
Severity of Crime



Why was it used?

- If the Michigan court's appeals data wasn't obtained.
- Draw conclusions to help find patterns in MI data.

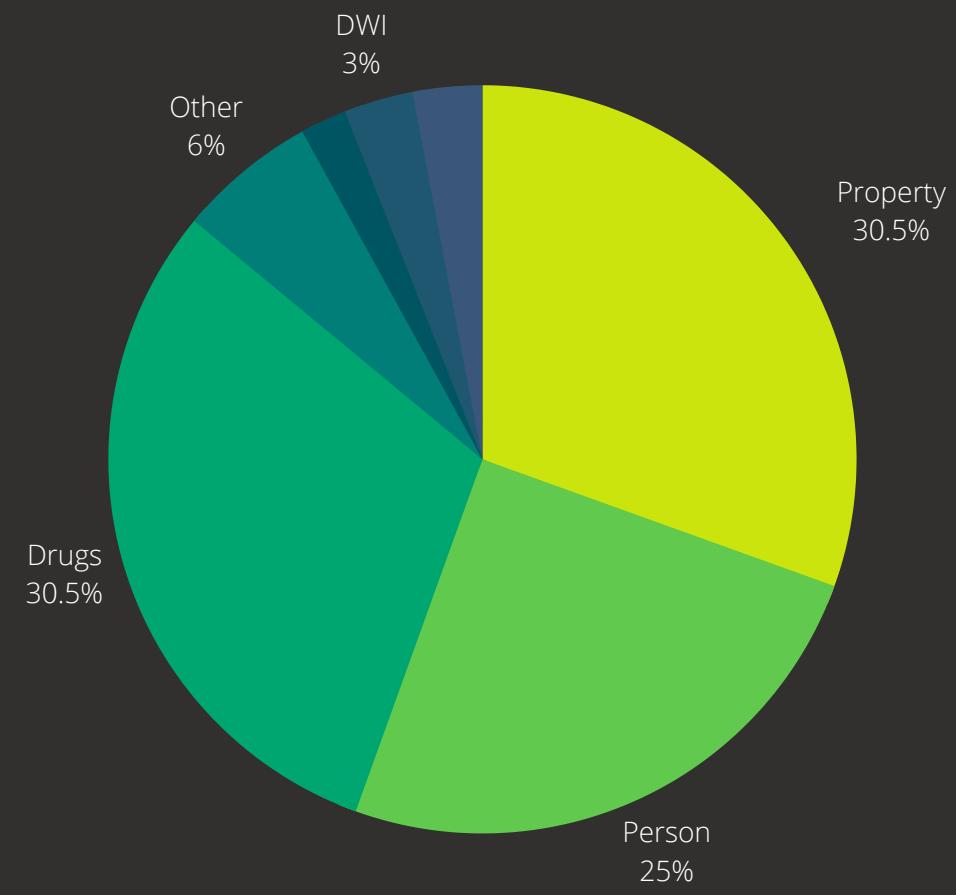
Plea Guilty by Race



Analysis

- Person, drugs, and property are the top offense types in district 1
- White people are more likely to plead guilty and black is second.
- Men have higher crime rate and severity committed

District 1 Offense Types Percentage (out of 100)



- We were able to successfully web scrape the court's appeals data
- Found resources and contacts that can help.

OBTAINING DATA

DATA WE NEED

Circuit Court Judge Data

- Leveraging connections in the Michigan Judiciary network
- Compiled list of circuit court data websites
- FOIA request



ADDING INFORMATION

NEXT STEPS

FOIA Request Data

- Analyzing FOIA MI Court data
- Support future projects

