Capstone Project 2019 — Snow
Hate Crimes in the United States

Structure

In this Capstone Project, you will examine the potential causes/correlates of hate crimes in the United States. The goal is to replicate this analysis from FiveThirtyEight using updated hate crime data and additional regressors. Prior to starting your project, please read this Southern Poverty Law Center brief which provides background information on hate crimes and hate crime data collection in the United States.

Data for this project will be collected the Kaiser Family Foundation, FBI, and U.S. Census. You will also need to gather two additional state-level metrics to include in your analysis (from any source).

In two pages, describe the nature of hate crime data in the United States, including how it is collected and its potential biases (1-2 paragraphs). Next, describe your findings from the tasks below (3-4 paragraphs). Clearly outline your regression specification and detail why you chose your two additional regressors. Succinctly interpret your map as well, noting any geographic anomalies and their potential causes. Embed your regression table, map, and plot in your final memo.

Tasks

1. Download state-level data for the variables in the table below. Use 2016 ACS 5-year data for Census variables and 2017 data for all other variables. Combine all of your variables into a single data frame with one row for each state.
2. Create a regression incorporating each of your downloaded variables. Use average hate crimes per 100k as your dependent variable and all others as independent variables. Think carefully about your regression specification. Do you need interaction terms? Fixed effects? Include the results of your regression as a nicely formatted table using `stargazer`.
3. Using state-level geographic data from the Census, create a map of hate crimes per 100k population. It should look close to the map in the original article, but with a different style/theme and with potentially different trends.
4. Create one additional *non-map* plot using your state-level data. Try to make something that is meaningful and visually striking. Here is where your choice of regressor can really have a large benefit.
5. Finally, using the FBI hate crimes website, gather the aggregate number of hate crimes for each year since 2008 and create a plot that displays the change in hate crimes per 100k over time.

Variable	Data Source	URL/Package
Median household income	Census/ACS	tidycensus
Pct. of pop. unemployed	Census/ACS	tidycensus
Pct. of pop. with only HS degree	Census/ACS	tidycensus
Pct. of white people below poverty line	Census/ACS	tidycensus
GINI index	Census FactFinder	Link
Pct. of pop. that is not white	Census/ACS	tidycensus
Pct. of pop. that is non-citizen	Kaiser Family Foundation	Link
Avg. annual hate crimes per 100k pop.	FBI	Link
Additional state-level variable of your choice	Any	NA
Second additional state-level variable of your choice	Any	NA