COMPAS Data Wrangling and Analysis

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The thesis body will have more in-depth descriptions of the data analysis as well as select output and results from this file. This file is intended for general preliminary analysis of the COMPAS data set.

Reading in the Data

```
#read in the data
compas_path <- "/home/dasienga24/Statistics-Senior-Honors-Thesis/Data Sets/COMPAS/compas_data.csv"
compasdata <- read.csv(compas_path)</pre>
```

The Data Set

The COMPAS data set has 12076 observations of defendants that were evaluated for the risk of recidivism by the COMPAS tool. There are 29 variables of interest as described below:

- id: unique person identifier.
- compas_person_id: unique COMPAS case identifier.
- name: full name.first: first name.
- last: last name.

- sex: sex categorized as male or female.
- race: race categorized as African-American, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Native American, or Other.
- age: numeric age, ranging from 18 to 96.
- age_cat: age categorized as Less than 25, 25 45, or Greater than 45.
- marital_status: marital status categorized as Single, Significant Other, Married, Widowed, Separated, Divorced, or Unknown.
- custody_status: custody status categorized as Jail Inmate, Prison Inmate, Pretrial Defendant, Parole, Residential Program, or Probation.
- juv fel count: number of prior juvenile felonies, ranging from 0 to 20.
- juv_misd_count: number of prior juvenile misdemeanors, ranging from 0 to 13.
- juv_other_count: number of other prior juvenile offenses, ranging from 0 to 17.
- priors_count: number of non-juvenile prior offenses, ranging from 0 to 43.
- days_b_screening_arrest: number of days between COMPAS screening and arrest.
- c_days_from_compas: the number of days since COMPAS screening.
- c_charge_degree: the charge degree according to the appropriate laws.
- c_charge_desc: the charge description in words.
- type_of_assessment: the type of assessment, in this case, the assessment is 'Risk of Recidivism'.
- raw score: COMPAS tool raw score on risk of recidivism.
- decile_score: decile rank on a scale of 1 10 based on the COMPAS raw score.
- score_text: COMPAS risk of recidivism based on the decile scores and categorized as High, Medium, or Low.
- is_violent_recid: categorical variable recording whether a defendant was accused of a violent crime within 2 years (0 = N, 1 = Y).
- num_vr_cases: number of times a defendant was accused of a violent crime within 2 years.
- is_recid: categorical variable recording whether a defendant was accused of a crime within 2 years (0 = N, 1 = Y).
- num_r_cases: number of times a defendant was accused of a crime within 2 years.
- days_in_jail: number of days spent in jail.
- days_in_prison: number of days spent in prison.

colnames(compasdata)

```
##
    [1] "id"
                                    "compas_person_id"
##
    [3] "name"
                                    "first"
##
    [5] "last"
                                    "sex"
       "race"
##
    [7]
                                    "age"
##
   [9] "age cat"
                                    "marital status"
## [11] "custody_status"
                                    "juv_fel_count"
## [13] "juv misd count"
                                    "juv other count"
## [15] "priors_count"
                                   "days_b_screening_arrest"
                                    "c_charge_degree"
  [17] "c_days_from_compas"
                                    "type of assessment"
  [19] "c charge desc"
                                    "decile score"
## [21] "raw score"
## [23] "score_text"
                                    "is violent recid"
## [25] "num_vr_cases"
                                    "is recid"
        "num_r_cases"
## [27]
                                    "days_in_jail"
## [29] "days_in_prison"
```

Data Wrangling

Before proceeding with the data analysis, we first need to handle some data anomalies. We'll also only consider COMPAS cases within 30 days of arrest to improve the data quality. This resulted in 9638 total

observations.

We'll proceed with this data set and 9387 observations total.

Descriptive Statistics

Now that the data is clean, let's generate some descriptive statistics to understand the distribution of the variables in the data set and their relationships with each other.

First, below is a glimpse of the data as described above. Notice that there is a lot of missing data for num_vr_cases and num_r_cases because that information is only recorded for defendants that recommit a crime in the next 2 years.

glimpse(clean_compasdata)

```
## Rows: 9,387
## Columns: 29
## $ id
                           <int> 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, ~
## $ compas_person_id
                           <int> 56418, 51601, 38864, 59301, 61330, 56890, 6199~
                           <chr> "miguel hernandez", "kevon dixon", "ed philo",~
## $ name
                           <chr> "miguel", "kevon", "ed", "marsha", "edward", "~
## $ first
                           <chr> "hernandez", "dixon", "philo", "miles", "riddl~
## $ last
                           <chr> "Male", "Male", "Male", "Male", "Male"~
## $ sex
## $ race
                           <chr> "Other", "African-American", "African-American~
## $ age
                           <int> 69, 34, 24, 44, 41, 43, 39, 20, 26, 27, 23, 37~
## $ age_cat
                           <chr> "Greater than 45", "25 - 45", "Less than 25", ~
                           <chr> "Single", "Single", "Single", "Separated", "Si~
## $ marital_status
                           <chr> "Jail Inmate", "Jail Inmate", "Jail Inmate", "~
## $ custody_status
## $ juv_fel_count
                           ## $ juv_misd_count
## $ juv_other_count
                           <int> 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0~
## $ priors_count
                           <int> 0, 0, 4, 0, 14, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 1, ~
## $ days_b_screening_arrest <int> 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 20, ~
                           <int> 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 490,~
## $ c_days_from_compas
                           <chr> "(F3)", "(F3)", "(F3)", "(M1)", "(F3)", "(F3)"~
## $ c_charge_degree
                           <chr> "Aggravated Assault w/Firearm", "Felony Batter~
## $ c_charge_desc
## $ type_of_assessment
                           <chr> "Risk of Recidivism", "Risk of Recidivism", "R~
                           <dbl> -2.78, -0.76, -0.66, -1.93, -0.16, -0.72, -1.7~
## $ raw_score
```

```
## $ decile_score
                       <int> 1, 3, 4, 1, 6, 4, 1, 10, 5, 4, 6, 1, 3, 4, 1, ~
                       <chr> "Low", "Low", "Low", "Medium", "Low", "~
## $ score_text
## $ is_violent_recid
                       ## $ num_vr_cases
                       ## $ is_recid
                       <int> 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1~
## $ num_r_cases
                       <int> NA, 3, 1, NA, 3, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA
## $ days in jail
                       <dbl> 8, 10, 139, 1, 48, 17, 3, 46, 87, 1, 4, 1, 0, ~
                       <dbl> 0, 53, 0, 0, 2130, 0, 0, 3948, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, ~
## $ days_in_prison
```

Next, we will perform some univariate analysis for the variables in the data set before proceeding to conduct some bivariate and multivariate analysis.

Univariate Analysis

Univariate analysis will involve looking at some summary statistics and visualizations of the different variables in the data set.

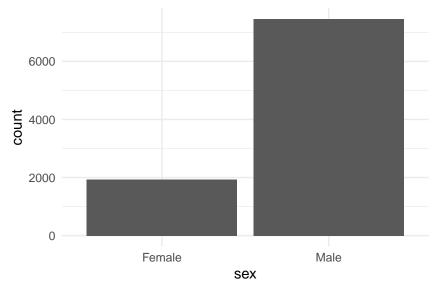
Categorical Variables

tally(clean_compasdata\$sex)

There 7457 males and 1930 females in the data set.

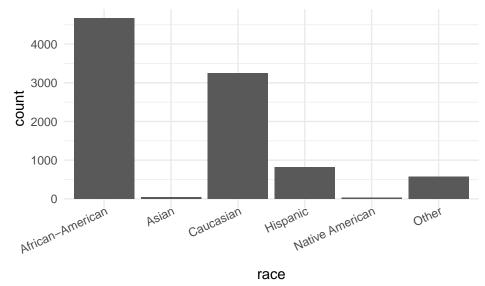
```
## X
## Female Male
## 1930 7457

ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = sex)) +
    geom_bar() +
    theme_minimal()
```



Most of the defendants are African-American and Caucasian, with only 27 Native Americans and 48 Asians.

tally(clean_compasdata\$race) ## X ## African-American Asian Caucasian Hispanic 48 3250 818 ## 4674 ## Native American Other ## 570 ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = race)) + geom_bar() + theme_minimal() + theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 25, vjust = 1.2, hjust=1))



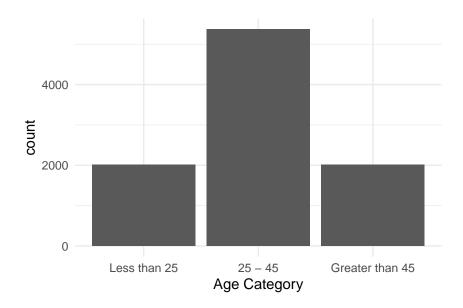
Majority of the defendants are between the age of 25 and 45, with about the same number of defendants less than 25 and greater than 25.

```
tally(clean_compasdata$age_cat)
```

```
## X
## 25 - 45 Greater than 45   Less than 25
## 5366    2012    2009

order <- c("Less than 25", "25 - 45", "Greater than 45")

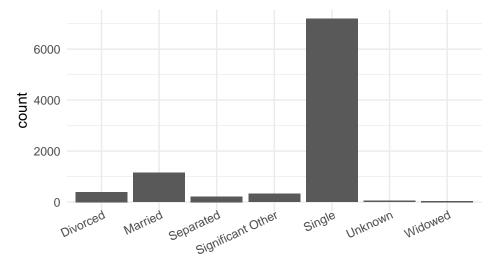
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = age_cat)) +
    geom_bar() +
    theme_minimal() +
    scale_x_discrete(limits = order) +
    labs(x = "Age Category")</pre>
```



Most of the defendants are single, followed by married.

tally(clean_compasdata\$marital_status)

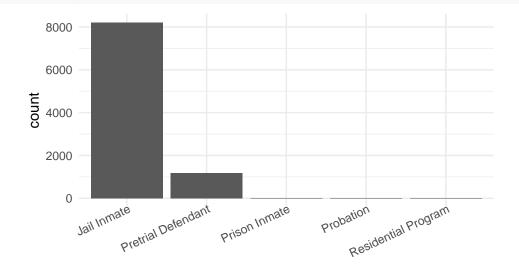
```
## X
##
            Divorced
                                Married
                                                Separated Significant Other
##
                 398
                                   1145
                                                      219
                                                                         333
              Single
                                Unknown
                                                  Widowed
##
##
                7195
                                     57
                                                        40
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = marital_status)) +
  geom_bar() +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 25, vjust = 1.2, hjust=1)) +
  labs(x = "Marital Status")
```



Marital Status

Most of the defendants are jail inmates, with only a handful of prison inmates, probationers, and defendants of the residential program.

```
tally(clean_compasdata$custody_status)
## X
##
                        Pretrial Defendant
                                                  Prison Inmate
                                                                           Probation
           Jail Inmate
##
                  8208
                                       1170
## Residential Program
ggplot(data = clean compasdata, mapping = aes(x = custody status)) +
  geom_bar() +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 25, vjust = 1.2, hjust=1)) +
  labs(x = "Custody Status")
```



As a data check, all the assessments are for risk of recidivism.

9387

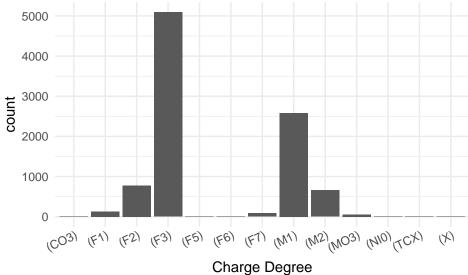
##

```
tally(clean_compasdata$type_of_assessment)
## X
## Risk of Recidivism
```

Custody Status

There are 13 different charge degrees present in the data set. Most defendants were charged with (F3), which are felonies of the third degree. These are the least serious felonies in Florida and typically include crimes like breaking and entering, collecting and keeping stolen property, fraud, and petty theft. Many other defendants were also charged with (M1), which are a first-degree misdemeanors and can be punished by up to one year in jail. These include simple battery, disorderly conduct, DUI, indecent exposure, marijuana possession, shoplifting, prostitution, and vandalism, among others.

tally(clean_compasdata\$c_charge_degree) ## X ## (CO3) (F3) (F5) (F6) (F7) (M2) (MO3) (NIO) (TCX) (X)(F1) (F2) (M1)5 ## 129 774 5091 3 85 2584 658 51 4 1 ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = c_charge_degree)) + geom_bar() + theme_minimal() + theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 25, vjust = 1.2, hjust=1)) + labs(x = "Charge Degree")

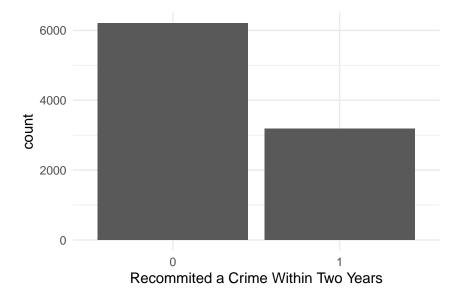


About two-thirds of the defendants did not recommit a crime within two years, while one-thirds did. This is our response variable and is indicative of class imbalance, which can affect the performance of machine learning classification algorithms. This is important to keep in mind when assessing model performance later on.

```
tally(clean_compasdata$is_recid)
```

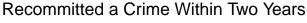
```
## X
## 0 1
## 6199 3188

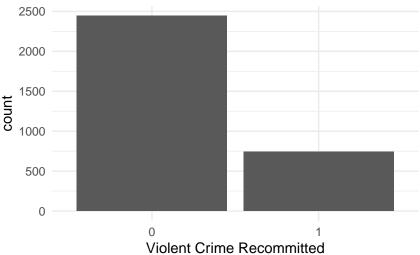
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = as.factor(is_recid))) +
    geom_bar() +
    theme_minimal() +
    labs(x = "Recommitted a Crime Within Two Years")
```



Only 745 defendants recommitted a violent crime.

```
tally(clean_compasdata$is_violent_recid)
## X
     0
##
## 8642 745
Out of the 3188 who recommitted a crime, 2443 re-committed a non-violent crime,
tally(clean_compasdata[clean_compasdata$is_recid == 1, ]$is_violent_recid,
      margins = TRUE)
## X
##
       0
             1 Total
## 2443
           745 3188
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata[clean_compasdata$is_recid == 1, ],
       mapping = aes(x = as.factor(is_violent_recid))) +
  geom_bar() +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "Violent Crime Recommitted",
       title = "Recommitted a Crime Within Two Years")
```





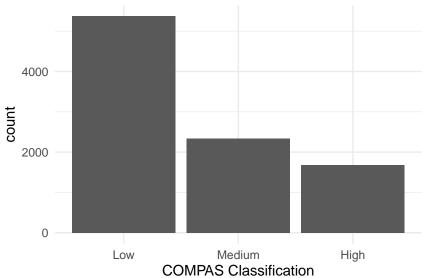
Finally, the COMPAS tool classified more than half of the defendants as low risk. In particular, 5370 were classified as low risk and 1677 as high risk, with the remaining 2340 as medium risk. This is expected since most of the defendants did not recommit a crime within the two year time window.

```
tally(clean_compasdata$score_text)
```

```
## X
## High Low Medium
## 1677 5370 2340

order <- c("Low", "Medium", "High")

ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = score_text)) +
    geom_bar() +
    theme_minimal() +
    scale_x_discrete(limits = order) +
    labs(x = "COMPAS Classification")</pre>
```

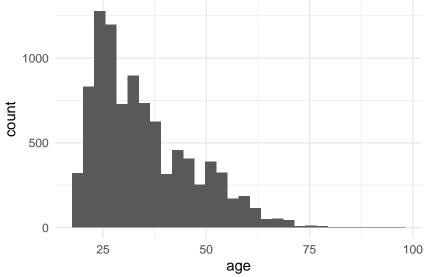


This wraps up our univariate analysis of the categorical variables. Next, let's examine the univariate distribution of the continuous variables.

Continuous Variables

The age of the defendants ranges from 18 to 96 with a mean of 34 and a median of 32. There is no missing data. There's a right-skew in the distribution because of the few really old defendants.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$age)
```



Most of the defendants had no juvenile felony accounts. The maximum juvenile felony count is 20. There is not enough variation in this variable.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$juv_fel_count)
```

```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing ## 0 0 0 0 20 0.05837861 0.4518127 9387 0
```

Similarly, most defendants had no juvenile misdemeanor counts, which are less serious crimes than felonies. The maximum was 13, but there is not enough variation in this variable.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$juv_misd_count)
```

```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing ## 0 0 0 0 13 0.0787259 0.4640061 9387 0
```

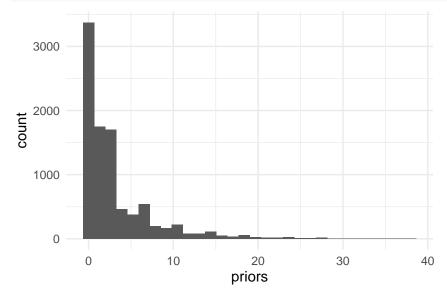
Similarly, most defendants had no other juvenile counts, excluding misdemeanors and felonies. The maximum was 11, but there is not enough variation in this variable.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$juv_other_count)
```

```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing
## 0 0 0 0 11 0.09917972 0.4683305 9387 0
```

There is slightly more variation in the priors_count variable which records the number of non-juvenile prior offenses for each defendant. It ranges from 0 to 38, with a median of 1 and a mean of 3.02, indicating a right skew as visualized in the histogram below. There is no missing data and the standard deviation is 4.586, suggesting that this may be a more informative variable when modeling.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$priors_count)
```



The days_b_screening_arrest variable indicates how many days passed between arrest and COMPAS screening. It may not be indicative of recidivism, however. We will evaluate this when performing bivariate analysis.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$days_b_screening_arrest)
```

```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing ## 0 1 1 1 30 2.140194 4.89312 9387 0
```

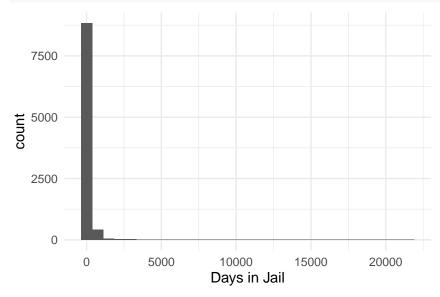
The interpretation of this variable is not clear – it seems to indicate the number of days since COMPAS screening to date. We will not include this in the analysis.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$c_days_from_compas)
```

```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing ## 0 1 1 1 9485 24.92436 263.4065 9387 0
```

The number of days spent in jail ranges from 0 to 21540, with a median of 4 days and a mean of 100 days. This variable is extremely right skewed, as visualized in the histogram. The standard deviation is also 393, indicating a lot of variation that may potentially be useful for predicting the risk of recidivism.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$days_in_jail)
```



The days spent in prison is not as variable as the days spent in jail. The minimum 0 and the maximum is 190739. This skews the mean to 784.7951, but the median is 0. The distinction between jail and prison is still unclear.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$days_in_prison)
```

```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing ## 0 0 0 190739 784.7951 3473.352 9387 0
```

The number of crimes recommitted by the defendants who re-committed a crime within two years ranges from 1 to 55, with a median of 1 and a mean of 1.73.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$num_r_cases)
```

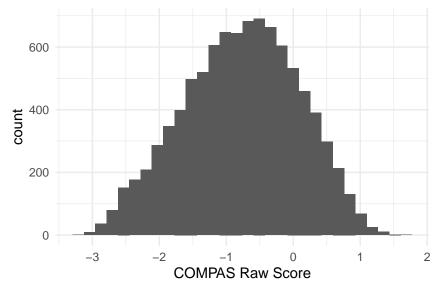
```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing ## 1 1 1 2 55 1.736512 1.629916 3188 6199
```

Finally, the COMPAS tool outputs a raw score for each defendant. The raw score ranges from -3.21 to 1.69 with a median of -0.74 and a mean of -0.78. The distribution of the raw scores is visualized on the histogram below. The distribution is unimodal and symmetric with a slight left skew.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$raw_score)
```

```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing
## -3.21 -1.38 -0.74 -0.15 1.69 -0.7763417 0.856942 9387 0

ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = raw_score)) +
    geom_histogram() +
    theme_minimal() +
    labs(x = "COMPAS Raw Score")
```

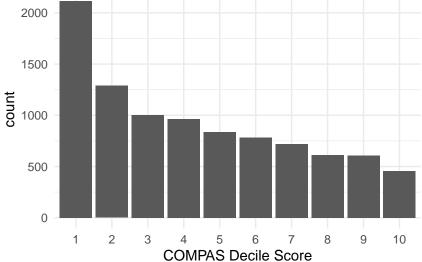


The raw scores are then converted into decile scores that determine the predicted risk of recidivism. The decile scores range from 1 to 10 with a median of 4 and a mean of 4.3. The histogram displays the distribution of the decile scores – it makes me wonder how, or whether, the decile scores are computed from the raw scores.

```
favstats(clean_compasdata$decile_score)
```

```
## min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing
## 1 2 4 7 10 4.305849 2.849011 9387 0
```

```
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = as.factor(decile_score))) +
  geom_bar() +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "COMPAS Decile Score")
```



Note that the decile scores are mapped to 'low', 'medium', and 'high' risk as detailed in the table below.

Risk	Min	Max
Low	1	4
Medium	5	7
High	8	10

This concludes our univariate analysis of the variables in the COMPAS data set. Next, we will look at some of the bivariate relationships.

Bivariate Analysis

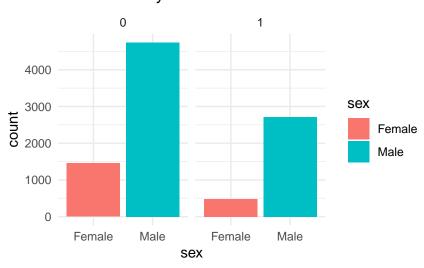
In this section, we will explore the relationships between our variables and the response variable, is_recid, which records whether or not a defendant recommitted a crime within 2 years.

Categorical Variables

It doesn't appear as though there is much evident relationship between sex and recidivism.

```
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata, mapping = aes(x = sex, fill = sex)) +
  geom_bar() +
  theme_minimal() +
  facet_wrap(~is_recid) +
  labs(title = "Recidivism by Sex")
```

Recidivism by Sex



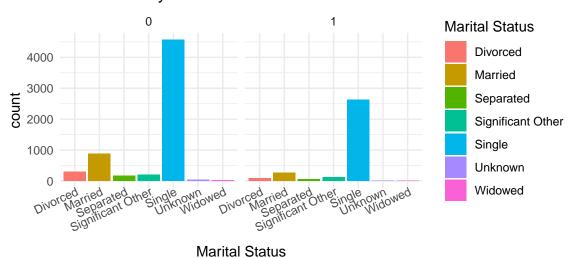
Among defendants who do not recidivate, there are more defendants that are aged 45 in comparison to those less than 25. However, among those that recidivated, there are more defendants that are less than 25 in comparison to those that are greater than 45. This indicates that age may hold some valuable information regarding a defendant's likelihood of recidivism.

Recidivism by Age Categories



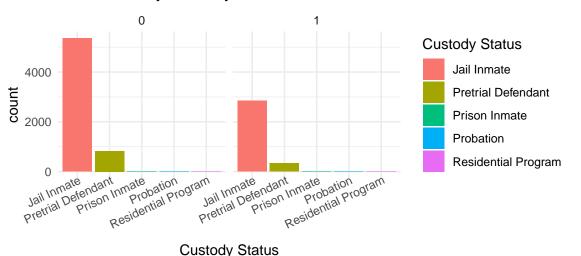
It doesn't appear as though there is much relationship between recidivism and marital status.

Recidivism by Marital Status



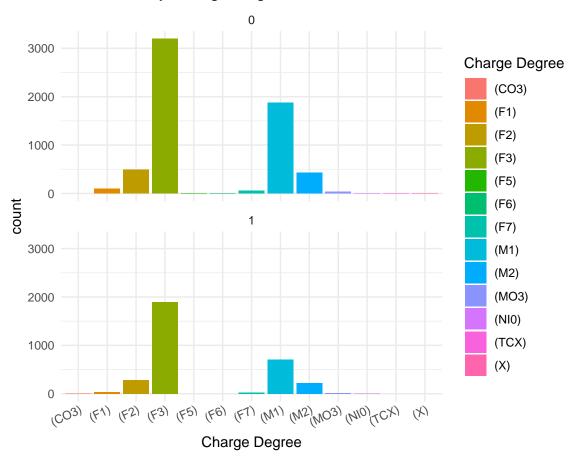
It doesn't appear as though there is much relationship between recidivism and custody status.

Recidivism by Custody Status



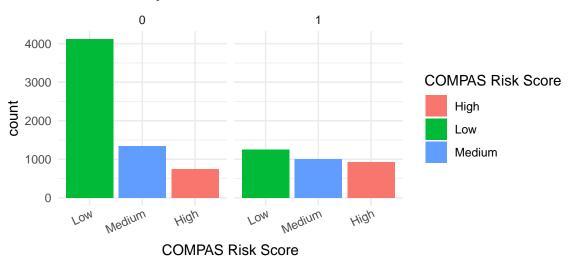
It doesn't appear as though there is much relationship between recidivism and charge degree.

Recidivism by Charge Degree



However, it appears as though the COMPAS tool classifies defendants who recommit a crime as almost as equally risky of recidivism – there is no significant distinction between 'low', 'medium', and 'high' risk for these defendants. For the defendants that don't recommit a crime, most are predicted as 'low' risk, followed by 'medium', and then 'high' risk. Note, however, that this variable will not be included as a predictor in the model as the purpose of this analysis is to assess COMPAS performance, or more generally, standard ML approaches, in comparison to the Seldonian framework.

Recidivism by COMPAS Risk Score

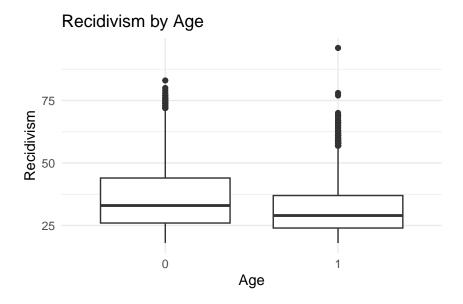


Next, let's perform a similar analysis for the continuous variables.

Continous Variables

There is a difference in the mean and median ages for defendants who recommit a crime within two years versus though who don't. Those who recidivate tend to be younger than those who don't, indicating that this will be a useful variable in the model. This is in line with intuition from society.

```
favstats(data = clean_compasdata, age ~ is_recid)
     is_recid min Q1 median Q3 max
                                                         n missing
                                       mean
## 1
            0 18 26
                         33 44
                                83 36.04646 12.17525 6199
                                                                 0
            1
              18 24
                                96 32.24122 10.62147 3188
                                                                 0
                         29 37
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata,
       mapping = aes(x = as.factor(is_recid), y = age)) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(title = "Recidivism by Age",
       x = "Age",
       y = "Recidivism")
```



There is not much distributional difference in juvenile felony counts for defendants who recidivate versus those who don't.

There is not much distributional difference in juvenile misdemeanor counts for defendants who recidivate versus those who don't.

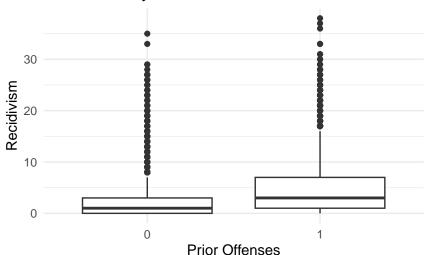
There is not much distributional difference in juvenile offenses for defendants who recidivate versus those who don't.

```
favstats(data = clean_compasdata, juv_other_count ~ is_recid)
     is_recid min Q1 median Q3 max
                                                             n missing
##
                                           mean
                                                       sd
## 1
                                 11 0.06355864 0.3966132 6199
## 2
            1
                0
                   0
                           0
                              0
                                  9 0.16844417 0.5768642 3188
                                                                      0
```

There is some distributional difference in non-juvenile prior offenses for defendants who recidivate versus those who don't, as is indicated by the different means and medians. Those who recommit a crime within two years tend to have more prior offenses. This will be a useful variable to include in the models.

```
favstats(data = clean_compasdata, priors_count ~ is_recid)
     is recid min Q1 median Q3 max
                                                         n missing
##
                                       mean
                                35 2.157283 3.684641 6199
## 1
            0
                0 0
                          1
                             3
## 2
                                                                 0
            1
                  1
                          3
                             7
                                38 4.708908 5.589893 3188
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata,
       mapping = aes(x = as.factor(is_recid), y = priors_count)) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(title = "Recidivism by Prior Offenses",
       x = "Prior Offenses",
       y = "Recidivism")
```

Recidivism by Prior Offenses



There doesn't appear to be any distributional difference in days between COMPAS screening and arrest for defendants who recidivate versus those who don't. This will not be a useful variable for modeling.

```
favstats(data = clean_compasdata, days_b_screening_arrest ~ is_recid)
```

```
## is_recid min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing
## 1 0 0 1 1 1 30 2.149218 4.859912 6199 0
## 2 1 0 1 1 1 30 2.122647 4.957777 3188 0
```

While the means differ because of the right-skew nature of the data, there doesn't appear to be much distributional difference in days since COMPAS screening for defendants who recidivate versus those who don't. This will not be a useful variable for modeling.

```
favstats(data = clean_compasdata, c_days_from_compas ~ is_recid)
```

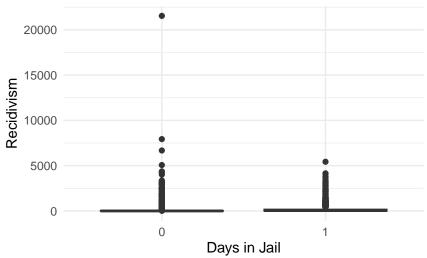
```
## is_recid min Q1 median Q3 max mean sd n missing
## 1 0 0 1 1 1 9485 31.21052 305.1847 6199 0
## 2 1 0 1 1 5450 12.70107 151.5946 3188 0
```

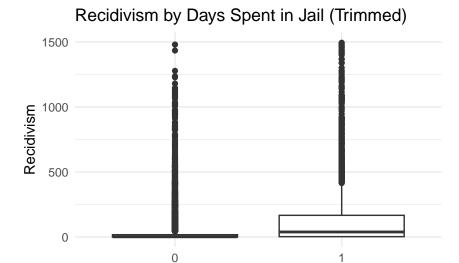
There is an evident difference in the distribution of the number of days spent in jail for participants who recommit a crime within two years versus those who don't. The mean, median, and max value differ significantly, indicating variation that may be useful in modeling. It's hard to visualize the boxplots with all the outliers, so the second boxplot trims the y-axis to better visualize this relationship.

```
favstats(data = clean_compasdata, days_in_jail ~ is_recid)
```

```
is recid min Q1 median
                                QЗ
                                                                n missing
                                     max
                                                          sd
## 1
                          2 19.00 21540 65.86562 395.1086 6199
                                                                        0
## 2
                0 3
                         41 178.25 5432 166.87767 380.8262 3188
                                                                        0
ggplot(data = clean_compasdata,
       mapping = aes(x = as.factor(is_recid), y = days_in_jail)) +
  geom_boxplot() +
 theme_minimal() +
  labs(title = "Recidivism by Days Spent in Jail (w/ Outliers)",
       x = "Days in Jail",
       y = "Recidivism")
```

Recidivism by Days Spent in Jail (w/ Outliers)





Days in Jail

Multivariate Analysis

choose most informative variables from bivariate analysis to include in the model. age, days in jail, priors count, the categorical vars.

Demographic Group Analysis

break everything by race.

Logistic Regression

Seldonian Classification

Results

look at visuals/ tables from chap 4 ex. mapping of score text to decile scores. align figures on the center.