

Research for Analysis of Racial Disparities in LMPD Traffic Stops

1. Understanding the Problem Statement

- Define the research objective: Investigate whether racial disparities exist in LMPD traffic stops.
 - Identify potential biases and systemic issues in policing practices.
 - Explore how statistical methods, such as chi-squared tests, can help determine patterns in data.
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2. Identifying Stakeholders & Their Needs

Primary stakeholders and their concerns:

- **Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) Leadership:** Addressing concerns about potential racial bias and improving community trust.
- **City Government & Policy Makers:** Using data to guide policing reforms and legislation.
- **Community Advocacy Groups:** Advocating for fair and just law enforcement practices.
- **General Public & Media:** Increasing transparency and accountability in policing.

Questions to consider for stakeholders:

- How do different racial groups experience traffic stops in Louisville?
 - Is there an identifiable bias in policing based on officer demographics?
 - What policy recommendations can be made based on statistical evidence?
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3. Data Collection & Sources

Three datasets identified for analysis:

1. **Census Data**
 - Purpose: Provides demographic information about Louisville residents.
 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau or Louisville Metro Open Data.
 - Variables of Interest: Race/ethnicity distribution in the city.
2. **LMPD Staff Details**
 - Purpose: Identifies racial demographics of officers.
 - Source: Public records from LMPD or government transparency portals.
 - Variables of Interest: Officer race, department, tenure, rank.
3. **LMPD Citations Data**
 - Purpose: Provides records of traffic stops and citations issued.
 - Source: Louisville Metro Open Data or public records requests.
 - Variables of Interest: Driver race, officer race, stop reason, location, citation type.