Section 3: Week 7: Formulating Strategic Plan (Cut-Sections)

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# Formualting Strategic Plan

# Overview of Design

## Identifying Questions

Annually nearly one thousand citizens die from police violence, which raises the central question, why? The collective perspective of the Black Lives Matter movement is that police exert disproportionate force against people of color (BLM, 2020). This perspective often comes with the quote that “Black civilians were more than twice as likely as White civilians to be unarmed (Nix, Campbell, Byers, & Alpert, 2017)” during the fatality. Nevertheless, others argue the brutality victims are experiencing a mental health crisis, and this is the actual reason (Lamb, Weinberger, & DeCuir, 2014). While these perspectives efficiently drive media headlines, are they both missing the forest among the trees? Does another factor more accurately explain the challenges that are occurring? Instead, NCU-C hypothesizes that neither *sanity* nor *race* is the driving cause of police violence. Alternatively, *provocation* might better explain the need for violent escalations that result in death.

# Data Analysis

## Collecting the Results

Figure 1: Victims by Race



NCU-C began the exploration process by collecting descriptive statistics about the victims in terms of *age*, *race*, and *sanity* (see Figure 1). Using a variate of measurements and pivots, then assessed the statistical effect of these features against one another. These suggest that people of color tend to have fatal altercations younger than White people (see Table 1).

Table 1: Influence of Age

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Race | Mean | Standard Deviation | Effect vs. White | Effect vs. Black | Effect vs. Hispanic |
| All | 37.12 | 13.12 | -0.11 | 0.38 | 0.30 |
| White | 39.95 | 13.37 | -- | 0.61 | 0.54 |
| Black | 32.47 | 11.33 | -0.38 | -- | -0.10 |
| Hispanic | 33.54 | 10.87 | -0.30 | 0.10 | -- |

DeCarlo (2018) states that quasi-experiments are particularly useful in social welfare policy research (see chapter 12.2). Under a quasi-experiment, the researcher team does not use random assignment and instead looks at different populations. This method could be highly effective for examining the impact of both *race* and *sanity* variables. Using this method to perform all-versus-one comparisons concludes that *race* and *age* are not the dominant traits. Similarly, *sanity,* asreported in the signs of mental illness column, does not a robust statistical prediction of these records (see Table 2).

Table 2: Effect of Mental Health

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mental Illness | Mean (Age) | Standard Deviation | Effect vs. All | Effect vs. Sane |
| Yes | 39.74 | 13.87 | 0.20 | 0.25 |
| No | 36.35 | 12.80 | -0.06 | -- |

## Alternative Variable

The data set includes the ‘armed’ column that contains free-form text describing any weapons on the victim. One of the challenges with analyzing this field comes from the various subtle differences in its values (e.g., *baseball bat* versus *baseball bat and bottle*). Enhancements of each record include categorical-features that bucket the weapons by genre. These buckets are named projectiles, sharp/blunt instruments, tool/small objects, explosive, unspecified, vehicles, and unarmed. When the suspect has multiple weapons, such as both gun and knife, the higher risk object dictates the category. According to these categorical-aggregations, roughly 58% of victims had a firearm, plus another 18% had a sharp/blunt instrument (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Victim Weapon Category

