**US Police Shootings**

* **Introduction**

In light of the wave of police killings - in the US - which made global headlines, the issue of racism became a major talking point. This document, therefore, seeks to answer a series of questions based on the data gathered on this topic in an attempt to garner some insights and analyse the story concerning racism in the States.

* + **Scope**

The dataset consists of basic details about people such as their name, age, sex and race. It also contains information on the killings like the location, date, manner of death, mental state, presence or lack thereof of body camera, whether or not they attacked, fled or held weapons and the type they wielded, if at all.

* + **Problems**

The questions that this document sought to obtain answers to are stated below:

* + - How many suspects were there?
    - How old was the youngest suspect?
    - How were the suspects killed and what proportion of the deaths recorded did each mode account for?
    - How did the suspects attempt to flee, if at all, and what share of the whole did each type represent?
    - What was the effect of the suspects’ mental state on the level of threat they posed?
    - Did the presence of body cameras affect the threat level posed by the suspects?
    - What was the breakdown of incidents by weapon category and what was the distribution of the specific arms possessed under each one?
    - How many individual types of weapons were used in each city?
* **Findings**
  + **Number of Suspects**

There were 4,895 suspects killed overall with the majority of them revealed to be White upon using the slicer provided to observe the data along racial lines.

* + **Age of Youngest Suspect**

This was as low as 6 years old when neither gender nor race was factored in. However, when the slicers inserted for both options were applied, it rose to the age of 30 for those who happened to be both Asian and female.

* + **Distribution of Manner of Deaths**

Nearly almost all the suspects (roughly 19 out of 20) were shot to death while a little more than 5% of them were not just gunned down but also tasered.

* + **Flight Attempt Modes (by Percentage)**

Although about a fifth of all suspects (20.47%) attempted to flee on foot or by car and approximately a sixth of them (16.75%) tried to do so via other means, approximately three-fifths (62.78%) – which represented the majority - did not make any flight attempts whatsoever.

* + **Effect of Mental State on Threat Level**

The mental state of suspects appeared to be inversely proportional to their threat level as those without any signs of mental illness outnumbered those who showed any across all the threat level categories, especially where suspects were deemed likely to attack.

* + **Impact of Body Cameras on Threat Level**

There were significantly more incidents occurring across all threat level categories in the absence of body cameras than when they were on the scene.

* + **Breakdown of Incidents by Weapon Category and Distribution of Arms under Each**

The incidents were categorised into twelve (12) based on the types of weapons used and subdivided according to the specific arms that fell within the general categories. For instance, those classified as piercing objects were subdivided into the particular weapons such as screwdrivers, crossbows and pick-axes that the suspects possessed at the time.

* + **Range of Weapons Recorded by City**

The number of different weapons recorded in each city ranged from one (1) in places like Apple Creek to as many as eighteen (18) in Los Angeles.

* **Conclusion**

Despite the fact that ethnic minorities seemed to be underrepresented within this dataset, racism cannot necessarily be ruled out as a factor in the shootings that occurred as White people account for the vast majority of the American population and could therefore be overrepresented as a result which can explain why the findings observed here are so heavily skewed towards them.