Predicting NYPD Misconduct Case Outcomes and Penalties

Helen Wang

Data Science II, Spring 2025

WHY

1

million people/year

report negative
experiences with law
enforcement

1/3

complaints

are actually filed against officers

1/24

misconduct cases

result in actual sanctions for the officers involved

GOALS

01

Develop supervised models to **predict case and penalty outcomes** for police misconduct cases

02

Assess the *impact that media coverage* / *visibility* has on case outcome and resulting penalty.

03

Identify **other factors most predictive** of police misconduct case and penalty outcomes.

PREPROCESSING

1



Merged Datasets from the the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) 2

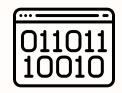


Gather media coverage data from Mapping Police Violence dataset and by scraping NYT API 3



Imputing Missing Data via MICE

4



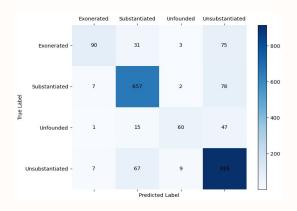
Dummy Coding and Z-score Normalization 5



Synthetic minority oversampling technique (SMOTE)

COMPLAINT DISPOSITION MODELS

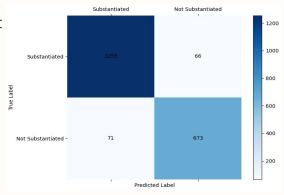
MULTICLASS



BINARY

Random Forest

F1: 0.825



Gradient Boost

F1: 0.933

Most Important Features:

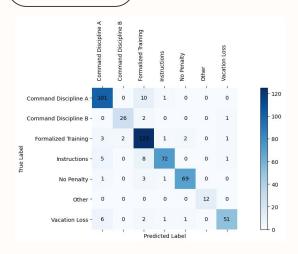
- Total Substantiated Complaints
- Location and Time Incident Occurred
- Officer Days on Force at Incident
- Video Evidence
- Arrest at Encounter

Most Important Features:

- Video Evidence
- Total Substantiated Complaints
- Recent Previous Case that resulted in Penalty
- Location and Time Incident Occurred

PENALTY OUTCOME MODELS

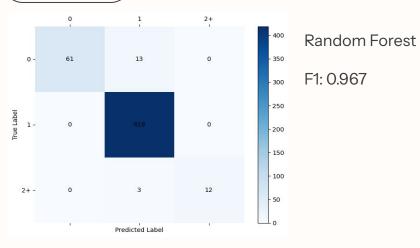
TYPE



Random Forest

F1: 0.897





Most Important Features:

- Location and Time Incident Occurred
- Officer Days on Force at Incident
- Video Evidence
- Total Complaints

Most Important Features:

- Location and Time Incident Occurred
- Officer Days on Force
- Total Substantiated Complaints
- Officer Race