Hate Crime Reports: Media vs NYPD

Motivation

- We know that the media can report biasedly

- Racism, islamophobia, anti-semitism, and homophobia are increasingly prevalent

- Our perception of events impacts our actions

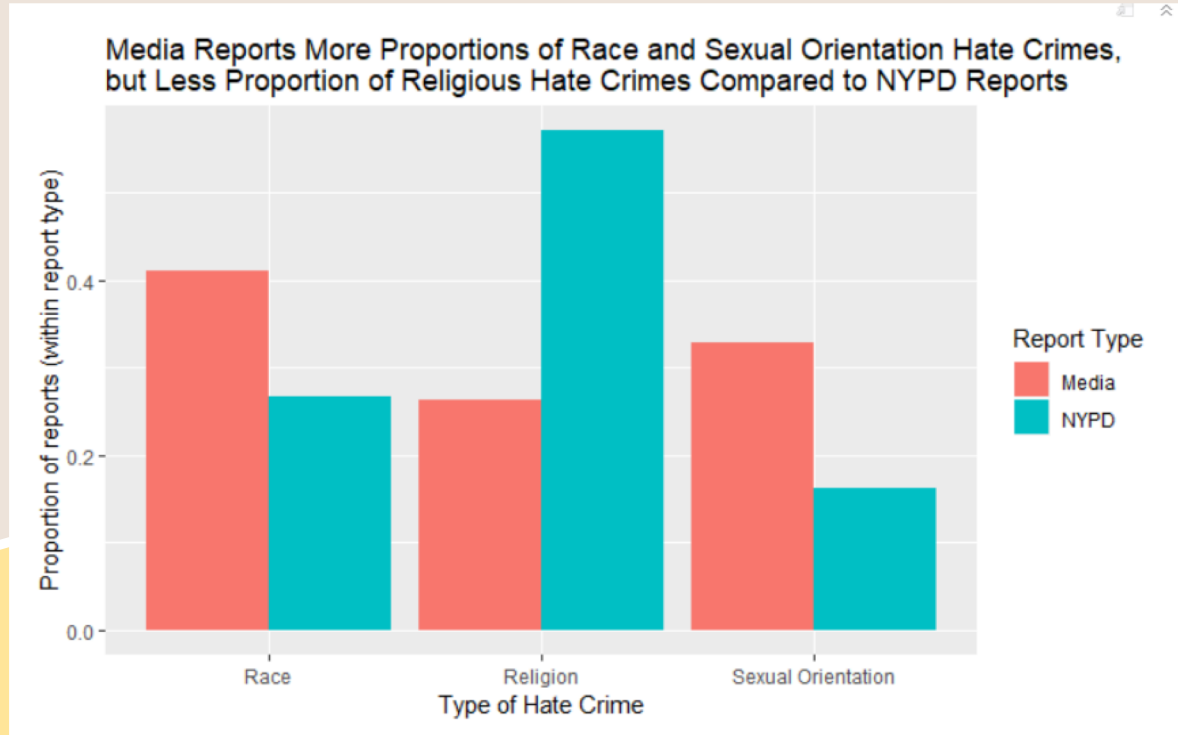- Solidarity with groups targeted by hate crimes

Hypotheses

We hypothesize that the amount of reports for race, religion, and sexual orientation hate crimes will be dependent on whether the reports are coming from the NYPD or if they are from media reports, and that the counts for each category will be different.

Datasets

- Google Trends
  - 2017-2018 Google News articles tagged with 'hate crime'
  - Filtered using keywords for hate crime category
- Official NYPD hate crime reports from 2017-2018

Visualization of Data

Media Reports More Proportions of Race and Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes, but Less Proportion of Religious Hate Crimes Compared to NYPD Reports

Statistical Testing

	Media	NYPD
Race	233	181
Other	335	496

- Chi-square test of independence
  - Media vs NYPD as columns
  - Either:
    - Race/Non-race hate crime report
    - Religious/Non-religious
    - Sexual orientation/Non-sexual orientation
- $p < 0.001$ for all tests

Effect Size

- Odds ratio
  - Media (compared to NYPD):
    - 1.9x likely to report race hate crimes
    - 2.5x likely to report sexual orientation hate crimes
    - 0.268x likely to report religious hate crimes

Discussion of Findings

- Media:
  - more likely to cover race and sexual orientation hate crimes
  - less likely to cover religious hate crimes
- Limitations:
  - Limited keyword filtering technique
- Future work:
  - Look at specific news outlets (e.g. Fox, CNN)

References

- Google (2018). *An index of all open-source data.* Retrieved from https://github.com/googletrends/data
- NYPD (2018). *Hate Crime Reports*. Retrieved from https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/reports-analysis/hate-crimes.page
- Sullivan (2005). *Media bias is real, finds UCLA political scientist.* Retrieved from http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/Media-Bias-Is-Real-Finds-UCLA-6664