

QUALITY OF LIFE IN BOSTON 1992-1994

SOCIOL 5650 Final Project
Jacob Depinet

Agenda

1. Dataset & Survey
2. Research Question
3. Preprocessing
4. Schools
5. Crime
6. Discrimination
7. Income
8. Summary
9. Next Steps

Dataset and Survey

Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality, 1992-1994: Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, and Los Angeles

- Purpose: understand how changing labor market dynamics, racial attitudes, stereotypes, and racial residential segregation foster urban inequality
- Two surveys: household and employer
 - Sampling Methods
 - Multi-stage area probability sampling
 - Size-weighted, stratified, probability sampling
 - Sample sizes
 - 8,916 respondents
 - 3,510 respondents

Research Question

What is the quality of life of different races within urban settings?

Operationalizing “Quality of Life”

“The standard of health, comfort, and happiness experienced by an individual or group.” (*Oxford Languages*)

- School Quality
- Crime and Vandalism
- Discrimination
- Income

Scope

Reference Map



Map of Boston

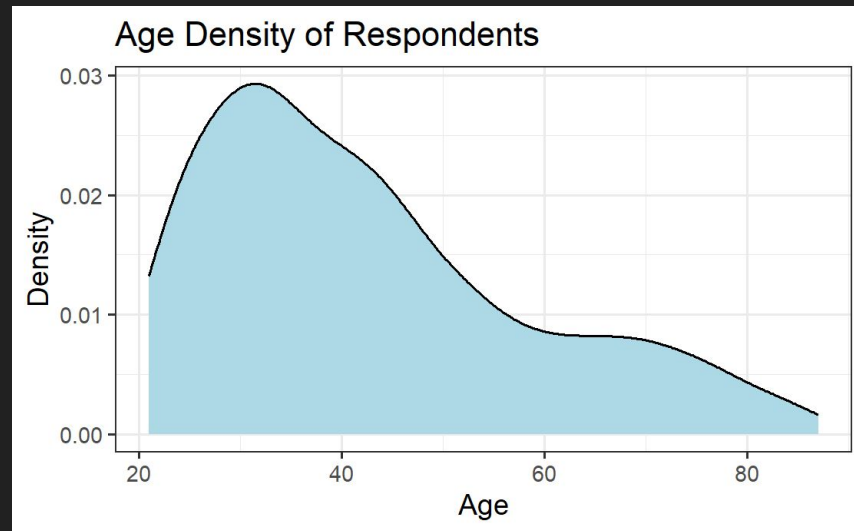
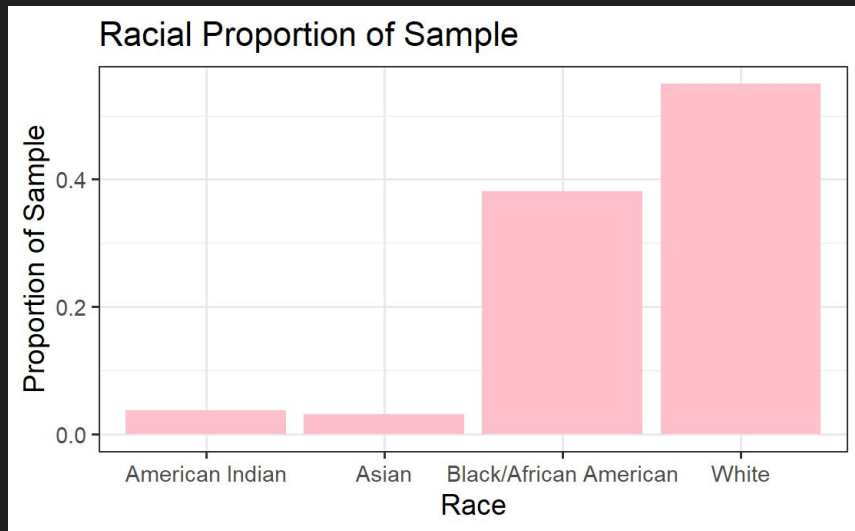


Preprocessing

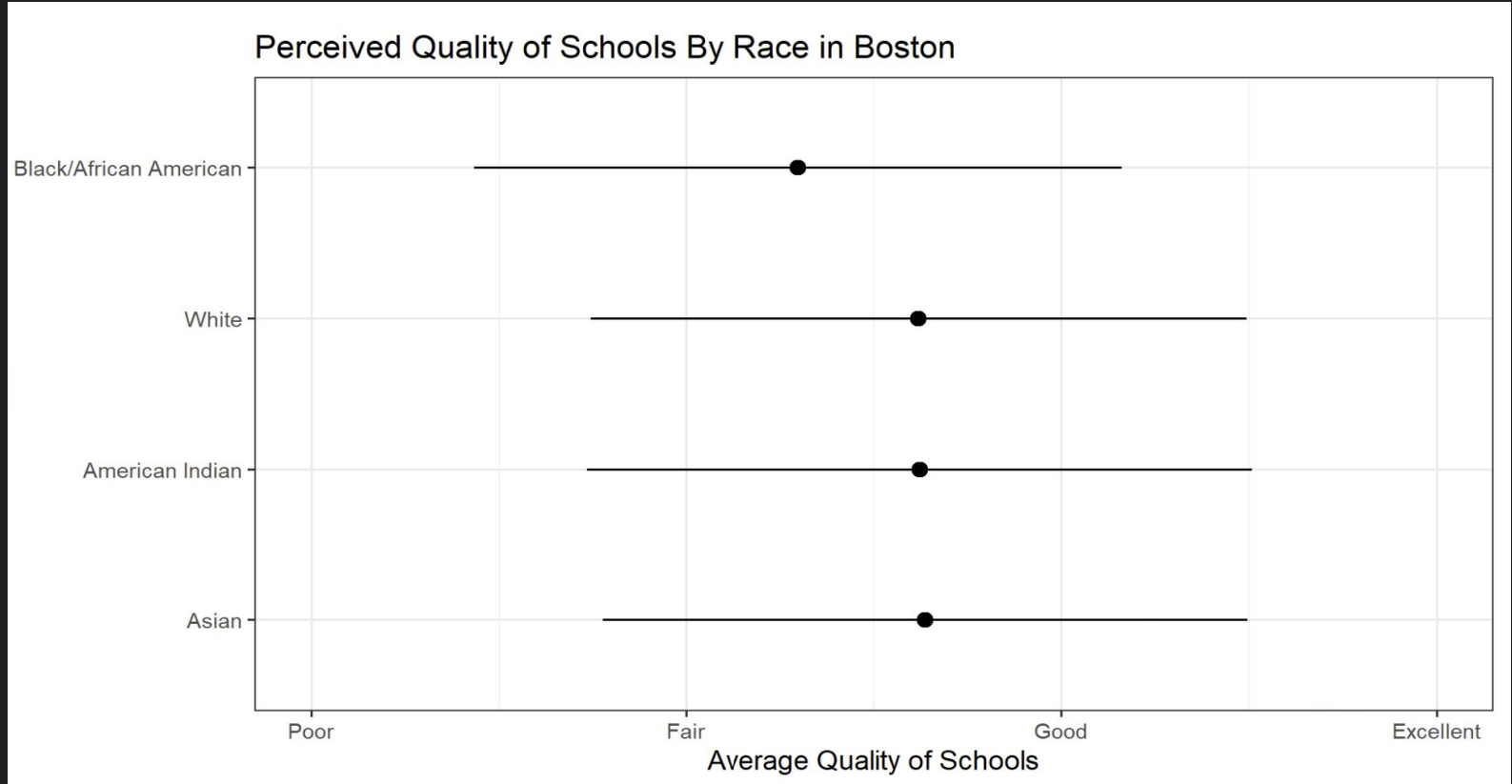
- Only respondents from Boston, MA
- When appropriate, removed “catch all” survey responses
 - “Missing”
 - “Refused to answer”
 - “Other”
 - “Unknown”
- Dataset was full otherwise

Boston Demographics

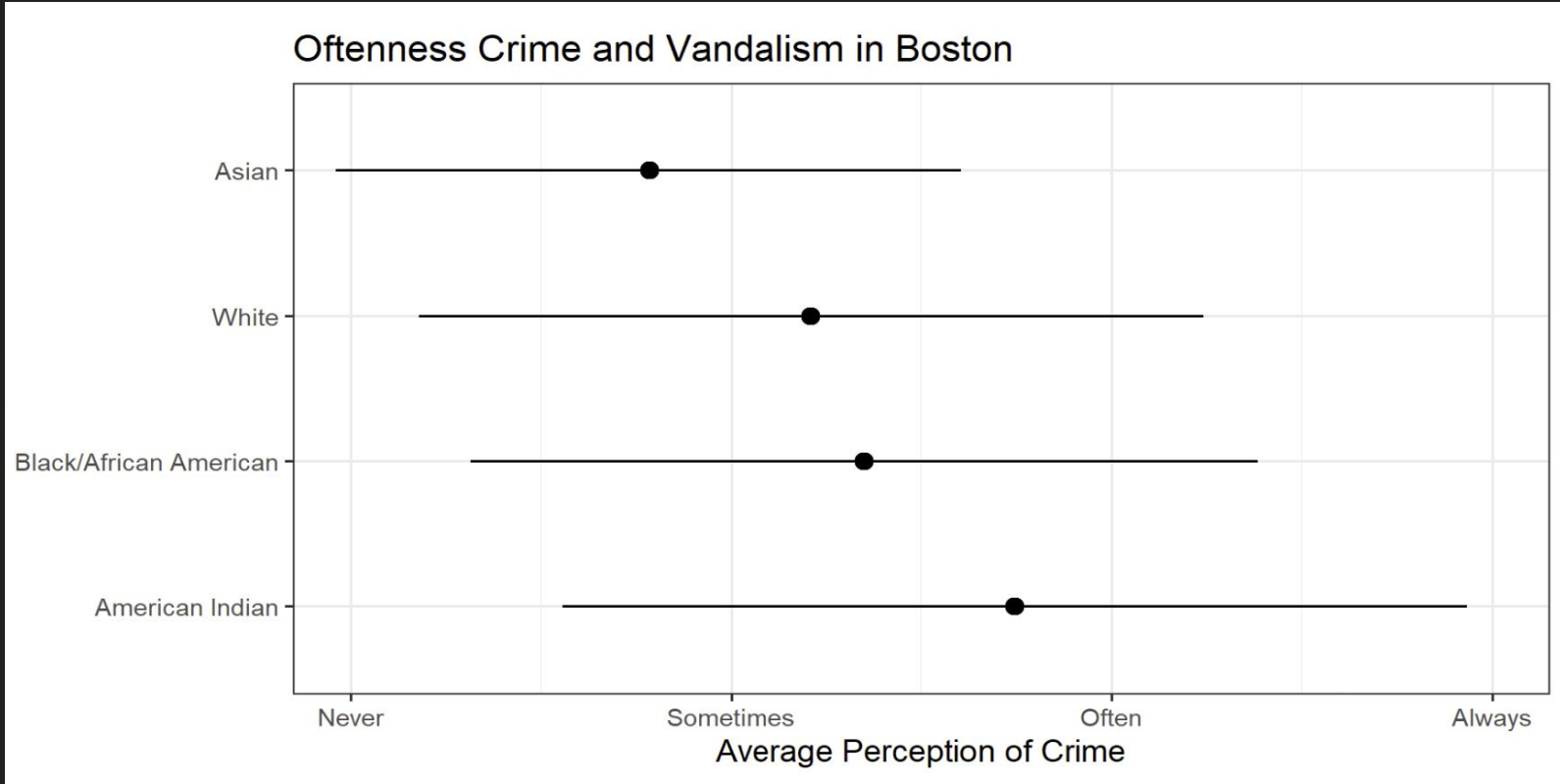
- Sample Size: 1,139



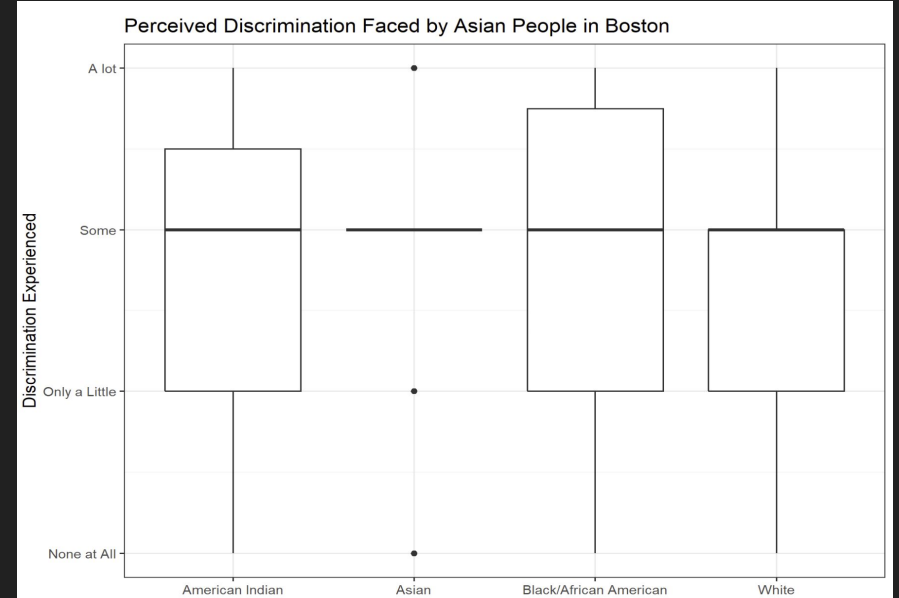
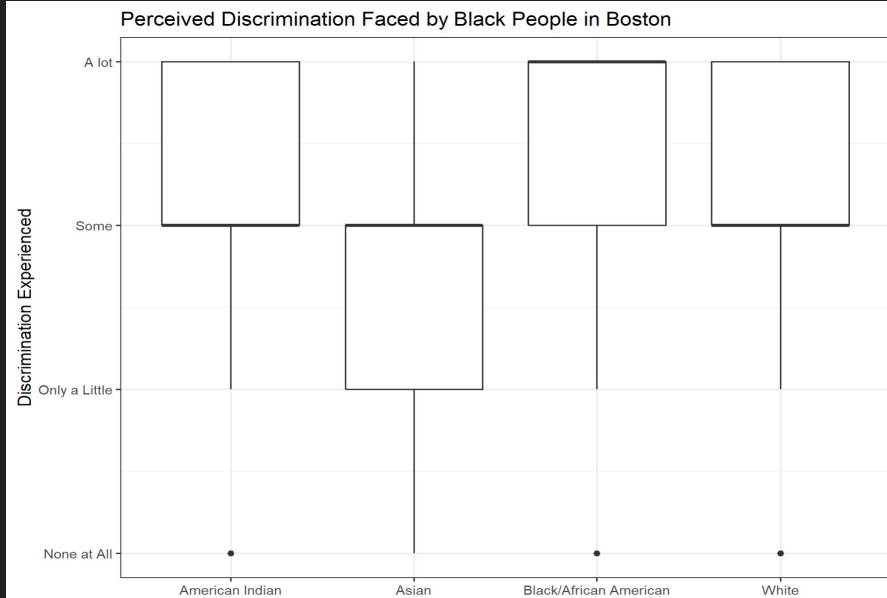
Quality of Schools



Crime and Vandalism

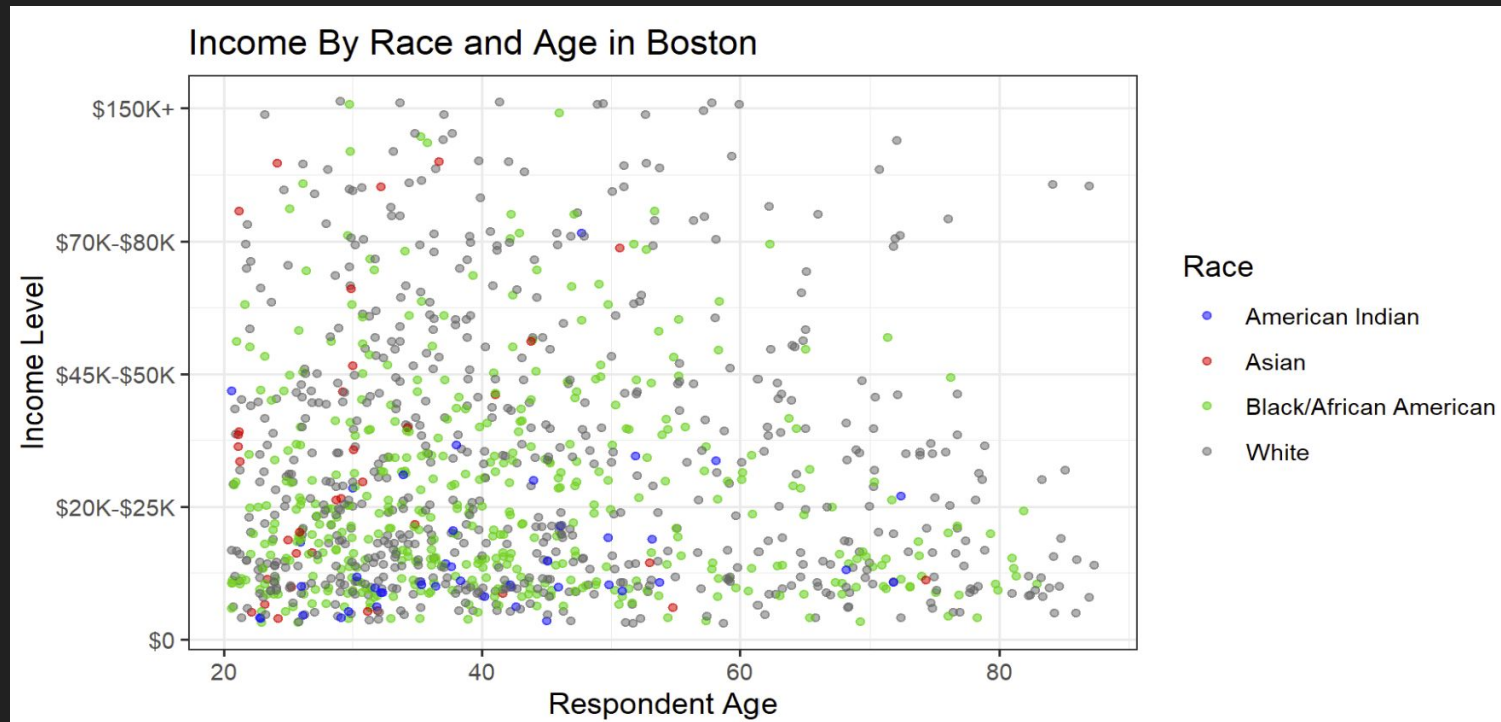


Perceived Discrimination

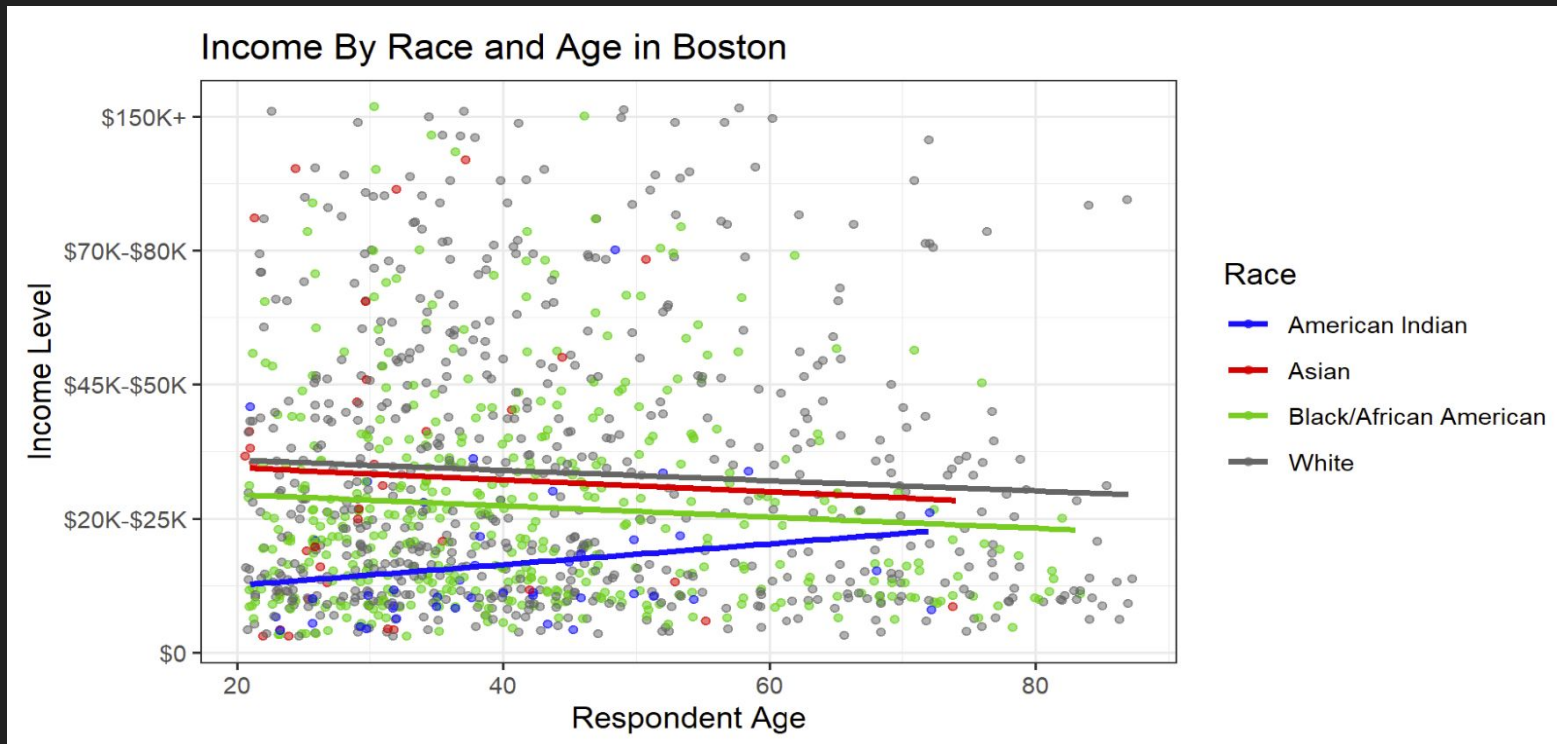


**Discrimination scores for American Indian people and white people were not collected*

Income



Income



Summary

In Boston, MA from 1992-1994...

- Black/African American respondents reported the lowest average quality of schools
- From most frequent to least frequent, crime and vandalism was perceived the most on average by American Indian, Black/African American, White, then Asian respondents
- The median perceived discrimination for Black/African American respondents and Asian respondents was “some” for all races except for Black/African American respondents with Black individuals
- White respondents had the highest expected income where American Indian respondents had the lowest
 - Regardless of Age

Next Steps

- Incorporate other cities
- Explore new variables to evaluate quality of life
- Develop metric to evaluate independent variables simultaneously

Thank You!