*PAR 1*

The genesis of this analysis was an attempt to find an answer to the question “Are male police officers more likely than female police officers to give women warnings as opposed to citations during traffic stops?”

The availability of Louisville Metro Police Department’s traffic stop data for 2015 presented an opportunity to quantitatively examine whether male police officers are, on balance, more forgiving of female drivers than male drivers, relative to female officers. Or put another way, are female traffic offenders better at getting out of citations and receiving only a warning than male drivers.

However, after initially looking at this question, a much more interesting trend emerged from the data:

[GRAPH]

*PAR 2*

A startling disparity exists between the frequency at which male officers issue citations vs warnings and that of female officers.

[TABLES]

*PAR 3*

Regarding the initial question, it does not appear that, in 2015 at least, female drivers received any particular deference from male officers.

However, this question is suddenly much less interesting than the question posed by this observed trend. Specifically, “Why are female police officers so much more generous with citations than their male counterparts?”

This is a very dense question, rife with confounding variables and causes that defy easy measurement. The LMPD traffic stops data is comprehensive enough to look at some possible causes.

The age range and race of drivers does not seem to show a marked difference. Neither does the number of passengers in the vehicle appear to show much disparity.

[GRAPHS]

*PAR 4*

Looking at the dates and time of the stops does seem to show some differences.

[GRAPHS]

*PAR 5*

Most interestingly is that female officers execute more traffic stops between the hours of 8pm and 4am than male officers. This could be part of the answer to the question, since vehicles with missing headlights and taillights become apparent at night and these low-level offenses are likely to only end in warnings.

The starkest difference between male and female officers that could help explain the difference in warning issuance comes from the geographic area where the traffic stops occur:

[GRAPH]

*PAR 6*

While it is difficult to say exactly why the 8th and 2nd divisions would result in more warnings than citations, it is likely that the areas where female officers execute traffic stops could have some explanatory value.

[CAN I DO A REGRESSION???]

while there does not seem to be a significant difference between So, in conclusion, if you are pulled over for a traffic violation, you are better off having a woman officer

\*\* CITE DATA: LMPD Stops Data (https://data.louisvilleky.gov/dataset/lmpd-stops-data)