To Do:

- Deal with grouping categorical variables.

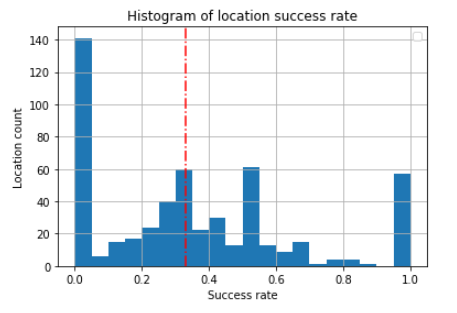
- Decide whether to make groups inside local, departm and stop\_reason.

- The loss function and its relation with classification threshold, precision, and recall.

- GridSearchCV with the appropriate scoring function.

- Dealing with missing values (output -1 and -2 from encoders)

How to decide whether the success rate associated with a given feature’s category is meaningful, i.e., whether this category being present really changes the probability of success?



In the example above we have grouped observations by all the different locations where searches have taken place and plotted the histogram of the success rate. We see that some locations have a success rate higher than average (on the right of the red line) and other locations have a success rate below average. Some locations even have a success rate of 100% and others oh 0%. In order to decide whether the observed success rate is meaningful or is just pure chance, we perform a binomial test with the null hypothesis being.

# Client requirements

## Summary

In this report, *Awkward Problem Solutions™* presents the results of a detailed statistical analysis of the historical data collected by the police department concerning its stop and search for contraband operations. The aim was to evaluate the existence of a bias against people of certain backgrounds in the search decision pattern.

Additionally, we propose a model to predict the risk of contraband based on objective data, in order to fairly decide whether or not to search the car.

## Requirements clarifications

*Awkward Problem Solutions™* has been asked to comply with the following requirements:

1. A minimum 50% success rate for searches (when a car is searched, it should be at least 50% likely that contraband is found)
2. No police sub-department should have a discrepancy bigger than 5% between the search success rate between protected classes (race, ethnicity, gender)
3. The largest possible amount of contraband found, given the constraints above.

The reason for the third requirement is self-evident. If we can increase the percentage of contraband found we also increase the certainty of punishment, producing a stronger deterrent effect which prevents more people from committing contraband crimes. From a specification perspective, this is equivalent to ask for a maximization of the model’s recall score: for a given number of stops the existing contraband is either searched and found (true positives) or not searched and not found (false negative), and we want to find as much contraband as possible (true positives) given its total amount (true positives + false negative). This requirement provides us with a metric or scoring for the evaluation of the classification algorithm, whereas the first two requirements give us constraints that should be complied with.

Regarding the first requirement, it arises from the existence of a cost associated with the searching procedure and a benefit associated with finding contraband. The rationale for this requirement should be the fact that the benefit resulting from finding contraband (let’s call it 2*s*) is valued as twice the cost of searching for it (call it *s*), on average. In this way, since every time a search is made we incur in the cost *s*, searching is ‘cost-effective’ only if the probability of obtaining the expected benefit *2s* by finding contraband and is, at least, 50%. Once we have estimated the probability of finding contraband, this requirement defines the classification threshold to be used by the algorithm[[1]](#footnote-0), i.e. we will predict contraband and clear the search authorization only if we expect contraband to be found with a probability higher than 50%. The definition of the loss function (the cost and benefit associated with each possible decision) is a client’s exclusive responsibility and it is a central part of any classification algorithm, therefore we will stick to this requirement.

the rationale for The client values the success and the search with a cost, the implicit idea in this requirement is that

Loss / benefit

# Dataset analysis

## General analysis

To perform the requested analysis we were provided with a dataset concerning car stops, including whether the car was searched, and if any contraband was found. This dataset comprises records of 2,473,643 car stops between October 2013 and May 2018 and is described by 16 variables. A brief characterization of the dataset is presented below.

* *VehicleSearchedIndicator*: ‘True’/’False’ variable indicating whether the vehicle was searched. We have 76,743 searches in a total of 2.47 million stops, i.e. only about 3,1% of stopped cars are searched.
* *ContrabandIndicator*: ‘True’/’False’ variable indicating whether contraband and/or evidence was discovered. True for 28,341 observations, which amounts to 1.15% of total or 36.9% of searched vehicles.
* *Department Name*: There are 122 police departments in the dataset. The number of traffic stops per department is very dispersed. While the ‘State Department’ accounts for 13% of observations, there are 12 departments with less than 1,000 observations and, between these, 6 departments with less than 100. The average value of traffic stops per department is 20,275 and the 50th percentile is 14,754 stops.
* *InterventionLocationName*: Location of the intervention, 1,500 places reported. Since each police department may perform traffic stops at different places, in this case, the dispersion in the number of traffic stops per local is even larger than above. We have more than 50% of the locations with a single stop reported; 76% locations with 5 or less stops; while for those 75 locations above the 95th percentile the average number of stops is 26,254.
* *InterventionDateTime*: Date and time of the intervention, ranging from October 2013 and May 2018, with a break between April 2015 and September 2015.[[2]](#footnote-1)
* *InterventionReasonCode*: Code for the reason given for stopping the vehicle. Three distinct values: ‘violation’ (88% of the stops, i.e. 2,179,595 observations); ‘equipment’ (10%); ‘investigation’ (2%).
* StatuteReason: Reason given for stopping the car. Fifteen distinct classifications. Most frequent are: ‘speed related’ (in 27.5% of stops); ‘defective lights’ (9.2%); ‘registration’ (9.2%); ‘cell phone’ (9.0%); ‘moving violation’ (7.7%); and ‘traffic control signal’ (7.2%). ‘other’/’other error’/missing amount for 8.9%.
* SearchAuthorizationCode: Authority to search the vehicle. Three distinct values: ‘Consent’ (35.2% of searches); ‘Inventory’ (20.5%); ‘Other’ (40.0%), which encompasses probable cause, reasonable suspicion, plain view contraband, incident to arrest, drug dog alert or exigent circumstances. Missing values or ‘Not Applicable’ in 4.3% of searches.

ReportingOfficerIdentificationID object

ResidentIndicator bool

SubjectAge float64

SubjectEthnicityCode object

SubjectRaceCode object

SubjectSexCode object

TownResidentIndicator bool

**Unexpected observations or missing values**

* *SearchAuthorizationCode*: Expected to be missing or ‘Not Applicable’ when no search was performed (i.e, *VehicleSearchedIndicator* equal to ‘False’). However, 15,360 of stops without search indication have a valid *SearchAuthorizationCode* classification.

## Business questions analysis

Is there discrimination? Can we propose a model that meets the requirements?

## Conclusions and Recommendations

# Modeling

## Model expected outcomes overview

## Model specifications

## Analysis of expected outcomes based on the training set

In-sample-error (ISE) or training error vs. Out-of-sample error (OSE) or testing error

## Alternatives considered

## Known issues and risks

If the training set is a random sample from the population, then the classifier predicted probabilities are expected to be unbiased. However, if we admit the possibility that there was some bias in the drawing for the training set, i.e. if the police search decision was itself biased, then the predicted probabilities will reflect this effect.

# Model Deployment

## Deployment specifications

## Known issues and risks

## Dataset technical analysis

# Annexes

## Business questions technical support

## Model technical analysis

1. Notice that the phrasing is not completely clear, as the sentence “a minimum 50% success rate for searches” may be interpreted as a request for an overall success rate of 50%. This interpretation would lead to constraining the precision score of the model to a minimum value of 50%. However, the clarification in parenthesis seems to indicate that the minimum 50% success rate should be ensured in every single search, and not overall. We will follow this interpretation, which brings us to the option of defining a classification threshold of 50%. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Plots of the monthly evolution of traffic stops and number of searches available in the annexes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)