Checkpoint 1: SQL Analytics Findings

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The main goal of our research is to investigate the conditions under which police officers tend to use force on civilians. Specifically we believe that race and environmental conditions play a critical role in this, therefore in this report, we utilized SQL to analyze and answer some important questions.

The questions are split into sections and each section contains multiple questions.

Note that all .sql files can be run with psql cpdb cpdb < filename.sql.

1. Information about Victims and Officers

We would like to first gather some information about the officers and victims in the use of force cases. The data in this section is taken from the trr_trr and data_officer datasets.

1a. What is the racial distribution of the victims involved in cases of use of force?

Database Query Results:

subject_race	1	count
Black		49747 9369
Hispanic White	l I	6540
Asian/Pacific Islander	İ	431
Native American/Alaskan Native	Ι	54

From the results, we can see the race distribution of the subjects involved in the use of force cases. The table shows that black subjects are the dominant race which has contributed to cases more than the total of the other race. However, as we know that black people do not dominate the total population in Chicago. This indicates a worth-of-investigaing racial discrimination involved in the police use of force

1b. What is the racial distribution of police officers involved in these cases?

Database Query Results:

officer_race | count

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	White		38731
	Hispanic		15064
	Black		10599
	Asian/Pacific		2028
	Native American/Alaskan Native		310

From the results, we can see the race distribution of police officers involved in use of force cases. At the top is white police officers whose count exceeds the total of the rest of the races, especially in contrast to the number of Asian/Pacific and Native American/Alaskan Native police officers. This potentially leads to a white-dominated culture in police department

1c. What portion of the total use of force cases involves an officer that is of a different race than that of the victim (cross-race use of force)?

Database Query Results:

cross_race_percentage ------0.732046

Based on the results, we can see that cross-race use of force cases make up 73.2% of total use of force cases, which is less surprising considering the fact that victims are dominated by black people and police offers are dominated with white. Nevertheless, 73.2% is high enough to raise follow-up questions about the different dynamics between police and victims. Specifically, we will look into the racial composition of the cross-race cases.

1d. What portion of the cases in use of force containing firearm usage.

Database Query Results:

Based on the results, we can see that only 1.5% use of force cases involved the usage of firearms. This indicates a less number of firearm usage than what we expected, despite of a large media coverage on this topic.

1e. What are the percentages of use of force cases grouped by officer race and subject race? (i.e. what is the percentage of white officers using force on black subjects)

Database Query Results:

percentage	officer_race	subject_race
		+

0 440706 1			D3 1
0.416733	White	!	Black
0.157269	Hispanic	1	Black
0.141796	Black	I	Black
0.083096	White	- 1	Hispanic
0.065161	White	- 1	White
0.043256	Hispanic	- 1	Hispanic
0.020457	Hispanic	I	White
0.019950	Asian/Pacific Islander	1	Black
0.008147	White	- 1	
0.006923	Black	1	White
0.006849	Black	- 1	Hispanic
0.005536	Asian/Pacific Islander	- 1	Hispanic
0.004238	White	- 1	Asian/Pacific Islander
0.003969	Asian/Pacific Islander	- 1	White
0.003357	Native American/Alaskan Nat	ive	Black
0.002552	Hispanic	- 1	
0.001805	Black	- 1	
0.001044	Hispanic	- 1	Asian/Pacific Islander
0.000731	Black	- 1	Asian/Pacific Islander
0.000627	Native American/Alaskan Nat	ive	Hispanic
0.000537	White	1	Native American/Alaskan Native
0.000463	Native American/Alaskan Nat	ive	White
0.000418	Asian/Pacific Islander	1	Asian/Pacific Islander
0.000358	Asian/Pacific Islander	1	
0.000194	Hispanic	1	Native American/Alaskan Native
0.000179	Native American/Alaskan Nat	ive	
0.000045	Black	1	Native American/Alaskan Native
0.000030	Asian/Pacific Islander	1	Native American/Alaskan Native

The results provides a more detailed view of the racial components of the subjects and police officers in all the use of force cases. A cursive scan shows us that 41% of all cases come from white police officers' use of force on black subjects. Further analysis shows that cases with black subjects make up 71.58% of all use of force cases. This indicates that black people are more prone to police's use of force.

2. Environmental Factors That May Affect an Officer's Decision to Use Force

Next we want to investigate the influence of environmental factors on a police officer's decision to use force. The following questions will address some of these factors.

2a. What portion of the use of force happened under different lighting conditions?

Database Query Results:

lighting_condition		percentage
GOOD ARTIFICIAL	1	0.395291
DAYLIGHT	I	0.293887
NIGHT	1	0.118295
POOR ARTIFICIAL	I	0.111580

	- 1	0.054283
DUSK	1	0.021113
DAWN	1	0.005551

This table shows that the use of force cases are dominated by the scenarios with good lighting (either with daylight of good artificial light). This, to some extend, suggests that lack of visibility is not a risk for someone to experience use of force, which is opposite to our hypothesis.

2b. What portion of the use of force happened indoors against outdoors?

Database Query Results:

indoor_or_outdoor		percentage
Outdoor		0.705248
Indoor		0.240962
		0.053791

This shows that most cases occurred outdoor with still descent amount of cases happening indoor. Civilians are usually supposed to be under protection at their esidential area unless severe criminal commitment. Thus, it would be interesting to look into the conditions and the allegation outcomes of these cases.

2c. What portion of the use of force happened under different weather conditions?

Database Query Results:

weather_condition	1	percentage
CLEAR		0.810218
RAIN	1	0.060058
		0.056685
OTHER		0.038959
SNOW		0.027977
FOG/SMOKE/HAZE		0.003312
SEVERE CROSS WIND		0.001477
SLEET/HAIL		0.001313

This indicates that adverse weather condition might not be a attribute for use of force which is opposite to our hypothesis.

2d. What portion of the use of force happened under different locations?

Database Query Results:

location_recode	percentage
	+

Street	1	0.278100
Sidewalk	1	0.219997
Residence	1	0.063683
Apartment	1	0.057417
Police Facility/Veh Parking Lot	1	0.057014
Alley	1	0.056178
Residence Porch/Hallway	1	0.043943
Residential Yard (Front/Back)	1	0.031573
Parking Lot/Garage (Non-Residential)	1	0.026037
Other	1	0.021904
Chicago Housing Authority Property	1	0.019412
Gas Station	1	0.010863
Park Property	1	0.009729

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This shows that police's use of force more likely to occur on street/sidewalks but not by much

2e. Under what combinations of different conditions (lighting, indoor or outdoor, weather, location) is a police officer more likely to use force?

Database Query Results:

weather	indoor_or_outdoor	lighting_condition	location_recode	1	count
CLEAR	Outdoor Outdoor	GOOD ARTIFICIAL DAYLIGHT	Street Street		5870 5587
CLEAR	Outdoor	DAYLIGHT	Sidewalk		4621
	Outdoor	GOOD ARTIFICIAL	Sidewalk		4290
CLEAR	Outdoor	NIGHT	Street		2278
	Outdoor	NIGHT	Sidewalk		1891
CLEAR	Indoor	GOOD ARTIFICIAL	Police Facility/Veh Parking Lot	į	1836
CLEAR	Indoor	GOOD ARTIFICIAL	Apartment		1498
CLEAR	Indoor	GOOD ARTIFICIAL	Residence		1357
CLEAR	Outdoor	POOR ARTIFICIAL	Street		1313
	Outdoor	DAYLIGHT	Alley		1294
CLEAR	Outdoor	POOR ARTIFICIAL	Sidewalk	İ	1198

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This table provides a more comprehensive of the narratives for the most common scenarios of police's use of force. Cases often time happened with good lighting on the street.