Fraudulent Claim Detection

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Problem Statement:

Global Insure, a leading insurance company, processes thousands of claims annually. However, a significant percentage of these claims turn out to be fraudulent, resulting in considerable financial losses. The company's current process for identifying fraudulent claims involves manual inspections, which is time-consuming and inefficient. Fraudulent claims are often detected too late in the process, after the company has already paid out significant amounts. Global Insure wants to improve its fraud detection process using data-driven insights to classify claims as fraudulent or legitimate early in the approval process. This would minimise financial losses and optimise the overall claims handling process.

Business Objective:

Build a predictive model to classify insurance claims as fraudulent or legitimate using:

- Historical claim data (claim amounts, types)
- Customer profiles
- Other relevant features

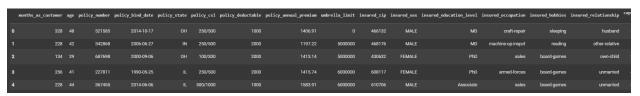
Key Questions to Address:

- 1. Pattern Analysis How can we detect fraud indicators in historical claims?
- 2. Predictive Features Which factors best predict fraud?
- Fraud Likelihood Can we score new claims for fraud risk before approval?
- 4. Actionable Insights How can the model improve fraud detection?

Approach:

Data Preparation:

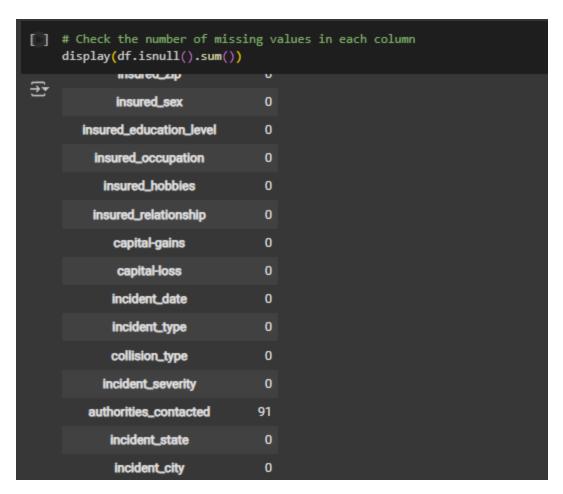
• We loaded the insurance_claims.csv dataset and inspected its basic information, including shape, data types, and a preview of the data.





Data Cleaning:

• We identified and handled null values, specifically in the authorities_contacted column.



 We are handling missing values in the column authorities_contacted by replacing them with the mode (most frequent value).

```
Before Updating the data with mode value :: authorities_contacted
Police
            292
Fire
             223
Other
             198
Ambulance
             196
Name: count, dtype: int64
After Updating the data with mode value :: authorities_contacted
Police
             383
Fire
            198
Other
            196
Ambulance
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

 Display all unique values and their counts. Identify redundant values that might need cleaning (e.g., duplicates caused by case differences or extra spaces).

```
Column: months_as_customer
months as customer
194
285
254
128
372
     1
213
240
50
      1
17
Name: count, Length: 391, dtype: int64
Total Unique value: 391
*******************
Redundant values:
No of times 328: 4 occurrences
No of times 228: 4 occurrences
No of times 134: 5 occurrences
No of times 256: 4 occurrences
No of times 137: 5 occurrences
No of times 165: 5 occurrences
No of times 27: 5 occurrences
No of times 212: 4 occurrences
No of times 235: 5 occurrences
```

We identified and dropped the _c39 column as it was entirely null.

```
[ ] # Identify and drop any columns that are completely empty
    df = df.drop(columns=['_c39'])
```

- We identified and removed one row with an illogical negative value in the umbrella limit column.
- We removed columns that were likely identifiers or had very low predictive power (policy_number, policy_bind_date, policy_annual_premium, insured_zip, incident_location).

```
Columns likely to be identifiers or with low predictive power:
['policy_number', 'policy_bind_date', 'policy_annual_premium', 'insured_zip', 'incident_location']
```

We fixed the data type of the incident_date column by converting it to datetime.

```
Column polity file date

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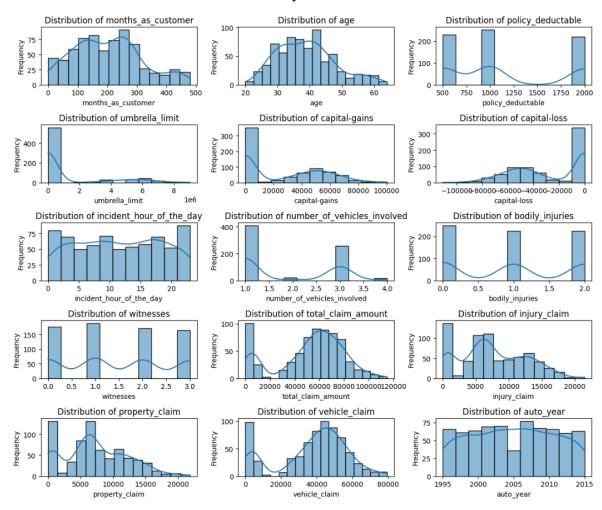
Column polity pa
```

Train Validation Split:

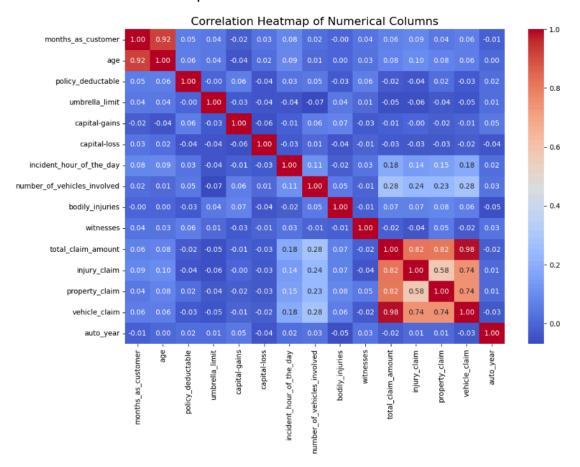
 We split the data into a 70% training set and a 30% validation set, ensuring stratification on the target variable fraud_reported to maintain the class distribution in both sets.

EDA on Training Data:

 We performed univariate analysis on numerical features using histograms to understand their distributions and identify outliers.



 We performed correlation analysis on numerical features using a heatmap to visualize relationships.

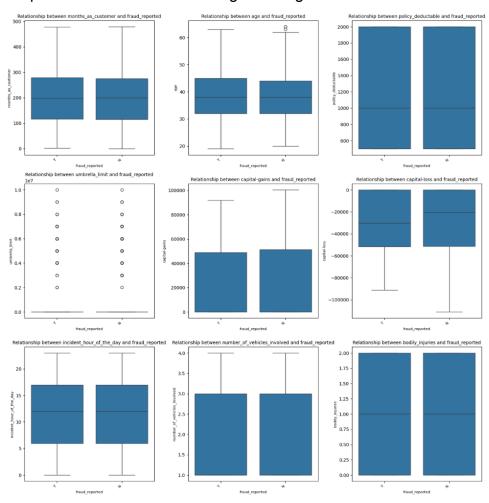


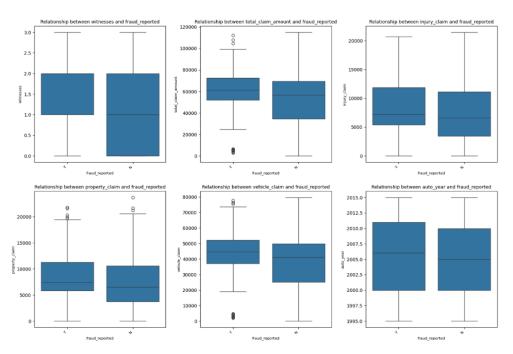
 We checked the class balance of the target variable, revealing an imbalance with approximately 75% non-fraudulent ('N') and 25% fraudulent ('Y') claims in the training data.



 We performed bivariate analysis by visualizing the target likelihood for categorical variables and the relationship between numerical features and the target variable using bar plots and box plots, respectively.

Box plot of numerical variables against target variable:





Feature Engineering:

 Resampling: The training data was resampled using RandomOverSampler to address class imbalance. The original and resampled class distributions were printed.

```
# Import RandomOverSampler from imblearn library
 from imblearn.over_sampling import RandomOverSampler
 # Perform resampling on training data
 ros = RandomOverSampler(random_state=42)
 X_train_resampled, y_train_resampled = ros.fit_resample(X_train, y_train)
 print("Original Class Distribution:")
 print(y_train.value_counts())
 print("\nResampled Class Distribution:")
 print(pd.Series(y_train_resampled).value_counts())
Original Class Distribution:
 fraud_reported
     526
Name: count, dtype: int64
 Resampled Class Distribution:
 fraud reported
     526
 Name: count, dtype: int64
```

• Feature Creation: New features 'year', 'month', and 'day' were created from the 'incident_date' column for both the training and validation datasets.

year	month	dayofweek	policy_state_IN	policy_state_OH	policy_csl_250/500	policy_csl_500/1000	insured_sex_MALE	insured_education_level_College	insured_education_level_High School
0.0	1.026114	1.022342	False	True	False	True	True	False	False
0.0	-0.901987	0.517312	False	False	False	True	True	False	True
0.0	1.026114	-1.502806	True	False	True	False	False	False	False
0.0	-0.901987	-0.492747	False	True	True	False	True	False	False
0.0	1.026114	1.527371	False	False	False	True	False	False	False

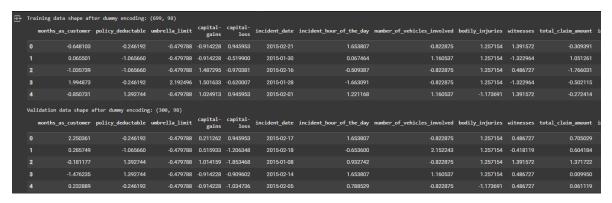
Handle Redundant Columns: Columns with high correlation ('age',
 'vehicle_claim') and the original 'incident_date' column were dropped. The info of
 the updated training data was displayed to confirm the changes.

Trai	ining data shape aft	ter dropping columns										
	months_as_customer	policy_deductable	umbrella_limit	capital- gains	capital- loss	incident_date	incident_hour_of_the_day	number_of_vehicles_involved	bodily_injuries	witnesses	total_claim_amount	ir
	-0.648103	-0.246192	-0.479788	-0.914228	0.945953	2015-02-21	1.653807	-0.822875	1.257154	1.391572	-0.309391	
	0.065501	-1.065660	-0.479788	-0.914228	-0.519900	2015-01-30	0.067464	1.160537	1.257154	-1.322964	1.051261	
	-1.035739	-1.065660	-0.479788	1.487295	-0.970381	2015-02-16	-0.509387	-0.822875	1.257154	0.486727	-1.766031	
	1.994873	-0.246192	2.192496	1.501633	-0.620007	2015-01-28	-1.663091	-0.822875	1.257154	-1.322964	-0.502115	
	-0.850731	1.392744	-0.479788	1.024913	0.945953	2015-02-01	1.221168	1.160537	-1.173691	1.391572	-0.272414	
	-0.850731 idation data shape a			1.024913	0.945953	2015-02-01	1.221168	1.160537	-1.173691	1.391572	-0.272414	
Vali		after dropping colu	nns: (300, 98)	1.024913 capital- gains				1.160537 number_of_vehicles_involved				in
Vali	idation data shape a	after dropping colu	nns: (300, 98)	capital-	capital- loss					witnesses		in
Vali	idation data shape a	after dropping colum	nns: (300, 98) umbrella_limit	capital- gains	capital- loss 0.945953	incident_date	incident_hour_of_the_day	number_of_vehicles_involved	bodily_injuries	witnesses 0.486727	total_claim_amount	in
Vali	idation data shape a months_as_customer 2.250361	after dropping colum policy_deductable -0.246192	nns: (300, 98) umbrella_limit -0.479788	capital- gains 0.211262	capital- loss 0.945953 -1.206348	incident_date	incident_hour_of_the_day	number_of_vehicles_involved -0.822875	bodily_injuries	witnesses 0.486727	total_claim_amount 0.705029	in
Vali 0	idation data shape a months_as_customer 2.250361 0.285749	after dropping colum policy_deductable -0.246192 -1.065660	umbrella_limit -0.479788 -0.479788	capital- gains 0.211262 0.515933	capital- loss 0.945953 -1.206348 -1.853468	incident_date 2015-02-17 2015-02-18	incident_hour_of_the_day 1.653807 -0.653600	number_of_vehicles_involved -0.822875 2.152243	bodily_injuries 1.257154	witnesses 0.486727 -0.418119	total_claim_amount 0.705029 0.604184	in

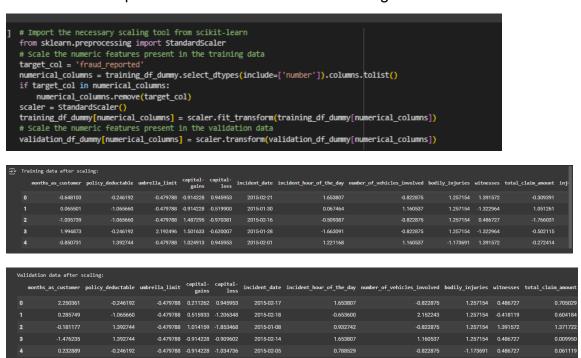
 Combine values in Categorical Columns: Rare categories (frequency < 0.05) in categorical columns were combined into an 'Other' category to reduce sparsity.
 The number of rare categories replaced in each column was printed.

```
Rare categories replaced in each column:
Column 'policy state': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'policy csl': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'insured_sex': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'insured_education_level': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'insured_occupation': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'insured hobbies': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'insured_relationship': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'incident_type': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'collision_type': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'incident severity': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'authorities_contacted': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'incident state': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'incident_city': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'property_damage': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'police report available': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'auto make': replaced 1 rare categories with 'Other'
Column 'auto model': replaced 0 rare categories with 'Other'
```

 Dummy Variable Creation: Categorical columns were converted into numerical representations using one-hot encoding with pd.get_dummies. The shapes of the training and validation dataframes after creating dummy variables were printed. Dummy variables were also created for the target variable 'fraud_reported', mapping 'Y' to 1 and 'N' to 0.



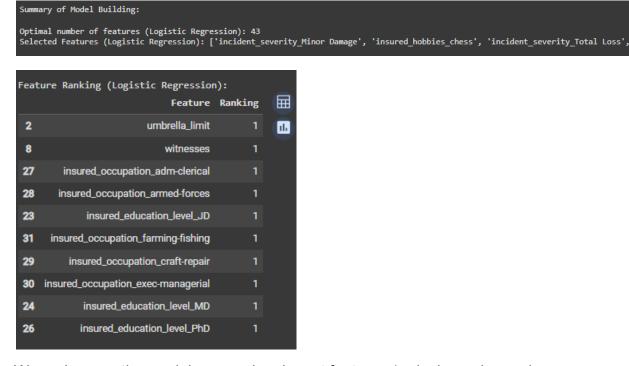
 Feature Scaling: Numerical features in both training and validation data were scaled using StandardScaler to ensure a common range. The target column is removed because feature scaling is only meant for predictors. Scaling the label would distort the problem and lead to incorrect training.



Model Building:

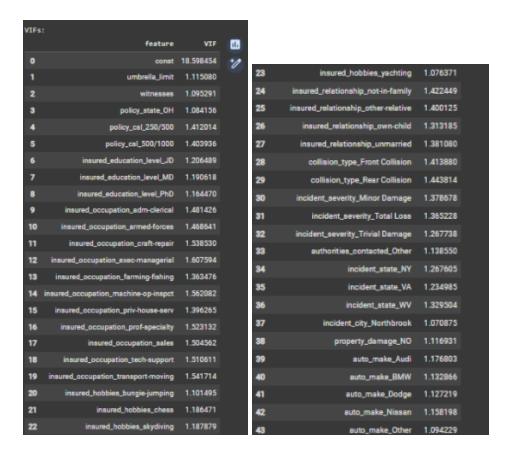
Logistic Regression Model:

 Feature Selection using RFECV: Recursive Feature Elimination with Cross-Validation (RFECV) was used to identify the most relevant features for the logistic regression model. The optimal number of features was determined based on cross-validation performance.



- We make sure the model uses only relevant features (reducing noise and overfitting risk). We convert all data into numerical form, making it compatible with regression. We add a constant column for the intercept in regression models.
- Model Building and Multicollinearity Assessment: A logistic regression model was built using the statsmodels library, which provides detailed statistical outputs.
 P-values and Variance Inflation Factors (VIFs) were examined to assess the significance of features and detect multicollinearity.

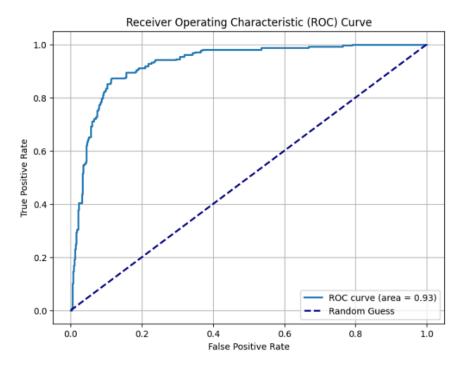
ogistic Regression Model Summary: Logit Regre	ssion Resul	ts					
Dep. Variable: fraud reported	No. Obser	vations:		1052			
lodel: Logit	Df Residu	als:		1008			
lethod: MLE	Df Model:			43			
ate: Tue, 12 Aug 2025	Pseudo R-	squ.:		0.5065			
ime: 18:48:42	Log-Likel	ihood:		359.84			
converged: True	LL-Null:			729.19			
ovariance Type: nonrobust	LLR p-value:		1.60	1e-127			
	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975	
	 -0.3446	0.405	A 953	0.704	4 430	0.44	
onst mbrella limit	0.3297	0.405 0.103	-0.852 3.206	0.394 0.001	-1.138 0.128	0.53	
vitnesses	0.3297	0.105	3.883	0.001	0.126	0.61	
olicy state OH	0.4075 0.3258	0.213	1.532	0.000	-0.091	0.74	
olicy_state_OH olicy_csl_250/500	0.3258	0.213 0.240	1.532	0.126 0.074	-0.091 -0.042	0.74	
olicy_cs1_230/300 olicy_csl 500/1000	-0.2636	0.255	-1.035	0.301	-0.763	0.23	
nsured education level JD	0.8657	0.286	3.031	0.002	0.306	1.42	
nsured_education_level_JD	1.0819	0.305	3.551	0.002	0.485	1.67	
nsured education level PhD	0.7061	0.320	2.210	0.027	0.080	1.33	
nsured occupation adm-clerical	1.0016	0.487	2.056	0.040	0.047	1.95	
nsured occupation armed-forces	1.3546	0.491	2.759	0.006	0.392	2.31	
nsured occupation craft-repair	0.6795	0.427	1.590	0.112	-0.158	1.51	
nsured occupation exec-managerial	1.2657	0.435	2.911	0.004	0.414	2.11	
nsured occupation farming-fishing	0.7549	0.528	1.430	0.153	-0.280	1.79	
nsured occupation machine-op-inspct	0.8789	0.420	2.095	0.036	0.057	1.70	
nsured occupation priv-house-serv	-0.1479	0.524	-0.282	0.778	-1.175	0.87	
nsured occupation prof-specialty	1.2676	0.413	3.070	0.002	0.458	2.07	
nsured occupation sales	0.8643	0.483	1.791	0.073	-0.081	1.81	
nsured occupation tech-support	0.7991	0.444	1.801	0.072	-0.071	1.66	
nsured_occupation_transport-moving	1.7103	0.402	4.251	0.000	0.922	2.49	
nsured_hobbies_bungie-jumping	-0.6862	0.488	-1.406	0.160	-1.642	0.27	
nsured_hobbies_chess	6.0343	0.655	9.219	0.000	4.751	7.31	
nsured_hobbies_skydiving	-0.3722	0.504	-0.739	0.460	-1.359	0.61	
nsured_hobbies_yachting	0.4412	0.452	0.976	0.329	-0.445	1.32	
nsured_relationship_not-in-family	0.6808	0.299	2.278	0.023	0.095	1.26	
nsured_relationship_other-relative	0.3966	0.291	1.362	0.173	-0.174	0.96	
nsured_relationship_own-child	-0.5901	0.315	-1.876	0.061	-1.207	0.02	
nsured_relationship_unmarried	0.7753	0.314	2.471	0.013	0.160	1.39	
collision_type_Front Collision	0.6978	0.256	2.724	0.006	0.196	1.20	
ollision_type_Rear Collision	0.7843	0.252	3.114	0.002	0.291	1.27	
ncident_severity_Minor Damage	-4.0310	0.292	-13.814	0.000	-4.603	-3.45	
ncident_severity_Total Loss	-3.4324	0.275	-12.492	0.000	-3.971	-2.89	
ncident_severity_Trivial Damage	-4.0472	0.571	-7.089	0.000	-5.166	-2.92	
uthorities_contacted_Other	0.4487	0.244	1.839	0.066	-0.030	0.92	
ncident_state_NY	-0.2170	0.251	-0.863	0.388	-0.710	0.27	
ncident_state_VA	0.8417	0.335	2.514	0.012	0.186	1.49	
ncident_state_W	-0.8190	0.290	-2.828	0.005	-1.387	-0.25	
ncident_city_Northbrook	-0.7216	0.346	-2.087	0.037	-1.399	-0.04	
roperty_damage_NO	-0.6207	0.226	-2.743	0.006	-1.064	-0.17	
uto_make_Audi	1.4614	0.370	3.955	0.000	0.737	2.18	
uto_make_BMW	0.5967	0.399	1.495	0.135	-0.186	1.37	
uto_make_Dodge	0.6321	0.364	1.734	0.083	-0.082	1.34	
uto_make_Nissan	-0.6645	0.423	-1.573	0.116	-1.493	0.16	
auto make Other	1.0010	0.466	2.149	0.032	0.088	1.91	



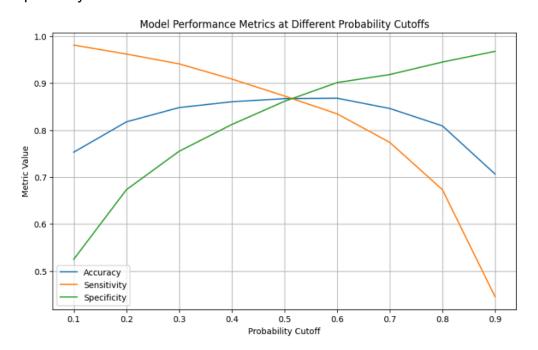
 Model Training and Evaluation on Training Data: The model was trained on the training data, and initial performance was assessed using accuracy and a confusion matrix with a default cutoff of 0.5.

```
Logistic Regression Metrics on Training Data (Cutoff 0.5):
Accuracy: 0.8669201520912547
Confusion Matrix:
  [[453 73]
  [67 459]]
True Negative: 453
False Positive: 73
False Negative: 67
True Positive: 459
Sensitivity: 0.8726235741444867
Specificity: 0.8612167300380228
Precision: 0.8627819548872181
Recall: 0.8726235741444867
F1 Score: 0.8676748582230625
```

 Finding the Optimal Cutoff: The optimal probability threshold was determined by analyzing the trade-offs between sensitivity, specificity, precision, and recall across different cutoff values using ROC and Precision-Recall curves. • AUC is 0.93 which means the model performs very well, with a high probability of correctly ranking positive instances above negative ones.



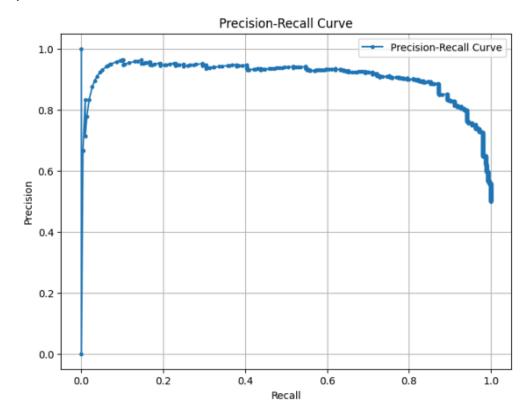
 We are choosing an optimal cutoff as 0.55 because that is where accuracy starts increasing. For balanced performance we choose a cutoff where sensitivity and specificity intersect.



 Final Prediction and Evaluation on Training Data using the Optimal Cutoff: Final predictions were made on the training data using the optimal cutoff, and model performance was re-evaluated.

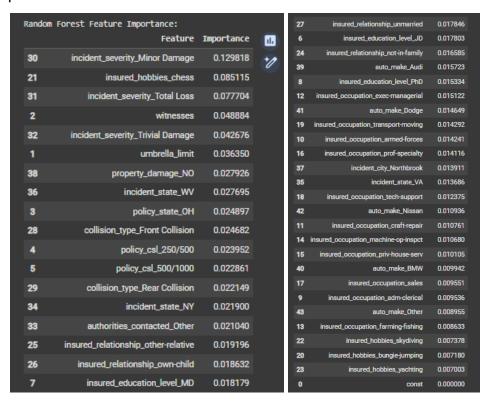
```
Logistic Regression Metrics on Training Data (Optimal Cutoff):
Accuracy: 0.879277566539924
Confusion Matrix:
    [[466 60]
    [67 459]]
True Negative: 466
False Positive: 60
False Negative: 67
True Positive: 459
Sensitivity: 0.8726235741444867
Specificity: 0.8859315589353612
Precision: 0.884393063583815
Recall: 0.8726235741444867
F1 Score: 0.8784688995215311
```

 The model maintains high precision (>0.8) across a wide range of recall values, meaning it produces few false positives even when trying to capture more positives.



Random Forest Model:

 Get Feature Importances: Feature importance scores were obtained from an initial Random Forest model to identify features that contribute most to the prediction.



- Select Important Features: Features with importance scores above a certain threshold were selected for further model training.
- Model Evaluation on Training Data: The Random Forest model was trained with the selected features and evaluated on the training data using accuracy and a confusion matrix.

```
Random Forest Metrics on Training Data (Base Model):
Accuracy: 1.0
Confusion Matrix:
[[526 0]
[ 0 526]]
True Negative: 526
False Positive: 0
False Negative: 0
True Positive: 526
Sensitivity: 1.0
Specificity: 1.0
Precision: 1.0
Recall: 1.0
F1 Score: 1.0
```

 Check Model Overfitting using Cross-Validation: Cross-validation was performed to assess the model's generalization ability and check for overfitting on the training data.

```
Random Forest Cross Validation Scores:
[0.90047393 0.96208531 0.97142857 0.94285714 0.94285714]
```

 Hyperparameter Tuning using Grid Search: Grid search was used to find the best combination of hyperparameters for the Random Forest model to optimize its performance.

```
Random Forest Best Hyperparameters:
{'max_depth': 20, 'max_features': 'log2', 'min_samples_leaf': 1, 'min_samples_split': 2, 'n_estimators': 200}
Random Forest CV score: 0.9448973143759873
```

Final Model and Evaluation on Training Data: The final Random Forest model
was built using the best hyperparameters, trained on the training data, and its
performance evaluated.

```
Random Forest Metrics on Training Data (Tuned Model):
Accuracy: 0.9990494296577946
Confusion Matrix:
[[525 1]
[ 0 526]]
True Negative: 525
False Positive: 1
False Negative: 0
True Positive: 526
Sensitivity: 1.0
Specificity: 0.9980988593155894
Precision: 0.9981024667931688
Recall: 1.0
F1 Score: 0.9990503323836657
```

Predicting and Model Evaluation:

The performance of both models was evaluated on the validation data.

Make predictions over validation data using logistic regression model:

- The relevant features were selected for the validation data, and a constant was added.
- Predictions were made on the validation data using the trained Logistic Regression model.
- A DataFrame was created to show the actual values and the predicted probabilities for the validation data.
- Final predictions were made using a cutoff value of 0.5.

 The accuracy, confusion matrix, TP, TN, FP, FN, sensitivity, specificity, precision, recall, and F1-score were calculated and printed for the validation data using the Logistic Regression model.

```
Summary of Prediction and Model Evaluation:

Logistic Regression Metrics on Validation Data:
Accuracy: 0.3133333333333335

Confusion Matrix:

[[ 23 203]
        [ 3 71]]

True Negative: 71

False Positive: 203

False Negative: 3

True Positive: 23

Sensitivity: 0.8846153846153846

Specificity: 0.2591240875912409

Precision: 0.10176991150442478

Recall: 0.8846153846153846

F1 Score: 0.18253968253968256
```

Make predictions over validation data using random forest model:

- The important features were selected for the validation data.
- Probability predictions were made on the validation data using the trained Random Forest model.
- The accuracy, confusion matrix, TP, TN, FP, FN, sensitivity, specificity, precision, recall, and F1-score were calculated and printed for the validation data using the Random Forest model with a cutoff of 0.5.

```
Random Forest Metrics on Validation Data:
Accuracy: 0.78
Confusion Matrix:
[[195 31]
[ 35 39]]
True Negative: 195
False Positive: 31
False Negative: 35
True Positive: 39
Sensitivity: 0.527027027027
Specificity: 0.8628318584070797
Precision: 0.5571428571428572
Recall: 0.527027027027
```

Conclusion:

Pattern Analysis – How can we detect fraud indicators in historical claims?

We can analyze historical claim data to detect patterns by performing Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA). This involves:

- Univariate Analysis: Examining the distribution of individual features (both numerical and categorical) to understand their characteristics and identify any unusual patterns.
- Correlation Analysis: Investigating the relationships between numerical features to identify potential dependencies.
- Bivariate Analysis: Exploring the relationships between features and the target variable (fraud_reported) to understand how different feature values influence the likelihood of a claim being fraudulent. This is done for both numerical and categorical features.

Predictive Features – Which factors best predict fraud?

Based on the Random Forest model's feature importance scores, the most predictive features of fraudulent behavior are:

- incident severity Minor Damage
- insured hobbies chess
- incident_severity_Total Loss
- witnesses
- incident_severity_Trivial Damage
- umbrella_limit
- property_damage_NO
- incident_state_WV
- policy_state_OH
- collision_type_Front Collision
- policy_csl_250/500
- policy_csl_500/1000
- collision_type_Rear Collision

- incident state NY
- authorities contacted Other
- insured_relationship_other-relative
- insured relationship own-child
- insured education level MD
- insured relationship unmarried
- insured education level JD
- insured_relationship_not-in-family
- auto_make_Audi
- insured education level PhD
- insured occupation exec-managerial
- auto_make_Dodge
- insured occupation transport-moving
- insured occupation armed-forces
- insured occupation prof-specialty
- incident_city_Northbrook
- incident_state_VA
- insured occupation tech-support
- auto make Nissan
- insured_occupation_craft-repair
- insured occupation machine-op-inspct
- insured_occupation_priv-house-serv
- auto make BMW
- insured occupation sales
- insured_occupation_adm-clerical
- auto make Other
- insured occupation farming-fishing
- insured hobbies skydiving
- insured_hobbies_bungie-jumping
- insured hobbies yachting

Fraud Likelihood – Can we score new claims for fraud risk before approval?

- We can predict the likelihood of fraud for an incoming claim based on past data.
- By training machine learning models (like Logistic Regression and Random Forest) on the historical claim data, we can use these models to predict the probability of an incoming claim being fraudulent.
- The models learn patterns and relationships from the historical data that are indicative of fraudulent behavior.

Actionable Insights – How can the model improve fraud detection?

- Focus on key features: The most important features identified by the models
 (e.g., incident severity, insured hobbies, number of witnesses, umbrella limit, etc.)
 should be prioritized in the manual review process. Claims with suspicious values
 or combinations of these features should be flagged for closer inspection.
- Automated flagging: The trained model can be used to automatically flag claims with a high predicted probability of fraud. This can help streamline the initial screening process and reduce the workload on manual reviewers.
- Identify unusual patterns: The analysis of feature importance and the
 relationships between features and the target variable can help identify unusual
 patterns or anomalies that may indicate fraudulent activity. These patterns can be
 used to refine fraud detection rules or develop new fraud indicators.
- Continuous monitoring and retraining: The model should be continuously monitored for performance and retrained periodically with new data to adapt to evolving fraud patterns.

In conclusion, the Random Forest model performed better in this analysis and can be used to predict the likelihood of fraud for incoming claims. The insights gained from the model, particularly the important features, can significantly help Global Insure improve their fraud detection process by enabling more efficient and data-driven screening of claims.