Role of Age in Reality Television Dating: Madison Sieloff

Abstract

Using data from previous Bachelor seasons, we can predict the role age plays in reality television dating. Specifically, the data shows men are likely to choose women who are younger than themselves in age.

Background

Research Question: How does a Bachelor contestant's age impact their likelihood of being chosen, or winning?

Importance: This is an important research question because we can predict how the age factor impacts an individual's dating behavior, especially in the presence of national television.

Contribution / Hypothesis: I expect that male leads will favor and choose contestants who are younger in age than themselves.
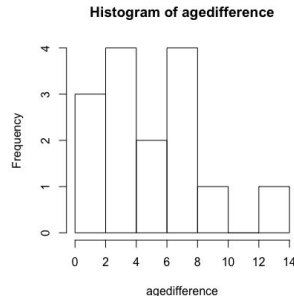
Data and Methods

Data
➔ The dataset used describes the characteristics of leads and contestants on the Bachelor series.
➔ The data has 887 rows, which each represent a particular contestant on the show.
➔ I used 2 variables in the analysis, which each give the ages of the Bachelor leads and contestants.

Approach
➔ I began by subsetting the data to just include information from the Bachelor shows and their particular winners by using the subset() command.
➔ Next, in order to find the age differences between the lead and winning contestant, I subtracted the winning contestants' ages from the leads' ages.
➔ Finally, imputed this data into a histogram.

Histogram of agedifference

Key Results

➔ In order to create this histogram, I computed the average difference in age between the lead and winning contestant for the Bachelor.
➔ This model suggests that, since all age differences are positive, Bachelor leads prefer women who are younger than themselves.
➔ Additionally, by finding the mean ages of Bachelor leads and winners, I was able to discover that Bachelor winners are approximately 5.82 years younger than the leads.
➔ Based on the histogram, I predict that male leads will continue to choose female contestants who are younger in age than themselves.

Conclusions

➔ Based on my findings, I predict that male leads will continue to choose female contestants who are younger in age than themselves.
➔ Additionally, since there was some missing data, in terms of Bachelor winners' ages, there could potentially be winners who are older than the leads.