

Report on Analysis of US Police Shootings Data

Context

In light of recent US police killings, the issue of racism has come to the forefront of public discourse. The dataset under analysis spans incidents occurring from 2015 to the 2nd Quarter of 2020 and provides crucial information about individuals involved, including their demographics such as name, age, gender, and race. Additionally, it encompasses details surrounding the shooting/killing incidents, including the date, location, circumstances, presence of weapons, mental health status, police body camera usage, and more.

Questions Investigated

The goal of this analysis was to find out what story the data tells in relation to the context. The following questions provided a structured approach to the analysis made:

1. Which gender dominated in police shooting incidents?
2. Which age range did most victims fall within?
3. Which state observed the highest number of shootings?
4. When were the maximum number of shootings recorded?
5. Which race appeared most frequently among the victims?
6. Did most victims suffer from mental illness?
7. Which weapons were most commonly possessed by victims?
8. In which state were attacks (threat level) most likely to be high?
9. Which race was most likely to pose a threat?
10. How often did police officers wear body cameras during shootings?
11. How frequently was the taser used in addition to firearms?
12. Were victims mostly shot while fleeing or not?

Insights and Analysis

1. *Gender Dominance*: Males accounted for a staggering 95.46% of victims in US police shootings.
2. *Age*: Adults (between 18 and 60 years) occupied a significantly large proportion ($\approx 93\%$) of victims.
3. *State with Highest Shootings*: California witnessed the highest number of shootings (701).
4. *Maximum Shootings Recorded*: The year 2015 saw the highest number of shootings, totalling 965 incidents.

5. *Most Frequent Race*: White individuals appeared most frequently among the victims.
6. *Mental Illness Prevalence*: The majority (77.47%) of victims did not exhibit signs of mental illness.
7. *Commonly Possessed Weapons*: Guns are the most commonly possessed weapons by victims, followed by knives.
8. *High Attack Level*: New York State was identified as having a high likelihood of attacks.
9. *Likelihood of Attack by Race*: Black individuals were identified as the race most likely to pose a threat.
10. *Body Camera Usage*: Unfortunately, body cameras were off for the vast majority (88.19%) of shootings.
11. *Taser Usage*: Tasers were used in addition to firearms in only 5.07% of incidents.
12. *Victims Shot While Fleeing*: Contrary to assumptions, victims were not predominantly shot while fleeing; the 'Not Fleeing' category had the highest count.

Conclusion

The analysis of the US police shootings data sheds light on several critical aspects of these incidents. It challenges some preconceived notions while reaffirming others. Understanding these insights is crucial for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and the public in addressing issues of police brutality, racial bias, and public safety. Further exploration of the data may unveil additional nuances and trends, facilitating more informed decision-making and societal discourse.