



Police Stops in Wisconsin

Seasonality and Missingness of Racial Observations

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Background and Scope

Background

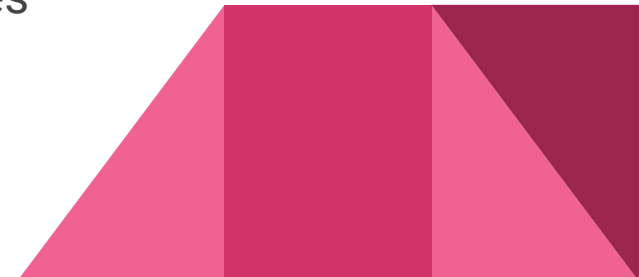
- U.S. Law enforcement data has become increasingly accessible in recent decades
- Data analysis can potentially educate the general public, drive informed public policy outcomes, and weed out bad apples

Focus Areas

- Seasonality by month
- Missingness of racial data points in recent years

Potential Drivers

- Public policy decisions
- State patrol institutional behaviors
- Ticket fees
- Weather



Dataset

Observations

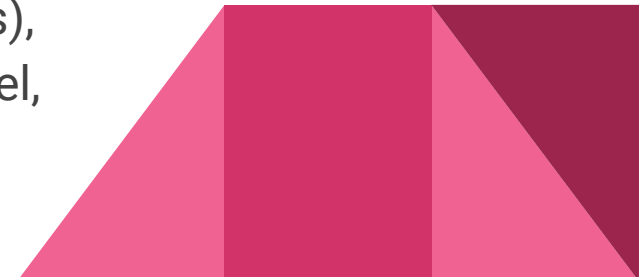
- All traffic stops made by the Wisconsin State Patrol from January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2015
- * Local police stops not included

Source

- The [Stanford Open Policing Project](#)

Variables

- date, time, county, coordinates (limited observations), violation(s), driver's gender, race, age, car type, model, search conducted, drug related



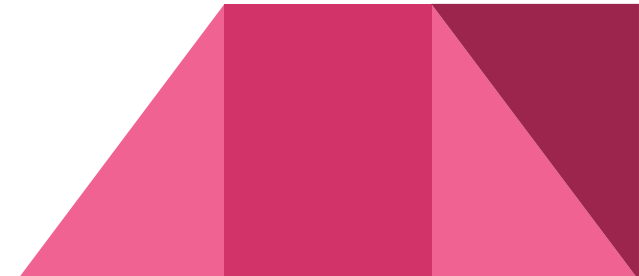
Seasonality

More stops in May

- Potential drivers
 - Wisconsin's fiscal year ends in June - quotas for officers and departments
 - The WI state trooper union sued the State Patrol in October 2015 for evaluating officer performance based on quotas
 - Quotas for WI's South Region: 1 traffic stop per hour of patrol, 1 citation per 1.8 hours of patrol, 1 warning per 0.8 hours of patrol
 - Weather

Fewer stops in December

- Potential drivers
 - Religious holidays
 - Weather

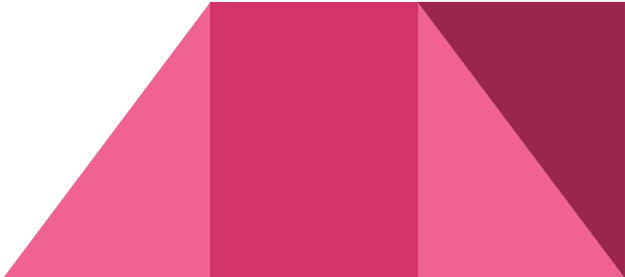


Missingness of Racial Observations

From Stanford Dataset

- Early 2011 - almost all observations include the driver's race
- Late 2014 - dramatic increase in missing race data

Public Policy Timeline

- **1999** - WI Governor Thompson created a task force on racial profiling. The task force recommended mandatory racial data collection at every stop.
 - **June 2009** - WI state legislature (controlled by Democrats) passed legislation requiring the State Patrol to record the race of all drivers stopped.
 - **January 2011** - the above legislation went into effect.
 - **February 2012** - WI state legislature (controlled by Republicans) eliminated the requirement .
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Conclusion

- Shiny app demo
- Questions?
- For more on the dataset and an extensive analysis of racial bias in Wisconsin's (and other states') law enforcement practices, see The Stanford Open Policing Project ([Link](#)).

