Understanding Charlottesville Crime

A UVA Data Science Case Study



Prompt: One of the ways that the University of Virginia keeps students informed about crime and violence in the area is through Community Alerts sent out through email. On March 18th, the 13th alert of 2023 was sent out to students (shown above) [1]. Within the past few years many students have felt that the number of alerts they have received has grown significantly. There has also been growing concern from parents about the safety of their children as they see reports of violence on the news. Concerns have been brought up in regards to gun violence specifically [2] [3] but also in other types of crime, which are described in the Charlottesville Police Department's annual reports [4]. The Charlottesville Police Department has made you the lead data scientist to investigate whether crime in Charlottesville is growing, and to identify any patterns you see, both in regards to total crime level and gun violence specifically. The department is focused on keeping students safe, and your work can inform the level of police presence at certain times.

Deliverable: Your job for this project is to perform an analysis on trends in Charlottesville crime and provide insights to the Charlottesville Police Department. Use the resources provided to analyze the data and prepare results in the form of a slideshow to present to the chief of police. For further details, see the rubric provided. All materials can be found here.

References

- [1] UVA Police Department Safety Alerts
- [2] Shootings are up in and around Charlottesville. Officials can't explain why.
- [3] UVA, Charlottesville, Albemarle Collaborate to Address Gun Violence Trends
- [4] Charlottesville Police Department (CPD) Annual Reports
- [5] Crime Data Charlottesville