Predicting crimes in Chicago

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Date: 2/24/2020

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**ABSTRACT**

This report is not affiliated with or endorsed by any organization. The findings and conclusions are for informational purposes only. The main purpose of this report is to predict future crime rates more accurately by analyzing each crime based on the previous years. This report scrutinizes crime dataset from the city of Chicago. Although the dataset contains enormous amounts of data from 2001 to current, only the data from 2016 to 2018 were used. Crime types reported in this document uses the same wording as defined by the city of Chicago. The process of wrangling and cleaning the data are described in this report. Exploratory data analysis is presented by visualizations. Applying appropriate statistical inferences to the cleaned data are introduced.

1. Introduction

* 1. **Problem Statement**

Crime data are used by law enforcement in ways where it provides predictions for resource allocation, budget formulation, planning, and other various purposes. The crime data benefits politicians, researchers, criminal justice professionals to comprehend crime and society. Also, chambers of commerce and tourism agencies review crime data to see how it impacts the particular geographic jurisdiction they serve at. The crime data are notorious by justice professionals to learn about nature, cause, and movement of crime over time.

With all that said, crime data are used in security and police work in an attempt to reduce criminal activities. Law enforcement can provide safer communities if they can foresee what type of specific crime are likely to occur at a certain time and location. Such crime data can bring us one step closer to prevent crime rather than reacting to them.

* 1. **Client - Northern District of Illinois | Department of Justice**

This report was prepared for the Northern District of Illinois - Department of Justice, who is mainly concerned about the crimes in the city of Chicago.

From this data report, the client will be able to:

1. Budget more accurately.
   1. Accurately budget sufficient money to the proper locations and programs to save money and provide safer communities.
   2. Help determine which programs in a certain community can receive criminal justice grant.
2. Efficient allocation of resources Improve resource allocation during certain time at a given location.
   1. Improve resource allocation during certain time at a given location.
   2. Determine when and where more or less police officers will be required.
3. Predictive policing and initiative assessment.
   1. Help law enforcement to anticipate increased risk of a certain crime during specific months, therefore by being able to prevent from occurring.
   2. Insight of whether a certain crime increases or decreases during specific months and implement changes if needed.
   3. **Dataset**

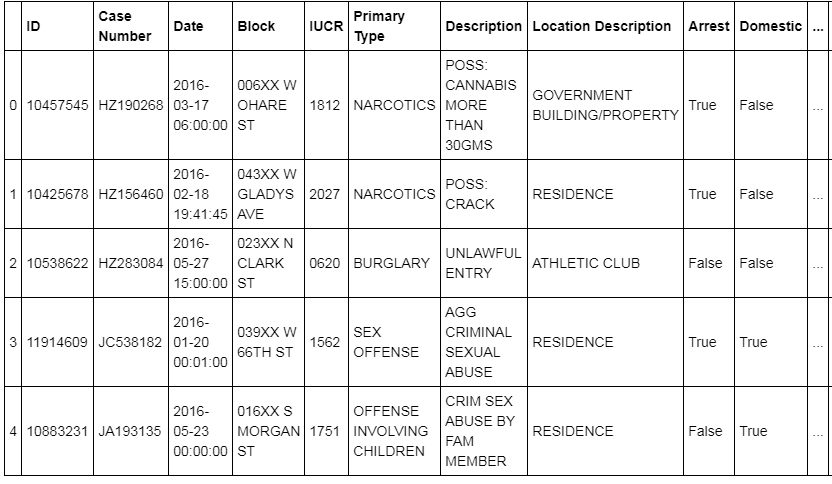
Dataset was acquired from the city of Chicago data portal (<https://data.cityofchicago.org/Public-Safety/Crimes-2001-to-present/ijzp-q8t2/data>). Data was extracted from the Chicago Police Department's CLEAR (Citizen Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting) system. This dataset reflects reported incidents of crime (with the exception of murders) that occurred in the city of Chicago from 2001 to present, minus the most recent seven day. The dataset gets updated on a daily basis.

This report analyzed the dataset from years 2016, 2017, and 2018. 2019 was not included because per dataset, these crimes may be based upon preliminary information and may be changed at a later date based upon additional investigation. Since the dataset was acquired in early January 2020, dataset of 2019 was considered to be premature. Instead, 2019 dataset will be solely processed as a test set to see if the data shows trends as predicted. 2019 test set will be acquired at a later date to reduce any false data provided by the preliminary information. Crime types will be categorized by the same way the city of Chicago reports in their dataset (called “Primary Type” in the dataset column). Each crime occurrence is recorded with the following information:

* *ID*: Unique identifier for the record.
* *Case Number*: The Chicago Police Department RD Number (Records Division Number), which is unique to the incident.
* *Date*: Date when the incident occurred. This is sometimes a best estimate.
* *Block*: The partially redacted address where the incident occurred, placing it on the same block as the actual address.
* *IUCR*: The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Code. This is directly linked to the Primary Type and Description.
* *Primary Type*: The primary description of the IUCR code.
* *Description*: The secondary description of the IUCR code, a subcategory of the primary description.
* *Location Description*: Description of the location where the incident happened.
* *Arrest*: Indicates whether an arrest was made.
* *Domestic*: Indicates whether the incident was domestic-related as defined by the Illinois Domestic Violence Act.
* *Beat*: Indicates the beat where the incident occurred. A beat is the smallest police geographic area - each beat has a dedicated police beat car. Three to five beats make up a police sector, and three sectors make up a police district. The Chicago Police Department has 22 police districts
* *District*: Indicates the police district where the incident occurred.
* *Ward*: The ward (City Council district) where the incident occurred.
* *Community Area*: Indicates the community area where the incident occurred. Chicago has 77 community areas.
* *FBI Code*: Indicates the crime classification as outlined in the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
* *X Coordinate*: The x coordinate of the location where the incident occurred in State Plane Illinois East NAD 1983 projection. This location is shifted from the actual location for partial redaction but falls on the same block.
* *Y Coordinate*: The y coordinate of the location where the incident occurred in State Plane Illinois East NAD 1983 projection. This location is shifted from the actual location for partial redaction but falls on the same block.
* *Year:* Year the incident occurred.
* *Updated On*: Date and time the record was last updated.
* *Latitude*: The latitude of the location where the incident occurred. This location is shifted from the actual location for partial redaction but falls on the same block.
* *Longitude*: The longitude of the location where the incident occurred. This location is shifted from the actual location for partial redaction but falls on the same block.
* *Location*: Combination of latitude and longitude.

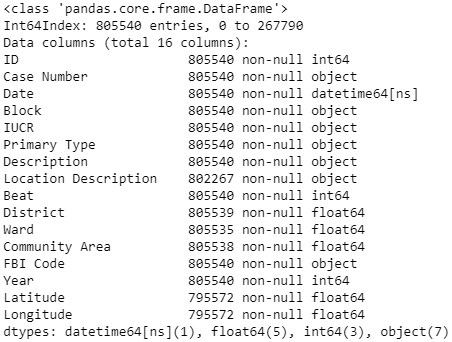
2. Data wrangling and cleaning

1. 1. **Missing values**



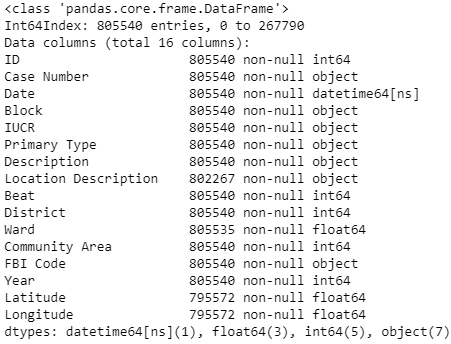
**Fig 1**. First 5 rows of the 2016, 2017, and 2018 raw dataset.

Unnecessary columns such as: *Arrest*, *Domestic*, *X* *Coordinate*, *Y* *Coordinate*, *Updated* *On*, and *Location* were dropped. Upon observing the data types for the columns (Figure 2), it was observed that *District*, *Ward*, and *Community* *Area* were in floats rather than integer which were not correct.



**Fig 2.** Data types of the columns before data wrangling and cleaning

Missing values observed in the *Location* *Description*, *Latitude* and *Longitude* were left as is since there was no way to trace the locations and its description. Prior to converting the data types, missing values had to be taken care of. There were: *District* (1), *Ward* (5), and *Community* *Area* (2) missing values. For each of these missing values, its record was searched within the dataset to look for other records with the same conditions (same *District*, *Ward*, and/or *Community* *Area*). After searching under those conditions, the missing values were then replaced by the most frequent or the only value. The data type of the columns was changed to integer afterwards. Also, it was observed that three of the *Community Area* had value of 0 which was not correct (there is no community area 0). They were replaced using the same method as the missing values.



**Fig 3.** Data types of columns after data wrangling and cleaning

* 1. **Crime types**

Upon observing all of the different crime types (Figure 4), three were dropped and one was combined to the other type. ‘Non-criminal’, ‘non-criminal (subject specified)’, and ‘non – criminal’ types were dropped due to crimes being specified as non-criminal. ‘Other narcotic violation’ was changed to ‘Narcotics’ to generalize the crime and to remove the low count sample. Afterwards, there were 29 unique crime types remaining.

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**Fig 4.** Total occurrences of all crimes from 2016, 2017, and 2018

A new dataset was generated to rearrange and count all 29 crimes by the year and the month when it occurred. Another dataset was generated to organize all 29 crimes by the year, month, hour, weekday, district, and community area occurred.

3. Initial observations

1. 1. **Crime occurrences by each year**

Upon observation of the bar graphs (see Appendix A) for the crime occurrences of all types, separated by each year, initial observations were made:

* *Arson*: Decreased over the years.
* *Assault*: Increased over the years.
* *Battery*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Burglary*: Decreased every year.
* *Concealed carry license violation*: Increased over the years.
* *Crim sexual assault*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Criminal damage*: Decreased from 2016 to 2017, but no significant difference between 2017 and 2018.
* *Criminal trespass*: No significant trend over the years
* *Deceptive practice*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Gambling*: Increased over the years.
* *Homicide*: Decreased over the years.
* *Human trafficking*: No significant trend over the years. Not enough data.
* *Interference with public officer*: No trend from 2016 to 2017, but increased from 2017 to 2018.
* *Intimidation*: Increased over the years.
* *Kidnapping*: Decreased over the years.
* *Liquor law violation*: Increased over the years.
* *Motor vehicle theft*: Increased from 2016 to 2017, but decreased in 2018.
* *Narcotics*: Decreased from 2016 to 2017, but increased in 2018.
* *Obscenity*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Offense involving children*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Other offense*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Prostitution*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Public indecency*: No significant trend over the years. Not enough data.
* *Public peace violation*: Decreased over the years.
* *Robbery*: Decreased significantly in the year of 2018 compared to the past two years.
* *Sex offense*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Stalking*: No significant trend over the years.
* *Theft*: Increased over the years.
* *Weapons violation*: Significantly increased over the years

The trend of weapons violations is very likely to be correlated with the concealed carry license violation. It would not be a surprise to see these increases in 2019. We'd also expect assault, intimidation, theft, and gambling to increase in 2019. We'd expect arson, burglary, homicide, kidnapping, public peace violation, and robbery to decrease in 2019. The difference between robbery and theft is that robbery is using a force to take another’s property. These 3 years of data shows us that while robbery has been decreasing, theft has been increasing.

* 1. **Crime occurrences by each month and year**

From visualization of the time series plot (see Appendix B), following observations were made regarding the trend between the months for all of the crime types:

* *Arson*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Assault*: Lowest occurred in January, highest occurred in May.
* *Battery*: Lowest occurred in February, highest occurred between May and July.
* *Burglary*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Concealed carry license violation*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Crim sexual assault*: Highest occurred in July.
* *Criminal damage*: Lowest occurred in February, highest occurred in July.
* *Criminal trespass*: Highest occurred between May and July
* *Deceptive practice*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Gambling*: Increased from April to July (highest), then started to decrease
* *Homicide*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Human trafficking*: No significant trend between the months. Not enough data.
* *Interference with public officer*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Intimidation*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Kidnapping*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Liquor law violation*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Motor vehicle theft*: Lowest between February and April, then increased.
* *Narcotics*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Obscenity*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Offense involving children*: Highest occurred in January.
* *Other offense*: Highest occurred in May.
* *Prostitution*: Highest occurred in April.
* *Public indecency*: No significant trend over the years. Not enough data.
* *Public peace violation*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Robbery*: Lowest occurred in February, then started to continuously increase until August (highest).
* *Sex offense*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Stalking*: No significant trend between the months.
* *Theft*: Lowest occurred in February, then started to continuously increase until August (highest). After August, it started to decrease. The trend between robbery and theft are very similar.
* *Weapons violation*: No significant trend between the months.
  1. **Crime occurrences by the hour**

Following observations were made for each crime by observing the histogram (see Appendix C).

* *Arson*: Mostly occurred between 12AM and 6AM.
* *Assault*: Increased from 6AM to 4PM (highest at 4PM) and decreased.
* *Battery*: Lowest from 5AM to 7AM. Increased from 7AM to 11PM and decreased from 11PM to 5AM.
* *Burglary*: Significantly increased from 6AM to 8AM.
* *Concealed carry license violation*: Highest between 10PM to 11PM.
* *Crim sexual assault*: Majority of the crime occurred between 12AM and 1AM.
* *Criminal damage*: No significant trend was observed.
* *Criminal trespass*: No significant trend was observed.
* *Deceptive practice*: Majority of the crime occurred between 12AM to 1AM, 9AM to 10AM, and 12PM to 1PM.
* *Gambling*: Highest between 6PM to 9PM.
* *Homicide*: No significant trend was observed.
* *Human trafficking*: Mostly occurred between 12AM to 1AM.
* *Interference with public officer*: Mostly occurred between 6PM to 9PM.
* *Intimidation*: No significant trend was observed.
* *Kidnapping*: Mostly occurred between 3PM to 7PM.
* *Liquor law violation*: Mostly occurred between 5PM to 10PM.
* *Motor vehicle theft*: Increased continuously from 5AM to 11PM.
* *Narcotics*: Mostly occurred from 10AM to 1PM and 6PM to 9PM.
* *Obscenity*: Highest between 12AM to 1AM.
* *Offense involving children*: Majority of the crime occurred from 12AM to 1AM.
* *Other offense*: No significant trend was observed.
* *Prostitution*: Mostly occurred from 6PM to 12AM.
* *Public indecency*: No significant trend was observed. Not enough data.
* *Public peace violation*: No significant trend was observed
* *Robbery*: Lowest from 4AM to 6AM. Increased from 6AM to 7PM and decreased from 7PM to 4AM.
* *Sex offense:* Highest from 12AM to 1AM.
* *Stalking*: No significant trend was observed
* *Theft*: Lowest from 7AM to 9AM. Increased from 9AM to 11PM and decreased from 11PM to 7AM.
* *Weapons violation*: Majority of the crime occurred from 6PM to 1AM.

4. Statistical data analysis

1. 1. **Shapiro-Wilk test**

Upon observation of the bar graphs (see Appendix A) for the crime occurrences of all types, separated by each year, initial observations were made:

To determine if each dataset was normally distributed, the Shapiro-Wilk test was conducted first. Since Shapiro-Wilk is based on a one-tailed test, significance level of α = 0.05 was chosen. Null hypothesis was rejected when the p-value was less than α. Null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis were:

**Shapiro-Wilk Test Hypothesis**

*H0* : The sample is a Gaussian distribution

*Ha*: The sample is not a Gaussian distribution

This hypothesis test was conducted for each crime for each year. Along with this hypothesis, the P-P plot (probability plot) was plotted to visualize and compare the empirical cumulative distribution function with a specified theoretical cumulative distribution function.

Figure 5 shows one of the results from 29 unique crime categories where the null hypothesis was failed to be rejected for 3 consecutive years. Along with the p-value, P-P plot was analyzed to confirm the normality.

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**Fig 5.** Example of a crime (other offense) where null hypothesis was failed to be rejected for 3 consecutive years

Table 1 shows the results from the Shapiro-Wilk test in which the null hypothesis was failed to be rejected. The outcome was 21 out of 29 crimes with a Gaussian distribution curve.

**Table 1.** Shapiro-Wilk test (*H0* failed to be rejected)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2016 | |  | 2017 | |  | 2018 | |
| Crime | Statistic | P |  | Statistic | P |  | Statistic | P |
| Arson | 0.98 | 0.98 |  | 0.93 | 0.42 |  | 0.91 | 0.24 |
| Assault | 0.87 | 0.07 |  | 0.91 | 0.19 |  | 0.98 | 0.96 |
| Battery | 0.93 | 0.43 |  | 0.93 | 0.40 |  | 0.96 | 0.79 |
| Burglary | 0.89 | 0.11 |  | 0.96 | 0.84 |  | 0.97 | 0.94 |
| Concealed carry license violation | 0.87 | 0.07 |  | 0.93 | 0.39 |  | 0.98 | 0.98 |
| Criminal damage | 0.94 | 0.52 |  | 0.98 | 0.97 |  | 0.93 | 0.42 |
| Deceptive practice | 0.91 | 0.20 |  | 0.91 | 0.19 |  | 0.96 | 0.81 |
| Gambling | 0.90 | 0.18 |  | 0.94 | 0.50 |  | 0.88 | 0.09 |
| Homicide | 0.97 | 0.88 |  | 0.92 | 0.28 |  | 0.94 | 0.48 |
| Interference with public officer | 0.94 | 0.54 |  | 0.94 | 0.53 |  | 0.95 | 0.64 |
| Intimidation | 0.96 | 0.83 |  | 0.90 | 0.17 |  | 0.96 | 0.77 |
| Kidnapping | 0.93 | 0.42 |  | 0.98 | 0.96 |  | 0.91 | 0.21 |
| Liquor law violation | 0.88 | 0.08 |  | 0.89 | 0.13 |  | 0.90 | 0.17 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 0.92 | 0.25 |  | 0.96 | 0.83 |  | 0.98 | 0.99 |
| Narcotics | 0.88 | 0.09 |  | 0.97 | 0.89 |  | 0.97 | 0.87 |
| Other offense | 0.91 | 0.22 |  | 0.94 | 0.44 |  | 0.96 | 0.73 |
| Public peace violation | 0.93 | 0.43 |  | 0.93 | 0.41 |  | 0.95 | 0.69 |
| Robbery | 0.94 | 0.49 |  | 0.93 | 0.40 |  | 0.98 | 0.98 |
| Sex offense | 0.95 | 0.58 |  | 0.89 | 0.12 |  | 0.88 | 0.10 |
| Theft | 0.96 | 0.76 |  | 0.97 | 0.94 |  | 0.96 | 0.73 |
| Weapons violation | 0.92 | 0.30 |  | 0.95 | 0.59 |  | 0.95 | 0.63 |

Figure 6 and 7 displays two examples where the null hypothesis was rejected for at least one of the years. P-value was smaller than α and was also confirmed by the P-P plot.

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**Fig 6.** Example of a crime (public indecency) where null hypothesis was rejected for 3 consecutive years

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**Fig 7.** Example of a crime (prostitution) where null hypothesis was rejected for one or two years

Table 2 shows the results from the Shapiro-Wilk test which the null hypothesis was rejected. The outcome was 8 out of 29 crimes with a non-Gaussian distribution.

**Table 2.** Shapiro-Wilk test (*H0* rejected)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2016 | |  | 2017 | |  | 2018 | |
| Crime | Statistic | P |  | Statistic | P |  | Statistic | P |
| Crim sexual assault | 0.96 | 0.83 |  | 0.95 | 0.65 |  | 0.85 | 0.04\* |
| Criminal trespass | 0.89 | 0.11 |  | 0.94 | 0.45 |  | 0.85 | 0.03\* |
| Human trafficking | 0.82 | 0.02\* |  | 0.73 | 0.00\* |  | 0.85 | 0.03\* |
| Obscenity | 0.79 | 0.01\* |  | 0.73 | 0.00\* |  | 0.94 | 0.53 |
| Offense involving children | 0.96 | 0.78 |  | 0.82 | 0.02\* |  | 0.90 | 0.17 |
| Prostitution | 0.85 | 0.03\* |  | 0.91 | 0.20 |  | 0.96 | 0.80 |
| Public indecency | 0.72 | 0.00\* |  | 0.81 | 0.01\* |  | 0.81 | 0.01\* |
| Stalking | 0.95 | 0.61 |  | 0.99 | 1.00 |  | 0.84 | 0.03\* |

\* p-value < 0.05.

The crimes which the *H0* failed to be rejected (Gaussian distribution) were selected to be tested for one-way ANOVA test. The crimes which the *H0* was rejected (non-Gaussian distribution) were selected to be tested for Kruskal-Wallis H test.

* 1. **One-way ANOVA test**

To determine if a certain crime had mean difference between the 3 years, one-way ANOVA test was conducted on the selected crimes (Table 1). Significance level of α = 0.05 was chosen for this test. Post hoc comparisons between the groups were not analyzed since determination of which group or groups were different was not of interest.

**One-way ANOVA Test Hypothesis**

*H0* : The sample has no statistically significant differences between the group means.

*Ha*: The sample has significant differences between the group means.

**Table 3.** One-way ANOVA test (*H0* failed to be rejected)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Crime | F-Statistic | Sig. |
| Assault | 1.31 | 0.28 |
| Battery | 0.09 | 0.91 |
| Criminal damage | 2.68 | 0.08 |
| Deceptive practice | 0.29 | 0.75 |
| Gambling | 0.02 | 0.98 |
| Intimidation | 1.82 | 0.18 |
| Kidnapping | 1.20 | 0.32 |
| Liquor law violation | 2.25 | 0.12 |
| Narcotics | 2.43 | 0.10 |
| Other offense | 0.01 | 0.99 |
| Public peace violation | 2.64 | 0.09 |
| Sex offense | 1.36 | 0.27 |
| Theft | 0.69 | 0.51 |

The crimes listed in the Table 3 (*H0* failed to be rejected) provides pretty good implication that the years in close proximity to 2016, 2017, and 2018 will have no significant differences in sample means. This is safe to assume under the assumption that no law has passed which affected a specific crime to either increase or decrease significantly.

**Table 4.** One-way ANOVA test (*H0* rejected)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Crime | F-Statistic | Sig. |
| Arson | 8.31 | 0.00 |
| Burglary | 6.34 | 0.00 |
| Concealed carry license violation | 27.54 | 0.00 |
| Homicide | 4.30 | 0.02 |
| Interference with public officer | 11.45 | 0.00 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 4.39 | 0.02 |
| Robbery | 7.55 | 0.00 |
| Weapons violation | 21.06 | 0.00 |

*H0* rejected crimes (Table 4) indicates that the group size was either too low (low crime occurrences for that crime overall) or that total count of a crime have been increasing or decreasing noticeably over the 3 years. These crimes were compared to the premature bar graph analysis. Below are the observations which were made initially:

* *Arson*: Decreased over the years.
* *Burglary*: Decreased every year.
* *Concealed carry license violation*: Increased over the years.
* *Homicide*: Decreased over the years.
* *Interference with public officer*: No trend from 2016 to 2017, but increased from 2017 to 2018.
* *Motor vehicle theft*: Increased from 2016 to 2017, but decreased in 2018.
* *Robbery*: Decreased significantly in the year of 2018 compared to the past two years.
* *Weapons violation*: Significantly increased over the years.

These initial observations provide some insights as to why the null hypothesis could have been rejected.

* 1. **Kruskal-Wallis H test**

Kruskal-Wallis H test was performed on the nonparametric crimes (Table 2) since they could not be tested via one-way ANOVA test. Post hoc comparisons between the groups were not analyzed since determination of which group or groups were different was not of interest.

**Kruskal-Wallis H Test Hypothesis**

*H0* : The population median of all of the groups are equal.

*Ha*: The population median of all of the groups are not equal.

Instead of having α level of 0.05 to be the determining factor for testing the null hypothesis, critical chi square value was chosen to be compared to H statistics. For 2 degrees of freedom and α level of 0.05, critical chi square value was 5.9915. If the critical chi-square value was less than the H statistic, null hypothesis was rejected. If the chi-square value was more than the H statistic, null hypothesis was failed to be rejected.

**Table 5.** Kruskal-Wallis H test

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crime | H-Statistic | Sig. | Critical χ2 |
| Crim sexual assault | 0.43 | 0.81 | 5.99 |
| Criminal trespass | 6.41\* | 0.04 | 5.99 |
| Human trafficking | 0.47 | 0.79 | 5.99 |
| Obscenity | 5.90 | 0.05 | 5.99 |
| Offense involving children | 0.74 | 0.69 | 5.99 |
| Prostitution | 0.42 | 0.81 | 5.99 |
| Public indecency | 1.34 | 0.51 | 5.99 |
| Stalking | 1.27 | 0.53 | 5.99 |

\* Crime which *H0* was rejected.

Note: Non-rounded critical χ2 was used for the test

* 1. **Heat map – Month, hour, and weekday correlations**

Heat maps were generated to present correlations between month vs. hour, month vs. day and weekday vs. hour (see Appendix D). From the above heatmap, it is observed that and heatmap are very similar. This indicates that the variable 'hour' is very robust in measuring the crime rates. Just because 'hour' seems to be the most significant variable, it does not mean the other two variables (Month and Weekday) can be ignored.

For example, looking at Weekday vs. Hour heatmap for the offense involving children, the crime mostly occurred on Friday, Sunday, and Monday. You could think to yourself there's no pattern between the weekdays. But looking at our calendar, 1st of January for 2016, 2017, and 2018 were Friday, Sunday and Monday respectively. By observing the other two heatmaps (Month vs. Hour and Month vs. Day), we can see that this crime mostly occurred on January 1st, between 12 AM and 1 AM.

**APPENDIX A**

Bar graphs of crime occurrences by each year

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**APPENDIX B**

Time-series plot of crime occurrences by each month and year

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**APPENDIX C**

Histogram of crime occurrences by hour

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**APPENDIX D**

Heat map correlation of month, hour, and weekday

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