Terry Stop Analysis
PROJECT PREDICTING SEATTLE ARRESTS

Sierra Stanton, May 2021

SUMMARY

Overview of Project

Data.gov has released a public dataset representing Terry Stops in Seattle, Washington, and the various factors that might influence both the original stop and the outcome of said stop. We investigated the data, both perceived and factual, in order to build classifiers that help predict whether an arrest was made and start to dig into why.

OUTLINE

Table of Contents

- Terry Stop Problem

- Data Analyzed

- Methodology

- Results

- Conclusions and Next Steps

TERRY STOP PROBLEM

There are multiple factors that influence whether an arrest was made after a stop made "with reasonable suspicion", or a Terry Stop. Let's look under the hood and build a classifier to predict whether an arrest was made and why.

DATA ANALYZED

- **Data.gov's** Terry Stop dataset: each row in this set represents records of police reported stops under guidelines from the landmark Terry v. Ohio case. Each row represents a unique stop and contains perceived demographics of the subject, as reported by the officer making the stop and officer demographics as reported to the Seattle Police Department.
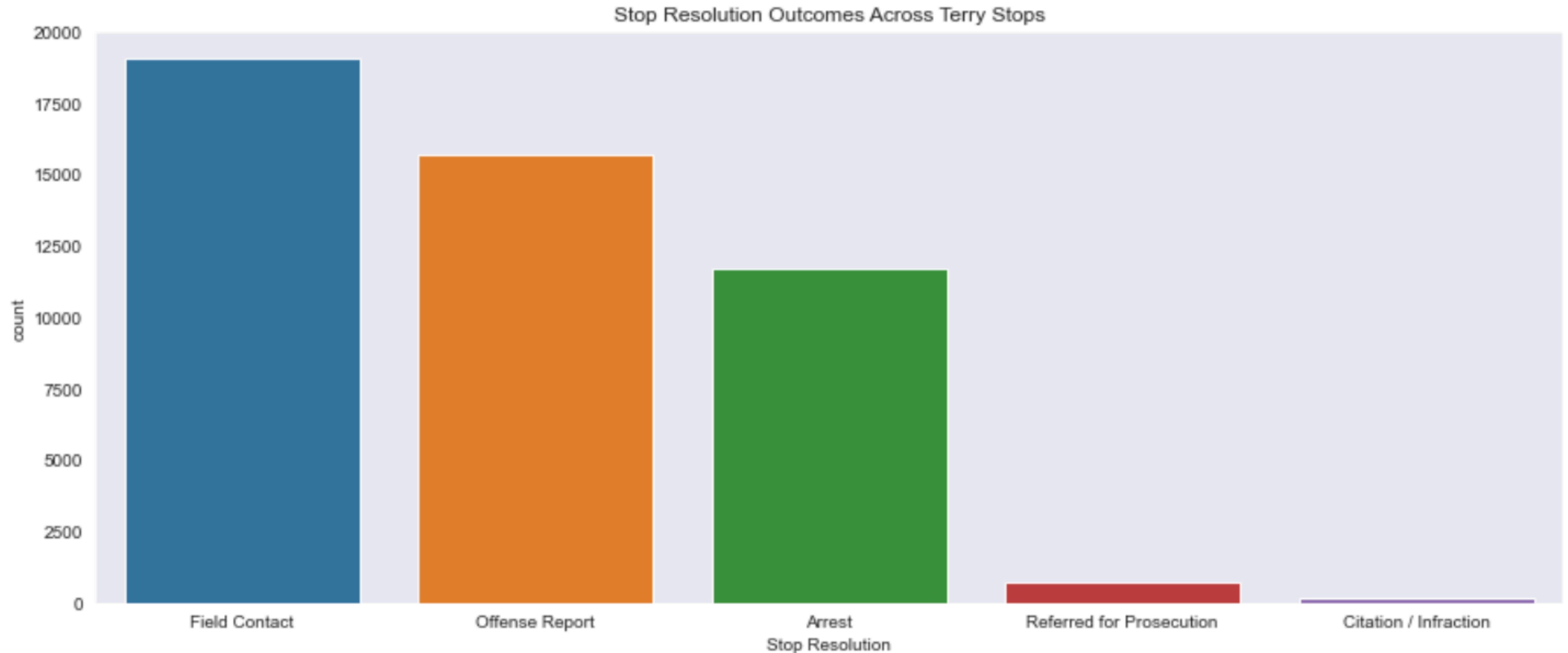
METHODOLOGY

We extracted and cleaned Terry stop data in order to build increasingly effective predictors of whether an arrest would be made based on an officer's perceived information. This included running multiple model iterations of both logistic regression and decision trees in order to fine tune these predictions. We also investigated the relevant stop data to develop interesting findings.
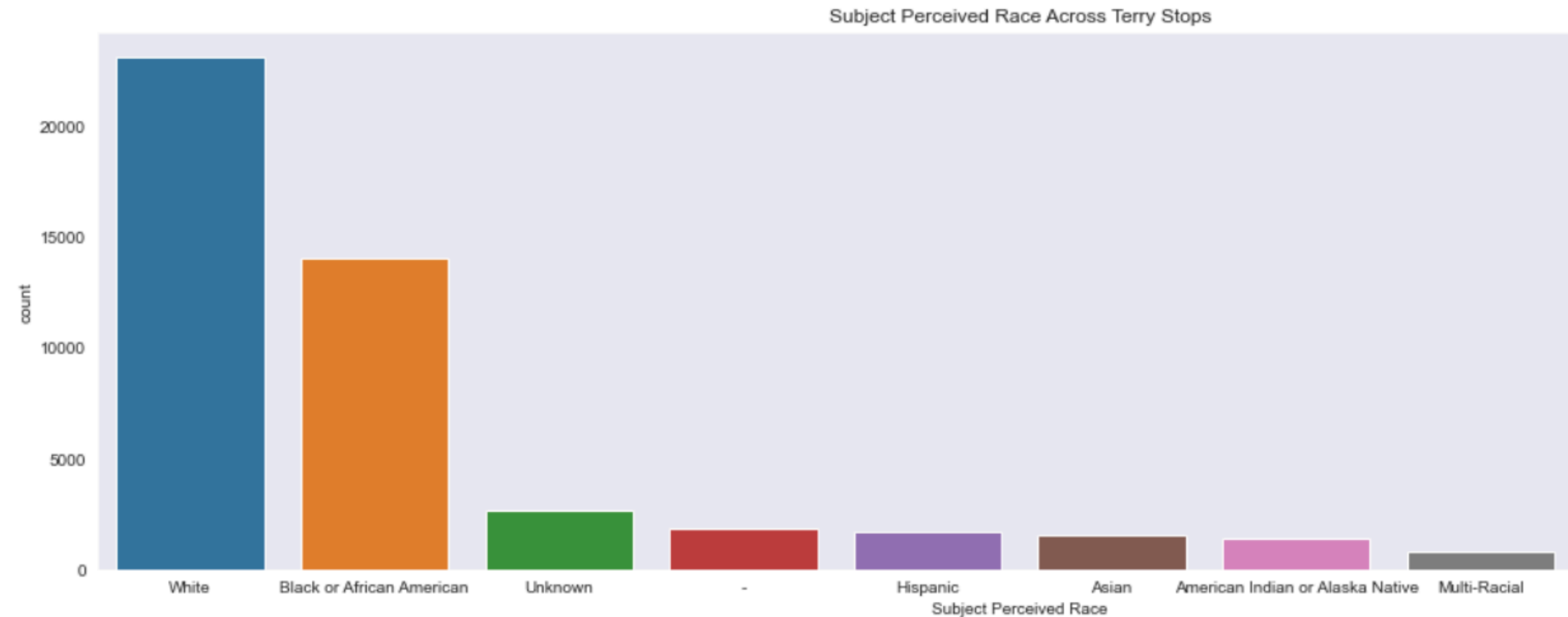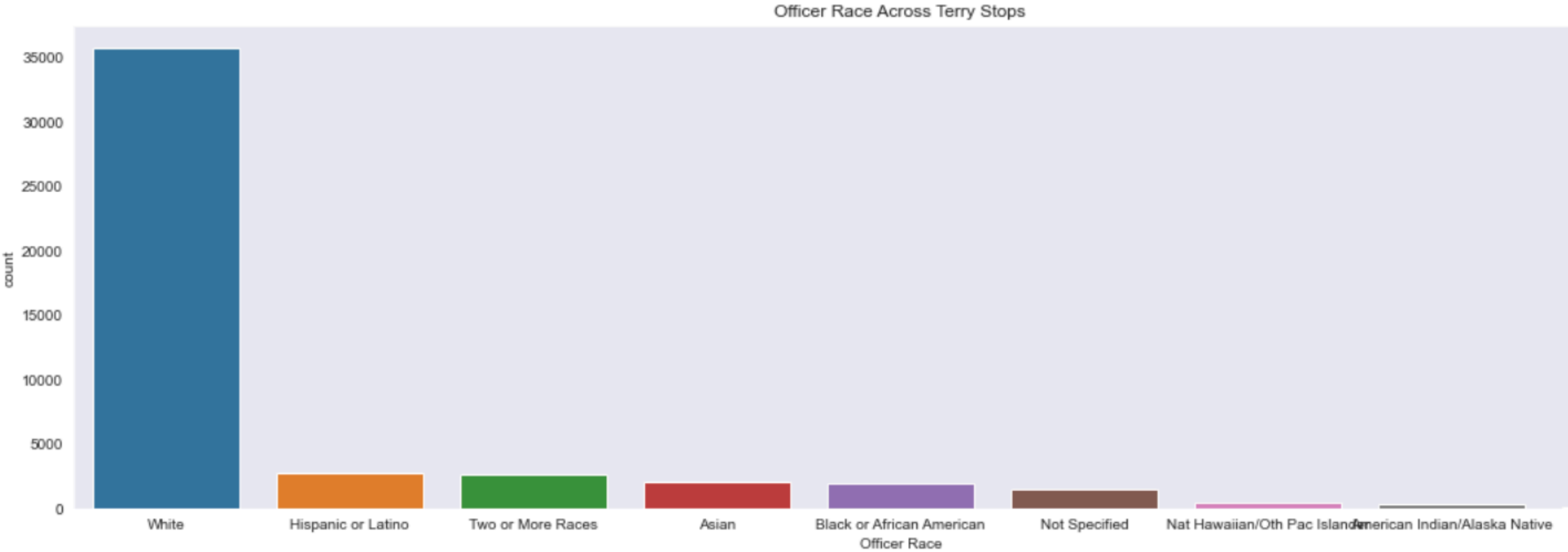
RESULTS

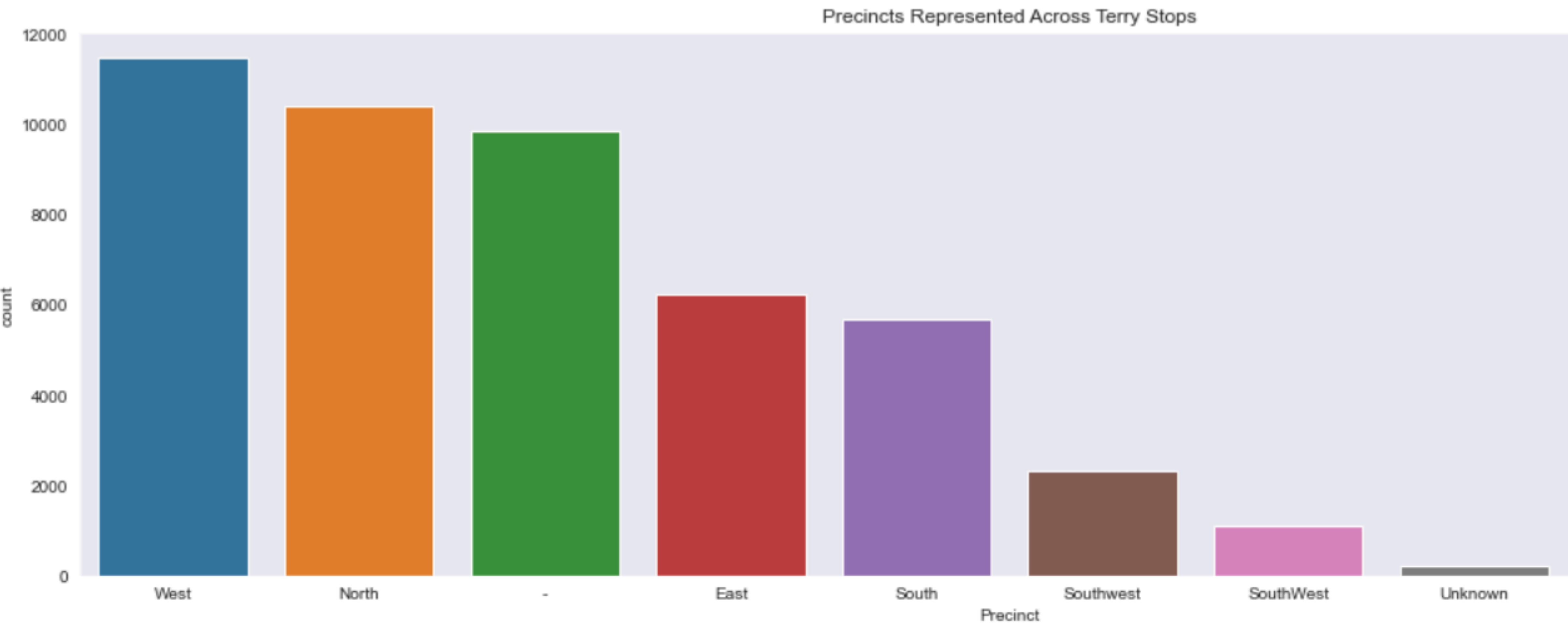When initially exploring stop data, we came up with multiple interesting findings.

Stop Resolution Outcomes Across Terry Stops

RESULTS

Subject Perceived Race Across Terry Stops

RESULTS

Officer Race Across Terry Stops

RESULTS

Precincts Represented Across Terry Stops

CONCLUSIONS

- The amount of Terry Stops made depending on the neighborhood in Seattle varies widely and doesn't accurately reflect city population

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THANK YOU!

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