

The Repos: Factors that Help Diagnose Autism

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Topic, Motivation & Research Question

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a highly prevalent condition—2.2% of adults are affected by it and there is growing awareness (Hirota, 2023).
- Most screening tests are inaccurate—lots of false negatives and lack of predictive value (Aishworiya, 2023; Curnow, 2023).

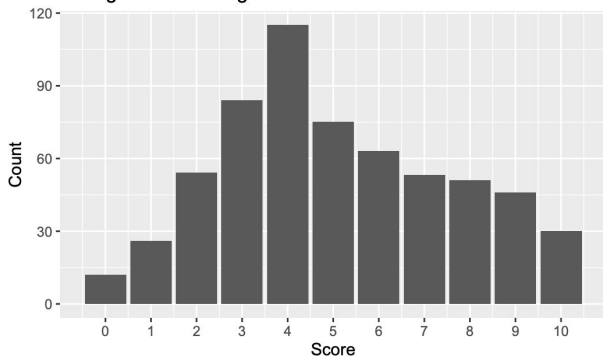
Can we generate a
better diagnostic
model?

Dataset

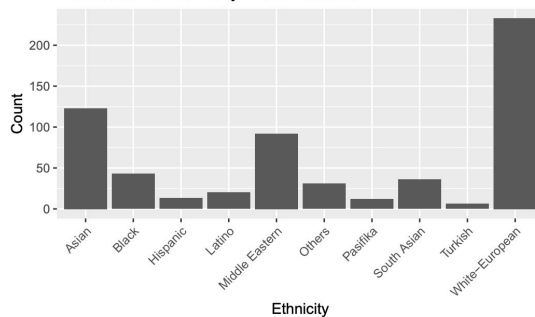
- UCI Machine Learning Repository (2017) Professor Fadi Fayeze Thabtah from the Manukau Institute of Technology in New Zealand
 - Sourced from his app **ASDTests** – screens for Autism using 10 questions
-
- 704 observations and 20 features
 - 10 features are questions
 - 10 are individual characteristics
 - Presence of autism is generally categorized at a six or higher

Univariate EDA

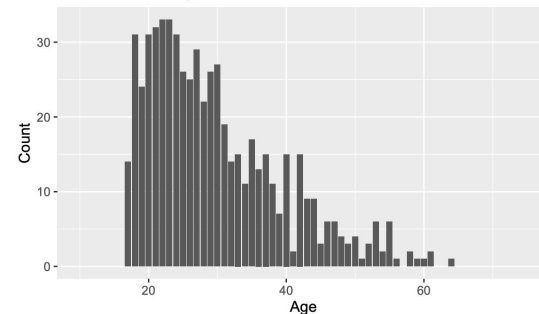
Histogram of Scoring Result



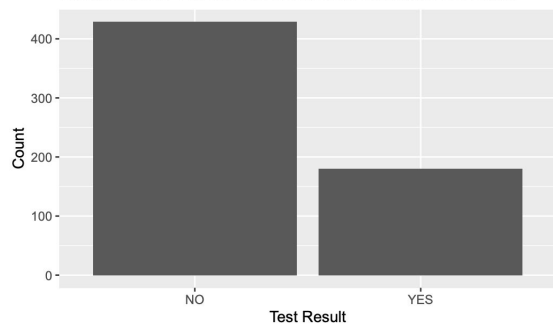
Distribution of Ethnicity in the Dataset



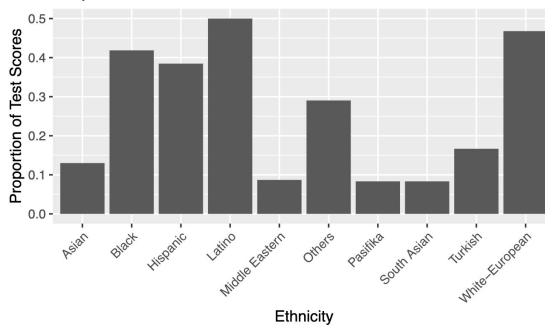
Distribution of Age in the Dataset



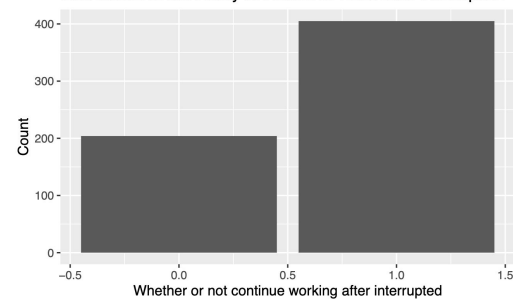
Distribution of Whether or not Result Indicative of Autism



Proportion of Indicative Test Scores

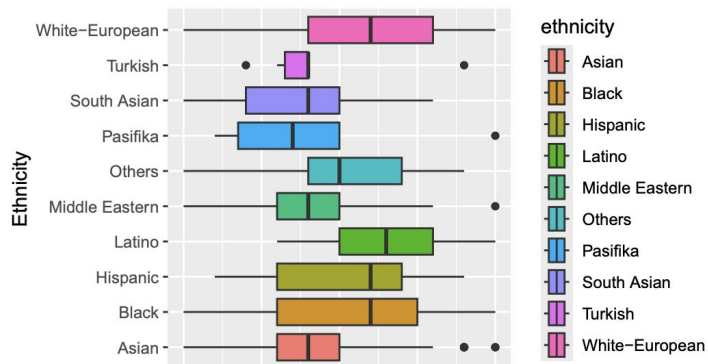


Distribution of the Ability to Return to Work after Interruption

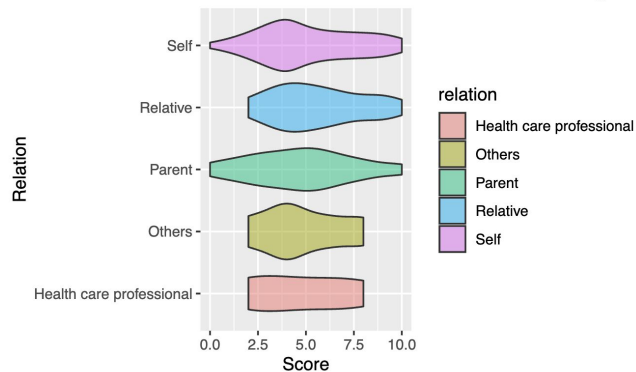


Bivariate EDA

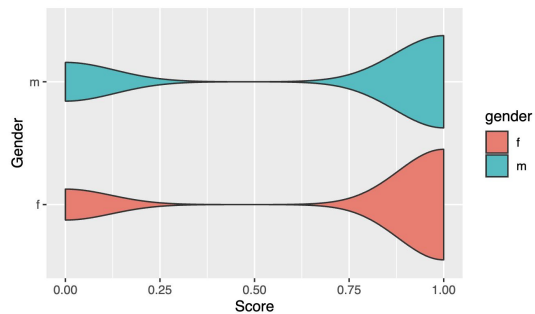
Distribution of Scores Across Ethnicity



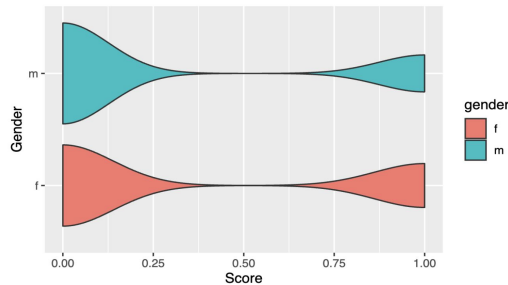
Distribution of Scores Across Person Filling Test



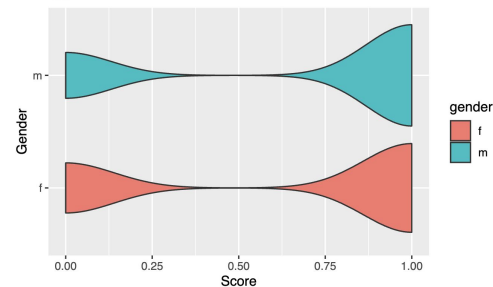
Q1



Q6



Q8



Next Steps:

- Can we detect any differences in the answer distributions for different age groups?
- Further investigation of relationship of the test taker to the subject of the quiz and the subject's score – how does this impact answers to specific questions, and also how does the ethnicity or gender of the subject affect these distributions?
- Distributions of answers across all questions for subjects of different ethnicities – are there specific questions on the test that leads to these disparities between score distributions?