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COGS 212

Course Project Proposal

Intellectual Merit

My primary research question is the following: Are Disney parks safer than other amusement parks? An additional line of inquiry is whether the “danger level” varies across other characteristics, such as time of year or age of park visitor. There is a commonly known idea – whether fact or fiction – that nobody has ever died at Disneyland. Now, although this idea is explicitly about Disneyland, I think that this notion has certainly carried across the remainder of the Disney parks. There is this idea that Disney parks are the “Happiest place[s] on Earth” and nothing can go wrong. Other theme parks, such as Universal Studios Orlando, are not privy to this line of thinking. Therefore, it would be interesting to explore which park experiences the greatest number of injuries or incidents.

Broader Impacts

This question would get at a public safety concern. The amount of risk of injury at an amusement park (or any other space or event) should be a key component of a person’s decision to attend the amusement park. Currently, there may be a slight disillusionment about the safety of attending a Disney Park. Even if Disney parks are determined to be safer than other amusement parks, quantifying the number of incidents at these parks should be a public safety interest.

Data and Methods

## I will be using a dataset called “Universal/Disney World Incident Data (2002-2022)” from kaggle.[[1]](#footnote-1) This dataset has data on the number of reported incidents at both Walt Disney World and Universal Studios Orlando in addition to other characters related to the incident, such as age of victim, gender of victim, incident date, and the ride where the incident occurred. Therefore, this data set should be able to at least let me begin to investigate my question. My analysis will likely be largely exploratory, though I may run an OLS regression as well. In this regression, my dependent variable would be number of incidents and my main independent variable will be which park the incident occurred at. There are several factors, such as what my temporal unit will be, that will need to be determined prior to analysis. This can be determined once I have begun exploring the data and data documentation.

1. https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/aaronjones32/universalwdw-incident-data-20022022 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)