



Crime Data in LA 2020

Members: Maddie, Max, Olivia, Daniel, Anna

Introduction

- This project focuses on LAPD Crime Data from 2020 to the present. This dataset can be described in general terms as reported crime and arrest data, including place, crime, victim's details, etc.
- Our dataset included about 1,000,000 rows of data, so narrowed it down to a randomized group of 250 cases, which came from the year 2022.
- We are analyzing this data under Porier's deconstructive method, and Koopman's macro-level formatting.



+

+

Problem Statement

Investigating potential biases and external factors in the collection of data that could cause an inaccurate analysis of the relationship between sex and crime. We have multiple variables to look at for analysis of this dataset, such as crime intensity and sex. Crime intensity is ranked by numbers, with lower numbers indicating more violent crimes according to this dataset. We intend to analyze the validity of this system and question the way this data is categorized.

+



+

Research Question & Hypothesis

What does this data tell us about the relationship between sex and nature/frequency of criminal activity?

We hypothesize that the portion of crimes committed against women will involve more crimes and more violent crimes.

+

+



Dataset: Gender

There are over a million lines of data in our set, so we chose to look at only 250.

Using a random number generator, our data are picked the group of lines: 612,789 - 613,039.

- Percentage of **Women** (victims) in our dataset: **42.1 %**
- Percentage of **Men** (victims) in our dataset: **37.2 %**
- Percentage of **Unknown Gender** (victims) in our dataset: **8 %**
- Percentage of crimes with **no known victim** in our dataset: **13.6 %**

Based on our dataset, we can theorize that more crimes happen to **women** overall than to **men**.



Dataset: Violence

In our dataset, the violence of the crimes are given a number (Crm Cd), which range from 110-956. Additionally, we identified that certain crimes have specific codes universally across LAPD's datasets. For example, simple assault is always identified by 624.

We decided to identify and analyse those less than 250 as overly violent crimes.

- Percentage **Women** (victims) in our dataset with overly-violent crimes committed against them: **9.71 %**
- Percentage **Men** (victims) in our dataset with overly-violent crimes committed against them: **20.43 %**
- Percentage **Unknown Gender** (victims) in our dataset with overly-violent crimes committed against them: **0 %**

Based on our dataset, **men** had seemingly more violent crimes committed against them than **women** overall.



Method Statement

Our experiment will involve questioning how the data was collected and constructed, if there is any noticeable missing data or bias with focus on crimes committed by women compared to other sexes and the violence of their crimes. For our analysis, we will be utilizing the deconstructive method because it works best with our dataset.

**my shonen, do you
need the method?**



Koopman: Format Anatomies

Using Koopman's anatomies of system-level format architectures, we wanted to focus on what this data set indicates on a macro scale, systematically.

The macro level asks us to examine the assumptions within the systems that data is collected:

- What is defined as severe crime compared to less severe?
- What level of trust do we have in the accuracy of crime reports?
- What assumptions do we make about identity-based social structures on the information given?



The flaws we noticed in our deconstructive analysis pointed at potential discrepancies in the categorization of crime severity. We can take this and begin to think of the systemic implications of such miscalculations and what this may indicate for other large-scale datasets. For instance, these classifications could point to an error within the system of formulating and enforcing crime codes.



Poirier: Deconstructive

Through deconstructing the dataset, we noticed a few gaps in the information given, The set we looked at is missing the perpetrator's sex. This is an oversight because knowing the sex of those committing these crimes would give us key information about the sociological implications of this data.

- As noted before, more severe crimes generally have lower "CRM CD", crime code, typically in the 100-200 level. Whereas, less severe ones are indicated with a higher code, 400+ level

We noticed flaws in the classification of some of the criminal activity. Some crimes were reported at a high level of seriousness, that appear less serious, whereas some were classified as less severe when they appeared more so.

- + - For example, an instance of child abuse was classified as 627, whereas a stolen bike was classified as 480.

-
This brings into question how the severity of these crimes are being measured and what system/entity is being used to determine these codes.

- We discovered that the California State legislature creates and passes penal codes
- Potential reform enlies in who Californians elect to legislative positions



Discussion

The data samples we took proved our hypothesis somewhat correct and somewhat false. We hypothesized that there would be more female victims of crimes and that those crimes would tend to be more violent in nature. Our data showed us that there was a greater number of women victims, however, violent crimes were more likely to have male victims.

- It's important to acknowledge the potential inaccuracies that arise from this sample. The pieces of data all came from the year 2022. This was the first year of relative “normalcy” after COVID-19 which may have impacted the nature and frequency of crime. Likewise, a randomized set of data isn't necessarily indicative of the data set as a whole.
- A 2014 investigation found close to 1,200 incorrectly recorded violent crimes as nonviolent. Without making any assumptions, we can take this information into account when thinking about our dataset's classifications.

Rubin, J., & Poston, B. (2014, August 10). *LAPD misclassified nearly 1,200 violent crimes as minor offenses*. Los Angeles Times.



Thank you!



+

+