HOME OFFICE
Analysis of Police Data on Child Sexual Abuse

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Introduction

My Q-Step internship was spent at the Home Office in Westminster, conducting social research in the Crime and Policing Analysis Unit. This was using secondary data that was collected by the police forces in England and Wales. The data will then be passed on to the Office for National Statistics, where it will be published in the following year.

This to a reader would be very easy to make comparisons, and see the maximum and minimum values in the results.

Additionally, I produced a time series to have a visual representation of how the levels of police errors changes throughout the year. I was mindful to make sure that the months January, February and March came last in the time series as the Home Office separate their data by tax year.

Results

Since the data is being published next year, unfortunately I am unable to include the results and provide my analysis.

Key Skills Learnt

Objectives

The project was to look at the level of error made by police officers when noting down Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) related crime. This was looking at previous tax year (April 2018 – Mar 2019). The data was direct from the police forces database therefore it should be a valid source.

The aim for this project is to improve police precision and validity when noting down crimes. This is because various contributing factors can affect police officers such as fatigue, understaffing , or busy periods due to the time of the year.

Method

To determine if the police had made an error with recording CSA/ CSE crimes, I looked at crime codes that were gender or age specific and checked if the characteristics of the victim matched the case code. For example; Sexual Assault of A Female Child Under 16, should have characteristics of female and an age of 15 and under.

The data pulled from the police database was in the form of Excel spreadsheets, this was separated by month. My job was to eliminate the crime codes that were not gender or age specific, as I was not able to infer if there were any mistakes with the police recording and compile them all into one Excel sheet for the tax year. Then I calculated the total and proportion of incorrect case recordings and grouped the police forces by regions in England and Wales. Followed by creating a bar chart and placing the bars in order of greatest to smallest.

Due to this internship, I have been able to get my Excel skills to an expert level. I have also been able to talk to colleagues and learn a lot about next steps after I graduate. I was able to watch the work of top Social Researchers, Economists and Operational Researchers. This has been very beneficial as I have been exposed to many opportunities. This experience has made me more confident with quantitative methods and it is very likely that it will be involved in my dissertation this year.

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Q-Step

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