

# Minority Report: Racial/Ethnic Group Concentration and Sex Offense Reports in Arkansas, 2018

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Over the years, crime as a whole has been decreasing in the United States, however, that doesn't mean all crime has stopped. In fact, specific crimes such as sex offenses are increasing, the FBI reports that there was a near 20 percent increase in the number of reported rapes since 2013, and Arkansas is not exempt from this (Uniform Crime Report, 2017). There is a distinction between different types of violent crime that can influence the number of reports. Crimes such as homicide are discovered by the police, committed in public, or reported by bystanders, whereas, crimes such as sex offenses are generally less public and are typically dependent on victim reporting. This distinction can cause variation in the data and reasoning behind why one crime can be increasing while others are decreasing. Many theories have

attempted to explain, predict, and reduce these crime rates and this paper continues this work by using the theories of subculture and strain to explain sex offense reports and includes crime data from the year 2018. The purpose of this paper is to analyze what places in Arkansas have the highest reports of violent crime and sex offense reports and then use strain and subculture theory to exploit confounding variables (demographics) that may be correlated with the increase in reports. The dependent variable of sex offenses (forcible rape and forcible sodomy) will be looked at in relation to the independent variable of demographics which includes race, ethnicity, and foreign-born persons.

Although the crime rates in Arkansas as a whole are high, there are some counties and cities within the state where crime is almost non-existent. This is a complex structure that is explained by a variety of concepts but, before we make the connection about what causes the increase of crime reports in certain places, we must first ask the question of where are these high crime rate areas and where are the low rate areas? The tables below show that there is an issue of violent crime happening in the state of Arkansas with the top city having a rate of 5458.93 in a single year.

Table 1. Top and Bottom Counties with High Reports of Violent Crime and Sex Offense Reports in Arkansas (2018).

Violent Crime Rates, Top 5 AR Counties	Violent Crime Rates, Bottom 5 AR Counties	Sex Offense Report Rates, Top 5 AR Counties	Sex Offense Report Rates, Bottom 5 AR Counties
Ouachita 4257.13	Perry 348.77	Boone 184.47	Lafayette .00
Philips 4223.14	Pike 384.07	Stone 174.40	Chicot 9.55

Crittenden 3973.56	Nevada 400.94	Woodruff 154.51	Union 10.23
Pulaski 3819.04	Montgomery 477.82	Izard 146.38	Baxter 16.96
Jefferson 3684.78	Lincoln 479.14	Randolph 143.04	Columbia 17.06

Table 2. Top and Bottom Cities with High Reports of Violent Crime and Sex Offense Reports in Arkansas (2018).

Violent Crime Rates, Top 5 AR Cities	Violent Crime Rates, Bottom 5 AR Cities	Sex Offense Report Rates, Top 5 AR Cities	Sex Offense Report Rates, Bottom 5 AR Cities
Little Rock 5458.93	Fayetteville w/UA 102.29	Wayne 189.71	Bryant 9.64
Blytheville 5186.74	Malvern 499.68	Centerton 175.78	Lowell 10.50
Pine Bluff w/UAPB 5045.62	Lowell 525.10	Pocahontas 164.81	Maumelle 10.90
Jacksonville 4742.38	Bella Vista 586.85	Arkadelphia w/HSU 131.49	DeQueen 15.18
Camden 4586.40	Magnolia w/SAU 778.99	Monticello w/UAM 124.61	North Little Rock 22.58

The tables above show how the extent and distribution of the dependent variable of sex offense reports throughout the state of Arkansas. There are obvious high amounts of sex offenses being reported in different areas but there are also significantly low amounts. Now that we are aware of these differences, we can use it to better

understand the trends and reasons why sex offense reports are higher in some areas and non-existent in others.

The purpose of this study is not only to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between demographics and sex offense reports but also to fill in gaps of existing knowledge by uncovering the answers to this study's main research questions, which include 'What is the relationship between demographics (race, ethnicity, and foreign-born persons) and sex offense reports?', 'Does a higher concentration of marginalized populations increase the susceptibility to sex offense reports?' and 'How does the underreporting of sex offenses impact the data and results?' By answering these questions, this study seeks not only to understand the relationship between demographics and sex offense reports but also to uncover trends, correlations, and confounding variables attached to reports of sex offenses. After uncovering these correlations, we will be better able to understand why people may commit sex offenses, predict the areas where sex offense reports are more prominent, and overall work towards the possibility of reducing these crime rates on both the micro and macro levels.

The methodological approaches used for this study included the research of existing data derived from either the UCA Library database or Google Scholar. The American Crime Information Center (ACIC) and Census Quick Facts (CQF) databases were used to compile a comprehensive list of all violent crime in Arkansas in the year 2018. The SPSS database was also used for a variety of analyses including running frequencies that measured the independent variables of race, ethnicity, foreign-born persons, and the dependent variable of reported sex offenses to find the rates, mean, median, mode, minimum, and maximum. Also using SPSS, a new variable of sex offenses was computed for the purposes of this study that included the combined number of reports of forcible sodomy and forcible rapes for the year 2018 and then compiled them into rates. Three bivariate correlations

were run to test the relationship between the independent and dependent variables as well as an outlier procedure.

### **Literature Review: Findings from Published Research**

#### Sex Offenses

When looking at violent offenses, one of the most serious yet unreported crimes is sex offenses. Many believe sex offenses consist of only rape, however, there is another aspect called forcible sodomy. Although these are both quite similar, it is important to know and understand the differences no matter how slight. Forcible rape is defined today as “the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim” (United States Department of Justice, 2012). This definition was conducted by the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Summary Reporting System (SRS) in 2012, however, it has not always been so inclusive. Forcible rape was originally seen as a crime committed against a person’s property, was limited to unmarried women who have been forced to have sexual intercourse by a man, the perpetrator and the victim could not have any prior sexual history, and there was a requirement of proof that must be presented (Kruttschnitt, Kalsbeek, & House, 2014). The complete definition of rape in 1962 was “sexual intercourse with a female, not his wife, by force or threat of severe harm (Kruttschnitt, Kalsbeek, & House, 2014). The definition of rape changed prior to 2012 and stated that rape occurred when “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will” (United States Department of Justice, 2014). Since 2012, the definition has evolved into becoming more inclusive in regards to gender, objects, consent, circumstances, etc. The new definition includes “penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person,

without consent of the victim” (United States Department of Justice, 2014).

When looking at sex offense reports, there are two types: forcible or nonforcible. Forcible offenses include rape, sodomy, as well as, sexual assault with an object and fondling. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) defines forcible offenses as “any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent” (United States Department of Justice, 2012). In regards to forcible sodomy, it is a crime that is similar to rape, except it is only exclusive to anal or oral sex. NIBRS (2012) provides a definition of forcible sodomy and describes it as “oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will or not forcibly or against the person’s will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.” Although forcible rape is the most commonly known sex offense, forcible sodomy is just as dangerous and is now considered a part of the rape definition by NIBRS. As mentioned previously, not only did NIBRS change the definition of rape in 2012 but also expanded it to include three sex offenses: rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object (United States Department of Justice, 2014).

Sex offenses are known to be significantly underreported by the population, especially by minorities, with about 50 to 90 percent of all rapes being unreported (Gise & Paddison, 1988). It is said that only 15.8 to 35 percent of all sexual assaults are reported to the police and as a result, 97 percent of rapists will not receive any jail time (Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2013). There are many reasons why victims of sex offenses will choose not to report including stigmas, racism, fear of the justice system, personal connection to the offender, not wanting family/friends to know, unsure how, fear of retaliation,

belief that the police would not do anything to help, and many more reasons (Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2013; RAINN, 2020).

Underreporting of sex offenses are seen to be the most prevalent among women and minorities throughout the United States. Although this has been an issue for centuries, it recently came to light in 2006 when the “Me Too” movement was created. The Me Too Movement was created to encourage, support, and provide hope in those who have been victims of sexual assault (Shaw & HaeNim, 2019). This movement created an opening for those to speak up about their stories and in return, thousands of people came forwards and it became a viral movement. This movement paved the way for research and investigations to be opened up on sex offenses and launched a parallel issue about the treatment of minorities in the criminal justice system. This movement also revealed the issue of severe underreporting of sex offenses. There has been history as to why females and minorities may refrain from reporting. Females in the past were told by police, judges, and jurors that they would “ask for it” because their clothes were tight, that they were lying, or it happened simply because they were a woman and these prejudices still exist today. This could be a reason why females do not trust the authorities to take the report and why some may not take the cases seriously.

Similarly, racism also plays a role in why minorities may not report sex offenses. A study surrounding African American sexual assault survivors revealed that many minorities will not report due to stereotyping, victim-blaming, and past experience of racism by police (Weist, Pollitt-Hill, Kinney, Anthony, & Wilkerson, 2007). These results also showed that 35 percent of African American women were “dissatisfied or very dissatisfied” with their interactions with the police (Weist, et al, 2007). It is prevalent that sex offenses are an issue within the populations of minorities and women, however, these barriers only

further the issue of underreporting and until the underlying issues are resolved, reporting will continue to below.

Although individuals in a community are less likely to report sex offenses, the same can be said for the agencies throughout the country. Most crime data is taken into account and compiled using the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), however, this data is self-reported by each agency, so there is a high chance that these crimes could either be not reported at all or the data could be changed to reflect a "better fitting" number (Post, Mezey, Maxwell, & Wilbert, 2002). There is also the issue of different definitions of sex offenses being used throughout agencies, which can "lead to confusion as to which crimes actually involved rape and sexual assault" (Schneider & Wiersema, 1990, P. 27). To add to the issue of underreporting, the UCR does not compile the crime of rape that results in homicide into the classification of a sex offense due to the hierarchical rule used by the FBI (Post, Mezey, Maxwell, & Wilbert, 2002). All of these factors that contribute to the underreporting or unreliable data of sex offenses are what make it difficult to count, track, penalize, and prevent these crimes.

#### Race/Ethnicity.

Upon the examination of crime, race and ethnicity will always play a large factor in its prevalence. Minorities are seen to be the most susceptible to offending, the African American population has the highest crime rates and occurrences of deviant behavior across most crime categories and Hispanic populations are the seen to be the second-highest (Rubbenstein, 2016; Ulmer, Harris, & Steffenmier, 2012). Although minorities have the highest violent crime rates compared to the Caucasian race (Dondanville, 2017), there are structural and social disparities that must be acknowledged. This link can be explained by previous research which states that minorities are subject to "poverty and unemployment, educational inequality, residential segregation, social disorganization, subcultural adaptations to disadvantage, and the

legacy of racism and discrimination on behavior” (Ulmer, Harris, & Steffenmier, 2012). Poverty levels and crime often go hand in hand, low levels often “force or encourage” deviant or risky behavior which can lead to crime, and because Black and Hispanic populations are also seen to be twice as likely to be impoverished, their risk of engaging in crime increases. Many people living below the poverty line may turn to criminal activity in order to make money instead of a job because of the lack of resources available to them. (Dondanville, 2017).

Another aspect of the race/ethnicity populations that must be addressed is the foreign-born persons or immigrant population. It is said that where an influx of immigrants is present, the crime in that area also increases. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) adds data to this statement by showing 20 percent of inmates in prisons and jails are both legal and illegal immigrants (Vaughan & Camarota, 2009). Sutherland (1901) explained that although data, at the time, showed crime rates having higher levels among foreign-born immigrants than native-born he was still doubtful. The reason for Sutherland and many other researchers’ skepticism is due to the social prejudice and disadvantages that many immigrants face that could cause a rise in crime rates. One explanation of this is the tendency for foreign-born people to settle in already disadvantaged areas. This alone can cause “economic disadvantage, a culture of conflict between new arrivals and native residents, breakdown in formal and informal social controls, and underclass norms favorable to violation of the law” (MacDonald, Hipp, & Gill, 2013). There is also the issue of stereotyping that is seen among the Black and Hispanic populations. There is a socially constructed ideal that those who are foreign-born are more likely to cause crime, a study done by the National Opinion Research Center showed that “73 percent of Americans believed that immigration is causally related to more crime” (Rumbaut, 2008). In relation to all minorities, including foreign-born persons, there is a clear connection between those populations and

crime, however, what people may fail to overlook is that minorities have disadvantages that increase their risk of engaging in deviant behavior.

### **Literature Review: Theoretical Assumptions**

For this study, the independent variables of race, ethnicity, and foreign-born persons will be looked at in relation to the dependent variable of sex offense reports. Some criminological theories, such as strain and subculture, could help explain why some places may have higher reports of sex offenses and if the demographics of a person also plays a role. Robert Agnew developed General Strain Theory which states that members of society must achieve goals, however, there are many factors that “block” people from achieving those goals and thus imposes a strain on the individual (Colbert, 2004). The reaction to this strain can oftentimes create negative feelings, such as anger, which could then lead to illegitimate ways to achieve those goals. According to strain theory, members of society, largely based on their class position, “are driven to delinquency in order to achieve goals that they are denied through legitimate channels (Segrave & Hastad, 1985). When looking at groups of those who are classified as minorities, they are subject to higher amounts of strain than the majority of the population and thus could result in more deviant behavior. Research shows that lower socioeconomic populations are more subject to delinquent behavior and “lower status adolescents are more likely to perceive a blockage of access to legitimate opportunities than their middle or upper-class contemporaries” (Segrave & Hastad, 1985).

Subculture theory also plays a role in explaining sex offense reports and demographics (Blackman, 2014). Subculture theory is defined as “a set of moral beliefs, values, norms, and customs associated with a relatively distinct social subsystem (a set of interpersonal networks and institutions) existing within a larger social system and

culture (Fischer, 1975). This means that the greater the association with delinquent others, the greater the likelihood of “differential association” with definitions conducive to delinquency (Segrave & Hastad, 1985). The independent variables of race, ethnicity, and foreign-born persons are all considered a subculture with their own set of values and attitudes that could be related to crime. Race subculture, in terms of minorities, can have an increased susceptibility to crime. Research shows that the disadvantages minorities face will “help to spawn subcultural patterns, such as a “Code of the Streets” that fosters violence, that distinguish minorities from white communities in particular (Ulmer, Harris, & Steffensmeier, 2012).

When looking at members of strained groups and/or race and ethnic subcultures, there is diminished credibility of those members caused by blocked means and/or opportunities. Those who are minorities or who live in places of poverty are at a disadvantage and because of this, they are seen to be “lesser” or “uncredible” because they may not have the education or careers that amount to society’s ideal of success. This lack of credibility plays a role in law enforcement due to its interruption of police-community relations. It is said that it is difficult to prosecute crime because of the “diminishing credibility that we have in the community, particularly in relation to these individuals in these groups, low-income, minority groups” (United States Congress, 1973). This distrust against the people in strained groups can lead to returned distrust against the police. Research shows that minorities are most likely to distrust and be suspicious of law enforcement and report that police “disproportionately single them out because of their race or ethnicity” (National Institute of Justice, 2013). If the police do not trust people because of their race, ethnicity, and social class and people in strained groups do not trust the police because of past negative interactions, it can undermine the entire legitimacy of law enforcement. When there is mistrust between the community and the police, it can

lead to less reporting of crimes, fewer witnesses coming forward, more arrests of minorities, and many other negative factors.

### **Hypotheses**

H1: Communities that have a higher proportion of individuals in minority groups are more susceptible to having higher rates of sex offense reports.

H2: Communities that have a higher proportion of residents that are Black are more susceptible to having higher rates of sex offense reports.

H3: Communities that have a higher proportion of residents that are Hispanic are more susceptible to having higher rates of sex offense reports.

H4: Communities that have a higher proportion of residents that are Foreign-Born are more susceptible to having higher rates of sex offense reports.

### **Methods**

In order to test this theory, first, the “problematic” subcultures must be identified through a series of correlations tested against the rate per 100,000 of sex offense reports (forcible rape and forcible sodomy). Next, a measurement will be taken to test the saturation of these subcultures in various jurisdictions across Arkansas. Finally, with the support of strain and subculture theories, it is hypothesized that there will be a correlation between these “problematic” subcultures and the amount of sex offenses that were reported in that community. These data used in the analysis were extracted from existing statistics collected from various databases including the Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC), Census Quick Facts (CQF), and the American Community Survey (Census). These data were collected as part of a larger project where multiple contributors were involved by collecting and recording data which was compiled into a group statistical analysis

file (SPSS). All data used in this analysis was checked for validity to ensure the data is free of errors. It is important to note that there may be a confounding issue regarding the number of sex offenses that are reported. As stated above, sex offenses are one of the most underreported crimes and the data that is available is often unreliable. Taking this into account when looking at the analysis, it will be assumed that the severity and count of the crimes may actually be higher due to this underreporting.

Dependent Variable:

The dependent variable's data of sex offense reports, which includes forcible rape and forcible sodomy, was collected using raw numbers that were derived from the Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC). The ACIC is a comprehensive data system that provides Arkansas residents and criminal justice agencies with statistics on crime and also manages the crime victim notification system and the state sex offender registry (Arkansas Crime Information Center, 2020). The ACIC uses standardized National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) definitions to count sex offenses. These definitions are considered to be common-law, meaning most state definitions of sex offenses will fall under this classification. NIBRS is a reporting system led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that provides detailed information on each crime including common-law definitions, information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2020). The variable of sex offense reports was calculated into a rate using SPSS by combining forcible sodomy and forcible rape counts for the year 2018 and then dividing that by the population per 100,000.

Independent Variables:

For this study, three dependent variables were used to test the relationship between them and sex offense reports. These variables

include race, ethnicity, and foreign-born persons. Each of these variables is displayed as percentages and were derived from the ACIC database. For the race and ethnicity variables, the measures of PctWhite, PctBlack, and PctHispanic were each represented as a percentage rate per 100. For the foreign-born persons variable, the measures of PctForeign was presented as a rate per 100 from the years 2014-2018.

Index:

One index variable, MinoritiesNdx, was created to better extend the study's analysis and to look at the concept of minorities against the independent variable of sex offense reports. This index variable was compiled by first creating ranked tiers of the dependent variables PctBlack, PctHispanic, and PctForeign, and then adding them to create an index variable. The ranks were created by identifying component variables for the new index, splitting the data into cities and counties, and identifying high, medium, and low tiers for component variables. PctWhite was left out of this analysis because it does not fall under the definition of a marginalized group and/or minority. Marginalized populations are "groups and communities that experience discrimination and exclusion (social, political and economic) because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social and cultural dimensions" (National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, 2020).

Table 3. Characteristics of Dependent and Independent Variables.

Concept	Measure	Coding Details	Characteristics
Sex Offense Reports (Rape & Forcible Sodomy) Rate 2018	Measure was created for the purpose of assessing reports of sex offenses. Includes rate of both forcible rape and sodomy in	Continuous variable (CITY): Rates range from 9.6 to 189.7 per 100,000  Continuous variable	City: N = 50, Mean of 75.3, Median of 79, SD = 43.7  County: N = 75, Mean

	2018 (reported to the ACIC)	(COUNTY): Rates range from .00 to 184.4 per 100,000	of. 68.8, Median of 65.3, SD = 36.9
PctWhite (independent variable) Rate 2018	Percent of residents classified as White alone, non-Hispanic or Latino, based on 2018 population (reported to the ACIC)	Continuous variable (CITY): Rates range from 19.8 to 95.5 per 100  Continuous variable (COUNTY): Rates range from 34.6 to 97.1 per 100	City: N = 50, Mean of 66.24, Median of 69.25, SD = 21.74  County: N = 75, Mean of 76.12, Median of 81.30, SD = 17.19
PctBlack (independent variable) Rate 2018	Percent of residents classified as Black or African American alone, based on 2018 population (reported to the ACIC)	Continuous variable (CITY): Rates range from .0 to 76.9 per 100  Continuous variable (COUNTY): Rates range from .4 to 62.0 per 100	City: N = 50, Mean of 22.08, Median of 14.75, SD = 22.56  County: N = 75, Mean of 16.4, Median of 8.4, SD = 17.7
PctHispanic (independent variable) Rate 2018	Percent of residents classified as Hispanic or Latino, based on 2018 population (reported to the ACIC)	Continuous variable (CITY): Rates range from .6 to 61.3 per 100  Continuous variable (COUNTY): Rates range from 1.5 to 34.0 per 100	City: N = 50, Mean of 9.19, Median of 4.65, SD = 11.29  County: N = 75, Mean of 5.68, Median of 3.9, SD = 5.39

PctForiegn (independent variable) Rate 2014- 2018	Foregin born persons, percent, 2014-2018 (reported to the ACIC)	Continuous variable (CITY): Percent ranges from .4 to 30.8 per 100  Continuous variable (COUNTY): Percent ranges from .1 to 16.5 per 100	City: N = 50, Mean of 5.74, Median of 3.25, SD = 6.42  County: N = 75, Mean of. 2.77, Median of 1.8, SD = 2.89
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Table 4. Characteristics of Index Variables.

Concept	Measure	Coding Details	Characteristics
MinoritiesNdx (index Variable) 2018	Index variable combined from the following variable ranks: PctBlack, PctHispanic, PctForeign	Continuous variable (CITY): Ranges from 3.00 to 9.00  Continuous variable (COUNTY): Ranges from 3.00 to 8.00	City: N = 50, Mean of 5.96, Median of 6.0. SD = 1.62  County: N = 75, Mean of 5.03, Median of 5.00, SD= 1.55

**-Outlier Analysis**

Table 5. Outlier Values of Forcible Rape and Sodomy by Cities and Counties in Arkansas.

	<b>Forcible Rape 2018</b>	<b>Forcible Sodomy 2018</b>
<b>County</b>	IQR: 102.5	IQR: 80.00
<b>City</b>	IQR: 144.99	IQR: 85.90

Frequency distributions for sex offense reports were inspected for the purposes of finding extreme outliers by county and city in Arkansas. Several cases appeared to be high above the interquartile ranges. These outlier values were conducted by multiplying the Interquartile Range (IQR) by 1.5 and then adding that value to the third quartile value. Four significant outliers were found to be extreme cases in Arkansas counties including Randolph, Stone, Boone, and Woodruff. Looking at sex offense reports for Arkansas cities, Centerton and Wayne qualified as extreme cases.

Upon further examination into why sex offense reports had cases of extreme values, there was no evidence of reporting or transcription error to explain the data. In order to neutralize the potential impact of these cities and counties' extreme rates, the analysis was run twice, once with the inclusion of Randolph, Stone, Boone, Woodruff, Centerton, and Wayne and once without. The results revealed that there was no significant change in the results after the removal of these outliers. One explanation as to why these outliers are present could be due to the underreporting of the crime. According to the data, there were eleven counties and twelve cities that reported zero sex offenses (See below for a full list of counties and cities). Although sex offenses are not being reported, it is important to note that these crimes are still occurring and until there is an increase in reports, there will continue to be outlier cases.

Table 6. List of Counties and Cities that had Zero Reports of Sex Offenses in Arkansas (2018).

	<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>
<b>Sex Offense Reports:</b>	Searcy Hot Springs	Lafayette Chicot

	Malvern Newport w/ASU Harrison Sherwood Mountain Home Forrest City De Queen El Dorado Lowell Bryant	Searcy Perry Montgomery Sevier Nevada Hot Spring Calhoun Baxter Lafayette
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### Analysis and Results

#### - Correlations

Table 7. Pearson's r Correlation Table Between Demographics and Reports of Sex Offense Rates.

	City	County
PctForeign Rate	$r = -.024$	$r = -.104$
PctWhite Rate	$r = .144$	$r = .294^*$
PctBlack Rate	$r = -.107$	$r = -.276^*$
PctHispanic Rate	$r = -.021$	$r = -.085$

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$  (N = City: 50, County: 75)

Each of the four independent rate variables was tested to look for a relationship between sex offense reports in a sample of Arkansas cities and counties (2018). According to the data results, there is a positive significant correlation between PctWhite and sex offense reports within counties which means that as PctWhite increases, sex offense reports

also increase and vice versa. PctBlack was seen to be statistically significant with sex offense reports in counties but it is negatively correlated. This means that as PctBlack increases, sex offense reports decrease and as PctBlack decreases, sex offense reports increase.

Table 8. Index Variable Analysis Between Demographics and Reports of Sex Offense Rates.

	City	County
MinoritiesNdx	r = .054	r = -.243*

\*p<.05; \*\*p<.01 (N = City: 50, County: 75)

The index variable of MinoritiesNdx was tested to look for a relationship with the independent variable of sex offense reports in a sample of Arkansas cities and counties (2018). The index variable MinoritiesNdx was negatively correlated with sex offense reports in Arkansas counties only. This means that as the amount of MinoritiesNdx increases, the amount of sex offense reports decreases and as the amount of MinoritiesNdx decreases, the amount of sex offense reports increases. There was no significant relationship found between MinoritiesNdx and sex offense reports on the city level.

### Conclusions

The findings from this study revealed that the first hypothesis of 'communities that have a higher proportion of individuals in minority groups are more susceptible to having higher rates of sex offense reports' was not supported but had a partial correlation. This partial correlation was between the variable MinoritiesNdx and sex offense reports. Minorities were negatively correlated with sex offense reports in Arkansas counties only. This means that as the number of minorities increases, the number of sex offense reports decreases. The second hypothesis that 'communities that have a higher proportion of residents

that are Black are more susceptible to having higher rates of sex offense reports' was not supported but also had a partial correlation. PctBlack was seen to be negatively correlated with sex offense reports in Arkansas counties only. The second and third hypotheses of this study were not supported.

The findings also revealed an unhypothesized conclusion there was a positive significant correlation between PctWhite and reports of sex offenses for Arkansas counties. This means that as the amount of PctWhite increases, the amount of sex offense reports also increases. Overall, the results did not align with explanations of strain and subculture theory. These theories and past research explained that crime is associated and rates are increased in areas with higher populations of marginalized groups (subcultures) or those who experience strain (minorities). This study hypothesized to get similar results when looking at the reports of sex offenses, however, the findings were not supported. The reason that this current study did not yield similar results could be explained by the underreporting of sex crimes. As mentioned previously, sex offenses are one of the most underreported crimes in the United States which leads to unreliable data. It is proven that minorities are most likely to under-report sex offenses (Gise & Paddison, 1988). This is due to many reasons such as past prejudiced treatment of minorities by law enforcement or how African Americans are given less access to services like those at a rape crisis centers (Weist, et al, 2007). This racial split revealing that those in the majority population report more sex offenses could explain the abnormal results from this study that populations with an increase of PctWhite will have an increase in reports of sex offenses. Furthermore, areas with increased populations of minorities may have lower reports of sex offenses, however, that doesn't mean that sex offenses aren't still taking place. Overall, the results of this study did not completely support the hypotheses and although the theories of strain and subculture played a

role in explaining crime in general, the confounding variable of underreporting was the main explanation to the results of this study.

### **Discussion**

This study showed that there are various barriers and confounding factors that influenced the results of this analysis. For example, because the data shows that there is not a positive relationship between minorities and reports of sex offenses, this could lead society to believe that only the majority race (PctWhite) are victims/offenders of sex crimes when in reality minorities are just as likely, however, they are less inclined to report it. Some practical changes for this issue could include increasing awareness of sex offenses, working towards diminishing the stigma attached to reporting sex crimes, providing education to officers on the issue of racial biases, and tailoring reports to make them more accessible and understanding of the situation. The original research question of this study was answered in that demographics did result in a relationship with sex offense reports; however, the results did not align with that of previous research. This could be due to the fact that prior literature does not take into account the under-reporting of minorities. So, the question remains of 'what is the true relationship between demographics and minorities with sex offenses?'

The largest limitation of this study was the underreporting of sex offenses. As mentioned previously, minorities are less likely to report crimes to the police because of mistrust between them. It is assumed that the police are protectors and providers of security for all members of society, however, this may be a failed ideal for minorities. Some officers of the law have been known to have prejudices against individuals in minority groups that lead to unjust treatment (Edwards, 2019). This untrustworthy relationship is still an issue today and has been exploited in recent events after the death of George Floyd. Floyd

was a Black man who had been killed by a white Minneapolis police officer after reportedly resisting arrest. The police officer had “violated the policies of the Minneapolis Police Department” which led to community outrage and protests advocating justice for minorities (The New York Times, 2020). Floyd’s death showed that critical institutions of society, such as the police, may not be impartial to all races and capitalizes on why many minorities fear and distrust the police. When there is not a positive relationship between members of a society and officers of the law, it can generate underreporting of crimes which then can lead to unreliable and inaccurate data. Taking this into account, it is assumed but not proven that the severity and count of sex offense reports may be higher than the results that this study yields.

Another limitation of this study could be the lack of a universal definition of sex offenses. The definition varies and many cities and counties within Arkansas may not report due to this lack of a baseline definition. Future studies should take into account these societal factors, remaining questions, and weaknesses when further examining this subject. Some future research recommendations that could have enhanced this study, would be to include data that is based on self-report surveys rather than UCR and ACIC databases which only capture crimes that have been reported. This could help represent populations who are prone to underreporting. Another recommendation would be to expand the data outside of Arkansas. While the race was an underlying variable in Arkansas cities and counties, the effects may not be consistent across other states.

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### Appendix A: Dataset Codebook

Variable Name	Description	Source (all data retrieved January, 2020)
PlaceName	Name of country or city jurisdiction	Assigned
City	Binary indicator for city =1 (county = 0)	Determined
ACICPop18	Population of the jurisdiction in 2018 (according to ACIC records)	ACIC
VTot18	Violent crimes recorded in 2018	ACIC, 2018
Rape18	Count of Rapes in 2018 (Forcible Rape reported to ACIC)	ACIC
FSod18	Count of Sodomy in 2018 (Forcible Sodomies reported to ACIC)	ACIC
PctForeign	Foreign-born persons, percent, 2014-2018	CQF
PctWhite	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	CQF
PctBlack	Black or African American alone, percent	CQF
PctHispanic	Hispanic or Latino, percent	CQF