MIS 0855 Spring 2015 – Data Science

Day 6 – In Data We (Mis)Trust

Min-Seok Pang

Management Information Systems
Fox School of Business, Temple University
minspang@temple.edu
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Fox School of Business
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Do you trust your data?

- You have a decision to make.

- You have theory in mind and hypotheses to test.

- You have data at your hand!

- Do you believe in your data?

Can we trust the FBI's national crime stats?

Uniform Crime Reports

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UCR General FAQs
View printable version (pdf)

THE BASICS

What is the UCR Program?

The UCR Program is a voluntary city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement program that provides a nationwide view of crime based on the submission of statistics by law enforcement agencies throughout the country.
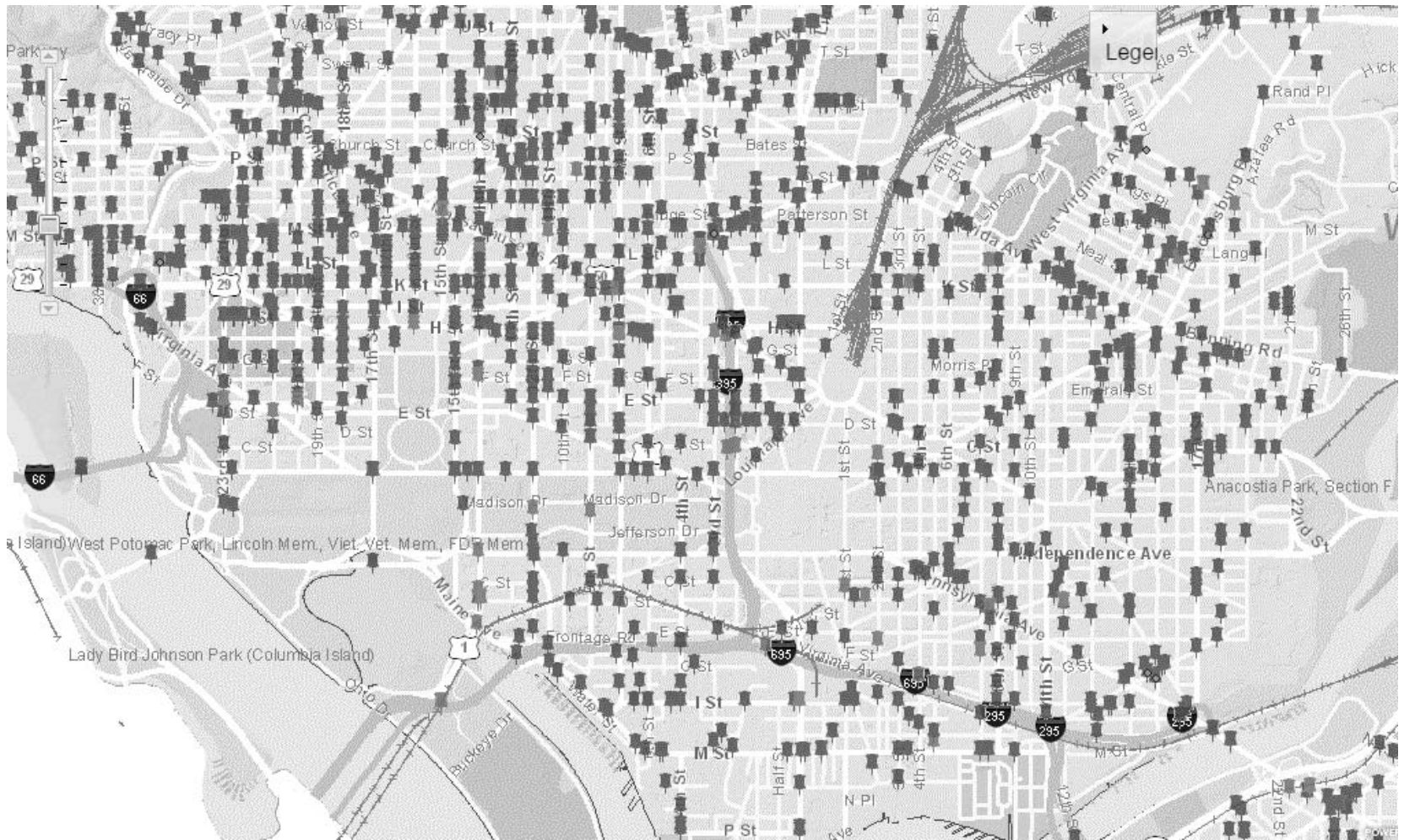
OFFENSE INFORMATION

Which specific crimes are reported to the UCR Program, and why were these crimes identified for reporting?

The UCR Program collects offense information for murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. These are Part I offenses and are serious crimes by nature and/or volume. Not all crimes, such as embezzlement, are readily brought to the attention of the police. Also, some serious crimes, such as kidnapping, occur infrequently. Therefore, the UCR Program limits the reporting of offenses known to the eight selected crime classifications because they are the crimes most likely to be reported and most likely to occur with sufficient frequency to provide an adequate basis for comparison.

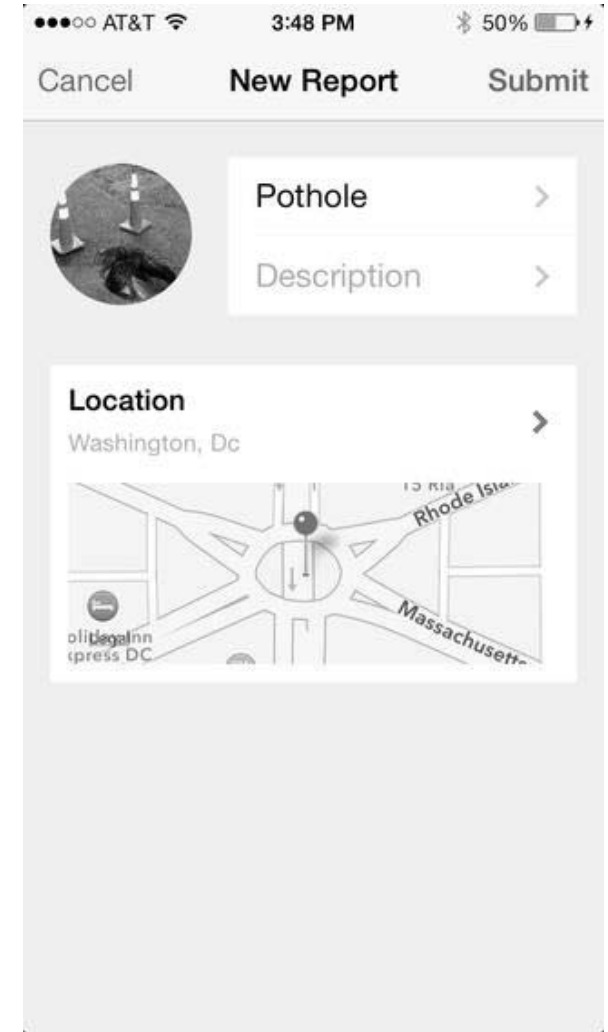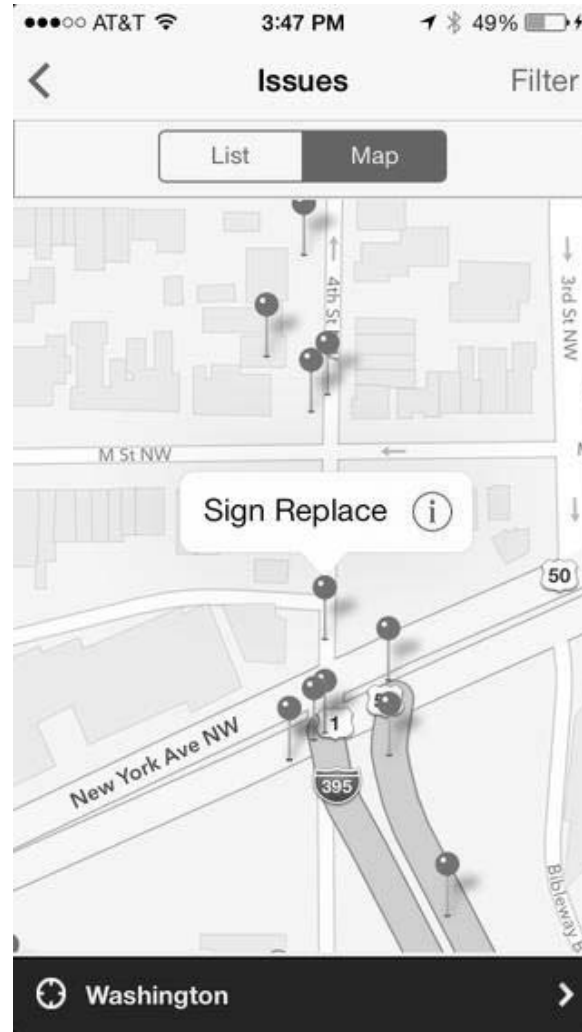http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/frequently-asked-questions/ucr_faqs

Problems with UCR Data

- *The UCR reports only crimes known to the police.*

- *The UCR reports on only the most serious crime incidents.*

- *The UCR does not collect all relevant data.*

  - "Forcible rape of a male victim is recorded as an aggravated assault."

- *The UCR reveals more about police behavior than it does about criminality.*

  - Reporting by local police to the FBI is on a voluntary basis.

Source: http://www.jblearning.com/samples/0763742848/Exploring%20Criminal%20Justice-Ch%203.pdf

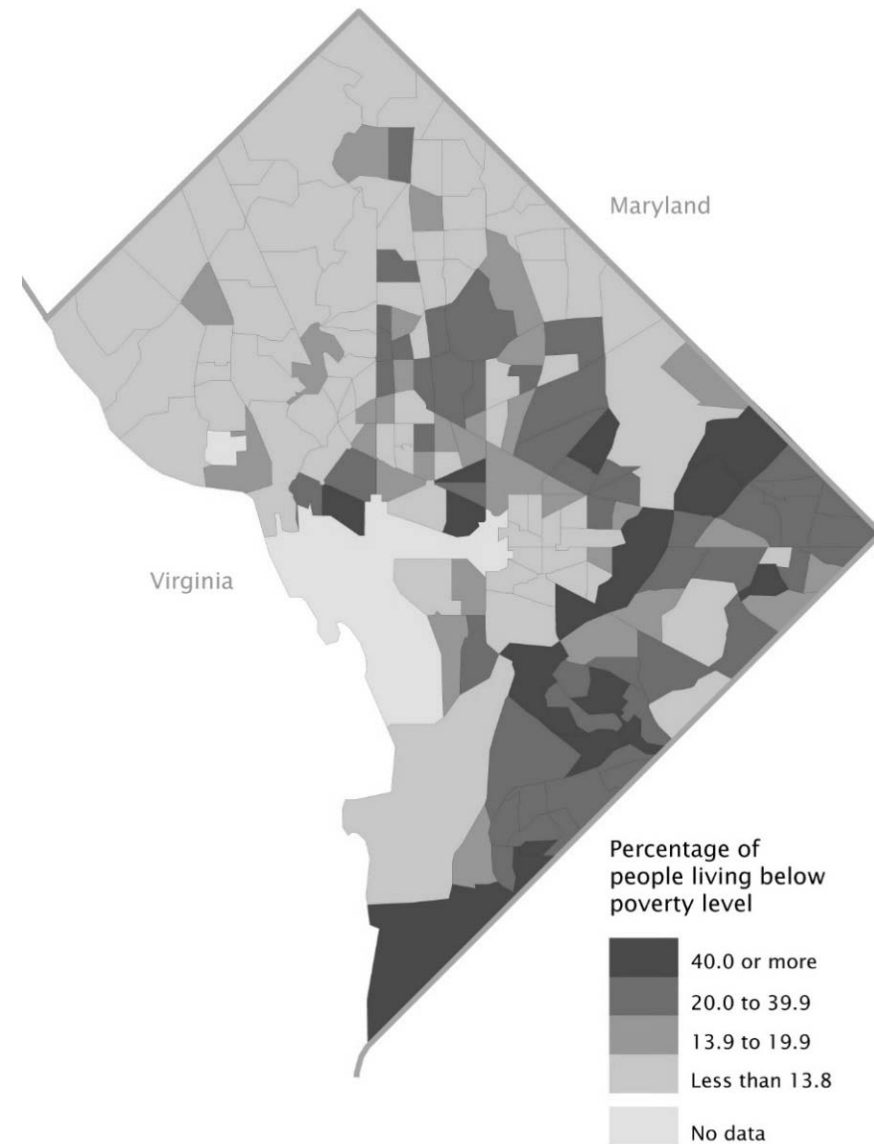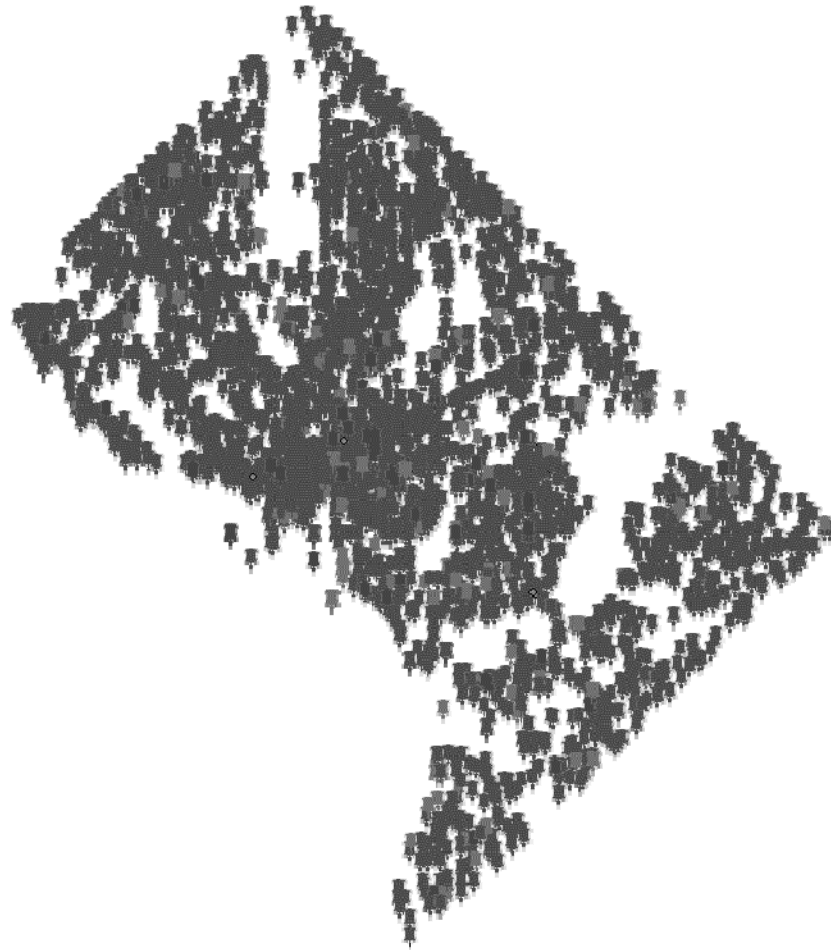# Washington D.C. Potholes Map (http://gis.ddot.dc.gov/potholeapp/)

Reported via DC 311 *Mobile* App

Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the District of Columbia by Census Tract: 2006–2010

Maryland

Virginia

Percentage of people living below poverty level

- 40.0 or more
- 20.0 to 39.9
- 13.9 to 19.9
- Less than 13.8
- No data

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

http://gis.ddot.dc.gov/potholeapp/IdentifyPotholes.aspx
http://www.citylab.com/work/2011/12/map-day-uneven-spread-urban-poverty/721/