

MIS 0855 Spring 2015 – Data Science

Day 6 – In Data We (Mis)Trust

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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?



http://www.forbes.com/2010/07/21/trust-privacy-technology-wall-street-opinions-laneri-noer-trust_land.html

Can we trust the FBI's national crime stats?



The screenshot shows the top portion of the FBI's website for the 2013 Crime in the United States report. At the top left is the text "Uniform Crime Reports". To the right is a "Select Language" dropdown menu and a "Get FBI Updates" button with an envelope icon. Below this is a navigation bar with links: Home, About Us, CJIS, UCR, Crime in the U.S., 2013, and Crime in the U.S. 2013. The main banner features the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE • FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION • CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION" above the large title "CRIME in the United States 2013". At the bottom of the banner are links for "Criminal Justice Information Services Division", "Feedback", "Contact Us", "Data Quality Guidelines", and "UCR Home".

About Crime in the U.S. (CIUS) By offense, by region, by state, by local agency

Offenses Known to Law Enforcement	Persons Arrested	Police Employee Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violent Crime Property Crime Clearances <p>(offenses "closed" by arrest or exceptional means.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to Offense Tables 	<p>Expanded Offense Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homicides Trends Rates Weapons <p>Includes data about the age, gender, and race of arrestees for 28 separate offenses including murder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to Arrest Tables 	<p>Includes data about sworn officers and civilian employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to Police Employee Tables

About the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program
 A history of the UCR Program and an overview of what UCR can provide
[Read more](#)

A message from the Director of the FBI
[Read more](#)

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<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s./2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013>

Uniform Crime Reports

[Home](#) • [About Us](#) • [CJIS](#) • [UCR](#) • [Frequently Asked Questions](#) • [UCR General FAQs](#)

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

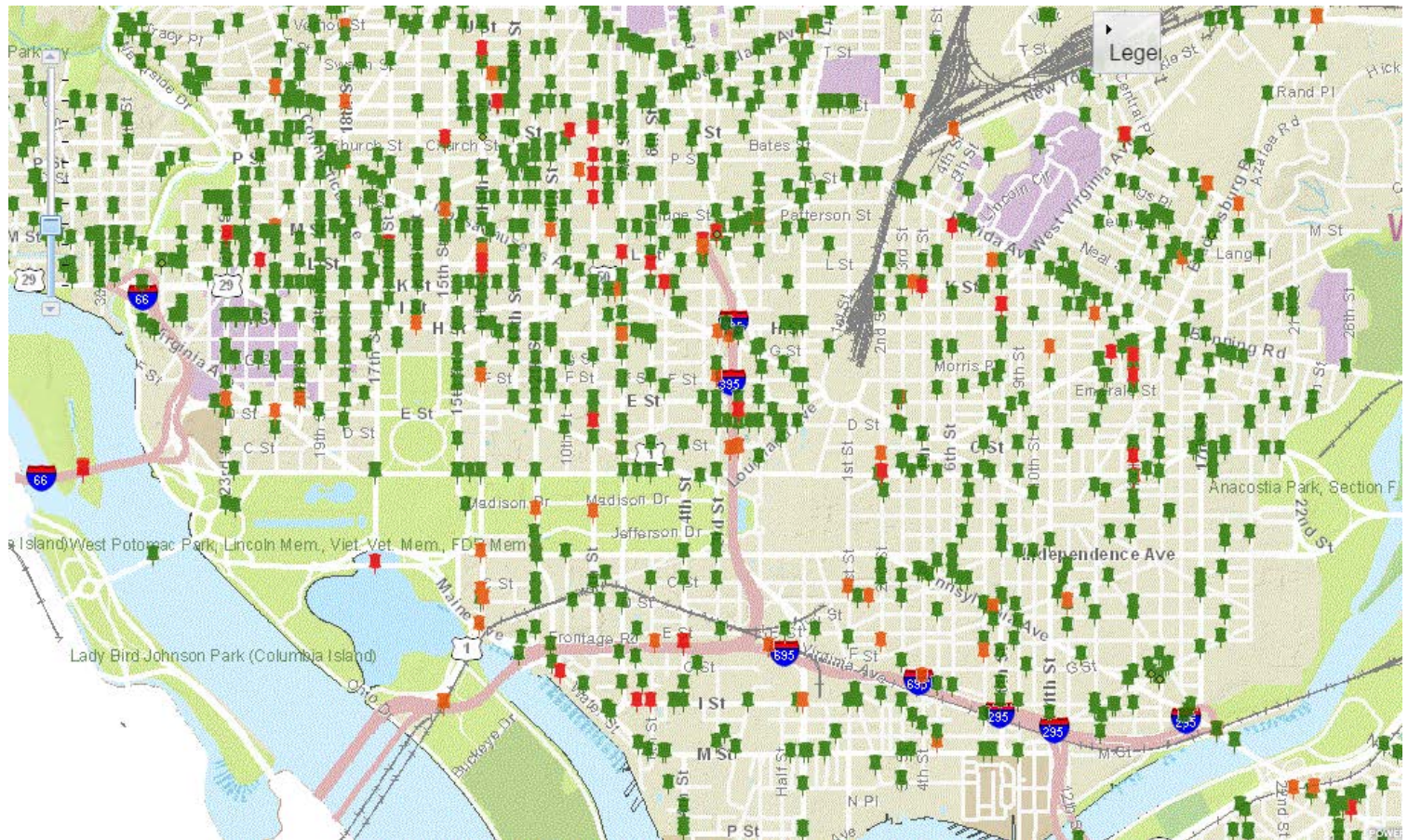
Which specific crimes are reported to the UCR Program, and why were these crimes identified for reporting?

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.

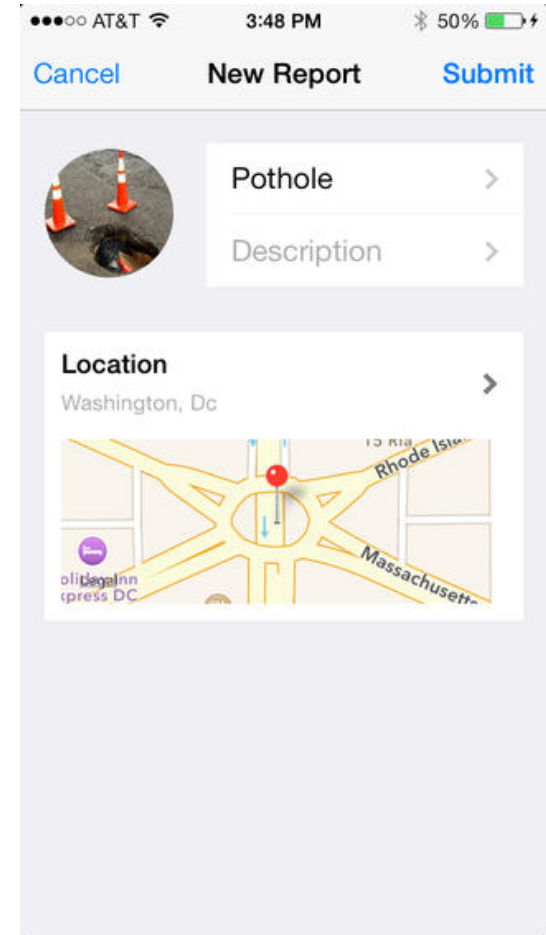
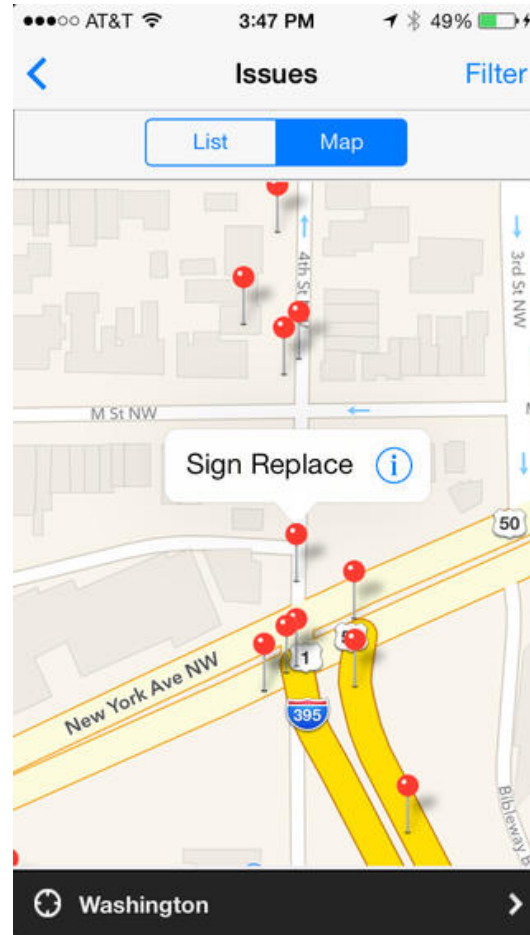
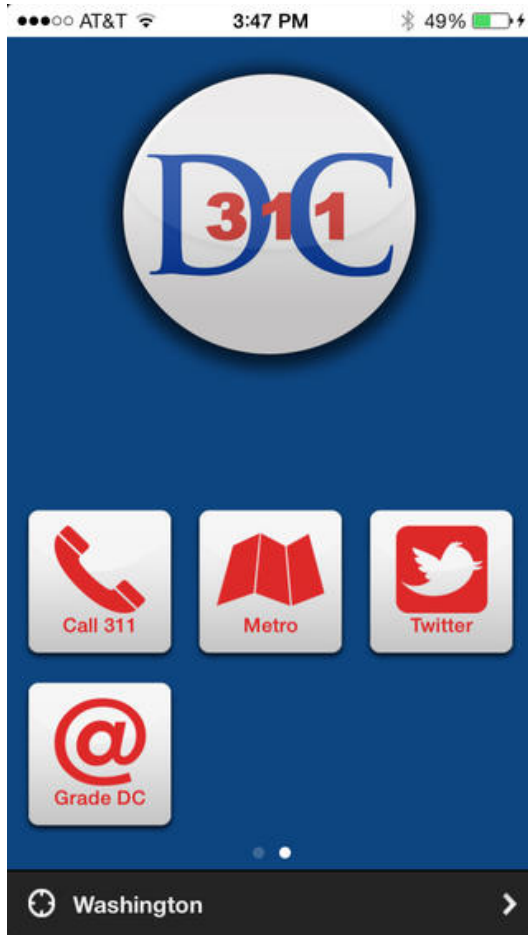
Problems with UCR Data

- *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.

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

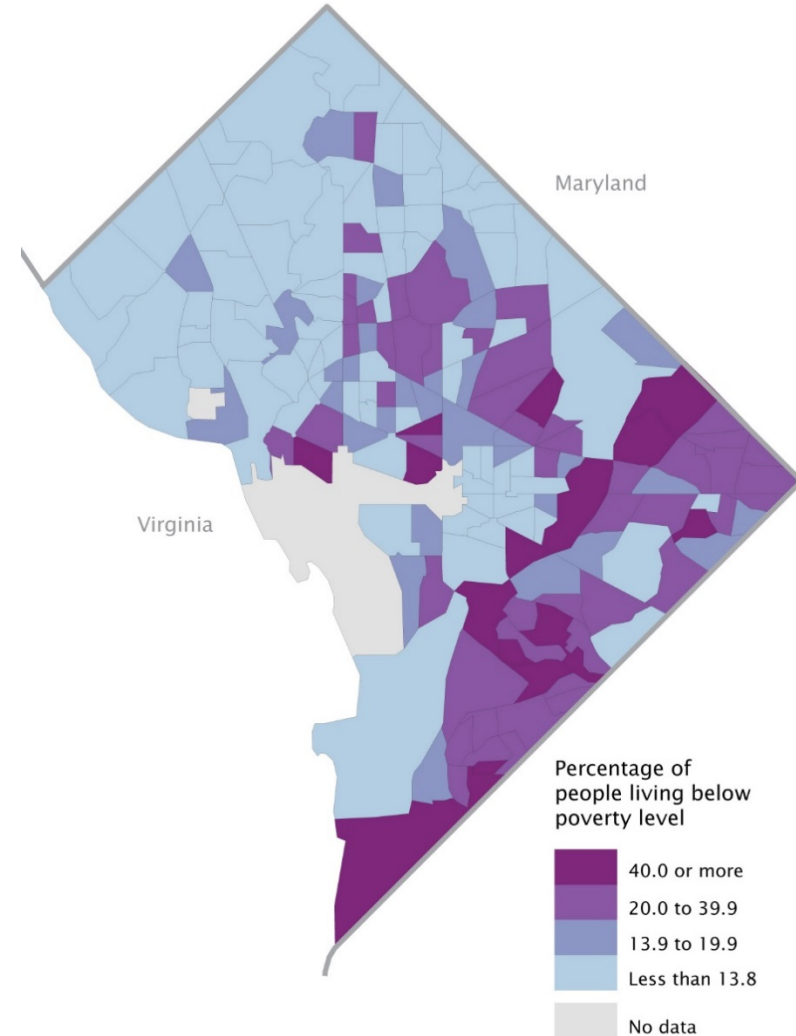
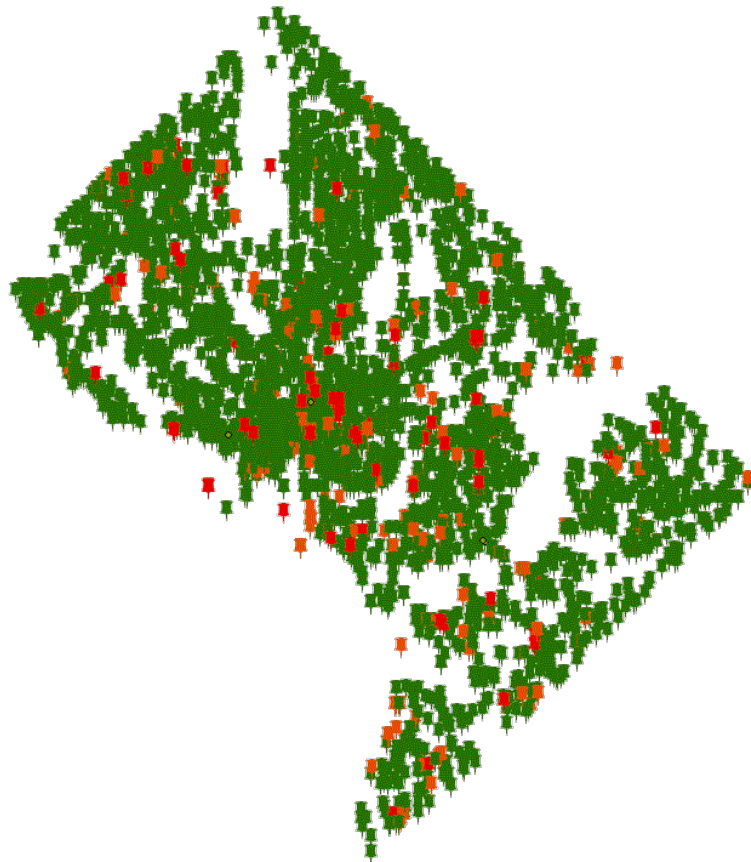


Reported via DC 311 *Mobile App*



<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/washington-dc-311/id498625758?mt=8>

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



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/>