# A Story of Police Funding in America

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# What is the “Defund The Police” Movement?

- George Floyd
- “Bloated” Police Budgets
- Funding of social services

# Collect Data

Something unique about our methodology is that we decided to first collect a lot of data and then decide on what we want to dive deep into. All believe that the police funding issue is multifactorial, and we did not want to be fixed on one aspect at the start. We were interested in the relationship between variables such as **police expenditure, race, ethnicity, income, arrest rate, and crime rate**. We collected most of our data mainly from online database including **Tax Policy Center, Statista, Bureau of Justice Statistics, FBI, and USgovernmentspending**

# Generating the Question

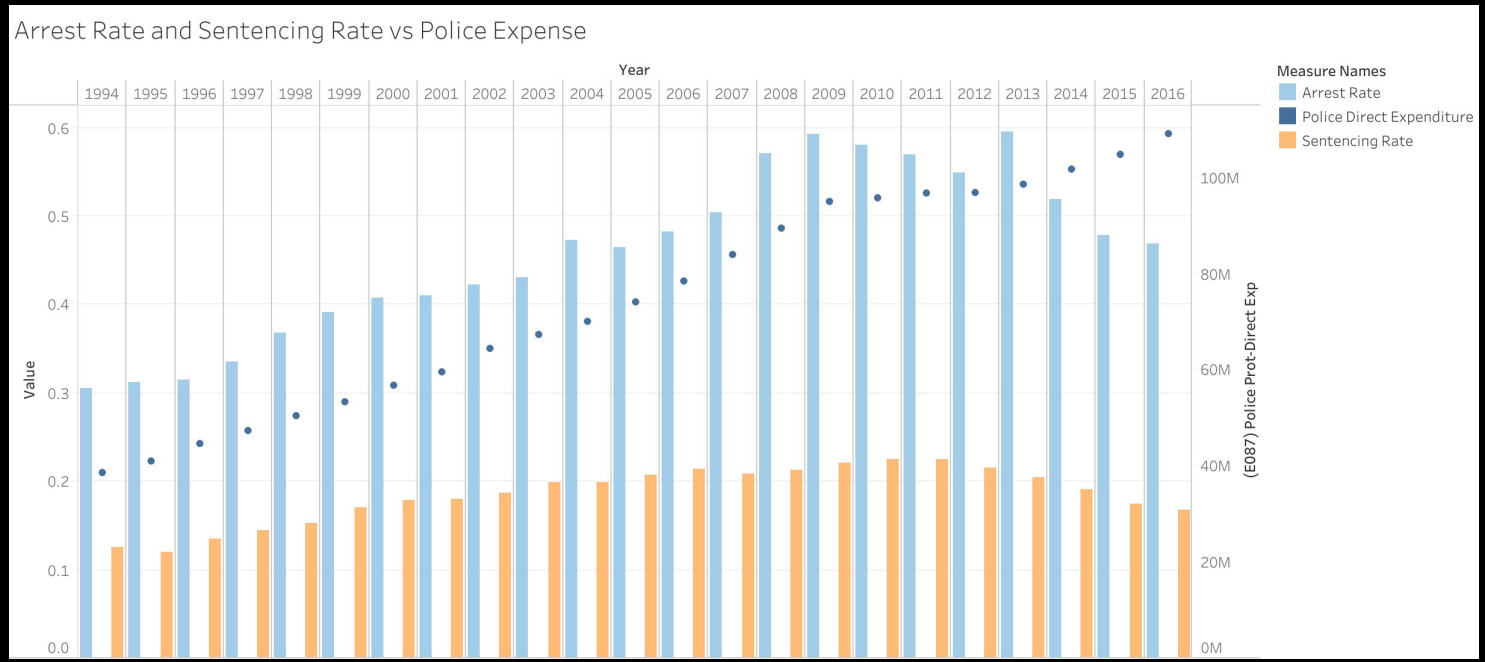
We started to make some simple graphs and do some regressions. After discussing our findings, we decided that our focus would be to explore **police expenditure relative to crime rate** and what role **demographics** plays.

# Data Analysis

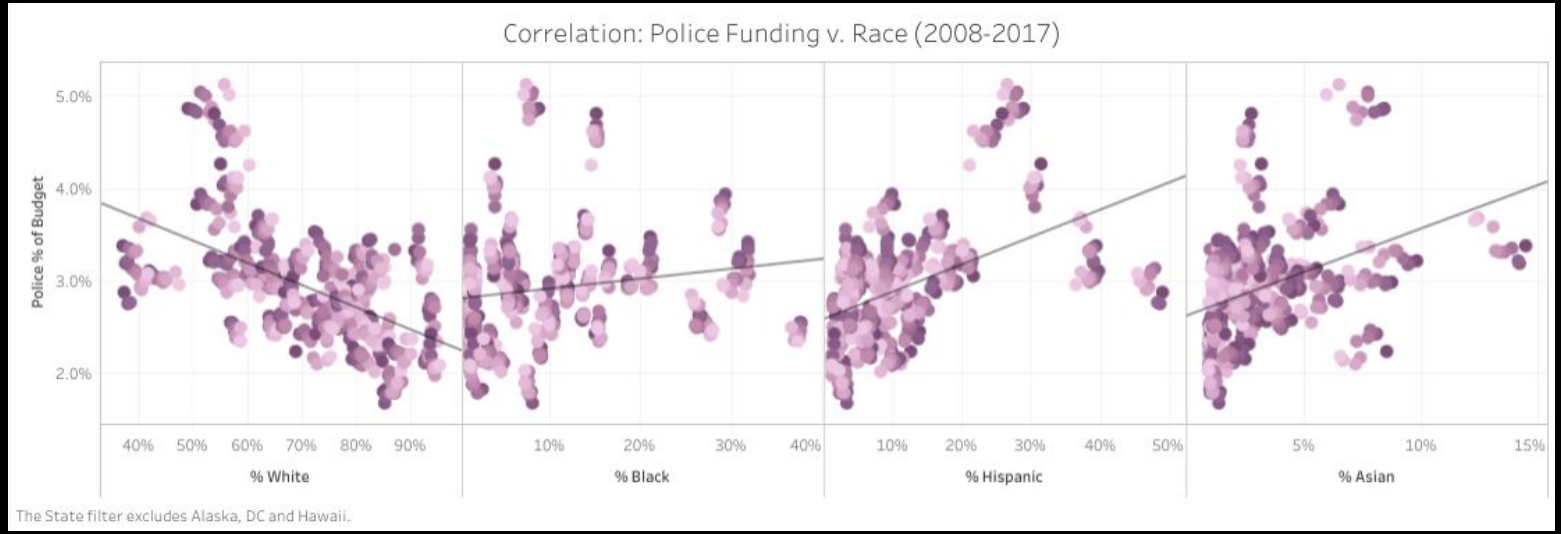
We mainly used **Excel and Tableau** to provide us with visualizations on some patterns that might be interesting. One problem that we have encountered at this part is the **how representative the data was**. We decided to **normalize the variables** into police expenditure per total expenditure and number of violent crimes per 100,000 population. Throughout the data analysis process, we met very often to discuss how reliable and representative our data are.

# Our Insights

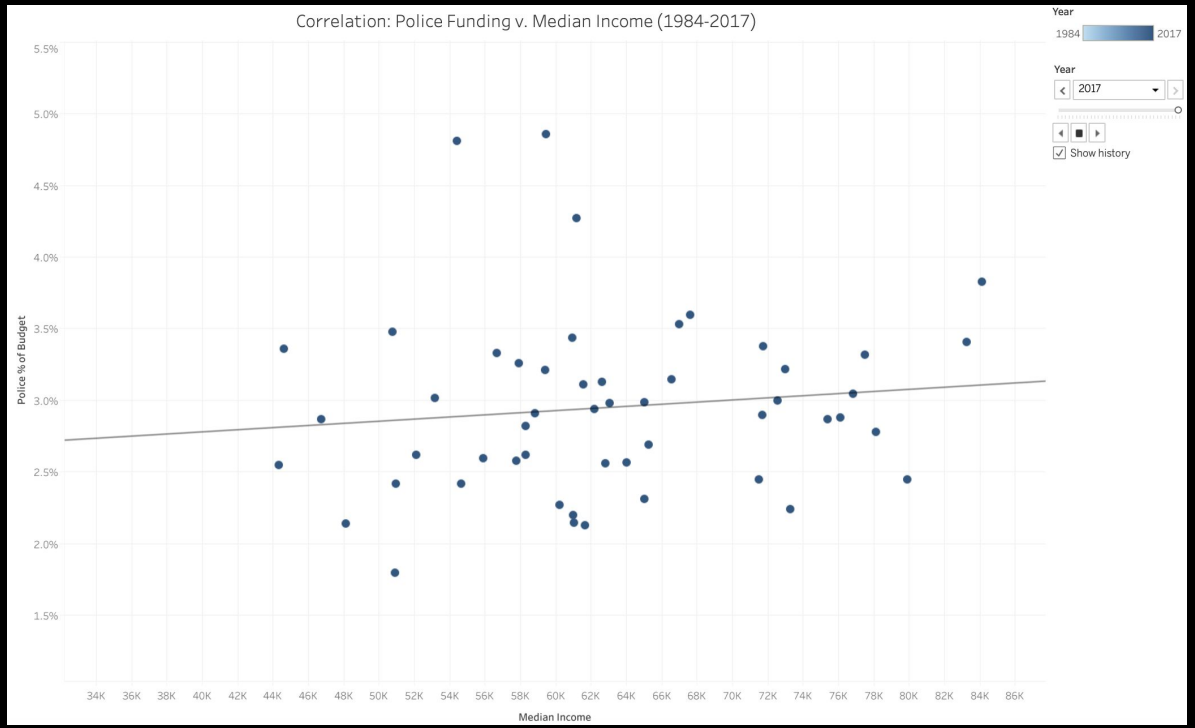
# Police spending continues to rise, while arrest rates fall.



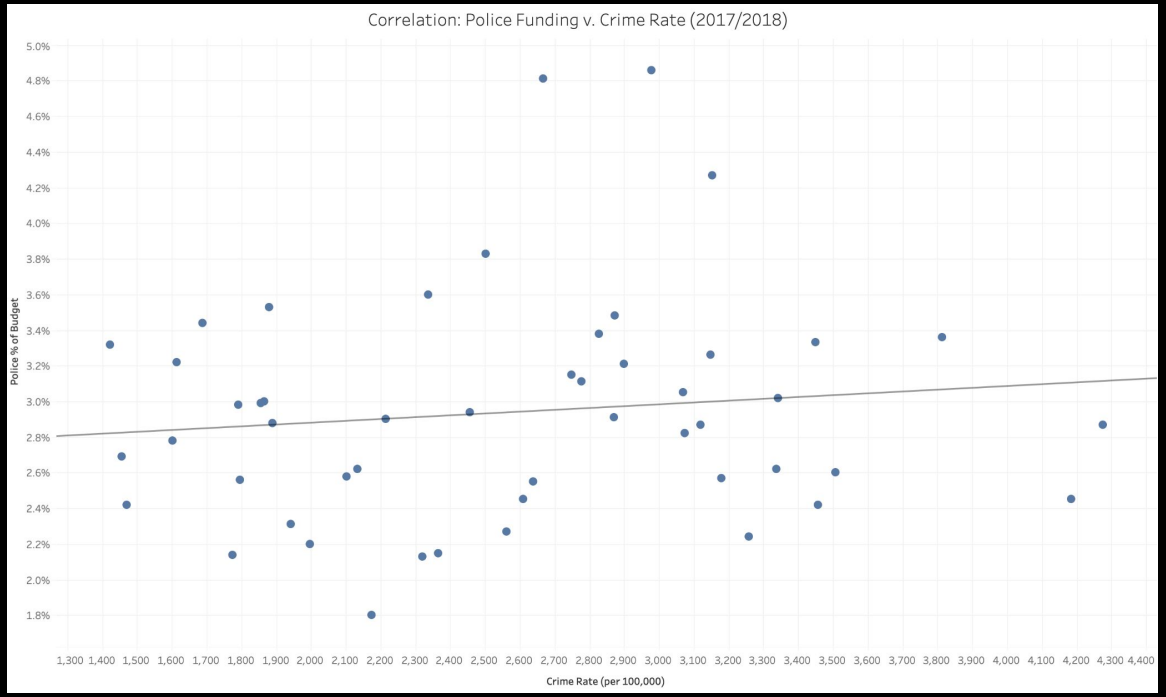
# States with more minorities spend more on police.



# There is little correlation between median household income and police spending.



# There is also little correlation between police spending and violent crime.



Constant, increasing police spending

More spending in states with minorities

No significant effect on crime

# What does this tell us?

# Future Research Steps

1. Social services funding
2. Effectiveness of a defunded police
3. Other factors influencing police spending
4. Data at the local/city level

# Resources you can check out!

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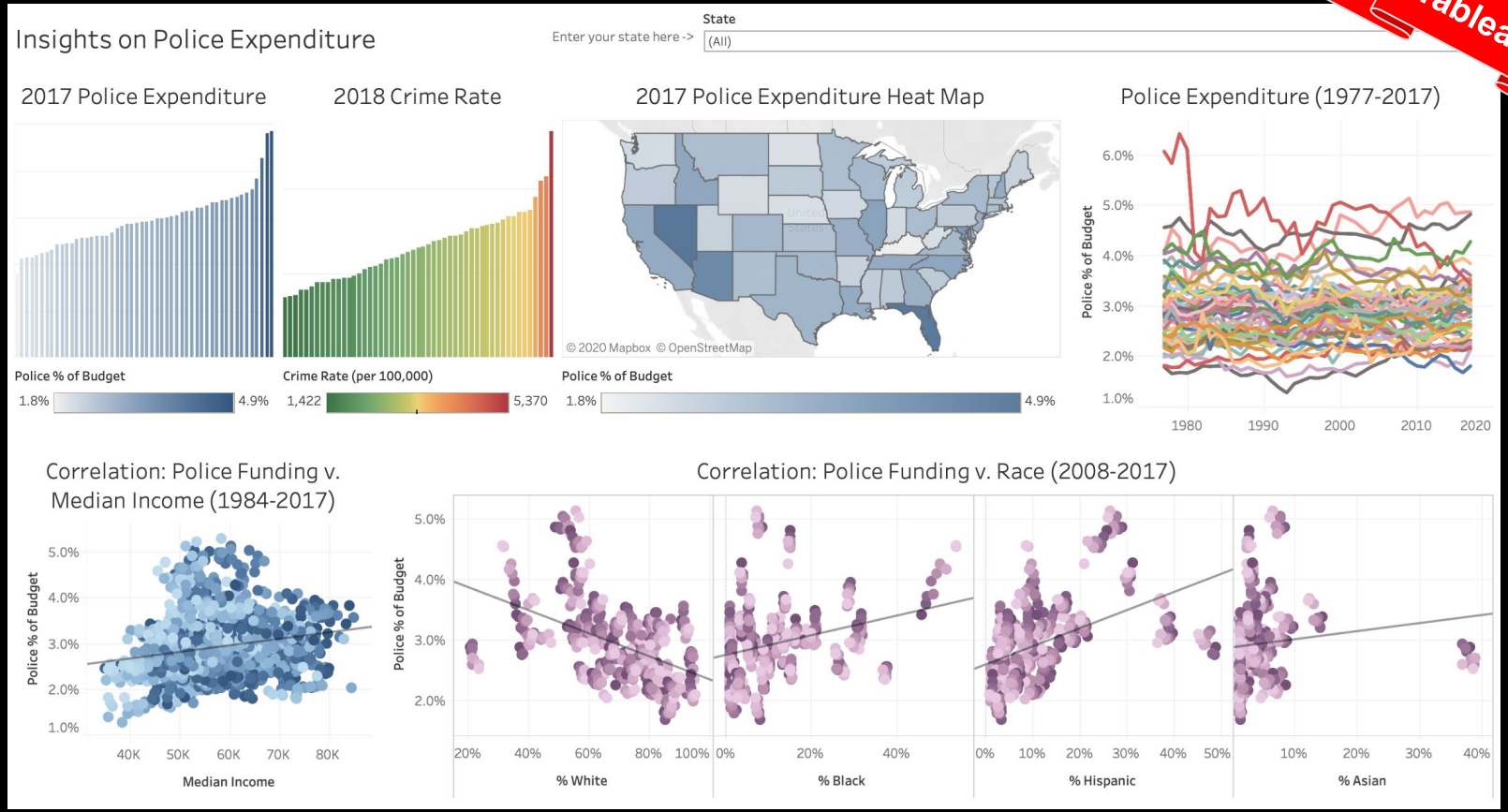
# Defund the Police( Data Strategy Program)

Suakshaybahal Follow
Aug 25 · 4 min read

As I continue to learn more about the **Defund the Police** movement, I've recognized more and more that words mean different things to different people. Defund the police, to some people, might sound like a movement to abolish the police and live in a world without cops. However, if we were to dive deeper into the movement, we can see the reason for the movement and if it has any merit. This was the guiding question I and my team at **ParsonsTKO & Techsoup Data Strategy and Mentorship Program** tried to answer the best way we know how, using data.

**Certain people are arguing that police budgets are bloated, and it's not**

https://medium.com/@suakshaybahal1/defund-the-police-data-strategy-program-5b3bffa993ce




https://public.tableau.com/profile/timo#!/vizhome/InsightsonPoliceFunding/InsightsonPoliceExpenditure

# POLICE FUNDING IN AMERICA

Website

HOME PROJECT DATA & INSIGHTS GET INVOLVED

## THE DATA BEHIND THIS

become the main slogan for the Black Lives Matter movement. As a pat of the Data Strategy Fellowship Program led by ParsonTKO & TechSoup, we hope to use data as a tool to analyze the police funding issues in the U.S. and provide the public with our insights for the movement. Our goal is to provide people with more organized information to help them with their own analysis and understanding of the movement.

https://jhuang1585.wixsite.com/mysite

### DONATE

While the pandemic has a huge impact on all of us, it hit the minority communities in a more drastic way. Click on the bottom below to support these communities in different ways.

### GET INVOLVED

Your voice matters. This project is ongoing and we welcome people sharing their insights and comments with us, check out the Get Involved page.

### OUR MISSION

Check out the Project page to see how this project comes together, and click on "Our Data" bottom below to see the results of our project.

# Thank you for listening!!