

# The Effect of Unionization on FBI Dataset Reporting

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Research Question: How does unionization of a police agency affect their participation in FBI datasets?

## Background:

- The FBI collects crime statistics, this includes the LEOKA dataset (Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted).
- Unionization Variable is collected by the Bureau of Justices Statistics through LEMAS (Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics).
- According to past research, police unions are large opponents for police reform, and pro police “militarization” through the 1033 program and Qualified Immunity.
- Police unions can also be seen as very effective unions if treated as true unions.

## Motivation:

- Police unions often cite that their stances against reform are due to police protection; if police cannot do their jobs, we are also unsafe.
- Data collection can lead policy that can be based in truth rather than narrative.
- We lack major data on many police-citizen interactions that makes it difficult to empirically analyze crime. This can prohibit necessary reform within our justice system.

## Theoretical Regression Model:

$$sub_{yi} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 cb_{yi} + \beta_2 emp_{yi} + \varepsilon_{yi}$$

Coefficient	Estimate	t-value:
int.	0.5513	211.513
cb	<b>0.01203</b>	3.66
emp	-3.69E-07	-0.286

## Sample Data Header:

```
ORI7 PAY_BARG year emp sub
1 AK00101 1 2016 497 1
2 AK00103 1 2016 82 1
3 AK00156 1 2016 52 1
```

## Interpretation of Results:

- The coefficient for collective bargaining was *positive* and stat. sig., therefore a unionized agency is more likely to withhold data from the FBI on assaults on their own officers.

## Policy Implications:

- Mandating that agencies use a certain amount of tax-payer money on data transparency initiatives would give a clearer picture on the effectiveness and functionality of police unions and agencies.

## Future Research:

- A model of this regression will be done on other FBI datasets including hate crimes, violent crimes, etc. to see the effects of unionization on all FBI data.

## Working Bibliography\*

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- *\*a complete bibliography will be included in the final finished paper*

Code:	Name:	Description:	Units:
sub	Submit	A binary variable taking the value of 1 if the agency WITHHELD submitted data for a given month to the LEOKA dataset on assaults.	binary discrete
emp	Total Employees	The total number of employees present at the agency in a given year (2007, 2013, 2016).	te
cb	Collective Bargaining Presence	A binary variable taking the value of 1 if the agency did allow collective bargaining.	binary

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