Crime in the LAPD Jurisdiction

Research Question: Does the number of deployed officers in the LAPD impact the amount of crime committed?

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Research Model

- Source: Crime Statistics Digest from the Los Angeles Police Department
- Data Timeline: 2000-2011
- Independent Variable: Number of police officers deployed
- Dependent Variables: Larceny Rate, Burglary Rate, Assault Rate, Homicide Rate
In July of 2005, Antonio Villaraigosa was sworn in as the mayor of Los Angeles, and vowed to hire 1000 new police officers. In 2006, the Los Angeles Police Department began to see a steady increase in the rate of deployed police offers relative to the population. By 2009, the LAPD had its largest force in history.

**Graph Key**

Percentages: Proportion of crimes committed relative to all crime committed

Whole Numbers: Crime rate per 100,000
Economic Theory

- Criminal Income Model: \((1-a)L-af-e\)
  - Equates to the expected net income from crime.
  - An increase in police officers leads to an increase in apprehension probability \(a\).
  - Criminal income line shifts downward from \(a\) to \(b\), and its intersection point with the income curve moves leftward to \(n^c\), indicating that when a larger police force is introduced, the amount of crime and number of criminals reduces.
Conclusion

• It is impossible to analyze both crime and law enforcement without taking the other into account. Thus, we can only postulate that as crime prevention rises, the attraction of legal activities, versus illegal ones, will also grow stronger; a positive correlation.

• In each instance, we found that while the rate of deployed police officers increased, there was a decrease in the rate of each crime.

• Successive reductions in crime are difficult and costly to achieve, but they seem to require an increasingly larger increment in the size of the police force.

• As more police officers were deployed, the opportunity cost for the criminal increased as there is a more likely chance of getting caught and facing punishment.

• The LAPD must be careful regarding the amount of officers deployed, as too many police officers will create inefficiency in the crime reduction.

• In the case of homicide and assault, there is a much wider gap between the rate and officers deployed due to the severity of the punishment, if caught.