Correlation Between the Crime Rate and the Abortion Rate

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Learning Community 01, Mathematics 104 and Police Science 101, Professors Gary Welz and Jon Shane

Introduction

Upon receiving the research assignment from Professor Welz, I was intrigued to research a variable that could have influenced the spike in crime in the 1970s-1990s.

Thanks to a high school class in Criminology, I was familiar with the theory of abortion and its link to crime.

Research Question

Compare a crime rate data set to some other public data set that might be related to crime and determine whether or not there is a correlation.

Conclusions

- There appears to be an inverse correlation between the violent crime rate and abortions per 1,000 births.
- Approximately 18-24 years after abortion was legalized, crime rates fell dramatically.
- People ages 18-24 are more likely to be involved in crimes.
- The time period beginning 18 years after the legalization of abortion is the period from 1991-2008.
- The crime rate graph suggests an inverse correlation to the abortion rate from 1970-1990.

References


U.S. Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade. 410 U.S. 113 (1973)