THE QUEST FOR DATA

JUSTFAIR Michigan

Presented by: Jaclyn Frishcosy, Alice Krupczak, Tyus Walker, & Carlie Couzens
who we are:
Jaclyn Frishcosy
Alice Krupczak
Tyus Walker
Carlie Couzens

Data Science Majors at MSU
JUSTFAIR Mission

- Judicial System Transparency for Fairness through Archived/Inferred Records
- Compile a public database
- Links demographics and sentencing decisions
- Analyze and draw conclusions

PROJECT OVERVIEW
WEB SCRAPER

Court of Appeals / Michigan Supreme court data:
- Judge, district, attorney information
- Defendant name
- Dating as far back as 1961
  - 360,426 pages of data, with more being added each day.

methods used:
- urllib.request library,
- looping,
- Jupyter Notebook
Why was it used?

- May need to use If Michigan court’s appeals data wasn’t obtained.
- Draw conclusions to help find patterns in MI data.

- Person, drugs, and property are the top offense types in district 1
- White people are more likely to plead guilty and black is second.
- Men have higher crime rate and severity committed

- We were able to successfully web scrape the court’s appeals data
- Found resources and contacts that can help.
DATA WE NEED

Circuit Court Judge Data

- FOIA request
- Leveraging connections in the Michigan Judiciary network
ADDING INFORMATION

Next Steps

- More web scraping!
- Compiled list of 57 circuit courts
- Individually formatted websites
- Analyzing data