Supplementary Information for

Homicide rates in the United States are highest where resources are scarce and unequally distributed

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This PDF file includes:

- Supplementary text
- Legend for Datasets S1
- SI References

Supplementary text

1 Introduction

This document is the supporting information (SI) appendix for the manuscript "Homicide rates in the United States are highest where resources are scarce and unequally distributed" by Weston C. McCool and Brian F. Codding. The document includes additional methods text and all the code required to reproduce the results and figures using the case data. All analyses are run in the R Environment for Statistical Computing (1).

2 Setup

Our analysis relies on generalized additive models from the mgcv library (2-6). Our figure uses colorblind safe palettes from the viridis library (7-8).

Load libraries:

```
library(mgcv) #generalized additive models
library(viridis) #colorblind safe palette
```

3 Data

Homicide rate data come from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Crime Data Explorer, Expanded Homicide Data: https://crime-dataexplorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/shr

The proportion of people estimated to be under the poverty level data come from the American Community Survey (ACS, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/) variable B17001 "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age" of the Census Bureau.

The Gini coefficient is derived from the Lorenz curve of household income within a state to measure income distribution from 0-1. The coefficient for each of the fifty states was calculated from data in the United States census population. Gini index data are derived from the Supplementary Survey and ACS for the years 2000-2020 and from Kahn et al. "State income inequality, household income, and maternal mental and physical health: cross sectional national survey" (2000) for 1990, which in-turn was derived from census data. https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/income-inequality/about/metrics/gini-index.html

Data summary:

- year = record year
- state = reporting state
- homicide_rate = total number of homicides per 100,000 people

- gini_index = a measure of income distribution from 0 1 •
- poverty_prop = proportion of people with income under the poverty level •

0.192

0.133

0.169

Read in the data:

```
df <- read.csv("Dataset_S1.csv")</pre>
head(df) #check the data
     X year state homicide_rate gini_index poverty_prop
##
## 1 1 1990
                            11.6
                                     0.4570
               AL
## 2 2 2000
                             7.4
                                     0.4539
               AL
## 3 3 2005
               AL
                             8.2
                                     0.4728
```

4 4 2006 AL 8.3 0.4700 0.166 ## 5 5 2007 AL 8.9 0.4700 0.169 ## 6 6 2008 AL 7.5 0.4700 0.157

Exploratory data anlaysis 4

4.1 **Distribution of the response variable**

```
with(df,
```

)

```
hist(homicide_rate,
    breaks = seq(0, round(max(homicide_rate),0)+1, by = 1),
    main = NA,
    xlab = "Homicide Rates")
```



As reported in the main text, the response variable is highly skewed non-integer. We fit models specifying a Poisson family with quasi-likelihood estimation ("quasipoisson").

4.2 Trends over time

Plot variation over time from 2000 to 2020 by state (grey) and US median (red):

```
state_name <- unique(df$state)</pre>
plot(NA,
     xlim = c(2000, 2020),
     ylim = c(0, max(df$homicide_rate)),
     ylab = "Homicide Rate (per 100,000",
     xlab = "Year"
     )
for(i in 1:length(state name)){
with(subset(df, state == state_name[i]),
     lines(homicide_rate ~ year,
          lwd = 1,
          type = '1',
          col = "grey"
          )
  )
}
```



4.3 Variation by state

Which states had the highest homicide rates in 2020?

<pre>head(subset(df[order(df\$homicide_rate, decreasing = TRUE),], year == "2020"))</pre>									
##	ŧ	х	year	state	homicide_rate g	gini_index p	overty_prop		
##	\$324	341	2020	LA	15.8	0.4991	0.154		
##	ŧ 450	467	2020	MO	11.8	0.4634	0.106		
##	ŧ 72	72	2020	AR	10.6	0.4792	0.142		
##	ŧ 432	449	2020	MS	10.6	0.4838	0.175		
##	ŧ 720	737	2020	SC	10.5	0.4770	0.133		
##	18	18	2020	AL	9.6	0.4777	0.114		

How many states show an increase from 2019 to 2020?

length(state_name[which(state_increase==TRUE)])

[1] 46

Which states show a decrease from 2019 to 2020?

```
state_name[which(state_increase==FALSE)]
```

[1] "AK" "ME" "NH" "NM"

How many states showed an increase in poverty from 2019 to 2020?

```
length(state_name[which(state_poverty==TRUE)]) #how many
```

[1] 37

Which states did not show an increase in poverty?

state_name[which(state_poverty==FALSE)] #which not?

```
## [1] "IL" "IA" "KS" "LA" "ME" "MS" "NE" "NY" "RI" "SC" "VT" "VA" "WI"
```

How many states showed an increase in inequality from 2019 to 2020?

```
state_inequality <- with(df,
     gini_index[which(year == 2020)] > gini_index[which(year == 2019)]
)
```

```
length(state_name[which(state_inequality==TRUE)]) #how many
```

```
## [1] 34
```

Which states did not show an increase in inequality?

```
state_name[which(state_inequality==FALSE)]
```

```
## [1] "AK" "CT" "IN" "IA" "MD" "MS" "NV" "NH" "NM" "NY" "ND" "OH" "OK" "PA"
"UT"
## [16] "WA"
```

Which state-year has the highest homicide rate, poverty, and inequality?

```
head(df[order(df$homicide_rate, decreasing = TRUE), ])
```

##		Х	year	state	<pre>homicide_rate</pre>	<pre>gini_index</pre>	poverty_prop
##	307	324	1990	LA	17.2	0.4770	0.236
##	324	341	2020	LA	15.8	0.4991	0.154
##	311	328	2007	LA	14.6	0.4800	0.186
##	559	576	1990	NY	14.5	0.4670	0.143
##	757	774	1990	ТΧ	14.1	0.4570	0.159
##	310	327	2006	LA	12.9	0.4800	0.190

head(df[order(df\$poverty_prop, decreasing = TRUE),])

##		Х	year	state	homicide_rate	<pre>gini_index</pre>	poverty_prop
##	415	432	1990	MS	12.2	0.473	0.2570
##	424	441	2012	MS	7.1	0.490	0.2415
##	425	442	2013	MS	7.3	0.480	0.2405
##	307	324	1990	LA	17.2	0.477	0.2360
##	421	438	2009	MS	6.6	0.470	0.2310
##	423	440	2011	MS	7.8	0.470	0.2255

```
head(df[order(df$gini_index, decreasing = TRUE), ])
```

##		Х	year	state	homicide_rate	<pre>gini_index</pre>	poverty_prop
##	129	129	2005	DE	4.4	0.5448	0.1030
##	573	590	2017	NY	2.8	0.5157	0.1408
##	575	592	2019	NY	2.9	0.5149	0.1250
##	571	588	2015	NY	3.1	0.5138	0.1540
##	574	591	2018	NY	2.9	0.5130	0.1110
##	572	589	2016	NY	3.2	0.5129	0.1473

4.4 Check for multicollinearity in predictors

Check for multicollinearity in predictor variables using a linear model and correlation coefficient.

```
lm.pov.ine <- lm(poverty_prop ~ gini_index, data = df) #fit a linear model</pre>
lmr2.pov.ine <- round(</pre>
                   summary(
                                                            #assign rounded r^2
to object
                     lm.pov.ine)$adj.r.squared,
                   2)
cor.pov.ine <- round(with(df,</pre>
                                                            #with the data
                           cor(gini_index, poverty_prop)),#correlation coeffic
ient
                      2)
                                                            #round to 2 decimals
Print output:
lmr2.pov.ine #r^2
## [1] 0.18
cor.pov.ine #r
## [1] 0.43
Plot output:
par(pty="s")
                                                           #square plot
```

```
with(df,
                                                          #with the data frame
     plot(poverty_prop ~ gini_index,
                                                          #plot poverty by Gini
          xlab = "Gini Coefficient",
          ylab = "Percent in Poverty"
          )
     )
abline(lm.pov.ine)
                                                          #add the lm fit
mtext(side = 3,
                                                          #add text reporting r
^2 and r
      adj = 1,
      cex = 0.75,
      text = bquote(r^2 ~ '=' ~ .(lmr2.pov.ine) ~ "," ~
                         '=' ~ .(cor.pov.ine))
```



Following the "rule of thumb" supported by Dormann et al. (9), the reported level of multicollinearity should not bias model results.

5 Multimodel comparison

Following theory, we propose that absolute and relative income should influence decisions that may lead to homicide. The unit of analysis is the state-year. Here we construct seven increasingly complex models (below) using generalized additive models from the mgcv

library (2-6) which allows us to fit the predictor variables as linear parametric terms while also including random effects and non-linear terms. All models include year as a factorlevel random intercept. This is because we have a "random" sample of years for which data are reported, out of the population of all years of potentially available information on homicide rates, inequality, and poverty. While we also have repeated observations per state, including both year and state as factor level random effects would essentially account for all variation as the unique combination of each factor (state and year). As such, our data retain some non-independence, however, this is unavoidable. Our attempt to partially account for this non-independence by fitting the trend for each year with random intercepts, and subsequently with random slopes and non-linear smooths. We include smooths because the response may be non-linear as pay-offs to risky behavior should plateau at some threshold. Given the nature and distribution of the response variable, we specify a Poisson family and log link with quasi-likelihood estimation to relax assumptions and reduce potential overdispersion. Negative binomial models would produce comparable results. After fitting each model, we compare them in order of complexity using approximate hypothesis tests with the anova.gam function. After selecting the "best" model, we run diagnostics, including assessing standardized model residuals by evaluating their distribution, checking for overdispersion, assessing temporal autocorrelation averaged by year, and comparing residuals by state. We then evaluate the results by examining model coefficients and plotting the partial response of predicted homicide rates as a function of poverty and inequality for the years 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.

Models:

- null model with only year as random intercept
- poverty only model with year as random intercept
- inequality only model with year as random intercept
- additive model with both poverty and inequality as parametric terms (linear) and year as random intercept
- interaction model with poverty and inequality as parametric terms and year as random intercept
- interaction model with poverty and inequality as parametric terms and year as random intercept and slope
- interaction model with poverty and inequality as parametric terms and year as random intercept and factor smooth (non-linear) interaction

```
Fit the models:
```

df\$year <- a	s.factor(df\$year)	#set year as a factor level
#null model i	with only year as a rand	om intercept
nul.m <- gam	(homicide_rate ~	<pre>#response: homicide rate</pre>
	<pre>s(year, bs = "re"), family = quasipoisson,</pre>	<pre>#year as a random intercept #Poisson family with quasi-likelihood es</pre>
timation	data = df	#with the data frame
)	

```
#poverty model + random intercept
pov.m <- gam(homicide rate ~</pre>
                                    #response: homicide rate
                poverty prop +
                                    #proportion living in poverty
                s(year, bs = "re"), #year as a random intercept
             family = quasipoisson, #Poisson family with quasi-likelihood es
timation
             data = df
                                    #with the data frame
              )
#inequality model + random intercept
ine.m <- gam(homicide rate ~</pre>
                                    #response: homicide rate
               gini_index +
                                   #Gini index
                s(year, bs = "re"), #year as a random intercept
             family = quasipoisson, #Poisson family with quasi-likelihood es
timation
                                    #with the data frame
             data = df
              )
#poverty and inequality + random intercept
add.m <- gam(homicide rate ~
                                  #response: homicide rate
               poverty_prop + #proportion living in poverty
gini_index + #Gini index
                s(year, bs = "re"), #year as a random intercept
             family = quasipoisson, #Poisson family with quasi-likelihood es
timation
                                    #with the data frame
             data = df
              )
#poverty interacting with inequality + random intercept
int.m <- gam(homicide_rate ~ #response: homicide rate</pre>
                poverty prop *
                                    #proportion living in poverty interactio
n with
                gini index +
                                    #Gini index
                s(year, bs = "re"), #year as random intercept
             family = quasipoisson, #Poisson family with quasi-likelihood es
timation
             data = df
                                    #with the data frame
              )
#poverty interacting with inequality + random intercept + slopes
int.b <- gam(homicide_rate ~ #response: homicide rate</pre>
                poverty_prop *
                                    #proportion living in poverty interactio
n with
                gini index + #Gini index
                s(year, bs = "re") + #year as a random intercept
                s(year, poverty_prop,#with random slope for poverty
                  bs = "re")+
                s(year, gini_index, #and random slope for inequality
```

```
bs = "re"),
             family = quasipoisson, #Poisson family with quasi-likelihood es
timation
             data = df
                                     #with the data frame
              )
#poverty interacting with inequality + random intercept + smooths
int.s <- gam(homicide_rate ~</pre>
                                     #response: homicide rate
                poverty prop *
                                     #proportion living in poverty interactio
n with
                gini index +
                                     #Gini index
                s(year, bs = "re") + #year as a random intercept
                s(year, poverty_prop,#with random smooth for poverty
                  bs = "fs")+
                s(year, gini_index, #and random smooth for inequality
                  bs = "fs"),
             family = quasipoisson, #Poisson family with quasi-likelihood es
timation
             data = df
                                     #with the data frame
              )
```

Compare the models:

```
#null model
anova.gam(nul.m,
         pov.m,
                     #poverty
                     #inequality
          ine.m,
          add.m,
                     #additive
          int.m,
                     #interaction
                     #interaction with random slope per year
          int.b,
                     #interaction with smooth factor interaction
          int.s.
          test = "F") #compare w/ F-test following R Core Team (2021) documen
tation stats::family
## Analysis of Deviance Table
##
## Model 1: homicide_rate ~ s(year, bs = "re")
## Model 2: homicide rate ~ poverty prop + s(year, bs = "re")
## Model 3: homicide_rate ~ gini_index + s(year, bs = "re")
## Model 4: homicide_rate ~ poverty_prop + gini_index + s(year, bs = "re")
## Model 5: homicide_rate ~ poverty_prop * gini_index + s(year, bs = "re")
## Model 6: homicide_rate ~ poverty_prop * gini_index + s(year, bs = "re") +
##
       s(year, poverty_prop, bs = "re") + s(year, gini_index, bs = "re")
## Model 7: homicide_rate ~ poverty_prop * gini_index + s(year, bs = "re") +
       s(year, poverty_prop, bs = "fs") + s(year, gini_index, bs = "fs")
##
     Resid. Df Resid. Dev
                                 Df Deviance
##
                                                     F
                                                          Pr(>F)
## 1
        883.31
                 1088.12
## 2
        881.07
                  746.51 2.2454995
                                      341.62 195.8940 < 2.2e-16 ***
## 3
       881.13
                  844.10 -0.0601301
                                      -97.59 2089.8972 < 2.2e-16 ***
## 4
       880.07
                  698.31 1.0556138
                                      145.78 177.8285 < 2.2e-16 ***
## 5 879.07
               694.83 0.9999905
                                        3.48
                                                4.4835 0.0345218 *
```

6 879.06 693.43 0.0051404 1.40 351.3644 0.0006692 ***
7 828.18 616.97 50.8818028 76.46 1.9350 0.0001446 ***
--## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
b.mod <- int.s #assign "best" model to object</pre>

As reported in the main text, the interaction model with smoothed terms by year is a significant improvement on all less complex models.

6 Model diagnostics

6.1 Standardized residuals

```
b.mod.resid <- residuals(b.mod, type = "scaled.pearson")</pre>
```

```
hist(b.mod.resid,
    main = NA,
    breaks = 100,
    xlim = c(-15, 15),
    xlab = "residuals\n(scaled Pearson)")
```



As reported in the main text, standardized residuals are centered on zero, but the model under-predicts several outlier cases (defined as scaled residual greater or less than 3).

These are:

df[which(b.mod.resid >= 3 | b.mod.resid <= -3), 1:3] #select state-year with
outlier residuals greater than 3 or less than -3</pre>

X year state ## 31 31 2015 AK ## 33 33 2017 AK ## 35 35 2019 AK ## 313 330 2009 LA ## 343 360 1990 MD ## 345 362 2005 MD MD ## 346 363 2006 ## 347 364 2007 MD ## 348 365 2008 MD ## 355 372 2015 MD ## 356 373 2016 MD ## 357 374 2017 MD ## 359 376 2019 MD ## 490 507 2006 NV

Residuals for 2020:

```
hist(b.mod.resid[which(df$year == "2020")],
  main = NA,
  breaks = 100,
  xlim = c(-15, 15),
  xlab = "residuals\n(scaled Pearson)")
```



6.2 Overdispersion

Check for overdispersion in the residuals:

```
sum(residuals(b.mod, type = "pearson")^2) / df.residual(b.mod)
```

[1] 0.7708686

6.3 Temporal autocorrelation

As there are multiple annual observations per state, we examine mean residual temporal autocorrelation per year:

```
b.mod.resid.mean <- aggregate(b.mod.resid, by = list(df$year), FUN = mean) #m
ean residual per year</pre>
```

b.mod.resid.mean <- b.mod.resid.mean[3:18,]#drop 1990 and 2000 given interrup
tions in time series</pre>

acf(b.mod.resid.mean\$x, main = NA) #mean residual per year from 2005 to 2020



As reported in the main text, there is only meaningful averaged autocorrelation up to one year.

6.4 State-level variation in residuals

Examine median residuals by state:

```
b.mod.resid.median <- aggregate(b.mod.resid, by = list(df$state), FUN = media
n)
par(pty = "s")
plot(b.mod.resid.median$x, 1:50, #plot blank range of residuals
    yaxt = "n",
    pch = NA,
    xlab = "residuals",
    ylab = NA)
text(b.mod.resid.median$x, 1:50, #add state labels
    labels = paste0(b.mod.resid.median$Group.1),
    cex = 0.75)
abline(v = 0, col = 'grey') #add reference Line</pre>
```



residuals

7 Model results

7.1 Model summary

Print the model summary:

summary(b.mod)

```
##
## Family: quasipoisson
## Link function: log
##
## Formula:
## homicide_rate ~ poverty_prop * gini_index + s(year, bs = "re") +
       s(year, poverty prop, bs = "fs") + s(year, gini index, bs = "fs")
##
##
## Parametric coefficients:
##
                           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                                        1.492
                                               3.001 0.00277 **
## (Intercept)
                              4.478
## poverty_prop
                            -51.600
                                        11.840 -4.358 1.47e-05 ***
## gini index
                            -7.860
                                        3.231 -2.433 0.01519 *
## poverty_prop:gini_index 122.936
                                       25.362 4.847 1.49e-06 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Approximate significance of smooth terms:
##
                           edf Ref.df
                                          F
                                             p-value
                                  17 15.962 < 2e-16 ***
## s(year)
                       16.172
## s(year,poverty_prop) 4.584
                                 178 0.053 0.008836 **
## s(year,gini_index)
                                 174 0.539 0.000239 ***
                       30.823
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## R-sq.(adj) = 0.462
                        Deviance explained = 47.3\%
## GCV = 0.77873 Scale est. = 0.77662 n = 900
```

7.2 Partial response

Isolate the inverse link of the model for transforming predicted values into response:

i.link <- family(b.mod)\$linkinv #inverse link function</pre>

Set the number of values to predict:

```
n.int <- 100  #number of values to predict across ran
ge
year_seq <- c(1990, 2000, 2010, 2020) #years to predict
n_levs <- 5  #number of levels (quantiles)</pre>
```

Plot the partial responses for homicide rate as a function of the proportion of individuals in poverty for each quantile of the Gini index, and as a function of the Gini index for each quantile of the proportion of individuals in poverty, predicting only across the range of observed state values for that focal year.

#png("McCoolCodding_Fig1.png", height = 7.5, width = 4, units = "in", res = 1
200) #write file

```
#plot
par(pty = "s", mfrow = c(4,2), mar = c(0, 1, 0, 0), oma = c(2,4.5,1,1))#squar
e two panel plot
for (j in 1:length(year_seq)) {
#left panel
plot(NA,
                                                                         #bLank
plot
     xlim = c(min(df$poverty_prop), max(df$poverty_prop)),
                                                                         #range
of poverty values
     ylim = c(0, max(df$homicide rate)+5),
                                                                         #range
of homicide values + 5
     xlab = "",
     xaxt = "n",
     ylab = "Homicide Rate\n(per 100,000)",
    xpd = NA
  )
#add lines
for(i in 1:n levs){
                                                                         #Loop
to plot for each quantile
ine.pred.lev <- with(subset(df, year == year_seq[j]),</pre>
                            quantile(gini index)
                                                                         #quant
ile levels of observed Gini in focal year
                      )
pov.pred.seq <- with(subset(df, year == year_seq[j]),</pre>
                                                                         #seque
nce to predict across range of poverty for focal year
                     seq(min(poverty_prop),
                          max(poverty_prop),
                          length.out = n.int)
                      )
pred.hom.pov <- data.frame(poverty_prop = pov.pred.seq,</pre>
                                                                         #new d
ata across sequence of poverty
                            gini index = rep(ine.pred.lev[i], n.int), #for e
ach quantile of Gini
                           year = rep(year_seq[j], n.int)
                                                                         #for f
ocal year
                            )
pred.hom <- predict(b.mod, newdata = pred.hom.pov)</pre>
                                                                         #predi
ct values
lines(i.link(pred.hom) ~ pov.pred.seq,
                                                                         #plot
response values
```

```
col = rev(viridis(n levs))[i],
                                                                         #color
blind safe
      1wd = 2
      )
}
with(subset(df, year == year_seq[j]),
                                                                        #plot
points for focal year
     points(homicide rate ~ poverty prop,
            col = adjustcolor("lightgrey", alpha = 0.3),
            pch = 19
            )
     )
legend("topleft",
                                                                         #legen
d for each Gini quantile
       bty = "n",
       legend = format(round(ine.pred.lev, 2), 2),
       col = rev(viridis(n_levs)),
       1wd = 2,
       cex = 0.7,
       title = "Inequality")
mtext(side = 3, adj = 0, line = 0, paste(year_seq[j]), cex=0.65)
#mtext(side = 3, adj = 0, Line = 0.5, "a)")
if(year_seq[j]=="2020")
                                                                        #add a
xis on bottom plot
  \{axis(side = 1, at = seq(0, 0.25, by = 0.05))\}
if(year_seq[j]=="2020")
                                                                        #add a
xis label on bottom plot
  {mtext(side = 1, line = 2, text = "Proportion in Poverty", cex=0.65)}
box()
#right panel
plot(NA,
                                                                         #blank
plot
     xlim = c(min(df$gini_index), max(df$gini_index)),
                                                                        #range
of Gini index values
     ylim = c(0 , max(df$homicide_rate)+5),
                                                                        #range
of homicide values + 5
     xlab = "",
     xaxt = "n",
     ylab = "",
     yaxt = "n"
     )
```

```
#add lines
for(i in 1:n levs){
                                                                          #Loop
to plot for each quantile
pov.pred.lev <- with(subset(df, year == year_seq[j]),</pre>
                             quantile(poverty prop)
                                                                          #quant
ile levels of observed poverty in focal year
                      )
ine.pred.seq <- with(subset(df, year == year_seq[j]),</pre>
                                                                         #seque
nce to predict across range of poverty for focal year
                      seq(min(gini index),
                          max(gini index),
                          length.out = n.int)
                      )
pred.hom.ine <- data.frame(poverty_prop = rep(pov.pred.lev[i], n.int), #new d</pre>
ata for each quantile of poverty
                           gini_index = ine.pred.seq,
                                                                         #acros
s range of Gini
                           year = rep(year_seq[j], n.int)
                                                                         #for f
ocal year
                            )
pred.hom <- predict(b.mod, newdata = pred.hom.ine)</pre>
                                                                         #predi
ct values
lines(i.link(pred.hom) ~ ine.pred.seq,
                                                                          #plot
response values
      col = rev(viridis(n_levs))[i],
                                                                          #color
blind safe
      1wd = 2
      )
}
with(subset(df, year == year seq[j]),
                                                                          #plot
points for focal year
     points(homicide_rate ~ gini_index,
            col = adjustcolor("lightgrey", alpha = 0.3),
            pch = 19
            )
     )
legend("topleft",
                                                                          #Legen
d for each poverty quantile
       bty = "n",
       legend = format(round(pov.pred.lev, 2), 2),
       col = rev(viridis(n_levs)),
```

box()

}





Legend for Dataset S1

- year = record year
- state = reporting state
- homicide_rate = total number of homicides per 100,000 people
- gini_index = a measure of income distribution from 0 1
- poverty_prop = proportion of people with income under the poverty level

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