

## **Project Proposal**

### **CMPU 250**

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#### **Project topic:**

For our project we'll be looking at data on domestic violence in New York City and determining the highest predictors for reports of domestic violence.

#### **Introduction**

Domestic violence is not an equal issue. It disproportionately affects the lives of certain racial and ethnic groups, genders, those in different financial standings and more. The difficulty to predict stems from the many social and psychological factors which can push someone to commit violence within the home. As a result, responses to domestic violence are often lackluster and do not do enough to prevent the issue from recurring. In many cases, this failure to produce concrete assistance incentivises other victims not to report violence and therefore makes fixing the broader issues even tougher.

This project aims to strengthen the predictability of domestic violence by analyzing police report data and identifying key factors within the data. We will attempt to un-blur the correlations between domestic violence occurrences and race, ethnicity, gender, and poverty level. In doing so, we hope to make the response to domestic violence more equitable and effective.

#### **Motivation**

Domestic violence is officially classified in many forms including “physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship.” (OVW). Unfortunately, as many cases go unreported for a variety of reasons, our research is constrained to reported cases of domestic violence. In the case of intimate partner violence it is estimated that “each year, approximately 500,000 women are physically assaulted

or raped by an intimate partner compared to 100,000 men.” (National Library of Medicine, 2023).

Understanding how intersectionality affects domestic violence is critical to properly address the issue in an effective manner. Factors such as race, gender, class, and welfare status shape lived experiences, struggles and access to support systems, and therefore useful methods of intervention (Josephson, 2002). By examining intersectionality, we can identify disparities in reporting, response, and prevention strategies to ensure that domestic violence interventions address the needs of all affected communities.

### **Research questions**

- How does the rate of domestic violence reports vary across the different intersections of gender and race?
- Are these variations more prominent when considering the demographics of either the suspect or the victim?
- How does the economic status of a neighborhood affect the rate and reporting of domestic violence reports?

### **Potential Dataset**

- NYC Domestic Violence Dataset:  
<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/endgbv-the-intersection-of-domestic-violence-race-ethnicity-and-sex-99099>

We intend to study a dataset from the City of New York consisting of incident reports for domestic violence in 2020 and 2021. It includes the type of offense, the date it was reported, the precinct code in which it occurred, the borough in which it occurred, the race, sex, and age of the victim and offender, and information on the financial state of their area.

### **Expected Findings**

The dataset described above directly relates to our research questions. By looking at the race and gender of the victims and suspects of domestic violence reports, we can gain a better understanding of the populations that are disproportionately affected by domestic violence. We

expect to find a majority of victims to be women of color. Additionally, by analyzing the reports from precinct's with high rates of unemployment and/or poverty vs those without, we expect to find a higher volume of incidents in areas with higher rates of unemployment and poverty.

### **Group Contract**

We will communicate primarily through text and meet in person each Thursday. The meeting will provide us time and space to plan for the week and to review our completed work. When dividing up tasks, we will make an effort to assign each person an equal amount of work, and make sure that everyone is clear on our goals for the week before leaving.

### **References**

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Sokoloff, Natalie J., and Ida Dupont. "Domestic Violence at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender." *Violence Against Women* 11, no. 1 (January 2005): 38–64.  
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<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence>.