

Rithik, Aaron, Chen, Jakob:

- What is the project focus/overall goal?

Police overtime focus on auditing the budget of the Boston Police Department, with an emphasis on analyzing overtime.

- Why is this project important?

While the police are here to help with law and order, the job also comes with a title of authority. This authority instilled in the police department can also make them misuse their power. Therefore, there needs to be transparency and accountability in how the 400 million dollars assigned to BPD is utilized. Hence, drawing out patterns and understanding the trend of the spend is important.

- What type of data will you collect or be analyzing?

We will be analyzing police salary data, which accounts for the amounts paid to each employee for overtime, injury and other earnings besides the regular stipend.

- What are potential limitations of the project?

Data Transparency: Government agencies may not always provide full transparency when it comes to budgeting and financial data. Contextual Understanding: To draw meaningful conclusions about spending and overtime practices, it's difficult to make out if the police was actually performing overtime or not. Ethics: Handling payroll data and personnel records involves sensitive information about individuals. Incomplete Picture: Financial data alone may not provide a comprehensive understanding of waste or misconduct within the BPD. Investigating individual officers' conduct may require additional data sources, such as internal affairs records or disciplinary actions.

- What are your next steps? Divide tasks amongst the team

We will continually communicate with the spark team and our lab instructors and monitor release dates to complete the necessary tasks for the next deliverable. We will also explore the data given in the repository.