

Investigation of Crimes in the United States

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Introduction

Background:

Crime is inevitable in almost any location regardless of whether it is in a big city or in a small city. Crimes can be mitigated by knowing potential indicators for cities that are nearing statuses that would cause a substantial increase in crime.

New York City (NYC) is the largest city in the United States (US) by population with 8 million people. However, the area that NYC expands over is only 784 km². In comparison, the second largest city in the US is Los Angeles with 4 million people and an area of 1300 km². Yet, the homicide rate in Los Angeles is higher than it is in NYC. It would be interesting to see whether the higher crime rate is universally spread across the city or is it localized to smaller areas due to other factors including population of a specific area.

Business Problem:

Being able to determine factors that cause people to want or feel the need to pursue criminal acts is very useful in being able to help areas that are on the verge. Locations that have already passed the threshold are difficult to help because it becomes ingrained in the people a way of life. Preventing areas from reaching this point would attack the problem early.

Interest:

Crime prevention agencies would be interested in knowing these indicators as they can deploy their units effectively. People who are planning to move to new cities would also benefit from knowing this information since it is rare for travelers to know much about a city before they have lived there.

Data Collection:

Data on the crimes of Los Angeles and New York City will be necessary for determining the locations of the highest density of crimes. Other data would include costs of apartments which can be found on street easy website, number of venues neighborhoods have to offer which would be acquired using the Foursquare API, population and population density in each area opendatanetwork.com, and poverty rates of different areas of these cities.