**Project Proposal -**

**Determining Rate of Violent Crime by Public Institutions**

Project Members

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Background

In 2023, New York City public parks and greenspaces were elevated and revamped with safety and healthier lifestyles as the goal for the community. This was seen through bike trails, wildlife, scenic views, planted trees, community gardens, and open spaces.

In November of the same year, it was announced that most New York City Libraries would be closed on Sundays along with reduced funding for materials, programs, and building repairs. Public libraries provide access to books, materials, programs and classes for all ages, free Wi-Fi and computers, as well as a safe place for those in the community.

Objectives

To understand the relationship between violent crimes (specifically rape, murder/manslaughter, and robbery) in New York City and the proximity to public institutions, the project team will examine violent offenses committed in each of the five boroughs of NYC: Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island, within a one-mile radius of public libraries and parks (public areas). Coordinates of committed violent crimes will be collected and analyzed from the NYC Complaint Data Historic (2023) along with coordinates of public libraries and parks, obtained from the NYC Capital Planning Explorer. This data will then be run through a series of tests to identify if any statistical significance could be determined.

Research Questions

* Does proximity to public areas affect where violent crimes are committed?
* If there are cases where crime rates are higher, in which public areas and boroughs?
* In which public areas are rape, robbery, and murder/manslaughter more likely to occur?

Significance and Potential Impact

The purpose of this research is to discover if there is a correlation between where violent crimes are committed and public areas. Additionally, this analysis aims to provide city officials, policing agencies, and citizens of NYC with the information necessary to evaluate and recommend changes to current strategies, policies, and funding for programs within public libraries and parks, for better safety precautions throughout the boroughs. In all, this project is intended to educate and direct decision-makers in achieving, or maintaining, a safe community.