Evaluating Vulnerable Areas of New York City: Introduction

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25/08/2020

1 Introduction

New York City is both the most populated, and most densely populated city in the world, with more than 8.3 million inhabitants. It is also one of the most expensive places to live in the world, particularly the Manhattan burough, and between these two factors it has a significant population of vulnerable people - whether that is economically, or to crime, or various other reasons. These populations tend to be clustered into neighbourhoods where the problem is prominent among the people there, and our goal will be to identify these vulnerable areas, and those at risk of becomming one.

In this project, we will examine the distriubtion of the population of NYC in terms of income and crime levels. This information would be of interest to local government, who need to know where to invest in community projects, policing and any other support initiatives. It may also be of use for police forces to allocate resources, and to real estate businesses, in the evaluation of properties by the neighbourhoods they are part of.

We will look at neighbourhoods by income levels, crime rates and types, and business types and count, then cluster them appropriately. We will look particularly for areas with high levels of crime, low income or both, and for areas that appear at risk of becoming one or the other. These vulnerable areas will be those that should be the focus of new initiatives, funding or policing.