CRIME IN LONDON

Where does it happen and why?

Background

- London is one of the world's most important economic hubs.
- People from all over the UK come to London to live and work.
- However, there is a perception that London is a violent place.

This investigation seeks to find out where violent crime occurs in London and examines some of the drivers of this violence.

Purpose

The insights generated in this report could be used:

- City administrators and policymakers looking to prevent crime.
- Individuals deciding where to buy property in the capital.
- By multinational companies contemplating moving their offices to the city and advising their employees where to move in London.

Data Sources

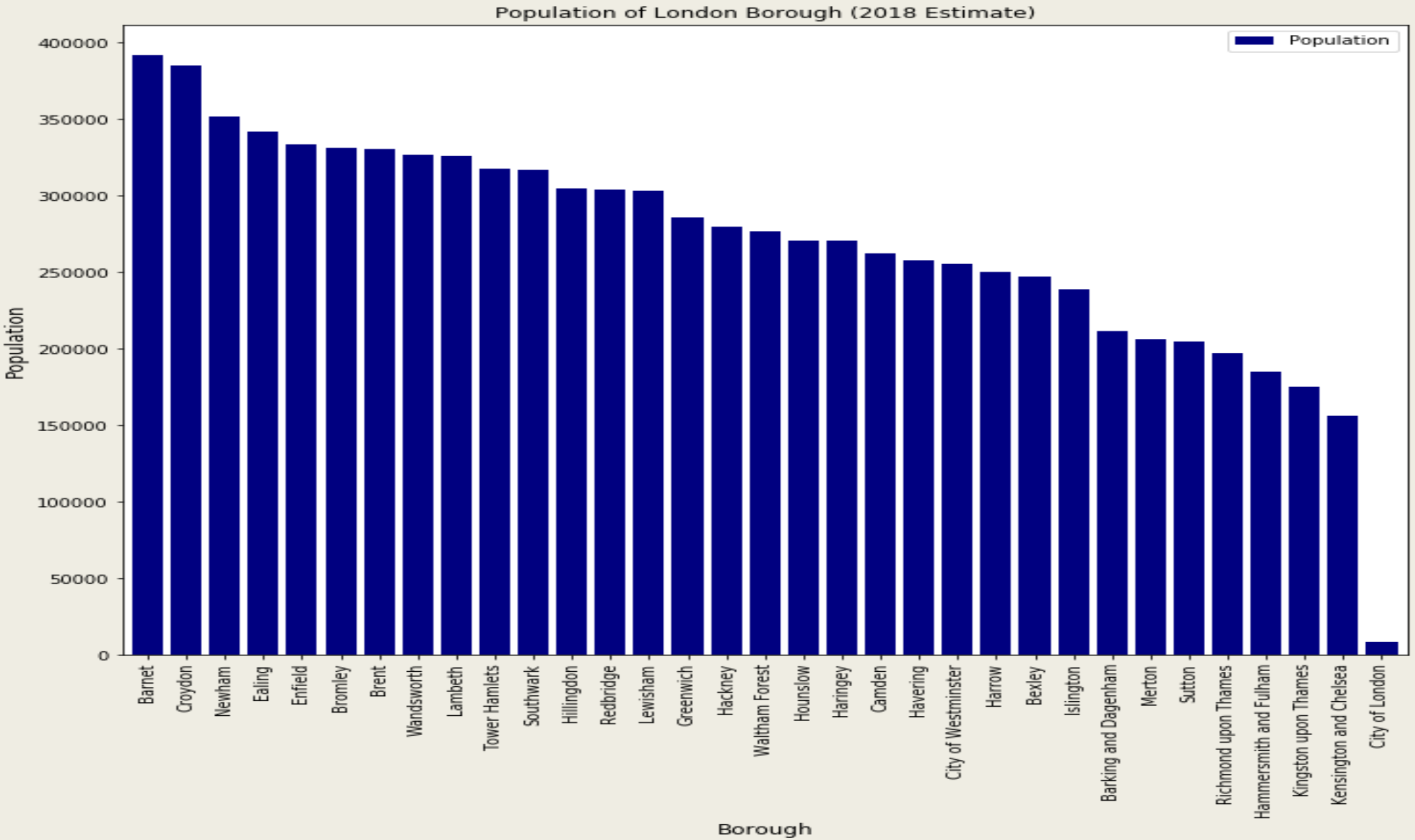
The main sources of data for this project were

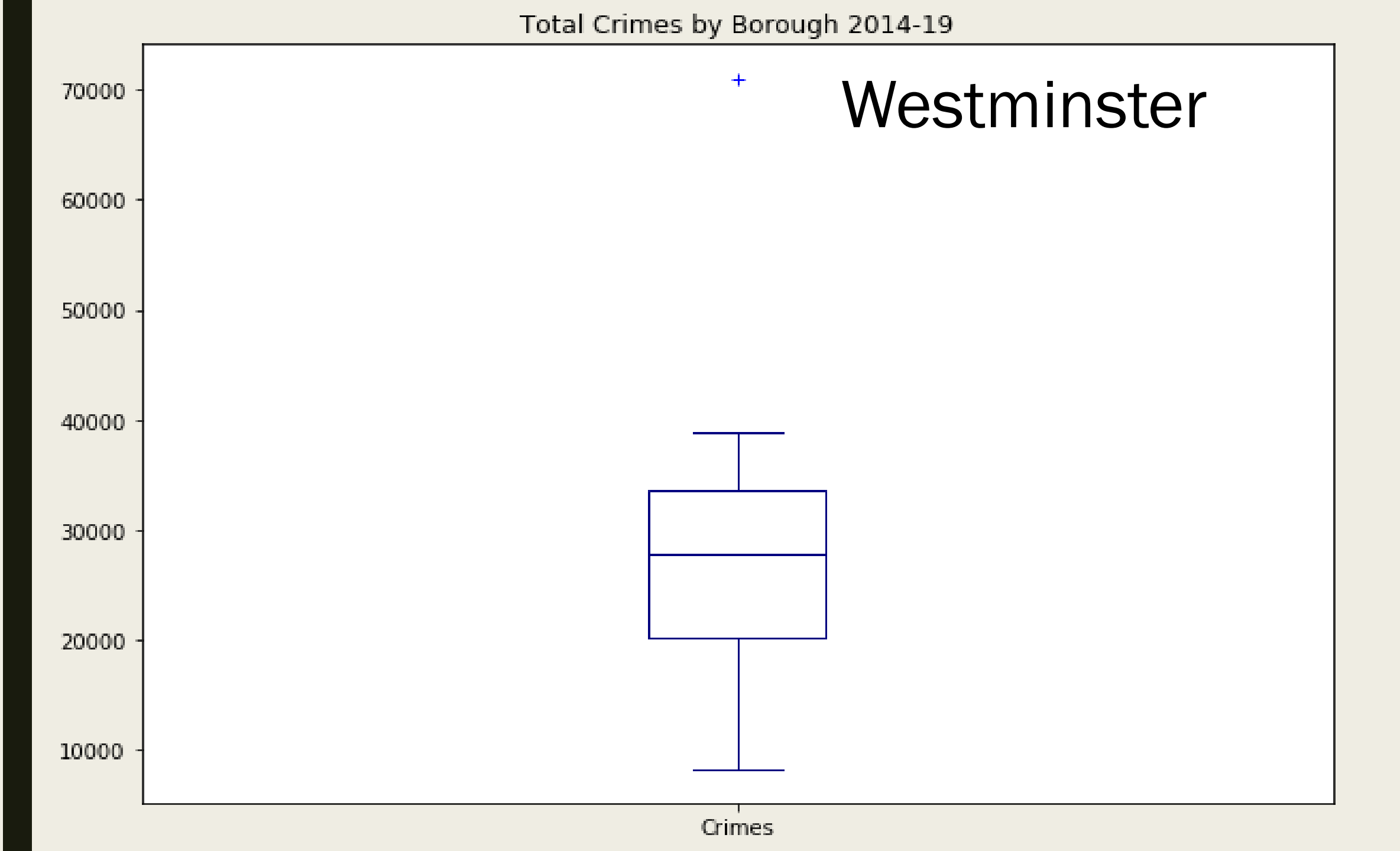
- Data.Police
- Met Police data and stats hub.
- Finder.com
- “City Population.DE”

Explanatory Data Analysis

- Identified two boroughs to be excluded from the analysis:

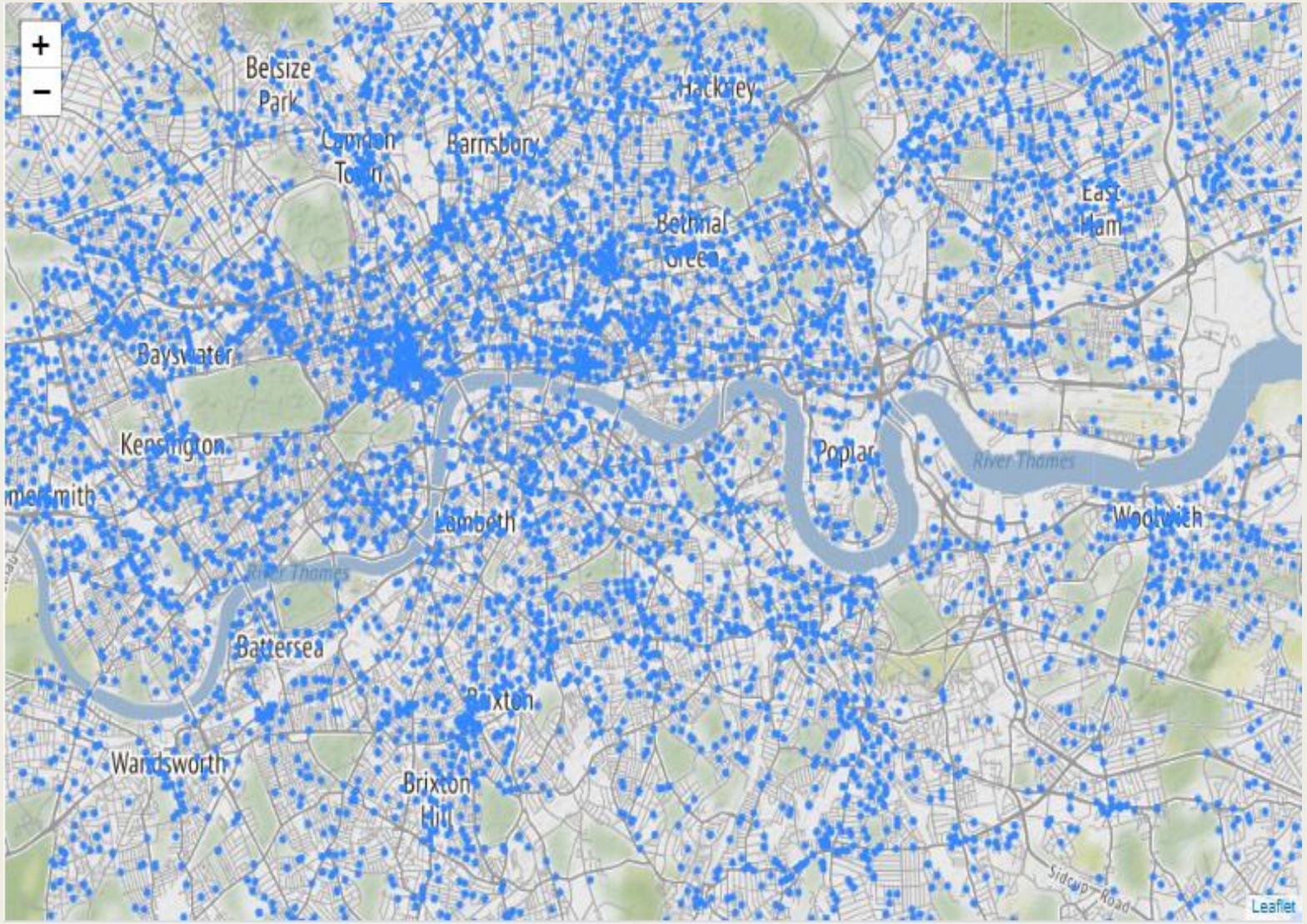
1. ‘City of London’ – Very small population
2. ‘Westminster’ – Inflated crime rate due to tourist and night time activity


Population of London Borough (2018 Estimate)
Population
400000
350000
300000
250000
200000
150000
100000
50000
0
Population
Barnet
Croydon
Newham
Ealing
Enfield
Bromley
Brent
Wandsworth
Lambeth
Tower Hamlets
Southwark
Hillingdon
Redbridge
Lewisham
Greenwich
Hackney
Waltham Forest
Hounslow
Haringey
Camden
Havering
City of Westminster
Harrow
Bexley
Islington
Barking and Dagenham
Merton
Sutton
Richmond upon Thames
Hammersmith and Fulham
Kingston upon Thames
Kensington and Chelsea
City of London
Borough


Total Crimes by Borough 2014-19
Westminster
70000
60000
50000
40000
30000
20000
10000
Crimes

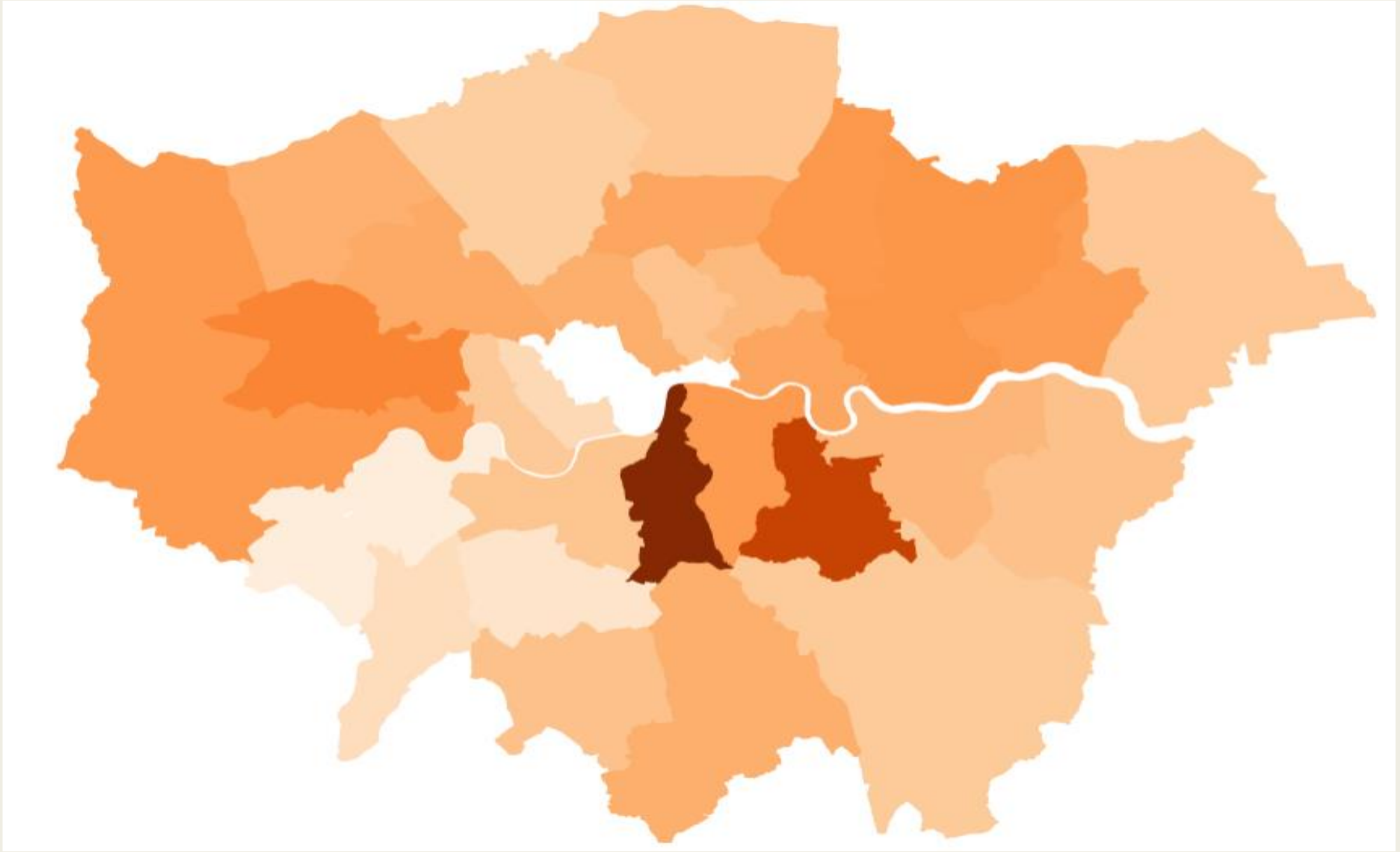
Analysis and Results

- Combination of mapping and graphing techniques used to investigate the location of violent crime across London



Snapshot of violent crimes across London

When grouped...



Causes of Violent Crime

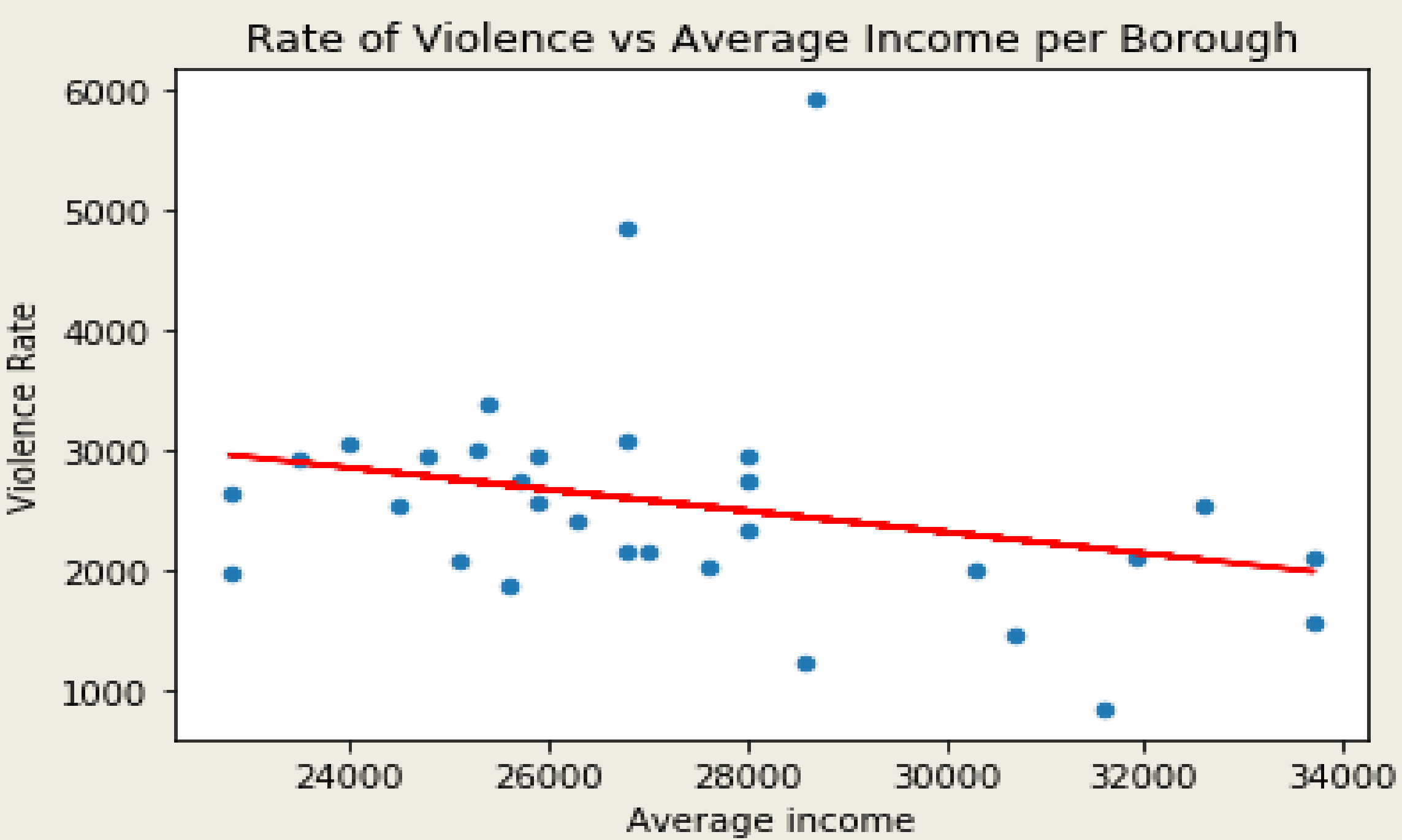
The following 4 factors were tested

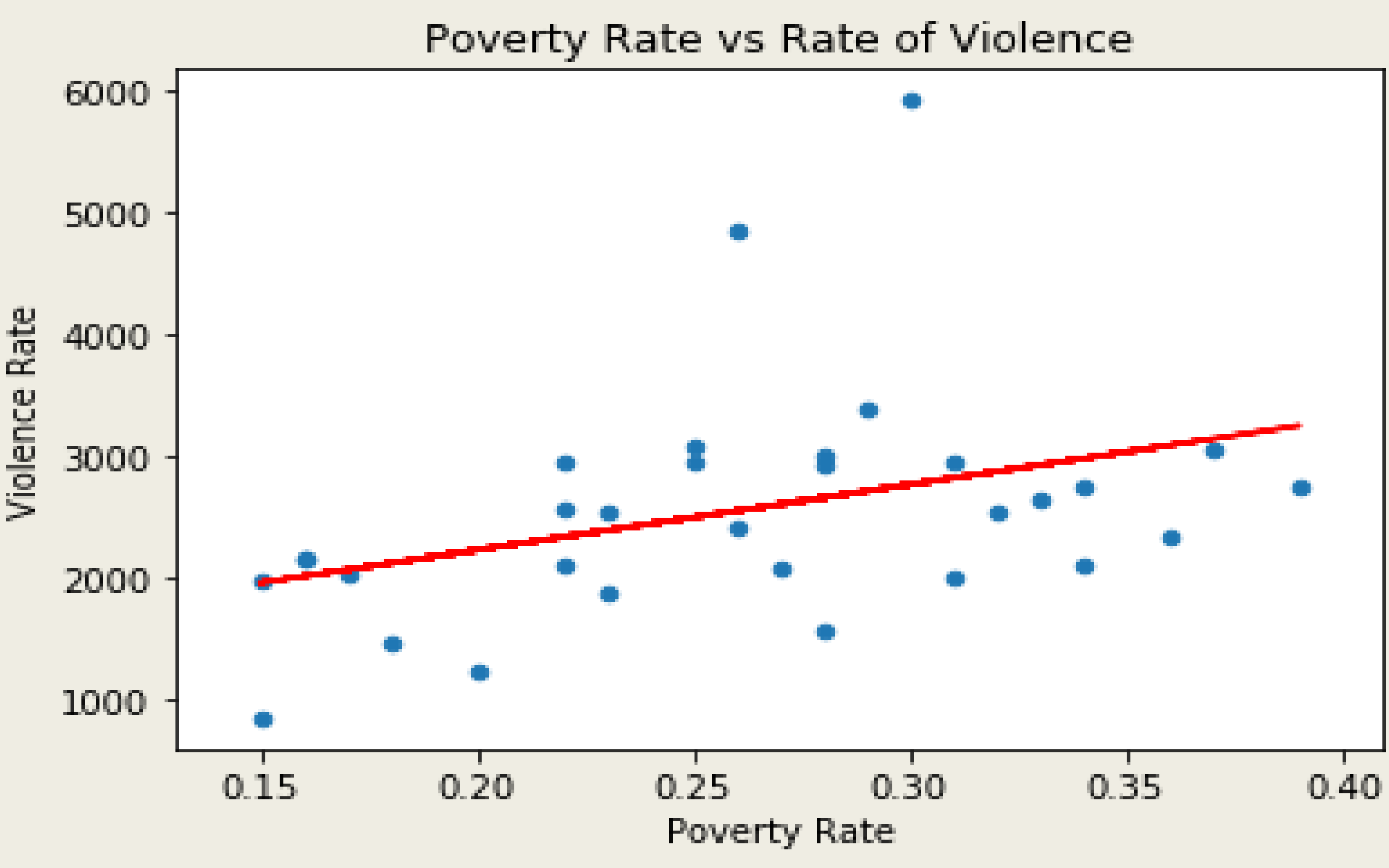
1. Average Income per Borough

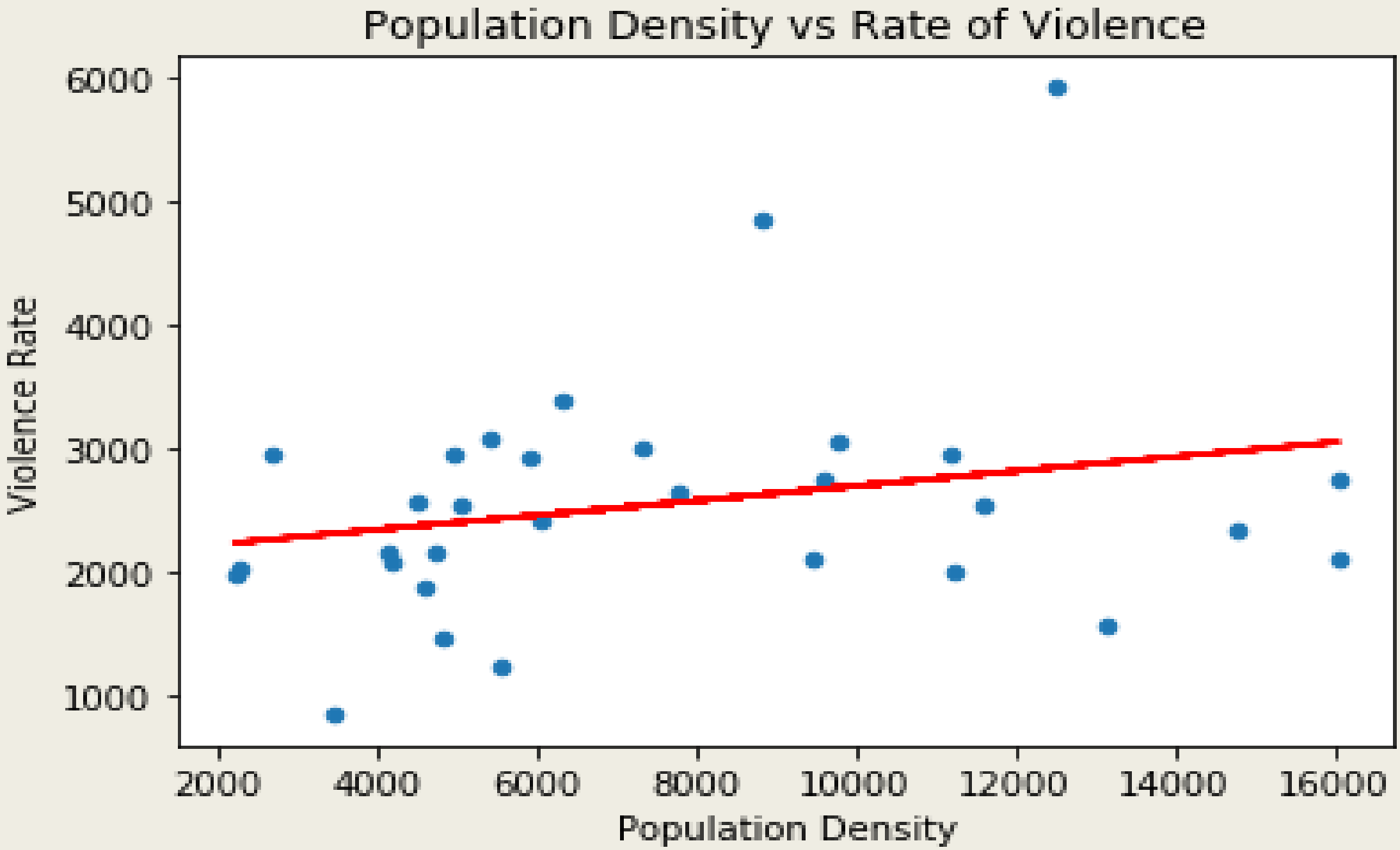
2. Rate of Poverty across Boroughs

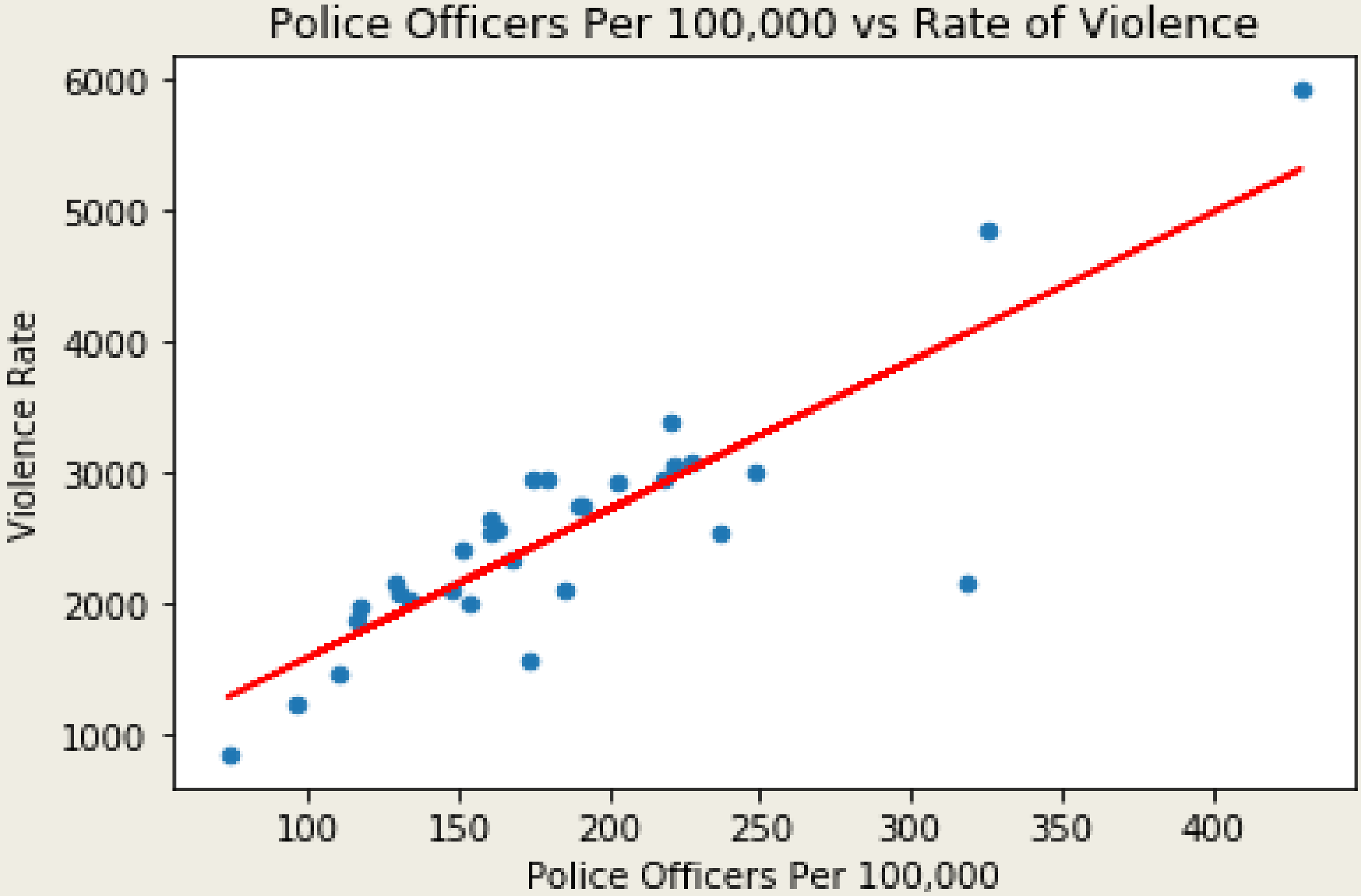
3. Population Density across Boroughs

4. Number of Police Officers per 100,000 people within a Borough


Rate of Violence vs Average Income per Borough
Violence Rate
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
24000
26000
28000
30000
32000
34000
Average income


Poverty Rate vs Rate of Violence
Violence Rate
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0.15
0.20
0.25
0.30
0.35
0.40
Poverty Rate


Population Density vs Rate of Violence
Violence Rate
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
2000
4000
6000
8000
10000
12000
14000
16000
Population Density


Police Officers Per 100,000 vs Rate of Violence
Violence Rate
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
100
150
200
250
300
350
400
Police Officers Per 100,000

Results

- No real relationship between average income and violent crime, but rate of poverty could be a better measure.
- No significant relationship could be ascertained from comparing population density and rates of violent crime.
- There was an unexpected, strong positive relationship between the number of police officers per 100,000 people and violent crime – this suggests that more police resources are deployed in response to higher crime rather than more police depressing the amount of violent crime.

Conclusion – Insights

‘Descriptive’ questions were answered: which area of London would you advise a person to live in to avoid violent crime?

An individual looking to move to London would be safest in the south-west of London. The places to avoid include southern-central and eastern parts of London.

Conclusion – Further Research

- It is recommended that the same exercise is repeated, but takes into account changes over time. As only one year has been used as a ‘snapshot’ of crime in London, repeating the exercise could be necessary.
- It is possible that small changes in these factors leads to a big (but possibly temporary) spike in violence. Using a single year as a snapshot may also lead to misleading results.