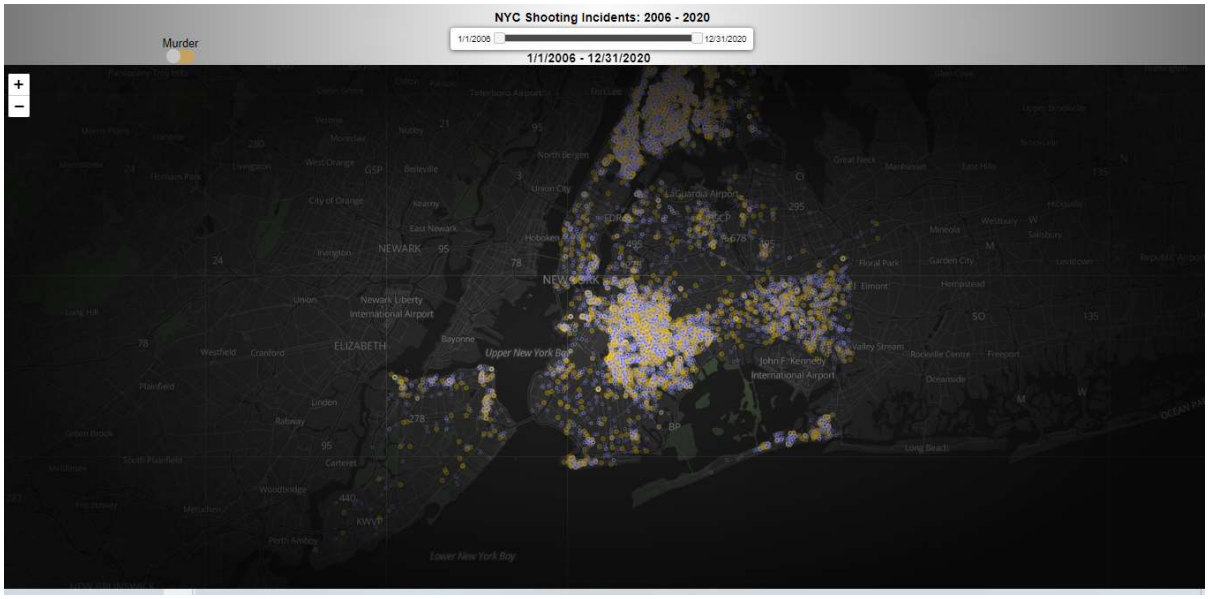
NYC Shootings – Where and When

https://numbersequence.github.io/interactivedataviz/Shootings/

Not all shootings that occur in NYC are reported in the media. As such, residents may have a skewed interpretation of how common they are and where they occur. This interactive visualization gives the audience an intuitive and informative tool to explore their neighborhood and any other area of interest. It is not intended to provide political nor socioeconomical analysis. Its purpose is to allow one's natural curiosity to inspire questions and hypotheses organically.



Data was sourced from NYC Open Data – NYPD Shooting Incident Data (Historic) and exported as a CSV file. Using Excel, incident numbers that had a record identified as a murder were given an appropriate classification. To minimize the size of the file, extraneous columns were deleted before data was converted to geoJson format. This served as the data source for the visualization. Unfortunately, there were inconsistencies in the reported data. There appears to be an abundance of duplicated entries provided by NYC Open Data. As such, any attempt to find a count of individual victims was unreliable. I decided to remove these references and categorizations from my visualization.

While brainstorming, I saved these images for inspiration. They reflect how I envisioned this visualization would come together.

Subdued styling was chosen to reflect the severity of the data. Additionally, incidents were not grouped by region because I wanted the visualization to represent people and not . Markers are opaque to account for the cases where a location may be the scene of more than one shooting incident. The data only highlights NYC shootings, the layout of which leaves a large amount of empty space on standard screens. A round gradient was applied over the map to minimize this effect, but also adds to the overall aesthetic.

Leaflet and a modified slider plugin were crucial in allowing this visualization to come together. The slider appears in the map area as a default, but modifying the CSS allowed it to be repositioned. I believe this helped achieve a minimalistic presentation that does not distract the viewer from the data itself and allows them the