Yesenny Fernandez

DATA 73200

Abstract

May 23rd, 2022

**Visuality and knowledge of Domestic Violence in New York City**

Domestic violence occurs in a home when one of the members of the family group has an abusive behavior towards one or all the other members of the family and this situation can occur between the members of a couple, either from the male to the female or from the female to the male, towards the children, the elderly, or any other member of the family group. This issue does not discriminate based on age, gender, economic condition, or any other factor; It can affect anyone, and therefore in this long-term project I am focusing on all these demographics.

In the Fall of 2021, I started a long-term project and created a [pastiche](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/yesenny.fernandez1753/viz/DomesticViolenceinNYC/DVinNYC) using Tableau imitating the work by Mexican Artist, Theresa Margolles who does a great job at creating art from traumatic events such as creating a bench with a mixture of cement and material absorbed from the ground where a person was killed in Ciudad Juárez in Mexico and like this not let their lives fall into oblivion. I took a similar approach by analyzing data from the [NYPD on Domestic Violence](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/reports-analysis/domestic-violence.page) and for about three weeks I visited 41 precincts across the five boroughs of New York City to photograph each precinct building where murders were reported due to domestic violence in 2020. The project made explicit how a photograph of a physical location where data is stored from the victim can serve as a remembrance that these victims lost their lives as a consequence of an issue that could have been prevented, however, it continues to rise every year.

In this project, I try to represent the languages that many domestic violence agencies offer in New York City. This being said, on the [map](https://yesennyfernandez.github.io/DomesticViolence/distributions/), I am representing the latest information acquired from New York City Open data on the[Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence](https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/Mayor-s-Office-to-End-Domestic-and-Gender-Based-Vi/5ziv-wcy4/data) (ENDGBV). However, this dataset had limited information on languages, and I decided to call each of these agencies, but I found a similarity after calling about 10 agencies. If the agency did not report languages other than English on the dataset, it simply means that they do not have staff speaking any other language other than English and they only have Language access line to assist any victim seeking help in any other language. This system is to ensure that all New Yorkers have equitable access to domestic violence services and to ensure that language is not a barrier, however, while researching information on domestic violence in NYC a few months ago I came across a few [articles](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/25/nyregion/police-tackle-language-barrier-in-domestic-abuse-cases.html) discussing how a lot of victims face language barriers when trying to report their abusers and many cases are not even translated from the victim’s native language to English. In other words, many victims’ cases are abandoned and not taken care of.

According to nyc.gov, there is a Local Law 30 of 2017 (LL30) which requires city agencies to have a “language access **coordinator**, develop language access implementation plans, provide telephonic interpretation in at least 100 languages, translate their most commonly distributed documents into the 10 designated citywide languages,” which are Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Bengali, Haitian, Korean, Arabic, Urdu, French, and Polish. Nevertheless, I am hoping this is a start to unveiling the limited languages that each agency in charge of Domestic Violence in New York City is providing because as stated above there must be in-person coordinators providing these services for the many victims that the city has every day.

The colors I have used are like the ones that organizations like thehotline.org and nyscadv.org use; Purple represents equality and peace. Several theories try to explain the use of purple as a symbol of domestic violence and the most repeated is the one that tells the story of the fire in a textile factory in the United States in 1908. The workers of the New York cotton company declared themselves on strike and the business owner set fire to the building killing the workers. Therefore, this project is a continuation of the many organizations in NYC that have been helping for years with this issue that never ends.

The [scatterplot](https://yesennyfernandez.github.io/DomesticViolence/distributions/) with Domestic Violence Incidents Reported to New York City Precincts displays the boroughs by colors and on my Y-Axis I added the number of cases reported which in the dataset are called “complaints” and on my X-Axis I have added the precincts where each of these cases were reported to.

When developing the [map](https://yesennyfernandez.github.io/DomesticViolence/Geography/index), using Leaflet was extremely helpful and made it simpler to work on this, and I selected a light color background map to make my circles with locations noticeable. I knew I wanted to visualize the agencies in charge of domestic violence in NYC and the languages that they have as a resource. I made sure the tooltip included the language services that each agency provides. I made a comment within the tooltip letting the user know that if the Language service two includes “Language service line” it simply means that the agency does not have in-person translators for victims just over the phone.

In the future, I plan to recreate this map with a background layer of NYC neighborhoods and the predominant races in each of them. Like this, I can do a join and within my tooltip, I can let the user know not only the language services provided in these agencies but also the race of the residents around these locations. This could help me to reach my target audience which are these city agencies and authorities so they could provide more language services in these agencies to their neighborhoods.

In addition, I spent a few days troubleshooting different time series, but the way I organized my data was perhaps not the best for these types of visualizations. I ended up creating a small dataset which allowed me to create a [time series](https://yesennyfernandez.github.io/DomesticViolence/time_series/index), but my years continued to show in decimals. However, with the dropdown menu that I added, I can change my boroughs which I couldn’t with my previous datasets.

This is a long-term project and I do plan for the information to be public once all my visualizations are displaying the message exactly how I am envisioning it. I will be displaying it on a website created using WordPress and I also planning to reach a few domestic violence agencies and see in which way I could collaborate with them as a way for me to expand this project.

**Sources and References**

“Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Resource Directory.” *NYC Open Data*. <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/Mayor-s-Office-to-End-Domestic-and-Gender-Based-Vi/5ziv-wcy4/data>.

*New York City Police Department.* “Domestic Violence Reports.” AccessedMarch 4, 2022. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/reports-analysis/domestic-violence.page>.

Turkewitz, Julie. “Language Barrier Continues to Thwart Victims of Crimes.” *The New York Times.* The New York Times, May 12, 2014. <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/12/nyregion/language-barrier-continues-to-thwart-victims-of-crimes.html>.

[Repo](https://github.com/yesennyfernandez/DomesticViolence/blob/main/distributions/main.js) and [Page](https://yesennyfernandez.github.io/DomesticViolence/distributions/)

[Repo](https://github.com/yesennyfernandez/DomesticViolence/blob/main/Geography/main.js) and [Page](https://yesennyfernandez.github.io/DomesticViolence/Geography/index)

[Repo](https://github.com/yesennyfernandez/DomesticViolence/blob/main/time_series/main.js) and [Page](https://yesennyfernandez.github.io/DomesticViolence/time_series/index)