



Crime in Minneapolis

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1 Introduction

George Floyd was arrested and killed by Derek Chauvin, a U.S. police officer, on the 25th of May in Minneapolis, BBC News (2020). Chauvin knelt on George Floyd's neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds as Floyd gasped for air. His abominable death has sparked outrage on police brutality across America.

For several years, African-Americans have been the subject of racial vilification. In a study by Dottolo and Stewart (2008) students were interviewed and asked about police harassment and crime. Close analysis revealed that the students had stereotyped the criminals to be poor African American men.

This paper hopes to explore and understand crime in Minneapolis. Specifically, the crime incidence, the neighborhoods where crime is most common, the crime incidence over time, the force used by police and the areas where police have used force.

2 Data

To perform this analysis data was downloaded from the City of Minneapolis Police Department ([2020](#)). The data obtained included the shapefiles, the crime dashboard (crime incident data) and the use of force dashboard (the use of force data).

The crime incident data had a high number of missing values, where the race of the offender was not recorded. To mitigate the impact on the calculated proportions, particularly where race is concerned, they were not removed. This considered, the analysis will be impacted and the resulting proportions may be over or under-estimated as a result of the missing values.

The use of force data has a high number of missing values which will adversely impact the accuracy of the analysis. In addition, there is a Precinct 0 and there is no explanation on the official Minneapolis website which will certainly impact the results. The ‘ResponseDate’ can be traced back to 2008, however, no records have been kept, therefore it cannot be used in analysis. Finally, the ‘PoliceUseOfForceID’ and ‘OBJECTID’ cannot be used for analysis as they are arranged in order and are independent of ‘real’ police officers and ‘real’ witnesses. While it protects the privacy of these individuals, it means that conclusions on aggressive police officers cannot be drawn.

3 Methodology

3.1 Analysing the Crime Incidence

The crime incident data was wrangled, and each offense was assigned to its relevant offense type. Each offense was grouped according to year, and the incidence of each offense was calculated. The results were plotted.

3.2 Analysing the Neighborhoods with the Most Crime

3.3 Analysing the Crime over Time

3.4 Analysing the Force Used by Police

3.5 Mapping the Use of Force Data

4 Results

4.1 Crime Incidence

Figure 1 demonstrates that across all years, theft is the most commonly committed crime in Minneapolis. In this instance theft includes; automobile theft, bike theft, coin-operated device theft, gas-station drive off, online theft, petty theft, pocket picking, scrapping-recycling theft, theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle, theft from a person, other theft, theft by swindle and theft of motor vehicle parts. Burglary and assault are the second and third highest committed crimes, respectively. It should be noted that 2019 is the only complete year, hence the higher incidence.

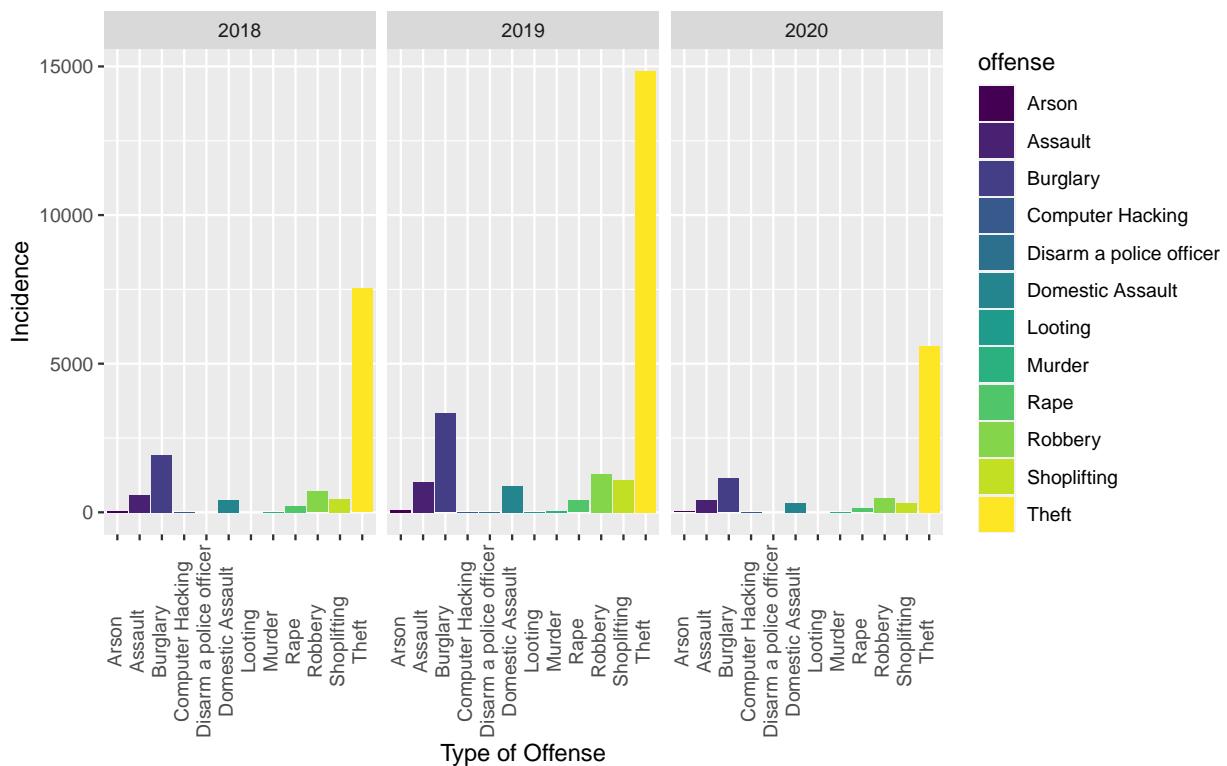


Figure 1: Crime incidence according to Year and Offense Type

4.2 Neighborhoods with the Most Crimes

Figure 2 captures the top five most frequent offenses in the neighborhoods with the highest crime rates. It is clear that theft is the most commonly committed crime across all neighborhoods, consistent with Figure 1. Comparitively, Longflow has a similar incidence of shoplifting and theft.

Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5, show that across all years **Downtown West** and **Whittier** have the highest crime rate, followed by **Longfellow**, **Lowry Hill East** and **Marcy Holmes**.

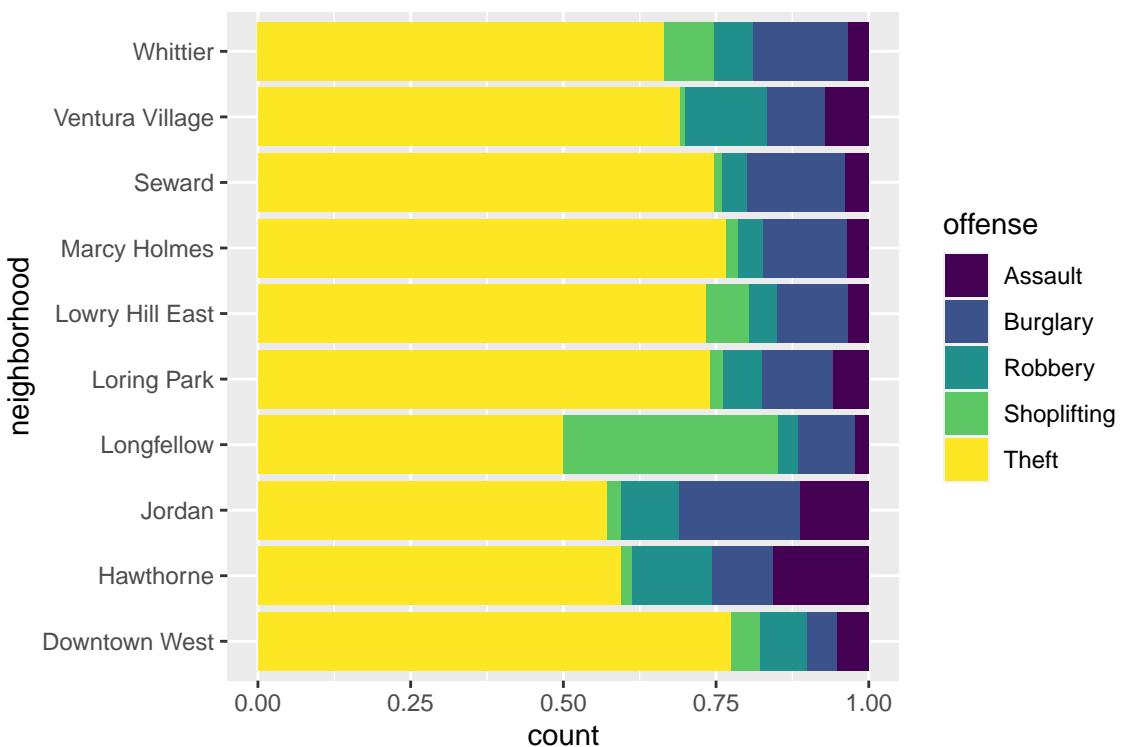


Figure 2: The most common offence type in the Neighborhoods with the highest Crime Incidence

Table 1: Top 20 Neighborhoods with the Highest Crime Rate for 2018

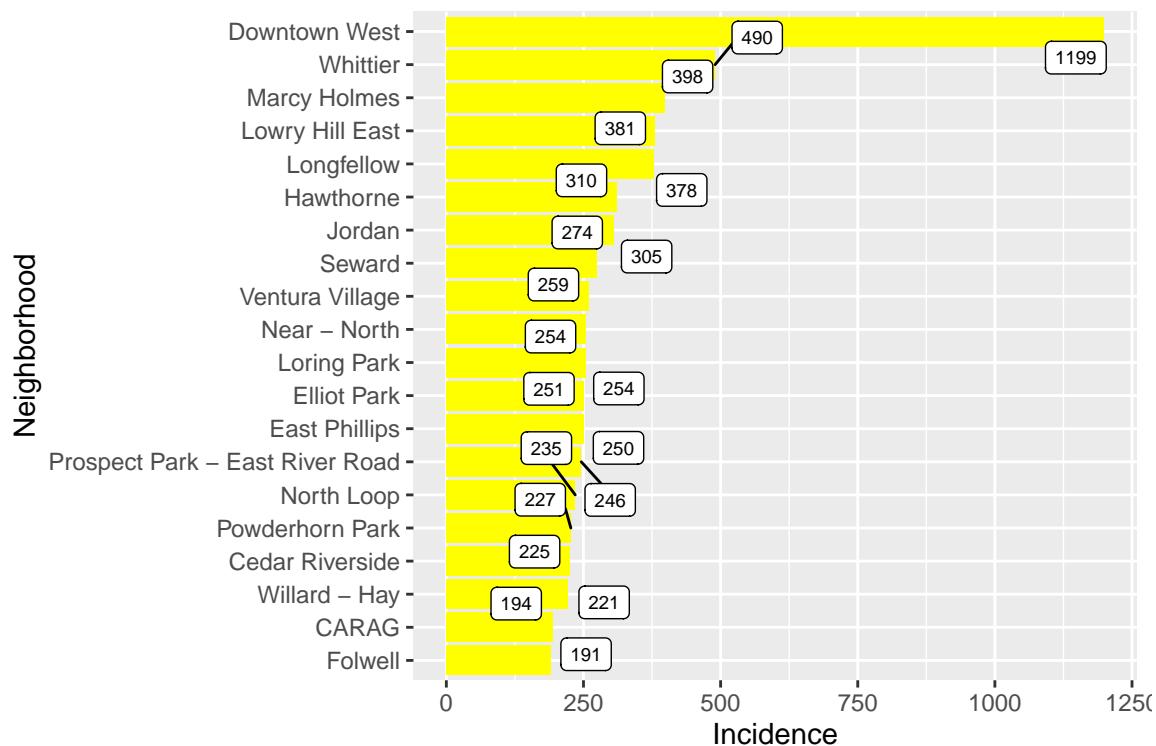
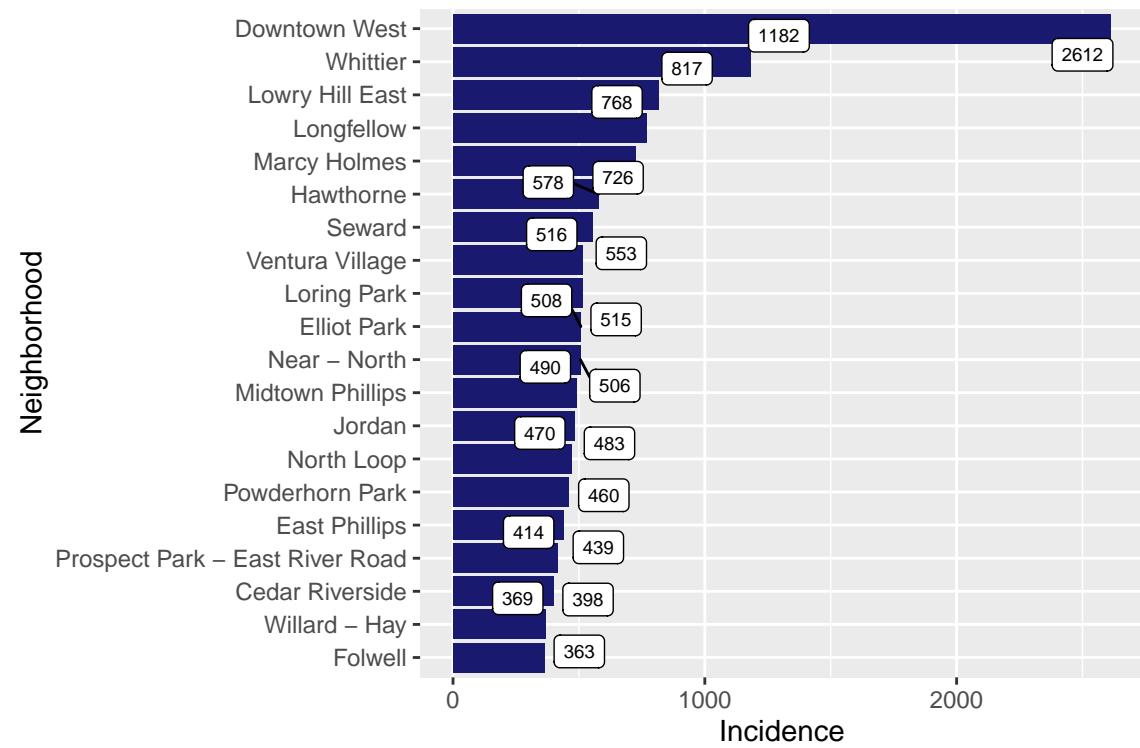
neighborhood	case
CARAG	194
Cedar Riverside	225
Downtown West	1199
East Phillips	250
Elliot Park	251
Folwell	191
Hawthorne	310
Jordan	305
Longfellow	378
Loring Park	254
Lowry Hill East	381
Marcy Holmes	398
Near - North	254
North Loop	235
Powderhorn Park	227
Prospect Park - East River Road	246
Seward	274
Ventura Village	259
Whittier	490
Willard - Hay	221

Table 2: Top 20 Neighborhoods with the Highest Crime Rate for 2019

neighborhood	case
Cedar Riverside	398
Downtown West	2612
East Phillips	439
Elliot Park	508
Folwell	363
Hawthorne	578
Jordan	483
Longfellow	768
Loring Park	515
Lowry Hill East	817
Marcy Holmes	726
Midtown Phillips	490
Near - North	506
North Loop	470
Powderhorn Park	460
Prospect Park - East River Road	414
Seward	553
Ventura Village	516
Whittier	1182
Willard - Hay	369

Table 3: Top 20 Neighborhoods with the Highest Crime Rate for 2020

neighborhood	case
CARAG	139
Cedar Riverside	140
Downtown West	589
East Phillips	185
Elliot Park	159
Hawthorne	177
Jordan	200
Longfellow	274
Loring Park	209
Lowry Hill East	268
Marcy Holmes	271
Midtown Phillips	174
Near - North	215
North Loop	195
Powderhorn Park	155
Prospect Park - East River Road	150
Seward	216
Ventura Village	237
Whittier	415
Willard - Hay	146

**Figure 3:** Top 20 Neighborhoods with the Highest Crime Rate for 2018**Figure 4:** Top 20 Neighborhoods with the Highest Crime Rate for 2019

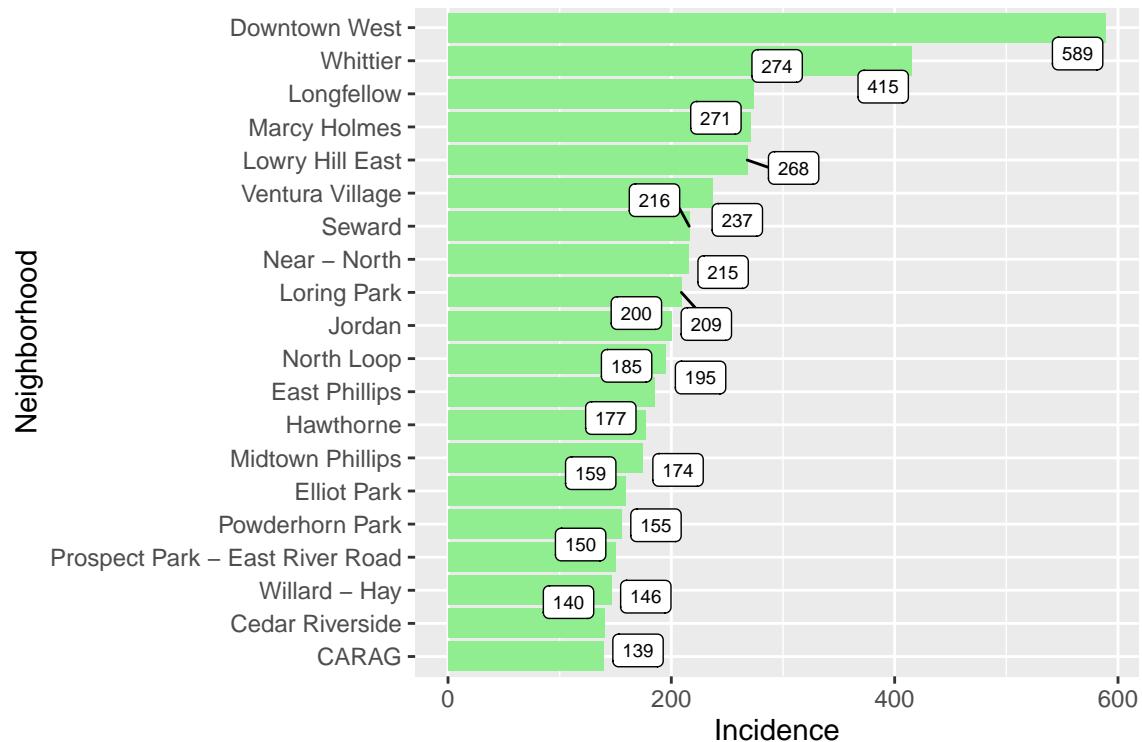


Figure 5: Top 20 Neighborhoods with the Highest Crime Rate for 2020

Figure 6 explores the relationship between precinct and offense type. Across all precincts, theft is the most commonly committed crime, consistent with Figure 1. Interestingly enough, precinct 1 and 2 have a similar incidence of theft, however, precinct 5 has a much higher incidence of burglary.

4.3 Crime over Time

Figure 7 compares the incidence of crimes in each month. As stated above, 2019 is the only complete year in the data set. In 2018, crime peaked in October, and dropped in December. In 2019, crime was very low in the colder months (January, February and March), peaking in the summer months (July and August). Comparitively, the incidence of crime in 2020 was much lower than 2019 and did not increase in May, which is likely due to the stay at home orders resulting from COVID-19.

4.4 Force Used by Police Data

Figure 8 show the distribution of the total crimes and force used in each weekday and weekend. There are more crimes on weekdays than on weekends, however, the force use by police is the opposite with greater force use on weekends. It is likely that weekends will attract larger crowds, particularly at entertainment venues, therefore attracting a larger police presence. Furthermore, it is unlikely criminals will commit crimes, particularly when police presence is so high.

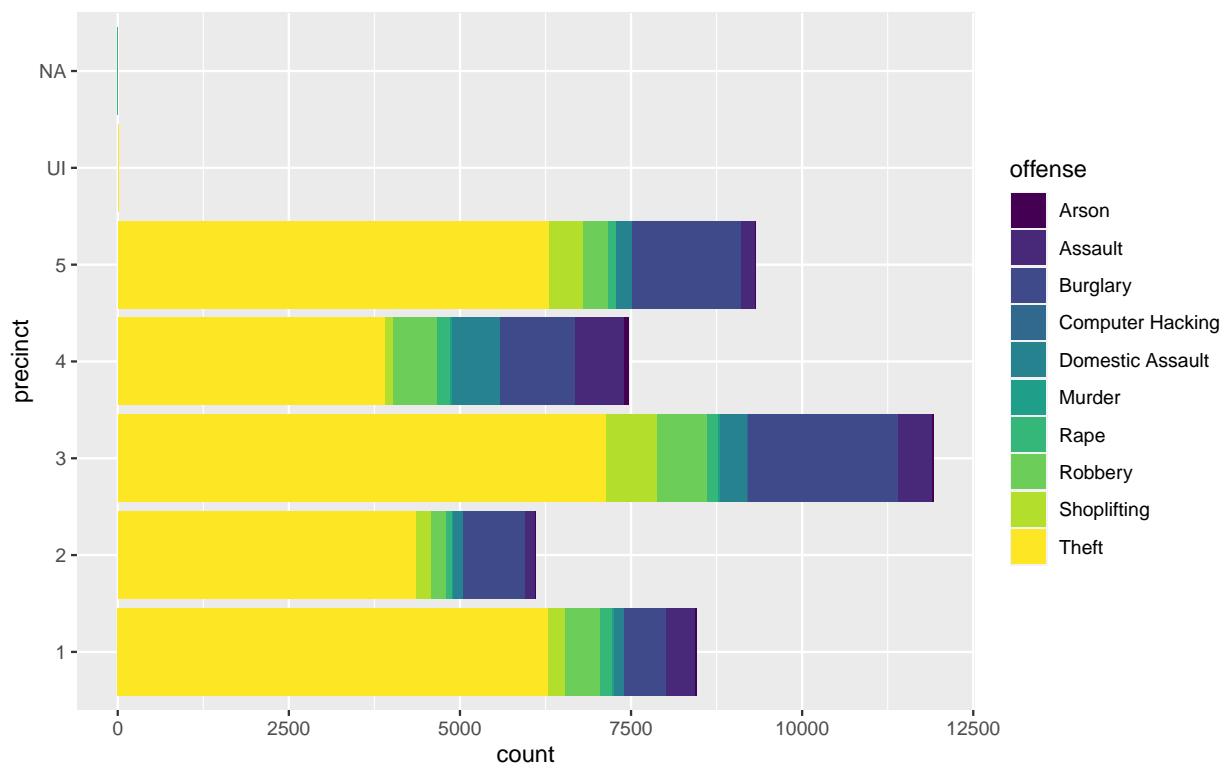


Figure 6: Crimes comparison of different districts

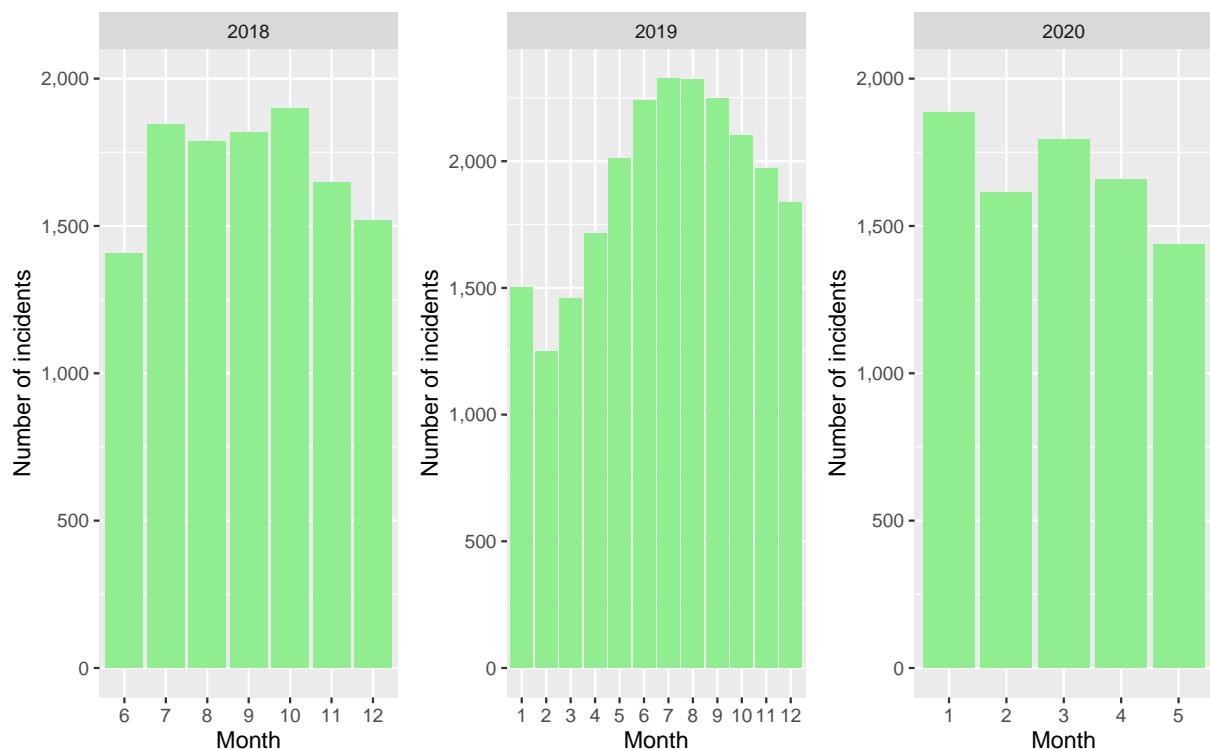


Figure 7: Comparison of crimes in different months

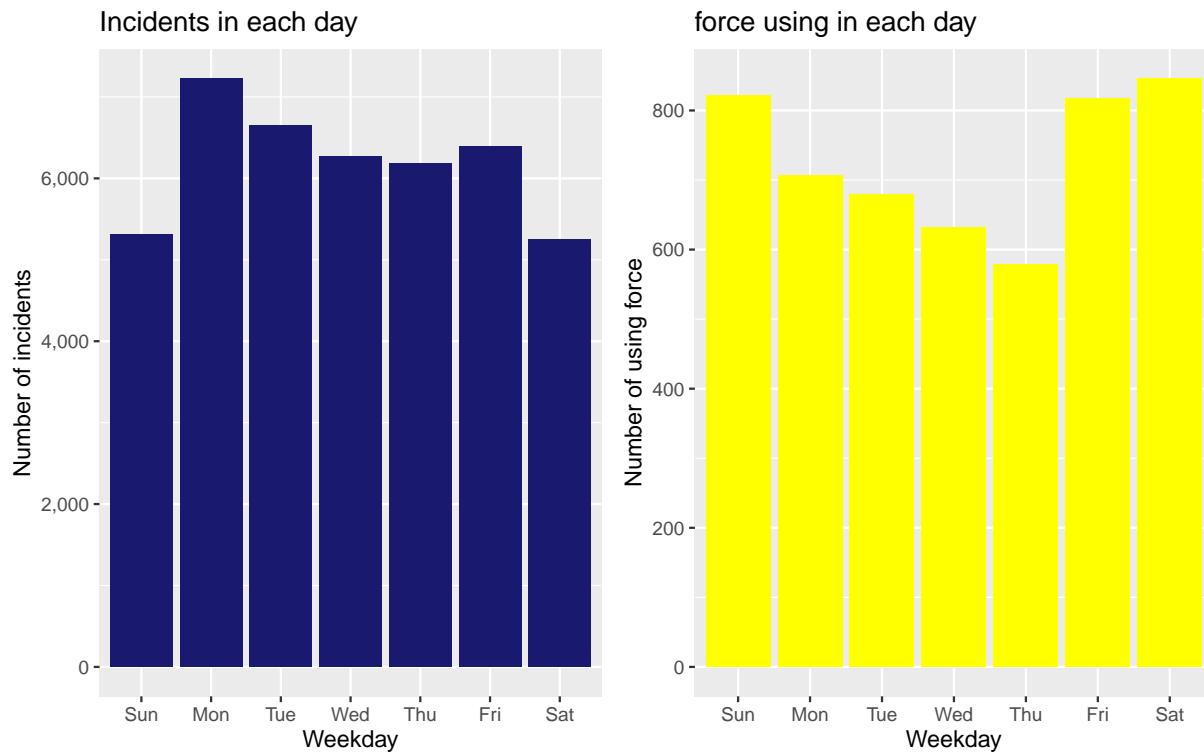


Figure 8: The average crimes and force used in a week

The last three figures are made by ggplot2 package and scales package, to make the exploratory analysis in force using by police and show the figures more clearly. Figure 9 shows the resistance used in each precinct. In essence, this figure captures the prevalence of crime and perhaps the efficiency of police in controlling the crime rate. It can be inferred that the fourth precinct is significantly more dangerous than the fifth precinct, and the force use in the fourth precinct is much higher.

Figure 10 shows the relationship between the force type and the type of resistance. This figure captures the effectiveness of the force type used by police. If the only resistance used by police is a police dog, criminals are more likely to flee on foot. However, if a firearm or chemical irritant is used, better results will be achieved.

The last Figure 11 shows the proportion of different Race in the use of force. It is clear that African Americans are subject to more aggressive forms of force, which accounts for 70% in most force using ways. Further, the figure demonstrates police are less likely to use less lethal force on African Americans. Only from this figure alone, we may have a question, Is the way the police treat black people too radical?

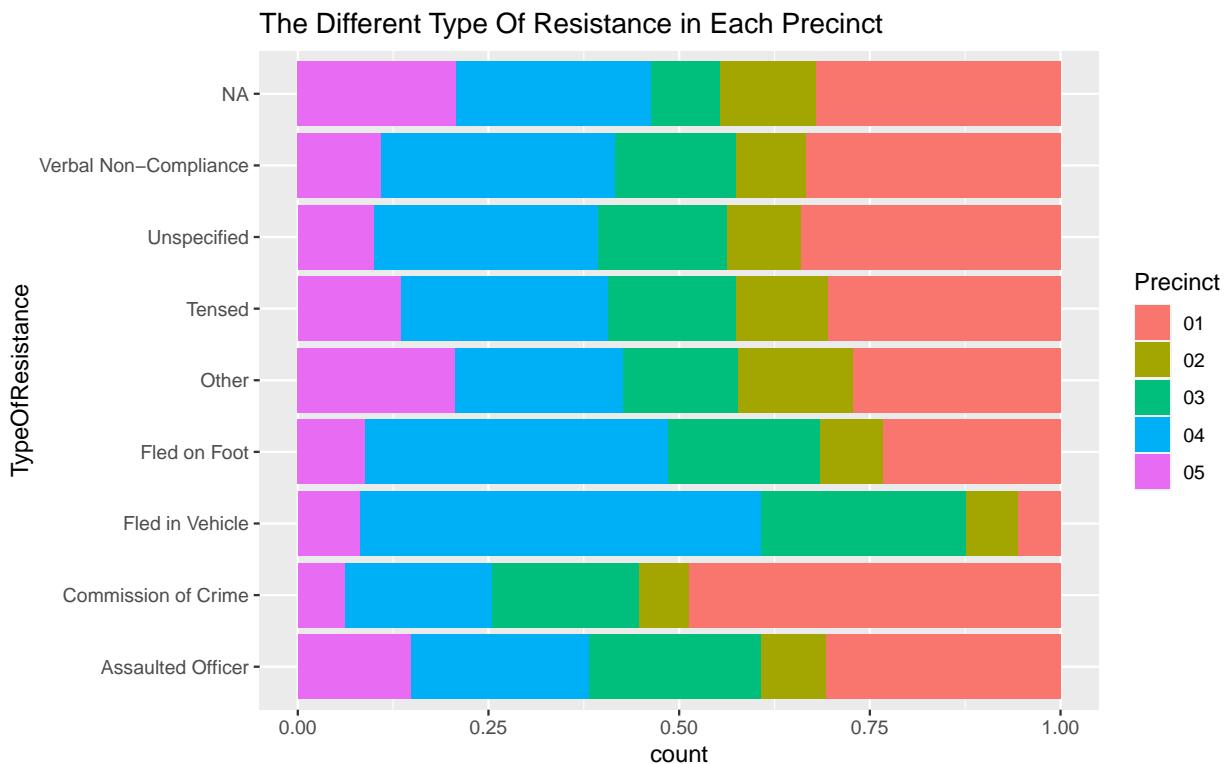


Figure 9: The different Resistance of criminals in each Precinct

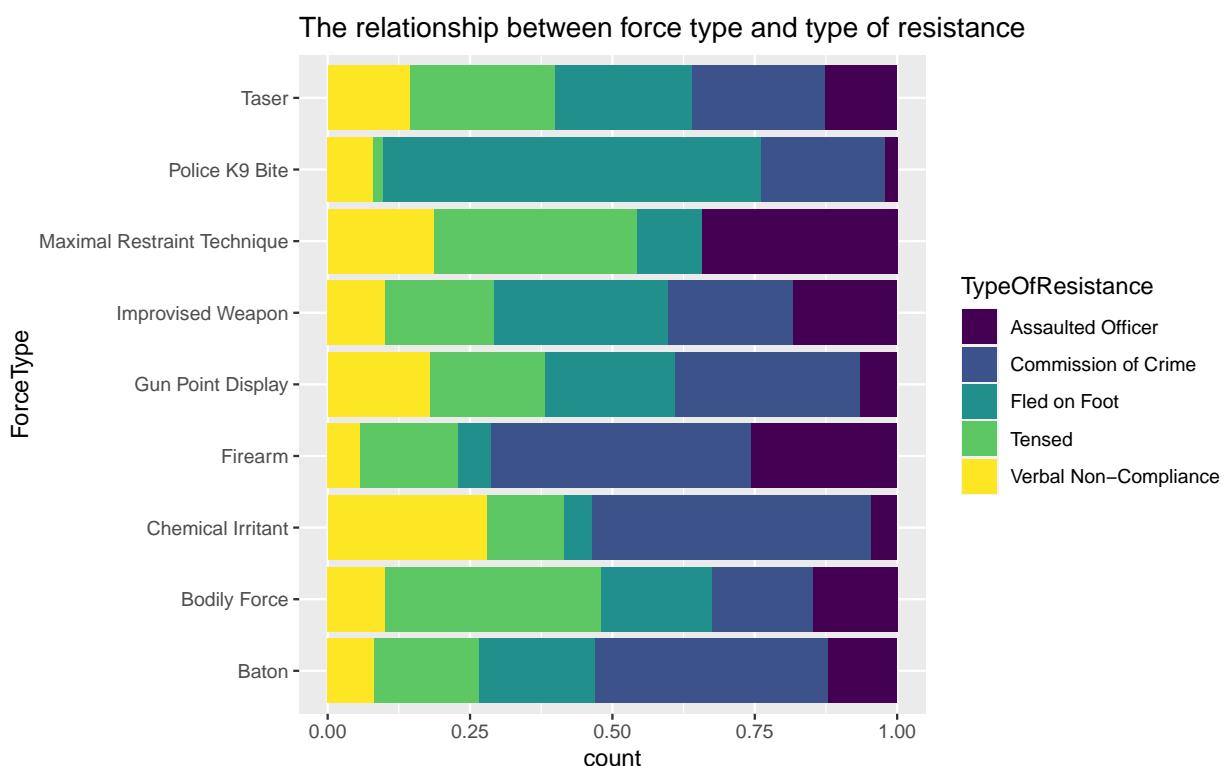


Figure 10: The relationship between Force Type adopted by police and type of resistance of criminals

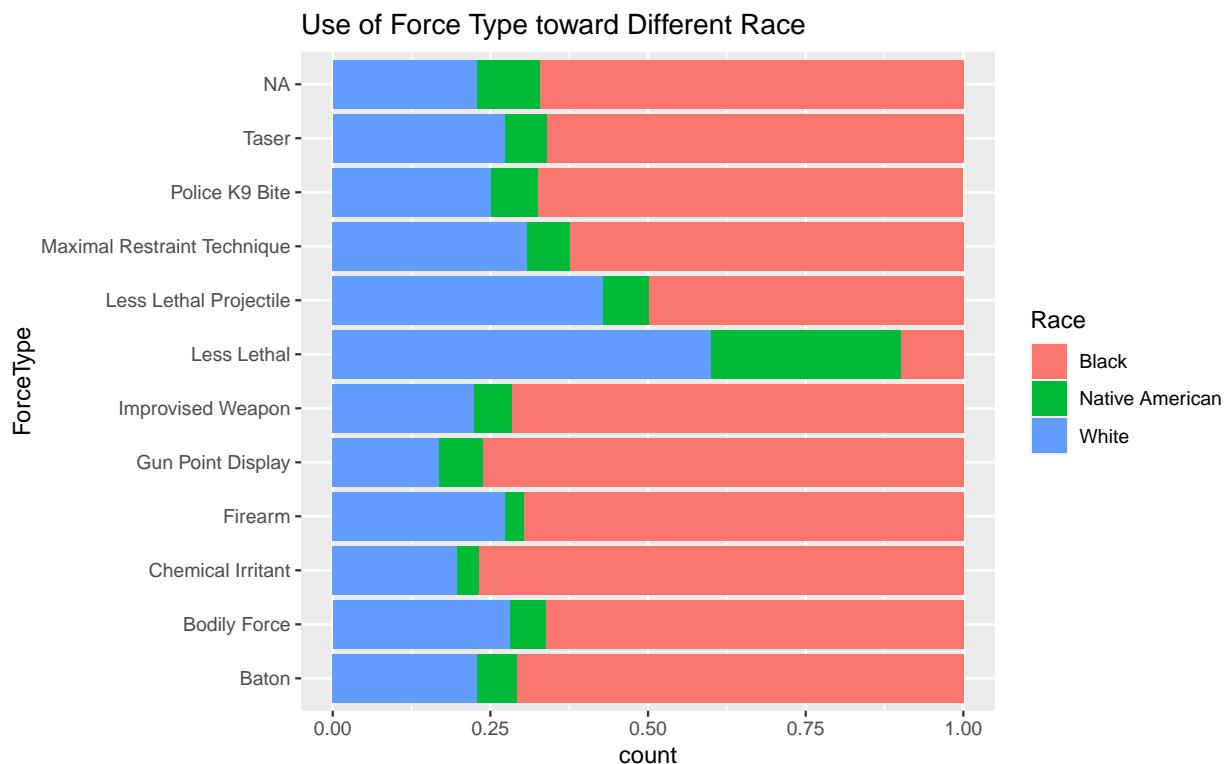


Figure 11: *Different races are treated differently*

4.5 Use of Force Map Analysis

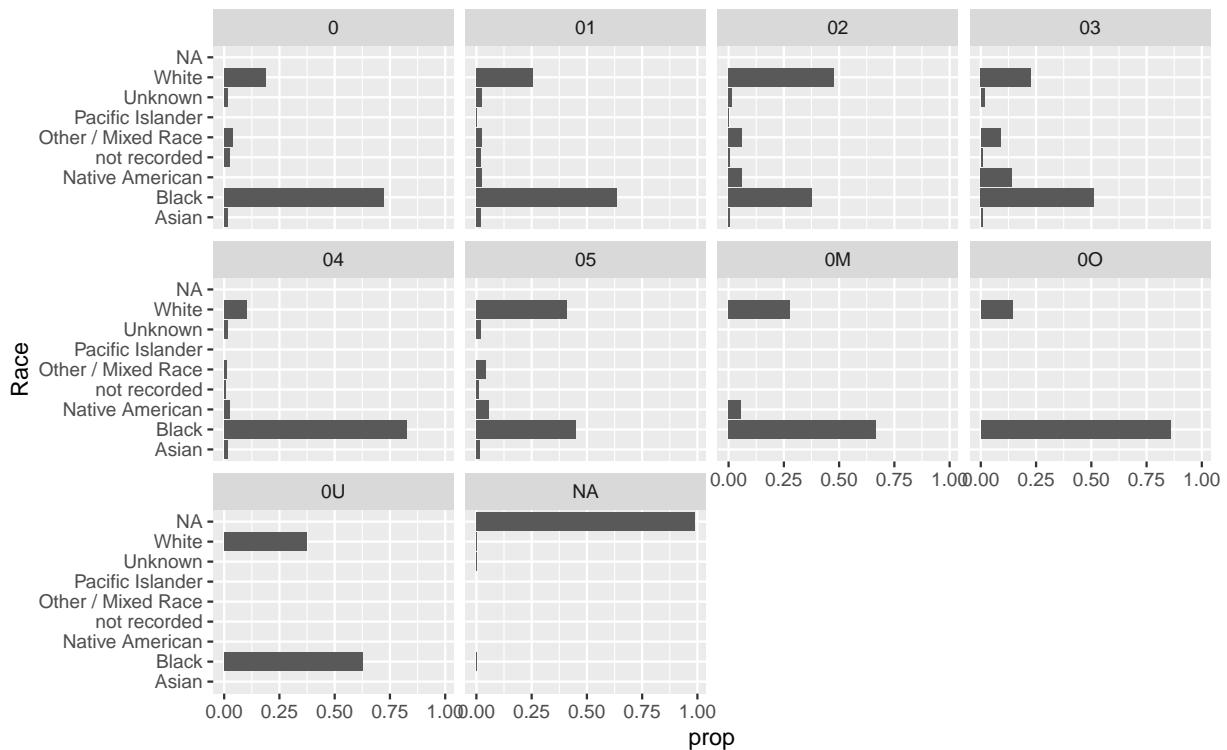


Figure 12: proportion of race in police use of force by Precincts

Dataset comes from Minneapolis (2020) **Figure 12** shows the proportion of race in police use of force by Precincts.

WIP: need to join table with demographics (racial composition in each Precinct) and data on proportion of crimes committed by race in each precinct.

```
## OGR data source with driver: ESRI Shapefile
## Source: "/Users/emsheehan/Documents/UNI - POSTGRAD/COLLAB/ETC5513-Assignment-4/data/Police_Use_of_Force.shp"
## with 30024 features
## It has 28 fields

## Reading layer `Police_Use_of_Force` from data source `/Users/emsheehan/Documents/UNI - POSTGRAD/COLLAB/ETC5513-Assignment-4/data/Police_Use_of_Force.shp`
## Simple feature collection with 30024 features and 28 fields
## geometry type:  POINT
## dimension:      XY
## bbox:            xmin: -93.32842 ymin: 0  xmax: 0  ymax: 45.05124
## CRS:             4326
```

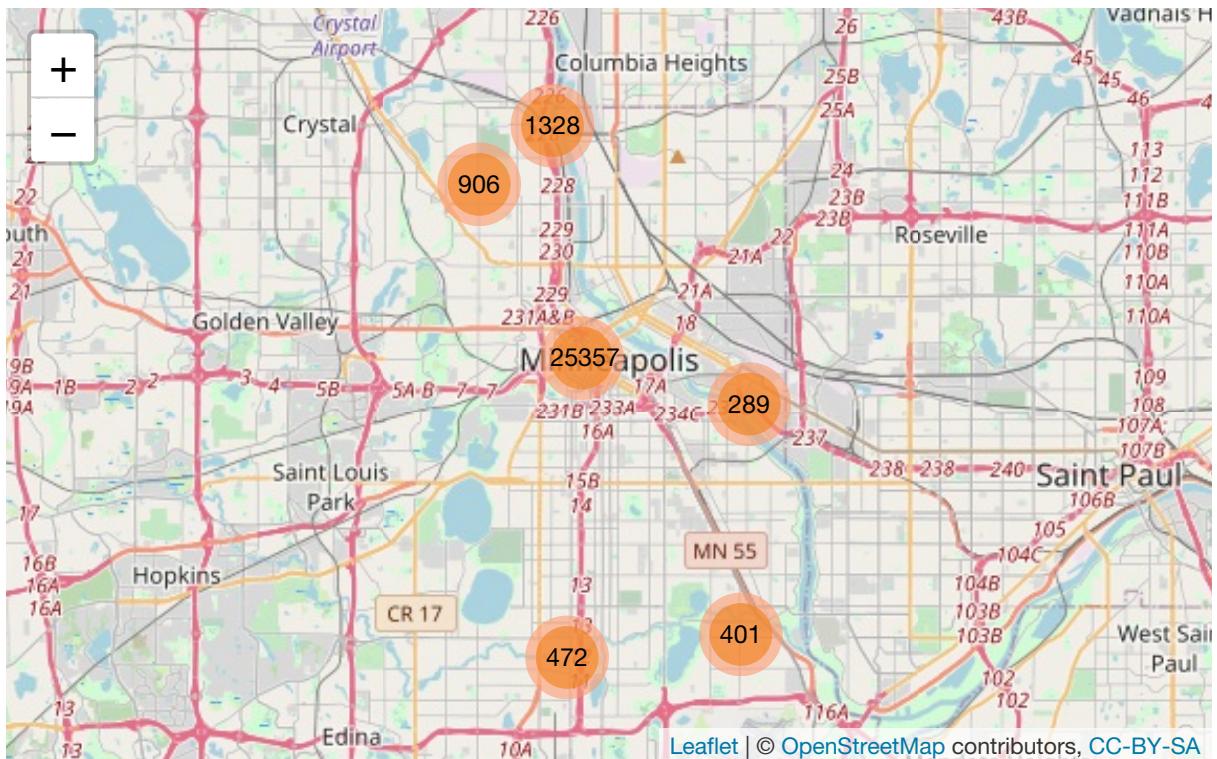
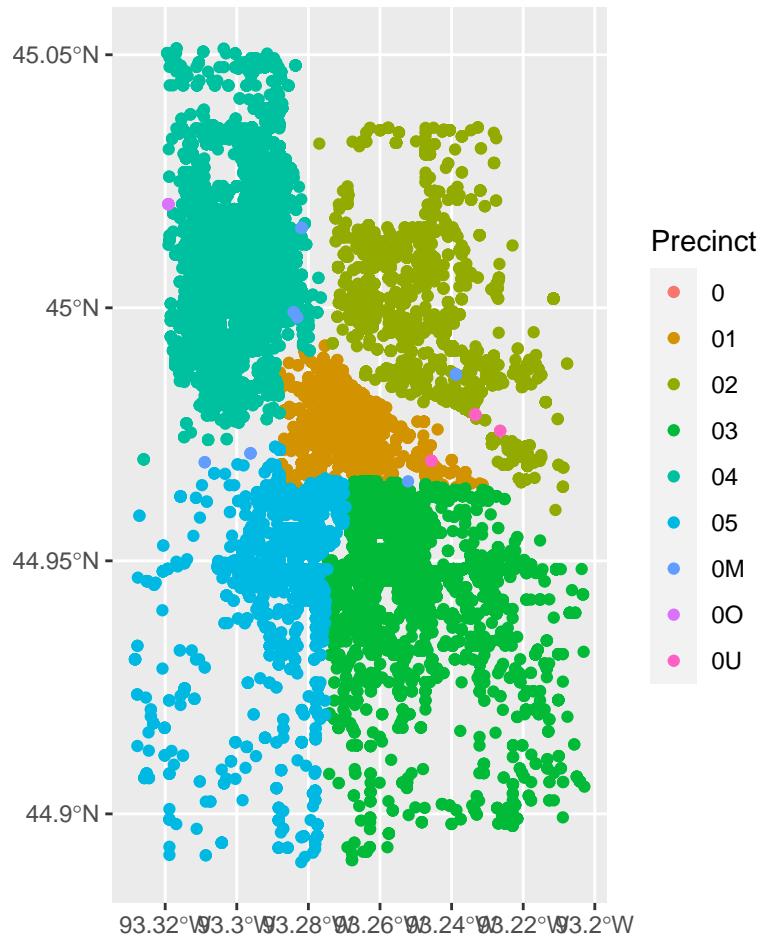


Figure 13: Number of police use of force incidents in Precincts

Figure 13 shows the police use of force map in Minneapolis. The numbers show number of incidents per precinct.



Conclusion

BBC News (2020). The last 30 minutes of George Floyd's life. *BBC*.

Dottolo, AL and AJ Stewart (2008). "Don't Ever Forget Now, You're a Black Man in America": Intersections of Race, Class and Gender In Encounters with the Police. *Sex Roles* 59(5), 350–364.

Minneapolis, C of (2020). *Police Use of Force*. <http://opendata.minneapolismn.gov/datasets/police-use-of-force>. Accessed: 2020-06-01.

Minneapolis Police Department (2020). *Use of Force Dashboard, Crime Map, Crime Dashboard*.