

## U6614 Project Deliverable #1

**State research question(s):** How has the COVID-19 crisis affected the prevalence of domestic violence in NYC?

- **Hypothesis:** Citywide stay-at-home orders and increased financial strains among families has had an adverse impact on the prevalence of domestic violence.

**Describe potential data source(s):**

- [\*NYPD Domestic Violence data\*](#): The NYPD produces monthly and annual domestic violence reports, disaggregated at the precinct level. We plan on using 2019 and 2020 data available for monthly radio runs, rape complaints, and felony assault complaints involving domestic incidents at the precinct level.
- [\*U.S. Census ACS data\*](#): The U.S. Census American Community Survey collects demographic data, such as income, at the precinct level on an annual basis.

**Empirical strategy:**

We would like to use panel data at the precinct level (precincts being the unit of observation) in NYC to do a pre-and-post analysis of how the COVID-19 pandemic/lockdown has impacted the prevalence of domestic violence. The representative population includes all New Yorkers. Using the ACS U.S. Census data, we can also control for demographics such as median income by precinct, and further explore the interaction between the onset of the COVID-19 lockdown and median income. This would enable us to observe whether there are disparities on the impact of COVID-19 on the prevalence of domestic violence between lower income and higher income communities (i.e. whether lower income communities are more vulnerable to increased incidents of domestic violence as a result of COVID-19).

A key limitation is that domestic violence incidents often go unreported, and it is unclear how the COVID-19 crisis may have affected reporting. Since we only have data on reported incidents to the NYPD, we are relying on reporting as a proxy for prevalence, which is a limitation. This research question is of urgent policy relevance for advocates of domestic violence victims who have shared public concern regarding what the citywide stay-at-home orders and economic crisis has meant for residents at risk of experiencing violence at home.