

Prepared for  
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By Team 4

CITY of **BOSTON**

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# A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO ENHANCE CITIZEN SERVICES AND QUALITY OF LIFE



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311 Service Request
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Improve Service Efficiency

## BUSINESS PROBLEM

**How can the city of Boston enhance the efficiency and efficacy of its city services, optimize the allocation of its resources, and elevate the overall satisfaction of its residents?**





# Our Approaches

01

Can we **predict the probability of issue resolution** when photographic evidence is submitted, while considering the impact of the **source** and **location** of the report?

02

How can we leverage **seasonality patterns** from historical data to make accurate **predictions of the duration** it takes to **close a case**?

# What is Boston 311?

**The City of Boston's 311 Constituent Service Center**

Is a vital tool **residents** can use to report a wide range of **non-emergency issues** by phone call, through the app or website.

It is a 24/7 service, the 311 system has been instrumental in facilitating the reporting of these daily issues since **2011**.



Call 311



Download the App



Tweet @BOS311



File a Report  
Online

**BOSTON 311**

311 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that connects you with highly-trained constituent service representatives. They are ready to help you with requests for non-emergency City services and information.

CONTACT

BOS:311

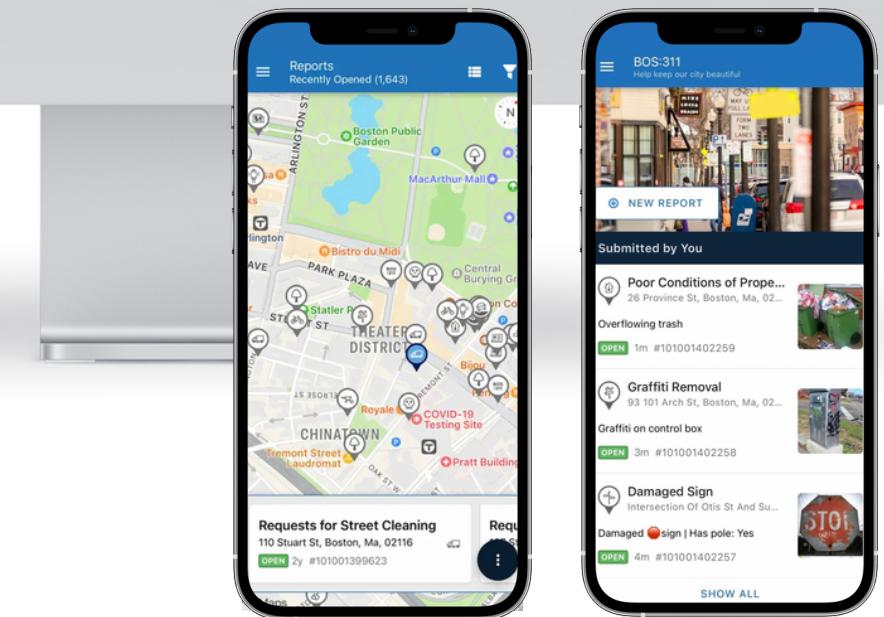
311

SEND AN EMAIL

1 CITY HALL SQUARE  
BOSTON, MA 02201

The 311 Constituent Service Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year.

DOWNLOAD THE APP REPORT AN ISSUE TOP SERVICE REQUESTS ONLINE SERVICES FAQS

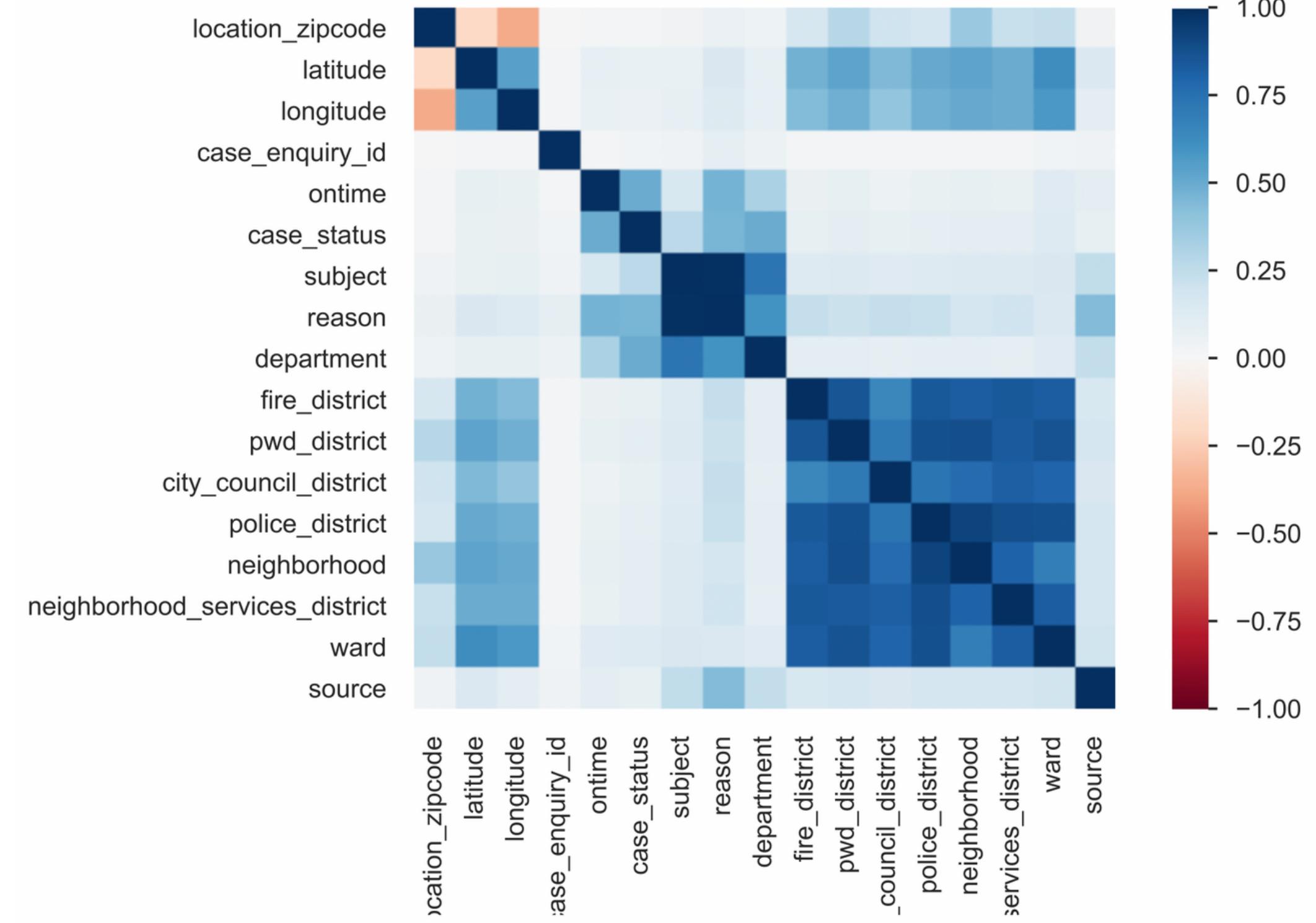


# Data Profiling Report

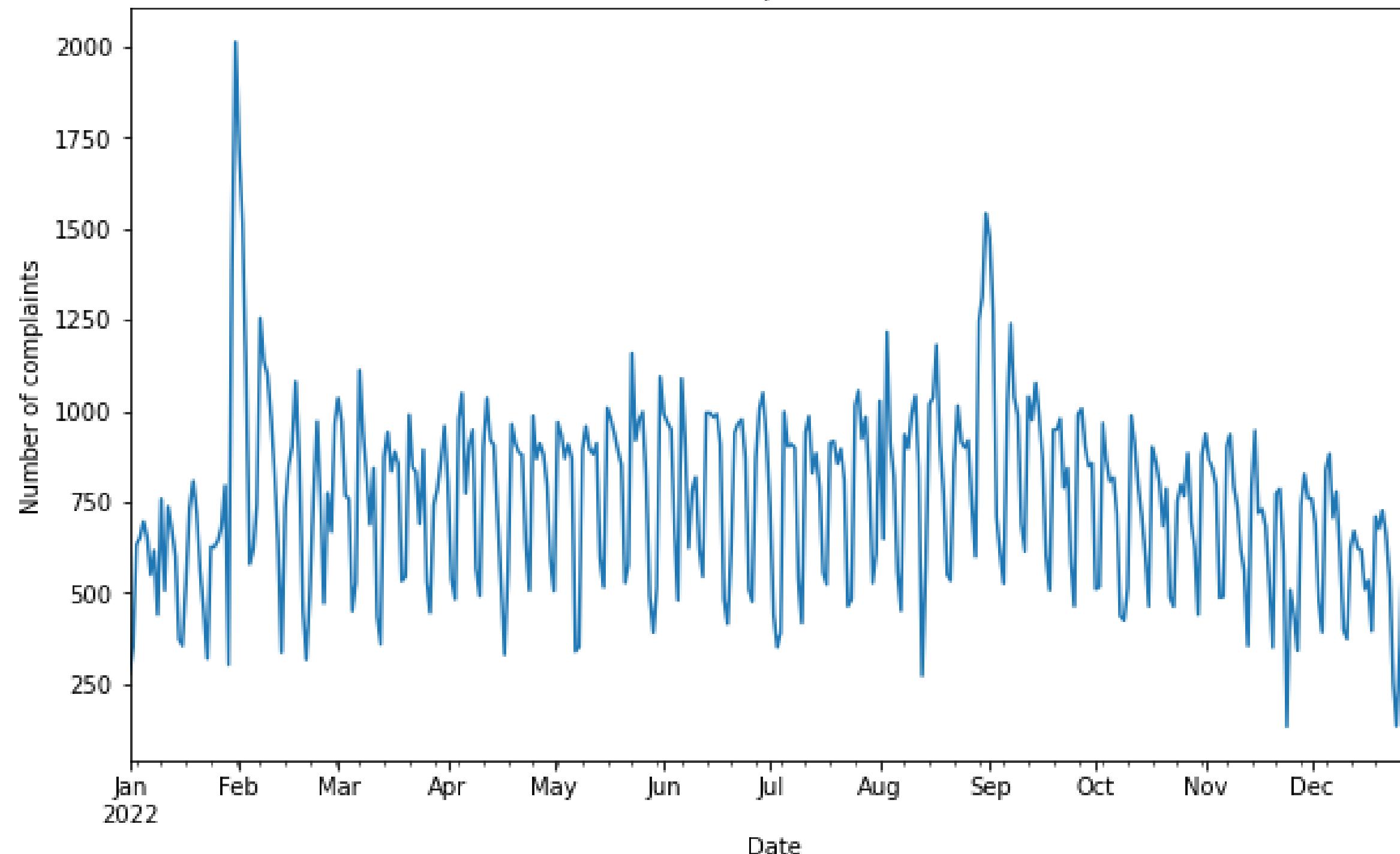


Number of variables	29
Number of observations	276723
Missing cells	534758
Missing cells (%)	6.7%
Duplicate rows	77
Duplicate rows (%)	< 0.1%
Total size in memory	61.2 MiB
Average record size in memory	232.0 B
Variable types	
Categorical	26
Numeric	3

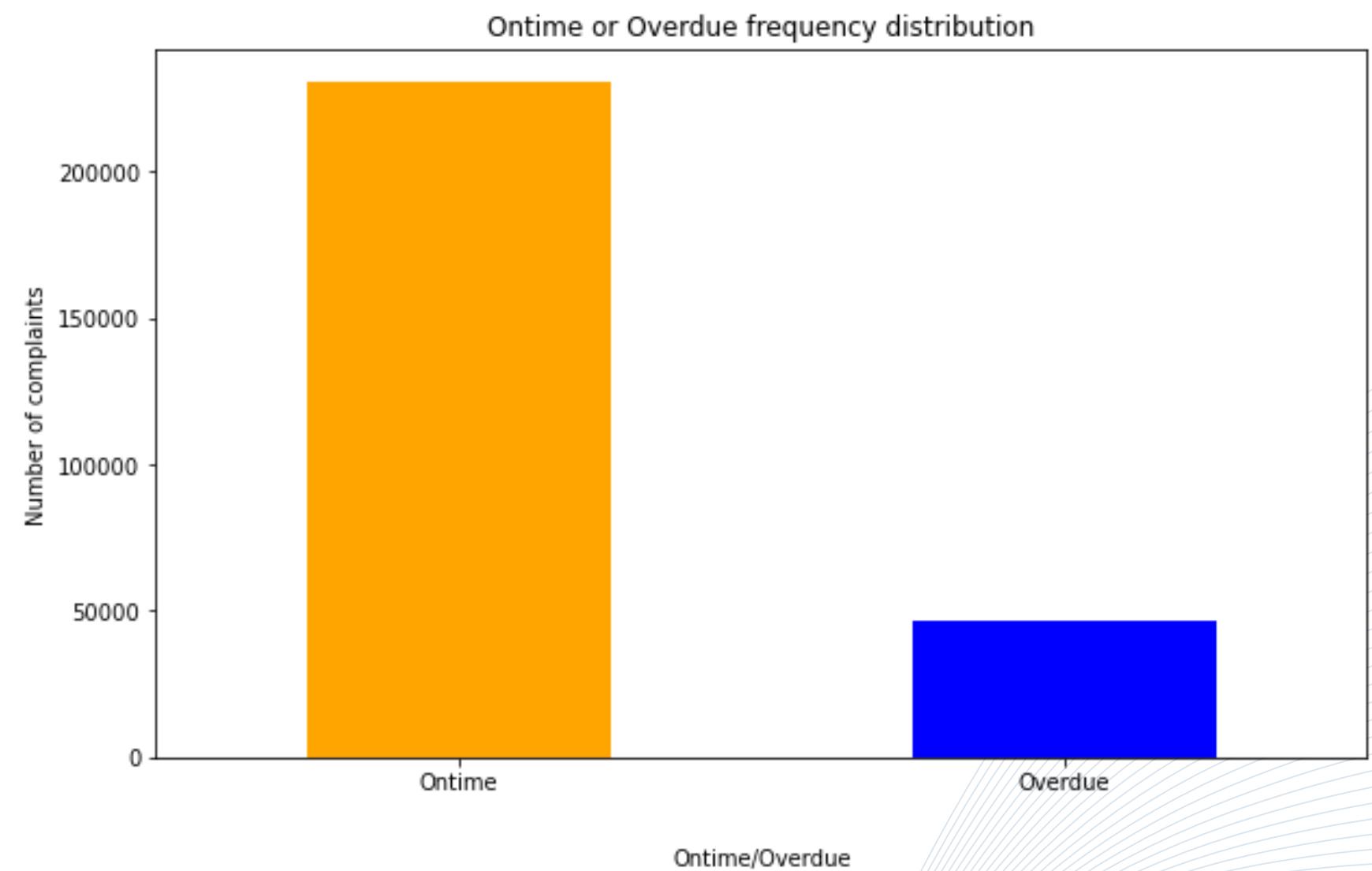
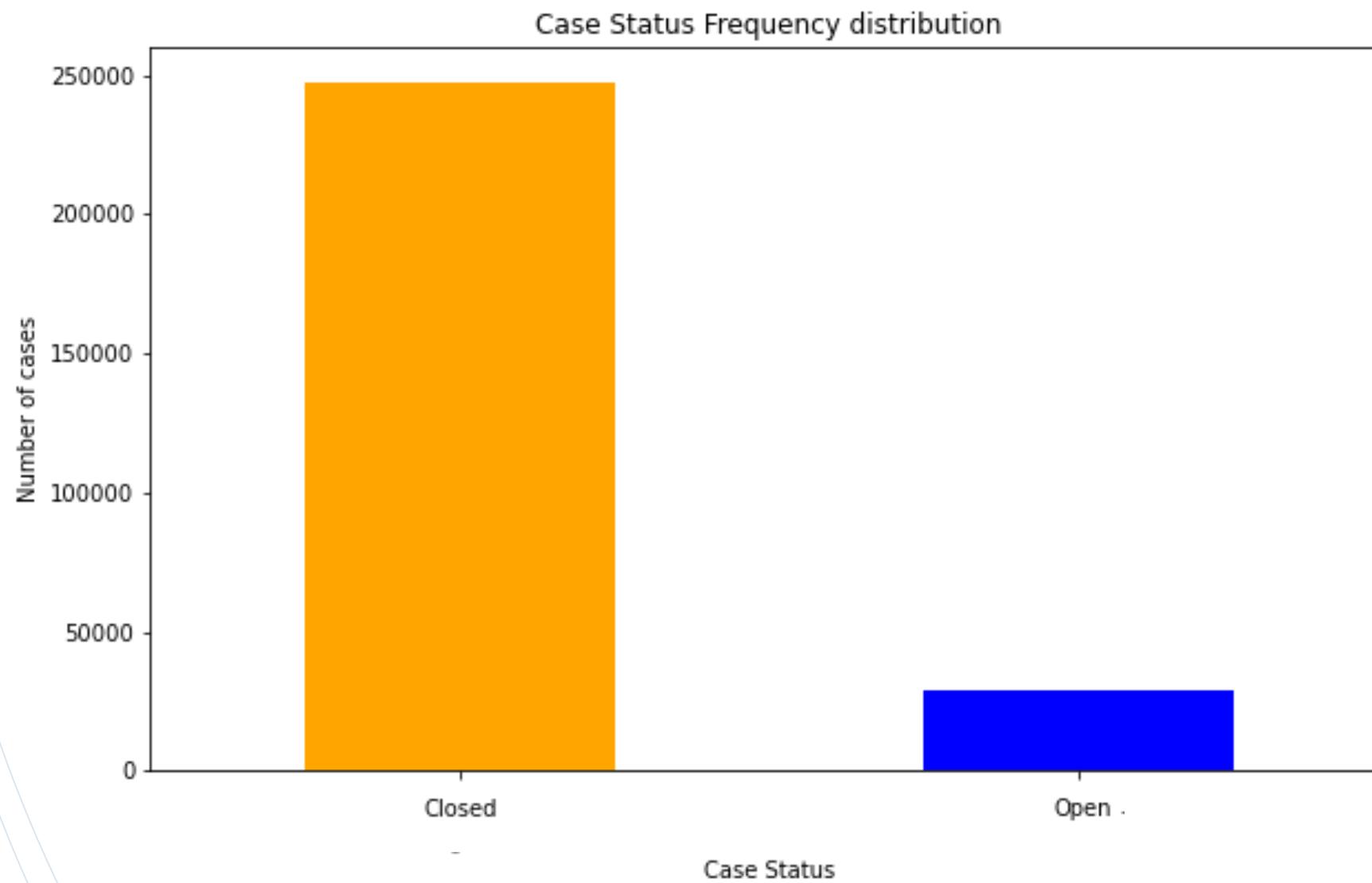
# Correlation Matrix



# Number of Complains Over Time



# Status & Resolution Analysis



# Data Cleaning & Transformation

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## Step 1

### Remove:

- Case\_enquiry\_id

### Split:

- Opendate column:  
open\_date & open\_time
- Targetdate: target\_date &  
target\_time
- Closing date: closing\_date &  
closing\_time

### Rename:

- Subject - dept\_responsible
- Reason - team\_Responsible
- Type - complain\_type

## Step 2

### Delete columns:

- Case\_enquiry\_id
- department
- queue
- ward
- precinct
- fire\_district
- pwd\_district
- city\_council
- police\_district
- location
- neighborhood\_services\_district
- open\_dt
- target\_dt
- closed\_dt
- closure\_reason

### Create Boolean values: (1= photo & 0 = none)

- a. 'Submitted photo'
- b. 'Closed\_photo'

## Step 3

### Convert columns to dummy variables:

- Source
- Ontime
- Case\_status

### Created New columns:

- Case\_ID (Unique ID)
- Num\_of Days(close\_dt-open\_dt)
- Season (Value Derived from open date)

### Replace blank values with 'No'

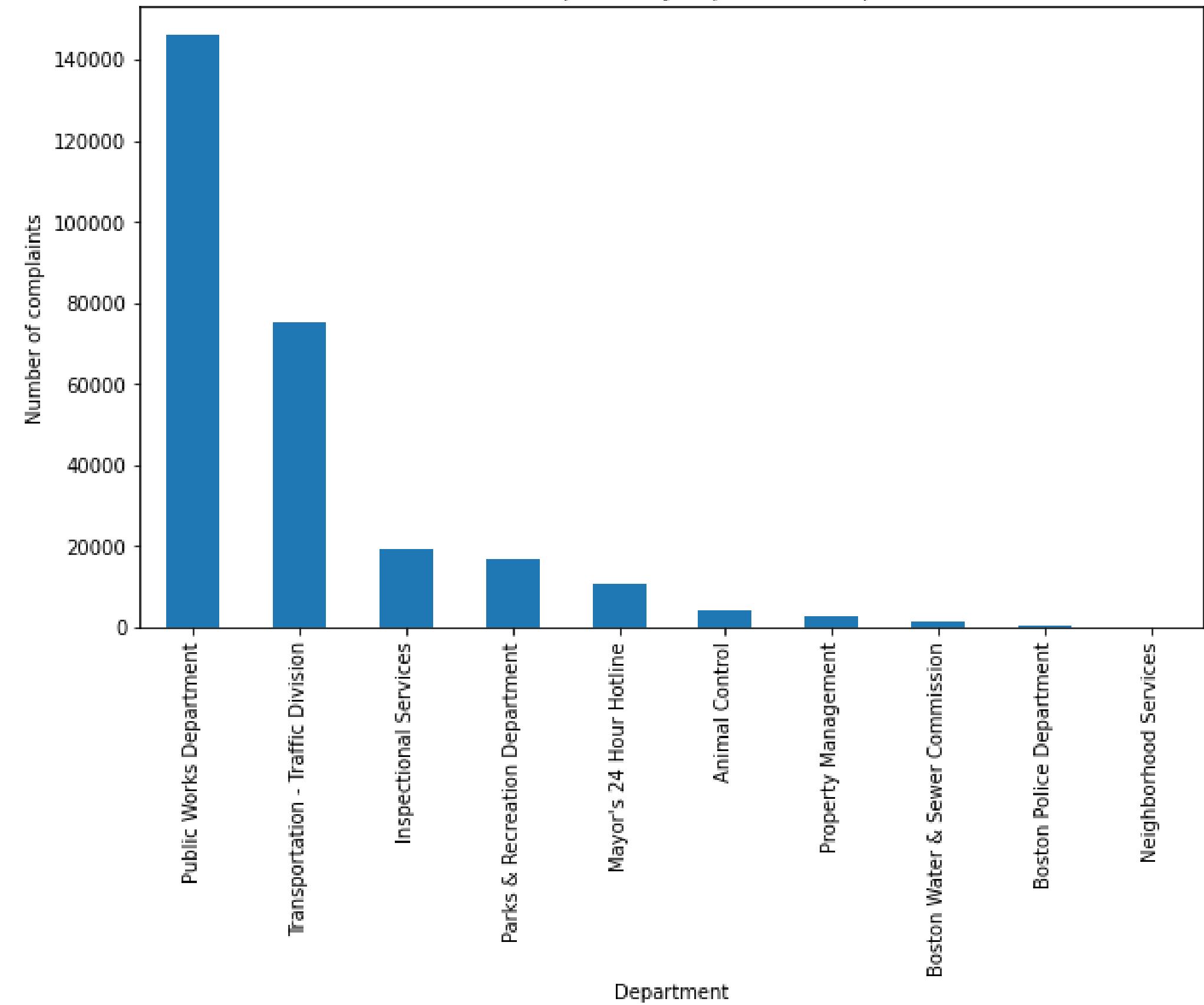
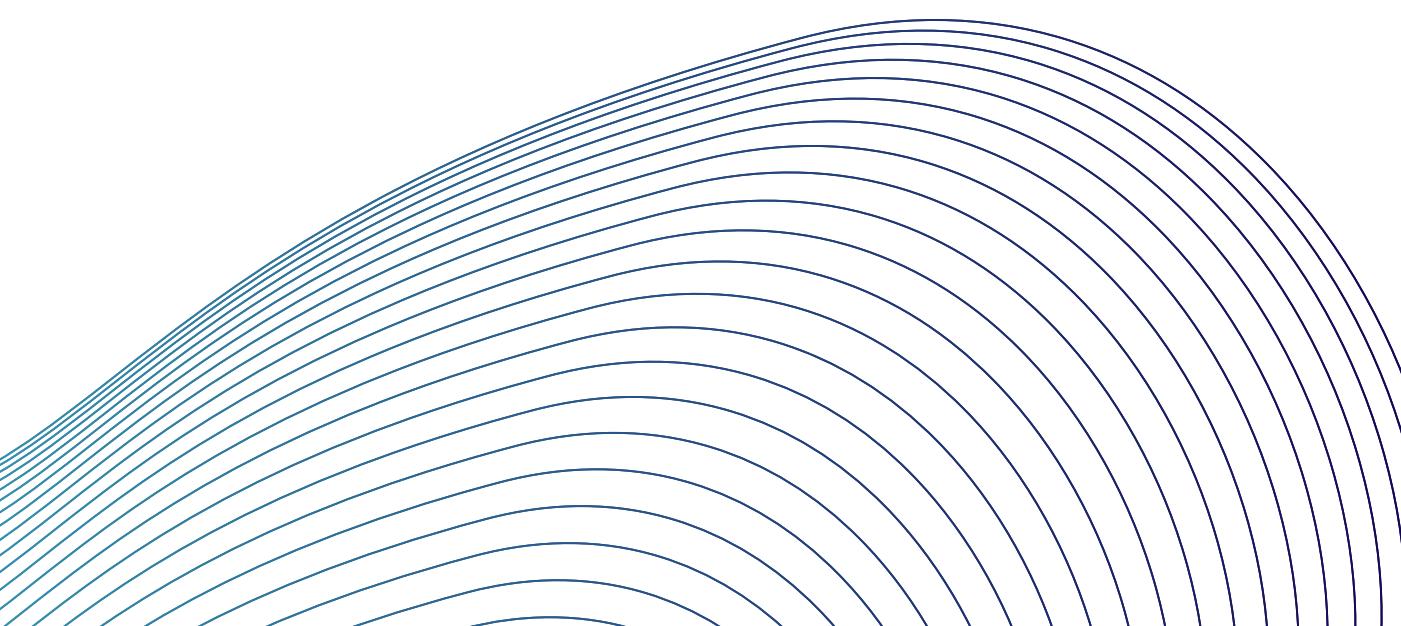
Information provided for the following:

- Neighborhood
- Location\_street
- Location\_zipcode

### Convert:

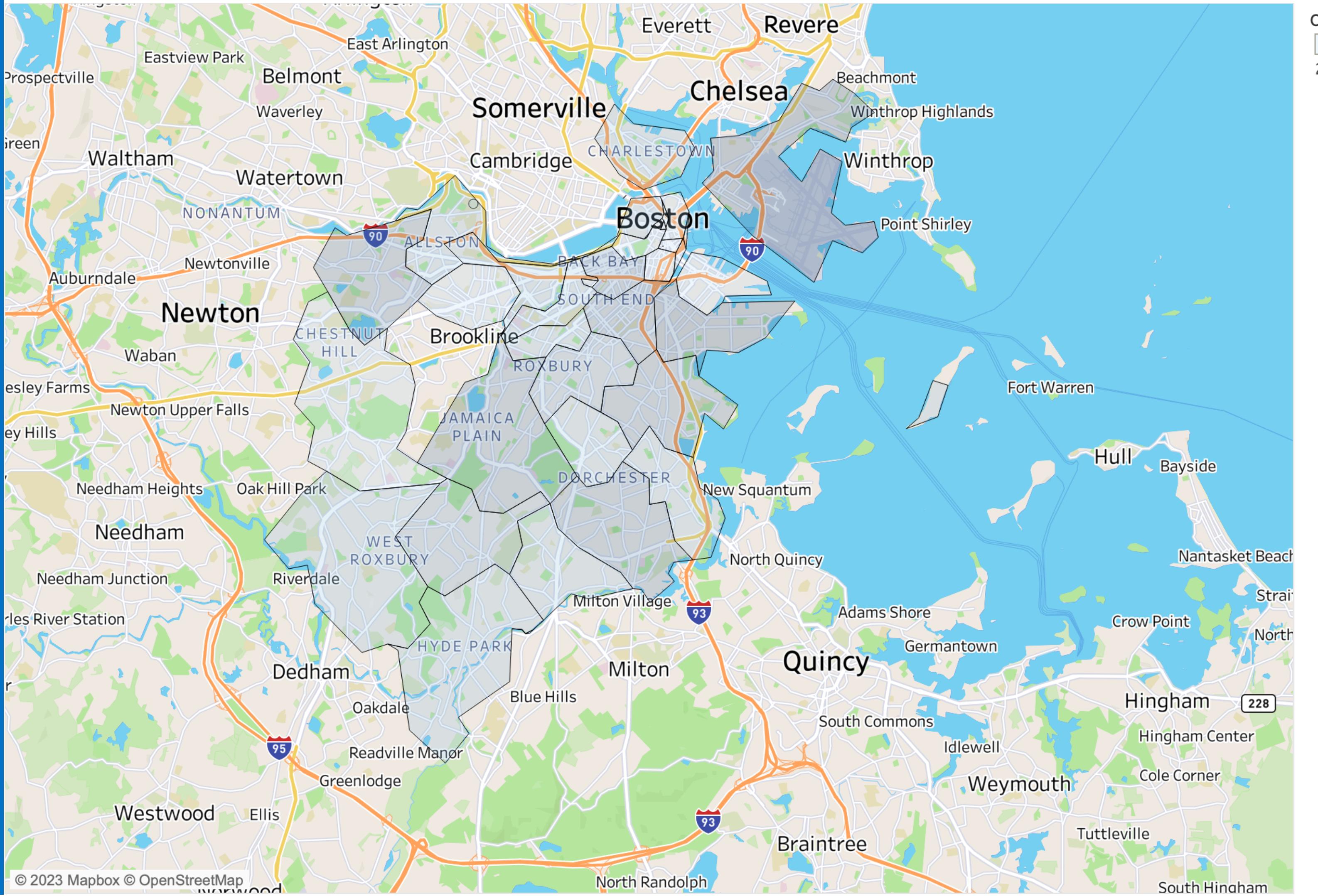
- Zip code to a 5-digit data value

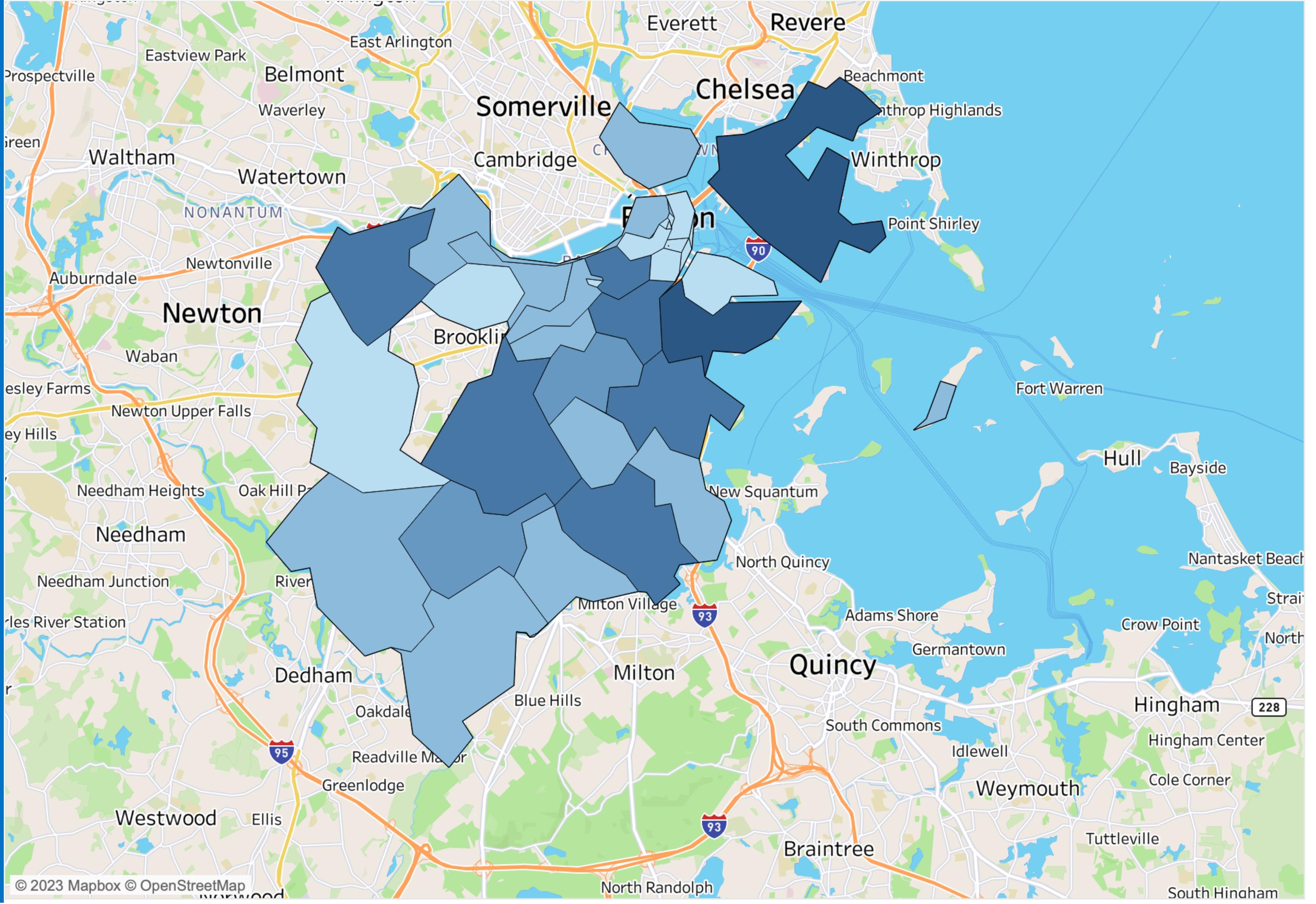
# Number of Complains by Department Responsible



A circular word cloud centered on the word "Abandoned". The words are arranged in concentric circles around the center, with the size of each word representing its frequency or importance. The words include:

- Maintenance
- Cleaning
- Employee
- Signals
- Building
- Health
- Housing
- Highway
- Way
- Enforcement
- Vehicles
- Street
- Services
- Recycling
- Employee
- Comments
- Safety
- Trees
- General
- Code
- Lights
- Weights
- Administrative
- Engineering
- Park
- Noise Requests
- Animal
- Management
- Comments
- Signs
- Measures
- Bicycle Traffic
- Program
- Generic
- Needle
- Disturbance
- Catchbasin





Count of Case Enquiry Id

2 19,000



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Cases closed within the target date  
were **flagged** as 1; issue not closed as 0

# 01

Can we **predict the probability of issue resolution** when photographic evidence is submitted, while considering the impact of the **source** and **location** of the report?



## Impact variables considered

Latitude
Longitude
Source_City_Worker_App
Source_Constituent_Call
Source_Employee_Generated
Source_Self_Service

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# Logistic Regression



	Predicted: 0	Predicted: 1
Actual: 0	0	4,664
Actual: 1	0	17,530

*Error: TN and FN not identified*

**F1 Score:** 0.8825  
**Accuracy:** 0.7898  
**Precision:** 0.7898  
**Recall:** 1.0

**Attempt 01**  
Logistic regression  
imbalanced dataset

01

# Logistic Regression

## LOGISTIC REGRESSION ON IMBALANCED DATASET

	Predicted: 0	Predicted: 1
Actual: 0	0	4,664
Actual: 1	0	17,530

Error: TN and FN not identified

**F1 Score:** 0.8825  
**Accuracy:** 0.7898  
**Precision:** 0.7898  
**Recall:** 1.0

## LOGISTIC REGRESSION ON BALANCED DATASET

	Predicted: 0	Predicted: 1
Actual: 0	6,915	10,565
Actual: 1	7,082	10,670

Improvement: TN and FN predicted  
Error: F1 and accuracy scores compromised

### Attempt 01

Logistic regression imbalanced dataset

01

### Attempt 02

Logistic regression balanced dataset

02

# Random Forest

## RANDOM FOREST ON IMBALANCED DATASET

	Predicted: 0	Predicted: 1
Actual: 0	816	3,848
Actual: 1	988	16,542

**F1 Score:** 0.8724  
**Accuracy:** 0.7821  
**Precision:** 0.8112  
**Recall:** 0.9436

## Recommendation:

- Utilize the model for upcoming service requests
- Determine if request will meet target closure time
- Implement additional measures for requests predicted to be delayed
- Allocate special attention or resources to reduce delay

**Attempt 01**  
Logistic regression  
imbalanced dataset

01

**Attempt 02**  
Logistic regression  
balanced dataset

02

**Attempt 03**  
Random Forest  
imbalanced dataset

03

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02

How can we leverage **seasonality patterns** from historical data to make accurate **predictions of the duration** it takes to **close a case**?

### Impact variables considered

Dept_Responsible	Latitude
Team_Responsible	Longitude
Neighborhood	Source_City_Worker_App
Submitted_Photo	Source_Constituent_Call
Season	Source_Employee_Generated
	Source_Self_Service

New column capturing the **season** was created which was further dummified.

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# Multiple Regression

## Observations:

- Dummification resulted in **65 predictor variables**
- Coefficients of determination: **0.21 (poor fit to data)**
- High RMSE of **375.54**

```
Coefficients: [ 7.83553324e-01 -2.50579632e+01  4.65345366e-01  8.9664665
9e-01
-9.45334102e-02 -2.42340020e+00  2.70649667e-01  4.69345578e+12
6.24927957e+12 -9.37483958e+11  6.20052296e+12  1.39798209e+13
-4.12969610e+12  5.59843218e+12  5.59843218e+12 -1.89870542e+11
7.15105859e+11 -1.89870542e+11  6.34604559e+12 -8.57125925e+12
-1.89870542e+11 -7.91961320e+11 -1.89870542e+11  6.34604559e+12
-7.91961320e+11  9.53825773e+12  6.34604559e+12 -1.89870542e+11
6.34604559e+12 -8.40717937e+11 -1.89870542e+11 -8.57125925e+12
-1.89870542e+11 -1.89870542e+11 -1.89870542e+11 -1.89870542e+11
-1.89870542e+11 -1.89870542e+11 -1.89870542e+11 -8.57125925e+12
6.34604559e+12  5.77247425e+11  5.77247425e+11  5.77247425e+11
5.77247425e+11  2.83491027e+11  2.83491027e+11  2.83491027e+11
2.83491027e+11 ]
```

Mean squared error: 375.5409418774977  
Coefficient of determination: 0.21459284129487244

Attempt 01

Multiple regression  
on impact variables

01

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# Multiple Regression

With forward feature selection

No	Feature	Coefficient
1	latitude	-16.88
2	dept_responsible_Inspectional Services	-1.97
3	dept_responsible_Parks & Recreation Department	3.95
4	dept_responsible_Property Management	80.99
5	dept_responsible_Public Works Department	-3.73
6	team_responsible_Building	15.06
7	team_responsible_Highway Maintenance	3.78
8	team_responsible_Housing	3.83
9	team_responsible_Recycling	11.37
10	team_responsible_Signs & Signals	8.95
11	team_responsible_Street Cleaning	1.1
12	team_responsible_Street Lights	19.25
13	team_responsible_Traffic Management & Engineering	9.54
14	team_responsible_Trees	28.47
15	neighborhood_Dorchester	1.48
16	neighborhood_Roxbury	1.09
17	neighborhood_South Boston / South Boston Water...	-1.03
18	season_Spring	3.53
19	season_Summer	1.75
20	season_Winter	5.7

Attempt 01

Multiple regression  
on impact variables

01

Attempt 02

Multiple regression with  
forward feature selection

02

## Observations:

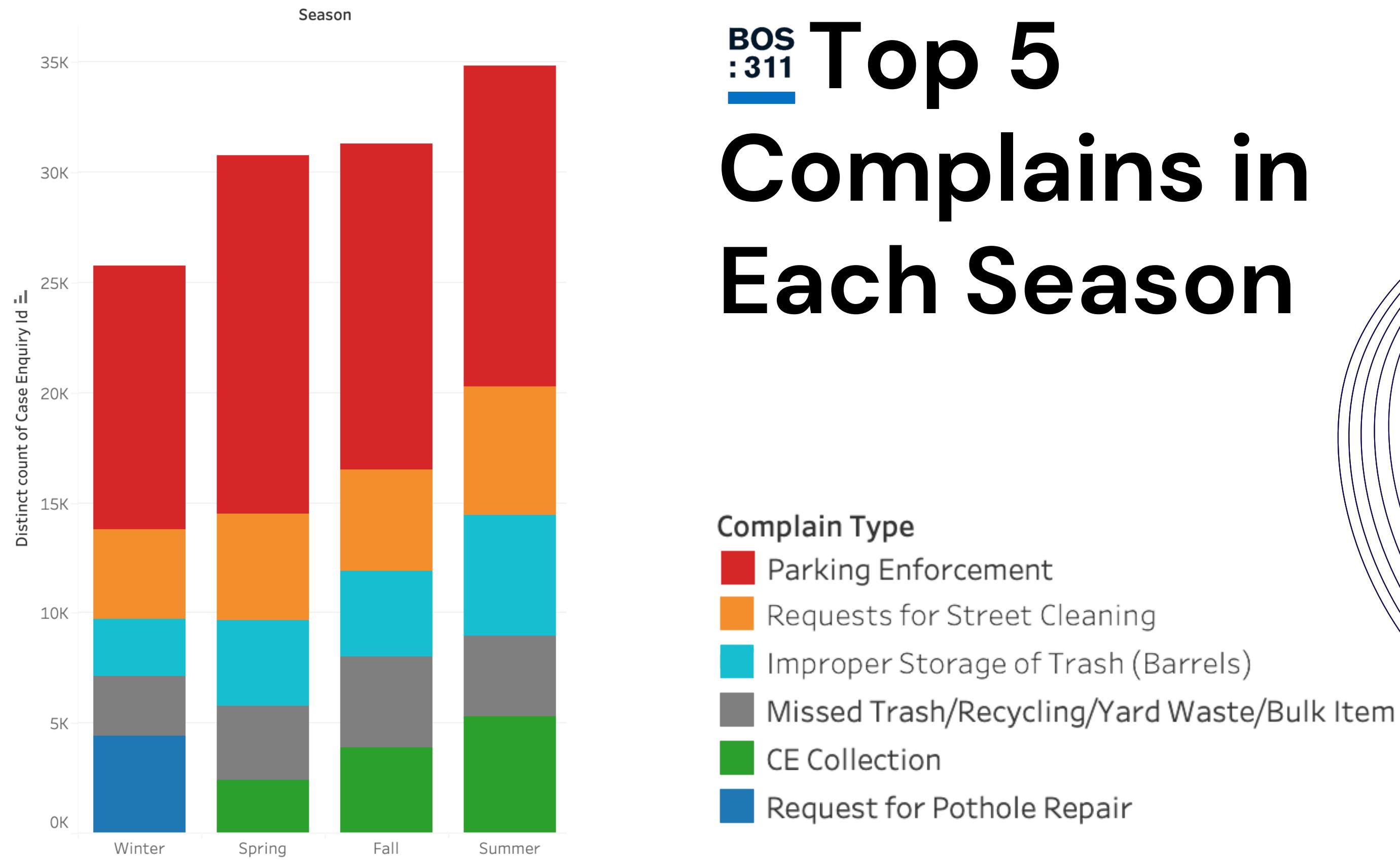
- Features reduced to 20
- RMSE improvement: 19.38
- Positive coefficients → increase days
- Negative coefficients → decrease days

# Impact of Features in Time Taken for Resolution



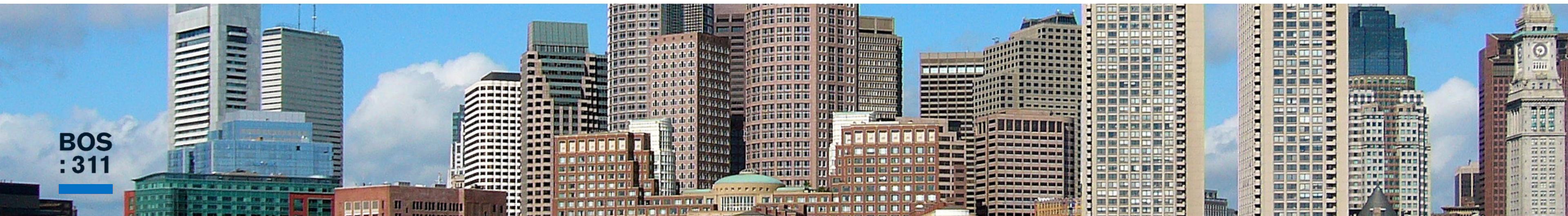
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# Top 5 Complains in Each Season



# Steps to Improve Service Efficiency

- Identify **root cause** of delay moving from west to east in Boston
- Review and improve **Property department**'s working system for faster case closure
- Implement **monitoring** for teams struggling with average closure time
- Study reasons for delay in **Dorchester & Roxbury** cases and improve resolution time
- Hire **more staff** and use special gear for **winter** season to avoid delays



# THANK YOU.

Any questions?

