Wake County Open Data

Motivation for Dataset Creation

There are a variety of datasets available on Wake County Open Data. The categories available include boundaries, demographics, education, electoral, environmental, parks, property, public libraries, public safety, restaurants, transportation, and zoning. The datasets were created to make high-quality information and source data accessible to all stakeholders to facilitate informed decision-making. Out of the available datasets, we were interested in "Restaurants in Wake County", "Food Inspection Violations", "Restaurant Inspections", and "Daily Raleigh Police Incidents." The restaurant-related datasets we used from Wake County Open Data can be used to extract specific information regarding inspection violations made by restaurants and the associated reason. The police incidents data can be used to calculate the number of offenses that have occurred daily. The dataset should not be used to target certain restaurants and/or police/arrestees with retaliation and/or offensive actions.

Dataset Composition

Instances include restaurants in Wake County (HSISID, Name, Address 1, Address 2, City, State, Postal Code, Phone Number, Restaurant Open Date, Facility Type, Permit ID, X, Y, Geocode Status), food inspection violations (HSISID, Inspection Date, Category, State Code, Critical, Question No., Violation Code, Severity, Short Description, Inspected By, Comments, Point Value, Observation Type, Violation Type, CDC Data Item, Permit ID), restaurant inspections (Business ID, Score, Date, Type), and daily Raleigh police incidents (Creation Date, Creator, Edit Date, Editor, Case Number, Crime Category, Crime Code, Crime Description, Crime Type, Reported Block Address, City of Incident, City, District, Reported Date, Reported Month, Reported Day, Reported Hour, Reported Day of Week, Latitude, Longitude, Agency, Updated Date).

Data Collection Process

Data was collected directly by Wake County officials and police officers from 2016 to present.

Data Preprocessing

The available data has not been preprocessed or cleaned. Further cleaning and organization are up to the users to achieve their goal using this dataset.

Dataset Distribution

The datasets can be accessed via https://data-wake.opendata.arcgis.com/. An access token is not required to use the API.

Dataset Maintenance

Users can reach out to gis@wakegov.com for further support or questions and to point out issues with the data and/or website. For these datasets from Wake County, we specifically reached out to the Wake County officials to discuss our planned project and to assess whether the risk prediction tool we were developing would be of use to them and has potential for implementation. Also during data exploration, we encountered a problem with the date range in the Restaurant Inspections data where the not all dates were available in the documented timeframe. The Information Services Analyst investigated into the issue and resolved it.

Legal & Ethical Considerations

The dataset includes the identity of the inspectors and the scores given by the inspectors. They are aware of the data collection. Although it reveals the identity of the inspector, the data does not include sensitive information about the inspector themselves and did not require any ethical review applications.