

Analysis of Crime Trends in Toronto*

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The crime rate in Toronto is something that as always fluxated. As a citizen or visitor, it is important to develop an understanding about your safety level. Through exploring data from Open Data Toronto, we find what types of crimes are most common in specific neighborhoods and determine which are the safest.

1 Introduction

Crime—the act of completing an offense— has been present in human societies throughout history. Toronto, the largest city in Canada, experiences a wide range of crime-related challenges, including but not limited to violence, property crime, robbery and drug-related offenses. Crime can have a significant impact on individuals, communities, and societies as a whole as this does have a significant impact on public safety, economic prosperity, and social cohesion. Being able to understand the causes and consequences of crime, what types of crimes are more frequent in certain areas, as well as develop effective strategies to prevent crime is extremely critical to ensure public safety. While Toronto's crime rate is relatively low in comparison to other major North American cities, it continues to be a significant issue that requires ongoing attention and action.

The data set used in this paper is obtained from Open Data Toronto and is called Major Crime Indicators. The data explores the following major crime indicators: assault (excluding sexual assault), auto theft, breaking and entering, robbery, and theft over \$5000. I am interested in exploring which neighborhood in Toronto has the highest each crime indicator.

This paper holds a total of 5 sections. In section 2, I explain the data source, methodology, and show the cleaned data set through the use of data tables. Section 3 contains the model of the data set whilst section 4 contains shows the results through the use of graphs. Finally, in section 5 I go into further analysis explaining what the results mean as well as address any weaknesses and next steps.

*Code and data are available at: <https://github.com/tayedzac/crime.git>

I use R (R Core Team 2022) for all data cleaning and analysis, R packages *tidyverse* (Wickham et al. 2019), *janitor* (Firke 2023), *tidyr* (Wickham, Vaughan, and Girlich 2023), *dplyr* (Wickham et al. 2023), and *ggplot* (Wickham 2016), to create the figures.

2 Data

2.1 Data Source

The data used in this paper was obtained from Open Data Toronto, which is an official open source of data provided by divisions and agencies throughout Toronto. The Toronto Police Service Public Safety Department collected data in 2014 regarding all Major Crime Indicators (MCI) occurrences. MCI includes crimes such as Assault (excluding sexual assault), Breaking and Entering, Auto Theft, and Theft Over (theft over \$5000). Table 1 shows the number of occurrences that took place for each MCI category.

Table 1: Number of Occurances per Crime

Crime Type	Number of Occurrences
Assault	16557
Auto Theft	3589
Break and Enter	7096
Robbery	3746
Theft Over	987

3 Results

4 Discussion

4.1 Weaknesses and next steps

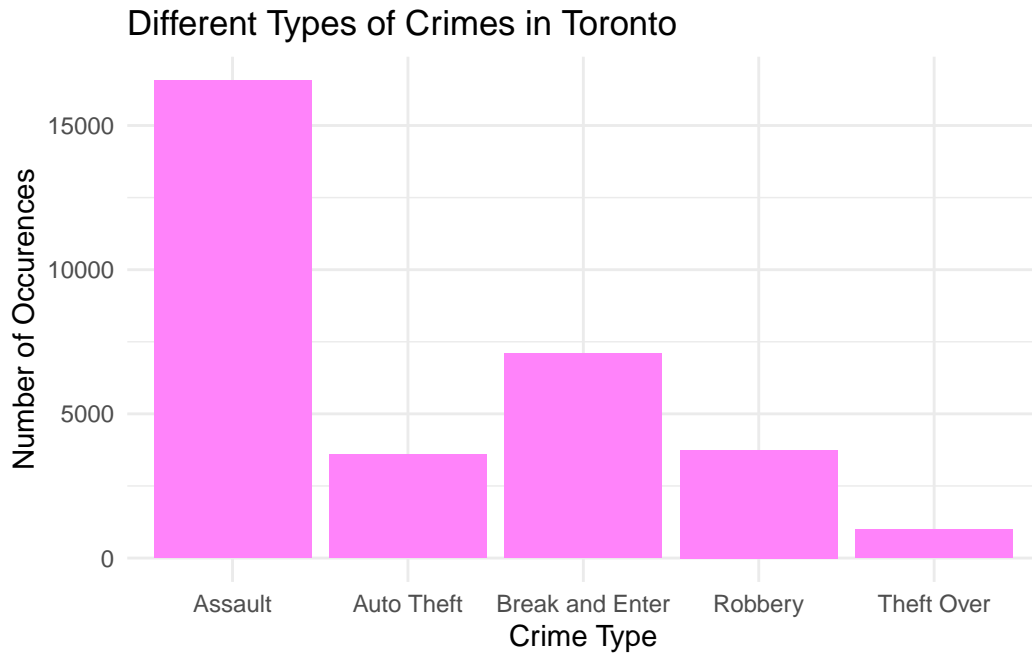


Figure 1: Occurences of the different types of crimes in Toronto.

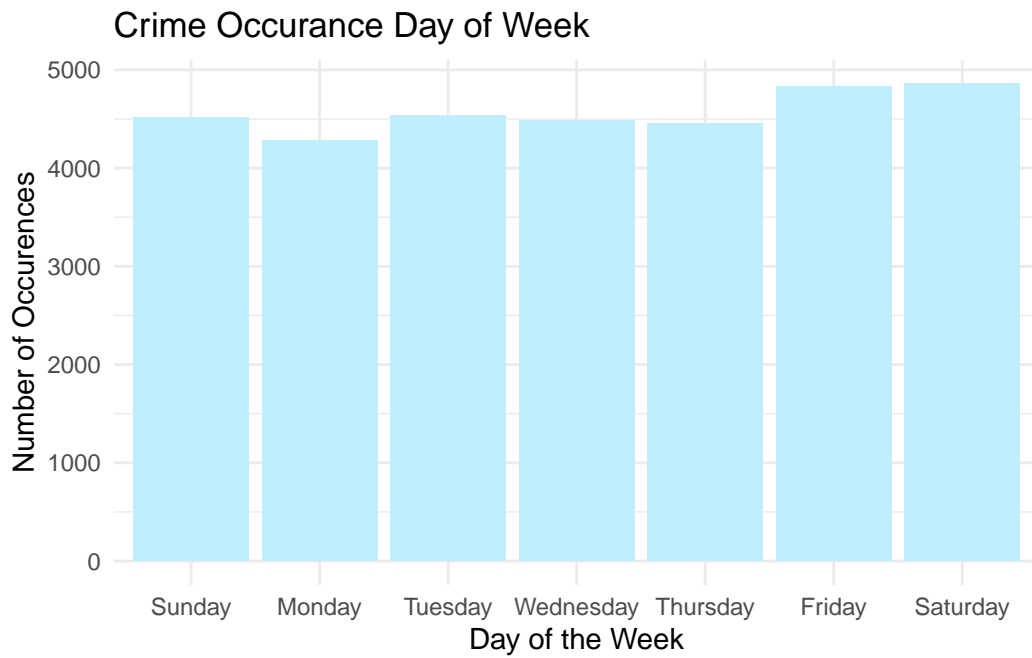


Figure 2: Days when crimes most likely took place.

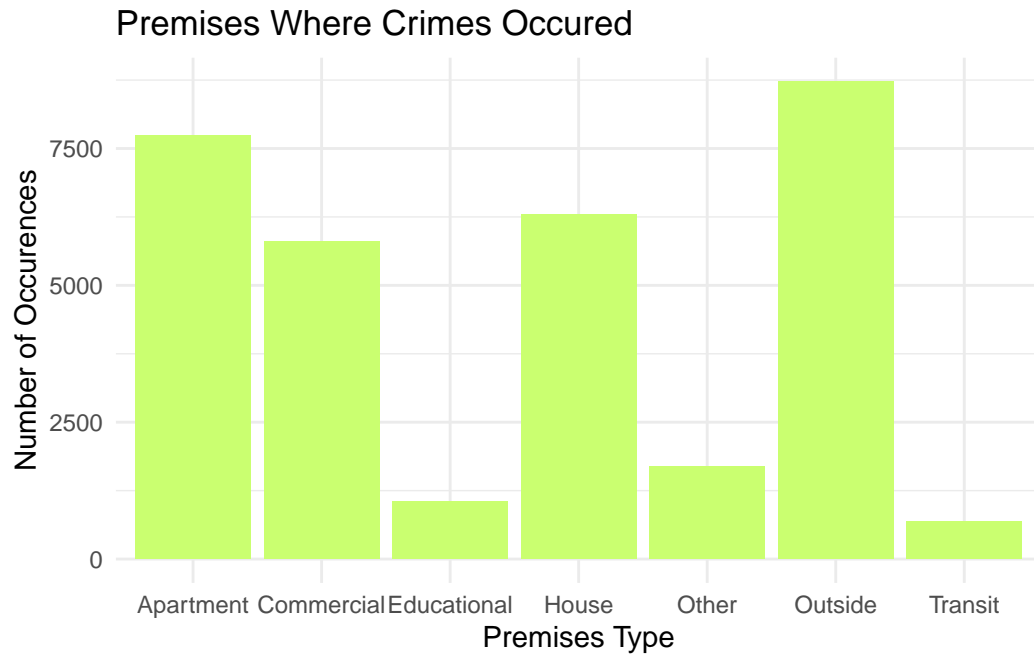


Figure 3: Premises types where crimes occurred.

Appendix

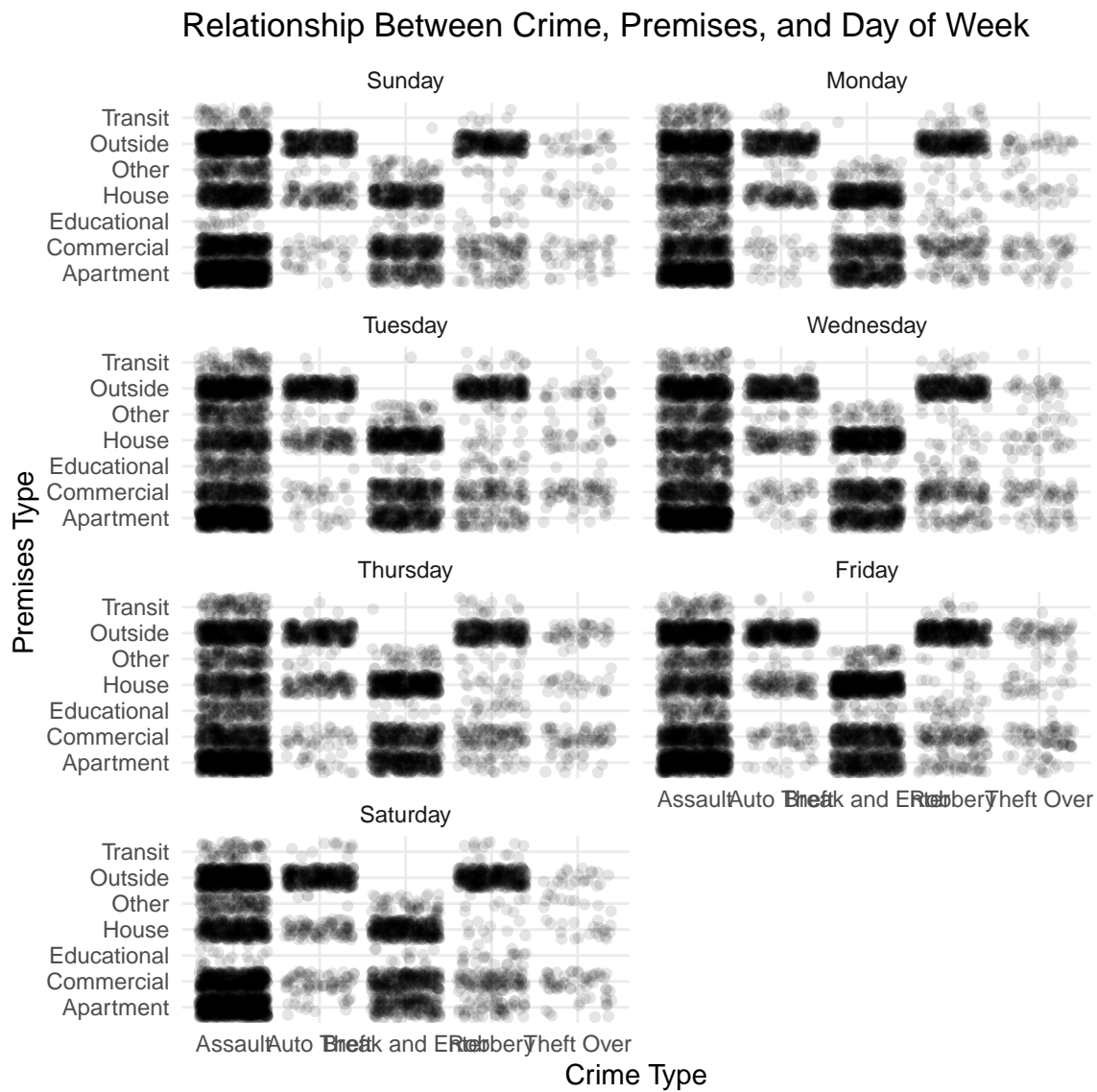


Figure 4: Comparing Crime Type, Premises Type, and Day of Week.

References

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