

Crimes in Los Angeles (LA) Metropolitan Neighborhoods

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Project Description

Background

The Greater Los Angeles (LA) area in California is home to some of the richest and most famous cities in the U.S. What may not be widely known, however, is LA’s crime statistics. The Greater LA metropolitan area holds a reputation for multiple unsafe areas that feature frequent occurrences of violent crimes in or near less affluent neighborhoods.

Research Questions

The purpose of this project is to determine (1) which neighborhoods in the Greater LA metropolitan area have the most crimes and, (2) to evaluate if there is a relationship between the median income of a neighborhood and the amount of crimes that occur in that neighborhood.

Methodology

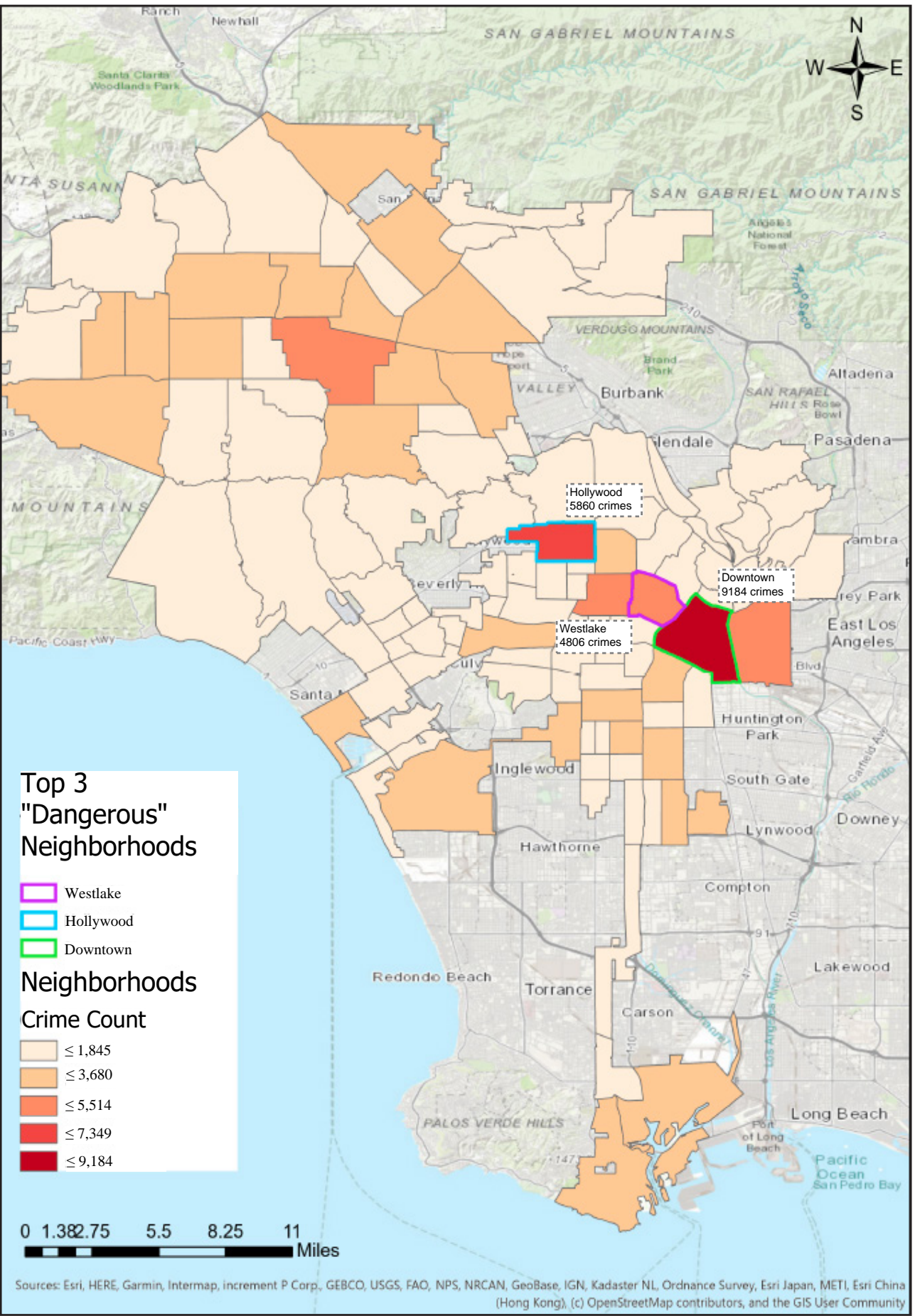
Data Sources

I used data from three different sources. Data on neighborhood boundaries comes from the *Los Angeles Times Neighborhood Boundaries* Within the City of Los Angeles dataset. This is a derived dataset from a much larger set curated by the LA-based organization Data Desk. Income demographics come from the *Income LA* dataset provided by the American Community Survey, B19013. My crime statistics pull from the Los Angeles Police Department’s *Crime Data from 2010 to Present* dataset.

Citations

Los Angeles Police Department. (2019). Crime data from 2010 to present [Data set]. Retrieved from <https://data.lacity.org/A-Safe-City/Crime-Data-from-2010-to-Present/63jg-8b9z>
Posey, Kirby G. (2016). Household income: 2015 [Data set]. American Community Survey Briefs, vol. 25, no. 2. Retrieved from <https://usc.data.socrata.com/Los-Angeles/Income-LA-/kygc-fzgm>
Los Angeles Times’ Mapping LA project. (2016). LA Times Neighborhood Boundaries [Data set]. Retrieved from http://geohub.lacity.org/datasets/d6c55385a0e749519f238b77135cafac_0

2016 Crime Counts



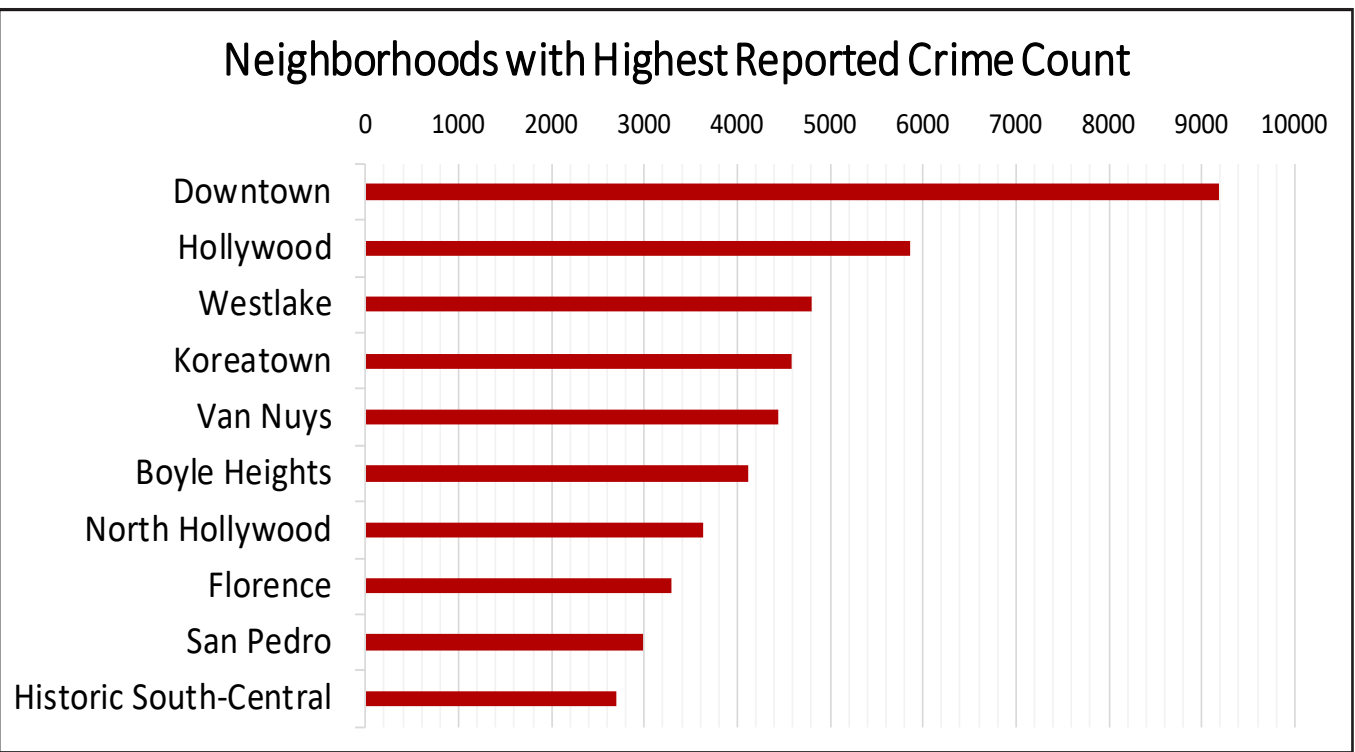
Crime Counts

Downtown, Hollywood, and Westlake had the highest counts of reported crime in 2016. Downtown had the highest reported crime count of 9184 crimes in 2016.

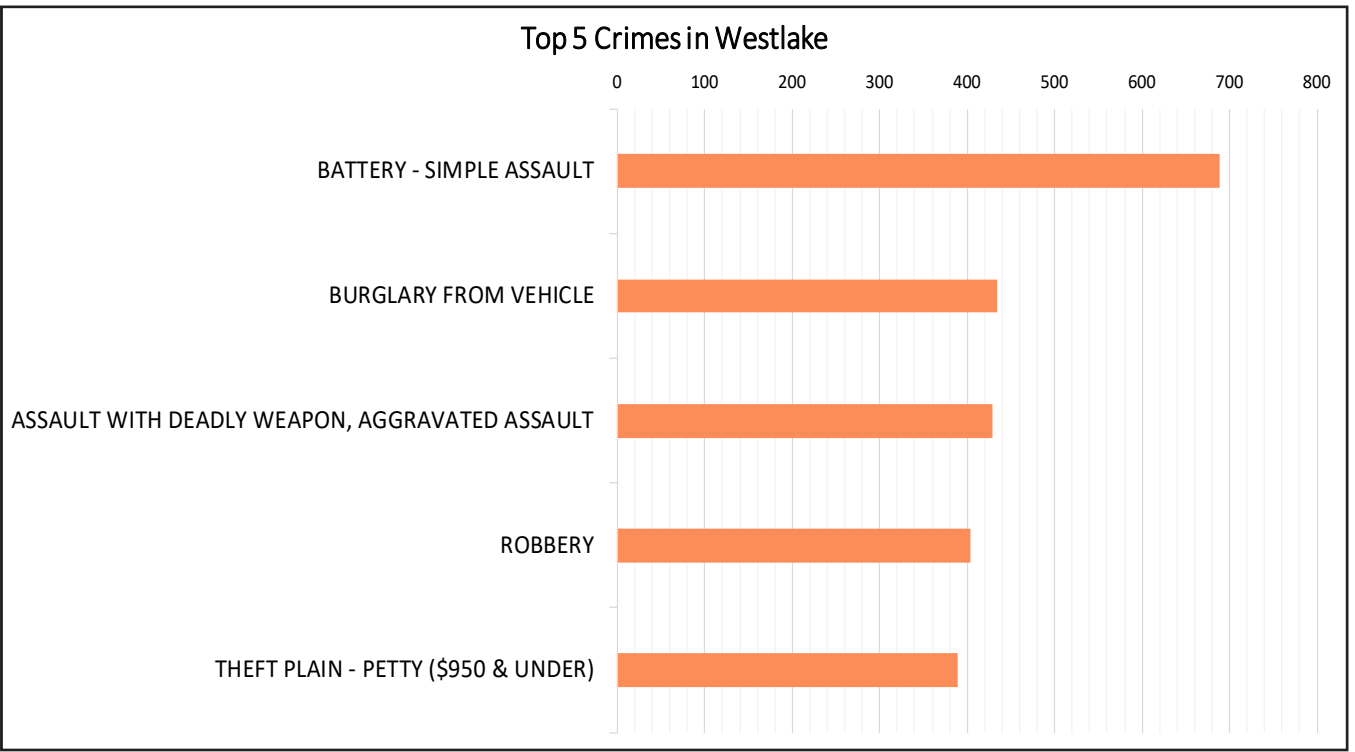
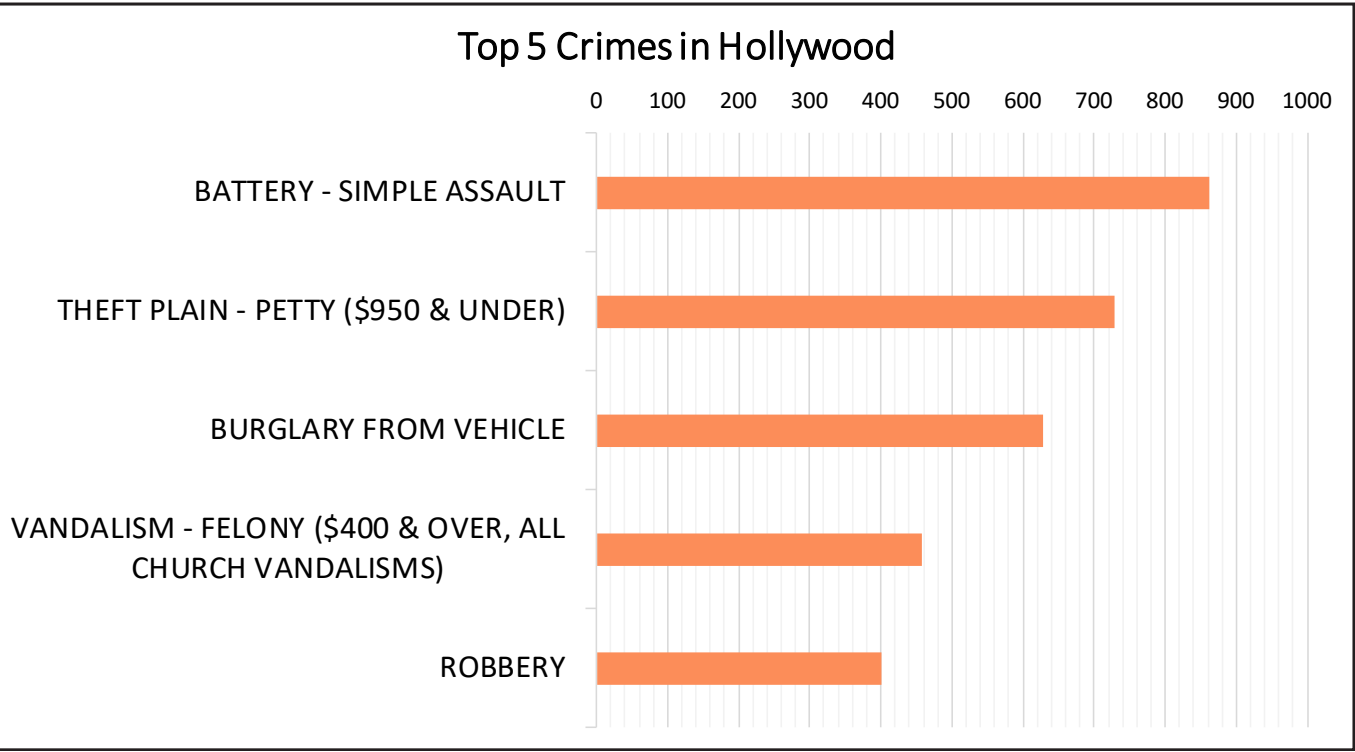
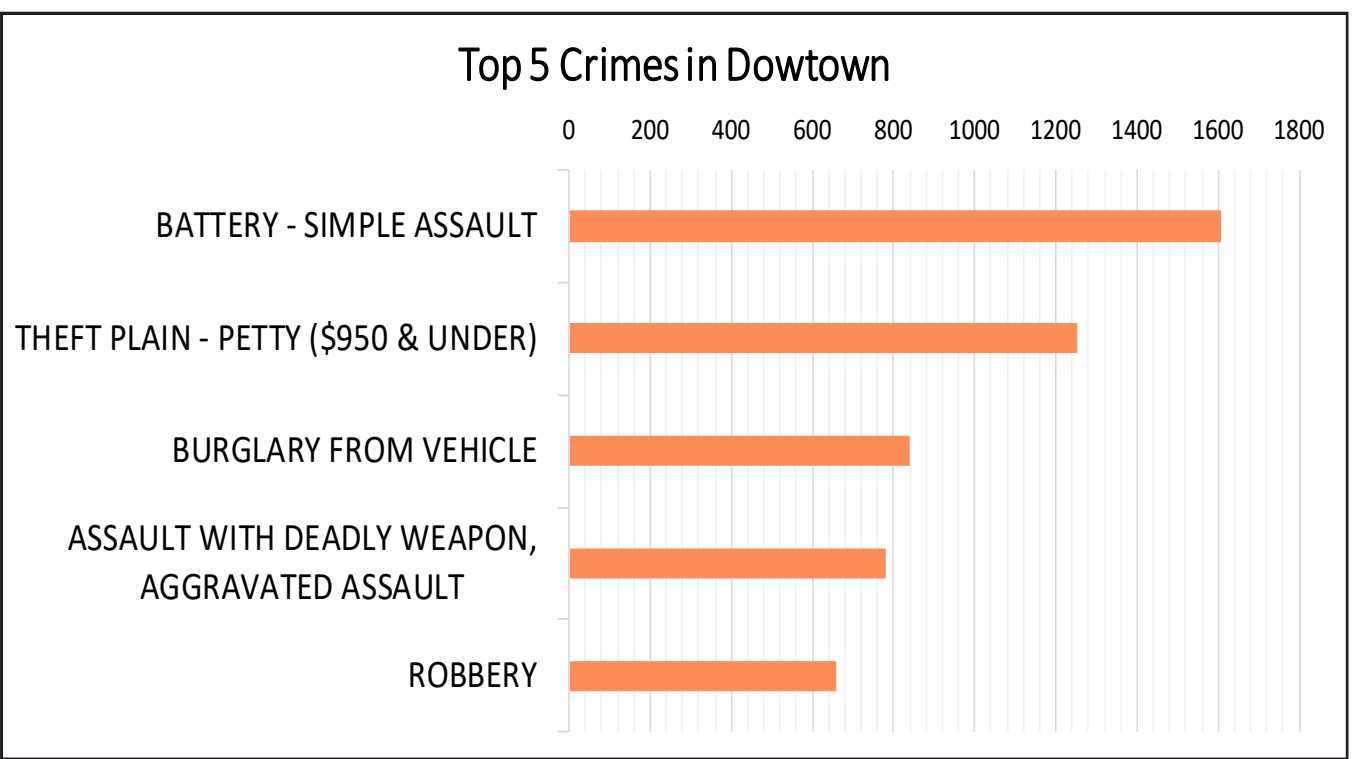
Top Five Crimes (Downtown, Hollywood, Westlake)

- Battery - simple assault is the highest reported crime across all three.
- Westlake experienced the fewest reported burglaries from vehicles (compared to Downtown, Hollywood).
- Significant numerical variation across crime type in Downtown and also in Hollywood.
- In Westlake, the numbers are consistent across the board except in the case of battery - simple assault.

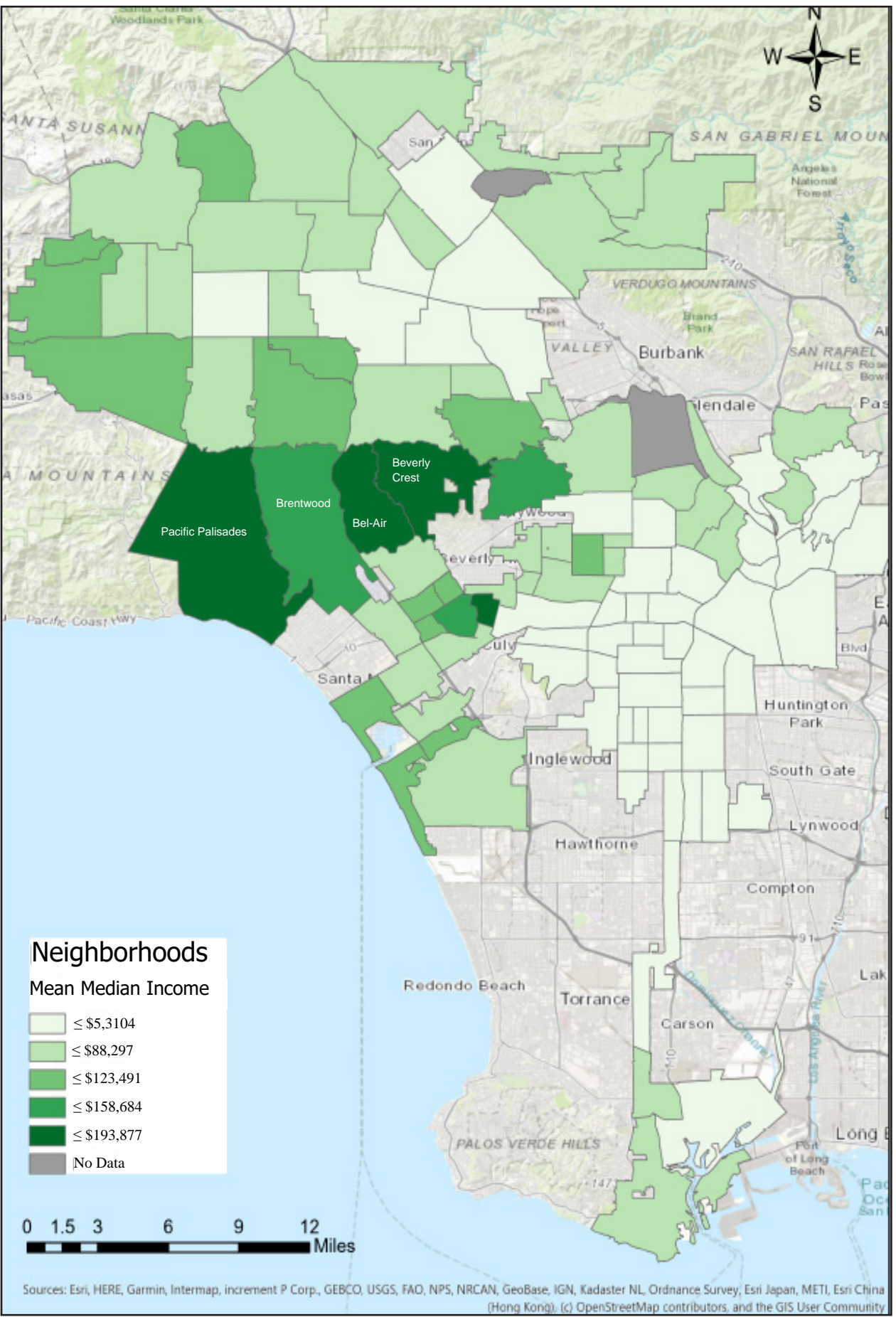
Highest Crime Neighborhoods



Top 5 Crimes



Relationship Between Mean Median Income and Crime



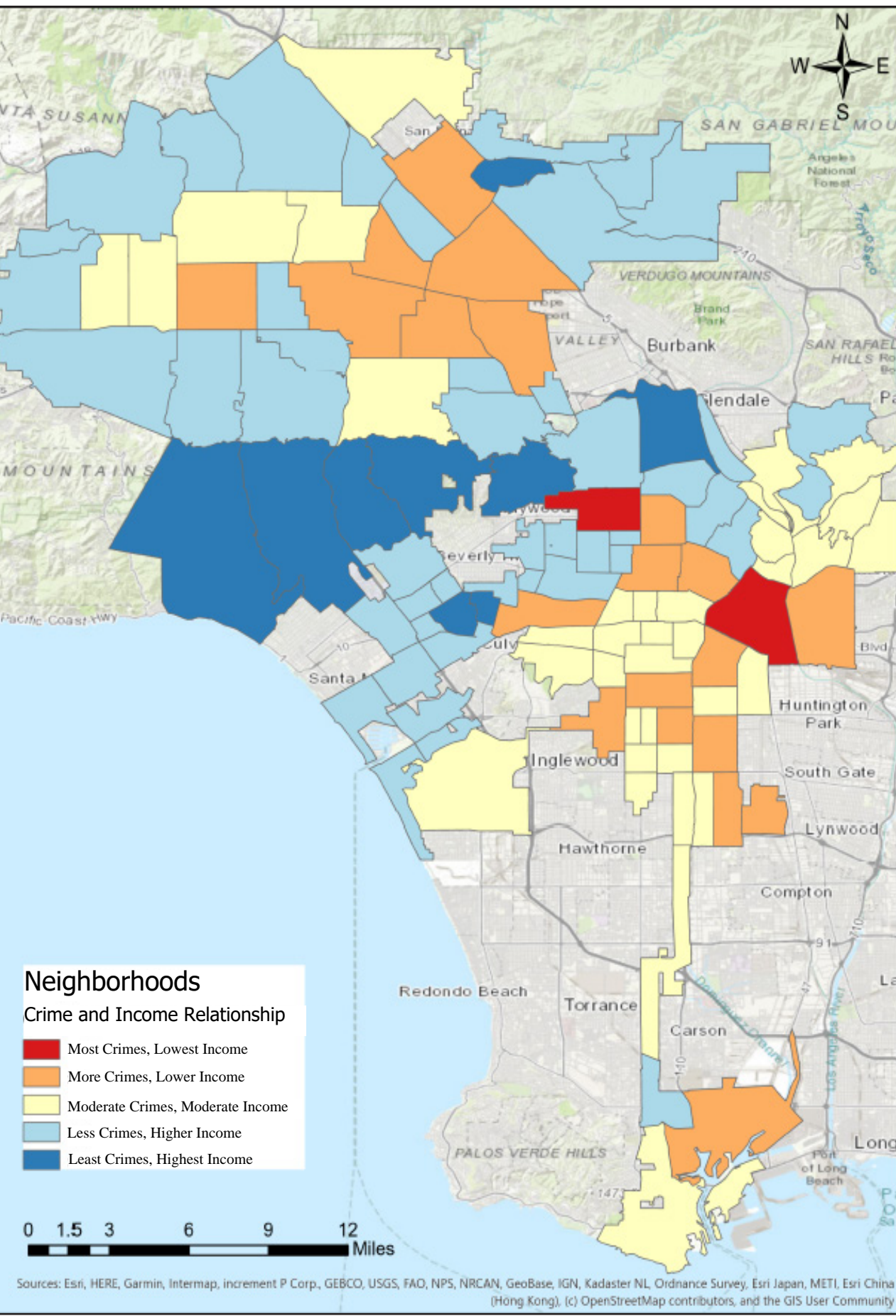
Income and Crime Rates

Most affluent neighborhoods do have fewer occurrences of crime compared to neighbors with lower income.

Downtown and Hollywood show the strongest relationship between low income and high crime rates.

The majority of neighborhoods with mean median income ≤ \$123,491 and ≤ \$88,297 show a stronger relationship between high income and less crime.

The four consecutive neighborhoods with a stronger relationship between high income and less crime include the two highest mean median incomes (Pacific Palisades and Bel-Air reported > \$ 15,8684).



Assessment of Relationship

It is implied that neighborhoods with higher crime rates have higher crime reports.

There are some areas with lower mean median income and fewer crimes, as well as some neighborhoods with higher mean median income and higher crimes. This suggests that there may be other factors that influence the amount of crimes reported in an area.

Overall, neighborhoods with the most crimes reported have lower median incomes (symbolized above in red and dark orange) and neighborhoods with the highest mean median incomes have the least crimes reported (symbolized in dark blue).