# 2025 Open Data Progress Report

New York City runs on the data generated by its agencies. Nearly every interaction New Yorkers have with these agencies produces data – from achieving a milestone like becoming a <u>parent</u> or <u>homeowner</u>, to everyday activities like <u>hailing a taxi</u> or <u>having a picnic</u>. Every public service that the City provides for New Yorkers generates data, as well - every <u>tree planted</u>, <u>restaurant inspected</u>, and <u>street paved</u> is a new row in a dataset.

City agencies use this data to understand how to better serve New Yorkers. In turn, New Yorkers can use it to understand how their government works for them. This cycle of information exchange is fueled by the belief that access to data promotes transparency and grants new opportunities to all who use it. That belief is backed by <a href="New York City">New York City</a>'s Open Data Law first passed in 2012, which requires every City agency to publish all datasets appropriate for public release.

This report shines a light on all the efforts that keep Open Data running, raises awareness about the latest information available from the City, and provides a glimpse into the upcoming changes and additions to our platform.

# Introduction

Dear New Yorkers.

If you are curious enough about how New York City government works that you have made it here to our annual report, you probably already know that NYC Open Data is a big deal: it's a massive collection of thousands of datasets about the large government of the mega-city that we call home. What you may not know about – and perhaps what you've come here to learn – is all of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into the creation of each of those datasets.

First, someone has to realize that information a City agency is collecting – about people they interact with, their assets, or their activities – is, or should be, a dataset. That could be a subject-matter expert at that agency who has been working in that area for years, or it could be a curious New Yorker like you, struggling to find an answer to a question and reaching out to our <a href="Open Data Help Desk">Open Data Help Desk</a>. Other datasets originate from this report itself, which is the culmination of an internal inventory process. That inventory process has been expanded this year to connect public datasets to <a href="Mayor's Management Report (MMR)">Mayor's Management Report (MMR)</a> performance indicators and identify gaps where the data used to create those indicators might still be shared.

Once a dataset is identified, an agency works internally to figure out how to best structure it for public consumption. This can mean some data detective work to explore how a decades-old system stores data in a mainframe, or piecing together a collection of spreadsheets into a coherent picture of a government operation. Protecting New Yorkers' privacy is an essential part of determining a dataset's structure – this can

involve removing certain fields, grouping similar values together, or even aggregating individual-level data into summaries. With the variety of skills involved, structuring a dataset can bring together program staff, data analysts, data engineers, lawyers, all contributing their expertise to help construct the public dataset.

Even the best designed dataset needs thorough <u>documentation</u> to make it usable. The job of creating documentation can be thought of as data translation, capturing the knowledge that someone has accumulated after years of working on a topic, and as many of the nuances of making use of the data as possible. Like structuring a dataset, writing documentation is ideally a team effort, and given the public audience, staff who work on public communications otherwise are often involved here.

Before any dataset is released to the public, it is <u>reviewed</u> at least three times: by the Open Data Coordinator or team of the agency that is releasing it, and by at least two people on the central NYC Open Data Team – all using a <u>standard checklist</u>. These layers of reviews help to capture concepts that might need more explanation and catch errors or inconsistencies in the data. Our goal is to channel a curious New Yorker and stress test the dataset and its documentation.

And while publishing a dataset marks the end of one process it is the beginning of another one – each question can be used to improve data documentation, every new user is an opportunity to find an error or improve data quality, and every analysis or tool can inspire someone else to find their own insights in the data. We hope you will continue the journey of building NYC Open Data with us - whether that means picking up the basics at an Open Data Ambassadors class, asking questions about an existing dataset, suggesting a new dataset for publication, or sharing your work at the annual Open Data Week festival.

Sincerely, The NYC Open Data Team

# **Strategic Plan**

In 2019, NYC Open Data brought together City employees, civic hackers, open data evangelists, and good government advocates in a two-day workshop to reflect on the successes and challenges of the first ten years of open data in New York City. During the workshop, participants co-created a vision for the next decade of NYC Open Data, which the Open Data Team used in tandem with a public survey to write its strategic plan. This strategic plan encompasses 27 initiatives across three main areas: improving user experience, strengthening the City's capacity, and building communities.

Each year, the Open Data team provides an updated status of each initiative, and many have status "Notes" to share more detail on the work that is underway or planned. As NYC Open Data continues to work on the initiatives identified in this plan, some of them have become principles that are central to how we work, moving beyond the specific

projects they encompassed when they were originally envisioned. These initiatives have a timeline entry of "Ongoing" and status of "Core Principle."

## **Improve User Experience**

Making it easier for all New Yorkers to request, find, understand, and use data.

## Provide a User-friendly, Dynamic Platform

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
that allows for continuous design, development, piloting, and implementation of new features— while ensuring equitable access to the underlying code	In 2020, we started an initial exploration into building more open source tools around NYC Open Data, collaborating with Two Sigma Data Clinic to launch the scout data discovery tool.  Since then, we've continued to both look at the capabilities of open source open data platforms and how our current platform might be extended to offer more collaborative opportunities.	Ongoing	Core Principle
gathering requirements for	This ethos continues to inform our work, from the 2020 workshop with City staff on data sharing platforms, to the 2021 discussions with Open Data Coordinators about their own dataset review processes, to our School of Data 2022 workshop on the <a href="new data dictionary template">new data dictionary template</a> , and the <a href="future">future</a> improvements to our Technical Standards <a href="Manual">Manual</a> .	Ongoing	Core Principle
with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), work to	Open Data continues to collaborate with both the Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities and our vendor on continued accessibility improvements. This has included a guide to navigating the platform with a screen reader, improvements in screen reader and keyboard	Ongoing	Core Principle

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
more accessible for people of all abilities.	navigation, and increased compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).		
4. Streamline communications around NYC Open Data by improving the transparency and responsiveness of our help desk for all users	In 2023, we revamped how we manage public inquiries. With a new semi-automated system, inquiries from the help desk are delegated to their assigned agencies and saved in our database simultaneously. Thanks to this efficiency, we can provide help desk users with speedier replies and more easily keep the inquiry-driven Questions and Errors and Dataset Requests datasets up-to-date.  In 2024, we moved our help desk to a new platform, developed in consultation with agency Open Data Coordinators, that allows for more automation. Among the improvements so far are personalized interfaces for each agency to manage their assigned inquiries, contact our team for assistance, or quickly respond via email. You can read more about this work in the Help Desk Relaunch section of the 2024 report.  In 2025, we launched a new internal help desk to make it easier for Open Data Coordinators to make updates or changes to their agency's public datasets. This new service should also improve the quality and timeliness of Open Data for every user.	Ongoing	Core Principle
	In 2021, we collaborated with Open Data Coordinators on ideas for improvements to our existing templates and held a public feedback session at School of Data 2022. In July 2022, we released a new, simplified data	Complete	Complete

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
standards reflect current needs	dictionary template that reflected our conversations and research.		
the data	In 2020, the Open Data compliance report looked at data on agency websites as part of the groundwork for making more formal connections between website tools used for performance reporting and the underlying open data.  In 2021, this website data inventory was turned into a dynamic dataset that will be updated each year.  In 2023, reporting on website data was refocused, grouping related data that are presented separately on agency websites to better reflect the consolidated datasets that are published on Open Data. Future efforts will further consolidate this reporting to continue to clarify what data is and is not published on NYC Open Data.  In 2025, we added a new element to the Open Data reporting process to explicitly connect public datasets on Open Data to public metrics from the Mayor's Management Report. The addition will help New Yorkers explore the data behind some of the stats that NYC government uses to guide its work.	Long- term	In Progress

# Create a Repository for Data About New York City

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
-	AS OF 2022, a flew tracker makes the dataset	Medium- term	In Progress

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
the most popular requests can be prioritized to be released first.	information on what agency each request is assigned to, when requests are due, and when they're supposed to be completed. In 2025, we started work on a new process to better track the status of public dataset requests and integrate those requests with future annual compliance reporting workbooks.		
8. Formalize publishing process for non-City publishers such as public libraries, district attorneys, and citizen-science initiatives.	In 2022, we released a simplified data dictionary template and a new quality assurance standards and review process lay the groundwork for opening up our publishing process.	Long- term	Planning

## **Strengthen City Capacity**

Supporting City agencies and other publishers to NYC Open Data with better tools, more resources, clearer standards, and stronger connections with existing City operations.

## Improve Open Data Coordinator (ODC) Support

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
<b>9.</b> Guide Open Data Coordinators through regular training sessions for those new to the role and "office hours" for veterans.	Since 2020, the Open Data Team has conducted training sessions, held virtual Q&As, and offered online office hours. These will continue to be a central feature of our work to empower Open Data Coordinators.  In the coming years, the process for onboarding new Open Data Coordinators will continue to be formalized, with more tracking	Complete	Complete

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
	of the training each Coordinator has received and the public release of our onboarding documents.		
10. Build internal understanding of and support for open data use across Agency leadership and key internal teams (including legal, communications, and information technology) through education and training.	In 2024, we collaborated with civic technology non-profit BetaNYC and the City Council's Data Team to hold an introductory Open Data course for City Council staffers. In the coming years we look to hold more Open Data education classes for City staff as we continue to advertise our public educational offerings.	Medium- term	In Progress
11. Create case studies and presentations to share how Open Data can improve service delivery, promote equity, and increase efficiency.	In 2023, the Open Data Team updated the process for agencies to log when they've completed an Open Data civic engagement sharing more guidance on how to do this work effectively and simplifying the logging process. These improvements should result in more accurate reporting and higher-quality engagements.	Long- term	In Progress

Streamline Dataset Publishing

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
automation process	In 2020, we piloted new technology to streamline the dataset automation process. This has continued to be used to make	Ongoing	Core Principle
support, making it	dataset automations easier to create and maintain.		Principle

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
to keep their datasets up to date.	In 2022, a move to a cloud-based automation tool has continued to improve the ease and speed at which datasets are automatically updated. In 2023, we released a draft policy for agencies interested in publishing their own data, and began a pilot including the Buildings, Parks, Planning, Transportation Departments to allow agencies to maintain their datasets independently. As of 2025, City Planning now automates all of their agencies public data transfers, taking over a process that used to be run manually. Planning presented on the open source tools they use to manage metadata, generate documentation, and automate data distribution during the 2025 Open Data Week festival.		
<b>13.</b> Redesign how we identify new data for publication so that more public datasets are being shared.	The Open Data team continues to provide additional guidance to agency Open Data Coordinators (ODCs) to identify new information that should be posted on NYC Open Data. This information is conveyed during onboarding sessions with ODCs and reinforced in office hours or reporting discussions with our team. ODCs are guided to actively seek out new sources of public data – reviewing the datasets already published on their agency's website, evaluating underlying data for their Mayor's Management Report indicators and other public-facing reporting requirements, and actively engaging with their agencies' data owners and program managers.	Ongoing	Core Principle

Develop NYC Open Data Policies and Measures

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
14. In collaboration with the City's Chief Privacy Officer and Mayor's Office of Information Privacy, develop and implement clear privacy policies and guidelines on the responsible release of open data.	Vetting of datasets by Agency Privacy Officers is included in our new data quality standards, and guidance from the citywide Office of Information Privacy (formerly the Mayor's Office of Information Privacy) is incorporated in the updated Technical Standards Manual. In 2025, our team started researching what additional privacy guidance we could offer agencies to both protect New Yorkers' privacy and publish highly usable data.	Complete	Complete
15. Share best practices for open data interoperability and access that can be incorporated when new technology systems are procured.	Guidance on identifying and publishing datasets from agency systems will be included in the upcoming improvements to the Technical Standards Manual.	Medium- term	Planning
16. Update open data policy guidance in the Technical Standards Manual to better address internal data coordination, data quality standards, and self-publishing processes.	The format of the Technical Standards  Manual now mirrors the dataset lifecycle, and continues to be updated to reflect the latest guidance to agencies.	Complete	Complete
<b>17.</b> Create a new quality assurance	Since the start of this effort, all new datasets have been vetted by both the agency that	Complete	Complete

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
system to check how published datasets comply with updated standards.	owns them and the Open Data team against the Data Quality Standards and Review Process.  Over the past year, this review has been similarly applied to existing datasets as they are being updated or where someone writes into the Open Data Help Desk. Working in tandem, our team and agency Open Data Coordinators have consolidated fragmented datasets, replaced aggregate reports with underlying granular data, archived datasets with outdated or inaccurate information, migrated data dictionaries to the current template, and improved the quality of dataset documentation.  In the future, our team will be working on a more comprehensive review of every existing dataset to prioritize similar improvements across the entire NYC Open Data inventory.		
18. Collaborate with NYC's Records Access Officers and the OpenRecords team to align NYC Open Data with FOIL practices and resources across the City.	In March 2022, the Department of Records and Information Services updated the process for determining whether Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) responses contained data. As a result of this work, every FOIL request where data is shared is tagged with the data source as part of the FOIL process, making the discovery of potential Open Data datasets more efficient.	Ongoing	Core Principle
19. Introduce and track Open Data Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to	In 2021, we published an Open Data  dashboard which enables anyone to look at  NYC Open Data at a citywide, agency or  dataset level. This tool has proven to be	Complete	Complete

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
the program at a	particularly useful for Open Data Coordinators who want to ensure that their agency's published data stays up-to-date.		
	In the coming years, this dashboard will continue to be updated, including interface improvements and more granular information about out-of-date datasets.		

#### **Build Communities**

Supporting New Yorkers with tools and information to help them solve local problems, and amplifying the voices of people who find solutions using NYC Open Data.

## **Share Stories of Impact and Success**

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
	We are continuing to use "Powered by NYC Open Data" to advertise Open Data Week and will be sharing updated guidelines for citing Open Data.	Medium- term	In Progress
21. Demonstrate impact of open data usage through focused case studies, communications and storytelling.	Highlights of how open data is being created, used and improved are now regularly featured in this report.	Medium- term	Planning

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
22. Facilitate regular peer exchange among Open Data Coordinators to help capture and share lessons and best practices.	The Open Data Team has continually engaged veteran Open Data Coordinators to improve the processes we use. In recent years, this has included updates to our trainings, help desk platform, compliance process, data-quality standards, and documentation template.  In 2022 and 2023, the team has focused on improving how new Open Data Coordinators come to understand the program and their role. The Health, Parks, and Transportation Departments have shared materials they use to communicate Open Data requirements and deadlines, and onboard new staff. In the future, similar resources will be shared in a public library of tools and processes so agencies can better learn from each other's practices.	Ongoing	Core Principle
23. Continue engaging existing citywide programs in integrating open data into their process, service, or curriculum in order to improve reach and equitable access to Open Data—similar to past efforts with Computer Science for All and Participatory Budgeting NYC.		Long- term	In Progress

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
24. Foster connections between people whose questions can be answered with open data and tech-savvy communities who are interested in helping them find solutions, promoting equity of access to insights generated using open data.	Community building and education have only grown in importance for NYC Open Data since this initiative was first identified. The Open Data Ambassadors Program teaches data-savvy Ambassadors from a variety of professional backgrounds to share their knowledge with data-curious New Yorkers. The annual Open Data Week festival brings together students, data professionals, civic hackers, artists, government wonks, community activists, and more to learn from each other about how they're using or might use free public data about New York City. Over the coming year, our team will continue its work on revamping the Open Data Project Gallery to both improve the connections between these projects and their underlying datasets, and to highlight more projects created by City agencies.	Ongoing	Core Principle
<b>25.</b> Assess "Data Counts" pilot, connecting library visitors to NYC Open Data, for potential to scale.	The Open Data Ambassadors  Program continues to expand. Over the past year we have collaborated with BetaNYC to introduce nearly a thousand New Yorkers to Open Data and hosted classes in partnership with NYC's Civic Engagement Commission, Borough Presidents, City Council members, and Community Boards. The program is powered by volunteer Ambassadors who are trained to teach New Yorkers about the value of public data. In the summer of 2023, we trained a new cohort of more than 30 additional volunteer Ambassadors who will soon be ready to help spread awareness of Open Data throughout the NYC's diverse communities.	Complete	Complete

Strategic Initiative	Notes	Timeline	2025 Status
<b>26.</b> Continue to grow the annual Open Data Week celebration.	Open Data Week 2025 continued to break records with more than 200 applications to hold an event and more than 6,200 people attending the festival. This included more than 1,500 people visiting the Data Through Design collective's two-week long 2025 exhibit, "Corpus: Bodies of Data" and more than 560 people coming together at civic tech non-profit BetaNYC's School of Data community conference both also record turnouts. You can catch up on past events on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@nycopendataweek	Ongoing	Core Principle
<b>27.</b> Launch issuesfocused community sessions building on the "Learn About NYC" event series.	As part of the Open Data Week 2022 festival, the Open Data Team worked with agencies to tell the stories of their specific operations through the datasets they publish during agency "Office Hours" sessions. Recent Open Data Weeks have included events from dozens of different agencies at all levels of government participating in conversations about NYC data. A record 25 government agencies explored their work during Open Data Week 2025 – sharing their internal tools, talking about how they use public data to drive their operations, and answering questions from curious New Yorkers.	Medium- term	In Progress

# **Powered by Open Data**

NYC Open Data would not exist without the dedication of its community. This includes the work of Open Data Coordinators – City staff at each agency who are responsible for identifying, structuring, documenting, publishing, maintaining, and sharing their agency's public datasets – and the countless programmers, engineers, educators, analysts, policy makers, students, & residents that utilize that data.

As New York City evolves, so does the data that is used in and produced by its operations. Better data means better projects, better projects means better insight, and that insight keeps the open data cycle in motion. We've featured some of the community's most notable new datasets, tools, projects, and events below:

#### **NYC Honorary Street Names**

Agency: Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS)

Dataset(s): NYC Honorary Street Names Data Collection

In November 2024, the New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) published an interactive map to help connect people to the nearly 2,500 streets, intersections, and other locations that have been co-named after notable New Yorkers.

The new tool was developed after DORIS was designated with the responsibility to share background information on co-named locations on its website in 2023, following the passage of <u>Local Law 104 of 2023</u> by the City Council. Application developers built an interactive map that allows users to quickly find biographical or background information about the person or entity for whom the name change took place—right from their phones. For example, the map informs users that the corner of Park Row and Spruce Street in Manhattan is co-named "Elizabeth Jennings Place" and honors <u>Elizabeth Jennings Graham</u>, a Black teacher who integrated the City's trolleys in 1854 by refusing to refusing to get off the trolley when instructed.

This tool was developed during the summer of 2024 by the DORIS application development team and the talented interns who entered data and continue to do so. Currently, the interns are researching local laws that renamed streets during the 1980s and 1990s to be included on the map.

There are currently 2,496 entries – 1,610 of those entries are co-named intersections, and 886 are co-named streets. The map is searchable by the name of the individual, zip code, and categories such as "firefighter" or "police officer." Users can reference the website to find out more about each person honored with a co-named location.

In 2002 and 2003, local laws named more than 400 streets for first responders killed on 9/11. Many of those streets lack biographical information. DORIS interns are researching these individuals and writing the biographical information that the City Council could include in an upcoming local law. All biographical information in the map is taken directly from the enacted local laws.

#### Where Does NYC Garbage Go?

Dataset(s): Disposal Facilities and Sites Used for DSNY-Managed Waste

Where does NYC Garbage Go? It is now possible to know! In July 2024, the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) published several new datasets that help tell the never-ending story of where NYC garbage goes. These datasets show how many tons of refuse are sent to each transfer station, with details on the landfills and waste-to-energy combustors that receive this refuse. Data tables can be linked to show the quantities of NYC trash that flow to NYC-based transfer stations, and then on to different disposal locations throughout the Eastern United States. There is also information on costs, travel distances, and modes of transportation.

This is the closest New Yorkers have ever come to being able to follow their trash on an ongoing basis. Knowing this information puts fresh perspective on what it means to dispose of your trash; and how doing other things with it – like recycling, composting, donating, reusing and reducing – is a better option.

Following the release of these datasets, a team of researchers and activists (waste scholar Samantha MacBride, climate innovation consultant Matthew Eshed, data analyst Andrew Goh, waste management expert Jane Wu, and urban data scientist & planner Shen Xin) presented a "how-to" primer on using and interpreting this data during NYC Open Data Week as part of the 2025 School of Data Conference, and designing a test dashboard drawing from dataset APIs. This group, in collaboration with the Manhattan and Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Boards, also built a <u>user interface</u> that maps the trail of trash. The project's organizer, Samantha MacBride, lets users know that "openness, transparency and accountability... is especially relevant to residents of disadvantaged communities in NYC where waste transfer stations cluster and to activists in community composting, urban agriculture, and local reuse enterprises who see NYC's zero-waste future as one in which materials are kept local to the extent possible, and risks are not exported to other communities."

### 311 Resolution Satisfaction Survey: Closing the Feedback Loop

**Agency**: NYC Office of Technology & Innovation (OTI)

Dataset(s): 311 Resolution Satisfaction Survey

NYC311, the front door to City services, helps New Yorkers file more than 3 million Service Requests each year — from reporting needed repairs to getting heat restored. In 2025, the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) added an important new feature: the 311 Resolution Satisfaction Survey (RSAT). For the first time, Service Requests don't just end with a resolution — anyone who files a Service Request and leaves contact information is invited to provide feedback through RSAT upon the closure of their Service Request. Responses are collected across all NYC311 SR sources — call center, mobile app and online. Customers are asked how satisfied they are with how the relevant agency handled their Service Request, and if they are dissatisfied, they are asked to select a reason why. Each row of data contains these responses, enhanced

with information about the underlying Service Requests. Survey results are shared back with agencies, introducing a feedback loop that lets New Yorkers' voices shape how services are delivered.

NYC311 has published this data in both a <u>dashboard</u> and an <u>Open Data dataset</u>, providing insight into government performance from the customer's perspective. Careful consideration was given to the level of aggregation in this published data to maximize transparency and utility while preserving the privacy of customers. On Open Data, survey results can be reviewed on the level of Service Request type, month, and borough, highlighting where New Yorkers feel most and least satisfied and opportunities for growth. Categories with fewer than five responses are suppressed to remove the risk of identifying survey respondents. The dynamic nature of the dashboard allows for data to be presented on the community board and week level while maintaining the fewer-than-five rule. As of September 2025, there have been over 360,000 responses to the RSAT survey. This adds to the array of 311 performance and outcome data available on Open Data, including the <u>311 Service Requests</u> and <u>311 Customer Satisfaction</u> datasets (the latter of which relates to satisfaction with 311's call takers). Having the RSAT survey on Open Data helps City government focus on making services more effective, responsive, and fair for all New Yorkers.

#### **Decoding NYC's Linguistic Diversity**

Agency: Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA)

Dataset(s): NYC Population FactFinder & Languages of New York City

New York City's linguistic diversity, with over 700 languages spoken across our communities, presents both tremendous strengths and significant challenges for equitable service delivery. While Local Law 30, enacted in 2017, established important language access requirements including 10 designated Citywide languages, the lack of operational language data, particularly during emergencies and crises, poses challenges that can exacerbate equity gaps for diverse communities. To address this critical need and support the broader goals of language justice, the <a href="Language Access team at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs">Language Access team at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs</a> (MOIA) organized "Decoding NYC's Linguistic Diversity" as part of NYC Open Data Week 2025, bringing together participants from government, community organizations, and the public to explore data-driven approaches to language access.

The workshop showcased language data tools from three key entities. The <u>Department of City Planning</u> demonstrated their Census American Community Survey (ACS) data on languages spoken throughout NYC, including <u>Population FactFinder</u>, broken down by community districts and boroughs, providing granular demographic information for targeted service planning. The <u>Endangered Language Alliance</u> presented their interactive digital <u>language mapping project</u>, revealing language communities often

invisible in official records. The <u>Department for the Aging</u> illustrated how client-based language data collection informs their services delivery. These approaches highlighted how agencies can move beyond simply defaulting to the 10 designated languages toward more responsive, evidence-based decision making that advances language justice.

By integrating diverse data sources and moving beyond assumptions, organizations can better understand the full spectrum of their communities' linguistic needs and allocate resources more effectively. To learn more about language access in New York City, visit <a href="https://www.nyc.gov/iSpeak">www.nyc.gov/iSpeak</a>.

# Using Data for Budget Transparency: Stormwater Fees, Police Overtime Trends, and the State of NYC's Public Education

Agency: NYC Independent Budget Office (IBO)

**Dataset(s):** <u>Citywide Parcel-Based Impervious Area GIS Study</u> & <u>Citywide Payroll Data</u> (Fiscal Year)

The Independent Budget Office (IBO) is a City government agency, that aims to enhance understanding of New York City's budget, public policy, and economy through independent analysis. A key part of this work involves leveraging Open Data to inform timely, transparent, and accessible research.

One example, presented at the 2025 Open Data Week festival, focused on stormwater fees. In many U.S. cities, stormwater fees are charged to property owners based on the amount of impervious surface (hard surfaces like pavement and roofs that contribute to stormwater runoff). These fees encourage greener infrastructure, or at least generate revenue to help manage harmful runoff. To explore how such a policy might work in New York City, IBO used geographic surface data from the Department of Environmental Protection, published on Open Data, to model potential revenues and financial impacts.

IBO also presented on police overtime. Using New York Police Department (NYPD) overtime data from Open Data, IBO examined the relationship between officer tenure and hours of overtime usage. From 2019 to 2024, NYPD overtime spending increased, ranging from \$600 million to \$955 million. IBO encountered a few data limitations: the data lacked identifiers to distinguish uniform title codes, making it difficult to identify uniformed employees.

Beyond Open Data, IBO has unique data access to various protected datasets, such as Department of Education (DOE) student-level data. IBO creates data visualizations and datasets by aggregating the DOE data and publishing them in our annual Education Indicators. This publication presents data on student enrollment and demographics, student attendance, student achievement, teacher demographics, and building usage. All visualizations have downloadable tables on IBO's website.

# **Open Data by the Numbers**

Throughout this report, we have communicated that Open Data plays an important role in understanding our city. In this section, we showcase some of the data about Open Data to help us understand the impact of this service impacts those who use it. All data is from NYC's fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025), unless stated otherwise.

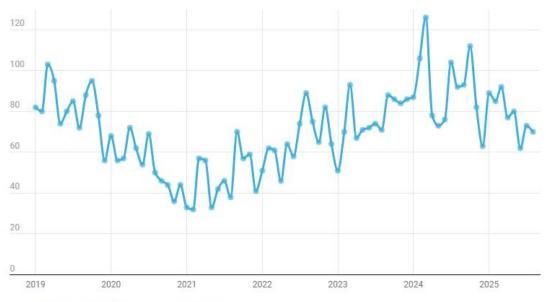
- Open Data Help Desk
- Open Data Inventory

#### **Open Data Help Desk**

Anyone and everyone can submit a question, share feedback about an existing dataset, or request a new dataset via the Open Data <a href="help desk">help desk</a>. An Open Data Team member reads every submission, assigns it to the appropriate agency, and then collaborates with that agency to return a timely and thorough response to the inquirer. Here's how our help desk engagement has evolved over the years:

#### Inquiries Submitted, 2019 - Present

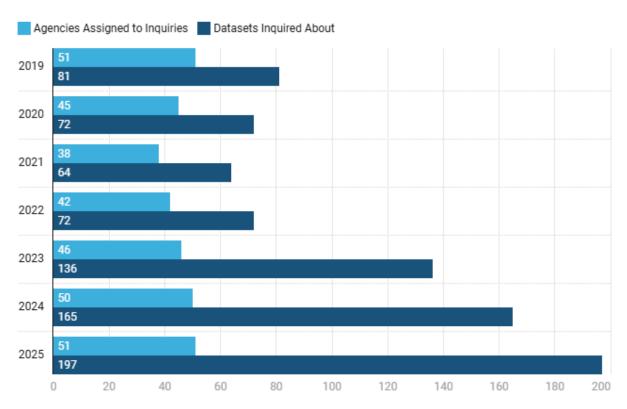
#### INQUIRIES SUBMITTED, 2019 - PRESENT



Source: NYC Open Data Help Desk · Created with Datawrapper

## Help Desk Engagement, 2019 - Present

HELP DESK ENGAGEMENT, 2019 - PRESENT



Source: NYC Open Data Help Desk • Created with Datawrapper

Top 5 Datasets Inquired About This Year

Dataset	Agency
Open Parking and Camera Violations	Department of Finance (DOF)
311 Service Requests from 2010 to Present	Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI)
OATH Hearings Division Case Status	Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)

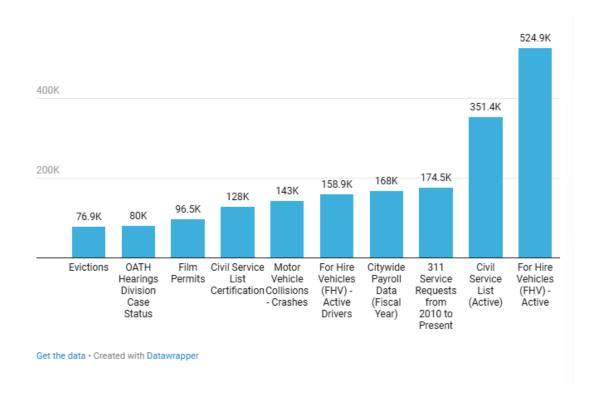
Dataset	Agency
Citywide Payroll Data (Fiscal Year)	Financial Information Services Agency / Office of Payroll Administration (FISA- OPA)
DOB Safety Violations	Department of Buildings (DOB)

#### Inventory

How is NYC Open Data accessed? Open Data Users can access datasets, collections, and visualizations through three access avenues: viewing through the website, downloading data locally, and calling data with an API. Each access type is suited to different use cases, making Open Data accessible for a range of inquiry types.

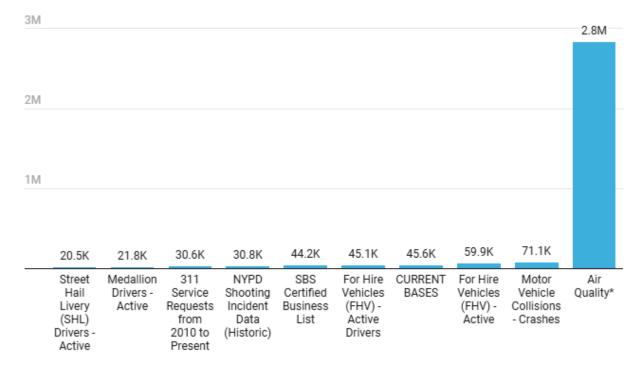
#### Most Popular Datasets by View

Any time you look on Open Data for a dataset's basic information, to examine its rows and columns, or to analyze it as a map or chart, your action counts as a view. You can see the most viewed datasets in 2025 below or browse the most viewed datasets of all time <a href="here">here</a>.



#### Most Popular Datasets by Download

While NYC Open Data allows you to filter, aggregate, pivot, or visualize a dataset, many people who are looking to conduct more advanced analyses will export and download a dataset so it can be used in another program. For large datasets, filter them before downloading to only export the portion of the dataset you're interested in. You can find about the different formats that exported data is available in at <a href="https://support.socrata.com/hc/en-us/articles/202949658-Export-formats-for-downloading-data">https://support.socrata.com/hc/en-us/articles/202949658-Export-formats-for-downloading-data</a>.

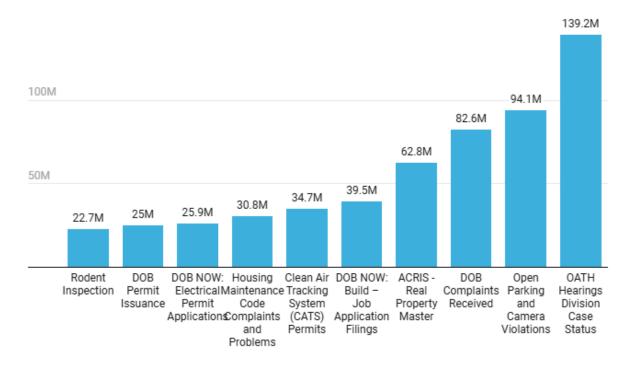


Get the data . Created with Datawrapper

\*We're not sure why there are nearly three million Air Quality downloads either, especially since this dataset is only updated periodically. Getting the latest data about a topic continuously is a perfect use of the <u>associated API</u>.

#### Most Popular Datasets by API Read

Anyone who wants to see how data changes over time can make a direct connection to the dataset Application Programming Interface (API). While downloading a dataset will provide you with the current data at the time you download it, the API connection allows you to see new data as the dataset gets updated. While an API connection can be created in nearly any program, it's most often used by people who are building a tool or application based on Open Data. Want to learn more? Each dataset on Open Data has its own easy-to-connect-to API link. Find out how you can make your own connection at <a href="https://dev.socrata.com/docs/endpoints.html">https://dev.socrata.com/docs/endpoints.html</a>.



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#### Most Popular Datasets by Community-Made Asset

Want to see film permits for just your neighborhood? Restaurant inspections limited to a specific cuisine? NYC Open Data allows any registered user to create and save a custom filtered version of any dataset. Each saved version counts as a "community-made asset." This year, NYC Open Data Users created **1,436** assets! Anyone can join in on the fun and create their own by signing up for an account.

Dataset Name	Community-Made Assets
Motor Vehicle Collisions - Crashes	319
311 Service Requests from 2010 to Present	113
Open Parking and Camera Violations	39
Housing Maintenance Code Violations	21
OATH Hearings Division Case Status	18

Dataset Name	Community-Made Assets
NYPD Arrest Data (Year to Date)	18
Civil Service List (Active)	16
Social Distancing: Parks Crowds Data	16
NYPD Arrests Data (Historic)	15
COVID-19 Daily Counts of Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths	12

# **Open Data Compliance Plan**

The ultimate outcome of the annual Open Data reporting process is an updated list of datasets that each agency will publish in compliance with NYC's Open Data Law. These new datasets are partially informed by what agencies are already sharing — including data sent in response to Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, what agencies are posting on their websites, and the data that they use to compile their Mayor's Management Report (MMR) indicators. The Compliance Plan also details how agencies actively promoted their public datasets through civic engagement activities. After a close review by the Open Data Team, and potentially revisions by the submitting agency, this information is compiled into a plan that offers a glimpse into what will soon be shared on NYC Open Data.

Compliance Plan Dataset	What's Included and How to Use It
	Upcoming datasets scheduled for release on the Open Data Platform according to the Open Data Plan
Future Releases	Here, you will find the agency that provides each dataset, the dataset's name, its description, update frequency, scheduled release date, and any comments about the dataset left by the Agency. Use this to find out what new datasets will be available soon.
Dataset Removals	Datasets that were removed from the Open Data Plan

Compliance Plan Dataset	What's Included and How to Use It	
	This is a listing of each removed dataset, including the agency that owns it and reasoning for each removal. Use this to understand why datasets that were scheduled for released will not be published	
	Public data that is available on each Agency's website	
Agency Website Data	This includes links to each dataset and indicates whether or not it can also be found on NYC Open Data. Use this in tandem with the <a href="NYC Open Data Plan: Future">NYC Open Data Plan: Future</a> <a href="Releases">Releases</a> dataset to see where the underlying sources for new datasets are coming from.	
	New releases to the Open Data Platform that are a result of an answered FOIL request	
FOIL Datasets	Use this in tandem with the NYC Open Data Plan: Future Releases dataset to match up the datasets listed and the NYC Open Data Plan: FOIL Metrics dataset to see how many requests resulted in new datasets.	
	How many FOIL requests each agency has received	
FOIL Metrics	This includes a count of all FOIL requests each agency has received for the year and breaks down that number in categories that describe their relation to Open Data.	
Mayor's Management	What datasets were used to calculate each agency's <u>Mayor's Management Report (MMR)</u> indicator?	
Report (MMR) Indicators	This includes a listing of each MMR indicator, and either a link to the Open Data dataset(s) behind it, or an explanation why it is not yet or cannot be published.	
Completed Civic	Civic engagement activities completed by each agency	
Engagement Activities	Civic engagement activities are ways in which agencies can connect with the public via programming that helps people	

Compliance Plan Dataset	What's Included and How to Use It	
	understand the inner workings of city government. This includes details on the civic engagement activities each agency has completed over the past year.	