This research is based upon the following news article, or FactCheck:

https://www.channel4.com/news/factcheck/factcheck-is-london-really-deadlier-than-new-york

The article begins with the following statement:

"For the first time in modern history, London's murder rate is higher than New York's. At least that's what was reported last week.

But FactCheck has received new figures from the New York Police Department that suggest otherwise."

So, once again, here are the snapshots from the article:

What did the early reports show?

The original reports were based on figures seen by the Sunday Times on or before 1 April.
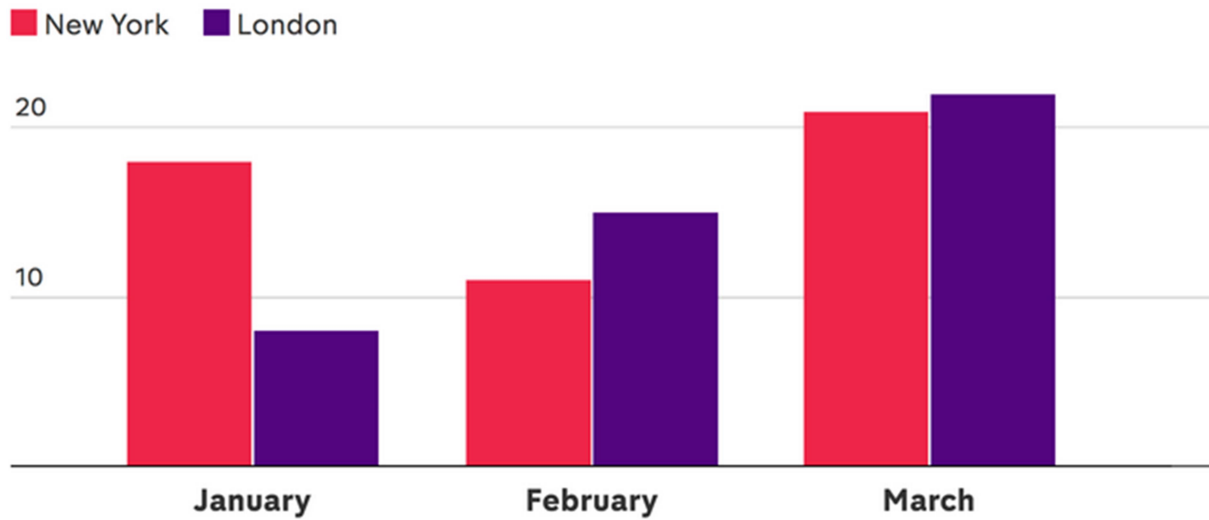
They showed that in January this year, the New York Police Department investigated twice as many murders as London's Metropolitan Police did.

But in February, the positions were reversed: New York investigators opened 11 new homicide cases, while the Met started 15 murder probes. March saw a rise in both cities' murder count, with 21 and 22 homicides in New York and London respectively.

On that basis, there were widespread reports that London's murder tally was higher than New York's in February and March.

Now, I'm not going to post the full article here, as it's very lengthy, but the main points are the graphs, as they say a picture says a thousand words, which is helpful in a blog.

London and New York murders - as originally reported

■ New York ■ London

Figures based on initial reports from NYPD and the Metropolitan Police on or prior to 1 April 2018.

Month	New York	London
January	18	8
February	11	15
March	21	22

London and New York murders - revised figures

■ New York murders   ■ London murders

Based on data from NYPD and Met Police from 6 April 2018.

Month	New York	London
January	22	9
February	14	16
March	21	20

So, for this bit of research, I'm going to look at the figures to determine if the article is true or false.

Now, looking at this actual article, it does say this:

"The original reports were based on figures seen by the Sunday Times on or before 1 April.

They showed that in January this year, the New York Police Department investigated twice as many murders as London's Metropolitan Police did.

But in February, the positions were reversed: New York investigators opened 11 new homicide cases, while the Met started 15 murder probes. March saw a rise in both cities' murder count, with 21 and 22 homicides in New York and London respectively.

On that basis, there were widespread reports that London's murder tally was higher than New York's in February and March."

This is for 2018, as the article was actually published on 09 April 2018. So, let's see what we can find.

So, to start with, I went to the New York Police Department (on the internet, not a trip across the pond):

https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/index.page

And there you can look at statistics etc. for crimes committed. There are two main areas to look at here:

One is for the Reports and Statistical Analysis:

https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/reports-analysis/reports-landing.page

And for anything related to murders, I looked at this briefly:

https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/reports-analysis/crime-enf.page

But this is mainly only for ethnicity of those that committed the crimes, so this isn't really something that will help my research, so I'll ignore this area of the site and focus on the other one.

So the second main page is for Crime Statistics:

https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/crime-statistics/crime-statistics-landing.page

This looks to be the main area, so in there are various categories, of which we'll look at in turn, in no particular order. First there is COMPStat 2.0, but using Chrome, Edge and Firefox, all were giving an error, so either its down or it's only for the police dept. to view, or anyone with specific access.

For each other section, I can find data for all years etc., but I want to look at the dates mentioned in the article:

On or before April 2018, graphs are January to March, so those are the three months I'll be concentrating on.

The first is the Citywide Crime Statistics, so it's not split into precincts etc. I looked at the weekly stats, however there is nothing that relates to the graphs etc., as the pdf states it's for 7/2/2018 (remember, that in the US, they put month before day, as opposed to UK), so this is 02 July 2018 through to 08 July 2018, hence 'weekly'. No good for me, I'm afraid.

So, in this section we also have a subheading for Incident Level Data. The first link is only up to 2015, but the second 'Crime incident-level data, current year through most recent full quarter', is a bit more relevant:

https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Public-Safety/NYPD-Complaint-Data-Current-YTD/5uac-w243

Now, this is very big. For instance, looking at the bottom table it states that it's only showing rows 1-14, and that there are 109543 rows.

Table Preview

CMPLNT_NUM	ADDR_PCT_CD	BORO_NM	CMPLNT_FR_DT	CMPLNT_FR_TM	CMPLNT_TO_DT	CMPLNT_TO_TM	CRM_ATPT_CPTD_
831526991	67	BROOKLYN	03/31/2018	23:30:00	03/31/2018	23:37:00	COMPLETED
496736340	120	STATEN ISLAND	03/31/2018	23:20:00	03/31/2018	23:30:00	COMPLETED
399593692	105	QUEENS	03/31/2018	23:15:00	03/31/2018	23:20:00	COMPLETED
282376455	110	QUEENS	03/31/2018	23:10:00	03/31/2018	23:20:00	COMPLETED
201598299	78	BROOKLYN	03/31/2018	23:10:00	03/31/2018	23:19:00	COMPLETED
513742569	88	BROOKLYN	03/31/2018	22:58:00	03/31/2018	23:57:00	COMPLETED
697659685	52	BRONX	03/31/2018	22:55:00			COMPLETED
865326510	103	QUEENS	03/31/2018	22:53:00	03/31/2018	22:58:00	COMPLETED
422569603	120	STATEN ISLAND	03/31/2018	22:50:00	03/31/2018	23:00:00	COMPLETED
510371754	42	BRONX	03/31/2018	22:50:00	03/31/2018	23:00:00	COMPLETED
739194437	108	QUEENS	03/31/2018	22:50:00	03/31/2018	23:00:00	COMPLETED
479291262	120	STATEN ISLAND	03/31/2018	22:50:00	03/31/2018	23:00:00	COMPLETED
752318738	40	BRONX	03/31/2018	22:45:00	03/31/2018	23:00:00	COMPLETED
592240589	113	QUEENS	03/31/2018	22:40:00	03/31/2018	22:45:00	COMPLETED

‹ Previous   Next ›   Showing Rows 1-14 out of 109,543

(THIS WAS WHEN I RESEARCHED ORIGINALLY) – screenshots onwards

As you can see on the above picture, there is a button on the top right 'Create Visualization'. This then opens up into another page, where you can manipulate the data. Now, I originally tried their website out, but it seems you can't remove columns, and (from what I can see) you can't move any or sort by a particular entry. So, having to look at via Excel, and as it's a csv file, you need to separate the fields etc.

Also, the screenshot I gave showing what there was only showed a few columns. There are in fact 35! So, the columns I'll be looking at are:

CMPLNT_FR_DT - Exact date of occurrence for the reported event

RPT_DT - Date event was reported to police

LAW_CAT_CD - Level of offense: felony, misdemeanour, violation

OFNS_DESC - Description of offense corresponding with key code

A full list of what all the headings are is shown here:

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/analysis_and_planning/incident_level_data_footnotes.pdf

So, as I'm not sure which dates they use for the stats, I've looked at both. So, for January to March 2018 for CMPLNT_FR_DT, this is what I found:

D	N	P	V
CMPLNT_FR_D	LAW_CAT_CD	OFNS_DESC	RPT_DT
03/31/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/31/2018
03/30/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/30/2018
03/26/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/26/2018
03/24/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/24/2018
03/22/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/22/2018
03/21/2018	FELONY	HOMICIDE-NEGLIGENT,UNCLASSIFIE	03/22/2018
03/21/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/21/2018
03/14/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/14/2018
03/14/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/14/2018
03/14/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/14/2018
03/14/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/14/2018
03/03/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/03/2018
03/01/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/01/2018
02/28/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/28/2018
02/25/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/25/2018
02/25/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/25/2018
02/25/2018	FELONY	HOMICIDE-NEGLIGENT,UNCLASSIFIE	02/25/2018
02/20/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/20/2018
02/15/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/15/2018
02/15/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/15/2018
02/02/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/02/2018
01/29/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/29/2018
01/28/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/28/2018
01/27/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/27/2018
01/21/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/21/2018
01/21/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/21/2018
01/21/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/21/2018
01/18/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/18/2018
01/18/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/18/2018
01/16/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/16/2018
01/16/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/16/2018
01/15/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/15/2018
01/13/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/13/2018
01/03/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/03/2018
01/01/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/01/2018

And this equates to:

January – 14, February – 8, March – 13

For RPT_DT this is:

D	N	P	V
CMPLNT_FR_[▾	LAW_CAT_CD ▾	OFNS_DESC ▾	RPT_DT ▾
03/31/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/31/2018
03/30/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/30/2018
03/26/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/26/2018
03/24/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/24/2018
03/22/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/22/2018
03/21/2018	FELONY	HOMICIDE-NEGLIGENT,UNCLASSIFIE	03/22/2018
03/21/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/21/2018
03/14/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/14/2018
03/14/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/14/2018
03/14/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/14/2018
03/14/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/14/2018
03/03/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/03/2018
03/01/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/01/2018
08/07/2016	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	03/01/2018
02/28/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/28/2018
02/25/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/25/2018
02/25/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/25/2018
02/25/2018	FELONY	HOMICIDE-NEGLIGENT,UNCLASSIFIE	02/25/2018
07/18/2017	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/21/2018
02/20/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/20/2018
02/15/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/15/2018
02/15/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/15/2018
02/02/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	02/02/2018
09/28/2017	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/30/2018
01/29/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/29/2018
01/28/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/28/2018
01/27/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/27/2018
07/10/2016	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/25/2018
01/21/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/21/2018
01/21/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/21/2018
01/21/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/21/2018
01/18/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/18/2018
01/18/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/18/2018
01/16/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/16/2018
01/16/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/16/2018
01/15/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/15/2018
01/13/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/13/2018
01/03/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/03/2018
01/01/2018	FELONY	MURDER & NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	01/01/2018

And this equates to:

January – 16, February – 9, March – 14

And the numbers via the news article were:

January – 22, February – 14, March – 21

Hmm, quite a big difference, using either of the columns for the dates.

So, let's have another look at the webpage, and see if anything else will give meaningful values. Like I mentioned above, I'm looking at specific dates, which is why I chose those two columns to look at.

The next section is called 'Borough and Precinct Crime Statistics'. Now, these are split into many different reports, as you can imagine, as New York is pretty big. However, these are also weekly, like previously mentioned, so this isn't something I can use. And the final is 'Historical New York City Crime Data', which unfortunately only goes up to 2017.

Now, I can hypothesise a few things. I'm looking at murder rate (homicide). But I wonder if they added 'dangerous weapons' into the mix? Not sure, so let's just take a look. But I would say beforehand, it shouldn't, as you can have a weapon, but not use it.

So, looking at this, in the section of Felony, as that is a serious crime, I found about 875 records for those dates, so I would assume that weapons are not included in the numbers.

But my confusion is where the numbers from the article come from, as they're not on New York City Police website.

So, let's move on and look at the met police in London

Now, we have a website that's a lot easier to work with:

https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/crime-data-dashboard/

So, with this page, we can select the dates to/from and the crime. But the funny (well, in the case of labelling) thing about this dashboard: murder is under Minor not Major crime. I would think its very major, taking a life, but looks like for example, fraud is far worse. Maybe for the taxman…

Anyway, back to the main reason we're here. The pictures below only show a partial image of the map, but if you go to the link above, it shows the full map.

January - 9
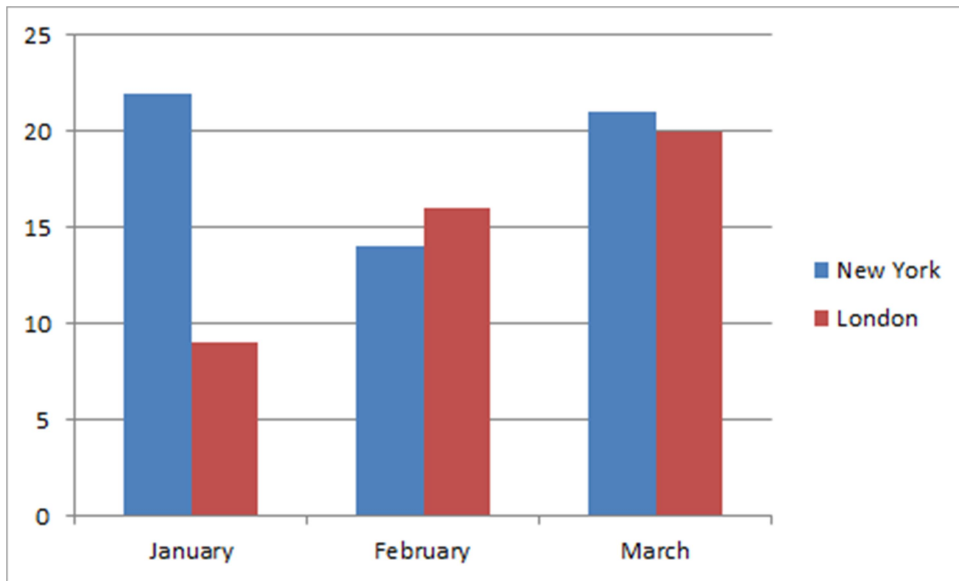
February – 18

March – 18

And the numbers via the news article were:

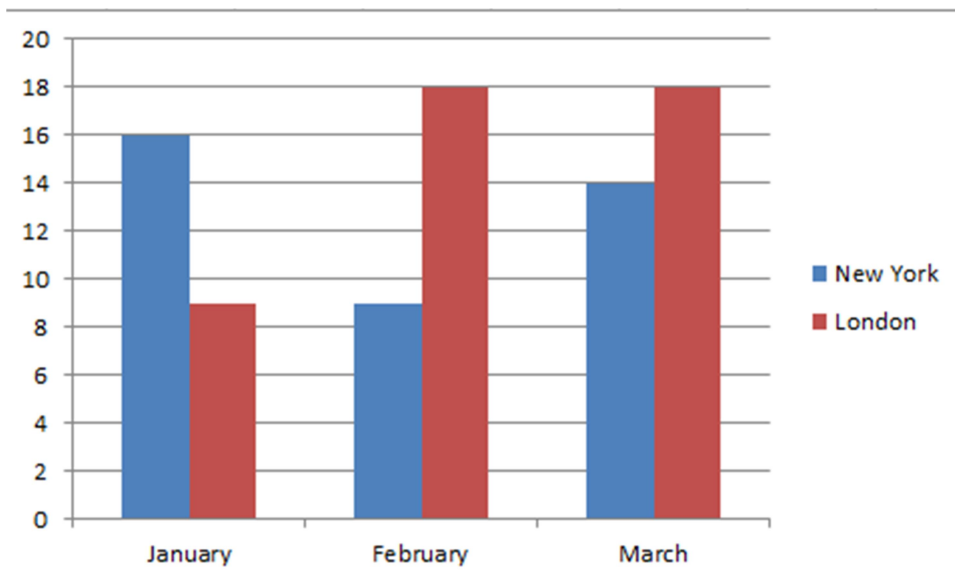January – 9, February – 16, March – 20

So, whilst these numbers don't match the article, they're a lot closer than the NYPD's.

Let's pop that in a graph, to show, for ease of use. I've taken the highest values for New York, calculated from the RPT_DT.

Here is the original article numbers:

And the values obtained from the records that are for the public:

Now, looking at this, based on my findings, here is my conclusion.

The article itself is false, the article stated:

"For the first time in modern history, London's murder rate is higher than New York's. At least that's what was reported last week.

But FactCheck has received new figures from the New York Police Department that suggest otherwise."

Based on the values that I obtained from the New York Police Department and the Met Police in London websites, yes, in January it was lower, but not in February or March. It was significantly higher.

What values did the article use, and where from? It states from the NYPD, but not from what I can find. If there are additional values (and bear in mind I'm researching this in July/August 2018), where are they, as I couldn't find them? If the values the article used were 100% correct, then the NYPD needs to update their records. But then we only have the article's word for it.

This was an interesting bit of research, of which there was some number crunching, but not a lot. Also, finding out the crime for NYPD and London was very interesting, as I glanced at many of the crimes, as many would. So, I recommend having a look at their dashboards.

As always, thank you for reading this, and if you have any comments, please post away ☺