AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO VIOLENT CRIME: A SOCIAL LEARNING PERSPECTIVE

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Senior Capstone
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VIOLENT CRIME IN AMERICA

- The United States has fluctuated in violent crime occurrences, it is was at an all time low until increased from 2014-2016
- Cities like Detroit, Memphis, Baltimore and St. Louis make up the four highest violent crime ratings in 2018’s UCR (Smith & Cooper 2020)
- Such cities have rates of homicide of 38.9, 28.5, 51 and 60.9 in comparison to the national average 3.9 per 100,000 people
- Creates a discrepancy in the prolonged occurrences of violent crime in these areas
### 2018 Crime in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Name</th>
<th>St.</th>
<th>2018 FBI pop. estimate</th>
<th>Violent crime</th>
<th>Murder*</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Aggravated assault</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>671,275</td>
<td>2,007.8</td>
<td>38.9</td>
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<td>Memphis</td>
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<tr>
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<td>493,115</td>
<td>1,590.3</td>
<td>27.8</td>
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<td>332.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>384,666</td>
<td>1,449.6</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>119.8</td>
<td>460.7</td>
<td>846.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>WI</td>
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<td>382.6</td>
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<td>313,158</td>
<td>1,399.6</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>61.6</td>
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<td>New Orleans/g</td>
<td>LA</td>
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<td>1,163.3</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>171.8</td>
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<td>1,148.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark/d</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>282,258</td>
<td>733.0</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>244.1</td>
<td>409.2</td>
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TRENDS IN OCCURRENCES

- Moderate to high population Metropolitan areas have had the highest rates as seen in both the UCR and NCVS.

- There has been the drastic increase in violent crime within major cities with a population size of 300,000-700,000 (Smith & Cooper 2020).

- In these areas the NCVS (2019) reported higher rates of victimization of violent crime in compared to prior years (Morgan and Oudekerk, 2019).

- These areas provide greater occurrences of violent crime statistically.
There are increased differentiations between urban or suburban neighborhoods in regard to levels of crime and especially violent crime. One characteristic is the increased amount of sexual assaults which take place, Urbanized areas account for 55% of all reports in contrast to suburban's 35% (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014). 2016 reports indicate urban areas received in an increase in 6.6% where suburban neighborhoods only increased 3.3% (James, 2018).
URBAN V. SUBURBAN

- Upon evaluation of homicide, urban areas had the overall homicide rate of 4.7 compared to the national average of 3.9 (Kegler, Dahlberg & Mercy, 2018)

- Urbanized areas with populations over 250,000 are substantially at greater risk of violent criminal activity

- Upon specification violent crimes the same trend applies to homicide, on a national average urban metropolitan cities have much higher homicide averages when compared to suburban areas
SOCIOECONOMIC DIFFERENTIATIONS

- Urbanized areas have less potential for residents to have access to resources such as employment or economic stability. There is also an increase in economic inequality in such areas.

- Following the recession of 2008, the industrial restructuring of societies and businesses left many in the urbanized areas unemployed.

- Suburban neighborhoods often commute into the metropolitan cities in order to work, causing many lower income individuals unable to find work.
SOCIOECONOMIC DISCREPANCIES

- Concepts regarding urbanized growth when compounded with socioeconomic differences of those within metro communities will result in social break down resulting in more crime (Zorbraugh, 1929)

- Unemployment and poverty clustering creates a “concentration effect” which weakens bonds towards family, institutions and undermines both formal and informal controlling factors (Wilson, 2012)

- Common perpetrators in these areas are found to be young, male minorities and have been found to contribute disproportionately to others incarcerated (Raphael & Stoll, 2009)
Deprivation of opportunity of economic or financial stability has been found to lead to more intra-racial homicides (Parker & McCall, 1999)

Poorer, low-income residents are more likely to receive higher violent crime rates (Parker & McCall, 1999)

Violent crime is prevalent in low income neighborhoods leaving increased rates of exposure to violence in childhood to be increased

Such exposure has been found to influence behaviors which also show violent conduct in adulthood (Carter, et al., 2020)
EXPLAINING THE CONTINUING ISSUE

- The isolation or inability to move creates a “residential trap” leading to higher rates of violent exposure and criminal behavior, influencing childhood development of behaviors (Chaix, 2009)

- This breeds the imitation of behaviors leaving lasting effects on urban neighborhoods and crime (Bingenheimer, Brennan, & Earls, 2005)

- Criminal clustering within communities can be applied nationwide when explaining hot spots for crime (Abeyie & Harries, 1980)
EFFECTS OF CULTURAL INTERACTION

- Cultural norms or values in high crime areas usually consist of a distrust in economic stability and governmental interactions.

- Specific cities have clustering of specific violent crimes which commonly take place which provides commonalities of influence (Peterson & Krivo, 2010).

- Can be seen in the rates of rape cases in Detroit (147.1) compared to Baltimore (59.6).

- Inversely, seen in homicides, Baltimore (51) compared to Detroit’s (38.9).

- Exposures to certain crimes create a social integration toward certain behaviors, leading to the continuation of violence across generations.
INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL LEARNING

- Within these urbanized areas there is the presence of exposure to violent crime leading to interactions with individuals who engage in this behavior (Differential Associations)

- The development of similar ideologies in regard to this criminal behavior have been seen in those incarcerated who have resided within these areas (Definitions)

- Often goals of violent crime in these areas consist of sex, respect and the ability to achieve wealth have been present form adolescence (Differential Reinforcements)

- Exposure to crime allows opportunity to imitate violence. Higher exposure or opportunity to imitate increase likelihood (Imitation)
COMBATTING THE ISSUE

- Evidence has been shown that the targeting of at risk areas such as metropolitan neighborhoods is the most efficient way for violence to desist.

- In 1996, a program aimed at young men to provide greater opportunity assistance and combined with an increased police presence resulted in homicide rates in Boston to drop 15%-35% annually (Beckett, 2016).

- Behavioral intervention programs such as “Becoming men” in Chicago led to a 45% decrease in youths arrested for violent crime (Heller, Shah, Guryan, Ludwig, Mullainathan & Pollack, 2017).

- Hot spot or community oriented policing provides opportunity for formal control in at risk neighborhoods (De Maio, Shah, Mazzeo, & Ansell, 2019).
SHORT COMINGS

- Often areas of concern have little supplemental income to provide these programs.
- Money goes elsewhere to feed the demands of the city leaving many of these programs to be expendable.
- Provides and overall lack in intervention to those who are at risk and does not provide opportunity to diminish the presence of violent crime when funding is lost.
CONCLUSION

- The trends regarding violence in America have been of great significance in an attempt to have such violence desist.
- The understanding of factors like types of neighborhoods, cultures and environmental influences provide the opportunity to combat this issue.
- The social interactions and learning of individuals within high crime areas provides reasoning for the continuation of crime in certain areas.
- The integration of policies which not only aim at policing these areas but also intervene in correcting behavior is paramount in this issue.
REFERENCES