Juvenile Discrepancies and Community Reformation

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Introduction to Juvenile

Pressure to be seen and heard will always be the most challenging inner conflict for an individual, and imagine for a child? The weight of social and environmental expectations consumes the "physiologically immature or underdeveloped" mind of a juvenile. Juveniles are impressionable beings leading them to mischief, roughhousing, and overall immature behavior that can also be identified as "juvenile delinquency." Juvenile delinquency is the violation of a law of the United States committed by a person before his or her eighteenth birthday which would have been a crime if committed by an adult. These juveniles commit miscellaneous crimes as a product of their jaundiced environment, their main source of disobedience. There is always been a war on on crime but what happens when the war is on children? The cycle of juveniles funneling through their communities and heading directly into incarceration has massively increased. Between lack of guidance and overload in violence filling the neighborhoods, it becomes impossible to break the rising trend in juvenile delinquency. In the research conducted, we will analyze the crime reports in neighborhoods of juvenile-filled areas, specifically their zoned school. In most states, juveniles are required to attend their zoned schools (i.e. community "zoned" schools). We will see that if the environment of a juvenile has been threatened and/or compromised then they will fall victim to miscellaneous or higher crime because of their lack of self-consciousness.

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How the Community Shapes a Juvenile's Environment

 A community is meant to protect, provide, and preside for its people, the same communities and environments that we are meant to grow and build are met with intersectionality, over-policing, and violence. "You are what you eat," "You are the product of your environment," and "Charity begins at home" are all idioms people of society have created and chosen to live by when it comes to their environment. How one presents oneself reflects one's home and is a product of one's community. Ultimately, finding yourself living in a routined environment that only produces crime and systematic issues for a minority community with a pejorative atmosphere of your society's inhabitable vices has been normalized. Because juveniles do not know any better, they are exposed to the vices of minority communities (i.e.; gang activity, larceny, gun violence, poverty, and drugs). According to the "Community Justice: Concepts and Strategies" by the American Probation and Parole Association, "It involves everyone in the community, focuses community energies in positive ways, builds partnerships, reduce crime and fear, and makes community more vital" (Barajas, 1998, p. 27). The ideal community is charged with the mission of protecting, providing, and presiding for its people in place of a reproductive environment they are meant with a deviant culture.

The Short Road Trip from Education to Crime

 Most of these issues occur in minority communities suffering from institutionalization. The discrepancies that one in the minority category may experience on a day-to-day basis are not the same as one who is categorized as the majority by society. Schooling and

education are large outlets for most juveniles to segway into their lifelong goals, express themselves, and escape the reality of their homes. Our school system shows early stages with a lack of accountability in their role of being in the majority, they will never understand and that is all that is embedded into our system. Minorities are not the first choices to be painted as the successor due to their lack of representation and due to trauma from marginalization. Instead, juveniles are met with the narrative of disciplinary action (i.e.; zero tolerance rule, in-house suspension, out-of-school suspension, metal detectors, & detention high schools.) within their schools. Professor Rodriguez A. Luis of New York University makes a statement:

> A large body of research exists that documents the school-to-prison pipeline, and much of it says that students who experience exclusionary discipline like suspension or expulsion are more likely to make their way to the criminal justice process. Often, they aren't having their specific needs met within the school system and end up being marginalized, and this can result in them taking on behaviors that lead them down a criminal path (Irsheid, 2023).

Without even questioning the behavioral outburst of one's child, minorities are not the first choices to be painted as the successor due to their lack of representation and rehabilitation initiatives. Between the lack of representation in our system of their environment or intellectual perspective, negligence of this type of environment is why the system's rehabilitation initiative has not progressed. With already being a minority you are subjected to an image that society has created based upon ethnicity.

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Minorities suffer from plenty of imprisonment issues, jail displacement, rehabilitation, and mental stability. Juveniles tend to be put into prison, depending on their crime, awaiting trial or juvenile detention. The conditions and treatments one can go through in these detention centers and imprisonment are unimaginable; the layers to the system that these juvenile delinquents are subjected to have been formed to make them fall to their lowest. But everything can not happen all at once. It is a domino effect once so one initiation takes place the rest will all fall in line.

In recent years the innocence school and education once had is now tainted by low-performing students and violence. The measurement of crime and how effective these schools are at monitoring the environment around juveniles is significant. We'll measure key areas outside of school zones where most juveniles have the day-to-day outside of their homes, keep in mind these are the areas your children likely hang around when school has concluded.

Data & Method

The research presented will give us an overview of one of the neighborhoods in New York, Central Harlem. The map focuses on zoned school areas where there have been reportings of a crime within 1,000ft of a school. Specifically, the crime analysis presented is Criminal Possession Weapon (CPW) based crimes. The idea is to evaluate the amount of heinous crimes juveniles have been forced to accept and subject themselves to. Instead of these crimes happening on their doorsteps, it is also taking place at the one place that is supposed to help them escape their environment, school.

Step-By-Step Procedure
- Provide an outside software, the software provided through CUNY: https://cuny.apporto.com/
- Log in or create an Open Data Account: https://opendata.cityofnewyork.us/
- In the search window, type in NYPD Complaint Data Current
- Click on the link that says NYPD Complaint Data Current (Year To Date).

From here you are free to analyze, download, and observe crime analysis data in New York City anything from Criminal mischief, Felony Assault, and Grand Larceny to Robbery, Arson, Murder, and Manslaughter. The data can also be personalized through filters and various datasets to focus on a specific year, percent, day, and neighborhood.

Analysis
Analytical Terms and Methods

In the map (see figure below), the highlighted blue area represents the area or "hot spot" where CPW crime-based reports happen. The star represents each crime that has taken place, which is every time a report was made on an act committed of a Criminal Possession Weapon within 1,000ft. The child seesaw icon represents the schools that were within a 1,000ft radius of the criminal acts that had taken place. "Hot Spots" are the measures of criminal activity. When initially creating a crime map you will see the hot spots within that area. You can narrow down the search based on the neighborhood, where we find ourselves in "Select by Attributes." This allows us to narrow our crime search not only by the neighborhood but also based on the variables you selected. What we are faced with here can highly be seen as Rational Choice
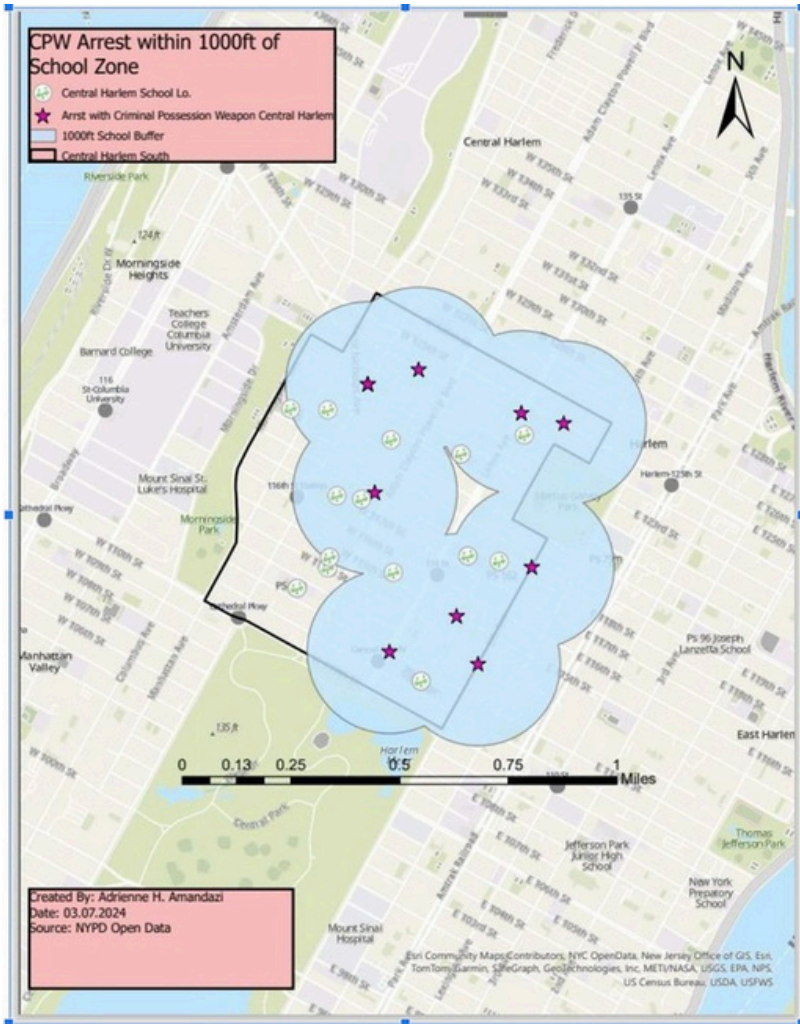
Theory. This is the theory that those committing the crimes (i.e. perpetrator) are committing based on the fact that the consequences are low risk but the reward for committing the crime is high. Let's not only see this as a transactional crime where I rob you and get a high cash grab but can also be viewed in a way of status where "if I commit this crime, the reward is status in my area and gaining respect."

My Findings

The rise in crime rates in New York, as a whole, has alone transformed massively. according to the NY Post, "last month 12.7% of identified shooters in the five boroughs through the first nine months of last year were under 18 — up from the 9.2% figure from 2017" (Moore et al., 2023). This was just a year after the COVID-19 pandemic. To be a juvenile surrounded by such vulgar behavior at a young impressionable age can lead to nothing else than what you see right in front of you because eventually, you will become a product of your environment. Take into effect that these criminal activities can very well be committed by the same children that attend these very schools. The majority of Harlem is filled with people of color, from Hispanics to Black African Americans. Pressure due to their families' income and the demographics of their neighborhoods, half being gentrified and the other half being seen as "poor middle class," they suffer from the outer customs of society and their environment is not making it any better. In Central Harlem alone rent has increased by 42.9% resulting in a 5.1% rental vacancy in Central Harlem as of 2021 ("Central Harlem," n.d.). Despite Central Harlem being accompanied by various institutions, organizations, and attractions, their

environment pays a significant cost.

Conclusion

To solve these repressing issues one must be addressed at a time to acknowledge each matter of contention within the community and identify their target area. Compartmentalization means separating into isolated compartments (Merriam-Webster, 2024); this idea is core and essential to addressing the issues in our communities, starting small and being strategic to attack a much larger picture. The 4 set goals from "Community Justice: Concept and Strategies" are as follows: Admit: Acknowledging you community has a crime issue; Take Responsibility: Taking accountability and solving these problems not enabling them; Set Priorities: Addressing the crime problems finding the root; Identify: Resources available to tackle these problems; and Work Together: Solve and/or reduce the impact of these problems (Barajas, 1998). When taking the initiative and accounting for every factor, the common denominator remains the same, we need better functioning communities. Addressing the shortcomings and strengths of our environments is imperative to rewrite history as we must first learn the facts. While holding our communities responsible, lack of resources and government urgency play a major role in juvenile delinquency. The importance of juvenile delinquency packs a heavyweight because these will be our future local and administrative officials. Juveniles often lead themselves to delinquent acts due to a lack of rehabilitation and aspects of their environment that have contributed to their mental state. We can not overlook juveniles due to their immaturity and expect them to rehabilitate or adjust their behavior themselves.

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