Loitering & Trespassing in Brooklyn, N.Y.

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Introduction

Summer 2015:

We visited three Brooklyn neighborhoods: Brownsville, Greenpoint, and Sunset Park to gather data for our field work.

The goal of visiting these neighborhoods was to compare and contrast our findings with that of Mercer Sullivan in 1989.

Sullivan chose these three neighborhoods because there was diversity and an assorted amounts of youth crime.

Research Question

To what extent does infrastructure development and maintenance correlate with the non-violent crime rates in the neighborhood?

Methods

- With the use of our field notes we were able to describe the neighborhood and community members.
- There were three surveys used:
  - household census
  - anonymous survey
  - in-depth survey

Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1: Poorly maintained neighborhood correlate with the increase acts of loitering.

Hypothesis 2: Poorly maintained neighborhood correlate with the increase acts of trespassing.

Hypothesis 3: Individuals living in neighborhoods that experience poverty are more likely to commit non-violent crimes.

Conclusions

Infrastructure does in fact affect the non-violent crime rate.

Areas with poorly maintained buildings and less maintenance have less activities available in the neighborhood.

From our data, the income of residents from each neighborhood has a correlation to the maintenance and framework of the area.

Neighborhoods that needs financial help has poorly maintained infrastructure. This is a direct cause of non-violent crime in that neighborhood.

Limitations & Recommendations

- We were only at the neighborhoods for a total of 6 days.
- Two of the days we were in Brownsville, it was raining.
- Provide more activities: after school programs like sports or knitting.
- Include more social spaces for all ages.
- Organize groups to clean the neighborhood.
- Put up cameras around the neighborhood and get rid of any dark alleys.
- Police should patrol + enforce laws for public order crimes.

Broken Windows Theory

This theory states that if a window is left unfixed, then criminals will think it’s fine to break other windows. The environment will decay, if that window isn’t fix.

Literature Review

- According to Bird, Masoud, Papanikolopoulos, & Isaacs (2005), there was a prominent amount of loitering in Metro Transit’s of Minneapolis, MN.
- The researchers later identified loiterers to be drug dealers selling drugs to their customer’s getting on and off the bus which causes a negative effect on a neighborhood.
- This article connects to our neighborhood study because we were investigating a specific non-violent crime, loitering.

Results

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  - household census
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References