The Evolution of Crime  
Has Crime Changed Over The Past 30 Years?  
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Background  
In the book Getting Paid by Mercer Sullivan, he and other researchers conducted a series of studies on crimes in three different neighborhoods. They studied Brownsville, Sunset Park and Greenpoint. His findings suggest that the type of crimes conducted in each of these three neighborhoods varies because of the different concentrations of ethnicities. In our Anthropology course, we did something similar. As students, our job was to figure out whether there has been a change within the neighborhoods that they studied. Although we didn’t conduct our study for as long as they did, our findings are mind blowing.

Methods  
Throughout the duration of our research we used different tasks to help collect data. The first task we used was a quick census of each household. The second one was a type of poll comparing the two generation: Boomers vs. Millenials. While the last task was an open interview, this task is the tool used to create our project. The interviews, being more open, gave us the opportunity to really talk to people in the various neighborhoods and compare all the information to Mercer Sullivan’s research.

Findings  
- “The Ocean House Projects were pretty bad about a year ago and they had a lot of shooting, stabbing, and robberies going on, but that now they have heavy police surveillance around the area so crime has been lowered over the past year.” (20 year old black female, 3 years in Brownsville)  
- “In regards for opportunities for young people to succeed nowadays, there are more opportunities available to them. There is more police activity to ensure that these opportunities don’t go without being taken advantage of. The community hosts more events where they give back. The increased police activity has caused little to no gang activity in the area which has definitely improved education and youth success in the area.” (atino, 65, 60s years in Sunset Park)  
- “The Neighbors are all caring. Someone on my block got robbed and her neighbors chased the robber with bats and brooms and got her stuff back. Robberies weren’t done by people in the neighborhood, but by the children’s friends that come from another neighborhood. Drugs were being delivered more than pizza.” (White Female, 68, 39 years in Greenpoint)  

Based on the interviews conducted in the three neighborhoods, we concluded that the crime rate is very similar to that of Mercer Sullivan’s findings. Although the nature of the crimes have changed, the data reveals that crime is still prevalent in the three neighborhoods.

Conclusion  
According to the research provided in Mercer Sullivan’s book Getting Paid we have come to the conclusion that there has been a change in the crime rate throughout the last couple of years. Based on the surveys, interviews, and various questionnaires we obtained in Brownsville, Sunset Park, and Greenpoint it has proved our theory that the crime rate has decreased overall for a plethora of reasons.

Reference  