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# Englewood: The Impact of an Underserved Community that is faced by Violence: Politicians vs. Residents vs. Advocates

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**Englewood: The Impact of an Underserved Community that is faced by Violence:  
Politicians vs. Residents vs. Advocates**

**By**

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B.A., Chicago State University, 2012**

**Capstone Project**

**For the Masters Degree of Public Administration**

**Governors State University  
University Park, IL 60484**

**2015**

**Running head: THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE**

**Englewood: The Impact of an Underserved Community that is faced by Violence:  
Politicians vs. Residents vs. Advocates**

**By**

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**Capstone Project**

**For the Masters Degree of Political Justice Studies**

**Governors State University  
University Park, IL 60484**

**2015**

## **Dedication**

With all my love to the memory of my loving mother Francis Pe'Cola Law who thought I was more than "Ms. America" and often displayed and shared with me how proud she was and how much she loved me. To my inspiring and loyal daughter Chloe'Rose-Jacqueece Jackson who is forever understanding, humble, and loving and who has the ability to constantly remind me just why I'm so proud of her. Thanks Chlo'-Jacks, much to be said about you! To my sister Jaide Banks for her long distance love and support during this process, and to my special family and friends, you all know who you are.

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### **Abstract**

**This study examines the impact that violence has on an underserved community and its opportunity for revitalization. It attempts to reveal and analyze significant differences of opinion among residents, politicians, and other stakeholders in the Englewood community of Chicago, focusing primarily on what is needed to revitalize the community and reduce the level of violence in it. One key research finding is that there is a significant disconnect between residents of Englewood, the politicians who represent them, and activists and social-service providers who work with them in the community. Although there was no one clear reason for the disconnect, this study attempted to identify the importance of developing future assessments, programs, and resources to foster positive and effective strategies for rejuvenating Englewood. The study employs a quantitative research approach to collect and analyze data on the opinions of various stakeholders in the Englewood community. Data from survey questionnaires were administered to fifty-five participants who are residents, leaders and employees of not-for-profit organizations, politicians, and other community leaders, based on their age, income, and role within the community. The study demonstrates the ways that community development, economics, viability, leadership, and policing are needed in Englewood. These needs not only contribute to violence, but also can be a leading cause of the disconnect that exist among the stakeholders in the community. Although this study hypothesizes a disconnect among the stakeholders of Englewood, evidence also suggests that because of the disconnect; violence continues to exist. The hypothesis offers insight on the types of revitalization strategies that may be successful, as these recommendations differ from standard approaches in the field. However, further qualitative study may be necessary to develop effective revitalization strategies in order to determine the root causes of the disconnect and to find ways to overcome it.**



### **Introduction**

On October 24, 2008, Jennifer Hudson's sister Julia left her house in the Englewood neighborhood on her way to work. William Balfour, Julia's estranged husband had been watching her and became enraged when he entered her home to find balloons that had been given to her by her new boy friend on the day before her birthday. Enraged, after Julia left that day, Balfour returned with a .45-caliber handgun. He shoots not only Jennifer and Julia's mother; he also shoots Julia's brother as well; twice in the head while he was sleeping. Immediately following, Balfour removes his 7-year old son Julian from the house, and while in the back of his SUV, Balfour shoots Julian several times in the head. This is only one of the many fatal violent crimes that have occurred in the Englewood community. Children and adults are murdered and assaulted daily on playgrounds and in front of their homes. Gun shots and sirens are no stranger to the Englewood neighborhood. This year there were 3.7 property crimes and 3.2 quality of life crimes per 1,000 people. Englewood ranks 6<sup>th</sup> for violent crimes out of Chicago's seventy-seven community areas and rank one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the city (Englewood -- Crime in Chicagoland--Chicagotribune.com, 2015).

Abandonment, mass unemployment, incarceration, economic depression, and domestic aggression are among the consequences linked to community violence and impoverished communities (Garbarino, Dubrow, Kostelny, & Pardo, 2010). Carpenter and Miller (2010) refer to community revitalization as the process of renewing and sustaining a community affected by challenges and conflict. Although much discussion and research has been conferred by professional psychologists, elected officials, and community leaders in Englewood regarding implementation of an action plan for revitalization; a staggering disconnect exist. This disconnect exists between residents, community leaders, churches, law enforcement, politicians,

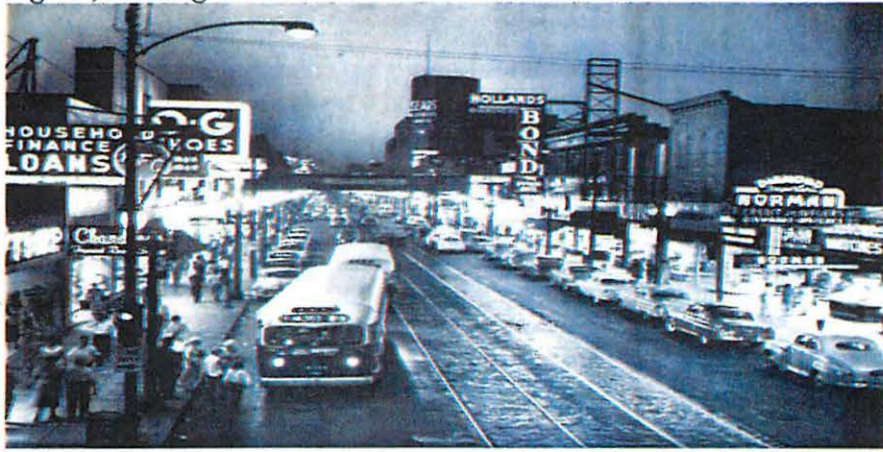
and other stakeholders within Englewood. While some stakeholders who are affiliated, yet do not reside in the community believe that much of the disconnect stems from direct intervention of community residents, the residents of Englewood believe there has been a failure in public safety.

When underserved communities, such as Englewood are entrenched by constant violence, they typically shut down, ultimately withdraw, and in many cases the residents become socially dysfunctional. As a result, trust and civil activity eventually become lost within the community and the neighborhood irrefutably dies. Ghazi (2014) defines societal violence as a level of abusive behavior (physical and verbal) or assault through the formation of violent groups. Societal violence causes the community to become impaired and incapable of functioning or sustaining the necessary communal impulse (ideals that are associated by groups, the common whole of how the group views their purpose and life individually) (Cooley, Turner, and Beidel, 1995). Data from this research revealed that while many politicians, ministers, and residents think this is not a permanent situation; some law enforcers consider rejuvenation in Englewood as somewhat inconceivable.

Rejuvenation in Englewood was not always necessary. Englewood was full of energy during the mid-19th century. Vincennes Avenue was discovered in 1840 by a settler named Wilcox, and became well-known within the Englewood community in 1852 as the "Chicago Junction" or "Junction Grove." The Chicago Junction Railroad began at the intersection of 63rd and LaSalle Street. In 1868, Henry B. Lewis, a Chicago merchant and settler of the Junction community changed the name from the Junction Grove to Englewood (Polk and Dumke, 2000). Englewood was very prosperous and vigorous. Street cars were built which led and connected Englewood to downtown Chicago. Sidewalks and single-family homes were developed.

Chicago State University, once known as The Cook County Normal School was opened in 1868 between 67th and Stewart, to 69th and Halsted Street. L.W. Beck, a real estate developer donated the university land to Cook County as an effort of building and creating a middle-class business environment. During the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, residents of the city had to find housing which aided Englewood in becoming a desirable community.

**Figure, 1 - Englewood 1955**



**Figure 1, Englewood 1955 on Halsted and 64th Street."** Englewood was the home of one of the first publicized serial murderers in America; Dr. H. H. Holmes. Most of Dr. Holmes crimes were at his hotel on Wallace and 63rd streets (Polk & Dumke, 2000 ).

In 1873, a year after the development of Wentworth Avenue and Halsted streets, Englewood High School was opened on 68th and Stewart Avenue. Between the 1880s and the 1890s, Black railroad and domestic workers moved into the community, while Germans, Swedish, and Irish workers moved into the Bridgeport and the Back of the Yards neighborhoods.

During the Great Migration period between 1919 and 1950, the population of the Englewood community increased by 16%. By 1940, two (2) to four (4) percent of Blacks resided in Englewood and West Englewood. Blacks who became displaced because of the construction of the South Expressway in the late 1950s (the Dan Ryan) also moved into Englewood. At a Jewish community meeting in 1949, there was concern about more Black

families moving into Englewood. This information instigated a ten thousand mob attack on the Black residents of Englewood. Although the Irish, Germans, and Swedes continued to dominate, many Irish residents moved southwest toward 71st Street, while the remaining Germans and the Swedes moved to Beverly and Morgan Park (Polk & Dumke, 2000). By 1957, an interracial crime prevention private police force group was formed; "The Triden League of Englewood." This law enforcement assembly, led by Municipal Judge John H. Lyle, was formed to assist with neighborhood crime that was unreported and ignored by The Chicago Police Department. By 1970, Englewood's population dropped from 100,000 residents to 40,000. In the year 2000, statistics showed approximately 30,000 residents remained. Politicians challenged this as a result of families relocating to safer havens and a consequence of the residents losing their homes during the Great Recession from 2007 to 2009 (Barak, Flavin, & Leighton, 2001). Residents of the community blame social control and the lack of social capital for people relocating from Englewood to more affluent communities (Hirsch, 1998). Social control refers to behavior that is based upon both individual and group behavior; often used in short form as "collective violence" that is used as a method to conform or comply (de la Roche R. S., 1996), while social capital implies that there is value in social networking. Social capital is often based upon working collectively and knowing people to establish the necessary amount of trust and cooperation from those that are associated within the particular social network to form and connect bonds (Briggs, 1997).

Many researchers argue that social control and capital are most pertinent toward addressing the problem of violence in impoverished communities (Garbarino, Dubrow, Kostelny, and Pardo, 2010). However, developing social control and social capital becomes challenging because of the politics involved in the community. Both social control and social capital depend

vitality on policing and various other types of resources. For example, practices that are often considered to be elements of social capital (i.e., neighbors informally looking out for one another to avoid collective violence on their property) require police services to be fully effective.

Communities that are underfunded are thus placed at a severe disadvantage in their efforts to develop social capital and social control. Although there are incentives available to community members to access capital funds, many of these resources go untapped due to a lack of education, attendance, and interest, thus, the community goes unfunded. Residents of the community blame politicians, while politicians blame residents of the community.

This study attempted to explore the disconnection that exists, along with various other issues, strategies, and resources that deemed necessary toward revitalizing Englewood. Additionally, this study attempted to provide comparative inquiry regarding the disconnection that is associated with violence. Research questions addressed and discussed are: (1) How demographics prompt a need to summarize or investigate where violence actually begins and possibly emulates the disconnect that exist within the community. (2) How the roles of the participants and their annual household income assist in measuring how socioeconomics, social control, social disorganization, and public policy contributes to violence and the disconnect that exist among politicians. (3) The amount of time participants predict it would take Englewood to become a safer community, and how these predictions affect the political impact of environmental policies. (4) How the stakeholders of the community rank the need for policing, community collaborations, resources and support. Lastly, (5) participants' views on the importance of issues (i.e. types of violence: rape, aggravated assault) as they relate to community violence and the need for categorization of the different spheres of violence.

Overall, these questions and comparative inquiries assist with understanding the need for the Englewood community to revitalize and for the stakeholders of Englewood to collaborate. To fully grasp the phenomenon presented in this study, the preexisting theory selected to explain this study is the Rational Choice Theory.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Understanding the need for community collaboration among stakeholders in Englewood was pertinent in assisting the researcher to explore and identify why violence exists in the community, and whether the community can revitalize. Based on the Rational Choice Theory (RCT), the researcher examines the participants' characteristics and choice through conduct. This theory is widely used by social scientists to help understand human behavior (Coleman & Fararo, 1992). The relationship to law, order, and control are the apparatus of behavior (Barak, Flavin, and Leighton, 2001).

RCT was developed during the Cold War in 1964, and was related to the drift theory where behavior flowed in and out. It is referred to as the "rationality-principle." RCT implies that the inquiry of meso-level structures has enormous effects on individuals, and is useful in addressing social movement and violence that is legitimately present in underserved communities.

The researcher explored why there is a continual disconnect, and what resources are needed to assist in the revitalization process. Ansolabeher, Rodden, and Snyder (2008) list various possible reasons for the disconnection between politicians and other stakeholders:

- ❖ Unsupportive ideologies
- ❖ Citizens views are more moderate than politicians
- ❖ Politicians often represent their own personal issues

Most political debates are less popular among citizens. Ansolabehere et al contend that politicians disconnect with citizens because the formers' concerns are often less moderate and more ideological. Politicians often take polar oppositions on issues in an effort to attract the largest number of citizens, rather than middle-ground moderate stances that provoke divides between citizens and government (Ansolabehere, Rodden, & Snyder, 2008). More attention is paid to constituents, assuming that community members generally want politicians to address more personal issues and not what politicians consider "a mix" (Fiorina & Abrams, 2009). Fiorina (2009) further challenges that because there is no meeting in the middle when it pertains to politicians, voters feel poorly represented and disconnected with politicians. Politicians view community issues in most cases as moderate individual issues versus their own, which is considered more extreme ideologies. Fiorina (2009) argues whether this is one of the reasons the disconnect persists.

There continues to be a considerable amount of debate about why there is such a disconnect with what is needed for revitalization of underserved communities. This debate considers the need for approaching not only the disconnect that exist among the politicians and members of the community, but it also produces the need to define the different categorizations of violence as it relates to criminology, family influences, social control, social capital, public policy, and the community.

### Literature Review

#### *Categorizations of Violence:*

The aim of this literature review is to fully grasp the text that is written on this subject. For practical purposes, an understanding of the categorizations of violence deems necessary to develop effective strategies, resources, and support toward community collaboration, and for investigating why there is a disconnect that exist between the stakeholders. For instance, institutional violence is often systemized and can occur through extreme advances (i.e. government murders, religious organization cults, concentration camps, omission of danger in coal mines, HIV, asbestos in buildings). By definition, institutional violence becomes a social problem through a process of social construction; of societal existence (Barak G. , 2003). The sphere of institutional violence can frequently be based upon political ramifications and not necessarily social problems. Therefore, deliberate attention should be considered when identifying whether a social condition should actually be viewed as a social problem (Perrin, 2011).

In contrast, structural violence is defined as the relationship between peace and development in theory (Barnett, 2008). Barnett (2008) articulates the theory of peace as freedom, with peace being the absence of violence. Through empirical investigations structural violence was defined as the means and ends of peace and development practices that should consist of social and economic opportunities free from direct violence. A multivariate assessment of peace based on the nature of violence concluded that lack of peace and development was also the cause of structural violence. According to Kohler and Alcock (1976), structural violence is defined as either violent input or violent output. Violent input attributes to the lack of basic needs such as education, food, and medical care - while violent output would



indicate the number of those murdered because of a need to obtain these basic deficient necessities. Kohler and Alcock contend that because structural violence is associated with the social, political, and the economic institutional systems; social capital and structural violence have fatal consequences on underprivileged communities (i.e. police brutality, malnutrition, vaccine-preventable diseases) (Kohler & Alcock, 1976). Impoverished communities have structural characteristics whose outcome creates impacts of violence (i.e. poverty and homelessness) (Sheidow, 2001). Kohler and Alcock's major finding is that structural violence subsists because of socio-economic conditions. Although these are weaknesses in this research due to the null-model being used (i.e., a known specified distribution; certain fundamentals are invariable) and no one single solution being determined, an egalitarian model (a human equality model) was able to capitalize on the life-expectancy of structural violence and why it may be possible to revive from its consequences (Kohler & Alcock, 1976). Alcock (1976) suggests a change in legal systems.

A third sphere of violence is interpersonal violence. Interpersonal violence is when one person uses power over another (very similar to structural). Generally these powers are used as a form of control. Pierce (2005) examines and defines interpersonal violence as often stereotypical and in many cases racial (abuse, bullying, domestic, and sexual violence). Because interpersonal violence often clashes with institutional violence and sometimes even structural violence, all three of these spheres make it difficult to understand violence globally and as a result, continuously impairs underserved communities (Barak G. , 2003).

***Gender Gaps, Communities, and Adolescent Violent Crime:***

Collectively, these spheres are highly participatory among adolescents in underserved communities. There is emerging evidence that economic forces such as poverty and poor housing conditions promote youth violence and criminology. Criminology focuses on the conceptualization and measurement of the community and various individual patterns and units of analysis (i.e., the type of crime, the level of crime, the number of crimes, etc.). An abundance of research has been used to study criminology and youth violence (Kramer R., 2000). The field of criminology proposes that the condition of where and how a person grows up, most likely impacts their lives and their behavior. In many ways, neighborhoods determine the effects of residential context; particularly adolescents because they spend an enormous amount of their time interacting with their environment. The amount of violence that youth experience within a community has reached dangerous levels. This societal problem is related to multiple interpersonal domains (cognitive domains: thinking, feeling, physical) and gender gaps (Margolin, Vickerman, Oliver, Pamella, and Gordis, 2010). Economics, social, legal, and political motives outline this phenomenon (Ghazi, 2014). A lack of access to resources such as employment and medical treatments leads to distrust that ultimately affects the community confidence in political parties and their union toward societal organization. As a result, this disfranchises youth and contributes to gang violence in the community. The outcomes of context; however, vary. Environmental influences such as teen pregnancy, alcoholism, substance abuse, and violence within the community often falls upon the responsibility of the community and the neighborhood (Aisenberg & Herrenkohl, 2008).

Many politicians' that represent impoverished communities perform under the notion that as an elected appointed member their role is to respond to community emergencies.

Furthermore, they embrace legislative governmental responsibility as the liability to provide the basic freedoms and human rights to citizens (i.e. freedom to vote, rights to food, shelter and clothing) and to protect their rights (Discipline, 2012). Many politicians hold the community accountable for social change and for fostering and developing partnerships with organizations and other members of the community to assist in eliminating violence in their neighborhoods (Mattison, 1997). The problem and disconnect that largely exist with this concept, is that residents of the community, particularly those residing in an impoverished ones, view politicians as they do the tangible; people who make policies; as a body, a system. The notion of the community is that politicians often make decisions that help to accelerate poverty and lower your earned wages. They believe the politicians' goal is to indirectly assist with ineffective labor market policies such as joblessness and the elimination of resources (Wilson W. J., 2011).

Studies indicate that family, school, religion, and community-level factors also have an impact on a community (Aisenberg and Herrenkohl, 2008). Community level factors include social, economic, and the structural organization of community violence. These factors interfere with protecting, preventing, and intervening community violence.

#### ***Adolescent Development and the Influence of Family:***

A similarly researched argument is that parental monitoring shields youth from exposure to violence during their adolescent stages, particularly in areas experiencing large numbers of residents living at or below the poverty level (Spano, Rivera, & Bolland, 2010). To determine and monitor parents and adolescent exposure to violence, five waves of longitudinal data were collected between 1998 and 2002 from 349 Black youths living in extreme poverty and in public housing. The results revealed a decline over a five (5) year period. These findings support the

notion that the function of families was critical to preventing violence among high-risk youth. However, the weakness of the methodology will remain unless further research is continued.

Molnar, Buka, Brennan, Holton, and Earls (2003) presented a cross-level interaction between neighborhood social networks, intervention strategies, and how parent-to-child physical aggressions affect the neighborhood and contributes to violence. The emotional attachment between family members can often become the strongest family-related interpreter of victimization (Schreck & Fisher, 2004). To support this study, Molnar (2003) used sampling and census tracts to examine clusters of city blocks that were geographically similar to Englewood in socioeconomics to assume same housing densities and family structures. Research was limited in measuring acts of violence in Molnar's findings because parents were not willing to admit violent occurrences that exist within their households and with their children, and underestimated the full scope of why problems subsists with their children and their associated peer groups.

Peer groups; a primary social context that also exist in the lives of adolescents, contributes to a high risk of victimization as well. They often use each others as targets. However, both family and peer group appear to be significant to juvenile delinquency and community violence. The method and data used was from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This study empirically tested combining family and delinquent peer-group associations and levels of violent victimization. The strength of the method was its national coverage of adolescents. Lifestyles theory presented in the data that was collected from respondents, his or her parents, and peers were also used to support the necessity for family attachment. The findings revealed where there are strong bonds of attachment with parents and adolescents, there tends to be safety from violent crimes. Random sampling by researchers such

as Tremblay (2009) determined that the development of aggressive behavior and violence in children are often genetic and environmental. Although it was unclear whether the development of children and their aggressive instinct was learned, developed or influenced by family exposure to violence, Jones (2007) determined that chronic violent exposure generates negative economical factors that contribute to forced inequalities.

***Social Control, Social Disorganization, and Public Policy:***

Inequality is one of the many variables associated with collective violence and social control. Collective violence is often group induced; causing injury that is based on social control and deviant behavior and may be defined as "popular justice" by the majority. de la Roche (1996) identifies collective violence behavior as highly related to social space.

Studies show that collective violence is prevalent in most economically-challenged neighborhoods. Inequality when measured by wealth defines how collective violence is distributed. Collective violence often occurs where a law is lacking, where the law is weak, and in most cases, where a law is absent. When inequality lessens, so does collective violence (de la Roche R. S., 1996).

There are many questions of who was responsible for violence and disorder in Englewood, and why it has been so unevenly distributed, and why such a broad disconnection exists. However, because crime is unevenly distributed across the city; social disorganization has formed and become the central factor. High levels of violence and disorder are created from a mixture of demographic, cultural, and social characteristics (Courtwright, 1998). Moreover, findings support a decline in men's violence because of an increase of female arrests, and also because of net-widening policy changes and social capital. Analyst proposes that legislative policies are what have caused women and violence to surface and rise. On average, politicians

do not support this legislation because they look at women and violence as an independent crime that constitutes domestic assault. While women often commit milder and less physical acts of violence, the laws are applied the same as they would for men. Pro-arrest policies seem to affect women and violence inconsistently. Public officials and law enforcers viewed women as having legal equality, but often processed women with greater culpability (Fraehlich & Ursel, 2014).

### **Social Capital, Political Relations and Violence:**

Browning (2009) hypothesized that residents and their interdependence have much to do with community context and neighborhood tensions; the relationships that survive between them and the ability to organize and collaborate through shared exchange and collective social value. Similarly, like collective violence, this is often referred to as the "war of the states."

The relationship between state law and violence often applies to property. The property in land affects social order. Property is viewed as an active process for the intersection of social relations and social capital; thus, focusing upon three domains; legitimating, origin, and action (Blomley, 2003). These three domains are central to property violence, social capital, and political relations. The state and political relations have been viewed in relationship to violence as early as the 19th century in France (Gillis, 1994). State policing has much to do with violence and its elimination within the urban community. Policy changes such as policing and battery has removed violence from a private family matter to a public criminal matter (Schwartz, Steffensmeier, & Feldmeyer, 2009). Major differences of opinions continue to exist concerning social capital, social network-based shared exchange, and shared efficacy. The ability to organize and collaborate through shared exchange and social value is compromised between neighborhood social networks and intervention strategies and members of the community. Adolescent development, parental monitoring, the influence of family, and gender gap related

issues, affect social control, social disorganization, and public policy among communities and its members. As a result, high risks of victimization exist when associated with different spheres of violence (i.e. institutional, structural, and interpersonal), inequality, and lack of collaboration.

Conclusions and the validity of this study draws from the methodology and a quantitative survey research approach. This approach was examined by the researcher by using Englewood residents, politicians, law enforcement, and community advocates when asked to complete questionnaires that ranked issues and items deemed beneficial toward revitalization and understanding why a disconnect exists among stakeholders.

### **Methodology**

The purpose of this study attempted to reveal the differences of opinions among residents, politicians, and those serving as community advocates in the Englewood community. The study focuses primarily on what is needed for revitalization and what is needed to reduce violence.

### **Research Design**

A quantitative research approach was used to analyze data by 1) comparing responses between men and women, 2) by age, 3) ethnicity, income, and education, 4) residents of the community/affiliated and non-affiliated, and non for profits, and, 5) politicians and leaders.

### **Strategy of Inquiry**

The advantages of the quantitative research associated with survey research via questionnaires were that it was a necessary way of capturing data through basic descriptive statistics when reporting statements and assessments made by the residents, politicians, and advocates of the Englewood community (stakeholders). The quantitative study approach associated with the survey strategy, allowed the researcher to present data in a descriptive manner when describing the disconnection that exists amongst the stakeholders of the community. It deemed practical, cost effective, and was the most efficient way to collect information from a large number of people in a short amount of time. Obtaining results were quick and without difficulty. Additionally, this form of research can be analyzed more 'scientifically' and objectively and can be conducted by other researchers and populace with limited effect on its validity and reliability. Most importantly, because the data was quantified, it was useful in comparing and contrasting other research and in (Finlay, 2009) measuring change.



Positivists trust quantitative data useful when creating new theories and testing existing hypotheses.

The disadvantage of the quantitative study was that it did not necessarily describe the quality of the characteristics that were involved in finding a revitalization solution. It argued to be inadequate in understanding human emotions, behavior, and feelings and lacked trust. There was no way of telling whether the participants were honest when answering the questionnaires or if their thought process was fully examined. Another disadvantage of the questionnaire was the level of subjectivity, often questions are read differently and replies may be based upon someone's own interpretation. Because there is a level of imposition while developing the questionnaires, the researcher tends to make their own decisions and assumptions on the topic of importance, leaving room for oversight. Moreover, phenomenologist views quantitative research as artificial creations made by the researchers with a limited amount of unexplained information (Finlay, 2009).

### **Sample Population**

The questionnaire was administered to fifty-five participants of the Englewood community (four politicians, nine law enforcers, fifteen organization leaders, community activists, and ministers, and nonprofits serving the Englewood community, and twenty-seven residents). Additional variables (categorizations of violence, gender gaps, adolescent criminology, development, influence of family, social control, social disorganization, public policy, social capital, and political relations) was also used in the study to measure various states of violence, outcomes, and conditions that may help evaluate violence and the disconnect, along with the length of time it would take for the community to become a safe haven.

Englewood revitalizing as a community was analyzed by ranking the issues of importance by the stakeholders of the community. Likert Scale and Checklist rating scales were utilized to capture residents' responses. Individuals selected were most appropriate because they were representatives of Englewood.

### **Instrumentation**

A questionnaire (Appendix A) consisting of fourteen multiple-choice questions was given to residents, community leaders (affiliated and nonaffiliated), ministers, law enforcers, and politicians of the Englewood community. The topics that were addressed on the questionnaire included violence, economics, education, social services, incarceration, gangs, mental health, community development, and policing. The questionnaire attempted to measure attitudes, opinions, and perceptions of the leaders and residents of the community. The nature of the questionnaire was cross sectional; the researcher collected data at one point in time.

### **Data Collection**

The questionnaires were administered from April 2015 - December 2015. This study took place in the Englewood community. Participants were chosen based on purposeful convenience sampling. The questionnaire was administered to residents by hard copies within the neighborhood door-to-door and was answered and collected at that time. Remaining participants and leaders were found by attending regular neighborhood Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) Organization Meetings of the Englewood and St. Benedict Community, as well as arranging meetings at local Alderman's offices of the 21st District.

### **Data Analysis**

The number of responses to the questionnaire was analyzed using quantitative descriptive statistics and was illustrated using tables and figures. Although this study provided evidence of

an enormous disconnect amongst the stakeholders of the community, further qualitative study will be needed to develop effective revitalization strategies and assess the impact of community violence.

### Results/Findings

A questionnaire consisting of fourteen multiple-choice questions was administered to measure attitudes, opinions, and perceptions of the politicians, advocates, and residents of the Englewood community. The most significant information that was revealed was the variation in responses to community victimization based on the role the participant plays in the community and their understanding of violence. Tables and Figures 1-7 describes the population and illustrate the responses from residents, leaders that reside in the community, leaders that do not reside in the community, politicians, ministers, and law enforcers (stakeholders). The variation in responses clearly illustrate why Chicago's Englewood community is not rejuvenating at a faster rate. The tables and figures support the hypothesis that there is a disconnect between residents, politicians and community leaders.

**Table I, illustrates the study participants and their various roles in the community.**

<b>Role in the community</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>
<b>Resident</b>	15	12
<b>Community Leader/Resident</b>	5	2
<b>Community Leader/Affiliate</b>	1	3
<b>Minister/Resident</b>	1	1
<b>Minister</b>	1	1
<b>Politician</b>	2	1
<b>Politician/Minister</b>	0	1
<b>Law Enforcer/Resident</b>	2	2
<b>Law Enforcer</b>	0	5

Study participants consist of fifty-five participants. This table illustrates the gender and role of each participant. There were more female than male participants that were residents of Englewood. While there were more male law enforcers than females, four of the nine enforcers were either residents of the community or had resided there at some point in time. There were more female leaders and advocates that were residents than there were males. All of the

ministers, including one that was a politician, had prior leadership roles in the community, and either resided or grew up in Englewood. Only one politician resided in Englewood and no aldermanic office was located within the boundaries of the wards.

**Table 2, illustrates the demographic profile of the study participants.**

	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>
<b>Gender</b>	27	28
<b>Age</b>		
18-24	2	4
25-34	4	3
35-44	9	10
45-64	11	9
65-74	1	2
75 and older	0	0
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0
Black/African American	22	25
Hispanic/Latino	1	1
White/ Caucasian	0	0
Other	2	2
<b>Household Income</b>		
\$25,000 - 49,999	10	5
\$50,000 - 99,999	8	8
Over \$100,000	2	6
N/A	7	9
<b>Education</b>		
Less than 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	0	0
High School Diploma	3	6
Some College ( no degree)	8	7
Associates or Technical	4	3
Bachelor's Degree	8	5
Graduate degree /Professional	6	5

The next group of questions compared responses by demographics. The largest age group of the participants consisted of predominately black males thirty-five to sixty-four years of age. Of the fifty-five participants, twenty-six were unemployed. Eight (8) females and eight (8) males earned an income of \$50,000 or more. Those that earned over \$100,000 held some

governmental appointment or city position (i.e. a politicians or law enforcers). Although male participants appeared to make the most money, females held the highest levels of education, earning advanced degrees.

Based upon the U.S. census data facts of the Englewood community, the highest percentage of population is black or African American which accounts for 97.9% of the population. Only 1.1% of the population is Hispanic. Population by gender is 44.8% men and 55.2% females. By age, the last census reported a population of 35,912 people living in Englewood. The median age group is 31.6; ages twenty-five years and younger being the largest of the population. Englewood has a high unemployment rate of 18.1%. This rate is inferior to the 7.9% national average. In terms of median income by race, two or more races of people make the most averaging \$60,417 annually, while the median household income is \$19,548 with a per capita income of \$11,893. However, blacks in Englewood average \$26,250 and work an average of 36 hours a week. The median household income by age group in the community is highest among those twenty-five years and under (\$15,190). Economically, Englewood's poverty rate is 39.6% higher than the national average. Although 49.5% of the homes are rentals, 21.8% are occupied by homeowners. The average cost for homeowners are \$1,426 per month. Profile data of the census report rates high school graduates or higher at 73.7%, and those with bachelors degree or higher at 6.7%.

The questions posed in Table 3, were presented to solicit assessments of how much time is needed for Englewood to become economically viable and a safe place to live, and how these predictions have a political impact on the environment. The community has a political impact on why environmental policies are not necessarily politically profitable. Urbanization brings upon a large amount of environmental issues (natural and human resources (i.e., pollution, poverty,

social programs, child development) that are constructed and defined based upon values and technologies, as well as political, economical and legal systems that lie within a number of networks of organizations. There are six major driving forces that affect environmental policies politically; 1) demographics, 2) economics, 3) sociopolitical forces, 4) science and technology, 5) chemical and biological forces; and 6) cultural, physical, and religious forces. The researcher shows that social systems and environmental policies affect and help to sanctify the connection between human welfare, population, and environmental impacts (Dietz and Rosa, 2002).

Environmental policies and impacts have an effect on the community's economic life as well as its ecological costs (i.e. food distribution) and assist in regulating policies and laws that can either influence or alter violence in impoverished communities (Cohen, 2015).

**Table 3, illustrates the amount of time participants predicted it would take for Englewood to become economically viable and a safe place to live.**

<b>Role in the community</b>	<b>10 years</b>	<b>20 years</b>	<b>Longer</b>	<b>Never</b>
<b>Resident</b>	20	10	4	1
<b>Community Leader/Resident</b>	5	1	0	1
<b>Community Leader/Affiliate</b>	4	2	0	1
<b>Minister/Resident</b>	0	1	0	0
<b>Law Enforcer</b>	1	3	1	1
<b>Law Enforcer/Resident</b>	0	2	0	0
<b>Politician</b>	2	2	0	0
<b>Minister/Community Leader Affiliate/Politician</b>	2	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>34/55</b>	<b>23/55</b>	<b>5/55</b>	<b>4/55</b>
	<b>60%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

The outcome of this surveyed question (the amount of time participants predicted it would take for Englewood to become economically viable and a safer place to live) also posed a disconnect. Sixty percent of the participants agreed that it would take ten (10) years for the Englewood community to either become economically viable or a safer place to live. Forty-two

percent rated twenty (20) years, ten percent thought longer, and 0.7% rated that it would never improve.

In a study conducted by Osgood and Chambers (2003), social disorganization and a theory of rural social violence were outlined. The study examined how small towns with populations less than 10,000 experienced an increase in violent crimes. Suburban areas are often thought of as mini-versions of urban areas with comparable social complexities (i.e., integration/disintegration processes, or difficulties in the rates in which social differences are institutionalized). The structural theory was further examined that supports the findings regarding an extensive influence on the increasing vicinity of crime in rural areas and how they differ from that of urban areas. Similarly, to the findings from the method used by Osgood and Chambers (2003) on how the study viewed the association between social disorganization and crime rates. Results were based on population size and a different nonmetropolitan county. Until these issues are better explored, this particular finding remains incomplete.

The aim of the next set of questions was to determine what should be done to improve living conditions in Englewood. To determine if there is a disconnect between the study participants, they were asked to highlight their opinions on more policing, community collaboration, and resources and support allocations (social programs, child development).



Table 4, highlights the opinions of the study participants and how they ranked the need for policing, community collaborations, and resources and support.

Legend: VI = Very Important, I = Important, SI = Somewhat Important, NI = Not Important

	Residents = 27				Community Leader /Residents = 7				Community Leader /Affiliates =4				Ministers = 4				Law Enforcers =9				Politicians =4			
	VI	I	SI	NI	VI	I	SI	NI	VI	I	SI	NI	VI	I	SI	NI	VI	I	SI	NI	VI	I	SI	NI
Policing	21	2	2		5	1	2	1	3	2	1		1	3			5	1			4			
Community Collaborations	15	10	2		5	2	1		4	2			3				5	1			4			
Resources and Support	21	4	1		6	1			3	3			3				1	5				4		
<b>TOTAL Answers</b>	<b>VI %</b>	<b>I %</b>	<b>SI %</b>	<b>NI %</b>	<b>VI %</b>	<b>I %</b>	<b>SI %</b>	<b>NI %</b>	<b>VI %</b>	<b>I %</b>	<b>SI %</b>	<b>NI %</b>	<b>VI %</b>	<b>I %</b>	<b>SI %</b>	<b>NI %</b>	<b>VI %</b>	<b>I %</b>	<b>SI %</b>	<b>NI %</b>	<b>VI %</b>	<b>I %</b>	<b>SI %</b>	<b>NI %</b>
Policing %	78 %	7%	7%		71 %	4%	28 %	4%	75 %	50 %	25 %		25 %	75 %			56 %	0.1 %			100 %			
Community Collaboration %	56 %	37 %	7%		71 %	28 %	4%		100 %	50 %			75 %				56 %	0.1 %			100 %			
Resources and Support %	78 %	7%	4%		86 %	4%			75 %	75 %			75 %				56 %	56 %				100 %		

Current literature on communities that experience high rates of criminal activity revealed that residents are most concerned about how more resources can be allocated to provide employment and educational opportunities. Seventy-eight percent of residents rated policing, resources and support as a very important need, while fifty-six percent rated community collaboration as very important. Only four to seven percent of the residents thought that it was somewhat important. Community leaders who resided in Englewood; leaned more toward resources and support; 86% ranked them very important. Leaders who were affiliates believed that community collaboration was more important than policing and resources and support in the community. Seventy-five percent of the ministers thought that community collaboration, resources and support was very important and ranked policing as important. Fifty-six percent of law enforcers believed policing and community collaborations were very important and politicians all rated a stronger need for all three for policing and community collaboration for revitalization of the community.

The questionnaire presents law enforcers differences between interpersonal violence from a social construction perspective based upon their rating policing and community collaboration as very important and resources and support as just important. Social Construction refers to the dependency of other social things that exist and are contingent upon or dependent upon ones social selves - something that does not involve a single individual during the process, yet would not exist without societal participation (Barak, 2003).

Assuming that people fit into social groups, and there are normal people and then there are the other (victims vs. criminals – good vs. bad cop), policing and social construction should work hand and hand (Millie & Das, 2008). This study supports the rating of the law enforcers of Englewood and their opinion on social construction and residents not collaborating when

reporting crimes and community violence continuing to rise. Many residents believe that community violence stems from the social structure of power and control, which is why a large majority of the residents believe policing, is pertinent to the community. Additionally, law enforcers' conviction is that violence stems from the amount of influence that a family has on adolescent development - while residents' solution continues to weigh heavily on a need for more community policing and resources and support. Although these findings are contrary with the literature and a continuous disconnect, it further shows implications for continued investigation.

Similarly, to this study, Herbert (2005) examined community policing in neighborhoods in West Seattle where a diverse number of socio-economic landscapes existed. Comparatively, of how data was captured by the politicians of Englewood through questionnaires in this study, Herbert (2005) posed interview questions to residents regarding community participation. In contrast to political opinions of Herbert's research, the results of the researcher reported that residents rely upon familiarity and support from their community. Data captured in this current research compared to the findings of the reviewed literature only marginally. Similar to Herbert's position, Englewood residents deemed policing, resources and support as a very important need over community collaboration. However, based upon political structures and the ideal that responsibility for the community will not be necessary or "devolved," residents felt policing, resources and support were very important. Community leaders and residents of the Englewood community blame the lack of social programs on the blatant racial discrimination that exists within their community. Studies reveal that when racial discrimination exists within impoverished communities, resources that are often scarce, will be eventually limited or depleted. Racial discrimination creates social isolation. When needs or resources are focused on the welfare of impoverished communities, economic transformation occurs (Brooks, 2009).

Brooks (2009) refers to this form of racial discrimination when practiced by external institutions as a need for “community base self-help.”

Further studies note that internalized racism that is based on several factors such as acceptance, social, economic status, education, peer subculture, self-degradation, and self-alienation contributes to a climate that, in some ways enable violence to be normalized. These internalized elements incorporate shame of identity and of culture (Bryant, 2011). Many community members attributed this engagement of violence to not only lack of resources, but also to the reason for the disengagement that exists among politicians who represent Englewood.

Another significant series of questions revealed variations in responses to community victimization based on the different participants’ views of level of importance and the need for categorization of violence. Table 5 illustrates the differential responses of stakeholders who reside inside, versus outside the community. The variations in responses clearly illustrate why Englewood is not rejuvenating at a faster rate and how perceptions of violence are unevenly distributed. Tables 3 and 5 supports the hypothesis that there is a disconnect that exists between residents and community leaders. They also reflect a strong need for categorization of the definitions of the spheres of violence to understand the magnitude of violence and its variables. The Spheres of Violence refers to forms of violence (institutional, structured and interpersonal) characterized for the purpose of establishing and extending inequality, decreasing privilege and increasing liberty, and to understand violations that assail human rights (Barak G. , 2003).

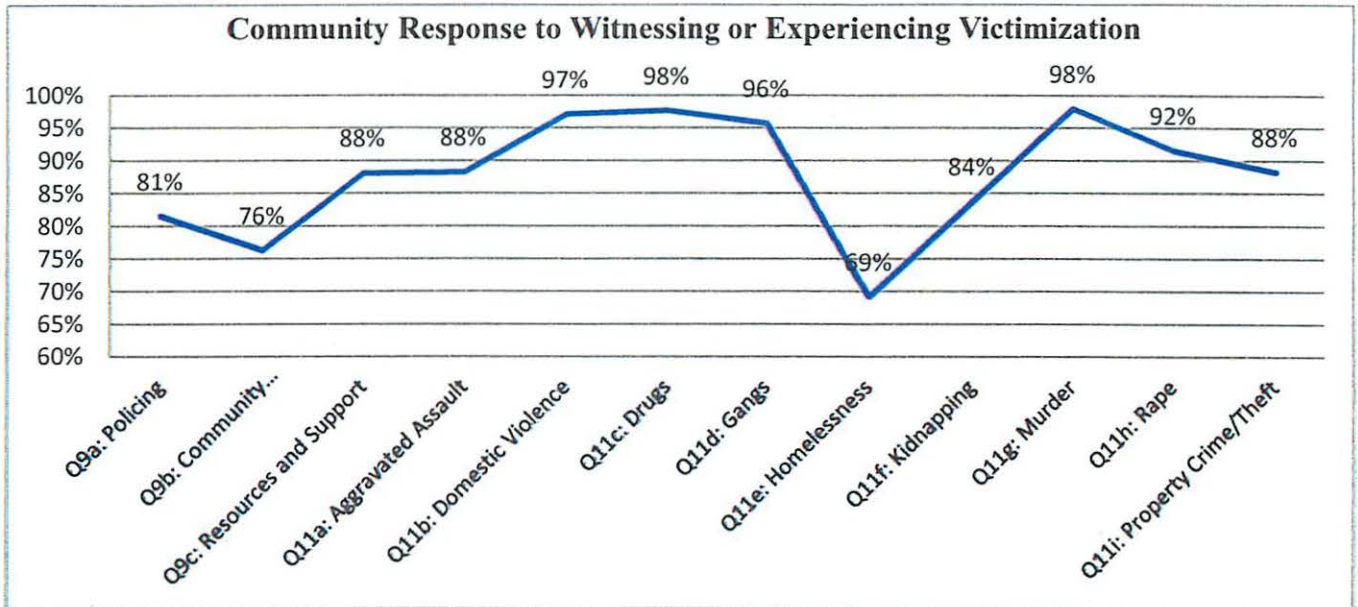
**Table 5, illustrates community leader/resident response to victimization.**

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	TOTAL
Aggravated Assault	80%	20%			80%
Domestic Violence	81%	7%	11%		81%
Drugs	87%	7%	5%		87%
Gangs	89%	11%			89%
Homelessness	60%	27%	10%	4%	60%
Kidnapping	67%	23%	7%	1%	67%
Murder	87%	12%			87%
Rape	78%	12%	10%		78%
Property Crime/Theft	78%	21%			78%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>5%</b>	

Eighty- percent of the participants rated gangs, drugs, aggravated assault, and domestic violence as very important issues. However, while sixty-three percent rated homelessness and kidnapping as very important, they did not consider these issues as violent. Eleven percent of the participants ranked domestic violence as somewhat important and five to seven percent rated kidnapping and drugs as somewhat important. In fact, one (1) percent thought that kidnapping was not important. Ten (10) percent of the participants rated rape as somewhat important.

A major disconnect existed among the participants and what they considered as violent and nonviolent victimization. These postures were based upon their own definitions of the spheres mentioned in the literature. A male law enforcer (non-resident) viewed kidnapping and rape as “somewhat important,” while a community leader/resident rated domestic violence as “somewhat important.”

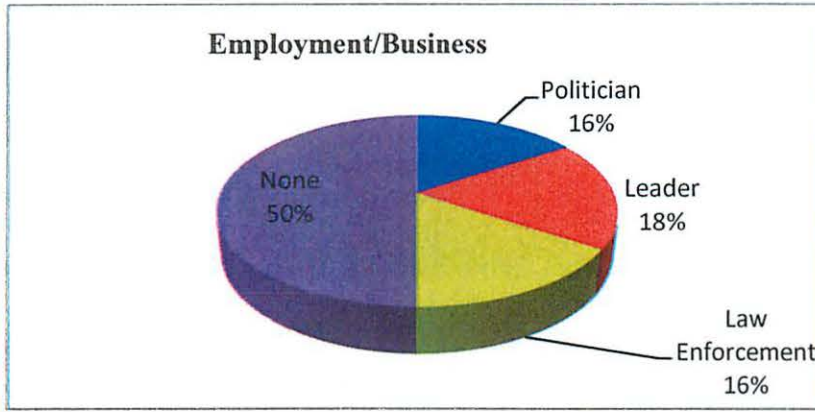
Figure 1, illustrates percentages of community leader/resident response to victimization.



Chicago’s Englewood community continues to be plagued by violence. The level of violence has made national headlines and is the inspiration behind Spike Lee’s forthcoming film “Chiraq.” Based on the participants’ responses in Figure 1, more than sixty percent indicated they have been personally affected by violence, while more than eighty percent of the participants’ have either witnessed or experienced acts of violence or have known someone who has. When comparing and computing the National Survey of Adolescents cited earlier, ratings showed a significant amount of residents and advocates of the community also having witnessed or experienced acts of community violence. Although this particular issue needs further research, the results of this study are consistent with the reviewed literature, showing that exposure to community violence is contributory to the morbidity of adolescents.

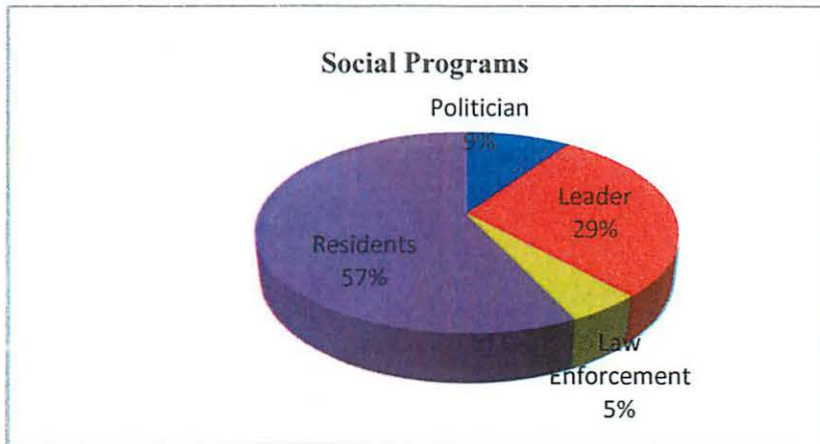
Figure's 2- 4, illustrates percentages of community leader/resident response to resources beneficial to the Englewood community.

Figure 2, Education/Business



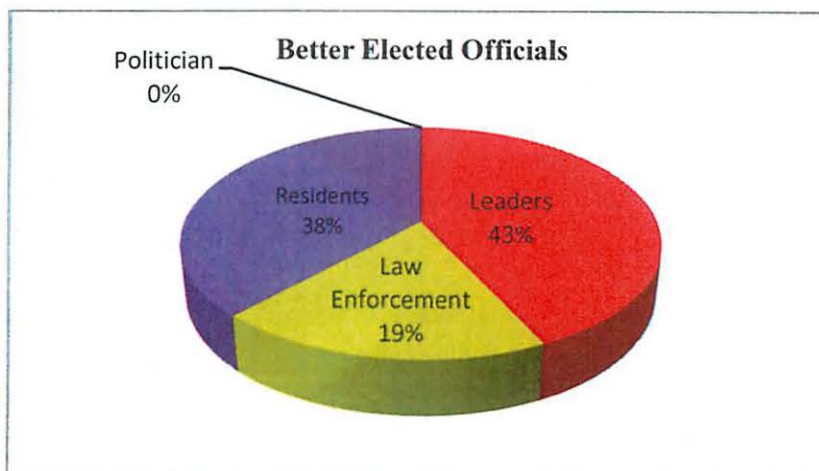
More than fifty percent of residents agree that employment/business is essential for revitalizing Englewood. Results of this research revealed that increased employment was one of the highest rated items on the questionnaire as beneficial to community revival. From 1970 throughout 1990, the number of persons living in low poverty and urban areas and communities increased. Poverty has negative consequences on society and neighborhoods. Communities when faced with poverty suffer with lower levels of employment, earnings, dropout rates, and fragile social fabrics that make it impossible for them to function effectively (Jargowsky, 1996). The argument was that poverty creates and sustains segregation by race and class and affects economic growth within neighborhoods and communities and thereby effects political participation.

**Figure 3, Social Programs**



Political differences occurred when assessing community level needs (i.e. employment, social programs). Employment/business and social programs were the two items on the questionnaire that were perceived as being most beneficial to the Englewood community. However, law enforcers and leaders, although they agreed with employment/business as two significant items needed for revitalization, larger percentages of their opinions focused on the need for better-elected officials.

**Figure 4, Better Elected Officials**

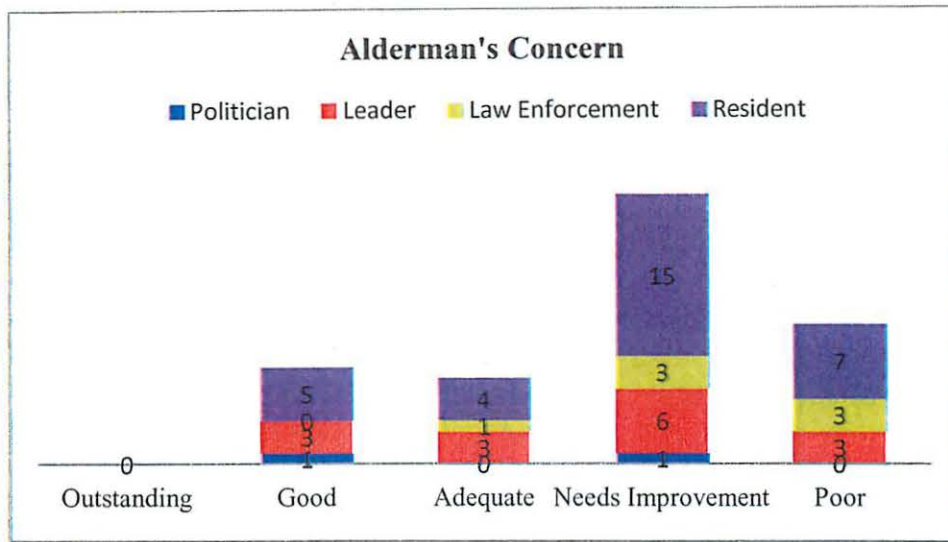


The outcome of the study indicated that employment, social programs, and better-elected officials, are most important in building social bonds and rejuvenating a community. Studies



further hypothesize that conservative morals and political philosophies have swayed and should be employed to eliminate youth violence. While thirty-eight percent of residents agree that better-elected officials are needed in the community, forty-three percent of leaders and advocates also broadly agree. Residents argued that different or specific symptoms occur largely because of lack of better-elected officials, that are more visible and attentive to the needs of the community and community level needs programs. Residents also stressed a continual need for political engagement with the alderman and the community, and less inflexibility when reacting to competing political agendas. In other words, react more swiftly to problems that arise in the community. Assuming that if politicians concentrated more on the harmful activities that are involved in the community and less attention to upcoming elections, fewer contradictions and a reduced amount of social inequalities might exist. Residents noted that they control the community by voting for the politician's best interest. For this reason, many residents, leaders, and law enforcers were eager to discuss the need for the election of politicians who are more sensitive to community needs. Figure 7 rates how the community views the Alderman's concern for the community and existing community issues.

**Table 6 - Politicians Concern for the Community**



Stakeholders rate their Alderman’s concern from needing improvement to poor and minimally good. There was no participant rating that observed their Alderman as having the necessary concern for the community. Community members and activists believe the politicians' in Englewood primary objectives are simply to win votes and elections. While law enforcers, residents, and advocates strongly contribute the disconnect to the lack of politicians' concern, they also contribute violence and crime to the organization of gangs and other violent peer-group associations. The findings of this literature posed a disconnect between community residents and law enforcers of Englewood and their correlation to the organization of gangs, and adolescent development. Law enforcement's conviction is that violence stems from the amount of influence that a family has on adolescent development. This observation is consistent with the findings reported in the literature review.

**Limitations**

While administering questionnaires to residents, community leader/residents, community leader/affiliates, ministers, law enforcers and politicians, the following observations were noted:

- ❖ The number of politicians surveyed was limited

- ❖ The participants could not agree on the role of the community leaders and the amount of parental involvement needed for revitalization
- ❖ There was a disconnect among participants and their knowledge of violence and nonviolence

### Political participation

The debate and disconnect that are presented was determining which politicians were available to accurately deliver the necessary criteria and subjective judgment of what would create success within the community. Because these judgments were often and largely made by politicians who live outside of the community, a strong disconnect perpetuated.

Some of the politicians were concerned with social deterioration of the community and urban poverty than with the existence and prevalence of Englewood as a whole. As a result, some politicians expressed reluctance to complete the questionnaire due to their not being able to address pertinently, nor agree on similar existing issues and solutions. Continued research, investigation, and discussion on categorizations and definitions of the many layers of violence involved are necessary. Additionally, policies, resources, practices, and most importantly collaboration amongst political participation should also be strategized, limiting the number of wards and including Aldermanic offices within the wards.

### The role of the community

Community members were inclined to rely upon law enforcers as well as politicians for adoption of a resolution to revitalizing the community, instead of relying upon the community for assistance. There was a social disconnect that played a role within Englewood because of the dependency of the residents on the community. Previous researchers, such as Berman (2013) and Leighton (1988) use a network analytical approach as well as theoretical analysis to support

this discovery. The network analytical approach refers to the ability to break down problems in small parts to solve them amongst a group of people. Each piece would be used to make the problem easier to solve. However, the solution must fit the problem (Berman, 2013). Because most residents were not familiar with other residents that resided in their own neighborhood a social disconnect occurred. This can also be contributed to a lack of trust that existed among the residents of Englewood and the approach to the community concept in criminology (Leighton, 1988).

An important study and pertinent fact regarding community violence in Englewood is the concept in criminology (Leighton, 1988). Criminology focuses on the conceptualization and measurement of the community and various individual patterns and units of analysis when it comes to crime (i.e., the type of crime, the level of crime, and the number of crimes). Because community advocates perceptions of criminology centers around youth and uneven levels of parental engagement; measurement of community becomes central to social policy. The measurement of the community is characterized by advocates as a social achievement (community action, community development, community work, community care, community medicine, community power, community school) (Plant, 1978). For these reasons more in-depth research was needed on the concepts of behavioral and cognitive learning in communities as it applies to criminology, as well as more focus on the subjects of mental health therapy and community organization concepts.

#### Disconnect between violence and nonviolence

The confusion and disconnect was exemplified by the realization that although some violence may be considered common, it should not necessarily be considered ordinary. All of which are based upon exposure to the assessment of violence and the different effects and

outcome that occurs from violence (Margolin, Vickerman, Oliver, Pamella, & Gordis, 2010).

Where violence occurs in one of the mentioned domains, it ranged in another. The common dominator was that the more violence that is experienced from interpersonal domains (parent-to-youth, marital physical, and community violence) the more negative the outcome (Aisenberg & Herrenkohl, 2008). Therefore, further research is needed to distinguish residents' perspectives on violence, along with strategies for reducing it.

### **Discussion and Conclusions**

As we have seen, Englewood residents view violence and what is needed for revitalization of the community very differently from community law enforcers, activists, and government officials. This study identified some potential solutions for overcoming this disconnect. The evidence presented in the study suggests three key findings: 1) Because there is a disengagement between politicians, residents, and other stakeholders in Englewood, there is a need for politicians to become more involved in the interest of the community's needs; 2) It seems clear that social organization, resources and community collaboration are potential solutions to maintain a level of cohesiveness among the stakeholders of the community in order to limit an overwhelming amount of social control and to merge the disconnect; lastly, 3) the disengagement can be attributed to the lack of a communal impulse, defining violence, and understanding the community (living in the same place - group of people) and the neighborhood (living in the vicinity or the district). Communal impulse refers to the ideals that are associated by groups, the common whole of how the group views their purpose and life individually (Cooley, Turner, & Beidel, 1995). In other words, until we see more engagement, social organization, community collaboration and resources in Englewood, we are unlikely to see a reduction in the amount of violence.

These findings are consistent with the three perspectives offered by Wellman and Leighton (1979) on the study of the community question. Similarly, to the first finding of this study, Wellman & Leighton suggest that the three approaches to conceptualizing community, community lost, community saved, and community liberated, all have validity when stripped down to basic network structures. In the case of Englewood, it is possible to see aspects of all three perspectives at work. As a community lost, we can see that Englewood is characterized by

a heavy prevalence of centralized, bureaucratic structures, leaving individual residents lost in the bureaucratic society. For instance, many residents of Englewood noted that eliminating some of the wards in Englewood and having offices located in their actual wards may allow politicians to become more involved in the interest of the community and their needs. Because there are five different Aldermen and five different wards, this causes not only an overlapping of the community's functions, but generates separation amongst various organizations in the community as well. Politicians' ability to understand and connect with the interest of the community assumes significant to a resolution of the many negative and challenging issues (i.e., criminology, lack of resources) that appear to affect the community and its members individually. Max Weber suggests that preparation of better officials should be the apparatus of the government. However, Weber's claim for formal rules within a bureaucracy and a hierarchical chain of command does not necessarily prove to expose and unite the disconnect that exists amongst stakeholders in Englewood. The researcher does not necessarily agree with Weber and his theory of the community having a hierarchical chain of command because this potentially could prolong the stakeholders of Englewood to have the necessary voice that is needed to collaboratively work with politicians. Politically, and presently, the top bureaucrat has control and authority continues to flow down from the top. Therefore, engagement in the community through a chain of command is not necessarily used to get things done based on rationality; however, in most cases situations are centered on public policy and as a result, does not necessarily assist with the revitalization process. Opinionatedly, the residents of Englewood made a strong argument that revitalization of the community can only occur with the engagement of social organization and political engagement. By contrast, residents argued that community engagement from politicians in Englewood are administered only to control voting decisions and

not to connect personally with them and other stakeholders of the community. The findings of this study indicate the need for politicians to obtain an interest on this subject because they are the role players that may in essence have the ultimate authority to make changes within the community. While this research is not meant to hold politicians accountable for the violence in the community; the results from participants addressed the need for accountability and for politicians adjourning and collaboratively agreeing with the community on an agenda for social organization.

In similar fashion, we can see aspects of Englewood as a community saved, as noted by Wellman and Leighton (1979) as it focuses on the need for both community and the neighborhood having an obligation to remain the pertinent basis of cordiality, support, and mediation with formal institutions (i.e., policing, and support and resources) by working collectively to help eliminate violence through social organization. Social organization supports this argument and this study, as it empirically reasons with the possibility of addressing issues by level of importance and addressing them without a disconnect. Moreover, because no single group exists in Englewood that can sustain mobilization, various barriers arose when addressing an attempt to organize. It was apparent through this research that a strong disconnect exist from the lack of a social agenda. An agenda for social organization may assist in educating all stakeholders in Englewood on their understanding violence and victimization. In other words, stakeholders have to learn to work for the common good, on the same page, through what they are already doing. The lack of social organization, social control, and necessary resources has potentially caused the community to dismantle and disburse freely without consistency. Because policing, community collaboration, employment, and social resources ranked the most important, the weakness of the study was why the level of organization amongst the community should be



measured. For this reason, open discussion of victimization as it relates to organization should also be addressed among the stakeholders collectively. This conclusion is based upon their adverse ratings of items the participants' deemed most important in the study (i.e., poverty). Poverty assumed to have a tremendous effect on the development of social control and social organization in Englewood, and on the residents and advocates of the community. Kaylen and Pridemore (2013) rationalized and supported this finding by using the rational choice model where similar to the residents of Englewood, a group responded to various negative circumstances of which they found themselves residing, and were examined by how they adapted to their situation. The findings also concluded that racial bias is often found in communities that are socially disorganized and that have high poverty rates (Kaylen and Pridemore, 2013). Similarly, the researcher agrees with Wilson (1997) and his argument that structural conditions of poverty are due to lack of social organization. However, the researcher disagrees that racial bias affects social organization. Social organization could possibly eliminate racial bias in Englewood; however, this would not include policing, as many residents and advocates viewed policing and law enforcers as being racially biased. Bryant (2011) uses the Critical Race Theory to find legal reasoning and explain the ways that race has become socially constructed across micro and macro systems. In agreeing with his findings as it applies to this study, he demonstrates how chances in life for Blacks are based upon race. Race was at the forefront and was the explanatory factor to the exclusion of structural variables that limit opportunities and promote inequalities (particularly employment) (Wilson W. J., 1997). This study clearly demonstrated how economics and social isolation of resources affected Englewood.

Finally, the third key finding of this study, the community liberated, as noted by Wellman and Leighton (1979), supports the researchers finding that disengagement is affected by the

communal impulse of the community. Communal ties as explained by Wellman and Leighton (1979) have somewhat disengaged and still flourishes, yet it has become detached away from the neighborhood and is no longer dispersed within the community. This supports the findings of why the residents of the community seem to distrust each other. The stakeholders have separated themselves from the issues of the community because of their assumption of not being connected or engaged personally, which they imply, keeps them free of violence. Moreover, because residents of Englewood did not look at themselves as a social group, they eagerly disconnected themselves. However, these residents that chose to disassociate themselves are somehow automatically included in the victimization of violence because of their disconnection and disassociation to the community and other residents. Similarly, the residents, like politicians attempt to disengage from the individuals whom they have no connection with whether they are violent or not. In other words, and as a result, many residents disengage and disconnect themselves from all socioeconomic privileges and entitlements that they should have in a community, but lack because of an undermining disconnect that they have to each other, as well as other stakeholders of the community. The findings in this study presented disengagement with where the disconnection actually originated and where it should actually end. The participants' view on trust in the community was assumed as needed to motivate residents to continue to fight for engagement. If leaders or law enforcers think that it will take more time for Englewood to become economically viable and safer than the community members of Englewood, then there is a strong disconnect that should be addressed. Assumably, politicians, law enforcers, and advocates of the community are more optimistic than residents of a violent community. Opposite of what advocates and residents of the Englewood community suggests, this study illustrated that various domains of violence does integrate different types of violence

and are a result of aggression in communities. This finding is why understanding violence through definition deems necessary. Just as the community and the neighborhood; if they are the same in the definition (vicinity vs. characteristic), these definitions may have an absolute value associated with the revitalization of an underserved community or the disconnect that exist. It is apparent that stakeholders do not understand the meaning of community, the neighborhood, gender gaps, as well as the fact that violence is violence, and that there are just different types and levels of violence (categorizations). The hypothesis resulted in a significant disconnect based on each stakeholder not agreeing on what types of violence that should be addressed for revitalization or what should be considered one more severe than the other. Stakeholders would be better suited to understand the needs of the community by understanding the issues that are associated with revitalization. This result indicates that similar to politicians; advocates, leaders, and residents in Englewood should also rate the needs and issues through necessary rational choices. In other words, by level of concern and then importance - since these two options appear to be the same, but not necessarily occur at the same time and just as the spheres of violence; they seem to overlap.

In summary, although Wellman & Leighton (1979) are skeptical of the community lost argument based upon limited empirical confirmation, these findings specifically tie to the findings of this study and Englewood as it relates to the need for involvement from politicians and social organization. A community saved, ties to the finding of this study and Englewood where support, resources, and policing are needed to remove barriers when attempting to organize. Lastly, the community liberated argument, ties to the finding of this study and Englewood as it relates to the need to close the separation that exist among the stakeholders of the community due to distrust and communal ties.

Clearly, there are various interventions that may assist in addressing and reducing violence in the Englewood community. However, the most important intervention, arguably, would be merging the disconnect that exist among politicians, leaders, advocates, and residents (the stakeholders). This study did not draw upon a social-neuroscience perspective; nevertheless, it seems clear that violence in the community will continue to adversely affect the next generation. Conclusively, the findings of this study suggest that it is important to propose more research on an agenda for organizing. As Cooley (1911) says, 'the social mind is assumed not to consist of agreement, but in an organization.' Consequently, more research on social organization in Englewood would be useful, both to examine the political and social conditions that have conditioned organization in the neighborhood, and to study the question of what alternatives may exist. Questionably, Cooley notes a moral blame, responsibility, knowledge, and praise relating to social consciousness and why the mental should be addressed more than the material when tackling social organization in impoverished communities. However, the totality of this study indicates that violence can be eliminated if self-management, interpersonal skills, some levels of training (education), and social problem solving would be administered and addressed collaboratively and aggressively on a daily base. Moreover, the disconnect as mentioned in this current study emphasizes why the community believes there exists an injustice in not only crime, but in the interest of the community and public opinion (homelessness, poverty, economic development). This discussion may clarify why there are unsafe operations within the community. Community members in Englewood expressed frustration that their needs were collectively unanswered and were not individually based. The frustration was more apparent and determined in CAPS meetings where stakeholders were present. Not only did the questionnaire and responses in this study assist in hypothesizing the finding that a divide existed,

it also identified the need to create social consciousness among the stakeholders so that social ideas could connect to create public opinion and mutual influence as it pertains to the interest of the public; in this case, to the needs of the community.

Research suggests that when a community is impacted by continuous violence, it indigenously voyages or attaches onto another neighboring community. Although violence may be different in nature to the stakeholders of Englewood who are not violent, there is a social disconnection that does and will continue to subsist if collaboration is not addressed. It also appears through this study, an apparent need to effectively and aggressively address the connection to impoverishment and violence through qualitative research approaches.

If the argument presented is correct, the only way to merge the disconnect among the stakeholders of Englewood and to reduce violence in communities that have the same concerns, is to collaboratively identify how levels of crime, community development, economics, viability, leadership, and policing are assessed by the stakeholders that are involved. Only by understanding the perspectives of the stakeholders themselves can we begin to rebuild communities that originally had the necessary social capital to exert social control and establish social organization. Building social capital and social control and agreeing on an agenda will allow communities like Englewood to compete for financial and governmental resources and as a result, connect to one another. Sufficient resources will allow the residents of neighborhoods like Englewood to build communities that are strong enough to support the individuals who live in them. In the past, government bureaucrats, police, and organization leaders have tried to impose solutions from the outside singularly, without asking what residents thought or believed about their own destinies. In the future, they will have to do better.

Continued investigation on social organization, violence, and revitalization combined deems necessary to close the disconnection that exist among politicians, residents, and leaders of the community – further research remains reasonable.

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