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CRJ 204

Final Essay

Crime Amongst the Youth

Introduction

Throughout history, there have been many different crimes committed but today I'll be discussing crime among the youth. Staten Island is one of the smallest boroughs when it comes to population but that doesn't mean crime won't happen, there's something happening every single day in all the boroughs.

My Neighborhood

Throughout my entire life, I have lived on Staten Island. I've gone to school here and for the most part, everyone I know is from the Island, you know what they say, Staten Island is the forgotten borough. When it comes to all the other big boroughs, Staten Island tends to keep to itself, not much happens over here. The neighborhood I live in is called Mariners Harbor, I live right next to an elementary school and for the longest time, there has been a deli down the block that was raided a couple of times and constantly had police cars parked right outside, because people were over there selling drugs. Eventually, the store shut down but not until like a few weeks ago, all this time has passed and now they decide to shut it down. Having a deli like that, near a school doesn't make the neighborhood seem safe and a lot of people would probably avoid moving into the neighborhood.

Around my area, I don't see a lot of homeless people, but I do see a few at some delis. Sometimes I do offer them money and sometimes the delis themselves give them some free stuff. Eventually, the deli owners get tired of it, because sometimes customers would get annoyed, and the owners are losing out on money, so they end up telling them to leave and they do but then you end up seeing them at another deli doing the same. But the Staten Island Ferry is where you can find a lot of homeless people, the people who run the terminal decided to remove the seats where people wait for buses because too many homeless people were sleeping on them. If we had more homeless shelters, then stuff like this wouldn't happen.

About Staten Island

Staten Island was founded by Giovanni Da Verrazano in 1524, but it was mostly populated by Indians until 1630 when the Dutch began to settle on the island. The Dutch and the Indians had many wars against each other, such as The Pig War (1641), The Whiskey War (1642), and The Peach War (1655), it ended with the Dutch finally establishing a colony in 1661 called Old Town. There was a dispute between New Jersey and New York over the land of Staten Island for about 200 years only until 1833 when both states had a mutual agreement and Staten Island became a part of New York.

Crime Statistics

According to the crime map for the 121 precinct, there have been 12 robberies, 16 felony assaults, and 38 grand larceny crimes. It may not be high as in other boroughs but it's still something that needs to change especially for grand

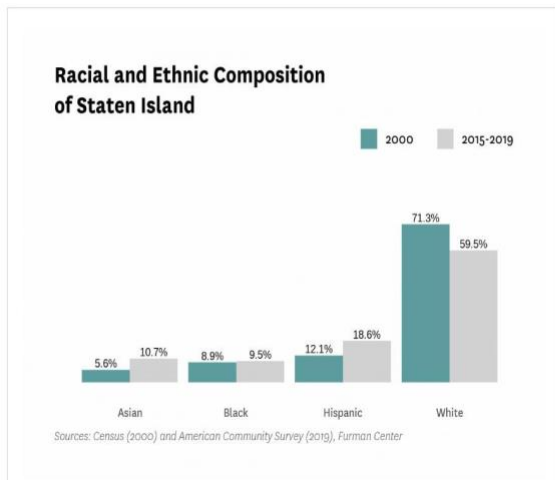
larceny crimes.

Demographics

As for the races and population in Staten Island, I will be showing a chart below that's from 2015-2019. In total there are 476,143 people living on Staten Island, 10.7% are Asian, 9.5% are Black, 18.6% are Hispanic, and 59.5% are white. As you can see in the chart below, during the 2000s there were way more white Americans (71.3%) living on Staten Island compared to now. All of the other races changed slightly increasing but the white population declined, and I wonder why.

DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2019, there were an estimated 476,143 people in Staten Island, of which 10.7% of the population identified as Asian, 9.5% identified as Black, 18.6% identified as Hispanic, and 59.5% identified as white.



Research

While doing my research I came across a lot of different articles such as one by Ashli J. Sheidow, Deborah Gorman-Smith, Patrick H. Tolan, and David B. Henry called "Family and community characteristic: Risk factors for violence exposure in inner-city youth". The study focuses on the relations between neighborhoods, violent exposures, family functioning, and the risk of exposure to violence in poor and urban communities. The study chose 249 participants of African American and Latino males from the ages of 13-17. It is said that these groups have a higher exposure to violence due to their neighborhood and family. Another study of 6-10-year-olds in New York shows that 35% witnessed a stabbing, 23% saw a dead body and 25% have seen someone killed in front of them. A lot of children/teens see these things almost every day because of where they live and it shouldn't be like that, stuff like that sticks with them for the rest of their lives.

The next article that I found, focuses on bystanders and their willingness to report theft, physical assault, and sexual assault. This article focuses on bystander gender and anonymity's impact but specifically on theft, physical assault, and sexual assault. Bystanders may pick and choose when to intervene in certain situations. Some studies have shown the reaction of bystanders when it comes to theft, and it shows that 30% to 89% of people intervene in certain situations. When it comes to gender, men are more likely to help in certain situations like theft or assault, unlike women. Women tend to help if they feel like whatever is going on between other people is safe for them to help. Women are also more likely to help if they know the people that

are in the altercation.

In this article, by Marlene Melzer-Lange, Charis Dusen Van Thatcher, Jingxia Liu, & Shankuan Zhu. The study focuses on neighborhood characteristics that are based on the U.S. census database. They use neighborhood zip codes to discuss the high rates of adolescent assault victims. The article mentions how people who live in lower-income areas and live with their grandparents are at high risk of adolescent assault. The people who came up with this study also used another database called Project Ujima, the database is a prevention program for people between the ages of 7-18 that are victims of assault. The study includes percentages of people living as single parents, people with no high school diploma, unemployed, and living with a median household income. “Neighborhood ZIP codes with low median household income and high rates of grandparents serving as heads of household were associated with high rates of adolescent assault victims.”

The study in this article is called Gluecks, the study shows that poverty and disadvantages influence delinquency. They also speak about the theory of informal social control. Parents tend to play a big role in whether a child begins to show delinquent behavior. If an adolescent is learning certain behaviors at home, then they will most likely bring that into the real world thinking that delinquent behavior is okay. It also doesn't help if that teenage kid isn't living in a good neighborhood, those combinations aren't good at all, it puts a child in a position where their life could be at stake. In the article it says, “Although difficult children who display early antisocial tendencies do disrupt family management, as do antisocial and unstable parents, mediating processes of informal social control still explain a large share of variance in adolescent delinquency.”

My last article discusses how adolescents cope with dangerous situations. Girls would usually cope with certain situations by using social support, like speaking to close friends, family, or even teachers. When it comes to boys, they would usually handle any personal situations by themselves and not involve anyone. Boys grow up much differently than girls, boys are seen as “macho” and shouldn’t be emotional or in touch with inner feelings but it’s the opposite with girls. Girls feel like it’s easier to speak on certain situations, especially if it’s something dangerous and harmful. It all leads back to parenting and how you are raised, some children have difficult lives and feel like they can’t talk to anyone about it because of how their life is at home so they end up showing signs of delinquent behavior.

Conclusion

In conclusion, crime is a nonstop thing, and it probably won’t ever stop. Everyone's lives are different from each other, everyone has had different experiences growing up that either shape them into good members of society or turn them into criminals. It all depends on your family's upbringing, like I mentioned before, people who live terrible home lives and live in bad neighborhoods are more likely to become a criminal but not always.

Reference

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