

The People's Report:

The Link Between Structural Violence and Crime in Wilmington, Delaware



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Wilmington Street Participatory Action Research (PAR) Project

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I. Executive Summary

The “Safe Communities” Training and Employment Participatory Action Research Project¹ (also known as the Wilmington Street PAR Project or Wilmington Street PAR family) is a pilot quantitative and qualitative ethnographic community needs assessment of the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, Delaware. This study trained 15 community residents (ages 20-48), all of whom were formally involved with the streets and/or criminal justice system to be street participatory action researchers². The Wilmington Street PAR family documented the relationship between structural opportunity and physical violence in the two aforementioned neighborhoods. Data were collected from mostly street-identified Black men and women, ages 18-35, in the following forms: (a) 520 community survey packets; (b) 24 individual interviews; (c) four dual interviews; (d) three group interviews; and (e) extensive field observations. Also, a fourth group interview, not initially proposed or planned, was conducted with a group of seven mostly older men, ages 21-51, formerly involved with the streets and/or criminal justice system. This group of men is known in the larger Wilmington community as the United Brothers of 9th Street (or UB9)³.

Findings strongly suggest that physical violence in Wilmington, Delaware is deeply tied to profound notions of structural inequality. Residents, by and large, report countless incidences of being directly and/or indirectly exposed to experiences of physical violence in the forms of: (1) interpersonal assaults; (2) knifings; (3) shootings; (4) drug use/sales of drugs; and (5) homicide—to more structural forms of violence such as: (1) unemployment; (2) poor schooling opportunities; (3) unhealthy living conditions; or (4) “failing” or “corrupt” civic and political leadership. In addition, residents spoke extensively about what they perceive as “unfair” or invasive law enforcement procedures including being: (1) profiled and frisked; (2) caught up in raids or sweeps; (3) detained without detention; (4) arrested; and/or (5) incarcerated.

Nonetheless, the spirit of community residents remains unusually high, positive, or optimistic despite the fact that most participants report being inundated by social and structural violence. Participants, overall, were found to demonstrate positively high levels of: (1) psychological well-being; (2) social well-being; (3) attitudes toward education; (4) and attitudes toward employment. That is, while community residents are overwhelmed with physical violence as well as blocked opportunities, the data strongly suggest that study participants love themselves; they love their families and communities; they want to work; and they want quality educational opportunity.

¹ The official title of the grant submitted to and funded by First State Community Action/American Recovery Reinvestment Act. The Wilmington Street PAR project is the unofficial name of the project.

² Participatory action research (PAR) is characterized by including members of the population under study, on the actual research team (Payne, 2006; Payne, 2011).

³ United Brothers of 9th Street (UB9) is a civic organization made up of Black men from 9th street located in the Eastside of Wilmington, Delaware. These men, many of whom were previously involved with the streets, have dedicated themselves to servicing the Eastside and larger Wilmington community by working firsthand with those presently caught up in the streets and/or criminal justice system.

Meet Some Participants

- **Richard (19)**: Richard is a single, light-skinned, 19-year old-Black male. I first met Richard at the funeral of his 16-year-old friend, Dayveair Golden, who died from gun violence in Southbridge on December 9, 2009. Melodie Robinson, a Street PAR member, is the Godmother of Dayveair and good friend to his mother, Yadira, a young lady we later interviewed for this study. At the funeral repast, Richard exclaimed, “Make sure to capture in your (research) project how some Black youth in Southbridge live in homes with refrigerators with no food in them...or live in homes with no heat during the winter... Make sure to capture that in your (research) project.”

Richard’s small, thin bodily frame almost seems out of place with his giant and optimistic spirit. He lives in Southbridge and, on occasion, stays with his mother and eight-year-old sister in suburban Newark, Delaware. His father died several years ago under suspicious circumstances. Richard dropped out of school in 9th grade and later acquired his G.E.D. Currently, he is unemployed. Admittedly, he “ran the streets” of Wilmington and had been jailed for a short stint. In fact, he was 14 when he was first placed on probation.

- **Leslie (31)**: Leslie is a single, light brown-skinned, 31-year-old Black woman with three children—two girls and one boy—ranging from ages three to 12. Her skin, particularly within the creases of her face, carries the vestiges of deep fatigue. At the time of the interview, Leslie was technically homeless, staying with her children in a variety of places on the Eastside for the last four years. Leslie attributes her son misbehaving in school and her daughter engaging in negative behavior to her unemployment and unstable living situation. Leslie says, “One woman [at a social agency]... told me... that if I don't find housin', that she was gonna call... DFS [Department of Family Services] ... [to] take my kids away because I don't have housing for my kids.”
- **Rennie Rox (35)**: Rennie Rox is a single, light-skinned, 35-year-old Black male who resides on the Eastside. He says his family is “established” on the Eastside, particularly on or around “9th and Pine,” underscoring that his family is well known and has lived for some time in that section of the city. Rennie graduated in 1993 from John Dickinson High School, which is located in Newark, Delaware. He is well known in the Wilmington community for being a street videographer and owner/CEO of *Rennie Rox Films*. Rennie admits to formerly engaging in the sale of narcotics. In fact, he speaks of how his father and other family members and loved ones sold illegal narcotics as well. These experiences eventually culminated in Rennie’s incarceration at age 19, when he was sentenced to 10 years for drug possession. His two stints in prison became the catalysts for Rennie to make a major, positive change in his life.
- **Lanise (34)**: Lanise is a single, dark-skinned, 34-year-old Black woman who is majoring in nursing at Delaware Tech Community College in Wilmington, Delaware. Her worldview is grounded in Orthodox Sunni Islam, which she attributes to saving her from this world. “Once I became Muslim and I entered Islam,” she says, “... my life changed... This is the foundation of the very essence of how I run my household. ... Actually, [Islam] came to me through a dream.”

Lanise is originally from Chester, Pennsylvania but has lived in Southbridge since October 2008. Unfortunately, she lost her father at the age of 13 and presently has an estranged relationship with her mother. Lanise lives with her four sons, ages three to 11, in public housing or “the projects” in Southbridge. She is very concerned about the physical violence she observes in her neighborhood, given that she is a mother with young children.

Survey Findings

The study’s survey sample consists of 520 young, Black American men and women between the ages of 18 and 35, who are mostly street-identified and/or were involved with the criminal justice system⁴. Women make up about 60% of participants while men account for nearly 40%. All participants have been directly and/or indirectly impacted by physical violence. Participants, on average, were 25 years of age (SD=5.41). Also, most residents in this study resided on the Eastside. In fact, at the time of the study, 64% of participants lived on the Eastside, while about 23% resided in the significantly smaller, Southbridge community. About 13% of participants lived outside of these two neighborhoods but report frequenting the Eastside and Southbridge communities.

Education

Approximately 44% (N=503) of the study sample had less than a high school diploma, most (41.4%) of whom reported dropping out at some point during high school. Conversely, about 56% of participants reported having a high school diploma, and a little over 6% reported having post-secondary educational experience. **Alarmingly, 59% of participants reported that their fathers never graduated from high school (40.6%), or that they do not know their father’s level of educational attainment (18.6%).**

Employment

Employment opportunities are bleak for most residents surveyed. Approximately 64% (N=504) of study participants were unemployed, 54% of whom were actively looking for work. Employment outcomes are more revealing when exploring employment status in relation to gender. **Sixty-eight percent of men in this study reported being unemployed, 57% of whom were actively looking for work. Women reported similarly, in that approximately 63% were unemployed, 54% of whom were actively looking for work.**

⁴ Data reported are generated from a “representative” sample. Results can be generalizable to the larger Black youth and young adult (18-35) population in the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods in Wilmington, Delaware. Quota sampling techniques were used to systematically stratify the sample by race, gender and age.

Living Conditions

Most residents (64%) described their living quarters as meeting the criteria for low-income housing.

Arrests and Incarceration

Arrest data strongly suggest that interactions between police and community residents were mostly negative (e.g., arrests) and are not complemented by enough pro-social activities between community residents and the police. **A critical mass of youth and young adults were repeatedly arrested and/or exposed to fellow residents being arrested in the Eastside and Southbridge communities.**

Fifty-seven percent (N=517) of this sample, poignantly, reported being, “picked up, arrested, or taken away by police” at some point in their lives. Of those arrested, one-third reported being arrested between one and four times, while approximately 13% of those arrested noted that they were arrested or taken away by police more than 12 times in their life. This result suggests a smaller variant of individuals are being repeatedly arrested. Sixty-two percent (N=279) of those arrested indicated that they were arrested within a year prior to completing the study's survey.

About 80% of participants (N=519) had “seen someone else picked up, arrested, or taken away by police” at some point in their lives. Forty-six percent of participants had seen someone being arrested at least nine or more times in their life. **Fifty-four percent reported witnessing someone being arrested *within the last week*, and approximately 77% reported seeing someone being arrested *within the last three months* prior to completing the survey.**

Healthcare

Most participants (70%/N=514) indicated they had access to healthcare, with sixty-four percent (N=507) reporting Medicaid as their healthcare provider. Women (78%) reported greater usage of Medicaid than men (44%). Also, a relatively small number of participants (12%/ N=498) reported having gone to the emergency room as a result of an act of violence (N=498).

Physical Violence

Poignantly, a majority of participants reported losing at least one family member (55%/498) and/or at least one friend (59%/N=495) to gun violence. Approximately 55% (n=517) indicated that they were, at some juncture, “slapped, punched, or hit by someone.” Twenty-percent (N=514) reported being “jumped” or “chased by gangs or individuals.” About nine percent reported being accosted by a group of people 12 times or more in their life. **Approximately 25%(N=516) reported that they had been attacked or stabbed with a knife at least once in their lifetimes**, eight percent of whom reported this occurring 12 or more times. **Also, approximately 20% (N=516) reported that they had been shot at least once in their lifetimes**, six percent of whom reported this occurring 12 or more times.

Psychological and Social Well-Being

Data strongly suggest that participants love themselves, families and local communities, thus challenging status quo interpretations of low-income Black youth. **Approximately 85% (N=519) reported being happy or very happy “these days”.** **Approximately 94% (N=518) of participants found themselves to be a “useful person to have around,”** and **76% (N=19) of participants reported that they “feel responsible to make their community better.”**

Attitudes Toward Law Enforcement

Findings suggest that participants, overall, held negative attitudes toward the police. Respondents asserted police unfairly accosted or “harassed” community residents as well as made them feel “unsafe.” **About 50% (N=517) indicated that they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with, “Police are here to protect me.”** **Approximately, 80% (N=518) reported that they “agree” or “strongly agree” with, “The police give people a hard time for no reason.”** Also, **64% indicated that they (N=517) either “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with, “I feel comfortable when I see police on the streets.”** **And 72% (N=519) reported that they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with the item, “Police respect me.”** Men were found to have slightly more negative attitudes toward the police than women.

Experiences with Law Enforcement

Most participants experienced some form of physical contact with police, although a smaller variant of the sample appeared to have been more regularly in negative contact (e.g., stopped, arrested, caught in a sweep, etc.) with police within the year prior to completing this survey. Also, gender was found to be significant with respect to contact with law enforcement. Men generally had more contact with police in comparison to women.

Stopped

Approximately 58% (N=518) of participants reported being “stopped by police” within the last year. Sixty-one percent of men noted being stopped, while only 29% of women indicated that they had been stopped within the last year.

Frisked

Twenty-nine percent (N=518) reported being “frisked” by police within the last 12 months. **Fifty-three percent of men, in comparison to only 14% of women, were reportedly “frisked” by police.** Participants (N=147) who reported being stopped within the last year were, on average, frisked in about four of their reported incidents.

Detained without arrest

Eighteen percent of participants (N=516) were “detained without arrest” by police within the last 12 months. **About 30% of men, in comparison to 10% of women, were found to be “detained without arrest” by police.** Participants (N=86) informally detained, reported that this occurred approximately three times within the last year.

Prison Reentry in Wilmington

Most participants surveyed and interviewed argued that employment and educational opportunities provided by most prison re-entry programs in Wilmington were typically lackluster “training programs” that did not result in any tangible outcomes for their clients. **Sixty-three percent (N=511) noted they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with, “There are good prison re-entry programs in the city of Wilmington.”** About 58% of participants indicated that they (N=518) “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with, “Most people returning home from prison can find a job, if they really want to.” And 57% of respondents (N=512), in like sentiment, “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with, “There are enough educational programs available for people incarcerated in prison.” Findings determined from an, *attitudes toward prison re-entry programs* measure suggest that participants, overall, hold moderately negative attitudes toward available re-entry programs in Wilmington.

Street PAR “Family” Member Outcomes

Street PAR Family Profile. Twelve of the Street PAR family members are men, and three are women, with ages ranging from 20 and 48 years and an average age of 33 at the start of the project in November 2009. Educational status greatly varied for the Street PAR family at the beginning of the study – one dropped out of high school; four had a general equivalency diploma (GED); three had a high school diploma; five had some college; and two had acquired Bachelors of Arts degrees. Ten of the Street PAR members have felony convictions, most of which are non-violent. None of the women have been incarcerated or have a felony conviction. Also, 12 of the Street PAR family members have at least one child. And, it should be underscored that 10 of the Street PAR family members are Sunni Muslim.

- *Employment Outcomes* - **All Street PAR family members received some form of quality employment during and/or after the project’s initial funding period.** Employment opportunities paying \$15-\$20 per hour were provided by: (1) University of Delaware; (2) United Way of Delaware; (3) Christina Cultural Arts Center; and (4) Parkway Academy School District. Most positions secured for Street PAR family members were dependent upon “soft” or grant money. **Six Street PAR family members are presently unemployed.**
- *Education Outcomes* – Five Street PAR family members enrolled in college during and after the project’s initial funding period: **two at the graduate level and three at the undergraduate level.** Also, two members were offered educational opportunities but declined. **Four Street PAR family members (two graduate and two undergraduate students) are currently enrolled in college.**
- *Activism/Action Outcomes* – **The Street PAR family has made a total of 100 formal presentations since November 2009. They included 40 college/university presentations; 39 community presentations, and 21 media presentations.** Sixteen community presentations were made primarily to civic, political, and banking leadership. Twenty-three community presentations were made to local community residents. Numerous traditional and creative or non-traditional “action” products/events were developed and targeted at community members including: (1) monetary and non-

monetary incentives issued to study participants; (2) homicide art exhibit at Christina Cultural Arts Center; (3) feature length documentary of project; (4) mix-CD reflecting the link between structural and physical violence; (5) community barbecue; (6) assistance with organizing the annual Southbridge Community Day; (7) youth violence forum/panel; (8) production of a T-shirt with the PAR emblem; as well as (9) two PSAs on violence (one on physical violence and a second on domestic violence).

Recommendations

A total of 17 recommendations are proposed to address community violence in Wilmington. They are organized under the following four target areas: (1) Physical Violence; (2) Structural Opportunity; (3) Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice System; and (4) Street Outreach and Continued Community-Centered Research and Activism.

I. Physical Violence

(1) Physical Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs – A set of prevention and intervention programs centered on physical violence should be developed, by gender and developmental stage, for Wilmington residents. This program should be designed to address the following forms of physical violence: (1) interpersonal assault; (2) domestic violence; (3) school violence; (4) gun violence; and (5) homicide.

(2) Curriculum Development – Academic curricula should be developed for Wilmington youth at the primary and secondary school levels. Specifically, school districts are encouraged to develop age appropriate lesson plans aimed at educating students about structural opportunity/violence and physical violence. Also, school districts that serve Wilmington youth are encouraged to design course curricula that focus on both the school-to-prison pipeline and prison re-entry social phenomena. Youth should be exposed early on to such topics as they profoundly impact the students' lived experiences. Students should be organized within schools to locate and read as well as conduct and write up statistical analyses on structural and physical violence, in addition to the school-to-prison pipeline and prison re-entry. Also, performance and arts-based curricula should be developed as a way to encourage youth to perform (i.e., theater, film, poetry, music, etc.) and to teach audience members about how structural and physical violence, the school-to-prison pipeline, and prison re-entry are experienced by young people in Wilmington.

(3) Youth and Adult Forums on Physical Violence – Selected Wilmington residents should receive support to organize a series of grassroots discussions in the form of panels, forums, or conferences on physical violence. Such discussions can be held inside schools, community centers, non-profit organizations, and/or universities. Local residents, activists, academics/scholars, as well as civic and political leaders, should be invited to attend and speak at such discussions or forums.

(4) Safe Places – Safe locations or physical sites (i.e. community centers, city parks/playgrounds) should be developed for Wilmington youth and young adults to

constructively commune. Findings of this study strongly suggest that safe gathering spaces will help to offset the frustration felt by youth and young adults in Wilmington. Also, it is recommended that fun or creative as well as educational and counseling-related activities be made available to all youth and young adults that utilize these safe spaces.

II. Structural Opportunity

(1) **Relationship between Banking Community and Wilmington Residents** – An explicit, more aggressive and/or robust relationship needs to be structured between the banking community and low-income Wilmington residents as a way to more effectively improve structural opportunities for said residents. The influence and/or resources provided by the banking community can more effectively assist low-income residents with upward mobility by improving employment/economic, educational, and housing opportunities. Increased structural opportunities will assuredly help to reduce physical violence in Wilmington.

(2) **Improved Educational Opportunity** – Creative and proactive educational programming should be provided to residents. Also, academic scholarships or fellowships should be provided for educational opportunities ranging from G.E.D. to graduate programs. In addition, increased workshops on college enrollment and financial aid should be organized in schools and non-profit organizations.

(3) **Improved Employment Opportunity** – **A concerted effort must be made by city and state leadership to explicitly improve employment or economic opportunities for low-income residents in Wilmington.** Other research and this study profoundly conclude that low-income Black residents want to work. Also, the social science literature reveals that employment or economic opportunity is the best predictor of a reduction in physical violence.

(4) **Improved Housing Opportunity** – A concerted effort should be organized to address neighborhoods blighted by abandoned and/or boarded up buildings throughout the city of Wilmington. Also, it suggested that housing programs be established to inform local residents of opportunities to purchase as opposed to simply renting/leasing housing property. More derelict properties should be converted into affordable housing for local residents, when possible. For a model, see the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in Roxbury, Massachusetts at <http://www.dsni.org/>.

(5) **Non-Traditional Childcare Facilities** – Free or subsidized childcare should be made available to any low-income individual, male or female, who is the parent or legal guardian of a child up to age 14.

III. Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice System

(1) **Comprehensive Prison Re-entry Programming** – **This report recommends comprehensive prison re-entry programming with employment at the center of this re-entry effort. This study underscores that effective re-entry cannot occur without “quality” employment opportunities being made available to former inmates. Employment opportunities must go beyond “employment training programs or employment referral**

services.” Further, comprehensive prison re-entry programming, although grounded in economic opportunity, should also include a focus on educational and housing needs, as well as individual and group-based forms of therapy.

(2) Community-Police Programming – A well-resourced and community centered community-policing program is strongly recommended. Local residents must be at the helm of such a program. Also, as in the case of a number of community-police programs throughout the country, this program should not devolve into an unconstructive venting session between residents and police or, for that matter, a forum where local residents are simply expected by law enforcement to reveal the names of suspected neighborhood criminals. This program should comprehensively focus on reducing crime with a focus on the types of crimes taking place in Wilmington neighborhoods as opposed to individual suspects. Also, a community-police partnership should focus proactively on programming in local neighborhoods as a way to preemptively reduce crime.

(3) Law Enforcement – It is suggested for the Wilmington Police Department to more aggressively train law enforcement to work more effectively with community residents. Study results reveal police have made a significant number of local residents feel “harassed,” “bothered,” and “less safe” in their own neighborhoods. It is recommended that more forums between law enforcement and the community be established as a way to discuss and improve interpersonal relationships between police officers and residents.

IV. Street Outreach and Continued Community-Centered Research and Activism

(1) Street Outreach Program – A viable, aggressive, and innovative youth-based, street outreach program should be implemented as a way to offset violence in Wilmington. Youth should be paid to inform young people of the social ills that are plaguing Wilmington and how to effectively address them.

(2) Mayor-Led Street March Campaign – It is recommended that the Wilmington Mayor and/or other local politicians routinely lead marching or walking campaigns on some of the most violent streets in the city. Political leadership should collaborate with civic leadership and local residents at least twice a month by marching at nighttime in the roughest or most challenging streets of Wilmington. New Orleans Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu employed such a strategy in 2011 in response to New Orleans' violent crime epidemic. Mayor Landrieu decided to walk once a month with a cadre of law enforcement, residents, and civic and political leadership in the most violent neighborhoods in New Orleans as a way to impact and reduce violent crime. According to a *60 Minutes* interview, Mayor Landrieu argued that such walk-throughs “make people feel safer and more connected to him and the police.” See the *60 Minutes* interview conducted by Byron Pitts with Mayor Landrieu entitled “Mitch Landrieu's Big Easy Challenge”, posted 2:33PM on May 1, 2011 at <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7364552n>.

(3) Wilmington Street PAR Institute – **The Wilmington Street PAR family calls for resources to be devoted to the development of a Wilmington-based Street Participatory Acton Research Institute.** Such a research institute could organize a concurrent set of Street PAR studies on various social issues across the city, which would provide invaluable educational

and civic opportunities for local residents, as well as an opportunity to profoundly impact policy from the ground up. Also, local residents could use the institute to develop and execute a research agenda that would be used to organize a platform to legitimize the concerns of local residents citywide.

(4) **City-Wide Street PAR Project on Physical Violence** – Given the study’s results, it is strongly recommended that a citywide Street PAR project on physical violence be conducted throughout Wilmington. **Specifically, it is recommended that a quasi-experimental, multi-method design be organized to study the relationship between structural and physical violence, as well as examine the impact of Street PAR as an intervention, for Street PAR members and the impact of such an intervention on the actual reduction of physical violence within the city of Wilmington.**

(5) **Street PAR Inside Schools** – Street PAR could provide students, particularly those at risk for dropping out and/or not enrolling in college, with a set of quality educational experiences that would lead them to college enrollment. A Street PAR program inside local schools would be two-fold, including: (1) research analysis and a (2) school intervention—designed to support students with graduating from high school and entering post-secondary institutions. **A PAR experience or intervention equips students with an enhanced reading, writing, and analytic skill set which can prepare them for the academic rigor expected at the university level** (Brown, 2010, Fine et al., 2004; Payne & Brown, 2011).

Project support provided by: (1) First State Community Action/American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA); (2) University of Delaware; and (3) United Way of Delaware.

II. Origins of The Wilmington Street PAR Project

Statement of Need

The Wilmington HOPE Commission is a catalyst for change that strives to inspire and empower a collaboration of citizens, businesses, government agencies, social organizations, and faith-based institutions throughout the City of Wilmington to work together in creating safe, vital neighborhoods that strengthen family bonds, promote civic pride, and encourage residents to engage in community transformation.

The HOPE Commission, along with its partners work to develop, promote, evaluate, and advocate for meaningful strategies and programs that focus on the revitalization of Wilmington's underserved communities, and motivate residents and community-based organizations to be actively engaged in the creation of safer, more vibrant, sustainable neighborhoods.

As a catalyst for change, an essential component of the HOPE Commission's strategy is to actively engage those residents most affected by crime and violence. One of the communities greatest assets is its residents; thus, we feel the best way to develop sustainable solutions is to solicit their input at every step of the process. The Safe Communities Employment and Training Participatory Action Research (PAR) Project (or Wilmington Street PAR Project)⁵ allows the HOPE Commission to collaborate with respected community partners, along with community residents, to detect real world solutions to identify and work to ameliorate the underlying causes of violence in Wilmington.

As the lead partner, the HOPE Commission is aware of the myriad challenges the residents of Wilmington must endure. Low-income areas of the city experience the highest rates of violent crimes, the highest numbers of children and adults in poverty, and the highest percentage of African American students below state standards in reading and mathematics, statewide. Nearly 58% of Wilmington youth, overall, fail to graduate from high school, and less than 1/3 have the skills needed to be gainfully employed (Garrison, 2006; Garrison & Kervick, 2005). School dropout rates for Black youth in Wilmington are at about 60%, and for Black male youth across the city, dropout rates are at approximately 65% (Taylor & Porter, 2009). More poignantly, the Black male dropout rates for some Wilmington neighborhoods such as Southbridge are at 100% on any given year (Porter, Soto, D. & Pedersen, S. & 2010). The HOPE Commission and its partners felt PAR would allow for better understanding of the conditions and personal experiences behind these deplorable statistics.

The Eastside and Southbridge communities of Wilmington are beset with a combination of low-wage earners, single-parent headed households, and persistently low rates of employment,

⁵ The official title of the grant submitted to and funded by First State Community Action/American Recovery Reinvestment Act is The Safe Communities Employment and Training Participatory Action Research (PAR) Project. The Wilmington Street PAR Project is the unofficial name of the project.

particularly among youth. Census track data indicate that the median income for Eastside and Southbridge households is as low as \$23,375 and \$20,221 respectively, as compared to a median income of \$74,000 in New Castle County. In addition, these communities face unemployment rates as high as 42.5%, while the percentage of single parent-headed households is, some cases, as high as 78.6% (Garrison, 2006; Garrison & Kervick, 2005). Each of these statistics has grave, real-life implications for residents and highlights the overwhelming need for workforce development, educational, and job opportunities. The HOPE Commission recognizes that these alarming statistics are causal, and contribute to a larger culture that is pervasive, leading to youth and adult crime, incarceration, recidivism, underemployment, and a myriad of other social ills. Without remedy, that culture cycles through generations and becomes “normal.”

Project Description

The Safe Communities Training and Employment PAR Project (or Wilmington Street PAR Project) is a pilot, quantitative and qualitative ethnographic community needs assessment of the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, Delaware. This study trained 15 community residents (ages 20-48) formally involved with the streets and/or criminal justice system as participatory action researchers (PAR), to document the relationship between structural opportunity and physical violence in these two neighborhoods. Data were collected from mostly street-identified, Black men and women between the ages of 18 and 35, in the following forms: (a) 520 community survey packets; (b) 24 individual interviews; (c) four dual interviews; (d) three group interviews; and (e) extensive field observations. Also, a fourth group interview, not initially proposed, was conducted with a group of men, ages 21-51, formerly involved with the streets and/or criminal justice system. This group of mostly older men is known to the larger Wilmington community as the United Brothers of 9th Street (or UB9)⁶.

Organizational Partnership

Major partners sharing accountability for successful planning and implementation include non-profit and academic-based partners:

Nonprofit Organizations:

- *Wilmington HOPE Commission* – lead partner, provided overall management of partnership, recruitment of Street PAR members, and fiscal reporting of the ARRA grant.
- *Christina Cultural Arts Center (CCAC)* – provided professional support to the Street PAR family by organizing the project’s “action” or social justice agenda through arts-based strategies. CCAC also committed to providing temporary employment and housing to at least one Street PAR family member.

⁶ United Brothers of 9th Street (UB9) is a civic organization made up of Black men from 9th Street located on the Eastside of Wilmington, Delaware. These men, many of whom were previously involved with the streets, have dedicated themselves to servicing the Eastside and larger Wilmington community by working firsthand with those presently caught up in the streets and/or criminal justice system.

- *United Way of Delaware* – provided a supplemental grant award to the project, as well as committed to providing one member of the Wilmington Street PAR Project with permanent employment.
- *Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League* – provided job skills training through a program entitled *Work Place Readiness*. This training program provided Street PAR family members with an assessment of job skills and basic computer skills training.

Academia:

- *University of Delaware* – provided instruction and implemented the PAR model for the project.
- *Delaware State University* – provided group instruction on emotional intelligence and individual case management for participant's career/personal goals.
- *Wilmington University* – assisted with data compilation and provided educational placement and goal-setting support to participants regarding employment.

Support was provided by: (1) First State Community Action Agency/American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA); (2) University of Delaware; and (3) United Way of Delaware.

III. What is Street Participatory Action Research?

Participatory action research (PAR) is a research orientation or methodological framework that is characterized by including members of those under study on the actual research team as a way to more fairly guide an analysis of those under study (Brown, 2010; Payne, 2006; Payne & Brown, 2010). PAR members are to be included in all phases of the research project, including development or the execution of: (1) research questions/hypothesis; (2) theoretical frameworks; (3) methodological designs; (4) data collection and analysis; (5) formal publications; (6) formal presentations; and (7) training in socio-political organizing in response to data outcomes. PAR is conducted with community residents to help allay some of the fear and distrust that has been identified as a barrier to research, especially in low-income, Black communities. The expectation is that community-academic partnerships will build capacity and engender greater commitment among all research participants to uncover “new data” that will lead to effective short and long-term solutions to the problems under study. Also, PAR members are to be monetarily compensated for all efforts made or contributed to the project.

PAR is unique in offering a way to capture the phenomenology of the population of focus—a dimension of analysis that is typically overlooked by community interventions. It can be argued that the dominant approach and use of top-down analyses to understand community issues such as crime, employment, education, and healthcare often create more distance and resentment between professionals and the community than they do understanding.

Community researchers interested in understanding local communities should allow their analyses to be informed and guided by the very people most directly affected by the issues under study. Such an approach enables professionals to learn about local community dynamics and values, thus offering them a better chance of understanding and connecting with local community members, as well as developing more authentic and effective interventions into the problems they face. PAR presumes that local community members hold “expertise”—that youth and young adults, in fact, know best about how to create “Safer Communities” for young people across Wilmington—and that if we are to successfully reduce the prevalence of physical violence and other forms of crime, it can only be done through and with young people, not despite them.

What is Street Life?

Street PAR, as method, is theoretically guided by a particular conceptualization of “street life.” “Street life” is a phenomenological term essentially viewed by *the streets* or street life-oriented individuals as an ideology centered on personal and economic survival (Payne, 2011). Movement toward a street life orientation is typically accompanied by increased value and meaning in the overall ideology and/or code of *the streets*. In addition, street life is also conceptualized as a spectrum of networking behaviors or activities that manifest through *bonding*, *legal*, and *illegal* activities. Examples of bonding include joking, “hanging on the block,” or playing basketball, to organizing and sponsoring events in the local community (Payne & Hamdi, 2009). Legal employment or less threatening street activities can manifest in terms of: (1) street vending (i.e. hot dogs/food, books, clothing, etc.); or (2) employing community interventions in the form of street outreach or PAR campaigns (Payne, 2006). Illegal

activities, for instance, include burglary and interpersonal violence, as well as use and sales of narcotics (Payne, 2006, 2008; Payne & Hamdi, 2009; Utsey & Payne, 2001).

Participation in *the streets* is not necessarily seen by those involved as a “choice”—but instead as a response to and a strategy for contending with being overwhelmed by personal and structural strife (Alexander, 2010). The degree to which an individual is street identified (Payne, 2011) is often determined by *the streets*, through assessment of the intersection of: (a) *race/ethnicity*—(i.e. Black American, Jamaican-American, etc.)—participation in the streets, typically occurs through interactions and relationships with others within one's own ethnic group; (b) *socio-economic class*—individuals entering street life, theoretically can come from all classes, not solely low-income communities; (c) *gender*—degree of masculinity as well as femininity informs an individual's role in the street; (d) *primary hustle*—the dominant way or illegal activity engaged in by the individual to secure economic activity (i.e. fraud, drug dealing, pimping, prostitution, number running, etc.); (e) *street status*—street rank of the men and women (i.e. mid-level dealer); (f) *geographic region*—region of the country and local neighborhood in which an individual resides; and (g) *developmental stage* (i.e. pre-adolescence, adolescence, young adulthood, adulthood, etc.).

A central identity is quintessentially an expression of resilience. Identity more generally, and in this case, a street identity, is the way resilience is carried out or achieved by some Black youth and young adults. Alternative theories of resilience, as process and identity, that extend out of and are profoundly shaped by structural violence, are desperately needed to guide this discourse. It is not useful to be solely guided by traditional “deviance” theories, which simply frame behavioral expressions such as gang involvement, interpersonal violence, or substance abuse, for instance, as “maladaptive” coping.

What is Street PAR?

Street participatory action research (PAR) explicitly organizes low-income persons, active in or closely identified with the streets and criminal justice system—to empirically document the lived experiences of street life-oriented people of color primarily in local street communities, schools, and/or correctional facilities. The assumption is that individuals, active or formerly involved with the streets, are best poised to critically examine the individual and structural experiences of a population that have been mostly ignored, dismissed, or forgotten by most of society, including many in the racial and ethnic neighborhoods in which they reside. Community researchers interested in organizing research designs for and with *the streets* have to more aggressively revise and reframe explanations and methods for studying street life-oriented behavior so that policies and interventions can better connect to and more accurately reflect their lived experiences.

Street PAR is a method of collecting and analyzing data, but it is also an intervention for Street PAR members. Street PAR assumes and argues that there are not enough effective and/or well-resourced programs designed for street-identified people of color. It is an aggressive intervention designed to transition those in *the streets* out of *the streets*, and/or provide them with

means for upward mobility by offering high quality and rigorous economic and educational opportunities.

Street PAR strongly encourages more social scientists to implement PAR designs as a way to reach, organize, and provide quality educational opportunities for street life-oriented youth and young adults. Involvement in PAR can provide those who are street identified with a set of learning experiences that can help to offset the poor academic, employment, and/or criminal backgrounds that many of them have. This method can help to develop reading, writing, and analytical skills and provide participants with professional experiences and products, such as formal presentations and journal publications, which are viewed favorably by colleges, employers, and society overall. Lastly, PAR is a way for those in *the streets* to publicly and constructively frame the lived experiences of street life-oriented people of color for professional individuals and institutions of authority.

Street life-oriented people of color want what most Americans want—a good education, a decent job, economic security, safety, and respect. As evident in this report's findings and in the research literature, this group faces many obstacles to realizing these goals, which deeply and negatively impact their present and future lives. Without more effective interventions, *the streets* will continue to experience academic failure, drop out of school, be among the chronically unemployed, be victims and perpetrators of violence, and fill up our jails and prisons at increasingly alarming rates.

Positively transforming the detrimental experiences and behaviors of those in or at risk for being in the criminal justice system must begin with academic, civic, and political leadership believing in their potential and treating them with respect. Learning how to intellectually engage those involved in *the streets* in more effective and innovative ways is an endeavor to which educators and community professionals should be persistently committed. Such undertakings would produce a valuable return to schools, to society, and to *the streets* themselves. They face dire educational, socioeconomic, and environmental circumstances; however, like all of us, they deserve to live secure and fulfilling lives, and they deserve nothing short of our best efforts in helping them to do so.

IV. Meet the Wilmington Street PAR Family

Recruiting and Organizing the Wilmington Street PAR Family

The Wilmington Hope Commission issued a citywide call for residents throughout the City of Wilmington to apply for a year-long, part-time position on the Wilmington Street PAR project. Four primary methods were used to inform Wilmington residents of this opportunity: (1) job postings at nonprofit organizations and criminal justice related agencies; (2) street outreach efforts on the ground; and (3) the use of e-mail blasts and social media outlets.

The project sought to employ residents who best met the following criteria: (1) Wilmington residents; (2) young adult men and women formerly involved with *the streets* and/or the criminal justice system; (3) person of color who resided in an under-served neighborhood; (4) indirect or direct experience with some form of community violence; and (5) passionate about creating positive change in the City of Wilmington. In addition, the partnership was adamant about selecting applicants who were interested in acquiring a research skill-set, returning to school, particularly college, and/or being employed in a research related field.

Approximately, 150 applicants applied for a part-time position on the Wilmington Street PAR project. The partnership systematically vetted the 150 applicants; approximately 70 applicants were initially contacted and invited to a half-day group interview at the Neighborhood House, located in Southbridge, Wilmington. These applicants partook in a series of small and large group activities designed to elicit their attitudes on and personal experiences with community violence and constructive, community-based ways to respond to the violence in their neighborhoods. Subsequently, the partnership met on three separate occasions to eventually select 30 of the 70 applicants for further interviewing. The 30 applicants were then invited for one-on-one interviews, which were held at Christina Cultural Arts Center located in downtown Eastside, Wilmington. Interviews lasted between 30-60 minutes and were conducted by the partnership. The 15 applicants selected from this group make up the Wilmington Street PAR Project.

Who are the Street PAR members?

Fifteen residents formerly involved with the streets and/or criminal justice system were organized into a Street PAR team to conduct a pilot, quantitative and qualitative ethnographic community needs assessment of the Eastside and Southbridge sections of Wilmington, Delaware to more deeply understand notions of physical violence from the perspectives of its Black youth and young adults. The larger Street PAR team ultimately consists of three constituents: (1) Organizational Partnership; (2) Core Researchers (PI and students); and (3) Street PAR Members (15 residents).

The organizational partnership represents seven institutions and organizations (four nonprofit organizations and three universities), each with a specific role on the project (see pages 16-17 for discussion of organizational partnership). Core researchers consist of two graduate students and various undergraduate students from University of Delaware and one graduate student from

Delaware State University⁷. Darryl Chambers, a member of the Street PAR team, was selected to be the *Lead Research Associate* for the project.

Street PAR Family Profile

It is important to underscore that during the course of the project, Street PAR team members began to understand themselves in terms of a “family” as opposed to simply a research team. Thus, “family” is used interchangeably with “team” throughout this report. This notion of family speaks strongly to the richness of group and social cohesion generated as a function of a PAR paradigm. As a function of this project, the Wilmington Street PAR family understands itself to be eternally indebted to one another: It is romantic perhaps, but “real” in the minds, spirits, and bodies of the Wilmington Street PAR family.

Twelve of the Street PAR family members are men and three are women. They ranged in age from 20 to 48 years, with an average age of 33. Twelve of the Street PAR members have at least one child, and it should be underscored that 10 of the Street PAR members are Sunni Muslim.

Seven of the Street PAR family members are originally from the Northside of Wilmington. Two members are originally from the Eastside, and three are from Southbridge Wilmington. One member is originally from the Westside. One member is originally from Chester, PA but relocated to Bear, DE with her family, and at the start of the project she resided in the Eastside of Wilmington. One gentleman, who is originally from Brooklyn, NYC, relocated to the Newark/New Castle area. Another gentleman on the project always resided in the New Castle area of Delaware, although he regularly frequents the Wilmington community.

At the beginning of the project, educational status varied greatly among the Street PAR family. One dropped out of high school; four had a G.E.D.; three had a high school diploma; five had some college; and two had earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree. Two of the Street PAR members have military experiences, although one member is technically considered a traditional military veteran. Ten of the Street PAR family members have felony convictions, most of which are non-violent convictions. None of the women had been incarcerated or had a felony conviction.

Research Methods Training

Research methods training took place over a two-month period (November and December 2009) at the *Neighborhood House*, a nonprofit organization located in Southbridge, Wilmington. The training included 18 research method workshops. The Street PAR family met three-to-four times per week for three-to-five hours per workshop. Workshops included lectures and activities on research theory, methodology, data analysis, and social activism. The first half of workshops focused on understanding and developing the project's theoretical framework (November 2009). The second half of trainings focused on understanding and organizing the project's methodological design (December 2009) (Please see **Appendix O** for the outline or schedule of

⁷ The graduate student from Delaware State University worked closely with Dr. Marlene Saunders, who led the case management efforts for the Wilmington Street PAR Project.

research methods training). A formal graduation ceremony was organized for the Street PAR family on December 23, 2009 at the Neighborhood House. Large numbers of friends and family, as well as community partners and leaders and university professors were in attendance to witness a vast array of presentations and testimonies. Several Street PAR family members spoke that evening and the event was covered by *The News Journal*⁸ (Porter, 2009). The Street PAR family reconvened in January 2010, and during this the month we extensively reviewed what we learned and developed during the two-month research methods training.

In February 2010, the 15 Street PAR family members were organized onto the following four sub-teams: (1) Literature Review/Writing sub-team led by a doctoral student; (2) Data Analysis sub-team lead by a doctoral student; (3) Action Team led by Executive Director of CCAC, Raye Jones Avery; and (4) Data Collection sub-team lead by Yasser Arafat Payne. Street PAR family members reported to these sub-teams teams throughout the remainder of the first year. Also, the entire Street PAR family met every two weeks in the computer lab of the Neighborhood House for between two and three hours for group meetings. Further, case management schedules (led by Delaware State University) and job training schedules (led by Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League) were organized for Street PAR family members outside of the research project.

Current Progress of PAR members

Employment Outcomes

All PAR members received some form of “quality” employment during and/or after the project’s initial funding period. Employment opportunities making \$15-20 were provided by: (1) University of Delaware; (2) United Way of Wilmington; (3) Christina Cultural Arts Center; and (4) Parkway Academy School District. Most positions located for PAR members were structured on “soft” or grant-based money. **Six PAR family members are presently unemployed.**

Education Outcomes

Five PAR family members enrolled in college during and after the project’s initial funding period. **Two PAR members enrolled in graduate school, and three PAR members enrolled at the undergraduate level.** Two additional members were offered educational opportunities but declined. **Two graduate students and two undergraduate students are currently enrolled in college.**

How Does Wilmington Benefit from this Project?

There are at least four, overall ways in which participants and residents in the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, DE, benefit from the “Safe Communities” Training

⁸ Flagship newspaper for the state of Delaware.

and Employment PAR Project. First, 15 community residents were trained and organized to directly participate in a research project that empirically examined forces that contribute to physical violence within their own communities. In doing so, the 15 Street PAR family members fundamentally shaped the nature of the following six aspects of the study: (1) research questions; (2) theoretical framework; (3) methodological design; (4) data analyses; (5) formal publications; and (6) formal presentations of the study findings. Thus, the Street PAR project, equipped residents, formerly of the streets and/or criminal justice system, with a research skill set that increased their social, professional, and intellectual capital. This is an important step in increasing these communities' capacity for identifying and addressing the challenges they face.

Second, the general voices, concerns, and issues of the residents of the Eastside and Southbridge have been captured empirically—something that should not be underestimated. In most instances, these voices are not systematically documented and, as a consequence, such concerns are more easily ignored by persons and/or institutions in positions of authority (e.g. civic and political leadership). This vital information or data on the people's concerns has been and will continue to be re-presented to a variety of individuals in positions of authority, including those in city, state, and federal agencies. Street PAR family members have organized several community presentations and will continue to present study findings in a variety of venues both within and beyond the local community and the state of Delaware. Also, it should be noted that residents who participated in the study received \$5 for completing a survey and \$10 for completing an interview. In addition, these same participants received resource packages filled with information related to community violence, as well as information on potential counseling, employment and educational opportunities (please see **Appendix J**).

Third, this study provides a methodological road map for community research professionals who seek to work more effectively with and to reach street life-oriented youth and young adults throughout the United States. Understanding notions of physical violence, from the perspective of street life-oriented youth and young adults, is a major contribution to the research literature that can positively impact how community research professionals generate data, as well as develop interventions for this population. Investigators, across the board, struggle to advance viable and authentic conceptualizations of the attitudes and behaviors of street life-oriented youth and young adults in relation to physical violence. Study findings can assist community researchers, service providers, and policymakers to more deeply and critically re-conceptualize notions of physical violence, resiliency, and coping among this population.

Fourth, PAR requires that the research team organize an action or activist based agenda that corresponds to the data generated by the study. Led by Christina Cultural Arts Center, Street PAR family members have used project support to organize well-received, arts-based responses. It should be noted that "action" for this study has been scheduled throughout the duration of the project. Some arts-based products include: (1) PSAs on community violence; (2) homicide art exhibit; (3) documentary; (4) mix-CD on the project's findings; among other "action" products (**See section on Activism by the Wilmington Street PAR family**).

V. Demographic Profile: Population Characteristics of Black Youth and Young Adults on the Eastside and in Southbridge, Wilmington, DE

Residents who participated in this study, by all indications, have experienced an overwhelming amount of psychological, social, and structural trauma. Findings strongly suggest that community violence, in its many forms in Wilmington, Delaware, is deeply tied to structural inequality. Residents of the Southbridge and Eastside communities reported many incidences of being directly and/or indirectly exposed to multiple forms of physical violence, including: (1) physical assaults; (2) knifings; (3) shootings; (4) use and/or sales of drugs; and (5) homicide—to more structural forms of violence such as: (1) unemployment; (2) poor schooling opportunities; (3) unhealthy living conditions; and (4) “failing,” “corrupt,” or “impotent” civic and political leadership. Residents also spoke extensively about what they perceived as “unfair” or invasive law enforcement procedures, including being: (1) profiled and frisked; (2) caught up in raids or sweeps; (3) detained without detention; and/or (4) arrested.

Strikingly, the spirit of community residents remains notably high and optimistic despite the fact that most reported chronic exposure to social and structural violence. Quantitative and qualitative results indicate that residents in the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington are, in fact, resilient. Study findings show that they demonstrated agency and were resourceful, thereby countering dominant public perceptions of low-income Black youth and young adults as having a poor work ethic, being unmotivated to learn and, by and large, disinterested in civic and political issues. Findings conclude that participants, overall, demonstrate positively high levels of: (1) psychological well-being; (2) social well-being; (3) attitudes toward education; (4) and attitudes toward employment. That is, while community residents must cope with high levels of physical violence and significant barriers to socioeconomic opportunity, these data strongly suggest they love themselves, their families and their communities; they want to work; and they want quality educational opportunities.

Community Context: General Population Characteristics

Wilmington is the largest city in the state of Delaware with approximately 74,000 people, and Blacks represent its largest racial group, at approximately 55% or about 40,000 of the city’s total population (City-Data.com; U.S. Census, 2006). Also, Wilmington holds the largest concentration of Delaware’s Black population at approximately 8%. Blacks make up about 19% of Delaware’s total population (City-Data.com; U.S. Census, 2006).

This study was conducted within the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, DE. These neighborhoods are adjacent to one another and sit in the eastern and southeastern most corner of the city. Eastside (7%) and Southbridge (2%), together, account for about 9% of all residents in Wilmington. There are approximately 7,000 Blacks in these two neighborhoods, with nearly 5,000 on the Eastside and 2,000 in Southbridge. According to the 2000 U.S. Census,

there were approximately 1,600 Blacks between the ages of 18-34 living in these two neighborhoods (Porter, 2010; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

Eastside is “the oldest Black community” in Wilmington stretching back to the 1700s when Blacks were routinely brought there as slaves. Southbridge is argued to be the oldest neighborhood overall in Wilmington, beginning in the 1600s with European immigrants. The two neighborhoods are separated by three small drawbridges: (1) William J. Winchester, (2) Leo J. Dugan Sr., and (3) John E. Reilly. Both Eastside and Southbridge are primarily populated by low-income, Black residents, although Black middle- and upper-middle class niches are nested within both neighborhoods. An ever-expanding influx of more wealthy residents can be found in a section of the Eastside considered to be Downtown Wilmington, and higher income residents can also be found in condominiums located at the bottom of the John E. Reilly drawbridge at Christina Landing Drive. Both communities, which share a long and rich legacy in Greater Wilmington, are presently, and have been for some time, challenged with high rates of unemployment, poor educational outcomes, and poor living and environmental conditions, as well as high rates of crime and incarceration.

Violent Crime in Wilmington in 2010

Wilmington has one of the highest per capita homicide rates in the United States. In fact, Wilmington was considered to be the third most violent city of its size (Chalmers & Parra, 2011). The record number of homicides in a single year in Wilmington – 27 – was reached in 2010 (Parra, Porter, & Taylor, A., 2010; Porter, 2010; Porter & Sanginiti, 2010). In this city of 74,000, this translates into a per capita rate of 38 homicides per 100,000 people, which is higher than large cities such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, for instance.

Crimes in Eastside and Southbridge

	Eastside	Southbridge
Assault	547 (7%)	496 (5%)
Aggravated Assault	151 (6%)	145 (6%)
Drugs	444 (6%)	209 (3%)
Weapons	140 (5%)	129 (5%)
Stolen Property	19 (3%)	16 (14%)
Prostitution	4 (13%)	3 (10%)
Homicide	2 (3%)	2 (3%)

In 2010, Wilmington also recorded 197.5 violent crimes per 10,000 people, a 3.3% overall increase in violent crime, and a 13% increase in property crime from the prior year (Chalmers, 2011). Wilmington crime account for 25% of all crime in the state of Delaware. Also, it should be noted that in 2011, Wilmington was determined to be the most violent or dangerous city in the United States, as a function of its physical violence and sex offense per capita rates (Goldman, 2012; *Parenting Magazine*, 2012; Staub, 2012).

Crime data reveal that most street crime in the city, particularly physical violence, occurs mostly in the Northside, Riverside, and/or the Westside sections of Wilmington, and not necessarily within the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods. The types of crime that Eastside and Southbridge, in particular, struggle with include assault and the use and possession of illegal

drugs and weapons. These crimes, in totality, account for nearly 30% of Wilmington's overall crime rate (Porter, 2010).

Neighborhood Portraits

Eastside

Historically, Eastside is where the oldest settlement of Blacks in Wilmington can be found. It is made up of two distinct sections: (1) the Downtown or central location of Wilmington, which is a smaller but considerably wealthier section; and (2) the larger and poorer Eastside. Numerous banks, restaurants, shops, a riverfront, condominiums, and the like are located in the downtown section of the Eastside.

Strikingly, Downtown Wilmington, an area teeming with economic opportunity, literally sits side-by-side with mostly low-income, Black Eastside—a much larger section of the Eastside. Walnut Street is a major dividing line between extreme economic poverty and extreme wealth in Downtown Wilmington. Literally one block east of Walnut Street can be found some of the poorest Black neighborhoods in the United States. Low-income housing tenements like Bethel Villa Apartments, Compton Townhouse Apartments, countless row homes, boarded up buildings, several basketball courts, Herman Holloway Jr. Park, historic institutions like People's Settlement Association, Central Baptist Church, and Bancroft school, can be found strewn throughout this section of the Eastside. Also, one can find several popular neighborhoods stores on 4th Street. The very trendy mom-and-pop store, *One Stop Music and DVD*, sits between North Tatnall and Orange Streets on 4th Street and commands Black youths' attention on the Eastside on any given day.

Also, the now closed urban fiction store (next to One Stop) and the infamous, but recently closed *Made for Men Barbershop*, which sat between Market St. and North Shipley on 4th Street, added to the rich urban flavor and legacy on 4th Street. Incidentally, Damon Gist, Jr., a five-year-old boy, was accidentally shot and killed in the *Made for Men Barbershop* on March 9, 2001, by three gunmen who also killed the intended victim Darnell Evans by shooting him four times. *Made for Men Barbershop* eventually closed in May 2011. Before it closed Jonathon Wilson, a former barber for *Made for Men Barbershop* and a Street PAR family member, hosted a well-attended youth violence forum/panel in the barbershop in tribute to Damon Gist, Jr. and others slain by gun violence in Wilmington. Several Street PAR family members spoke or presented at this forum.

Youth and young adults on the Eastside and in Southbridge were openly supportive of the Wilmington Street PAR family conducting this study in their community. A number of residents expressed that this project provided them with an opportunity to frame their concerns through their own perspectives. Some residents were so excited by our presence in the community that they held long conversations with us “on the block” or, literally, “in the streets” of Eastside or Southbridge, often making comments like, “now this is a survey I feel comfortable filling out.” Conversations with participants in the streets of their own communities included discussions on

prison re-entry, law enforcement, civic and political leadership, and employment and educational opportunities, and residents' personal experiences with physical violence. For instance, while collecting survey data on the Eastside in July 2010, a young man named *William Grimes* enthusiastically approached the team to show and talked with us about gunshot wounds he received in September 2009 when he was robbed in the streets, just a block away from where we were collecting data and he completed his survey. On this same day, approximately one block away, a young *Ms. Mikeshia Washington* approached the Street PAR family to talk about and show us several of her stab wounds. Residents in general welcomed us in their communities, as many openly noted that our project captured and provided a public voice for many of their concerns and needs.

Southbridge

Southbridge is Wilmington's oldest neighborhood as well as the smallest in the city. Southbridge has a small, gentrified section at the end of the John E. Reilly drawbridge on A Street between South Market Street and South East Walnut Street. In this small corner of Southbridge is a large ShopRite grocery store, a gas station, and a variety of small businesses. However, the larger Southbridge community has comparatively little formal economic activity and is mostly populated by low-income, Black people. The larger Southbridge reveals a stark decline in socioeconomic conditions. In fact, very few stores or commercial enterprises are located in this area of Southbridge. Nevertheless, this part of Southbridge is the heart of the community and home to many lively residents who are openly critical, indebted to, and/or proud of "The South." Often, spirited conversations can be heard at the intersection of New Castle Avenue and A Street. In the four corners of this intersection are: (1) the recently closed *Runn Way Unisex and Hair Salon*; (2) the *K-N-F Market Store*; (3) *Dugan's Liquors*; and (4) the especially small, but very frequented, Winston Truitt Park. A little further down A Street, at the intersection of A Street and South Claymont Street, can be found the small but "jumping" *City Tavern* - a local bar frequented by Black, young adults. The *City Tavern* and *Marvin's Cas Bar* (which generally serves older Black clientele) are where a number of community social events are held. Some residents spoke nostalgically about the *International Longshoremen Association*, between Lobdell Street and E Street, another location in which numerous social events are organized. Across from *Marvin's Cas Bar* is a noticeably run-down *BP* gas station. This gas station is located on South Heald Street, across from a number of apartments, rowhomes, and small, single family homes. On any given summer day, one can find several men, a number of whom are homeless, willing to assist patrons of the gas station for tips.

Several civic, religious, and nonprofit institutions serve the larger Southbridge community. Neighborhood House, Ezion Fair Baptist Church (one of 13 churches within the neighborhood's one square mile radius), Elbert-Palmer Elementary School, Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, Mr. Larry's Wilmington Housing Authority Southbridge Youth Academy, and the now closed the D-Street Hope Zone, a community satellite site for the Wilmington Hope Commission, are a few of the social institutions found in the Southbridge community.

Southbridge Public Housing is the community's centrally located and largest housing complex. Adjacent to the "Southbridge projects" are numerous small homes, including a wide assortment

of row homes, two to three family homes, and single-family homes, some of which are boarded up. Elbert-Palmer Park, a historic Wilmington site, is surrounded on one side by the Southbridge projects, while small homes line the other side.

Meet Some Participants

- **Richard (19):** Richard is a single, light-skinned, 19-year old-Black male. I first met Richard at the funeral of his 16-year-old friend, Dayveair Golden, who died from gun violence in Southbridge on December 9, 2009. Melodie Robinson, a Street PAR member, is the Godmother of Dayveair and good friend to his mother, Yadira, a young lady we later interviewed for this study. At the funeral repast, Richard exclaimed, “Make sure to capture in your (research) project how some Black youth in Southbridge live in homes with refrigerators with no food in them...or live in homes with no heat during the winter... Make sure to capture that in your (research) project.”

Richard’s small, thin bodily frame almost seems out of place with his giant and optimistic spirit. He lives in Southbridge and, on occasion, stays with his mother and eight-year-old sister in suburban Newark, Delaware. His father died several years ago under suspicious circumstances. Richard dropped out of school in 9th grade and later acquired his G.E.D. Currently, he is unemployed. Admittedly, he “ran the streets” of Wilmington and had been jailed for a short stint. In fact, he was 14 when he was first placed on probation.

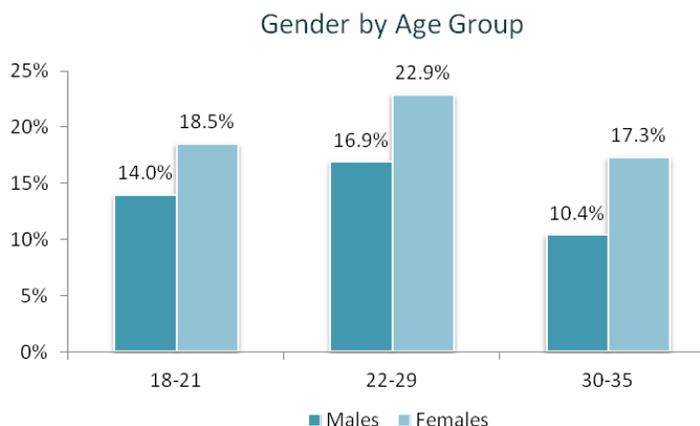
- **Leslie (31):** Leslie is a single, light brown-skinned, 31-year-old Black woman with three children—two girls and one boy—ranging from ages three to 12. Her skin, particularly within the creases of her face, carries the vestiges of deep fatigue. At the time of the interview, Leslie was technically homeless, staying with her children in a variety of places on the Eastside for the last four years. Leslie attributes her son misbehaving in school and her daughter engaging in negative behavior to her unemployment and unstable living situation. Leslie says, “One woman [at a social agency]... told me... that if I don't find housin', that she was gonna call... DFS [Department of Family Services] ... [to] take my kids away because I don't have housing for my kids.”
- **Rennie Rox (35):** Rennie Rox is a single, light-skinned, 35-year-old Black male who resides on the Eastside. He says his family is “established” on the Eastside, particularly on or around “9th and Pine,” underscoring that his family is well known and has lived for some time in that section of the city. Rennie graduated in 1993 from John Dickinson High School, which is located in Newark, Delaware. He is well known in the Wilmington community for being a street videographer and owner/CEO of *Rennie Rox Films*. Rennie admits to formerly engaging in the sale of narcotics. In fact, he speaks of how his father and other family members and loved ones sold illegal narcotics as well. These experiences eventually culminated in Rennie’s incarceration at age 19, when he was sentenced to 10 years for drug possession. His two stints in prison became the catalysts for Rennie to make a major, positive change in his life.
- **Lanise (34):** Lanise is a single, dark-skinned, 34-year-old Black woman who is majoring in nursing at Delaware Tech Community College in Wilmington, Delaware. Her

worldview is grounded in Orthodox Sunni Islam, which she attributes to saving her from this world. “Once I became Muslim and I entered Islam,” she says, “... my life changed... This is the foundation of the very essence of how I run my household. ... Actually, [Islam] came to me through a dream.”

Lanise is originally from Chester, Pennsylvania but has lived in Southbridge since October 2008. Unfortunately, she lost her father at the age of 13 and presently has an estranged relationship with her mother. Lanise lives with her four sons, ages three to 11, in public housing or “the projects” in Southbridge. She is very concerned about the physical violence she observes in her neighborhood, given that she is a mother with young children.

Study Population Characteristics

A population assessment of the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, Delaware reveals a rich but varied portrait of community residents. The study’s survey sample consists of 520 Black American men and women between the ages of 18-35. Women make up about 60% of participants, while men account for nearly 40%. Participants, on average, are 25 years of age ($SD=5.41$). Participants were separated into the following three age groups for analysis: (a) 18-21 (33.3%); (b) 22-29 (39.4%); and (c) 30-35 (27.3%). The survey sample was organized into these three age-cohorts to examine the intergenerational transmission of physical and structural violence.



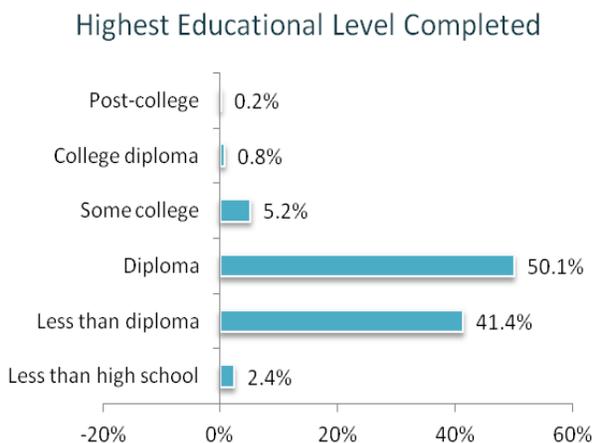
Sixty-four percent of study participants resided on the Eastside, while about 23% resided in the much smaller, Southbridge community. About 13% of participants lived outside of these two neighborhoods but reported frequenting both communities. Most study participants were, at some point, involved with the streets and/or criminal justice system, and all reported having been directly and/or indirectly impacted by community violence.

Education

Results strongly suggest that study participants were struggling with inadequate educational opportunities in Wilmington. Although high school graduation rates for this sample are poor, their reported rates are, nonetheless, considerably higher than official city estimates. According to city estimates, Black youth from Wilmington are presently struggling with a dropout rate at nearly 60%, a 65% Black male dropout rate and, in some neighborhoods like Southbridge, a 100% Black male dropout rate (Porter, 2010, Taylor and Porter, 2009).

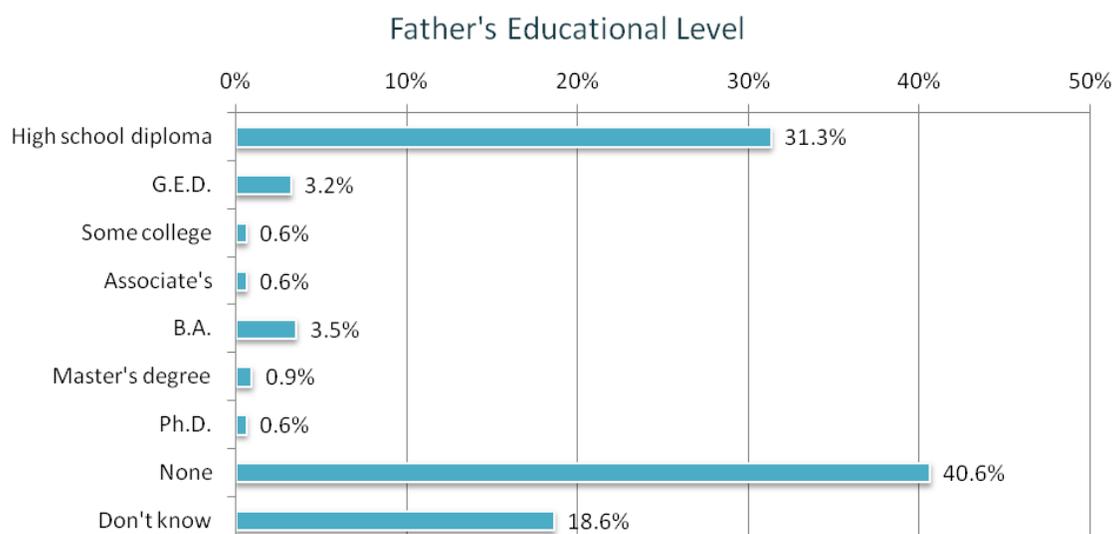
Approximately 44% (N=503) of the study sample has less than a high school diploma, the vast majority (41.4%) of whom reported dropping out at some point during high school. Conversely, about 56% of participants reported having a high school diploma, and a little over 6% reported having some post-secondary education.

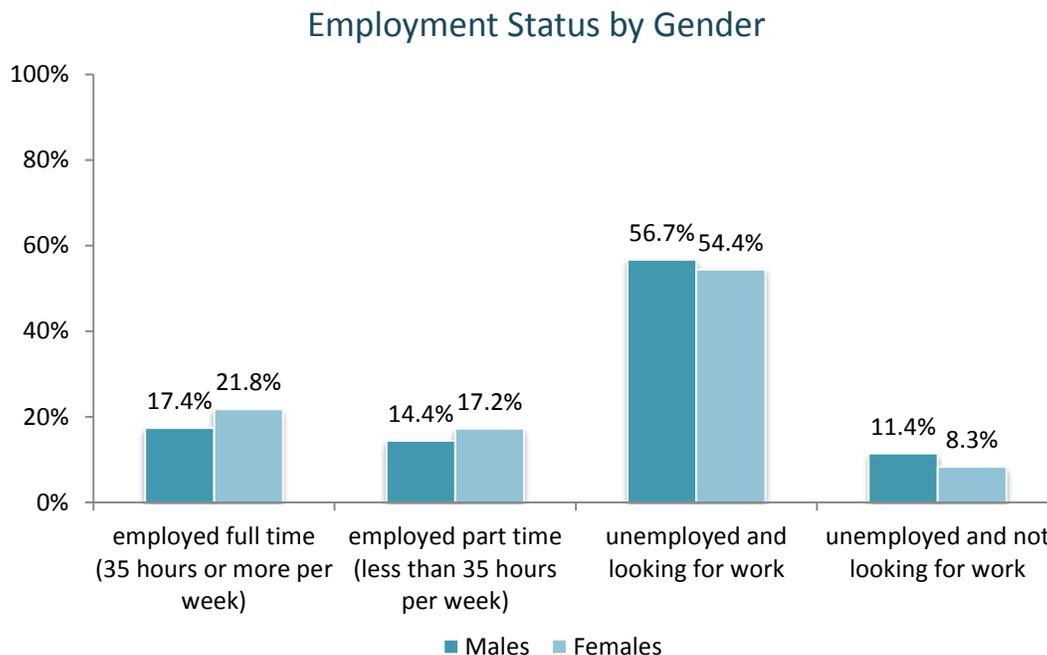
To more deeply understand educational background, all survey participants were asked about their parents' education to determine to what extent *parental educational background* is consistent with or predictive of *participant educational background*. Approximately, 58% of



participants reported that their *mothers* attained a high school diploma or G.E.D. Also, at least 11% of the sample reported that their mothers had obtained an undergraduate degree, and 4% reported that their mothers had post-bachelors experience. Contrarily, about 42% of participants reported that their mothers did not graduate high school (31%), or that they *do not know* their mother's level of educational attainment (11.1%).

As might be expected, fathers' reported levels of education were comparatively lower. Only about 41% of participants reported that their fathers had obtained a high school diploma or G.E.D. (see chart below). Only 5% of participants reported that their fathers had obtained an undergraduate degree, and about 2% reported their fathers had post bachelors experience. **Alarmingly, 59% of participants reported that their father's did not graduate high school (40.6%), or that they do not know their father's level of educational attainment (18.6%).**





Most participants, across interview methods, while critical of Black youth and their performance in school, were much more critical of the school system. In fact, participants spoke pointedly about how educational institutions were grossly under-preparing Black youth in Wilmington for quality educational and employment opportunities after high school. **Dionne**, a 29-year-old Black woman and parent, argued that blocked opportunity or “politics” were at the center of why low-income Black youth from Wilmington received a lesser quality education than more privileged middle and upper middle class students who typically reside outside their neighborhoods. She also believed that institutional racism accounts for the inadequate educational experiences that low-income Black youth from Wilmington receive. Dionne described “charter schools” as the best option for “our children,” given that traditional public schools, in most instances, do not have the capacity to prepare low-income, Black youth for college. As a parent, she openly stated that if she had a “choice” she would rather send her a child to a “white school” because these schools offer a “better education.”

Aaron, who is a 29-year-old Black, male school teacher and formerly of *the streets*, argued that children from troubled homes or low-income backgrounds need more “love” from teachers and other school officials. According to Aaron, school officials could greatly reduce school violence and increase academic performance if they were more willing to engage in genuine relationship building with low-income, Black students.

Darryl: What does... a child that has a mother on drugs or a father that's not around, what does he act like in school?

Aaron (29): ... sometimes you have these kids that are all withdrawn and just don't want to associate with anybody. And then other times you have these kids who want to lash out with fighting everybody.... *anybody gets in their way, they want to fight them because they don't know what love is. They don't know what*

affection is. I mean, just think about if we could say to our kids... [including] kids we don't know, "How you doing brother? I love you." I mean, just think about how that would change a [student's] perspective.

Employment

According to most participants surveyed, employment opportunities were bleak. Approximately 64% (N=504) of survey respondents reported being unemployed, and 54% were actively looking for work. Employment outcomes are more revealing when exploring employment status in relation to gender (see chart below).

Women fair slightly better than men in terms of employment outcomes. Thirty-nine percent of women report full- or part-time employment, while approximately 32% of men report full- or part-time employment. Conversely and most shockingly, 68% of men in this study reported that they were unemployed, 57% of which were actively looking for work. Women reported similarly in that approximately 63% were unemployed, 54% of which were actively looking for work.

Approximately 64% (N=504) of survey respondents reported being unemployed...

Also, about two-thirds of study participants reported having no trade or construction experience.

Participants who were fortunate enough to be employed, typically engaged in various types of low-skill, low-wage work. Also, most who were employed were *underemployed*; that is, they engaged in low-wage employment that made it difficult for them to take care of their day-to-day financial needs. This placed them in a perpetual cycle of debt and/or economic poverty. Fifty-one percent (N=134) of all employment reported by study participants included: (a) manual labor (17.3%), retail cashier (17.3%); and (c) clerical work (16.5%). Further, nearly one-third of employment was in: (a) food service (9.8%); (b) healthcare (8.3%); (c) social work (7.5%); and (d) domestic work (6.8%).

Richard (19) described how most of his friends in Wilmington were unemployed, which strongly supports the survey-based employment findings that *about two-thirds of all participants and nearly seven out of 10 men reported that they were unemployed*. Richard, like several other participants, suspected that in communities like Southbridge, structural conditions perpetuated economic poverty from one generation to the next. He explained, how he and others were, “born into (economic) poverty,” and how the lack of quality employment leads most youth in Southbridge to *the streets*. He even argued that as structural inequality is passed on from generation to the next, so are the ideologies and activities of *the streets*—passed on, one generation to the next—as a strategy for low-income, Black men to cope with persistent and profound structural or economic violence.

Richard (19): You know, it's [employment] crazy! ... *I don't really got no friends in the city that got a job, 'cept my white friend...* Even some of the older people, man, don't even got jobs... 'Cause like I said, *we born into poverty, dog. We born into this game* [of poverty & the streets], *dog. I wasn't in this game for fun. It was just passed down from father to son...*

Richard alerted me to fact that a number of residents in Southbridge do not have basic resources or the capacity to effectively seek employment. He exclaimed that basic resources like a “computer,” the “internet,” a “car,” or access to transportation, are not conveniently available to

most residents in Southbridge. Also, given that this neighborhood is located in the margins of the southern end of Wilmington, a lack of access to transportation prevents many residents from traveling into larger Wilmington. As Richard points out, the “good payin’ jobs,” are actually located in the, “middle of the city.”

Richard (19): *And Southbridge.. I could name... two people [who] got computers in they crib [home]... [that actually] have working internet... it's hard to look for a job when you ain't got no money, you gotta get on a bus, you gotta go here and there to fill out applications... You gotta leave Southbridge... when I lived in Southbridge, I never left Southbridge..... (it's not) no real good payin' jobs unless it's in the middle of the city where you workin' in a big building or whatever, or construction...*

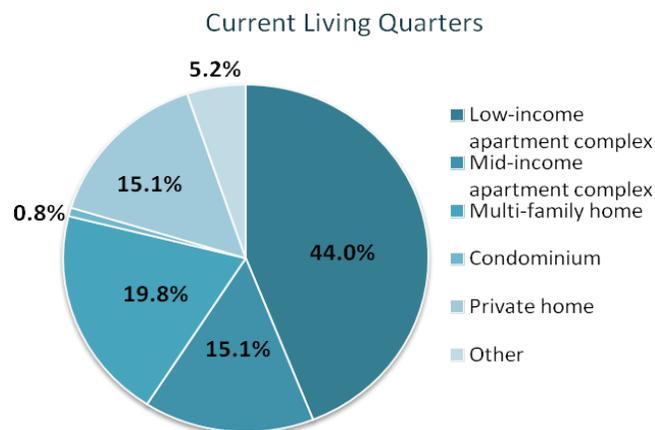
Richard was incarcerated for a small stint and dropped out of high school, but later acquired his G.E.D. to seek better employment and to eventually pursue college. He noted that although his educational background and prior involvement with the criminal justice system may impact his ability to gain quality employment, he will not give up because he genuinely “want(s) more” out of life than “to sit on a back porch and smoke weed all day.”

Richard (19): *I've been lookin' (for a job) since I got home (from prison). I got my GED now... I want more than a low income house, dog. I want more than to sit on a back porch and smoke weed all day, you know what I mean? I want more than a... banging car with rims... I want more than what I see.*

Living Conditions

Most study participants (64%/N=516) described their living quarters as meeting the criteria for low-income housing. In fact, 44% of participants noted they lived in a “low-income apartment complex” and approximately 20% reporting they dwelled in a “multi-family home.” In this study, a “multi-family home” is defined as a single-family home in which several low-income families reside with clear demarcations for each respective family.

It appears that a considerably smaller group of lower-middle to upper-middle income individuals live among the larger population of low-income residents in the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods. At least 30% of study participants reported living in lower to middle income residences, with approximately 15% reporting living in a “middle-income apartment complex” and 15% living in a “private home.” On average, residents reported living with slightly over four other persons (SD=1.95). The range for this item



- “number of occupants you currently live with” - spanned from one to 13 other persons living inside a single home (N=507). **Also, it is noteworthy that a majority of residents in this study lived with children; 58% (N=389) of the sample reported living with one or more children, although they may not have been biologically related to all of the children in the**

home. In any event, this finding is noteworthy given that most participants are street identified.

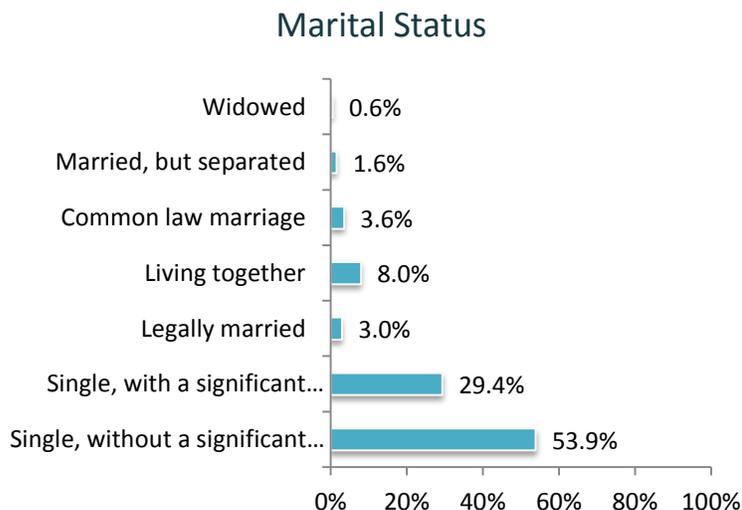
Most participants who were interviewed described a wide range of living conditions from homes that were very clean and orderly to those that were infested with roaches or mice. Residents were clear that there was “no one type” of residence “in the ‘hood” or Wilmington. It should be noted that participants willingly disclosed that there was a lack of resources in a critical mass of homes, such as a shortage of quality food, “no heat in the winter,” and temporary loss of electricity.

Rennie Rox (35) describes the paradox of good and poor living conditions occurring within his home as a child. As a child, he experienced “having the bills paid for,” by his father who provided a quality lifestyle for his family through his involvement in streets activities. However, Rennie Rox also remembered a very different home as a child—a home rife with economic poverty, prior to his father’s involvement in illegal activity.

Rennie Rox (35): I mean... wasn't nothin' new [in the home]. ... you talkin' about books holdin' up couches... you might not have a bed frame. Your mattress and your box spring's on the floor. *The typical poverty Wilmington situation.* But I never take nothin' away from my mother... she tried everything she could to make sure that we had a hot meal every night, even if it was just... breakfast food... We're... gonna make some French toast or somethin' tonight [laughter].... I love my mom to death. She's... the inspiration for me...

Marital Status

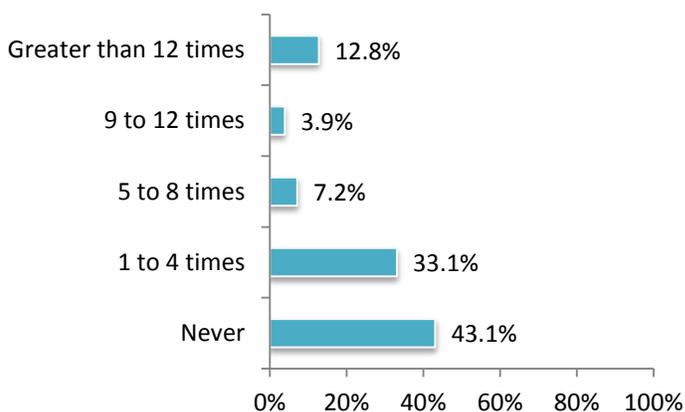
The vast majority of residents surveyed (91%/N=503) reported that they were “single” or unmarried. This may be attributed, in part, to the age range of the study’s sample (18-35). Put another way, this might be expected, given that the target sample is mostly relatively young. However, it might be expected that older participants in this sample would be married, especially those between 30-35 years of age. Nearly 54% reported that they are “single, without a significant partner” while 29% said they “are single, with a significant partner.” Only 3% identified as being “legally married.” Approximately 6% of the sample reported being in some form of “marriage”: (1) “legally married”; (2) “common law marriage”; (3) “married but separated”; or (4) “widowed.”



Arrests and Incarceration

Arrest data strongly suggest that community residents' interactions with the police are mostly negative (e.g. arrests) and are not accompanied by enough pro-social activities with law enforcement. *A critical mass of youth and young adults are repeatedly arrested and/or exposed to fellow residents being arrested in the Eastside and Southbridge communities.*

Number of times picked up, arrested, or taken away by police



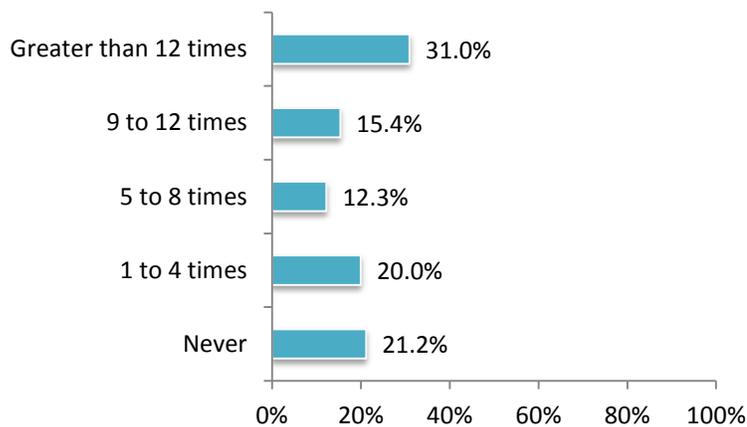
Fifty-seven percent (N=517) of this sample, poignantly, reported being, “picked up, arrested, or taken away by police” at some point in their life. Of those previously arrested, one-third reported being arrested between 1 and 4 times while approximately 13% reported having been arrested or taken away by police more than 12 times in their life. Thirty-eight percent had been arrested within one to five years prior to participating in the study, with an overwhelming 62% (N=279) reporting that they were, “picked up, arrested, or taken

away by police,” within the year prior to completing the survey. These data suggest the likelihood of a smaller variant of individuals who are repeatedly arrested.

Furthermore, results strongly suggest community residents are all too often exposed to Black youth and young adults being arrested by local police officers. Consistently observing mostly Black male bodies being carted away undoubtedly has a significant impact on the personal and communal consciousness of all residents in the Eastside and Southbridge communities.

Approximately 80% of participants (N=519) reported having, “seen someone else picked up, arrested, or taken away by police” at some point in their life. Forty-six percent of participants have seen someone being arrested at least nine or more times in their life. Fifty-four percent (N=519) reported witnessing someone being arrested *within the last week*, and approximately 77% reported seeing someone being arrested *within the last three months* of completing this survey.

Seen someone else picked up, arrested, or taken away by police



Once again, these data strongly suggest that there are far too many negative interactions between police and residents. The onslaught of negative policing and surveillance activities in these neighborhoods more than likely has a profound impact on the psychic and emotional stability of these communities. In addition, data suggest these two neighborhoods are also overwhelmed by the wholesale removal and mass incarceration of Black men.

Length of Last Incarceration

Less than 3 months	39.8%
3 to 6 months	21.1%
Greater than 6 months to one year	13.0%
Greater than 1 year to 3 years	20.5%
Greater than 3 years to 6 years	3.7%
7 to 12 years	1.9%

Participants who were comfortable enough (N=136) to identify, “Charges that led to [their] last incarceration,” reported mostly non-violent crimes and periods of incarcerations that were usually less than one year. Seventy-two percent of all reported convictions involved: (1) sales of narcotics (36%); (2) physical assault (22.1%); and (3) theft/burglary/fraud (14%). Approximately 74% of those who reported (N=161) the “length of [their] last incarceration,” were incarcerated for a year or less. In fact, most respondents (61%) indicated they were incarcerated for 6 months or less, and of this group, nearly 40% noted they were jailed for 3 months or less.

Healthcare

Seventy percent of participants (N=514) indicated they had access to healthcare, with 64% (N=507) reporting Medicaid as their healthcare provider. Not surprisingly, women in this sample reported greater use of Medicaid than men. Specifically, 78% of women and approximately 44% of men in this study report Medicaid as their healthcare provider. Also, a relatively small number of participants (12%/N=498) reported having gone to the emergency room as a result of an act of violence, suggesting that most participants have not been hospitalized due to an act of physical violence.

In summary, the study’s survey sample (n=520) is made up of mostly street identified, Black-American men (40%) and women (60%) between the ages of 18-35 who reside in (87%) or regularly frequent (13%) the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, Delaware. Overall, the demographic profile of this sample strongly suggest that most participants are struggling with inadequate living or housing conditions and employment and educational opportunities, in addition to an adverse relationship with local law enforcement and/or the larger criminal justice system.

VI. Exposure to and Experiences with Physical Violence

Physical violence is prevalent within Eastside and Southbridge in that most community residents are, in varying ways, directly and/or indirectly affected by physical violence. Survey and interview data reveal that *most* participants have *witnessed community residents* being victimized by physical violence and only *some* participants have been *personally* victimized by physical violence. Respondents report specifically observing and/or personally experiencing instances of being threatened, robbed or “mugged,” physically assaulted—to experiences with stabbings or knifings, being shot at and/or actually shot by a firearm. **Poignantly, a majority of participants reported losing at least one family member (55%/498) and/or one friend (59%/495) to gun violence.**

Although these data reveal that instances of physical violence abound, it is vitally important that readers properly contextualize the physical violence reported. **Violence does not mostly define or represent the lived experiences and spirit of these two communities. In fact, findings concurrently reflect a much deeper spirit of compassion and humanity among the study participants and residents of the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods** (see sections for data on psychological and social well-being). Also, it should be underscored, once again, that the theoretical positioning of this study explicitly conceptualizes structural inequality as largely predictive of expressions of physical violence (Alexander, 2010; Payne, 2008; Payne, 2011; Payne & Brown, 2010; Rios, 2011; Wilson, 1996; 2008). Specifically, **a lack of economic and educational opportunity has led to inordinate instances of physical violence within the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, Delaware.**

...a lack of economic and educational opportunity has led to inordinate instances of physical violence...

Participants, by and large, argued that in comparison to other Wilmington neighborhoods, residents on the Eastside or in Southbridge did not generally understand

their communities as struggling with *lethal forms of violence* like major drug trafficking, knifings, gun violence and/or homicide. Instead, participants overall argued that these two neighborhoods were mostly affected by *less lethal forms of physical violence*, such as moderate levels of sales and use of narcotics, theft/burglary/fraud, and physical assault. Life threatening forms of violence were understood by participants as more likely to occur in other local neighborhoods regarded as more dangerous, such as the Westside, Northside, or Riverside sections of Wilmington. This interpretation of physical violence by participants is, in fact, consistent with citywide/neighborhood level data on violent crime (Porter, 2010).

For instance, **Pop-Pop Solid Muhammad (19)** described the Eastside, a neighborhood he lived in as a small boy and still frequented, as mostly affected by “juvenile violence” as opposed to “adult violence.” “Juvenile violence,” for Pop-Pop Solid Muhammad, represents less lethal forms of physical violence, and he argued that the Eastside has struggled mostly with issues of *substance abuse* and *bullying among youth*. He contended that neighborhoods like “Riverside,” where he also resided, is where more serious forms of “adult violence” take place in Wilmington. Ultimately, Pop-Pop Solid Muhammad asserted that economic and educational opportunities, the

level of neighborhood social cohesion, and individual characteristics (e.g., self-esteem) influence the way physical violence manifested on the Eastside and in any other like neighborhood.

Kenyatta (Street PAR member): How long have you lived over in **Riverside**?

Pop-Pop Solid Muhammad (19): First seven years of my life.... I [also] lived over [in the] **Eastside** from about 8 to 13 ([years of age].... **between 7th and 8th and Church**....

Kenyatta (Street PAR member):: What's it like over in **Riverside**?

Pop-Pop Solid Muhammad (19): ...more of a closer community. Less individuality (among residents in comparison to other neighborhoods), but [Riverside, has] a higher percentage of um, violence. (In the Eastside)...more **juvenile violence** than **adult violence** (occurs), but still the same amount of drug activity [exist in the Eastside as in Riverside].

Kenyatta (Street PAR member):: How would you describe **juvenile violence** in the **Eastside**?

Pop-Pop Solid Muhammad (19): [There is] more of proving yourself over (in the) **Eastside**... Over at **Eastside** it don't matter if there ain't no fighting [really going on] - people [or youth still] pick on you, that's how it was when I lived over there.....

Kenyatta (Street PAR member):: What would make someone engage in violence?

Pop-Pop Solid Muhammad (19): Sense of pride, um, low self esteem, peer pressure, you know your basic sucker stuff.

Incidentally, several months after this interview, Pop-Pop Solid Muhammad or Dominique Muhammad Chambers-Helms was shot and killed. This occurred on September 14, 2011, between 8:30-9:00pm, when he was just shy of his 20th birthday on September 23. After an argument with the perpetrator, Mr. Chambers was shot once through the chest on the front porch of his home and literally died his mother's arms (Chalmers & Sanginiti, 2011; Jankowski, Jr., 2011). Dominique or Muhammad (his Muslim name) is the late son of Street PAR family member, Darryl Chambers.

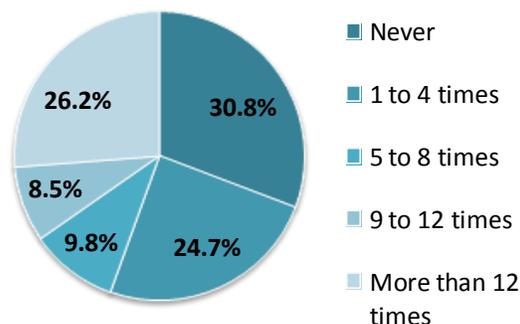
Communal Exposure to Physical Violence

An unusually high number of participants report being chronically exposed to physical violence. Also, these data strongly suggest that community residents, overall, are profoundly affected by the violence that they observe. Extensive descriptive data show that most participants, at some point in their lives, witnessed other residents either being, (1) threatened with assault, (2) actually assaulted or mugged by an individual, (3) chased by a group of people, and/or (4) seriously injured as a result of violence. Most participants also reported having experienced the loss of loved-ones due to gun violence. Although most had at least some exposure to these forms of violence, a smaller variant of the sample had been *repeatedly* exposed to these forms of violence.

Residents Threatened with Assault

Roughly 70% of participants (n=519) reported seeing “someone else being threatened with serious physical harm.” About 26% noted they observed an individual being seriously threatened, “more than 12 times,” in their life. Notably, most participants also reported having *recently* observed an incident of threat. For instance, approximately 86% of participants (n=343) reported last observing someone being seriously threatened within the *last year*, and 72% reported last witnessing such activity within the *last six months*. Also, shockingly, 56% of participants indicated that they saw someone seriously threatened within the *last month*, and approximately 40% *within a week* prior to completing this survey.

How many times have you seen someone else threatened with serious bodily harm?

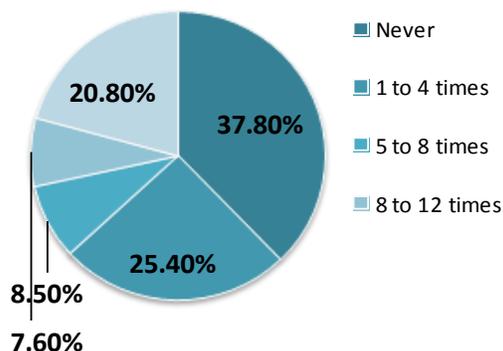


Residents Assaulted or Mugged

Findings reveal that the majority of participants had observed someone being physically assaulted or robbed. About 62% of the survey sample (n=516) had seen, “someone else beat up or mugged” at some point in their life, while approximately 21% observed such activities, “more than 12 times in their life.” Although most participants witnessed this street activity, these data suggest that a smaller variant of the sample (21%) had been repeatedly exposed to experiences of people being, “beaten up or mugged.”

Poignantly, most participants also reported having *recently* observed other residents being assaulted or robbed for their personal possessions. Eighty-one percent of respondents (n=308) noted they last saw someone assaulted or “mugged” within *the last year* and approximately 64% of participants last saw this type of activity within the *last six months*. At least 27% of respondents reported witnessing such activity within a *week* prior to completing this survey, again suggesting that a smaller variant is being repeatedly exposed to such activity.

"How many times have you seen someone else being beaten up or mugged?"



Residents Chased by a Group of People

Most participants reported that they had, at some point, witnessed a community resident, “being chased by gangs or individuals.” Approximately 55% of the sample (n=515) had seen someone chased by a group of people at least one time. About 19% had seen this “more than 12 times” in their life which suggest that a smaller variant of the sample had been chronically exposed to community residents being chased by a group of people. Interestingly, those who witnessed this reported observing this either a few times (one to four) or extensively (greater than 12 times).

Gender was found to be significant for this item. Men were more likely to have observed someone being “chased” by a group of people. About two-thirds of men, as compared to half of women, reported witnessing a community resident being “chased” by a group of people. Although the difference was small, men (26.9%) were more likely than women (23.8%) to have observed a resident being “chased” between “one to four times,” and about 14% more likely than women to report seeing someone “chased” more “than 12 times.” Approximately 27% of men and 13% of women in this study reported having observed someone being “chased” 12 times or more in their life.

Seriously Injured Person

Most participants reported having observed a “seriously injured” individual. Sadly, nearly 60% of participants (n=518) had “seen a seriously injured person after an incident of violence.” About 16% reported seeing a “seriously injured person” 12 or more times. Eighty percent of those (n=310) who had seen someone in this condition noted that they saw this within *the last year*, and approximately 56% of these participants last saw someone in this physical state within the *last six months*. At least 19% of respondents reported last witnessing someone “seriously injured” within a *week* prior to completing this survey.

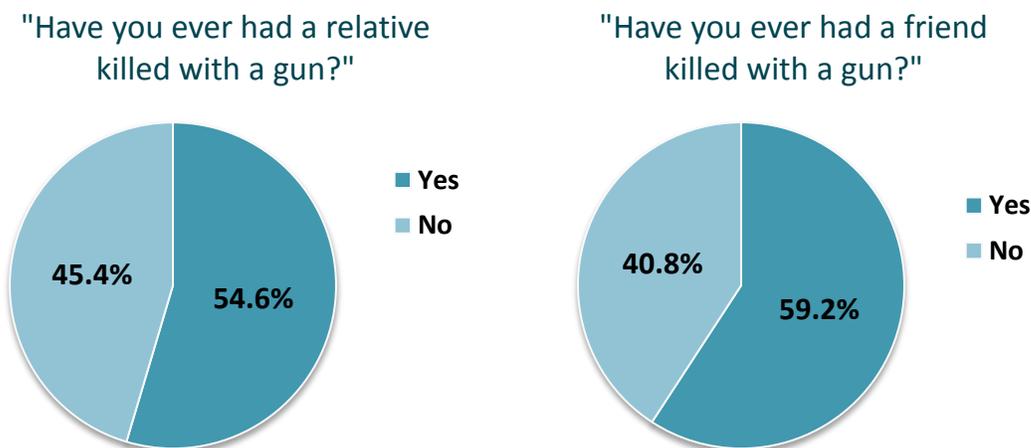
Loss of Loved-One to Gun Violence

Surprisingly, most participants in this study were found to have lost a loved-one as a result of gun violence. Approximately, 55% of participants (N=498) chillingly reported at least one “relative killed with a gun.” When asked “who was the relative,” 70% of respondents (n=263) reported a “cousin” and 15% noted a “brother” as the relative lost to gun violence. Also, there was no significant difference found for this item as a function of age, gender, or age/gender interaction. This strongly suggests that men and women across age in this sample are experiencing the loss of loved ones as a function of gun violence at about the same rate.

Nearly 60% of participants (n=495) in this study reported the loss of at least one “friend” as a result of gun violence. On average, participants were approximately 18 years of age (SD= 5.0 years) when they lost a “friend” to gun violence. The age range for this item spanned between four and 34 years.

No significant difference was found for a “friend killed with a gun” as a function of age, gender, and age/gender interaction. This strongly suggests, as in the previous finding, that men and

women across age in this sample are also experiencing the loss of a “friend” as a function of gun violence at about the same rate.



Overall results for chronic exposure to physical violence reveal that most participants have observed other community residents being victimized by physical violence. Participants observed other residents being: (1) threatened with assault, (2) physically assaulted or “mugged” by an individual, (3) chased by a group of people, and (4) “seriously injured” as a result of violence. Further, most participants indicated they had lost loved-ones to gun violence. Findings also reveal that although most had been exposed to these forms of violence, a smaller variant of the sample had been *repeatedly* and *recently* exposed.

These data strongly suggest the need for more research on the short and long-term psychic and emotional consequences of chronic exposure to physical violence in poor, urban communities of color. Extant research suggests a strong link between exposure to both physical and structural violence and emotional distress (Galea et al., 2007; Ross, 2000). *To what extent is life satisfaction impacted by the constant witnessing of instances of interpersonal violence?*

Personal Experiences with Physical Violence

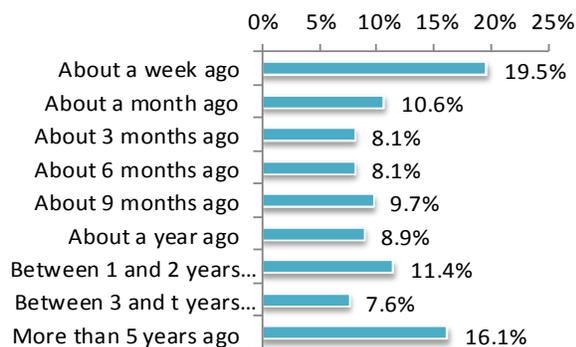
This subsection focuses on those data that provide evidence of the extent to which participants were personally *victimized* by physical violence. Unlike data revealed for *chronic exposure to physical violence*, **most participants were not found to be victimized by physical violence**, suggesting that most community residents overall, at least in these two neighborhoods, have not personally experienced inordinate instances of physical violence. *Some participants*, however, did report being, (1) threatened with assault, (2) actually assaulted by an individual, (3) assaulted and robbed, (4) chased by a group of people, (5) assaulted with a knife and/or (6) shot with a firearm. These data reveal a smaller variant of respondents that have been *chronically victimized* by physical violence.

Threatened with Assault

Slightly more than half of participants reported that they were “never seriously threatened” by another individual or community resident. In fact, 53% of participants (n=518) reported “never” been “threatened with serious physical harm by someone.” About 23% of respondents reported being seriously “threatened” at least “one to four times” and 15% “more than 12 times” in their life.

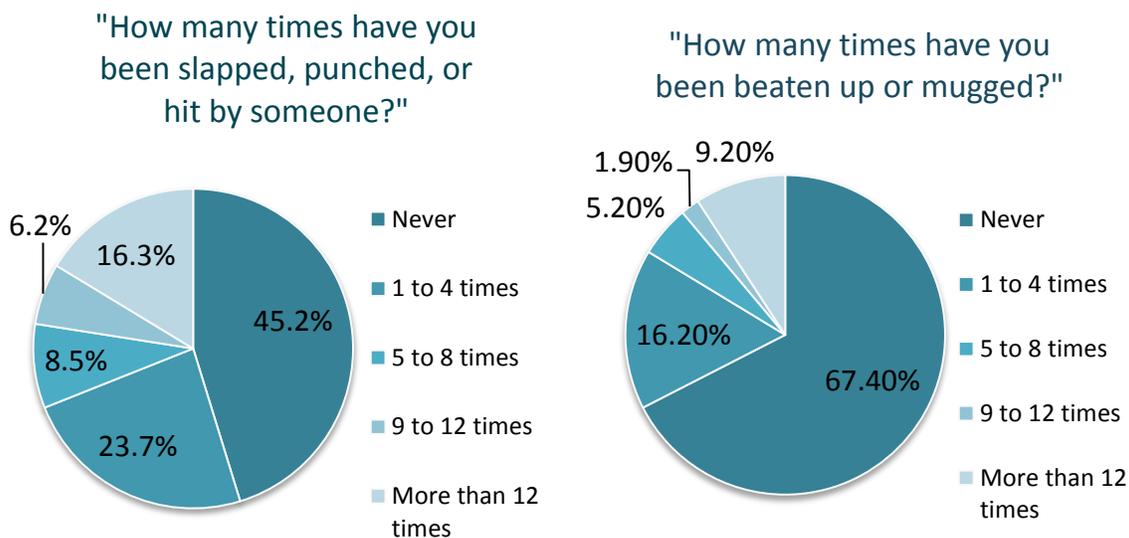
Sadly, most participants who reported being threatened had recently experienced this victimization. Approximately, 65% of participants (n=236) reported that the “last time” they were seriously “threatened” was within the *last year*, and 46% indicated this activity occurred within the *last six months*. Shockingly, at least 30% of these participants noted the “last time” they were seriously “threatened,” was within the *last month*, and approximately 20% said they were seriously threatened *within a week* prior to completing this survey.

“When was the last time you were threatened with serious physical harm by someone?”



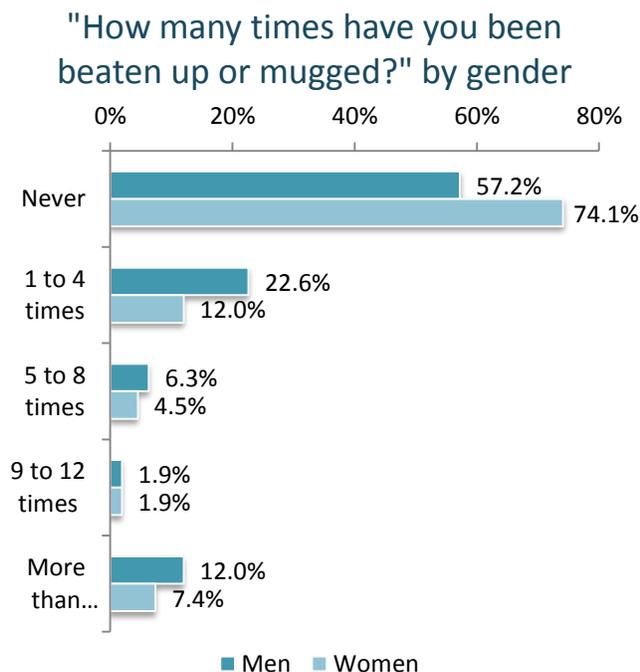
Assaulted by an Individual

Most study participants reported having never been “beaten up or mugged;” however, the majority did, in fact, indicate that they had been, “slapped, punched, or hit by someone” at some point in their life. Approximately, 55% (n=517) said they were, “slapped, punched or hit by someone,” at least once. No gender differences were found for this item, suggesting that young men and women in these neighborhoods are experiencing this form of violence at about the same rate. Almost a quarter of the sample, reported being victimized by this particular type of violence one to four times,” and 16% indicated they were physically assaulted by an individual “more than 12 times in their life.”



Again, most participants reported that they were never assaulted or robbed—this is likely because of the emphasis placed on being “mugged” given the data just previously presented of 55% of participants admitting to being, “slapped, punched or hit,” at least once in their life. In fact, roughly 70% (n=517) said they were “never” assaulted or robbed of their personal possessions. However, 16% noted that they had fallen victim to this activity between, “one to four times,” and approximately 11% reported having been assaulted or held up nine or more times in their life.

Although men reported being “beaten up or mugged” more frequently than women, no significant gender differences were actually found on most responses for this item. The one exception is that among those who reported being “beaten up or mugged,” 23% of men and 12% of women indicated that this had happened to them “one to four times. This suggests that men are about 11% more likely than women to experience being “beaten up or mugged” one to four times. For participants reporting they were “beaten up or mugged,” these data generally plotted out for “one to four times” or “greater than 12 times” (19%). In other words, those who admitted to having been “beaten up or mugged” reported that this occurred a few times or a lot.



Data suggest that most Black youth and young adults have not been “beaten up or mugged,” and for those who have, the experiences have been either periodic or excessive, thus suggesting that a smaller, perhaps more street identified or hardened variant is experiencing being regularly “beaten up or mugged.”

Rennie Rox (35) spoke at great length about the inherent link between civic/political leadership and community violence. The days of radical community organizing against physical violence, he asserted, were long gone with “the 60s and 70s,” and he argued that this lack of aggressive hands-on organizing contributed to present-day community instability. Although Rennie Rox argued that civic and political leadership has mostly “given up” on low-income Black and Brown youth, he did not necessarily blame community leadership for youth violence. He argued that present-day social issues are much more challenging than they were during the Civil Rights or Black Power eras, making it more difficult for leadership to effectively affect change today. Also, he implicated the infamous crack-cocaine era (late 1980s and early 1990s) in creating and forging an impenetrable bedrock of social challenges that left neighborhoods such as the Eastside and Southbridge structurally and culturally mangled—challenges these neighborhoods are still struggling with in the 21st Century. Rennie Rox hesitantly admitted that, to some extent, he had also “given up” on trying to reach street-identified youth. Much of his optimism and motivation for community uplift was muted by recent experiences of being “robbed” of “\$30 and a cell phone” in front of his home on the Eastside.

Rennie Rox (35): You might get shot. You might get robbed in front of your very own house. It happened to me before... I don't trust nobody after dark. **I don't even like walkin' after dark.** Like, literally. **And these are my own people.** People that I would have considered my little brothers in another time of life... **they'll take my life for \$30 and a cell phone.** Absolutely savage, ignorant, animal behavior...

Chased by a Group of People

Most participants (n=514) reported they were “never chased by a gang or individual.” However, a smaller subsample was found to have had these experiences. Twenty-percent of participants reported that they were, at some point, jumped or “chased by gangs or individuals.” About 9 % reported being accosted by a group of people “one to four times” and about 9% said this occurred “more than 12 times.” These data are consistent with the trend reported throughout this section on physical violence, in that those participants (who have been jumped) either had *some* or *a lot* of these experiences.

Men were much more likely than women to be “chased by gangs or individuals,” although no significant difference for gender was actually found for this item, overall. The one exception is that among men and women who had been “chased” by a group of people, 14% of men and 5.9% of women reported that this had happened to them “more than 12 times.”

Shaq (18) described how, as a 14-year-old, he was physically attacked by a group of older men. One evening while walking home exhausted from “football practice,” a group of adult men accused him of breaking into their car and stealing a Playstation (video game). Confused and shocked, Shaq tried to explain to the men that this was a case of “mistaken identity.” However,

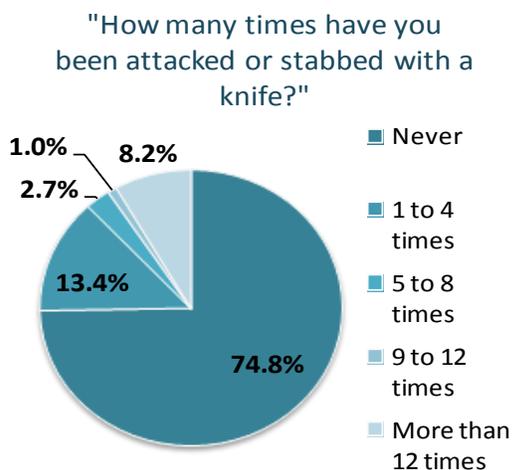
according to Shaq, they viciously beat him, given they were in a revengeful and/or irrational state. He said:

Shaq (18): ... they just started hopping on me. They just started swinging **but I'm fighting back.** I don't know what was going on but **it was going on for like a good five or ten minutes and then they left.** **My shirt is ripped. I was limping. My lips was bleeding and [I had a] swollen eye... I didn't feel it but my jaw was fractured and... I had to get it wired shut for like two months. But it was in the past, I'm not gonna worry about it now.**

Amazingly, Shaq has been able to maintain a positive attitude and not allow this incident to have a negative psychological effect on his life overall. He said, "It was in the past, I'm not gonna worry about it now." Incidentally, Shaq and executive producer and media activist, L. Burner, released a 2009 documentary entitled *What's Really Hood*, which details this particular experience as well as violence in Wilmington, Delaware, more generally.

Assaulted with a Knife

Data reveal a relatively small but significant number of participants who had experienced potentially lethal forms of physical violence such as knifings and shootings. Disturbingly, approximately 25% (N=516) reported being attacked or stabbed with a knife at least once in their lifetime. Those who had been attacked with a knife reported these attacks as occurring a *few times* or *repeatedly*. Specifically, 13.4% reported being knifed "one to four times," and 8.2% said they had been stabbed "greater than 12 times."



Age was not found to be significant for this item, overall, but was found to be significant for participants between 30 and 35 years of age who report being stabbed, "nine to 12 times." The 30-35 year old group is significantly higher with regards to reported knifings than both younger groups for the "nine to 12 times" response.

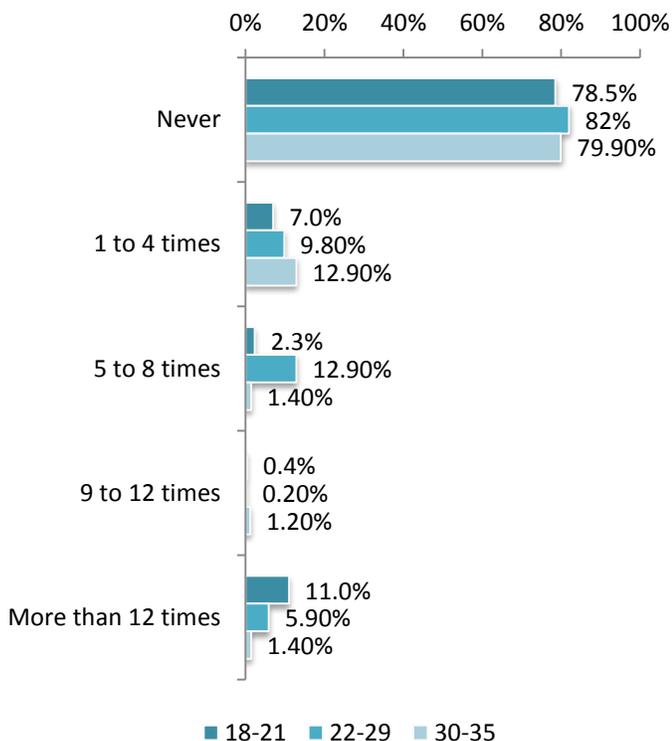
Although age was not found to be significant, particularly for other responses pertaining to knifings, the plotting of participants as a function of age is still worth exploring further. Descriptive analysis reveals that older participants were, in fact, less likely to report being stabbed when examining data for participants who answered, "one to four times" and "more than 12 times." Put another way, the younger participants (18-21) were slightly more likely than those in the other two age groups (22-29 or 30-35) to report being stabbed "one to four times" or repeatedly knifed "more than 12 times." Also, 18- to 21-year-olds were slightly less likely to have reported "never" being attacked or stabbed with a knife, further corroborating the argument that this age group is more involved with knifings.

Shot with a Firearm

Most participants (80%) had “never” been shot with a gun (n=516). Terrifyingly, however, approximately one in five or a little over 20% of participants reported they were, in fact, shot at least once. About 10% of the sample admitted to being shot between “one to four times” and 6% indicated that they had been shot, “more than 12 times.”

As was the case with knifings, age was not found to be significant overall for this item. Age, nonetheless, was found to be significant for those who admitted to being shot “greater than 12 times.” Younger participants (18-21) were more likely than older participants (22-29 or 30-35) to report being shot “greater than 12 times.” When solely exploring data for those who selected “one to four times,” analysis reveals that older participants, in this instance, were more likely to report being shot than younger aged-groups (22-29 or 18-21).

“How many times have you been shot with a gun?” by age group



Furthermore, data comparisons suggest that older participants who had been shot, more than likely, were not as active in the streets as they were when they were younger. Also, data suggest that younger participants (18-21) who are heavily involved with guns and actually survive will become less active with gun violence, as both perpetrators and victims, become older.

Husk (30), a youth counselor, hesitantly shared in a group interview how he was shot, in a vicious manner, several times throughout his body including his liver, collarbone, pancreas, chest, and head. His chilling personal experience reminds us of the vast psychological, spiritual, and physical resources and support required for recovery from gun violence. According to Husk, it was difficult, upon waking up from a two-month coma, to process the fact that he had shrunk from 230 to 95 pounds. “It looks crazy!” he exclaimed. “The look is different. Scars on you that you [never seen before]... it does something [to you].” This new physical reality not only frightened him but exacerbated his paranoia so much so, that he would “snap.” Husk described how emotionally challenging it was to “learn how to walk again, [and] write.” Poignantly, he said, “I feel like I lost a piece of me.”

Yasser: Some time ago you were shot?... How did it change you?

Husk (30): I feel like **I lost a piece of me**, meaning [I had to] learn how to walk again, write, all that.. other stuff. And then just **being about 230 solid and waking up out of a coma for two months and you're 95 pounds. It looks crazy!** The look is different. Scars on you that you [never seen before]... **it does something [to you]**. Like one day, **you might wake up and snap**.

Yasser: Where did you get shot?

Husk (30): Everywhere... Liver got lacerated. Broke my collarbone... just missed this artery right here. ... you know if you get shot under your collarbone, it hit an artery you're done. Grazed in my head and near my pancreas, and the center of my chest. I still got a [bullet] fragment [lodged inside of me].

In closing, data strongly suggest that most residents on the Eastside and in Southbridge are impacted in some way by physical violence. *Most* participants said they had witnessed community residents being victimized by physical violence. *Some* participants, 20-25% of the sample, indicated they were personally victimized by physical violence, with the exceptions of being “slapped, punched or hit by someone” (55%) and “beaten up or mugged” (33%). The most alarming finding was that a majority of participants reported losing at least one family member (55%) and/or one friend (59%) to gun violence. Although, instances of physical violence are rife throughout these two neighborhoods, data strongly suggest that a smaller, although critically substantial subset of the sample regularly experienced being threatened, robbed, physically assaulted, stabbed, shot at and/or actually shot by a firearm.

VII. Psychological and Social Well-Being

It is widely believed that low-income Black youth and young adults are disproportionately represented among those with low self-esteem or self-worth, depression, and hyper-aggression. Well-being findings in this study, however, challenge these beliefs, and results suggest that participants thought highly of themselves and their communities, even in the face of overwhelming social-structural violence. To some extent, counterintuitive results force us to ask a larger question: *How are a group of profoundly marginalized people, immersed in so-called 'social disorganization,' capable of feeling good about themselves and their communities?* “Subjective well-being,” “personal meaning,” or individual interpretations of self and community by those deemed marginalized, have been found by some to be predictors of optimal psychological and social functioning (Diener, Sapyta & Suh, 1998; Franklin, 2004; Payne, 2011; Rios, 2011).

Survey and interview data strongly suggest that participants and perhaps residents overall, in fact, feel good, “satisfied” or content with themselves. In many instances, participants also expressed feeling “accomplished,” even if they were formerly incarcerated or unemployed at the time of the study.

Three themes related to self-worth emerged and greatly informed notions of psychological well-being in this study. First, in most instances, **participants were incredibly optimistic about their futures and very proud of their achievements.** Although participants spoke of negative experiences, they concurrently highlighted their skill sets, achievements, key positive experiences, and/or professional aspirations. They spoke fervently about their passions, abilities, and skill sets, some of which included music production, videography, construction, business ownership, attending college, authoring books, social work, barbering, and hairstyling, for instance.

Second, “happiness” or life satisfaction, in some respects, was determined by participants as a function of commitment to family and community as opposed to professional achievements. Also, both men and women spoke a lot about their children as being their inspiration and motivation. For many participants, it was possible to reclaim or achieve purpose, integrity, and happiness through family. More on community commitment as a core value is written in the *Street Love* sub-section towards the close of this section of the report.

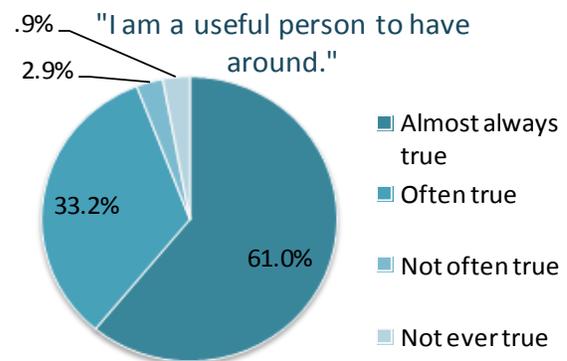
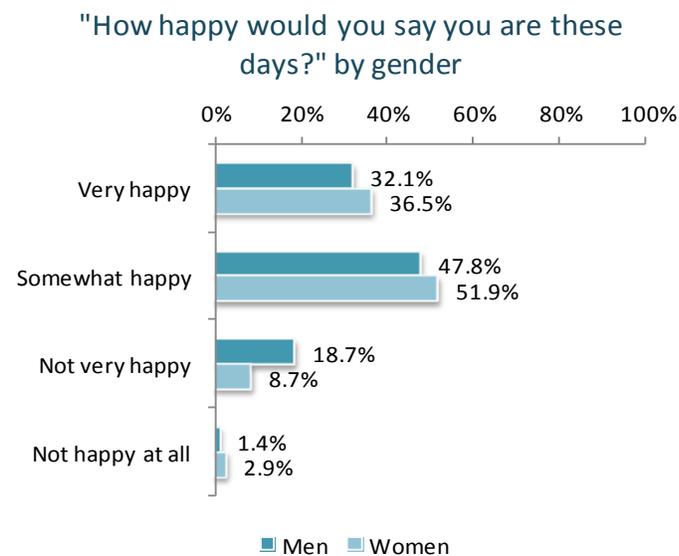
Third, “success” was measured by most participants in terms of their ability to navigate social and structural pitfalls more effectively than older, immediate family members and residents within their local neighborhoods. Although most study participants espoused traditional middle class values in that they were very supportive of those who pursued college and/or secured quality employment, “success” was not necessarily understood in terms of matriculation through a set of traditional, middle class milestones (e.g. college, white collar employment, etc.). Given the intelligence, resourcefulness, and energy required to survive the many negative experiences (i.e., unemployment, poor living/health conditions, incarceration, etc.) that they encountered, *doing better than those who came before you, those who raised you, and those around you*—was often the criteria used to determine how well one was doing.

Psychological Well-Being

Survey findings reveal that *most participants* felt “satisfied” and “happy” with their lives and understood themselves to be “a useful person to have around.” Overall, about 83% (N=520) reported they were “satisfied.” Forty-six percent reported being “somewhat satisfied,” and 37% noted that they were, “very satisfied.” Only about 18% of the sample report not being “very satisfied” or not “satisfied at all” with their lives.

Eighty-five percent (N=519) reported being “happy” or “very happy”, “these days.” About 50% reported being “somewhat happy,” and 35% noted that they were “very happy.” No gender or age difference was found for this item, overall. Men were found to score significantly more negatively on happiness, however.

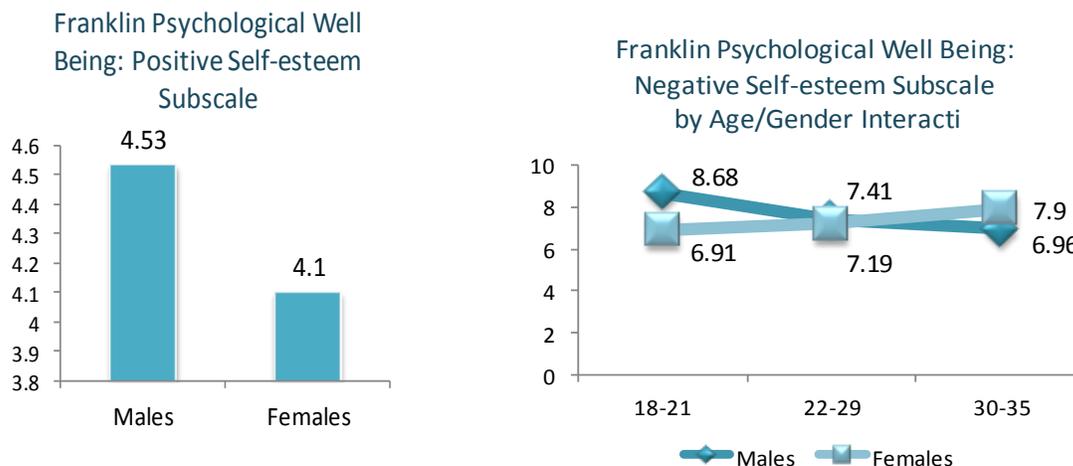
Nineteen percent of all men who answered this question identified with being “not very happy,” in comparison to only 9% of women.



Overall, about 94% (N=518) reported as “almost always true” or “often true” that they view themselves as a “useful person to have around.” Specifically, sixty-one percent reported that it was “almost always true,” and 33% noted it was “often true” they are “useful.” No gender or age difference was found for this item overall, as well. Men in this instance, however, were actually found to score significantly more positively than women on “often true.” About, 42% of all men who answered this question selected “often true,” in comparison to 27% of women.

Furthermore, eighty-two percent (N=517) of participants report being “satisfied” with their “family life.” In fact, 43% said they were “very satisfied,” and 39% reported being “somewhat satisfied.” Again, no significant difference was found for age on this item. About 19% reported not being “satisfied” with “family life.”

Much is revealed when more deeply examining gender as a function of esteem. *It should be underscored that lower scores mean higher self-esteem on this scale.* Men in this sample scored significantly higher than women on “positive self-esteem” which suggests that *women in this study have slightly higher “positive self-esteem.”*



The difference between men (4.5) and women (4.1) are small although the result is significant. This subscale ranges between three to 12 points. The mean score for the sample is 4.3. In fact, 77% of the sample can be accounted for on intervals three through five out of a range of three to 12. Put another way, *these data strongly suggest that the overall sample have high levels of positive self-esteem.*

Also, men scored significantly lower than women on “negative self-esteem” across age-cohorts, which again suggest that women have less “negative self-esteem.” This subscale ranges between 4 to 16 points. *Higher scores mean less “negative self-esteem on this scale.”* The mean score for this sample on this subscale is 7.5. Black men between the ages of 18-21 were found to have the lowest levels of “negative self-esteem” (8.7) and, incidentally, women between the ages of 18-21 were found to have the highest levels of “negative self-esteem.” Also, older men were found to have more negative self-esteem in comparison to older women, who generally had less negative self-esteem.

Social Well-Being

In general, findings suggest that although most respondents reported that they “love” or are very proud and supportive of their local communities, a number of participants did not necessarily feel their neighborhoods were “safe.” Also, results reveal participants were very concerned with the “physical” condition of their communities as well.

Most participants reported that their communities were not “safe” in general or not “safe” for “children to play.”

...most respondents reported that they "love" or are very proud and supportive of their local communities...

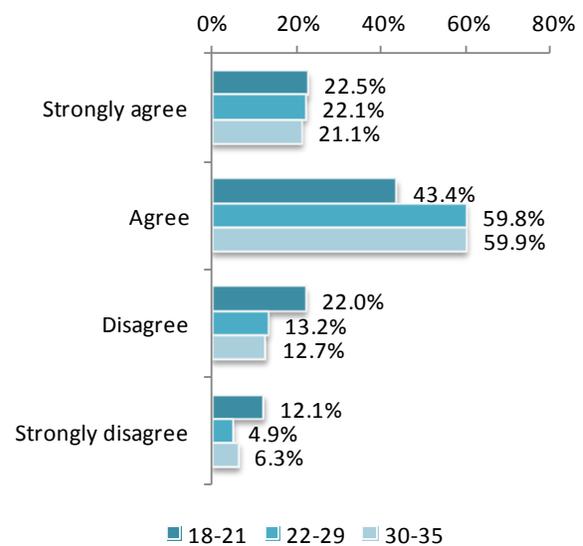
About 54% (N= 518) reported that they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with the item, “This is a safe place to live.” Even more poignantly, 61% of participants (N = 518) said they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with the item, “Children can play outside without the fear of harm.” No gender or age difference was found for these two items, overall.

Again, participants took issue with physical conditions of their communities, and most noted that homes and apartments in their neighborhood were in fact in poor condition. Fifty-seven percent (N= 517) said they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with the item, “Houses and apartments are in good shape in my community.” No gender and age difference was found for this item, overall.

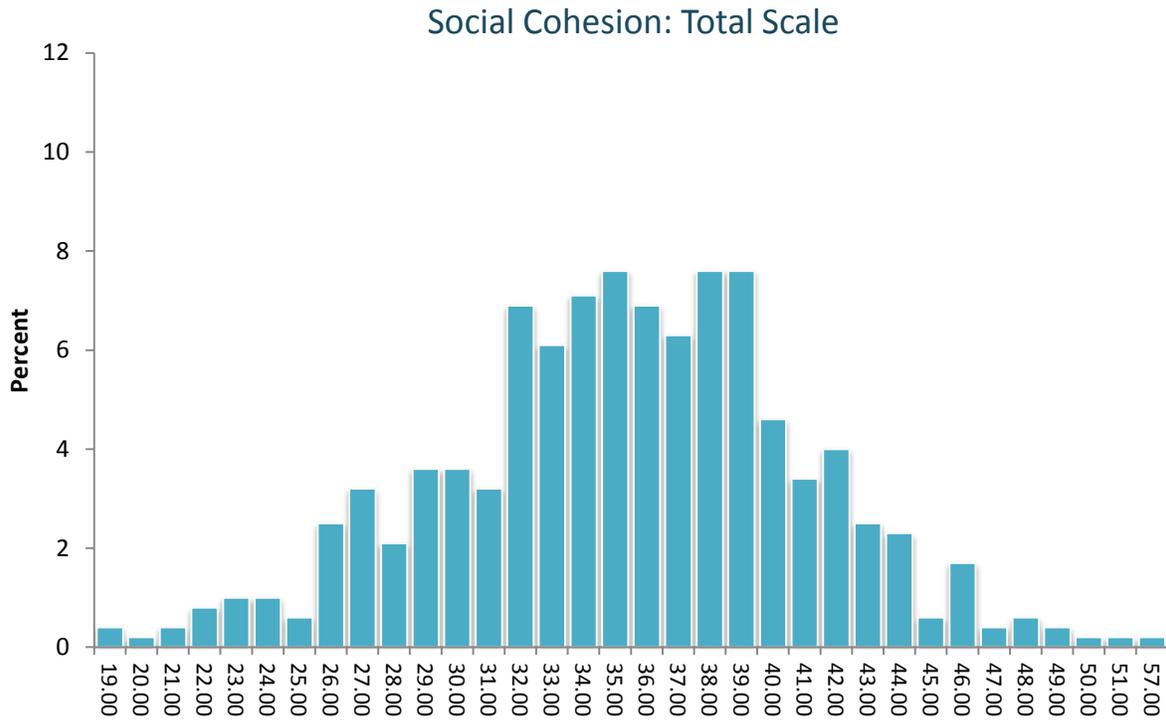
Also, about 51% (N =518) said they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with the statement, “We have quality recreational centers for the youth.” Although age was found to be significant, no gender difference was found for this item. Findings suggest that responses to this item become increasingly more negative as the sample gets older.

Although, many participants have negative perceptions of the “safety” and “physical” condition of their communities, most noted that they “love” their neighborhoods. Furthermore, approximately 76% of participants (N= 519) reported “feel[ing] a responsibility to make my community better.” Although age was found to be significant, no gender difference was found for this item. The 18-21 age cohort was most likely to, “strongly disagree” and “disagree” with, “I feel a responsibility to make my community better.” Results suggest that the older age cohorts (ages 22-29 and 30-35) identified more with this item or perhaps, that attitudes become more positive towards this item as the sample gets older.

“We have quality recreational centers.” by age group



More is revealed when exploring participants' attitudes toward social cohesion. The “social cohesion” measure of this instrument reflects to what extent participants are invested or committed to the social fabric of their neighborhoods. This tool ranges between 19-57 and the mean score for this sample is 35 (N = 476) with a standard deviation of about six. Higher scores on this measure suggest participants hold more positive attitudes toward the community. No age and gender differences were found for this scale. Findings from this study suggest that the sample, overall, holds moderate to positive attitudes toward their community or are invested and committed to the social fabric of their neighborhoods.



No gender differences

No age differences

VIII. Street Love

“*Street Love*” is a phenomenological term used mostly by those who are street identified to describe how Black men and women in the streets engage in bonding activities and/or give back to the local community. A rich literature reveals a firm record of Black men and women embracing *the streets* as a way to secure emotional support, identity development, economic opportunity, physical protection or “a family”—all key features of this notion of street love (Payne, 2005; Payne & Hamdi, 2009).

It is argued (Payne, 2005; Payne & Hamdi, 2009) that street love manifests in three ways: (1) *individual expressions of street love*: engaging in kind acts on an individual level (e.g. loaning money, offering advice/counsel, etc.); (2) *group expressions of street love*: engagement in group based bonding activities (e.g. playing pool, going to the local bar, playing basketball, etc.); and (3) *communal expressions of street love*: an individual or group of individuals in *the streets* who sponsor and/or organize a social event in the local community (e.g. block party, book bag giveaways, turkey giveaways for Thanksgiving, etc.). Also, according to some scholars (Payne, 2005; Payne & Hamdi, 2009), those who are street-identified conceptualize notions of street love to be a critical analysis of and response to the social structural inequality present in their community.

A street love analysis is extremely useful to more deeply understand notions of community well-being and social cohesion amongst participants in this study. Again, participants, overall, scored moderate to positive on the social cohesion measure although results suggests they are simultaneously challenged by child safety concerns and frustrated with the physical conditions of their communities. Qualitative analysis supports survey findings by illustrating participant’s commitment to their neighborhoods. Interview data, in fact underscore how strongly participants “love,” feel indebted, and/or are committed to their communities⁹.

Street Love in Wilmington

The street love tradition resonated strongly with participants in this study. It was clear that there was a communal value and informal expectation that those who are street-identified should give back to community residents in some positive way. Most participants noted that they had observed, at least once, street-identified individuals “giving back” to or organizing positive activities for local residents. Examples included: (1) taking care of others’ children; (2) paying a loved one’s outstanding bill or debt; (3) sponsoring holiday celebrations; (4) organizing “block parties,” local barbecues, or parties; (5) providing youth with school supplies; and (6) paying tuition for youth to attend college, including graduate school. For some participants, instances of

⁹ The larger study and/or this report does not endorse community residents engaging in illegal activities as a way to provide opportunity to the community. The point of this subsection or pointed discussion on street love is to document how a variant of street-identified Black youth and young adults conceptualize and practice “giving back” to local neighborhoods.

street love also included how those in *the streets* were often at the center of resolving conflict between street rivals in local neighborhoods.

Banks (27) spoke extensively about how he has witnessed “quite a few guys” in the streets organize positive activities in the community—some of which included organizing a “big barbecue” and “fireworks” display on the Fourth of July one year. He agreed that selling illegal narcotics is wrong and negatively impacts the community, but for Banks, this illegal activity does not preclude those who are street-identified and “who got it” (have the means) from giving back. Among participants, the two concepts of giving back and engaging in illegal activity are not necessarily seen as contradictory. Engaging in income-generating street activities, in this context, is not framed as a moral issue. Rather it is an issue of economic necessity and survival. Therefore, individuals who engage in street activities are not necessarily seen as immoral people who are incapable of moral, ethical, or kind acts—the manner by which they are typically viewed by others outside of their communities. Banks essentially argues that it is, to some extent, honorable or noble for those who sell illegal narcotics to make sure “their ‘hood” is provided for.

Banks (27): I know **quite a few guys..** from my side of town **that gave back: 4th of July, fireworks, barbeque, DJs, um, down at the park—big barbeques!** ...even if you want to say with the drug aspect, [guys in the street] [they] **made sure their hood’ was okay** [or provided for]... **you have some guys** [in the street] **that...** [actually] **give back to the community in a good way, even though they.. doing what they do...** [are engaged in criminal activity].

Street life-oriented Black identity is extremely nuanced (Payne, 2011). Banks framed those in the streets with having complex identities that do not necessarily correspond to the reified image of a street corner, young Black male. Banks wants community professionals to recognize that a Black-American street identity is extremely varied or does not submit to an oversimplified monolithic identity. He also spoke about how it is very possible for those who sell illegal narcotics to also be interested in securing educational aspirations or pursuing other traditional opportunities—perspectives that are rarely the focus of analyses of street involved individuals. The very guys who “sell drugs” are also interested in leaving the streets for legal opportunity as well as are oftentimes committed to “give(ing) back to the community.”

Banks (27): **you might have a guy that's.. selling drugs...** doing what they do, but at the end of the day.. **he might be in the library reading a book or learning about some things, he might be trying to get** (his) **business** (together) **to get out the game** (or out of the streets)... **I know a lot of guys** that was in the game (engaged in criminal activity) that..I grew up under, that's **doing real good for their self** and **they want to give back to the community**....

Anthony Bey (35) is the proprietor of *One Stop*, the small but very popular urban mix CD and DVD store located on 4th Street, right across from Delaware Technical Community College. One Stop’s physical location is a popular communal or social networking site for those that are street identified. A critical mass of Black and Brown youth can be found on any given day standing inside or outside of One Stop. It is not uncommon for One Stop to have Hip-Hop and R&B artists promote new CDs or other projects at this store. In fact, five street PAR members joined me in July 2010 to observe *Meek Mill*, a Philadelphia rapper, promote his latest mix-CD release, *Meek Mill Flamers 3—hosted by DJ Drama*.

One Stop and Fourth Street between North Tatnall and Orange Streets on 4th Street were literally packed with Black and Brown bodies. It was nothing short of amazing to witness how an unsigned artist's music put a local section of Wilmington into a social frenzy. The energy of these Black and Brown urban youth cut through the warm air as they were wowed by the presence of the thin and lanky, dark-skinned Meek Mill. The moment provided a lift for everyone. Parents, seniors, and even young and middle-aged professionals were drawn in on this sunny and warm late afternoon. Police even seemed to move with an extra cool step or two as they circulated throughout the crowd. Some youth were in attendance desperately hoping to get an autograph; some were satisfied with getting a glimpse of Meek Mill; and others sought an opportunity to "spit" or rap for Meek or members of his entourage.

It should be underscored that the promotional signing of a mix-CD release would bring traffic to a complete or full stand-still. Witnessing the social impact or unifying power of Hip-Hop music provided a lens to more deeply understand on-the-ground notions of *social cohesion* with and amongst Black youth and young adults in Wilmington. This experience and others in Wilmington confirm that Hip-Hop music and culture operates as the bedrock or foundational cultural frame and value system for street life-oriented Black youth and young adults in this city. Also, this experience forced onlookers to take humble heed to the Hip-Hop movement's potential to organize, profoundly influence, and empower the streets of Black and Brown America.

Anthony (35), who was formerly involved in the criminal justice system, asserted that organizing such events is his way of giving back to youth in Wilmington. He exclaimed that social gatherings of this sort reinforce and strengthen the social morale of a local neighborhood. Also, Anthony spoke at length about how, as a youth and young adult, he witnessed, on several occasions, established street life-oriented persons in his neighborhood giving back in positive ways. He asserted that those in *the streets* feel compelled to give back in light of the fact that it is the view of residents that civic and political leadership are unwilling and/or unable to effectively organize on-the-ground activities for youth in the community.

For Anthony, community-based notions of street love are but a few specific ways that those in *the streets* are responding to the absence of "community centers" and other youth-serving institutions and programs. Also, youth-based activities that are organized by civic and political leadership are often perceived by residents as perfunctory or lifeless programming. Community professionals and organizations were generally viewed as mostly serving their own institutional interests in addition to the interests of those seeking to economically and politically exploit inner-city neighborhoods. Anthony boldly and loudly charged that when "they" (civic and political leadership) organize activities in the community, it is to secure a "tax write off."

Anthony Bey (35): I've seen them [the streets] do that [give back to the community], **I've seen more of them [the streets] do more than some of the churches...** Sometimes people [civic and political leaders] might be doing it for a tax write off and some people (the streets) do it for the love... **The hustler might be doing it for the love and [for] the church people [it] may [be]... just a quick tax write off, a 1099 real quick... but you have some genuine church people.. shout out to all the church people. Same thing with the Mosque.** They do the same thing.

Particular individuals like "Mr. Larry," "Jerry Williams," or a "Colby Hobson" and organizations such as the "Hope Commission," "Duffy's Hope," and "Christina Cultural Arts

Center” and politicians including “Mayor Sills” were lauded by community residents. However, participants, by and large, claimed that civic and political leadership and their respective non-profit organizations were generally more concerned about funding or support than they were about the constituencies they presumably served. Several participants charged formal leadership with organizing community-based activities, more so, for “the numbers” that could be documented; for visibility or advertisement by “the newspapers”; or “too look good.”

United Brothers of 9th Street (UB9) is an on-the-ground, community-based organization that resonated strongly with most participants and residents overall. UB9’s membership is made up of men who reside in the community, some of whom are formally involved with the criminal justice system. The mission of this organization is to assist youth in schools, provide community programming, and assist those re-entering the community from state or federal prison. UB9 prides itself on being committed to stopping, “violent behavior, substance abuse, and a lack of quality education and employment.” Also, this resident-driven organization is well known for organizing local community activities like Eastside Day, Mother’s Day program, Clean-Up Day, Easter Egg Hunts, Fish Fries, and citywide sporting events like flag football.

One evening at approximately 7:00pm, we had the fortunate opportunity to speak with seven members of UB9 in a group interview. The closed, two-hour interview was held in a relatively large classroom in the Eastside Charter Elementary School, which is located in the Northeast section of Wilmington, right across from Riverside Housing Authority or what is typically referred to as “Riverside Projects.” **Doc (34)**, a member of UB9, passionately described the activities developed and executed by this organization. He argued that UB9’s philosophy is grounded in notions of self-determination and community efficacy. According to Doc, community change has to be resident-driven.

Doc (34): ...there's a group on the Eastside now called **United Brothers of 9th Street**...And **they tryin' to give back to this community. And I'm a part of that.** ..like.. on **Mother's Day** we made sure we went to her [local politician] house to give her roses to show that we in [committed to serving the community]. We are in our community, givin' back. ...we even had **Easter egg hunts.** ... we even had **parties for the kids.... 'Cause if we don't do it as a community, nobody ain't gonna do it. Can you feel me?"**

Doc and others in UB9 strongly underscored that they are not a “gang or gang affiliated.” The men repeatedly brought to my attention that UB9 is rumored or suspected to participate in criminal activity, given the organization’s ties with individuals that actively participate in illegal activities. UB9’s ability to reach young men in *the streets* on a personal level provides evidence of the organization’s social capital, and from the perspective of UB9, this social capital should be viewed by civic and political leadership as an asset as opposed to a threat to community social cohesion. The men do acknowledge and understand how it is striking for anyone to observe a critical mass of Black men in one organization, several of whom were involved with the criminal justice system, who are now committed to giving back or serving the community.

Doc (34): ... hopefully they'll see that we still out here... grindin'.. and we [need to] get some sponsors.. to help us out...This **all is bein' done by guys that live in the community.** And.. they **workin' men.** ...you got **lawyers,** you got **probation officers,** you got **all types...** that's part of this **United Brothers of 9th Street.** **And I don't want nobody to get it misconstrued and think it's some type of gang or gang affiliated. Naw! We just brothers who got care and concern about our community on the Eastside. And we wanna help give back to the kids.**

Furthermore, Doc with the approval of the group, spoke extensively about how political leadership within the Eastside has worked to suppress the giving back efforts extended by local residents and those suspected to be street identified. UB9 believes they are one of several individuals and/or organizations that have been unfairly targeted by political leadership and this has resulted in the organization experiencing great difficulty in securing financial support. Doc, in defense of this claim, argued that because of their community ties, “the city” in one instance, ignored their request for “push-brooms” for UB9’s “Eastside Clean-Up Day,” although the organization’s community events/activities record is stellar.

Admittedly, the idea of street love is inherently complicated in that it challenges notions of morality. On one hand, most understand and agree that it is problematic for money gained through illegal activities to be used for community programming, and in this respect, civic and political leaders are technically correct in trying to divorce themselves and local communities from this funding source. However, the assumption by civic and political leadership is that ‘drug dealers’ are using ‘blood money’ for community programming within a community that is teeming with a prevalence of good or effective youth-based programming.

...many individuals in the streets feel compelled to organize programs and events for youth growing up in deep economic poverty.

On the contrary, many individuals in *the streets* feel compelled to organize programs and events for youth growing up in deep economic poverty. The neighborhoods ‘positively’ assisted by *the streets* oftentimes are islands of deep structural violence combined with a profound absence of effective youth

programming. Youth served by *the streets* have little, if any, relationship with civic and political leadership and *most of these youth* have not directly benefitted from their policies. Although still problematic, street love within this context begs answers to much deeper questions such as: (1) *How and why are those who are street identified out-programming civic and political leadership in the tougher neighborhoods?;* (2) *To what extent is social cohesion disrupted if those in ‘the streets’ are prevented from assisting the community?;* and (3) *Are those in the streets who give back to local communities, sincere in their efforts?*

Doc (34) passionately made the argument that politicians have made it much more difficult for street life-oriented persons to secure legal clearance to sponsor local neighborhood events. He offers one last example of how a city councilwoman effectively shut down a popular fireworks display presumably organized by street identified persons on the Eastside. According to Doc, this city councilwoman said to him and others on one particular Fourth of July, “there's nothin' but drugs... up there [fireworks] doin' that [in the sky].” Although, Doc (34) acknowledges that illegal money may have been used to sponsor this Fourth of July event, he nonetheless argued that the ending of this popular, annual program negatively impacted youth on the Eastside.

Doc (34): ... We had a **Fourth of July block party** for at least **eight years**. Firework shows, everything! The **City Council lady [on the Eastside]** who raised me... **stopped it and said, ‘we not blocking off no streets for no drug dealers.’** Okay, **there might be some drug dealers helping provide this stuff, but they was givin' back.** They was givin' back. **Them kids had a good time.** Them kids was getting **free food, free music, free dance...** And **you took that from 'em.** And since you took that, Fourth of July on the Eastside hadn't been the same since.

IX. Attitudes Toward and Experiences with Law Enforcement

Survey and interview findings reveal a strained relationship between community residents and local law enforcement. Overall, respondents feel mistreated and disrespected as well as hold deep resentment and/or negative attitudes toward local law enforcement. *It should be underscored that the Wilmington Street PAR family have no intentions of unfairly castigating law enforcement or, for that matter, negating the instances of positive experiences with police reported by participants. Our intention is to use the findings throughout the report to inform civic and political leadership of how to develop comprehensive opportunities to more effectively respond to physical violence within Wilmington.*

Most participants interviewed were content with police “doing their jobs” or enforcing laws by arresting criminals and, in particular, those residents believed to make the community unsafe. The fair enforcement of laws is strongly supported by residents as well as those who are street identified throughout the city of Wilmington. In most instances, arrests and incarceration are understood by *the streets* as something that will most likely or eventually occur. Many of those who enter *the streets* do so as a function of economic urgency, given that many of their structural realities are steeped in economic poverty. Within this economic context, the potential for physical injury, arrest and incarceration, and/or even death are oftentimes rationalized, for right or for wrong, as worth the risk.

Although fair policing practices were supported, participants still held negative attitudes toward police in general. Survey and interview data shockingly reveal that a number of participants felt unsafe, unprotected, and/or not supported by local police. Some participants even reported instances of police being physically abusive with residents. An inordinate level of negative interactions with police were also reported, some of which included being unfairly “stopped,” “frisked,” “picked up in a sweep,” or “detained without arrest.” Several participants passionately pointed out exceptions to this finding and identified “good police” including “Sergeant Faheem Akil” or “Captain Bobby Cummings”—accomplished officers who community residents felt were sincerely invested in their neighborhoods. Participants were not largely convinced, however, that *most of law enforcement* actually “cared” about the general welfare of residents. Several argued that local law enforcement generally held economically poor Black and Brown people in Wilmington in disdain. Much of the strain between the *community and the police* was attributed to the fact that most police are “not from the community” or familiar enough with the racial, ethnic, and cultural nuances of Black and Brown Wilmington.

Attitudes Toward Law Enforcement

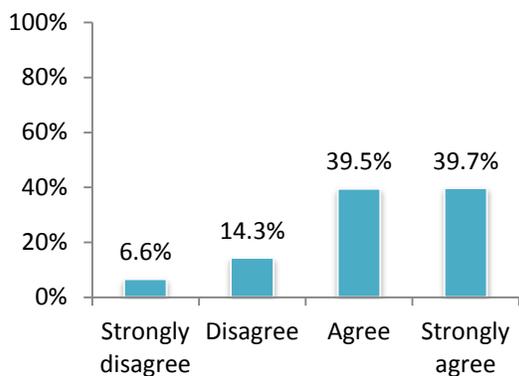
Most survey participants indicated that police did not necessarily “do their jobs well,” and most interviewees openly questioned how police were prepared to serve their communities. Participants argued that most police lacked the interpersonal or social skill set necessary to develop meaningful relationships with community residents. Also, respondents suggested that police acquire a deeper understanding of the social and structural violence that pervades the communities they patrol. In fact, it is quite common to hear city officials or other advocates of Wilmington Police Department (WPD) say, “Police are not social workers. They are here to

enforce the laws.” *Such statements are actually untrue. Police are required to service these communities beyond managing or attending to negative interactions. There are several mandates guided by city policies, ordinances, and laws requiring law enforcement to engage in pro-social activities with community residents.*

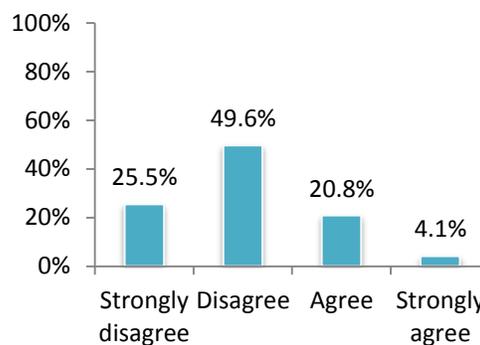
Job Performance

Participants overall were disappointed with local law enforcement’s job performance. Poignantly, 75% (N=518) reported that they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with, “Police do their jobs well.” About 25% reported they “strongly disagree” and 50% “agree” with this statement. No gender or age difference was found for this item overall, suggesting that most participants’ attitudes regarding this item are similar. Fifty-eight percent (N=513) reported they “agree” or “strongly agree” with, “Police sometimes allow crime to occur without stopping it.” About 44% reported that they “agree” and 14% “strongly agree” with this statement. Again, no gender or age difference was found for this item. This finding suggests that most participants feel that at least some police are not properly or fairly enforcing laws within the communities they patrol.

"The police give people a hard time for no reason"



"Police do their jobs well"



Interpersonal Skills

Most participants felt that police officers generally demonstrate poor interpersonal or social skills in their interactions with residents, which they believe has led to an egregious breakdown in the relationship between the community and the police. Respondents overall, found police to be “disrespectful” to the communities they patrol and serve. Frighteningly, respondents asserted that police unfairly accosted, “harassed” or “bothered” community residents and made them personally feel “unsafe.” About 50% (N=517) said they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with, “Police are here to protect me.” No gender or age difference was found for this item, which suggests that participants feel protected (or unprotected) at about the same rate.

In addition, approximately, 80% (N=518) of those surveyed reported that they “agree” or “strongly agree” with, “The police give people a hard time for no reason.” About 40% indicated that they “agree” and about 40% noted that they “strongly agree” with this statement. Again, no gender or age difference was found for this item overall. Incidentally, other data also strongly support participant’s concerns with police

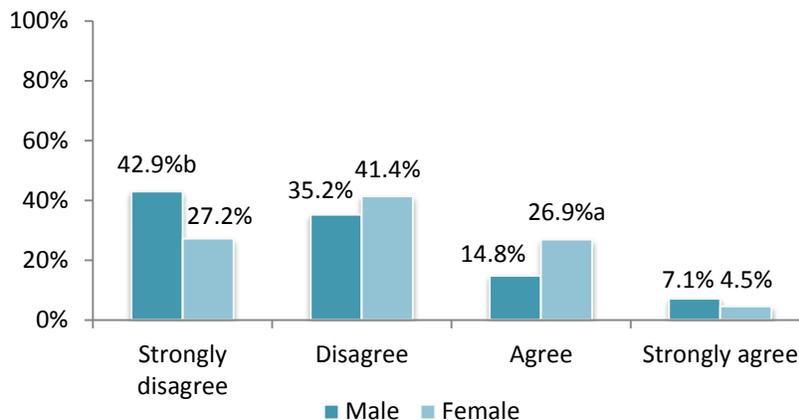
compromising their personal physical safety. For instance, 61% (N=516) reported they “agree” or “strongly agree” with, “I worry that the police I see on the streets might bother me or my friends.” Also, 64% either “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with, “I feel comfortable when I see police on the streets.” No gender or age difference were found for these items, overall, suggesting the larger sample is experiencing these items in the same way.

Seventy-two percent (N=519) of those surveyed reported they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with the item, “Police respect me.” About 34% reported they “strongly disagree” and 38% “disagree”. No age difference was found for this item, overall. However, men (43%) were found to “strongly disagree” more so than women (27%) with this item. Also, 15% of all men who answered this question selected “agree” in comparison to 27% of women.

Louis Cruz (31) argues that much of the community-police “friction” in Wilmington can best be explained by law-enforcement’s predisposition to think negatively about most residents. He spoke extensively about being unfairly and repeatedly targeted, accosted or “harassed” by police in his store on the Market Street Mall in Downtown, Eastside. Louis presumed that police had a difficult time believing he was conducting legitimate business out of his store, given he has a felony conviction and because of “the company” he kept or the patrons that frequented his place of business. Nonetheless, the story he shares is of grave concern given that he talked of being “harassed,” “disrespected,” and “embarrassed” during business hours by police “raids” in which he exclaims never uncovered any illegal activity. According to Louis, neither he nor anyone else was ever formally charged with a crime at his place of business. Also, he sadly revealed that he was “shot at by cops,” who mistakenly believed he had a firearm.

Louis Cruz (31): I used to have.. a shop on Market Street Mall [and]... **I was harassed (in this shop) for a long time (by police). For a long time!** Maybe it was 'cause of the company I was keepin' but.. **I wasn't doin' nothin' wrong and they were still harassing me... they would come to my place of business and do raids and not find nothin' and embarrass the crap outta me.** You know? Um, **I have even been shot at by the cops before.. they supposedly thought I had a gun on me.** ... they're [police] very, like, disrespectful. I mean, they do help the community by keepin'.. order, but at the same time.. **they're just on a mission. ... they think**

"Police respect me" by gender



everybody's a criminal. They think everybody's doin' wrong. And [as a result] it's a lotta, friction [between the community and police].

Ashley (PAR member): So would you say that they don't see human beings, they just see wrong or right?

Louis Cruz (31): Yes, and **for the most part they see wrong every time they drive up and down these streets.** And they're very [physically] abusive out here in these streets. **I've seen them beat a lotta people up that they shouldn't have. I've seen them.. hurt a lotta people. And they get away with it.**

Police are more inclined to respect and serve better resourced communities such as Newark or Hockessin, Delaware as opposed to low-income Black and Brown communities according to **Kendre (27)** and **Michelle (31)** in their dual interview. Both women revealed they have reached out to police in times of distress, to no avail. The women offered up gut-wrenching stories of contacting police and being dismissed, ignored, or not taken seriously—even after reporting their car had been broken into, as well as their children being threatened and chased by gun toting residents. **Kendre (27)** asserted “30 minutes” to be the quickest time she witnessed police arriving upon being called by local Southbridge residents.

Kendre (27)...when my car got robbed... right in broad daylight. Nobody saw nobody break into my car at all. I called Wilmington's finest, they told me.. ‘[I] have to have a cop call you back to take a report over the phone.’ I'm like, ‘don't y'all need to come out here to do fingerprints and something like that. Someone was all in my car.’ **[We] sat there ([waiting], the cop didn't call me until 6:00 pm that night. (And) I called them at 1:00 pm.... they don't care about Southbridge. ... they don't care, they just don't care.**

Michelle (31): **At least you got a call, they ain't never show up when I said I got robbed.** They ain't show up **till hours later after my son and his friends got chased [by] the guy with the gun....** No, Wilmington's finest. [And] I called them twice.

Participants were very supportive of police holding non-law abiding residents accountable for transgressions they may have perpetrated within the community. Several scholars have argued that low-income Black populations typically espouse so-called "middle class" values including personal responsibility, doing well in school, going to college, and getting married and raising children (Payne, 2011; Wilson, 1996; 2008). **Aaron (29)**, a school teacher who was formerly of *the streets*, argued that, “police have a job to do.” Personal responsibility was very important to Aaron - so much so, that he emphatically said, “I mean, if I'm standing out on the corner selling drugs, it's their job to arrest me.”

Aaron (29):the police have a job to do. I mean, if I'm standin' out on the corner sellin' drugs, it's their job to arrest me. If I'm standin' out on the corner with a gun in my pocket, it's their job to arrest me. **If I'm doin' anything illegal, it's their job to arrest me. So I can't really fault the police for doin' their job.**

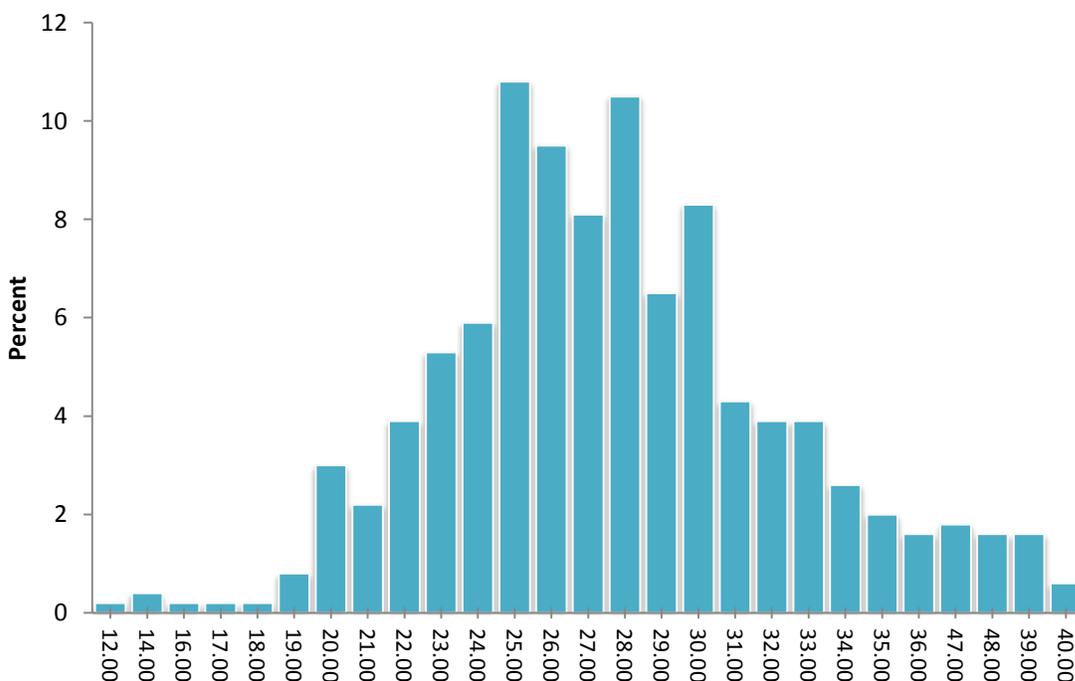
However, although Aaron is content with law-breakers being arrested and carted away by police, he also explicitly held “the system” or law enforcement, as an institution, accountable and responsible for unfairly policing these communities. He argued that police have ultimately “failed” the community in either, knowingly or unknowingly, preventing a variant of residents

from participating in the political process. Aaron asserted the disproportionate surveillance, arrest, and incarceration of low-income people of color is intentional and has little to do with actual criminal infractions. Also, he explains that crime would be much easier to control if police were to return to more effective and genuine strategies of “community polic(ing).”

Aaron (29): ...what I can fault is the system for failin' minorities. ... I can fault..the system [for having] to wait five years when you get outta jail to vote, when they know the election comes around every four years. ...that's basically taking you outta two elections. They know that... we need more *community police*... because I remember in the 80s when I was growin' up you would see more police officers. They were more vigilant in the area and things like that. So you knew 'em. So you knew that you wasn't really gonna disrespect them...

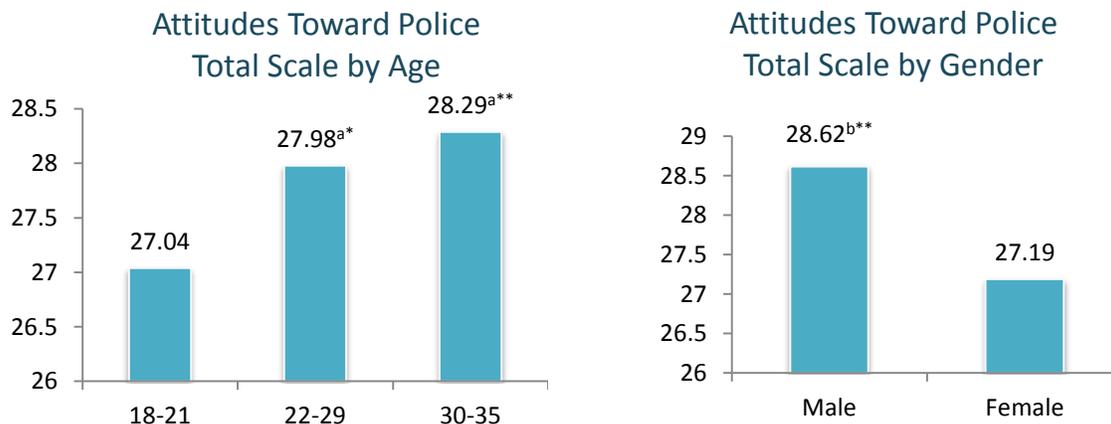
More is revealed when exploring perceptions of law enforcement with a measure entitled: *Attitudes Toward Police* (Fine et al., 2003). This instrument consists of two subscales with a total of 10 items. The following two subscales are: (1) *Feelings of Negative Intent Toward Police* (six items); and (2) *Feelings of Positive Intent Toward Police* (four items). The attitudes toward police measure ranges between 12-40 points and the mean score for this sample is 28 (N = 493) with a standard deviation of about five. Higher scores on the total measure suggest participants hold more negative attitudes toward police. Findings suggest that the survey sample holds negative attitudes toward the police, overall.

Attitudes Toward Police: Total Scale



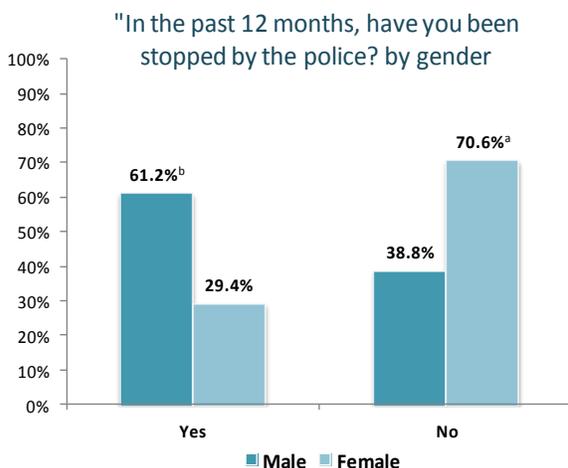
Overall significance was also found for a gender-age interaction on the *Attitudes Toward the Police* measure, although a gender-age interaction was non-significant by itself. Furthermore, when examining gender by itself, men (28.7) were found to significantly have slightly more

negative attitudes toward the police than women (27.2). This finding was expected given that males generally have more contact with law enforcement. What is surprising, to some extent, is that the difference is small between men and women suggesting, although significantly different, their attitudes toward the police are similar. Also, age by itself was found to be significant on the *Attitudes Towards Police* measure. Participants' attitudes toward the police were found to be more negative among older participants. However, as with gender, the difference between the three age-cohorts is small: (a) 18-21 (27); (b) 22-29 (28.1); and (c) 30 – 35 (28.3).



Experiences with Law Enforcement

Data reported in this subsection explores the prevalence of physical contact between police and residents as reported by participants. Seven negative forms of possible physical contact with police were assessed, including being: (1) stopped; (2) frisked; (3) caught in a sweep or raid; (4) detained without arrest; (5) given a summons; (6) arrested; and (7) convicted. ***Overall, findings reveal most participants were not in negative contact with local law enforcement within the 12 months prior to completing the study's survey, with the exception of being "stopped."*** A smaller variant of the larger street community appears to be more regularly in negative contact (e.g., stopped, arrested, caught in a sweep, etc.) with local police, which is consistent with the study's overall findings and larger research literature.



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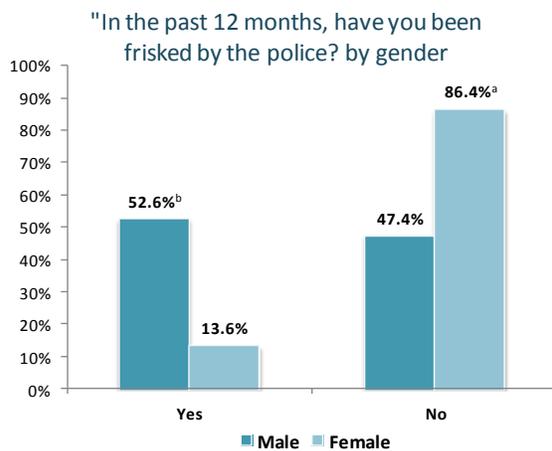
Stopped by Police

Approximately, 58% (N=518) of survey participants reported being "stopped by police" within the last year. No age group difference and no gender-age group interaction were found for this item.

However, gender by itself was found to be significant for being, “stopped by police.” In fact, men were found to be “stopped” significantly more frequently by police than women. Specifically, 61% of men and only 29% of women noted being stopped within the last year. This finding was not surprising in that men were generally expected to be more involved in the streets and, thus, more in contact with local police. Participants (N=211) who reported being stopped within the last year were found to be stopped about four times, on average. The range for the item, “how many times were you stopped by police?,” spanned between *one to 50 police-stops* with a standard deviation of about five.

Frisked by Police

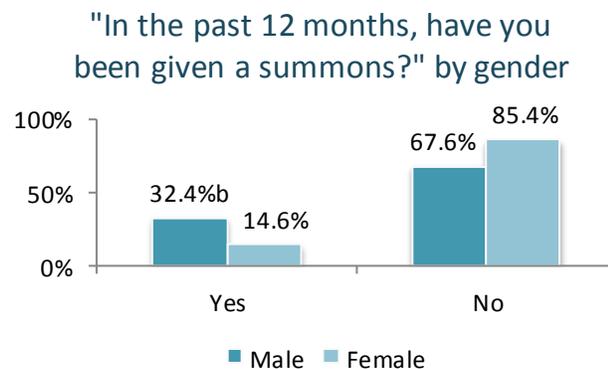
Twenty-nine percent of participants (N=518) reported being “frisked” by police within the last



12 months. No age group difference and no gender-age group interaction were found for this item. However, gender by itself was found to be significant for being “frisked by police.” Fifty-three percent of men, in comparison to only 14% of women, were found to be “frisked.” Participants (N=147) who reported being stopped by police within the last year were found to be frisked about four times, on average. The range for the item, “how many times were you frisked by police?” spanned between *one to 50 police-frisks* with a standard deviation of 6.5.

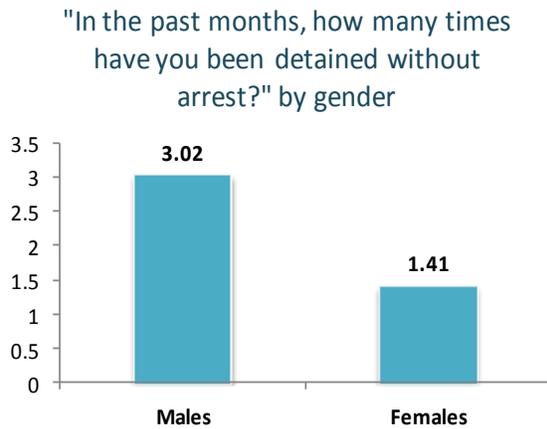
Given a Summons

Twenty-two percent of participants (N=515) reported being “given a summons” by police within the last 12 months. Age group difference and gender-age group interaction were not found to be significant for number of times participants were given a summons. However, gender was found to be significant for being, “given a summons” by police. About 32% of men, in comparison to almost 15% of women reported being “given a summons.” Participants (N=106) who reported having been issued a summons reported receiving approximately three summons within the last year. The range for the item, “how many times did you receive a summons by police?” spanned between *one to 20 summons* with a standard deviation of about three.



Detained Without Arrest

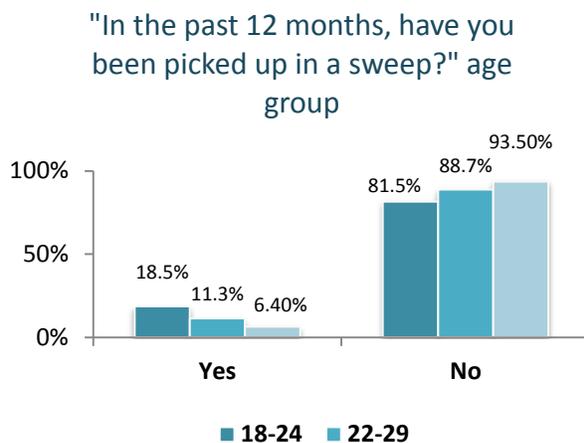
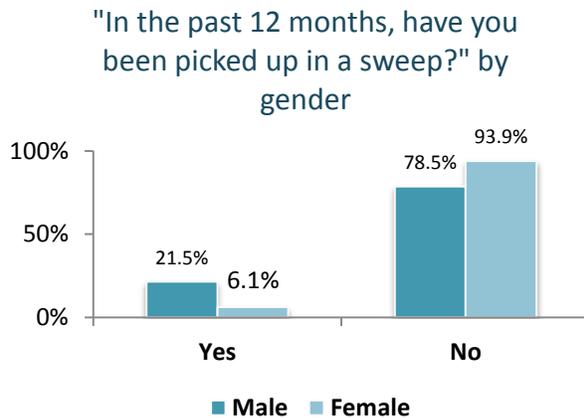
Eighteen percent of participants (N=516) were “detained without arrest” by police within the last 12 months. Once again, age group and gender-age group interaction were not found to be significant for this item. However, gender was significant for being, “detained without arrest” by police.” About 30% of men, in comparison to 10% of women, were found to be “detained without arrest” by police. Participants (N=86) informally detained, reported this occurring approximately three times within the last year. The range for the item, “number of times detained without arrest” by police, within the last year, spanned between *one and 15 times*, with a standard deviation of about three.



Picked Up in a Sweep

Approximately 12% of participants (N=518) were “picked up in a sweep” or raid by police within the last year. No gender-age group interaction was found for this item. However, gender- and age-group as stand-alone variables were found to be significant for whether participants were, “picked up in a sweep.” With respect to gender, men were found to be significantly more likely to be “picked up in a sweep” by police than women. Fifty-nine participants reported being “picked up in a sweep” by police within the last year. This included approximately 22% of the total sample of men and only 6% of women.

Also, younger participants were more likely to be “picked up in a sweep.” Age-cohort data reveals that the 18-21 year old group reported being picked up the most. This age group accounts for approximately 19% of those, “picked up in a sweep.” The 22- to 29-year-old group represents about 11%, and the oldest group only accounts for about 6% of those picked up in a sweep within the last year.



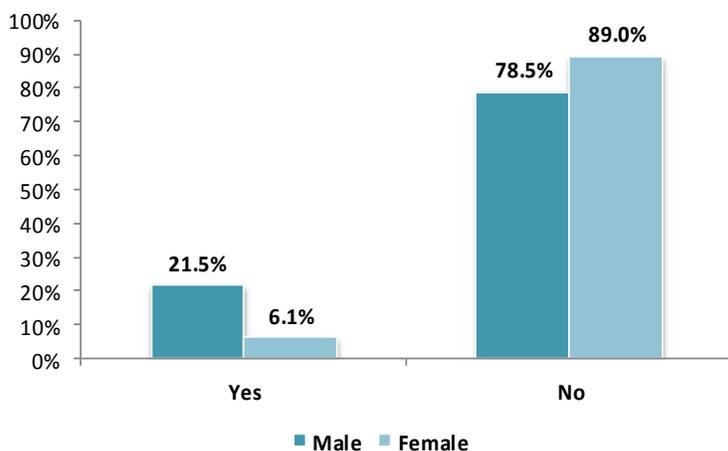
Participants (N=211) who reported being picked up within the last year were found to be picked up about three times within the last year. Age group difference by itself and gender-age group interaction were not found to be significant for this item. The range for the item, “how many times have you been picked up in a sweep?,” spanned between *one and 15 pick-ups*, with a standard deviation of about three.

Convicted

Although nearly 60% of those surveyed had been stopped by police within the last year, only about 18% (N=518) indicated that this led to an actual “conviction.” No age-group differences or gender-age group interactions were found to be significant for this item. However, gender by itself was found to be significant for being, “convicted.” Men were more than likely than women to be “convicted.” Specifically, 26% of men, in comparison to only 11% of women, admitted to a stop by police leading to a “conviction” within the last year. Participants (N=82) reported an average of 2.2 “convictions” last year. The range for the item, “how many times were you convicted?,” spanned between *one and 10 “convictions,”* with a standard deviation of 2.4.

More is revealed when examining contact with police or law enforcement as a function of a measure. Contact with police was also explored by way of a measure entitled: *Exposure to Police*.

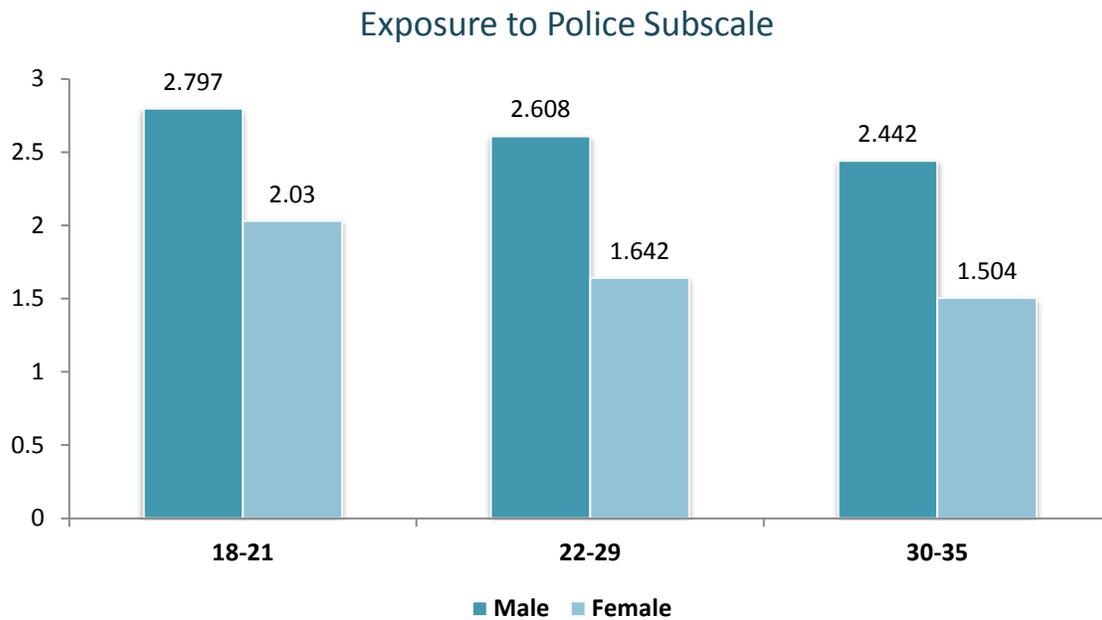
“In the past 12 months, have you been convicted?” by gender



This instrument consists of seven dichotomous items (i.e. stopped, detain, arrested, etc.). This measure ranges between 1-7 points and the mean score for this sample is 1.7 (N = 512), with a standard deviation of about 2.3. Higher scores on the total measure suggest participants were in more physical contact with police. Total findings suggest the sample was in less than moderate contact with police.

Gender and age as an interactional variable was found to be significant for the *Exposure*

to Police measure (.000). Although, the interactional model was significant, it is apparent that gender (.000) is driving this result. Results strongly suggest that males across age are in much more contact with law enforcement than females. The men’s (N=2.6) mean score on the measure is 2.6, with a standard deviation of 2.5, and the women’s mean score is 1.1, with a standard deviation of 1.8. Also, 18- to 21-year-old men were found to score significantly different from 30- to 35-year-old men. Also, physical contact with police both for men and women are less for older age cohorts.



*significantly greater than males 30-35 at $p < .05$

With the exception of being “stopped by police,” respondents were found, in general, to have less than moderate physical contact with police. However, most respondents held negative attitudes toward local law enforcement. Also, it should be underscored that most interviewees were content with police “doing their jobs” or enforcing laws by arresting those residents who made the community unsafe. Interview findings poignantly revealed that police, in fact, made some participants feel unsafe and unprotected. Some participants even reported instances of police being physically abusive with residents.

X. Prison Re-entry in Wilmington

Study participants mostly held positive attitudes about and were very supportive of those individuals returning home to Wilmington from prison. By and large, it was argued they “deserve another chance” to earn their way back to accessing quality opportunities. However, most in the study also agreed with the notion that great disdain is typically held for persons returning home from prison. In most instances, former inmates are subtly scoffed at, rejected, and considered “failures” by community residents and loved-ones, and sometimes even the former inmates themselves submit to negative views about themselves. Also, participants noted how the formerly incarcerated are considered a “problem” by local law enforcement, civic, and political leadership, as well as the business community—all of the very individuals and institutions who, ironically enough, “promise” to support them throughout the process of re-entry. Participants found felony convictions to unfairly stigmatize, debase, and permanently “brand” and bar mostly Black male bodies from participation in the basic privileges of American life. Former inmates were considered to be viewed by society at large as “throwaways” or “undesirables” by participants; or, as the conveniently forgotten, the disposable, or irredeemable.

Felonies have become lifetime barriers to quality employment, housing, educational, and health opportunities—the four chief interrelated factors most necessary for successful re-entry into the community. Study participants essentially understood people returning home to be invisibly blocked from accessing the opportunity structure. Also, according to some participants, the impact of losing respect from loved-ones as a result of not securing opportunities cannot be underestimated. Many of those returning home revert to *the streets* as a way to locate economic opportunity within the context of this toxic combination of little respect and difficulty acquiring basic resources.

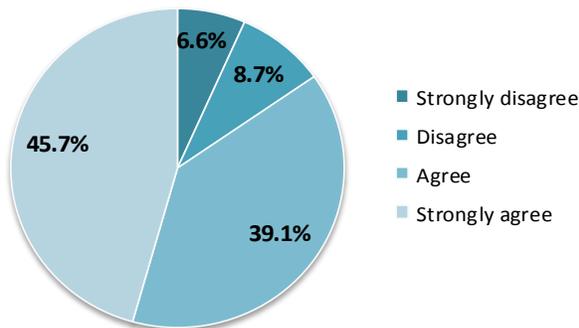
Felonies have become lifetime barriers to quality employment, housing, educational, and health opportunities.

Furthermore, many in Southbridge and on the Eastside argued that prison re-entry programs, interventions, and/or community-based organizations grounded in re-entry, were mostly inadequate or ineffective in serving the needs of those returning home from prison. It was noted that programs or organizations were too: (1) narrowly focused; (2) training-centered; (3) referral-oriented; and (4) culturally insensitive. Also, many felt the efforts of some sincere or well-intentioned re-entry programs are often thwarted, muted, and undermined by policy. Men and women returning home to Wilmington are met with overwhelming legislative and policy-related barriers that make it extremely difficult for them to smoothly reintegrate into society. Housing, participation in the political process, employment, or securing a loan to go to college, for instance, become nearly impossible challenges to surmount. However, in response to such breathtaking structural barriers, former Mayor James Baker of Wilmington, at the end of his third and final term in December 2012, issued an executive order for “Banned the Box” legislation to be immediately implemented in the city. This executive order requires the removal of all questions inquiring about a job applicant’s criminal justice background, particularly for non-uniformed city jobs. However, this executive order does not prevent criminal background checks from being conducted once a “conditional offer” has been made to an applicant (Gerace, 2010).

Attitudes Toward Prison Re-entry

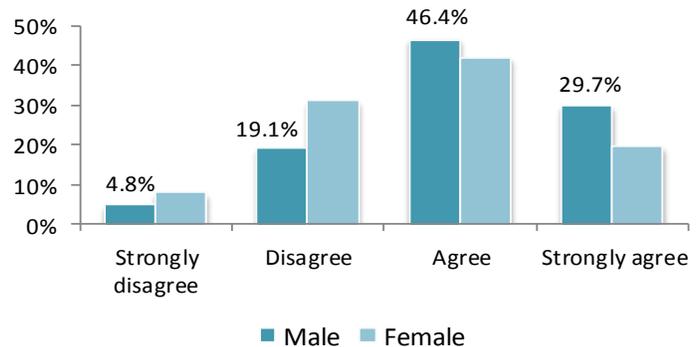
Most participants held positive attitudes towards those returning home from prison. Respondents overall, believed that former inmates need “another chance” to work and be educated and that most did not actually want to return to prison and/or a street life-oriented lifestyle. In fact, **about 85% (N=519) said they “agree” or “strongly agree” with, “People who come home from prison deserve another chance.”** Approximately 46% noted they “strongly agree” and 40% reported they “agree” with this item. No gender or age difference was found for this item, which suggests most in this sample feel strongly about supporting former inmates at about the same rate.

"People who come home from prison deserve another chance"



85% (N=519) said they “agree” or “strongly agree” with, “People who come home from prison deserve another chance.” Approximately 46% noted they “strongly agree” and 40% reported they “agree” with this item. No gender or age difference was found for this item, which suggests most in this sample feel strongly about supporting former inmates at about the same rate.

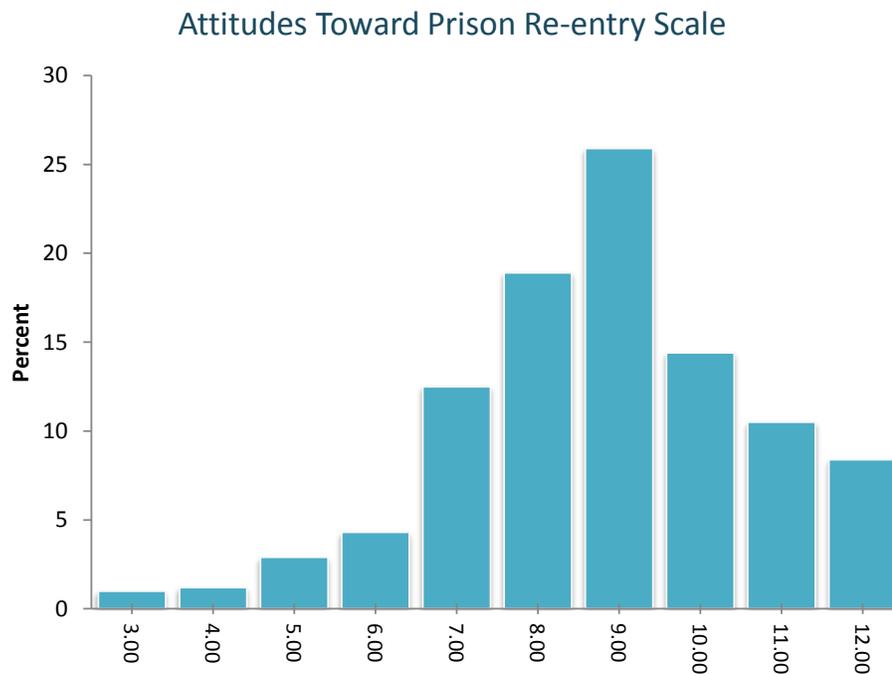
"People who come home from prison don't want to ever go back to prison again." by gender



In addition, nearly 70% (N=516) reported they “agree” or “strongly agree” with, “People who come home from prison, don’t ever want to come back to prison again.” Put another way, only about 30% of all participants either “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with the notion of former inmates wanting to recidivate. Overall, no age difference was found for this item. However, gender was found to be significant, and men generally were more likely to “agree” and “strongly agree” with the notion of former inmates not, “wanting to come back to prison again.” The largest margins between men and women exist on the “strongly agree” option for this item, where men (29.7%) were more likely to “strongly agree” than women (19.5%), with “People who come home from prison, don’t ever want to come back to prison again.”

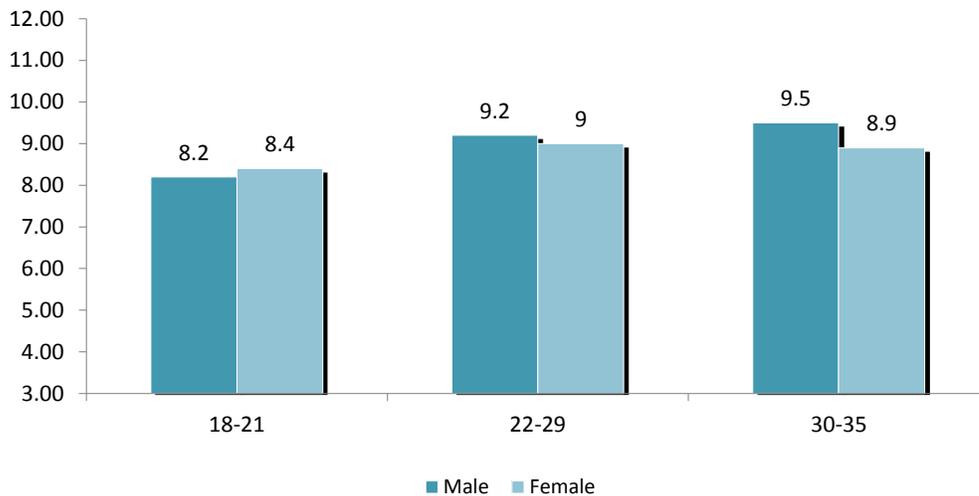
Overall, no age difference was found for this item. However, gender was found to be significant, and men generally were more likely to “agree” and “strongly agree” with the notion of former inmates not, “wanting to come back to prison again.” The largest margins between men and women exist on the “strongly agree” option for this item, where men (29.7%) were more likely to “strongly agree” than women (19.5%), with “People who come home from prison, don’t ever want to come back to prison again.”

A measure entitled *Attitudes Toward Prison Re-entry* was developed to assess the sample's basic values and feelings about persons returning home to Wilmington from a period of incarceration. This instrument consists of three items, and the measure ranges between three and 12 points. Higher scores on the total measure suggest participants hold more positive attitudes toward persons returning home from prison. The mean score for this sample is 9.1 (N=514), with a standard deviation of about two. Overall, these findings suggest the sample holds positive attitudes toward those returning home from prison.



Also, overall significance was found for a gender-age interaction on the *Attitudes Toward the Prison Re-entry* measure, although analysis reveals a gender-age interaction was non-significant by itself. Further, gender by itself, was found to be non-significant. Age, however, accounted for most of the model's variance and was found to be significant by itself, on the *Attitudes Toward Prison Re-entry* measure. Overall, findings suggest that participants' attitudes toward prison re-entry, although positive to begin with, in the 18 to 21 age range, are more positive with older age cohorts (22-29/30-35).

Mean Attitudes Toward Prison Re-entry Scale

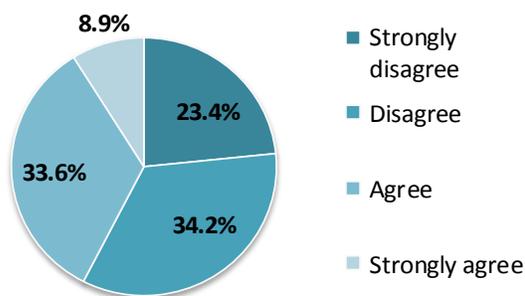


“Help For Those Coming Home”: Attitudes Toward Re-entry Interventions in Wilmington

Participants generally asserted that there are not enough effective interventions developed for

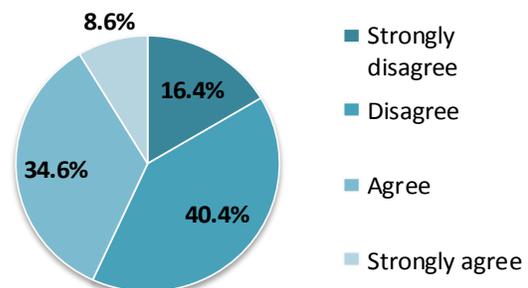
men and women coming home from prison—particularly interventions that are fundamentally comprehensive or holistic in their approaches and services offered. Participants were particularly concerned with the roadblocks or challenges former inmates are faced with when trying to pursue and acquire quality employment and sound educational training. Several interviewees

"Most people returning home from prison can find a job, if they really want to."



argued that employment and educational opportunities provided by most prison re-entry programs are typically lackluster “training programs” that generally do not result in any tangible outcomes for the client.

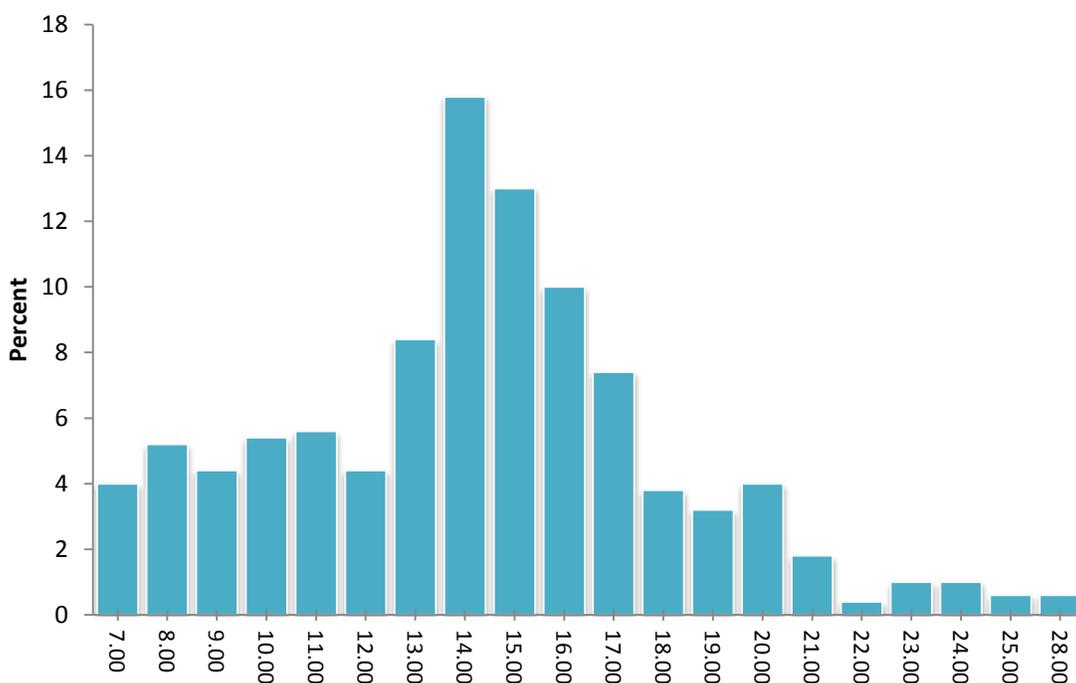
"There are enough educational programs available for people incarcerated in prison."



Approximately 63% (N=511) noted they “strongly disagree” or “disagree” with the statement, “There are good prison re-entry programs in the city of Wilmington.” Fifty-seven percent of respondents (N=512), in like sentiment, “strongly disagreed” or “disagreed” with, “There are enough educational programs available for people incarcerated in prison.” Also, a majority of those surveyed asserted that “most” recently released from prison are not able to secure employment. In fact, about 58% of participants, “agree” or “strongly disagree” with the item, “Most people returning home from prison can find a job, if they really want to.” No gender, age or gender-age interaction difference was found for these items.

A seven-item measure entitled *Perceptions of the Re-entry Process* was developed to assess how difficult or convenient participants thought it was to transition or acquire quality opportunities upon release from prison. The *Perceptions of the Re-entry Process* measure ranges between seven to 28 points. Lower scores on the total measure suggest participants perceive re-entry to be a difficult transitional experience. The mean score for this sample is 14 (N=500) with a standard deviation of four. Overall, participants hold moderately negative attitudes toward the re-entry process, suggesting that most participants understand re-entry to be a fundamentally challenging experience.

Perceptions of Re-entry Process Scale

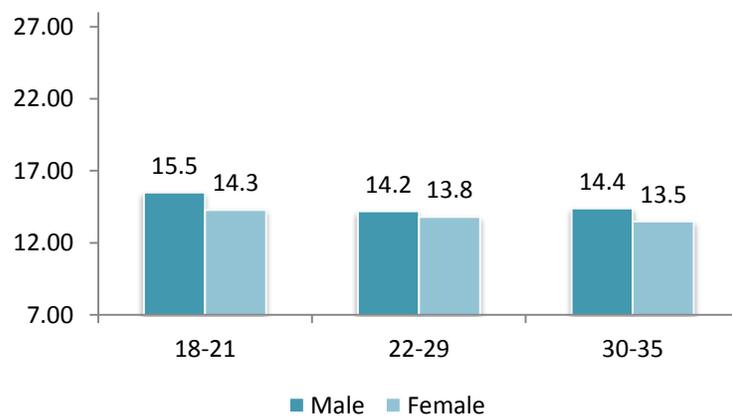


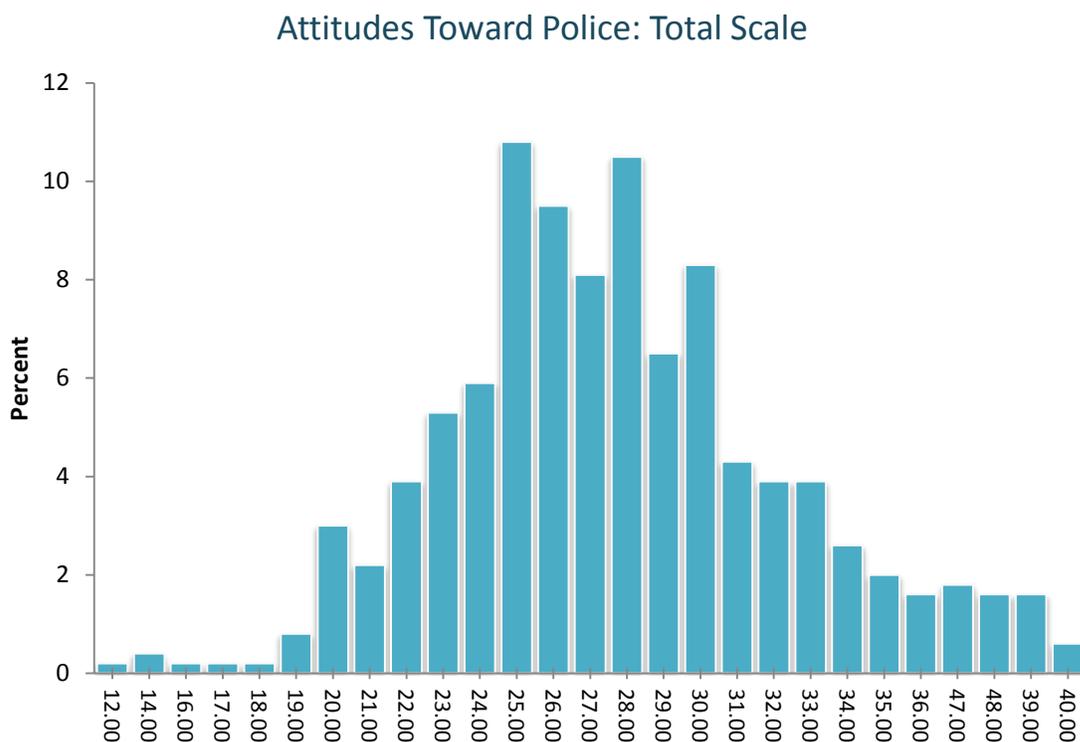
Also, overall significance was found for a gender-age interaction on the *Perceptions of the Re-entry Process* measure, although analysis reveals that a gender-age interaction was non-significant by itself. However, gender and age group by themselves were found to be significant.

Although scores were similar across the six gender-age groups, women, overall, were more likely to find re-entry to be much more challenging than men. Men, ages 18-21, held the highest or most positive perceptions, and women, ages 30-35, held the lowest or most negative perceptions of what the re-entry process entails. Women may hold the most negative perceptions or attitudes about the re-entry process, given that they are generally expected to bear the brunt of the responsibility while their male partners are incarcerated. For instance, during periods of male incarceration, women may be expected to solely look after the children, maintain housing and employment, secure and acquire other basic resources, as well as support a male partner or family member, emotionally and financially, upon his release from prison.

Furthermore, a measure entitled *Attitudes Toward Prison Re-entry Programs* was developed, given the importance of understanding what participants think about available programs for those coming home from prison. This instrument consists of five items. The *Attitudes Toward Prison Re-entry Programs* measures ranges between five and 20 points. Higher scores on the total measure suggest participants hold more negative attitudes toward available re-entry programs. The mean score for this sample is 12 (N=497), with a standard deviation of three. Findings suggest that participants, overall, hold moderately negative attitudes toward available re-entry programs established for those returning home from prison. Also, no significance was found for gender and age as individual variables or as an interactional variable. This suggests the overall sample is scoring at about the same rate on this measure.

Mean Perceptions of Re-entry Process Scale





The Voices of Those Who “Came Home”

Several participants bravely shared personal experiences or stories on the pipeline, cycle, or collection of experiences and structural conditions leading them to the streets, eventual incarceration, and re-entry into the community. Poignant narratives - on the cyclical triad of street involvement, incarceration and re-entry into local communities - were filled with dramatic highs and lows, successes and so-called failures, sadness and joy and, in most instances, an unsettling vestige of redemption. According to respondents, misguided attempts to provide material goods in moments of economic desperation lead most to *the streets* to engage in illegal activity. No participant interpreted sales of crack-cocaine or homicide, for instance, as positive, desirable, or fruitful endeavors for any community or individual. Illegal activity was generally conceptualized as a means to an economic end, ultimately perceived as worth the risk of physical injury, incarceration and/or death. Many essentially understood incarceration as the sum total of bad choices, missed or lost opportunities, and broken promises—all in the context of profound structural inequality.

Further, participants asserted that correctional facilities rarely rehabilitated and assisted inmates in effectively re-entering local communities. Participants mostly recommended intervention programs centered on employment and education. Also, several strongly recommended that a formal discharge plan service be organized for inmates within a reasonable period of time before release. Another challenge to be contended with and not underestimated upon coming home is the loss of respect from family, friends, and community residents, particularly when former inmates are perceived as an economic drain or burden on loved-ones. The loss of respect by

loved-ones in combination with little or no quality re-entry services leads a critical mass of those who come home from prison to return to *the streets*.

Lived Experiences with Re-entry

Although most argued that available re-entry opportunities were, by and large, inadequate, a critical mass of participants called specific attention to the value of *personal responsibility* and accountability and argued that successful re-entry is dependent mostly on the individual returning home from prison. However, the sample's notion of personal responsibility had little to do with blaming individuals who were released. Instead, most participants argued that a strategy of rigorous or disciplined personal responsibility is the most adaptive or functional approach to employ in the face of structural indifference. From this perspective, the only alternative is to be extremely self-determined within what will more than likely be a rough transition back into the community given the extreme paucity of quality programs. Most participants point to structural inequality or an inability and refusal by civic and political leadership to develop constructive re-entry programming as the core problem in Wilmington's re-entry dilemma. And, given that this perspective may actually hold true, participants insist that individuals coming home must acquire and implement strict regimentation as the pathway forward to successful re-entry.

Anthony Bey's (33) structural critique is representative of the sample's general criticisms of re-entry programming in Wilmington. Anthony, formerly of the criminal justice system, refused to rely on available re-entry programs and instead decided to pursue a strategy of self-determination. He is now a successful businessman and store owner in Wilmington and has never returned to prison since his last incarceration almost a decade ago. This approach, however, was born out of a critique or awakening of the structural impediments that, for Anthony, mostly led those who came home from prison, "back [to] jail..." He said, "It's not no re-entry [program] to come back in society and be a productive citizen." Anthony's criticism of available re-entry programs is mostly centered on the misuse of "violation of probation/parole" - which is, in fact, the primary reason that individuals recidivate (Alexander, 2010). He vehemently insisted that parole officers "...want to continuously keep you on probation so they (can) violate you for any given reason. It could be small or big." Anthony argued that parole officers are monetarily incentivized by number of violation of parolees.

Anthony Bey (33): ... I really haven't seen any like positive things come out of [most re-entry programs]. All I see is like re-entry to come back [to] jail, that's what it is. It's not no re-entry to come back in society and be a productive citizen... they want to continuously keep you on [parole] so they (can) violate you for any given reason. It could be small or big. And then they keep adding the time on... Now a brother can start from level two probation and catch a technical violation and get bumped up to level three... all the way up to level four which is home confinement... every time that you get violated, the probation officer gets a bonus on his check... The more people they violate, the more money comes in their pocket so it's an ongoing cycle... they want to keep you in the system, they want to keep you on the parole... I don't see no re-entry program helping anybody, all I see is harming.

Earl (19) is also a strong proponent for employing self determination as the primary method for re-entry. According to Earl, his brother is a "first strike" felon serving a five-year sentence. Although, he believes Black men are systematically blocked from accessing quality economic opportunities, he still argues that his brother and others can "change" and not return to *the*

streets. Earl admitted that just being young, Black, and male is enough to prevent someone from equitable access to employment, and he further argues that negative implications of these immutable individual factors are profoundly compounded by a felony conviction, making it extremely difficult or almost impossible for Black men under these conditions to succeed. However, although he believes Black men are caught within this unforgiving structural dynamic or vice grip - Earl still argued that his brother and others in similar circumstances can still succeed. He passionately argued that with “self-determination,” Black men can surmount these embedded structural barriers. Earl asserted that his brother has a great chance to succeed, in response to a question on, how difficult or easy, it will be for his brother to return home:

Earl (19): I think he has a very high chance of doing that [re-entering successfully] if he wants to **change his self...** I do believe **people coming out of jail have a great chance of making it because it's self determination. If you want to change yourself--you're gonna change yourself,** and if you don't then you don't.

Banks (27), formerly of the criminal justice system and among the most critical of former inmates, also agreed that the primary approach for re-entry will have to be self-determination. He stated that most who come home are ultimately a victim of, “giv[ing] up.” Interestingly, he also blames or holds himself most accountable for his previous recidivation. Banks, who was convicted of a drug felony charge, acknowledged that he “made some wrong decisions” upon being given a second chance by the Plummer Community Corrections Center (PCCC). He admitted to receiving employment and even “full custody of [his] son” as a consequence of PCCC. PCCC, located in Wilmington, houses and works with inmates in the following three sub-programs: (1) traditional work release (WR); (2) Crest (substance abuse treatment); and (3) Intensive Community Supervision Program (ICSP). Strikingly, a number of inmates at PCCC are actually employed by PCCC. A concerted effort is made by PCCC to place inmates in employment opportunities that offer “skills training, cultivate good work habits, utilize existing talent to benefit the DOC, foster social appropriateness and teach responsibility” (PCCC, 2013). In fact, one of the Street PAR members was extended an opportunity to work on the Wilmington Street PAR project through PCCC.

Banks (27): It's quite a few [quality re-entry programs]... But **you got to utilize them you know what I mean and some people don't. They just give up....** When I was.. incarcerated at the **Plummer Center I got a chance to have a job, I got full custody of my son,** but **I made some wrong decisions.** When some things came my way.. **I fell short, but not that I didn't have the support....**

Rennie Rox (35) who hails from the Eastside, grew up with a family and in a home that struggled with economic poverty, as well as use and sales of narcotics. Rennie's father was involved “in the game” and eventually Rennie, too became seriously identified with *the streets*. Desperately intent on providing material resources to himself and his loved-ones, at the age of 14, he delved into the sale of narcotics and armed robbery, among other street related activities. Rennie was incarcerated twice and now, at age 35, vows to never return as an inmate to any correctional facility. He was first sentenced and incarcerated at 19, when he was sentenced to 10 years in a state correctional facility for a felony drug conviction.

Released at 28, or after nine years, Rennie unfortunately recidivated just after five months and subsequently received an additional four and half years. He believed his naiveté and youthful immaturity blocked him from understanding the self-destructiveness of his behavior or choices. He said, “I didn't even know what life was about when I caught the 10 years.” Also, Rennie acknowledged that his total immersion in and acquisition of a street identity further prevented him from fully appreciating, “how long 10 years was gonna be.” At this point in his life, the rush or manic state of a street lifestyle precluded him from being able to conceptualize how 10 years would even feel. Rennie and other participants repeatedly noted that jails and prisons are filling up, more and more, with younger and angrier felons, like he was at 19.

Rennie asserted that personal responsibility, grounded in a healthy attitude, is the formula for successful re-entry. According to respondents, it is difficult to work with young, embittered, or profoundly angry inmates. Successful re-entry first begins inside jail or prison and begins with inmates who are best poised to receive help and make the best out of what more than likely will be a limited set of available opportunities.

According to Rennie, it was during his second incarceration, “laying up on (the top) bunk,” that he acquired a more positive attitude, which allowed him to focus more clearly on how not to return to prison.

Rennie Rox (35): I'm laying up on [the top] bunk.... after doin' eight years and then getting' locked back up five months later. **It felt like....somebody had a belt around my neck and was turnin' it from underneath the bunk, like it was killin' me.... the biggest regret** was me comin' home and **realizing that a life could be lived...** I really coulda just chilled out. **I really coulda kept tryin' and pushin' and could still be home. And now I'm in this position again.**

Although Rennie spoke extensively about personal responsibility and ultimately attributes blame for incarceration to the inmate, his analysis is not without equal critique of purported re-entry services made available to former inmates. He agreed that services are mostly inadequate; however, although this may be true, he passionately argued that, for right or for wrong, successful re-entry is dependent on the former inmate enduring a number of unjust personal and structural barriers over an extended period of time.

Rennie Rox (35) : **you get shot down everywhere you go when you got felonies.** I mean, unless you absolutely know somebody that's already workin' there that can get you in. **But a lotta places... their policies are so tight. ... the policies are so tight now... even if you work for a temp service... I don't use that as a cop out** to say I'm not gonna get a job. It's just that it's hard to find a job...

For many of the participants, personal responsibility is conceptualized within the context of structural barriers set in place to prevent successful re-entry. From this perspective, re-entry programs or interventions, at the very least, should be understood for their relative worth. Rennie and a number of interviewees ultimately argued that employment and, to some extent, educational opportunities were central to successful re-entry and although this is what is needed, it is rarely made available. According to Rennie, his “specialized” re-entry program yielded no employment or educational opportunity, or any of what was promised: “There wasn't **no job leads**. There wasn't **no education leads**. It wasn't go here, if you need your **driver's license** again... **assistance with food**... I'm bein' honest with you... **Everything was left on my own.**” Given the reality of what intervention programs are able and willing to provide, former inmates

“can’t give up” and must acquire a creative form of rugged individualism as *the approach* to re-entry.

Rennie Rox (35): ... I can't depend on no reentry program. I can't depend on probation and parole. ...in fact, I'm not even lookin' for none of these people to help me do anything because it's just gonna be a disappointment and [actually] cause me to relapse outta frustration because I done put all my.. faith in that these people were gonna help me. So I don't do that no more. ... I'm all about creatin' my own opportunity... I can't wait on them to give me an opportunity. So I'm not gonna sit here and make a scene like they're the reason why brothers go back to jail... it come down to the brothers, too.

Principles and motivating factors independent of employment or money will have to guide and drive the experience of re-entry. Rennie Rox was driven by his “children” and quest for a more “peaceful life.” His professed brute will and determination to not return to prison for a third time motivated him to “cut grass” in “90 degree heat” to remain home from prison.

Rennie Rox (35): Man, there's been times... **I had to get my brother's lawnmower, put it in my trunk of my car. I'm handin' out fliers that I cut grass. \$20 front and back. I'm trying to do three, four, houses a day in 90 degree heat...** [I'm] the same cat that would run in your house and take all your drugs, pistol whip your whole family, and shoot somebody if they don't give it up. [I was] The same dude that'll stand on the corner tryin' to sell a thousand dimes a day... I can't do that no more. **I gotta do what I gotta do to feed my family and try to contribute to these bills. That's the only thing I'm concerned with right now. And I don't let these felonies hold me back. ... if I.. just give up and be like.. I can't find a job [then] it's back to the hood [or a life of crime]. Nah, I ain't doin' that.... I'm all about tryin' to raise my children and live a beautiful, peaceful life. That's it. Ain't none of that in jail.**

Recommendations for Prison Re-entry

Quality employment and, to some extent, educational opportunities were among the most underscored recommendations made by study participants regarding re-entry. These particular recommendations were mostly understood as giving those returning home the best opportunity or springboard to acquire basic resources to respond to other re-entry challenges like housing, transportation, and health related concerns. Also, participants called for the development of more educational programs inside correctional facilities as a way to assist with re-entry as well.

Employment and Work Ethic

Qualitative findings reveal participants believed that most individuals returning home from prison do, in fact, hold the necessary work ethic and would sincerely be willing to work. **Louis Price (33)**, a Street PAR member, asked **Jerome (31)**, “..do you think [those returning home] would rather work than go back to the block [or streets]...?” Jerome crudely and candidly underscored that most returning home would be willing to work by reminding Louis of the dangers that come with leading a street life. For Jerome, most would avoid the streets if other employment opportunities were available to begin with. Jerome’s convincingly argued that those involved in the streets, in most instances, would rather avoid the violence that inherently surrounds “the block.” It is much more appealing or desirable for those in *the streets* to engage in quality legal employment over illegal activity. Ultimately, Jerome called for a single location or “research center” to be established for those returning home whereby they can receive aggressive assistance to locate employment. This employment resource center, according to

Jerome, should be passionately committed to the ethos, “*We gonna help you find a job... all you got to do is be committed...* If you committed we [employment agency] gonna be committed [to finding you employment].”

Jerome (31): A lot of people would rather work, I know a lot of people would rather work. Ain't nothing out here no more. This shit [street life], ..is dead.... **Motherfuckers getting killed every day over this kind of shit.**

Terrel (27) also calls for quality employment to be provided to individuals returning home from prison given that former inmates, from his perspective, sincerely are willingly to work. He asserts that people returning home, contrary to popular opinion, will work, particularly if employment opportunities provide a legitimate chance to re-establish oneself. Terrel argued that in most instances people returning home are blocked from quality employment opportunities primarily as a function of a criminal record or felony conviction. He argues that a mistake or “(poor) decision” should not prevent someone from successfully re-entering the community.

Terrel (27) There should be **more programs helping them so they can get a job...** because **it's literally impossible [after incarceration]. ... they might have made a [bad] decision when they were 16...** [and now] **the decision that they made when they were 16 has affected them throughout their lifetime. ... it shouldn't be a felony that's stoppin' someone to be productive if they can be productive... you got people with felonies that got all types of brains, education, talents.**

Aaron (29) argued that it makes little sense that women, children, and seniors in Wilmington qualify for and oftentimes take advantage of housing and employment opportunities, but not the men and especially Black men who are returning home from prison. It made little sense to Aaron that fewer structural opportunities are made available to the men, but they are held to the same expectation to succeed. He pointed out that, “Just like we give women low-income houses for havin' children... *I think it should be the same way for felons comin' outta jail, because they can't get good payin' jobs.*”

In closing, participants and Street PAR members have called for major policy change to assist persons returning home from prison. The Street PAR family was constantly reminded by participants that successful re-entry requires firm discipline to be exacted over a prolonged period of time. Study participants generally held positive attitudes or were very supportive of those individuals returning home to Wilmington. Most participants argued that more opportunity should be provided for those returning home and that they would, in fact, take advantage of quality opportunity if afforded it. According to many participants, felony convictions have become persistent structural barriers to locating quality employment, housing, educational, and health opportunities. Furthermore, prison re-entry programs, interventions, and/or community-based organizations focusing on re-entry, were found to be mostly inadequate or ineffective in serving the needs of those returning home from prison.

XI. Activism by the Street PAR Team

Street participatory action research (PAR) requires a social justice or “action” response to data collected, analyzed, and produced by the larger study. Action offers venues through which the research's purpose and results can be viewed, understood, debated over, and absorbed by the community under study. Hence, action projects must be well theorized, organized by a clear methodology, and executed in several iterations over a period of time. There is a strict expectation for action to be systematically developed in tandem with the research component of a Street PAR project.

Action was taken seriously by the Wilmington Street PAR Project, and ultimately organized for at least three core “audiences” including: (1) Street PAR members; (2) community members or residents; and the (3) professional community. Ms. Raye Jones Avery, Executive Director of Christina Cultural Arts Center, led the action component for the Wilmington Street PAR project by organizing and directing the “action” sub-team for the larger study. An action schedule was produced and executed primarily throughout 2010. However, the study did not include systematic analysis of the impact of the action component on the local community.

Numerous action products or programs were primarily developed and targeted for particular audiences (e. g., youth, residents, civic and political leadership, etc.) for one audience but ultimately designed to be shared with all three audiences.

Street PAR Members

Action for Street PAR members was conceptualized by the formal partnership as providing them with: (1) “quality” employment; (2) “quality” educational opportunity; (3) case management; as well as (4) job skills, research and activism training. All of these strategies were designed to improve or increase the social, educational, and professional capital of all Street PAR members to make it easier to enroll them in school and to employ them. It should be underscored (as noted earlier in report) that all Street PAR members received some form of “quality” employment during and/or after the project’s initial funding period. Employment opportunities offering \$15-20 per hour were provided by: (1) University of Delaware; (2) United Way of Wilmington; (3) Christina Cultural Arts Center; and (4) Parkway Academy School District. Most positions secured for Street PAR members were dependent upon “soft” or grant based money. Consequently, employment, in most instances, was temporary as opposed to permanent. Six Street PAR family members were unemployed at the time this report was written. Also, with respect to educational outcomes, five PAR family members enrolled in college during and after the project’s initial funding period. Two Street PAR members enrolled in graduate school and three Street PAR members enrolled at the undergraduate level. Two other members received educational opportunities (scholarships for a G.E.D. program and undergraduate program) but both declined the offers. The two graduate students and two undergraduate students were enrolled in college at the time of the writing this report.

Community Members

Community members, as an audience, were conceptualized by the project as representing the following three communities: (1) low-income non-street identified residents; (2) the explicitly street identified; and (3) people returning home from prison. Although Wilmington is the city in which the report is grounded, community members as an audience is intended to be broader than the city of Wilmington. Put another way, we hope and intend for this project in its multiple forms to reach and be shared with low-income, non-street identified residents, the explicitly street identified, and people returning home from prison across the country.

Numerous traditional and creatively-centered non-traditional “action” products/events were developed and targeted for community members, including: (1) monetary and non-monetary incentives issued to study participants; (2) homicide art exhibit at Christina Cultural Arts Center; (3) feature length documentary of project (4) a mix-CD reflecting the link between structural and physical violence; (5) community barbecue; (5) assistance with organizing Southbridge Community Day ; (6) youth violence forum/panel; (7) a produced T-shirt with PAR emblem; and (8) two PSAs on violence (one on physical violence and the other on domestic violence).

Professional Community

A professional audience was inclusive of professional individuals; however, this audience was primarily geared towards organizations and institutions. Four professional audiences were targeted by the larger project: (1) the academy [researchers/students/university]; (2) the criminal justice system [law enforcement & correctional personnel]; (3) civic leadership (community activists, religious clergy & non-profit organizations); (4) schools and community based educational programs; and (5) local and state political leadership.

Action products prepared for professional audiences were generally more traditional or scholarly in nature. In addition to this report, a series of supplemental reports will be subsequently released. Manuscripts co-authored with faculty and students will be prepared for social science journals and as chapters for edited book volumes. Several opinion-editorial articles by members of the project have been published and others will be written and published as well. Also, at least two book projects will be developed in the upcoming years: (1) a research oriented book project; and a (2) photo essay book project. Last, three websites have been developed as a function of the Wilmington Street PAR Project. The *Wilmington Street PAR family* has created the project website, which includes many of the action products. This site is entitled: ThePeoplesReport.com. The second web page was developed by the *News Journal* (Delaware flagship newspaper) at:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=MYNEIGHBORHOOD>

and a third website was developed by the *Wilmington Hope Commission* at:
http://wilmhope.org/?page_id=454.

In addition, Street PAR members and formal partners have made a total of 100 formal presentations since November 2009. Three kinds of formal presentations were made: (a) 40 college/university presentations; (b) 39 community presentations; and (c) 21 media

presentations. Sixteen *community presentations* were made primarily to civic, political, and banking leaders. Twenty-three *community presentations* were made to local community residents. Examples of presentations included speaking to the Wilmington City Council, the State Assembly of Delaware, and at the American Psychological Association National Conference in 2011. Please see **Appendix A** for the list of formal presentations made by the Wilmington Street PAR Project.

XII. Recommendations

In closing, the Wilmington Street PAR Project or “Safe Communities” Training and Employment Project, organized 15 community residents, formerly of the streets and/or criminal justice system, to examine the personal/behavioral and structural forces that contribute to physical violence in the city of Wilmington. This study and action project specifically explored this topic in the Southbridge and Eastside neighborhoods of Wilmington, DE (19801) and sought to equip the 15 residents (formerly of “the streets”) with a research and activist skill set to increase their social, professional, and intellectual capital.

Findings strongly suggest that physical violence in its many forms in Wilmington, Delaware is profoundly tied to structural inequality. A critical mass of residents reported direct and/or indirect experiences with violence in the form of: (1) physical assaults; (2) knifings; (3) shootings; (4) drug use/sales of drugs; and (5) homicide—to more structural forms of violence including: (1) unemployment; (2) poor schooling opportunities; (3) unhealthy living conditions; or (4) “failing” or “corrupt” civic and political leadership. Also, a variant of residents spoke of “unfair” or invasive law enforcement procedures including being: (1) profiled and frisked; (2) caught up in raids or sweeps; (3) detained without detention; (4) arrested; and/or (5) incarcerated. Nonetheless, participants overall were found to demonstrate positively high levels of: (1) psychological well-being; (2) social well being; (3) attitudes toward education; (4) and attitudes toward employment. That is, while community residents reported being overwhelmed with physical violence as well as blocked opportunity or structural violence, these data strongly suggest that they love themselves; they love their communities and families; they want to work and; they want quality educational opportunities.

A total of 17 recommendations are proposed to address physical violence in Wilmington. They are organized under the following four target areas: (1) Physical Violence; (2) Structural Opportunity; (3) Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice System; and (4) Street Outreach and Continued Community-Centered Research and Activism.

Physical Violence

Physical Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs

A set of prevention and intervention programs centered on physical violence should be developed, by gender and developmental stage, for Wilmington residents. This program should be designed to address the following forms of physical violence: (1) interpersonal assault; (2) domestic violence; (3) school violence; (4) gun violence; and (5) homicide.

Curriculum Development

Academic curricula should be developed for Wilmington youth at the primary and secondary school levels. Specifically, school districts are encouraged to develop age appropriate lesson plans aimed at educating students about structural opportunity/violence and physical violence. Also, school districts that serve Wilmington youth are encouraged to design course

curricula that focus on both the school-to-prison pipeline and prison re-entry social phenomena. Youth should be exposed early on to such topics as they profoundly impact the students' lived experiences. Students should be organized within schools to locate and read as well as conduct and write up statistical analyses on structural and physical violence, in addition to the school-to-prison pipeline and prison re-entry. Also, performance and arts-based curricula should be developed as a way to encourage youth to perform (i.e., theater, film, poetry, music, etc.) and to teach audience members about how structural and physical violence, the school-to-prison pipeline, and prison re-entry are experienced by young people in Wilmington.

Youth and Adult Forums on Physical Violence

Selected Wilmington residents should receive support to organize a series of grassroots discussions in the form of panels, forums, or conferences on physical violence. Such discussions can be held inside schools, community centers, non-profit organizations, and/or universities. Local residents, activists, academics/scholars, as well as civic and political leaders, should be invited to attend and speak at such discussions or forums.

Safe Places

Safe locations or physical sites (i.e. community centers, city parks/playgrounds) should be developed for Wilmington youth and young adults to constructively commune. Findings of this study strongly suggest that safe gathering spaces will help to offset the frustration felt by youth and young adults in Wilmington. Also, it is recommended that fun or creative as well as educational and counseling-related activities be made available to all youth and young adults that utilize these safe spaces.

Structural Opportunity

Relationship between Banking Community and Wilmington Residents

An explicit, more aggressive and/or robust relationship needs to be structured between the banking community and low-income Wilmington residents as a way to more effectively improve structural opportunities for said residents. The influence and/or resources provided by the banking community can more effectively assist low-income residents with upward mobility by improving employment/economic, educational, and housing opportunities. Increased structural opportunities will assuredly help to reduce physical violence in Wilmington.

Improved Educational Opportunity

Creative and proactive educational programming should be provided to residents. Also, academic scholarships or fellowships should be provided for educational opportunities ranging from G.E.D. to graduate programs. In addition, increased workshops on college enrollment and financial aid should be organized in schools and non-profit organizations.

Improved Employment Opportunity

A concerted effort must be made by city and state leadership to explicitly improve employment or economic opportunities for low-income residents in Wilmington. Other research and this study profoundly conclude that low-income Black residents want to work. Also, the social science literature reveals that employment or economic opportunity is the best predictor of a reduction in physical violence.

Improved Housing Opportunity

A concerted effort should be organized to address neighborhoods blighted by abandoned and/or boarded up buildings throughout the city of Wilmington. Also, it suggested that housing programs be established to inform local residents of opportunities to purchase as opposed to simply renting/leasing housing property. More derelict properties should be converted into affordable housing for local residents, when possible. For a model, see the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in Roxbury, Massachusetts at <http://www.dsni.org/>.

Non-Traditional Childcare Facilities

Free or subsidized childcare should be made available to any low-income individual, male or female, who is the parent or legal guardian of a child up to age 14.

Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice System

Comprehensive Prison Re-entry Programming

This report recommends comprehensive prison re-entry programming with employment at the center of this re-entry effort. This study underscores that effective re-entry cannot occur without “quality” employment opportunities being made available to former inmates. Employment opportunities must go beyond “employment training programs or employment referral services.” Further, comprehensive prison re-entry programming, although grounded in economic opportunity, should also include a focus on educational and housing needs, as well as individual and group-based forms of therapy.

Community-Police Programming

A well-resourced and community centered community-policing program is strongly recommended. Local residents must be at the helm of such a program. Also, as in the case of a number of community-police programs throughout the country, this program should not devolve into an unconstructive venting session between residents and police or, for that matter, a forum where local residents are simply expected by law enforcement to reveal the names of suspected neighborhood criminals. This program should comprehensively focus on reducing crime with a focus on the types of crimes taking place in Wilmington neighborhoods as opposed to individual suspects. Also, a community-police partnership

should focus proactively on programming in local neighborhoods as a way to preemptively reduce crime.

Law Enforcement

It is suggested for the Wilmington Police Department to more aggressively train law enforcement to work more effectively with community residents. Study results reveal police have made a significant number of local residents feel “harassed,” “bothered,” and “less safe” in their own neighborhoods. It is recommended that more forums between law enforcement and the community be established as a way to discuss and improve interpersonal relationships between police officers and residents.

Street Outreach and Continued Community-Centered Research and Activism

Street Outreach Program

A viable, aggressive, and innovative youth-based, street outreach program should be implemented as a way to offset violence in Wilmington. Youth should be paid to inform young people of the social ills that are plaguing Wilmington and how to effectively address them.

Mayor-Led Street March Campaign

It is recommended that the Wilmington Mayor and/or other local politicians routinely lead marching or walking campaigns on some of the most violent streets in the city. Political leadership should collaborate with civic leadership and local residents at least twice a month by marching at nighttime in the roughest or most challenging streets of Wilmington. New Orleans Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu employed such a strategy in 2011 in response to New Orleans' violent crime epidemic. Mayor Landrieu decided to walk once a month with a cadre of law enforcement, residents, and civic and political leadership in the most violent neighborhoods in New Orleans as a way to impact and reduce violent crime. According to a *60 Minutes* interview, Mayor Landrieu argued that such walk-throughs “make people feel safer and more connected to him and the police.” See the *60 Minutes* interview conducted by Byron Pitts with Mayor Landrieu entitled “Mitch Landrieu's Big Easy Challenge”, posted 2:33PM on May 1, 2011 at <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7364552n>.

Wilmington Street PAR Institute

The Wilmington Street PAR family calls for resources to be devoted to the development of a Wilmington-based Street Participatory Acton Research Institute. Such a research institute could organize a concurrent set of Street PAR studies on various social issues across the city, which would provide invaluable educational and civic opportunities for local residents, as well as an opportunity to profoundly impact policy from the ground up. Also,

local residents could use the institute to develop and execute a research agenda that would be used to organize a platform to legitimize the concerns of local residents citywide.

City-Wide Street PAR Project on Physical Violence

Given the study's results, it is strongly recommended that a citywide Street PAR project on physical violence be conducted throughout Wilmington. **Specifically, it is recommended that a quasi-experimental, multi-method design be organized to study the relationship between structural and physical violence, as well as examine the impact of Street PAR as an intervention, for Street PAR members and the impact of such an intervention on the actual reduction of physical violence within the city of Wilmington.**

Street PAR Inside Schools

Street PAR could provide students, particularly those at risk for dropping out and/or not enrolling in college, with a set of quality educational experiences that would lead them to college enrollment. A Street PAR program inside local schools would be two-fold, including: (1) research analysis and a (2) school intervention—designed to support students with graduating from high school and entering post-secondary institutions. **A PAR experience or intervention equips students with an enhanced reading, writing, and analytic skill set which can prepare them for the academic rigor expected at the university level** (Brown, 2010, Fine et al., 2004; Payne & Brown, 2011).

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XIV. Appendices

Appendix A: Presentations

Appendix B: Methodology

Appendix C: Community Survey Packet

Appendix D: Interview Protocol

Appendix E: Individual Interview Consent Form

Appendix F: Group Interview Consent Form

Appendix G: Interviewee Questionnaire

Appendix H: Interviewee Questionnaire Consent Form

Appendix I: Image Release Form

Appendix J: Resource Packet

Appendix K: PAR Project Flyer

Appendix L: PAR Member Application

Appendix M: PAR Application Selection Guide

Appendix N: PAR Member Interview Questions

Appendix O: Research Training Agenda

Appendix P: PAR Closing Ceremony Flyer

Appendix A: Presentations

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS: (40)

- (1) **Ronald E. McNair Research Conference.** **Presentation:** *Employment as Viewed by Young Adults in Wilmington's Low-Income Black Communities.* **Panelist:** Hillary Khan. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. August 2013.
- (2) **Ronald E. McNair Research Conference.** **Presentation:** *Prison Re-entry Programs: Attitudes and Experiences Among Street Life Oriented Black Men.* **Panelist:** Neraliz Diaz. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. August 2013.
- (3) **Eleventh Annual Workshop of the Racial Democracy, Crime & Justice Network.** **Conference Theme:** Criminal Justice, Social Justice: Will the Twain Ever Meet. **Panel Discussion:** Didactic Session, "Social Justice, Social Advocacy and Academic Survival. **Panel Presentation Title:** How to Do Action in the Academy. **Panelist:** Yasser A. Payne. The Blackwell Inn and Conference Center/Criminal Justice Research Center. Ohio State University. Columbus, Ohio. July, 2013.
- (4) **Senior Thesis Symposium, University of Delaware.** **Presentation Title:** "Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets." **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. University of Delaware. Department of Black American Studies Conference Room, Ewing Hall. Newark, Delaware. May 2013.
- (5) **11th Annual Colonial Academic Alliance Undergraduate Research Conference.** **Keynote Presentation Title:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Crime and Structural Violence in Wilmington, DE.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Embassy Suite Hotel. Newark, Delaware. April 2013.
- (6) **Virginia Commonwealth University's Community Lecture Series.** **Keynote Presentation Title:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Structural Violence and Crime in Wilmington, Delaware.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond Public Library. Richmond, Virginia. April 2013.
- (7) **The Center for the Study of Diversity Brown Bag Series.** **Presentation:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Crime and Structural Violence in Wilmington, DE.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Elliot Hall. University of Delaware. Newark, DE. April 2013.
- (8) **Guest Class Lecture.** *The People's Report: The Link Between Crime and Structural Violence in Wilmington, DE.* **Professor:** Leland Ware, J. D. **Course:** Urban Policy. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Memorial Hall, University of Delaware. Newark, DE April 2013.
- (9) **Third Regional Undergraduate Student Research Conference.** **Panel Discussion:** *Juveniles and the Justice System.* **Presentation:** *School-to-Prison Pipeline: How*

Perceived Experiences with Teachers Lead Students to Street Behavior Inside Schools.
Panelist: Ashlee Johnson. Arsht Hall, University of Delaware. Wilmington, DE. April, 2013.

- (10) **Guest Class Lecture.** *The People's Report: The Link Between Crime and Structural Violence in Wilmington, DE.* **Professor:** Marlene Saunders, Ph. D. **Course:** Advanced Generalist Practice IV. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Price Building, Delaware State University. Dover, DE. March, 2013.
- (11) **Urban Ethnography Workshop Seminar Hosted by Elijah Anderson.** **Keynote Presentation:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Structural Violence and Crime in Wilmington, Delaware.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Yale University. New Haven, Connecticut. March 2013.
- (12) **Diversity and Public Scholarship Symposium.** **Panel Presentation Title:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Structural Violence and Crime in Wilmington, Delaware.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Perkins Hall, University of Delaware. Newark, DE. March 2013.
- (13) **Criminal Justice Research Center Monthly Research Seminar Hosted by Ruth Peterson.** **Keynote Presentation Title:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Structural Violence and Crime in Wilmington, Delaware.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. The Ohio State University. Criminal Justice Research Center. Columbus, Ohio. March 2013.
- (14) **37th Annual National Council for Black Studies Conference.** **Presentation Title:** "Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets." **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. The Westin Indianapolis – Downtown. Indianapolis, Indiana. March 2013.
- (14a) **83rd Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society Conference.** **Conference Theme:** Sustainable Communities/Sustainable Lives: Social Change, Social Action, & Social Justice. **Presentation Title:** "Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets." **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers. Boston, MA. March 2013. {Presentation Opportunity Declined}
- (15) **Justice and Multiculturalism Paper Competition.** **Presentation Title:** "Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets." **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. University of Albany. Albany, New York State.
- (16) **The 30th Annual Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology and Education.** **Conference Title:** Honoring Our Legacy, and Empowering Future Leaders. **Poster Session:** "Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets." Brooklyn Hitchens. Teachers College, Columbia University. New York City. February 2013.
- (17) **The 30th Annual Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology and Education.** **Conference Title:** Honoring Our Legacy, and Empowering Future Leaders. **Individual Paper Presentation:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Structural Opportunity and Physical Violence in Wilmington, DE.* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne,

Patrice Gibbs, Jonathon Wilson, Darryl Chambers & Brooklyn Hitchens. Teachers College, Columbia University. New York City. February 2013.

- (18) **The People's Report [presentational version of documentary]**. Panel Discussion on Physical Violence with: (1) Yasser A. Payne, (2) Charles Madden, (3) Patrice Gibbs, (3) Jonathon Wilson, (4) Brooklyn Hitchens, (5) Dubard McGriff, (6) Kotal Copeland & (7) Corry Wright. Black History Month Event/Dept. of Black American Studies & Center of Black Culture. Trabant Center. University of Delaware. Newark, DE 19716. February 2013.
- (19) **Presentation to Cross Roads At-Risk Youth Program.** *Wilmington Youth and College.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. BAMS Conference Room. Department of Black American Studies. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. December, 2012.
- (20) **The American Society of Criminology National Conference.** **Conference Title:** Thinking About Context: Challenges for Crime and Justice. **Panel Presentation Title:** Challenges conducting Research in the Inside-Out Context. **Panelists:** Yasser A. Payne & Angela Bryant. Hilton Hotel. Chicago, IL. November, 2012.
- (21) **Guest Class Lecture:** Introduction to Criminology (undergraduate class). **Professor:** Sami Abdel-Salam. **Presentation Title:** *The Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Presenter:** Darryl Chambers. Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. October 2012.
- (22) **Guest Class Lecture:** Introduction to Statistics. **Professor:** Victor Perez, Ph. D. **Presentation Title:** *"The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* **Presenter:** Darryl Chambers. Department of Criminal Justice (undergraduate course). University of Delaware. Newark, DE. September 2012.
- (23) **University of Delaware Phi Sigma Pi-National Honor Fraternity Meeting.** **Presentation Title:** *"The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* **Presenters:** Darryl Chambers & Corry Wright. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. March 2012.
- (24) **Mid-Atlantic Law and Society Inaugural Conference.** **Presentation Title:** *"The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* **Presenter:** Darryl Chambers. Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. October 2012.
- (25) **Mid-Atlantic Law and Society Inaugural Conference.** **Presentation Title:** *"School-to-Prison Pipeline: How Perceived Experiences with Teachers Lead Students to Street Behavior Inside Schools."* **Presenter:** Ashlee Johnson. Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. October 2012.
- (26) **Guest Class Lecture: Introduction to Criminal Justice. Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.** **Professor:** Chrysanthi Leon, Ph. D. **Presentation Title:** *"School-to-Prison Pipeline: How Perceived Experiences with Teachers Lead Students to Street Behavior Inside Schools."* **Presenters:** Ashlee Johnson & Yasser A. Payne. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. September 2012.

- (27) **Mid-Atlantic Law and Society Inaugural Conference.** **Presentation Title:** *"Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets."* **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. October 2012.
- (28) **Ronald E. McNair Research Conference.** **Presentation Title:** *"Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets."* **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. October 2012.
- (29) **Ronald E. McNair Research Conference.** **Presentation Title:** *"School-to-Prison Pipeline: How Perceived Experiences with Teachers Lead Students to Street Behavior Inside Schools."* **Presenter:** Ashlee Johnson. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. August 2012.
- (30) **Undergraduate Research and Service Celebratory Symposium.** **Presentation Title:** *"Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets."* **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. August 2012.
- (31) **Annual Leslie H. Hicks Research Symposium.** **Keynote Presentation Title:** *"The People's Report: The Link Between Crime and Structural Violence in Wilmington, DE."* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Darryl Chambers, Corry Wright, and Patrice Gibbs. Blackburn Center, Howard University. April 2012.
- (32) **Urban Affairs and Public Policy-Brownbag Series.** **Lecture Title:** *"The People's Report: The Link Between Crime and Structural Violence in Wilmington, DE."* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Darryl Chambers, and Patrice Gibbs. Graham Hall. University of Delaware. April, 2012.
- (33) **Guest Class Lecture.** *"The People's Report: The Link Between Crime and Structural Violence in Wilmington, DE."* **Professor:** Leland Ware. **Course:** *Urban Policy.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Memorial Hall, University of Delaware. Newark, DE April 2012.
- (34) **Guest Class Lecture:** Introduction to Criminal Justice/Inside-Out Course. **Professor:** Daniel J. O'Connell, Ph. D./Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies/University of Delaware. **Presentation Title:** *"The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* **Presenter:** Darryl Chambers. Hazel D. Plant Women's Treatment Center, New Castle, DE. November 2011.
- (35) **Guest Class Lecture:** Youth Street Outreach. Dept. of Sociology and Criminology/University of Delaware. **Professor:** Lana Harrison, Ph. D. **Presentation Title:** *"The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* Bancroft School. Wilmington, DE. Spring 2011.
- (36) **Regional Undergraduate Student Research Conference.** **Presentation Title:** *"Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets."* **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. March 2011

- (37) **American Psychological Association National Conference. Panel Presentation**
Title: "Counseling Psychology and Participatory Action Research - Empowering Communities of Color." **Chair:** Alex L. Pieterse, Ph. D. **Discussant:** Ezemenari M Obasi, Ph. D. **Panelists:** (1) Yasser A. Payne & Darryl Chambers, "*The Wilmington Street PAR Project: Methodological Implications*"; (2) Lisa Flores; & (3) Marie Guerda Nicholas. The Washington Convention Center. Washington, D. C. August 2011.
- (38) **Undergraduate Research & Service Scholar Celebratory Symposium. Panel Presentation**
Title: "Social and Educational Support Systems." **Panelists:** (1) Deangie Davis; (2) Lisa Coutu; & (3) Stacey Chambers. Clayton Hall. August 2011.
- (39) **Black American Studies- Special Brownbag Series. Presentation**
Title: "Wilmington Street PAR Project: How Change Is Created on the Street Corner Through PAR." Payne, Y. A., Wright, C. & PAR members. Munroe Hall. September, 2011.
- (40) **Undergraduate Research & Service Scholar Celebratory Symposium. Presentation**
Title: "The Role of Religion Amongst Street Life Oriented Black Men." **Presenter:** Mark Powell. Clayton Hall. August 2010.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS: (39)

Presentations made to Civic, Banking and Political Leadership (16)

- (1) **Christiana Care Hospital Community Lecture Series – Trauma Unit.**
Presentation Title: *The People's Report: The Link Between Structural Violence and Crime in Wilmington, Delaware.* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne & Charles Madden. Christiana Care Hospital. Wilmington, Delaware. May, 2013.
- (2) **Wilmington City Council.** **Presentation Title:** "Safe Communities Employment and Training Project/The Wilmington Street PAR Project." **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne & Charles Madden. Louis Redding Building. Wilmington, Delaware. March 2013.
- (3) **Breakfast Meeting/Presentation with Community Development Leaders Forum.**
Presentation Title: *The People's Report: The Link Between Structural Violence and Crime in Wilmington, Delaware.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Comenity Bank. Wilmington, Delaware. March, 2013.
- (4) **Meeting with Governor Jack Markell and Advisors.** **Meeting Topic:** *The Wilmington Street PAR Project: How to Reduce Violence in Wilmington.* Carvel Building. Wilmington, Delaware. March, 2013.
- (5) **Presentation/Private Meeting with Mayor Dennis Williams and Cabinet Members.** **Presentation Title:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Structural Violence and Crime in Wilmington, Delaware.* Carvel Building. Wilmington, Delaware. March, 2013.

- (6) **Presentation to Mayor Dennis Williams' Youth, Education, Citizenship Committee.** **Presentation Title:** *"Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets."* **Presenter:** Brooklynn Hitchens. Carvel Building. Wilmington, Delaware. March, 2013.
- (7) **Presentation/Meeting with Community Development Leaders Forum.** **Presentation Title:** *Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Comenity Bank. Wilmington, Delaware. October, 2012.
- (8) **Keynote Presentation at James T. Vaughn Correctional Facility.** **Presentation Title:** *The Wilmington Street PAR Project*". NAACP Chapter of the James T. Vaughn Correctional Facility. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Symrna, Delaware. January, 2012.
- (9) **Wilmington Wellness Day. Panel Presentation** **Title:** *Physical Violence in Wilmington, Delaware.* **Presenters:** Darryl Chambers & Yasser A. Payne. **Hotel Dupont.** October 2011.
- (10) **Presentation/Meeting with Rita M. Landgreff, Secretary of State for the Department of Human Social Services.** **Presentation Title:** *Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Wilmington, Delaware. September, 2011.
- (11) **Presentation/Meeting with The Wilmington Delegation.** **Presentation Title:** *Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne & Charles Madden. Double Tree Hotel. Wilmington, Delaware. April 2010.
- (12) **Presentation/Meeting with Wilmington Public Safety Commission.** **Presentation Title:** *Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Charles Madden & Marlene Saunders. Wilmington, Delaware. March 2010.
- (13) **Presentation/Meeting with Secretary Jeffrey Bullock: Co-Chair of the Joint Finance Committee.** **Presentation Title:** *Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Charles Madden, Raye Jones Avery, & PAR members. Wilmington, Delaware. March 2010.
- (14) **Wilmington City Council (Sub-Committee Public Safety).** **Presentation Title:** *"Safe Communities Employment and Training Project/The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Charles Madden, Raye Jones Avery, Marlene Saunders & PAR members. **Chair of Sub-Committee:** Lorreta Walsh. Louis Redding Building. Wilmington, Delaware. March 2010.
- (15) **Stakeholders Meeting: PAR Briefing.** *"Safe Communities Employment and Training Project/The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Charles Madden, Raye Jone Avery, Marlene Saunders & PAR members. Christina Cultural Arts Center. Wilmington, Delaware March 2010.
- (16) **Wilmington City Council (Sub-Committee Education, Youth & Families).** **Presentation Title:** *"Safe Communities Employment and Training Project/The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Charles Madden, Raye

Jones Avery, Marlene Saunders & PAR members. **Chair of Sub-Committee:** Hanifa Shabazz. Louis Redding Building. Wilmington, Delaware. January 2010.

Local Community Based Presentations (23)

- (1) **Pacem Terris.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Westminster Church. Wilmington, DE. August, 2013.
- (2) **Episcopal Church of St. Andrew & St. Matthew.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenters:** (1) Yasser A. Payne & (2) Darryl Chambers. Wilmington, DE. June, 2013.
- (3) **Christ Church Christiana Hundred.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Greenville/Wilmington, DE. June, 2013.
- (4) **Teach for America.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Double Tree Hotel. Wilmington, DE. June, 2013.
- (5) **United Way of Delaware. Revive The Village/African-American Initiative.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Stubbs Elementary School. Wilmington, DE. June, 2013.
- (6) **Aquila: Adolescent Drug Treatment Program.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Wilmington, DE. June, 2013.
- (7) **Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Wilmington, DE. June, 2013.
- (8) **Christiana Care Hospital.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne; (2) Charles Madden; (3) Jonathon Wilson; & (4) Darryl Chambers. Newark, DE. June, 2013.
- (9) **Betha Villa Community Center.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. Panel discussion on physical violence with: (1) Yasser A. Payne; & (2) Corry Wright. Wilmington, DE. May 2013.
- (10) **The Interdenominational Ministers Action Council of Delaware.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenters:** (1) Yasser A. Payne; & (2) Darryl Chambers. Wilmington, DE. May, 2013.
- (11-14) **Wilmington Film Festival.** *The People's Report* [featured film of film festival]. Panel discussion on physical violence with: (1) Yasser A. Payne, (2) Charles Madden, (3) Patrice Gibbs, (3) Darryl Chambers, (4) Dubard McGriff, (5) & Kontal Copeland. Penn Cinema. Wilmington, DE. April 2013. - ***Four viewings of The People's Report (4/25 – 4/28).***
- (15) **Delaware Futures Charter School.** *The People's Report* Documentary Viewing. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. Wilmington, Delaware. April 2013.

- (16) **Real Men Do Real Things Mentoring Symposium.** **Keynote Presentation Title:** *The People's Report: The Link Between Crime and Structural Violence in Wilmington, DE.* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Darryl Chambers, Correy Wright, and Patrice Gibbs. The Neighborhood House, Southbridge, Wilmington. May 2012.
- (17) **Community Art Exhibit:** *"Peace or Perish: (PAR)ticipate" Participatory Action Research (PAR) Photography Exhibit.* **Closing Remarks.** Yasser A. Payne & Charles Madden. Christina Cultural Art Center. Wilmington, Delaware. December 2010.
- (18) **Community Panel/Forum:** *Youth Violence in Wilmington.* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Darryl Chambers, Jonathon Wilson, et al. Made For Men, Inc. (Barbershop). Wilmington, Delaware. March 2010.
- (19) **Youth Summit on Youth Violence:** *"Safe Communities Employment and Training Project/The Wilmington Street PAR Project."* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Ashley Randolph & Dubard McGriff, et al. Browns Boys & Girls Club. Wilmington, Delaware. January 2010.
- (20) **Wilmington Street PAR Project Graduation Ceremony.** Keynote Address/Project Overview. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. The Neighborhood House. Wilmington, Delaware. December 2009.
- (21) **"The Implications of Community Centered Research".** NAACP Chapter of the James T. Vaughn Correctional Facility. **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne. James T. Vaughn Correctional Facility. Symrna, Delaware. December, 2011.
- (22) **Community Panel/Forum: Youth Violence in Wilmington.** **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne, Jonathan Wilson, Corey Wright, et al. Runn's Way (Barbershop). Wilmington, Delaware. July 2010.
- (23) **Presentation/Gathering with Duffy Hope's H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program.** **Presentation Title:** *"The Challenges of Being a Young African-American in Delaware."* **Presenter:** Darryl Chambers. Wilmington, DE. February 2010.

MEDIA APPEARANCES: (21)

- (1) **Channel 12 WHYY. First.** **Host:** Nicole Polston. **Topic:** The Wilmington Street PAR Project. **Interviewees:** Yasser A. Payne, Patrice Gibbs, Dennis Watson and Jonathon Wilson. Wilmington, DE 2013.
- (2) **Channel 6/ABC, WPVI-TV. Perspective Delaware.** **Host:** Rick Williams. **Topic:** *The Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Interviewees:** Yasser A. Payne, Sharon Baker and Dan Collins. Philadelphia, PA. May 2013

- (3) **WDDE 91.1 FM: Delaware's NPR News Station – Host:** Larry Nagengast. **Topic:** *The People's Report* documentary. **Interviewees:** Yasser A. Payne, Sharon Baker and Dan Collins. Penn Cinema. Wilmington, Delaware. April 2013.
- (4) **WSTA 1340 AM. Host:** Sele Adeyemi. **Topic:** *The Wilmington Street PAR project.* **Interviewee:** Yasser A. Payne. St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.
- (5) **Local T. V. – Channel 28.** A Better Wilmington. **Host:** Darius Brown. **Topic:** *The Wilmington Street PAR Project.* Interviewees: Charles Madden, Yasser A. Payne, Darryl Chambers and Jack McDonough. March 2013.
- (6) **Dr. Richard Cooper's Radio Show** (900AM or 900AMWURD.COM). *The Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Presenter:** Yasser A. Payne, Pat Gibbs and Corry Wright. Philadelphia, PA. February 2013.
- (7) **NYC Press Conference w/ Chuck D. of Public Enemy as part of the Hip-Hop God's Classic Tour.** *The Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Presenters:** Yasser A. Payne & Darryl Chambers. Irvin Plaza Hotel. New York City. November 2012.
- (8) **Local T. V. – Channel 28.** Cross Fire. **Host:** Norman Oliver. **Presenters:** Darryl Chambers & Corry Wright. Comcast Studio. Wilmington, Delaware. June 2012.
- (9) **Local T. V. – WHYI.** Occupation Delaware. **Host:** Eve Tahmincioglu. **Interviewee:** Yasser A. Payne. State Department Building. Wilmington, Delaware. October 2011.
- (10) **SCM.RADIO. DJ Black CEZA Show.** **Topic:** *Community Research in Low-Income Black Communities:* 8PM-9PM. **Interviewee:** Yasser A. Payne. Dallas, Texas. May 2011.
- (11) **WVUD (91.3 FM).** The DJ Mild Sauce Show. Guest radio personality. **Topic:** Gang Rap Music in the 21st Century. 12-1pm. **Interviewee:** Yasser A. Payne. University of Delaware. Newark, Delaware.
- (12) **LOCAL TV-CHANNEL 28.** The Mind Matters Show. **Hosts:** Ruth Baker and Jasmine Washington. **Topic:** *The Wilmington Street PAR Project.* **Interviewee:** Yasser A. Payne. Wilmington, Delaware. April, 2010.
- (13) **WVUD (91.3 FM).** The Franco “Nitty” Show. Community Up-Grade Series. Co-host on the The Franco “Nitty” Show. **Topic:** *Academic Motivation of Low-Income Black Children:* 1PM-4PM. **Interviewee:** Yasser A. Payne. University of Delaware. Newark, Delaware. February 2011.
- (14) **The John Watson Show— News Radio (1450 AM Clear Channel).** **Host:** John Watson. **Topic:** *Homicide in Wilmington & The Wilmington Street Participatory Action Research (PAR) Photography Exhibit Project.* **Interviewees:** Yasser Arafat Payne, Raye Avery Jones, Ashley Randolph & Jeni Barton. December 2010.

- (15) **The John Watson Show— News Radio (1450 AM Clear Channel).** **Host:** John Watson. **Topic:** *The Wilmington Street Participatory Action Research Project.* **Interviewees:** Yasser Arafat Payne, Raye Avery Jones, Charles Madden, Ashley Randolph and Marlene Saunders. December 2010.
- (16) **Local T. V. – Channel 25.** Dr. Benjamin “Twin B.” Show/ Community Communications Corporations: Auxiliary Show. **Topic:** *Community Perspective from Every Category - Both Youth and Adults.* Individual Presentation: *Wilmington and Social Justice.* **Interviewee:** Yasser A. Payne. Wilmington, Delaware. December 2010.
- (17) **WVUD (91.3 FM).** The Franco “Nitty” Show. Community Up-Grade Series. Co-host on the The Franco “Nitty” Show. **Topic:** *Academic Motivation of Low-Income Black Children: 2PM-4PM.* University of Delaware. Newark, Delaware. November 2010.
- (18) **Local TV – Channel 28. Heart & Soul of Christina.** **Host:** Kim Brown. **Presenters:** Payne, Y. A., & Chambers, D. 2PM - 2:30PM. Comcast Studio. Wilmington, Delaware. February 2010.
- (19) **Channel 6 Action News.** Delaware Perspectives. **Host:** Lauren Wilson. 2PM – 2:30PM. **Topic:** *The Wilmington Street PAR Project.* Wilmington, Delaware. January 2010.
- (20) **Local TV – Channel 28.** The Hope Commission on Prison Re-Entry - Part II. **Host:** Alicia Clark. 10:30am – 11:00am. Comcast Studio. Wilmington, Delaware. March 2009.
- (21) **Local TV – Channel 28.** The Hope Commission on Prison Re-Entry - Part I. **Host:** Alicia Clark. (15) 10:30am – 11:00am. Comcast Studio. Wilmington, Delaware. February 2009.

Appendix B: Methodology

Wilmington is organized by approximately six neighborhoods, including Northside, Edgemoor, Northeast/Eastside, Westside, Riverside, and Southbridge. Fifteen low-income young adults of color (20-48), formerly of the streets and/or criminal justice system, were organized into a Street PAR team to conduct a large-scale quantitative and qualitative ethnographic community needs assessment of the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, Delaware to more deeply understand notions of physical violence through the lens of street identified Black youth and young adults who reside in this community. Mixed methods were employed to collect data in the form of (a) 520 surveys; (b) 24 individual interviews; (c) four dual interviews; (d) three group interviews; and (e) extensive ethnographic field observations. Also, a fourth group interview, not initially proposed or planned, was conducted with a group of mostly older men (ages 21-51) who were formerly involved with the streets and/or criminal justice system. All data was collected in the actual streets of Wilmington, Delaware (e.g. street corners, local parks, barbershops, local record/DVD stores, etc.). Data was collected from a sample of mostly street-identified Black men and women between the ages of 18-35. This study was guided by the following research question: *To what extent is structural opportunity predictive of physical violence in a sample of street identified Black youth and young adults in Wilmington, Delaware?*

Survey Design

Sample

The study's survey sample consists of 520 young Black American men and women between the ages of 18-35. Three age cohorts were organized for the total survey sample: (a) 173 participants between the ages of 18-21 (33.3%); (b) 205 participants between the ages of 22-29 (39.4%); and (c) 142 participants between the ages of 30-35 years (27.3%). Women make up about 60% of participants, while men account for nearly 40%. All participants have been directly and/or indirectly impacted by community violence. Also, most study participants were at some point street identified and/or involved with the criminal justice system. Residents on average, were 25 years of age ($SD=5.41$), and most in this study resided on the Eastside. In fact, 64% of participants currently live on the Eastside, while about 23% reside in the much smaller, Southbridge community. About 13% of participants live outside of these two neighborhoods but report frequenting the Eastside and Southbridge communities.

Men: Two hundred ten Black male participants completed a survey for this analysis, or about 40% of the total survey sample. Age cohorts for male participants emerged in the following way: (1) 73 Black males between the ages of 18-21 (35.7%); 88 Black males between the ages of 22-29 (39.5%); and 54 Black males between the ages of 30-35 years (24.8%). Age categories were based off of established census age groups. The survey sample for men and women were organized as a function of a quota sample based on 2000 Census data for the Eastside and Southbridge sections of Wilmington, Delaware. About 62% percent of the men reported currently living on Eastside, and nearly 32% of the men reported living in Southbridge.

Approximately 6% of the men reported living outside of these two neighborhoods but report frequenting these two neighborhoods.

Women: A total of 310 female participants completed a survey for this analysis, or 59.6% of the entire survey sample. All female participants were between the ages of 18-35 years. Ninety-eight of the females were between the ages of 18-21 years (or 31.6%), 122 females were between the ages of 22-29 years (or 39.4%), and 90 females were between the ages of 30-35 years (or 29%). Age categories were based on established census age groups. The survey sample for men and women was organized as a function of a quota sample based on 2000 Census data for the Eastside and Southbridge sections of Wilmington, Delaware. Sixty-three percent of the women reported currently living on Eastside, and nearly 25% of the women reported living in Southbridge. Approximately 22% of the women reported living outside of these two neighborhoods but report frequenting these two neighborhoods.

Instrumentation

Psychological Well-Being

Positive Self-Esteem Subscale: The positive self-esteem sub-scale captures to what extent participants hold notions of feeling good or satisfied with themselves (Franklin, 1996; Pieterse, 2009). This sub-scale consists of three items and ranges between three and 12 points. Lower scores mean higher self-esteem on this scale. The mean score for this sample is 4.3 (N=512), and the standard deviation on this sub-scale is 1.54. The alpha co-efficient for this measure is .72.

Negative Self-Esteem Subscale: The negative self-esteem sub-scale captures to what extent participants hold notions of feeling bad or unsatisfied satisfied with themselves. The negative self-esteem sub-scale consist of four items and ranges between four and 16 points. Higher scores mean less “negative self-esteem on this scale”. The mean score for this sample is 7.5 (N=517), and the standard deviation on this sub-scale is 3.17. The alpha co-efficient for this measure is .80.

Social Cohesion

The *social cohesion* instrument reflects to what extent participants are invested or committed to the social fabric of their neighborhoods. This instrument consists of 15 items, and the sample’s distribution falls between 19-57 points. The mean score for this sample is 35 (N=476) with a standard deviation of about six. Higher scores on this measure suggest participants hold more positive attitudes toward the community. The alpha co-efficient for this measure is .70.

Attitudes Toward Police

The *attitudes toward police* measure reflects to what extent participants hold positive or negative attitudes toward police (Fine et al., 2003). This instrument consists of two subscales with a total of 10 items. The following two subscales are: (1) Feelings of Negative Intent Toward Police (six items); and (2) Feelings of Positive Intent Toward Police (four items). The attitudes toward police measure ranges between 12-40 points and the mean score for this sample is 28 (N=493) with a standard deviation of about five. Higher scores on the total measure suggest participants

hold more negative attitudes toward police. The alpha co-efficient for the total measure is .66. Also, alpha co-efficients for the *Feelings of Negative* subscale and *Feelings of Positive Intent Toward the Police* are .64 and .77, respectively.

Exposure to Police

The *Exposure to Police* measure determines to what extent participants are in physical contact with police or law enforcement. This instrument consists of seven dichotomous items (i.e. stopped, detained, or arrested). This measure ranges between one and seven points, and the mean score for this sample is 1.7 (N= 512), with a standard deviation of about 2.3. Higher scores on the total measure suggest participants were in more physical contact with police. The alpha co-efficient for this measure is .88.

Prison Re-entry

Attitudes Toward Prison Re-entry: The attitudes toward prison re-entry measure assesses the sample's basic values and feelings about persons returning home to Wilmington from a period of incarceration. This instrument consists of three items. The attitudes toward prison re-entry measure ranges between 3-12 points. Higher scores on the total measure suggest participants hold more positive attitudes toward persons returning home from prison. The mean score for this sample is 9.1 (N=514), with a standard deviation of about two. The alpha co-efficient for this measure is .48.

Perceptions of the Re-entry Process: The perceptions of the re-entry process measure was developed to assess how difficult or convenient participants thought it was to transition or acquire quality opportunity upon release from prison. This instrument consists of seven items. The perceptions of the re-entry process measure ranges between seven and 28 points. Lower scores on the total measure suggest participants perceive re-entry to be a difficult transitional experience. The mean score for this sample is 14 (N=500), with a standard deviation of 4. The alpha co-efficient for this measure is .82.

Attitudes Toward Prison Re-entry Programs: The attitudes toward prison re-entry programs tool was developed to explore participant's attitudes toward available re-entry programs for those returning to the community from prison. This instrument consists of five items. The attitudes toward prison re-entry programs, ranges between five and 20 points. Higher scores on the total measure suggest participants hold more negative attitudes toward available re-entry programs. The mean score for this sample is 12 (N=497), with a standard deviation of three. The alpha co-efficient for this measure is .71.

Procedure

Quota Sampling – Quota sampling is a methodological procedure used to organize or make a survey sample as representative as possible of the actual population. As an activity, the data collection sub-team examined 2000 Census data of Black-Americans who reside in the Eastside and Southbridge neighborhoods of Wilmington, DE. Specifically, we explored Black-American population data across these two neighborhoods between the ages 18-34. It is important to note that our sample is between the ages of 18-35, although our survey quota design is based on 18-34, given the census data we examined was presented between 18-34. Census Tract 9 in

Wilmington represents Southbridge and Census Tracts 17, 19 & 20 in Wilmington represent the Eastside. According to the census bureau, there are only 653 Black males and 931 Black females between the ages of 18-34 in these two neighborhoods, or approximately 1,600 Black people between the ages of 18-34. Once again, we collected a survey sample of 520 participants or approximately one-third of the actual population. Also, it should be underscored that our survey design was stratified by race, gender, and age.

Six sub-groups for this study were used to develop this survey design’s quota sample—(a) three male groups and (b) three female groups as a function of the following three age cohorts: (a) 18-21; (b) 22-29; and (c) 30-35. Age-cohorts were determined by the census bureau - for instance, 2000 Census data reported 13% of Black males in these two neighborhoods are between the ages of 18-21. As a result, 13% of are sample had to represent that same proportion. Sixty-five surveys in our survey design represents 13% of 495 (see table below).

It was unethical to randomly select participants given we surveyed street-identified participants in their actual street communities and/or while engaging in illegal activity. Randomizing a street sample in their environment would mean that we would have to make them publicly acknowledge that they were a criminal or street-identified. For ethical reasons, no participants were asked this question. We used behavioral and environmental cues to determine if a participant was most likely street-identified.

Age Cohort	Male	Female
18 – 21	65 (13%)	85 (17%)
22 – 29	85 (17%)	120 (24%)
30 – 35	55 (11%)	85 (17%)

Community Sampling – Snowball sampling is a methodological technique generally used to collect data from sparse, sensitive and/or hard to reach populations. Researchers interested in this method typically collect data through or with the assistance as well as permission and credibility of participants. The Street PAR team was asked through a series

of exercises during research methods training to generate an individually-based snowball sample design. Specifically, they were asked to create a snowball sample design of potential participants as a function of the following criteria: (1) family, (2) friends, (3) familiar places (e. g. barbershop, community center, basketball court, street corners, etc.), and (4) stationed places (Payne, 2005). *Stationed places* (e. g. store) represent key locations in the local community where participants at their leisure can approach and request a survey and/or the right to be interviewed (i.e. e., Hope Commission—Hope Zone, The Neighborhood House, etc.). Also, survey and interview participants were asked where and how to access other potential participants while collecting data. The Street PAR team, during research methods training, mapped out street communities of interest into street locations classified as: (1) “cool” sites – low street activity; (2) “warm” sites – moderate street activity; and (3) “hot” sites - high street activity. In each of these locations, the research team identified a set of “street allies” or gatekeepers to these street communities. A snowball sample was organized and with the

permission of identified, on-the-ground community residents, we entered the street community to collect data. All participants received a consent form, \$5 per completed survey, and a resource package that highlighted potential employment, educational, and counseling opportunities. Surveys took participants approximately 30-45 minutes to complete.

Qualitative Design

Qualitative data or interviews was collected on mostly street-identified Black men and women between the ages of 18-35 in the forms of: (a) 24 individual interviews; (c) four dual interviews; (d) three group interviews; and (e) extensive field observations. Again, it should be noted that the fourth group interview was not initially planned, and most participants fell outside of our proposed age range 18-35. The age range for the fourth group interview was 21-51. All participants received consent forms, \$10 per completed interview, and a resource package that highlighted potential employment, educational, and counseling opportunities. Interviews took approximately one to two hours to complete. Also, all interviews were video recorded and for the most part, interviews were held in the Hope Commission's Hope Zone (located in Southbridge, Wilmington). At least two individual interviews were conducted in private homes, and one individual and one group interview were conducted in the park. **Please see Appendix D for the interview protocol and Appendix E for individual interview consent form.**

A total of 47 participants were interviewed for this project. It should be noted that one male participant who was interviewed resides in Southbridge was White-American. The average age for interviewees is 27.4 (n=30). Nineteen participants noted they reside on the Eastside, and 12 noted they live in Southbridge. Only six interview participants noted they were employed, and 19 participants acknowledged having a G.E.D. or high school diploma. Also, 24 participants noted they have children.

Individual Interviews

A set of 24 individual interviews were conducted for this study. Individual interviews allow for more personal, intimate, and revealing discussions, and thus, were used to explore intimate or extremely personal subject matter. The average age for this subsample was 26.3 years.

Dual Interviews

Dual interviews are interviews conducted with two participants within a single interview. Four dual interviews were conducted for this project. Mostly women opted to hold dual interviews. Originally these female participants were scheduled for individual interviews but decided they would be more comfortable conducting their interview with a friend. Three dual interviews were with women, and one dual interview consisted of a male and female participant. The average age for this subsample was 33.1 years, while ages ranged from 27 to 35 years.

Group Interview Subsample

Four group interviews between the ages of 18-35 were conducted. Group interviews are the least intimate of all interview types; however, such interviews offer a group analysis. Two group interviews were with all males; one group interview was all female; and a final group interview had both male and females. The average age for this subsample was 30.9 years.

Age Range	Individual Interviews	Dual Interviews	Group Interviews
18 – 21	6	-	1
22 – 29	8	1	1
30 – 35	10	3	1

Appendix C: Community Survey Packet (pages 110-128)

Information About Participation

Greetings:

We would like you to complete a survey that asks questions about community violence in Wilmington. This survey is part of a study on how youth and young adults of color in Wilmington, DE frame notions of community violence.

Specifically, this study examines how youth and young adults describe relationships with: (1) family (parents, siblings & children); (2) significant partners; (3) employment and educational opportunity; (4) living/health conditions; (5) local leadership (religious leaders, policy makers, service providers, etc.); (6) law enforcement; (7) community re-entry from prison; and (8) violence in the community. **You will receive \$5 and resource package for completing this survey.**

The only possible risk involved in participating in the survey is that feelings of anxiety may develop as a result of thinking about sensitive or negative experiences.

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY

- Please read each item carefully.
- Select or write the appropriate answer for each item, as directed.
- When answering questions that require marking a box or line, please use an "X".
- If you need to change an answer, cross out the wrong answer and mark the correct answer.

Examples:

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55

- Please **do not skip any items**, unless directed by the survey or if answering makes you uncomfortable.
- If you have any questions or confusion, ask a survey administrator.
- ***Do not write your name anywhere on this form. We don't need any contact information from you. Your answers will be anonymous or no one will know these are your answers.***

- ❖ If you would like a copy of the study, please provide us with your contact information on a separate sheet of paper and a copy of the study will be sent to you in the future.
 - ❖ **If you have any questions about this research, contact Dr. Yasser Payne at (302) 831-4383.**
 - ❖ **If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Review Board at (302) 831-2137.**
-

Thank You!!!!

Date survey was completed: _____ Start Time: _____

Franklin Psychological Well-Being Index

- 1) **In general, how satisfied are you with your life these days?** (Please mark one)
 Very Satisfied Somewhat Satisfied Not Very Satisfied Not Satisfied At All
- 2) **All things considered, how happy would you say you are these days?**
 Very Happy Somewhat Happy Not Very Happy Not Happy At All
- 3) **How satisfied are you with your family life: the time you spend/things you do with family members?**
 Very Satisfied Somewhat Satisfied Not Very Satisfied Not Satisfied At All
-

- 4) **I am a useful person to have around.** (Please mark the box that indicates how often you feel this is true).
 Almost Always True Often True Not Often True Never True
- 5) **I am a person of worth.**
 Almost Always True Often True Not Often True Never True
- 6) **I am a productive person.**
 Almost Always True Often True Not Often True Never True
- 7) **I feel I can't do anything right.**
 Almost Always True Often True Not Often True Never True
- 8) **I feel my life is not very useful.**
 Almost Always True Often True Not Often True Never True
- 9) **I feel I do not have much to be proud of.**
 Almost Always True Often True Not Often True Never True
-

- 10) **How often do you feel bad about yourself?** (Please mark one)
 Very Often Fairly Often Not Too Often Never

- 11) **Over the past month or so have you had money problems?**
 No (skip to #12) Yes

11a) **How much has this upset you?**

A Great Deal A Lot Only A Little Not At All

12) **Over the past month or so have you had a job problem?**

No (skip to #13) Yes

12a) **How much has this upset you?**

A Great Deal A Lot Only A Little Not At All

13) **How do you think you are doing financially, as compared to three (3) years ago?**

Better About the Same Worse Much Worse

14) **How much do you worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills?**

A Great Deal A Lot Only A Little Not At All

15) **Given the chances you have had, how well have you done taking care of your family's wants and needs?**

Very Well Fairly Well Not Too Well Not Too Well At All

16) **Given the chances you have had, how well have you done in the work or jobs you've had?**

Very Well Fairly Well Not Too Well Not Too Well At All

17) **Given the chances you have had, how well have you done at being a good friend – a person your friends can count on? (Please mark one)**

Very Well Fairly Well Not Too Well Not Too Well At All

18) **Over the past month or so have you had family or marriage problems?**

No (skip to #19) Yes

18a) **How much has this upset you?**

A Great Deal A Lot Only A Little Not At All

19) **Over the past month or so, have you had problems with people outside your family?**

No (skip to #20) Yes

19a) **How much has this upset you?**

A Great Deal A Lot Only A Little Not At All

20) **Over the past month or so, have you had problems with your love life?**

No (skip #20a) Yes

20a) **How much has this upset you?**

A Great Deal A Lot Only A Little Not At All

The Community

Please rate the following statements from *Strongly Disagree* to *Strongly Agree* – circle a number from 1 to 6.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. This is a safe place to live.	1	2	3	4
2. People are friendly.	1	2	3	4
3. Violent crimes happen here.	1	2	3	4
4. Property gets damaged here.	1	2	3	4
5. The neighborhood is clean.	1	2	3	4
6. There are gangs here.	1	2	3	4
7. There is drug use and dealing here.	1	2	3	4
8. We have good recreational areas, such as like parks.	1	2	3	4
9. We have quality recreational centers for the youth.	1	2	3	4
10. This is an ugly place to live.	1	2	3	4
11. Houses and apartments are in good shape in my community.	1	2	3	4
12. Many people have trouble getting a job/are unemployed in my community.	1	2	3	4
13. The police give people a hard time for no reason.	1	2	3	4
14. Most kids expect to go to college in my community.	1	2	3	4
15. Children can play outside without fear of harm.	1	2	3	4
16. I feel a responsibility to make my community better.	1	2	3	4

Crime

Please rate the following statements from *Strongly Disagree* to *Strongly Agree* – circle a number from 1 to 4.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. People get involved in criminal activity for economic survival.	1	2	3	4
2. People go to the street as a way to find a family.	1	2	3	4
3. People get involved with illegal activities for materialistic reasons.	1	2	3	4
4. The “system” plays a role in why people engage in illegal activity.	1	2	3	4
5. The “system” is designed for people to sell drugs and go to prison.	1	2	3	4
6. People get involved in the streets for protection.	1	2	3	4
7. Street activity was widespread where I grew up.	1	2	3	4
8. Crime is not a good way to make a living.	1	2	3	4

Employment

Please rate the following statements from *Strongly Disagree* to *Strongly Agree* – circle a number from 1 to 4.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. There are enough jobs in my community.	1	2	3	4
2. Unemployment plays a role in community violence.	1	2	3	4
3. More jobs would reduce violence in my community.	1	2	3	4
4. Violence has nothing to do with poverty.	1	2	3	4
5. Sometimes fathers leave the home when they are unable to provide for their families.	1	2	3	4
6. People who don't have jobs don't want to work.	1	2	3	4

Re-Entry to the Community

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. People who come home from prison deserve another chance.	1	2	3	4
2. People who come home from prison don't want to ever go back to prison again.	1	2	3	4
3. Most inmates receive the help they need while incarcerated.	1	2	3	4
4. There are enough educational programs available for people incarcerated in prison.	1	2	3	4
5. Most inmates develop good goals while incarcerated.	1	2	3	4
6. Most people returning home from prison can find a job, if they really want to.	1	2	3	4
7. There are good prison re-entry programs in the city of Wilmington.	1	2	3	4
8. Things are tough financially for people who have recently returned to the community from prison.	1	2	3	4
9. In general, it is tough for people who have recently returned to the community from prison.	1	2	3	4
10. It's hard for fathers, returning home from prison, to provide for their children.	1	2	3	4
11. It's hard for mothers, returning home from prison, to provide for their children.	1	2	3	4
12. Parents returning home from prison find it challenging to emotionally reconnect with their children.	1	2	3	4
13. Stable and quality employment would reduce rates of incarceration.	1	2	3	4
14. People returning home from prison are not respected by residents of the community.	1	2	3	4
15. People returning from prison have difficulty finding stable housing.	1	2	3	4
16. It's difficult to get a job if you have a felony conviction.	1	2	3	4
17. Having a mother and father in the home would help reduce rates of incarceration?	1	2	3	4

Educational Experiences

Please rate the following statements from *Strongly Disagree* to *Strongly Agree* – circle a number from 1 to 4.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. People basically get fair treatment in the United States, no matter who they are.	1	2	3	4
2. In the United States, a "low-income" student has the same chance of a good education as a "wealthy" student.	1	2	3	4
3. We have the ability to change the government if we don't like what it is doing.	1	2	3	4
4. The government doesn't really care what people like my family and I think.	1	2	3	4
5. When I was in high school, every student had an equal chance of getting into the best classes.	1	2	3	4
6. My high school was not as good as it should have been in providing equal educational opportunities for students of color.	1	2	3	4
7. My high school prepared me as well for college as any other student in the United States.	1	2	3	4
8. I cared a lot about my clothes or how I was dressed in high school.	1	2	3	4
9. I cared a lot about grades in high school.	1	2	3	4
10. Sometimes I didn't voice my opinion in high school because I worried that my friends or classmates would criticize me.	1	2	3	4
11. Sometimes I couldn't relate or identify with the subject taught to me.	1	2	3	4
12. If I messed up in high school, teachers were willing to give me a second chance.	1	2	3	4
13. My teachers really knew and understood me.	1	2	3	4
14. Teachers, in general, cared about the students in my high school.	1	2	3	4
15. My teachers knew their subject matter well.	1	2	3	4

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
16. My teachers taught well, so that students understood the material.	1	2	3	4
17. Teachers treated students differently based on race/ethnicity.	1	2	3	4
18. Teachers believe that all students can achieve high levels if they try.	1	2	3	4
19. A student's wealth or poverty affects how teachers treat them.	1	2	3	4
20. Students were encouraged to take leadership positions in my high school (e.g. Class President)	1	2	3	4
21. Most students in low level classes (e.g. special education) received an education equal to all other students in the building.	1	2	3	4
22. Honors and Advanced Placement students think they are smarter than other people.	1	2	3	4
23. Most students in special education get the help they need.	1	2	3	4
24. I was challenged in high school by my school work.	1	2	3	4
25. Honors and Advanced Placement students were treated with the same level of respect as all other students in my high school.	1	2	3	4
26. Money has a lot to do with who goes to or attends college.	1	2	3	4
27. In my high school, all students could have achieved if they tried hard.	1	2	3	4
28. My parent(s)/guardian(s) had a hard time paying for what I needed as a child.	1	2	3	4
29. I felt comfortable talking to teachers in school about a problem.	1	2	3	4
30. I felt safe at my high school.	1	2	3	4
31. The police or security officers in my school made the school safer.	1	2	3	4
32. I often saw physical fights at high my school.	1	2	3	4
33. In my high school, it was important to have name brand clothing.	1	2	3	4

Interactions with Police

Please rate the following statements from *Strongly Disagree* to *Strongly Agree* – circle a number from 1 to 4.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Police respect me.	1	2	3	4
2. Police are here to protect me.	1	2	3	4
3. Police are more willing to threaten me than most other people.	1	2	3	4
4. Police sometimes allow crime to occur without stopping it.	1	2	3	4
5. Police do their jobs well.	1	2	3	4
6. Police sometimes use abusive language with people.	1	2	3	4
7. I feel comfortable when I see the police on the streets.	1	2	3	4
8. I don't really think about the police.	1	2	3	4
9. I worry that the police I see on the streets might bother me or my friends.	1	2	3	4
10. I worry about being arrested.	1	2	3	4

In the past 12 months, have you been:	Please mark Yes or No	If yes, please write how many times.	Do you think it was justified? (Circle one)		
			Justified	Somewhat Justified	Not Justified
1. Stopped by police?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	1	2	3
2. Frisked by police?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	1	2	3
3. Picked up in a sweep?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	1	2	3
4. Detained without arrest?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	1	2	3
5. Given a summons?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	1	2	3
6. Arrested?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	1	2	3
7. Convicted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	1	2	3

Attitudes Towards Bail

Please rate the following statements from *Strongly Disagree* to *Strongly Agree* – circle a number from 1 to 4.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
49.				
50. 1. Judges play the most significant role in determining the amount of the bond.	1	2	3	4
51. 2. The power of the bondsman should be reduced.	1	2	3	4
52. 3. The present bail system is a good procedure for determining pre-trial release.	1	2	3	4
53. 4. Most people out on bail commit more crimes.	1	2	3	4
54. 5. Bail is often set too high for the average person in my community to meet.	1	2	3	4
55. 6. Race is a factor when judges determine bail.	1	2	3	4

Exposure to Community Violence

Below are questions about various kinds of violence and things related to violence that you may have experienced, seen, or heard about. For each question, mark the option that best describes your experience.

Please mark only one answer unless otherwise indicated.

DO NOT INCLUDE THINGS YOU HAVE SEEN OR HEARD ABOUT ONLY ON TV, RADIO, THE NEWS, OR IN THE MOVIES.

Being Chased

1. How many times have you yourself been chased by gangs or individuals?

- never (skip to #2)
 5 to 8 times
 approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times
 9 to 12 times
 Don't Know

1a. When was the last time you yourself were chased by gangs or individuals?

- _____ about a week ago
_____ about 6 months ago
_____ between 1 and 2 years ago
_____ about a month ago
_____ about 9 months ago
_____ between 3 and 5 years ago
_____ about 3 months ago
_____ about a year ago
_____ more than 5 years ago

2. How many times have you seen someone else being chased by gangs or individuals?

- never (skip to #3)
 5 to 8 times
 approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times
 9 to 12 times
 Don't Know

2a. When was the last time you saw someone else being chased by gangs or individuals?

___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

3. How many times have you heard about someone being chased by gangs or individuals?

never (skip to #4) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

3a. When was the last time you heard about someone being chased by gangs or individuals?

___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Drug Activity

4. How many times have you seen someone else using or selling illegal drugs?

never (skip to #5) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

4a. When was the last time you saw someone else using or selling illegal drugs?

___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

5. How many times have you yourself actually been asked to use marijuana?

never (skip to #6) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

5a. When was the last time you yourself were asked to use marijuana?

___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

6. How many times have you yourself actually been asked to use illegal drugs stronger than marijuana?

never (skip to #7) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

6a. When was the last time you yourself were asked to use illegal drugs beyond marijuana?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Arrests

7. How many times have you yourself been picked up, arrested, or taken away by the police?

- never (skip to #8) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

7a. When was the last time you yourself were picked up, arrested or taken away by the police?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

8. How many times have you seen someone else being picked up, arrested, or taken away by the police?

- never (skip to #9) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

8b. When was the last time you saw this happen to someone else?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

9. How many times have you heard about someone else being picked up, arrested, or taken away by the police?

- never (skip to #10) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

9a. When was the last time you heard about this happening to someone else?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Forced Entry

10. How many times has your house or apartment been broken into when you weren't home?

- never (skip to #11) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

10a. When was the last time your home or apartment was broken into when you weren't home?

___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

11. How many times have you heard about someone else's house or apartment being broken into?

never (skip to #12) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

11a. When was the last time this you heard about someone else's house or apartment being broken into?

___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Threats

12. How many times were you actually threatened with serious physical harm by someone?

never (skip to #13) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

12a. When was the last time you were actually threatened with serious physical harm by someone?

___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

13. How many times have you seen someone else being threatened with serious physical harm?

never (skip to #14) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

13a. When was the last time you saw someone else being threatened with serious physical harm?

___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

14. How many times have you heard about someone else being threatened with serious physical harm?

never (skip to #15) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

14a. When was the last time you heard about someone else being threatened with serious physical harm?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Slapping, Hitting, Punching

15. How many times have you been slapped, punched or hit by someone?

- never (skip to # 16) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

15a. When was the last time you actually been slapped, punched or hit by someone?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

16. How many times have you heard about someone being slapped, punched or hit by someone?

- never (skip to #2) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

16a. When was the last time you heard about this happening? (mark only one)

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Beatings and Muggings

17. How many times have you been beaten up or mugged?

- never (skip to #18) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

17a. When was the last time you yourself actually were beaten up or mugged?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

18. How many times have you seen someone else getting beaten up or mugged?

- never (skip to #19) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

18a. When was the last time you saw someone else getting beaten up or mugged?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

19. How many times have you only heard about someone else being beaten up or mugged?

- never (skip to #20) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

19a. When was the last time you heard about someone else being beaten up or mugged?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Serious Injury

20. How many times have you actually seen a seriously injured person after an incident of violence?

- never (skip to #21) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

20a. When was the last time you actually saw a seriously injured person?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

21. How many times have you only heard about a person seriously injured after an incident of violence?

- never (skip to #22) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

21a. When was the last time you heard about a seriously injured person?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Knife Attacks

22. How many times have you been attacked or stabbed with a knife?

- never (skip to #23) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

22a. When was the last time you were actually attacked or stabbed with a knife?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

23. How many times have you only heard about someone else being attacked or stabbed with a knife?

- never (skip to #24) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

23a. When was the last time you heard about someone else being attacked or stabbed with a knife?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

Shootings

24. How many times have you been shot with a gun?

- never (skip to #25) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

24a. When was the last time you yourself actually been shot with a gun?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

25. How many times have you only heard about someone else getting shot with a gun?

- never (skip to #26) 5 to 8 times approximate # of times if more than 12: _____
 1 to 4 times 9 to 12 times Don't Know

25a. When was the last time you heard about someone else getting shot with a gun?

- ___ about a week ago ___ about 6 months ago ___ between 1 and 2 years ago
___ about a month ago ___ about 9 months ago ___ between 3 and 5 years ago
___ about 3 months ago ___ about a year ago ___ more than 5 years ago

26. Have you ever had a relative killed with a gun? (circle one) Yes or No (skip to #27)

26a. If yes, at what age were you first aware of a relative being killed with a gun? Age: _____

26b. Who was that relative (e.g. a brother, a cousin, etc.)? _____

27. Have you ever had a friend killed with a gun? (circle one) Yes or No (skip to #26)

27a. If yes, how old were you when you first had a friend killed with a gun? Age: _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

Section of Wilmington, DE survey was completed in: _____

Neighborhood of Wilmington participant currently lives in: _____

Neighborhood of Wilmington participant was raised in as a child: _____

City and State where participant was raised, if other than Wilmington, DE: _____

(1) Age? _____ (2) Gender? Male or Female

(3) Race? (a) Black/African American (b) Hispanic/Latino (c) White (d) Asian/Pacific Islander
(h) other _____

(3a) Please write out what ETHNIC GROUP you personally identify with (i.e., African-American, Jamaican, Ghanaian, Puerto Rican, Dominican, etc.)?

RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION

(4) How would you describe your current living quarters? – Please circle one.

- (a) low-income apartment complex (d) condominium
(b) mid-income apartment complex (e) private home
(c) multi-family home (f) other _____

(4b) How many people live in the space you are currently living in? _____

(4c) Who are they? Please **do not list names of people**, just note their relationship to you (i.e., brother, mother, son, girlfriend, acquaintance, etc.).

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

(5) Last grade or educational level completed: _____

(6) If you have an educational degree, what type is it?

- (a) high school diploma (b) G.E.D. (c) B. A. (d) Other _____

(7) Do you have any trade experience? Yes or No (7a) If so, what kind? _____

(8) What educational degree does your mother hold? _____

(9) What educational degree does your father hold? _____

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

(8) How would you describe your current employment status? (circle one)

- (a) employed full time (35 hours or more per week)
- (b) employed part time (less than 35 hours per week)
- (c) unemployed and looking for work
- (d) unemployed and not looking for work

(8a) If you are employed, please briefly describe what type of employment you have below.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

(9) Have you ever been arrested before? Yes or No (skip to Familial Relations section)

(9a) Total number of arrest in your life: _____

(10) Have you ever been incarcerated before? Yes or No (skip to Familial Relations section)

(10a) Total number of incarcerations in your life: _____

(10b) Primary hustle prior to last incarceration: _____

(10c) Charges(s) that led to last incarceration: _____

(11) Gang involvement prior to incarceration? Yes or No

(11a) If yes, what was the name of the gang? _____

(12) In what correctional facility were you last incarcerated? _____

(12a) How would you classify this facility's security level?

- (a) minimum level security (b) medium level security (c) maximum level security

(13) What was the length of your last incarceration? _____

(13a) What was the release date of your last incarceration? _____

(14) Are you currently on probation? Yes or No (14a) If so, for how long? _____

(15) Are you currently on parole? Yes or No (15a) If so, for how long? _____

FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS

(16) What is your current marital status? – Circle all that apply.

- (a) single without a significant partner (b) single with a significant partner (c) legally married
(d) living together (cohabitation) (e) common law marriage (f) married but separated (g) widowed

(17) Have you ever been divorced before? Yes or No

(18) Do you currently have any children? Yes or No (18a) If so, how many? _____

(18b) If you have children, do they live with you? Yes or No

(18c) How many of your children live with you? _____

HEALTH

(19) Do you have health insurance? Yes or No

(19a) If so, what kind? _____

(20) Do you have Medicaid? Yes or No

(21) When was the last time you had a routine or specialized examination with a medical doctor?

(22) Do you have any chronic or serious health issues? Yes or No

(22a) If so, what kind? _____

(23) Have you ever been to the emergency room due to an act of violence? Yes or No

(23a) If so, for what reason(s) did you have to go to the emergency room?

End Time: _____

Appendix D: Interview Protocol

Demographic Information

1. What is your name?
2. Age?
3. How long have you lived in The Eastside/Southbridge?
4. What part of the Eastside/Southbridge are you from?
5. What's your nickname?

General

1. What does community violence mean to you?
2. What makes youth and young adults engage in community violence in the Eastside/Southbridge?
3. What effect has community violence had on you?

Home

1. How would you describe the home life for youth and young adults in the Eastside/Southbridge, particularly those who engage in violence?
2. What do homes look like inside, in the Eastside/Southbridge?
3. To what extent do you think substance abuse (problems with drugs and alcohol) impact the stability of the home?
4. Do parents play a role in their children engaging in different forms of violence?
5. Do you believe a child who witnesses domestic violence in their home growing up is more prone to engaging in violent activity as an adult?

Educational

1. How would you describe public education or schools for youth in the Eastside/Southbridge?
2. Do youth receive a quality education in the Eastside/Southbridge?
3. Do teachers respect students from the Eastside/Southbridge?
4. Are students adequately prepared for college?
5. Do you respect the teachers in your schools?

Employment

1. What are employment opportunities like for youth and young adults in the Eastside/Southbridge?
What are the legal jobs available to men, women and youth in the neighborhood?
2. Do people in the neighborhood want to really work?
3. Why do you think some feel that people in your neighborhood don't really want to work?
4. Are employment opportunities related to outbreaks of community violence? If so, in what way?
5. Who owns the businesses in your neighborhood?

Community

1. How do you feel about the Eastside/Southbridge? Do you have a good relationship with your neighborhood?
2. What makes the Eastside/Southbridge unique in Delaware? (noted that many residents may not be familiar with southern parts of DE)
3. What should community residents do to reduce violence in the community?
4. Do you think substance abuse is a problem in the community? What do drugs do to the community?
5. Do you think drug dealers feel bad about selling drugs to there people?
6. What are some specific drugs that are a problem in the community?
7. Add a question about feelings on the condition of the city. (e.g. trash, unkempt parks)
8. If you had the power to fix one thing in your community, what would it be?
9. How do you feel about the way the newspaper covers violence in your community?
10. What punishment do you believe is appropriate for violent acts in your community?
11. What changes have you seen in your community/neighborhood over time?

Local Leadership

1. Do you feel community based organizations serve the interest of the people in the community?;
2. Which organizations play a significant role in the community?
3. What does help look like? What can or should professionals do to reduce violence in the community?
4. What should community leaders do to reduce violence in the community?
5. To what extent can or do churches (or other religious sites) play a role in reducing community violence?
6. Do you know who the representatives for the Eastside are on City Council?

Law Enforcement

1. What is the relationship like between police and community residents?
2. Do you find the police to be helpful in reducing community violence?
3. Specifically, name one positive thing that you have observed the police do in the community.
4. Specifically, name one negative thing that you have observed the police do in the community.
5. Do you feel you are more targeted by the police than youth from the suburbs?

Substance Abuse

1. Do you know someone who is using drugs? If so, what kind?
2. Do you believe substance abuse plays a role in community violence? If so, how?

Reentry

1. Do you feel the Eastside & Southbridge have adequate programs designed for positive reentry experiences?

Debriefing

Now that the interview is over we just want to ask you a couple of questions about how you felt about the interview. Your responses will guide us in future interviews.

- (1) How did the interview feel?
- (2) Did any question make you feel uncomfortable?
- (3) What would you suggest that we ask next time?

Appendix E: Individual Interview Consent Form

Individual Interview Consent Form

The purpose of this study is to document how youth and young adults of color frame notions of community violence, within the Eastside/Southbridge section of Wilmington, DE. We would like permission to privately interview you about your experiences about notions of community violence in this neighborhood.

Specifically, this project seeks to examine how youth and young adults describe relationships with: (1) family (parents, siblings & children); (2) significant partners; (3) economic and educational opportunity; (4) living/health conditions; (5) local leadership (religious leaders, policy makers, service providers, etc.); and (6) law enforcement.

All interviews will be audio and/ or videotaped. There is no option to be interviewed without being taped, but you do have the option to have your image obscured and your voice distorted before audio and video are seen by anyone other than study researchers. You may also refuse to answer any question asked during the interview or terminate the interview at any time.

The research team intends to publish the results of the study, but only the name you provide or identifying characteristics you provide will be used in any of the publications or other professional settings. **Responses made during the individual interview will not be kept confidential. Files with responses from your interview may be shared with the public.**

In exchange for completing an interview, you will receive: (1) a list of fictional and non-fictional reading resources; (2) list of socio-political organizations; (3) a set of tips on employment opportunities; and (4) \$10. Also, it should be noted that you will be assisting others to better understand the notions of community violence in the Eastside/Southbridge section of Wilmington, DE.

The only possible risks involved in participating in this interview is that feelings of anxiety may develop as a result of sensitive or negative experiences being shared by you in the interview or that may result from your interview being publicly disclosed. Also, it should be underscored that we are obligated by law to report suspected cases or instances of child abuse to authorities.

If you would like a copy of the study, please provide us with your contact information and a copy of the study will be sent to you in the future.

If you have any questions about this research, you can contact Dr. Yasser Payne at (302) 831-4383 or in Ewing Hall in office 424 at the University of Delaware. Also, if you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Review Board at (302) 831-2137.

Thank you for your participation in the study. I will give you a copy of this form to take with you.

If you agree to participate in this individual interview and have the session audio and video recorded, please sign below. If you do not decide to be videotaped then the interview will be only audio taped. It should be noted that if you decide not to be audio taped then you cannot be included in this study.

I agree to be videotaped (please circle): (a) Yes _____ (b) No _____

I agree to be audio taped (please circle): (a) Yes _____ (b) No _____

I want my image to be blurred on video (please circle): (a) Yes _____ (b) No _____

I want my voice distorted on video and audio recordings (please circle): (a) Yes _____ (b) No _____

Please print and sign below:

Participant's name (print)

Participant's signature

Date

Researcher's signature

Date

Participant's name to be used for formal presentations/publications if different from above

Appendix F: Group Interview Consent Form

Group Interview Consent Form

The purpose of this study is to document how low-income youth and young adults of color frame notions of community violence, within the Eastside/Southbridge section of Wilmington, DE. We would like permission to interview you in a group interview about notions of community violence in this neighborhood.

Specifically, this project seeks to examine how youth and young adults in the Eastside/Southbridge describe relationships with: (1) family (parents, siblings & children); (2) significant partners; (3) economic and educational opportunity; (4) living/health conditions; (5) local leadership (religious leaders, policy makers, service providers, etc.); and (6) law enforcement.

The group interview will last for approximately one hour. **All interviews will be videotaped. There is no option to be interviewed without being taped, but you do have the option to have your image obscured and your voice distorted before audio and video are seen by anyone other than the study's researchers.** You may also refuse to answer any question asked during the interview or terminate the interview at any time. Please note that while we will ask the participants in the interview not to discuss the interview with others, we cannot guarantee that this request will be honored.

The research team intends to publish the results of the study, but only the name you provide or identifying characteristics you provide will be used in any of the publications or other professional releases. **Responses made during the individual interview will not be kept confidential. Files with responses from your interview may be shared with the public.**

In exchange for completing an interview, you will receive: (1) a list of fictional and non-fictional reading resources; (2) list of socio-political organizations that may assist you; (3) a set of tips on employment opportunities; and (4) \$10 (See Appendix E). Also, it should be noted that you will be assisting others to better understand the notions of community violence in the Eastside/Southbridge section of Wilmington, DE.

The only possible risks involved in participating in the group interview are that feelings of anxiety may develop as result of sensitive or negative experiences being shared in the group discussion. Also, it is possible other participants may disclose participation in "street activities" that may make other members in the group interview uncomfortable. Also, it should be underscored that we are obligated by law to report suspected cases or instances of child abuse to authorities.

If you would like a copy of the study, please provide us with your contact information and a copy of the study will be sent to you in the future.

If you have any questions about this research, you can contact Dr. Yasser Payne at (302) 831-4383. Also, if you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Review Board at (302) 831-2137.

If you agree to participate in this individual interview and have the session video recorded, please sign below. The alternative is to not participate in the interview.

I agree to be videotaped (please circle): (a) Yes (b) No

I want my image to be blurred on video (please circle): (a) Yes____ (b) No____

I want my voice distorted on video and audio recordings (please circle): (a) Yes____ (b) No____

Please print and sign below:

Participant's real name (print)

Participant's signature

Date

Researcher's signature

Date

Participant's name to be used for formal presentations/publications if different from above

Appendix G: Interviewee Questionnaire

Demographic Inventory

Date survey was completed: _____

Time length to take survey: Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Section of Wilmington, DE survey was completed in: _____

Neighborhood of Wilmington participant currently lives in: _____

Neighborhood of Wilmington participant was raised in as a child: _____

City and State participant was raised as a child if different from Wilmington, DE

(1) Age? _____ (2) Gender? (a) male (b) female

(3) Race/Ethnicity?

(a) Black or African American (b) Afro-Caribbean (c) African

(d) White (e) Hispanic or Latino (f) Native/Indigenous American

(g) Asian/Pacific Islander (h) other _____

(3a) Please write out your BIOLOGICALLY determined RACIAL background (e.g., Black, White, Latino, etc.)?

(3b) Please write out what ETHNIC GROUP you personally identify with (e.g., African-American, Jamaican, Ghanaian, Puerto Rican, Dominican, etc.)?

RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION

(5) How would you describe your current living quarters?

(a) low-income apartment complex

(b) medium-income apartment complex

(c) condominium

(d) 1-3 family home

(e) 4-5 family home

(f) private home

(g) other _____

(5b) How many people live in the space you currently live in? _____

(5c) Who exactly lives in the space you currently live in? Please do not list actual names of people, just note the relationship you have with them (e.g., brother, son, mother, etc.)?

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

(6) Current grade/educational level? _____

(7) If you have more than a 12th grade education, what form, did you receive your high school degree?

(a) high school diploma (b) G. E. D. (c) Other _____

(8) Any construction trade experience? (a) Yes (b) No

(8a) If so, what kind? _____

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

(9) How would you describe your current employment status?

(a) employed full time (35 hours or more per week)

(b) employed part-time (less than 35 hours per week)

(c) unemployed and looking for work

(d) Unemployed and not looking for work

(9a) If you are employed, please briefly describe what type of employment you have?

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

(10) Have you ever been arrested before? (a) Yes (b) No

(10a) Number of arrest in lifetime? _____

(11) Have you ever been incarcerated before? (a) Yes (b) No

(11a) Number of incarcerations in lifetime? _____

(12) Primary hustle prior to last incarceration? _____

(13) Charges(s) that led to last incarceration? _____

(14) Gang involvement prior to incarceration? (a) Yes (No)

(14a) If yes, what was the name of the gang? _____

(15) What correctional facility were you last incarcerated in?

(15a) How would you classify this facility's security level?

(a) minimum level security (b) medium level security (c) maximum level security

(16) If previously incarcerated, what was the length of the last incarceration? _____

(16a) If previously incarcerated, what was your last release date? _____

(17) Are you currently on probation? Yes or No

(17a) If so, how long are you on probation? _____

(18) Are you currently on parole? Yes or No

(18a) If so, how long are you on parole? _____

FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS

(19) What is your current marital status?

(a) single and no significant partner

(b) single but have a significant partner

(c) legally married

(d) living together (cohabitation)

(e) common law marriage)

(f) married but separated

(g) widowed

(20) Have you ever been divorced before? (a) Yes (b) No

(21) Do you currently have any children? (a) Yes (b) No

(21a) If so, how many children do you have? _____

HEALTH

(26) Do you have health insurance? (a) Yes (b) No

(26a) If so, what kind? _____

(27) When was the last time you had a basic or specialized examination with a medical doctor?

(28) Do you have any major health issues? (a) Yes (b) No

(28a) If so, what kind?

(29) Have you ever been to the emergency room? (a) Yes (b) No

(29a) If so, for what reason did you have to go to the emergency room?

Appendix H: Interviewee Questionnaire Consent Form

Questionnaire Consent Form

The purpose of this study is to document how youth and young adults of color frame notions of community violence, within the Eastside/Southbridge section of Wilmington, DE. We would like permission to interview you in a group interview about notions of community violence in this neighborhood.

Specifically, this project seeks to examine how youth and young adults in the Eastside/Southbridge describe relationships with: (1) family (parents, siblings & children); (2) significant partners; (3) economic and educational opportunity; (4) living/health conditions; (5) local leadership (religious leaders, policy makers, service providers, etc.); and (6) law enforcement.

We will begin all interviews by having you complete a brief questionnaire. The brief questionnaire will be followed with the actual interview. Specifically, the questionnaires ask you personally about issues ranging from experiences with: (1) family, (2) significant partner, (3) employment, (4) education, and (5) the criminal justice system. The questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Your identity will be kept confidential with respect to this information. That means we will not share your personal questionnaire answers with anyone not working on the research team. The questionnaires will be stored in a locked file cabinet, to which only the research team will have access. After the study is complete, the data from the questionnaires will be stored and used for future research, but no identifying information will be kept.

The only possible risk involved in participating in the questionnaire are that feelings of anxiety may develop as result of thinking about sensitive or negative experiences.

If you would like a copy of the study, please provide us with your contact information and a copy of the study will be sent to you in the future.

If you have any questions about this research, you can contact Dr. Yasser Payne at (302) 831-4383. Also, if you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Review Board at (302) 831-2137.

Please print and sign below if you agree to complete the questionnaire:

Participant's real name (print)

Participant's signature

Date

Investigator's signature

Date

Participant's name to be used for formal presentations/publications if different from above

Appendix J: Resource Packet

COUNSELING, EMPLOYMENT & READING RESOURCES

I. Social Agencies

(a) **Wilmington Hope Commission**

625 Orange St., Third Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801
(320) 573-3735
<http://www.wilmingtonhopecommission.org/>

(b) **The Neighborhood House, Inc.**

Neighborhood House, Inc.
1218 B Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 652-3928
<http://www.neighborhoodhse.org/>

(c) **Concerned Black Men, INC.**

7200 North 21st Street
Philadelphia, PA 19138-2102
Phone: 215-549-1519 or 215-276-2260
Fax: 215-276-4734
E-mail: blksurfr@erols.com
<http://www.libertynet.org:80/~cbmno/>

(d) **Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, Inc.**

100 W 10th St # 710
Wilmington, DE 19801-6605
(302) 622-4303
www.mwul.org

(e) **Christiana Cultural Art Center**

705 N. Market St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 652-0101
<http://www.ccacde.org/>

(f) **DelawareHelpLine**

1(800) 464-HELP
Assistance with human service needs
DIAL 2-1-1 (weekdays betw/ 8am – 8pm)
<http://www.delawarehelpline.org/helpline/index.jsp>

II. Counseling African-American Males

Recommended websites:

www.theviproom.com/visions/counselihtm

www.counseling.org/enews/volume_1/0104ahtm

III. Publications: Books and Papers***Books:***

- (a) Fox Butterfield (1995). *All God's Children: The Bosket Family and the American Tradition of Violence*. New York: Harper Perennial.
- (b) Claude Brown (1965/1999) – *Manchild in the Promise Land*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- (c) W. E. B. Dubois (1899/1967) – *The Philadelphia Negro*. New York: Schocken Books.
- (d) Anne Arnett Ferguson (2000). *Bad Boys: Public Schools in the Making of Black Masculinity*. Michigan: The University of Michigan Press.

Papers:

- (a) Paul Allen-Meares & Sondra Burman - *“The Endangerment of African-American Men: An Appeal for Social Work Action”* <http://www.sistahspace.com/nommo/mv42.html>
- (b) *“Prison: The Comfort Zone”*
<http://www.jointfx.com/writing/comfortzone.html>

Appendix K: PAR Project Flyer (1 of 2)

**IF YOU
ARM
YOUR COMMUNITY
WITH KNOWLEDGE**

**YOU CAN
CREATE
LASTING
CHANGE**

The "Safe Communities" Employment and Training Project
is searching for 15 **CHANGE MAKERS** to become
community researchers

BE A CHANGE MAKER
BY HELPING END VIOLENCE IN WILMINGTON'S STREETS
SERVE AS A "VOICE" FOR YOUR PEERS THROUGHOUT THE CITY
RECEIVE HANDS-ON TRAINING

GET PAID FOR ONE FULL YEAR
(15-20 hour work week (part-time) / no prior work experience required)

HOPE
LOCAL MENTOR

"Safe Communities"

Project Participants must be:

- City of Wilmington Residents in the East Side or Southbridge Communities
- Ages 18-35
- Male or Female
- Unemployed or Underemployed
- *The only experience required is that you live in a community experiencing violence and want to see a change!*

(Violence could be... street violence, youth with violence in/out of school, substance abuse, drug dealing, domestic violence, police brutality, etc.)

Individuals with a criminal background or criminal history are **ENCOURAGED** to Apply.
If you want to be a **CHANGE MAKER**, please contact us at:

"Safe Communities" Project
c/o Wilmington HOPE Commission
625 N. Orange Street, 3rd Fl.
Wilmington, DE 19802
(302) 573-3735
www.wilmingtonhopecommission.org

IF YOU
ARM
YOUR COMMUNITY
WITH KNOWLEDGE
**YOU CAN
CREATE
LASTING
CHANGE**

"Safe Communities" Project Partners: Wilmington HOPE Commission, Christina Cultural Arts Center, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, University of Delaware, Wilmington University and Delaware State University

Supported by a grant from the First State Community Action Agency

Appendix L: PAR Member Application

For Office Use Only Hired <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to Hire <input type="checkbox"/>

Hope Commission Employment Application Safe Communities Employment Training Project (PAR)

Position (s) applied for _____
Where you previously employed by us? _____ If yes, when? _____
If your application is considered favorably, on what date will you be available for work? _____

Name _____		Personal		Date _____		
Last		First		Middle		
Present Address _____						
No.		Street		City		State
						Zip
Are you legally eligible for employment in the U.S.A.? _____ Telephone No. _____						
Have you ever been convicted of a crime? _____ Have you ever been convicted of a felony? _____						
List below present and past employment, beginning with your most recent						
Name & Address of Company & Type of Business _____ _____ _____ Telephone	From	To	Weekly Starting Salary	Weekly Last Salary	Reason for Leaving	Name of Supervisor
	Describe the work you did:					
Name & Address of Company & Type of Business _____ _____ _____ Telephone	From	To	Weekly Starting Salary	Weekly Last Salary	Reason for Leaving	Name of Supervisor
	Describe the work you did:					
Name & Address of Company & Type of Business _____ _____ _____ Telephone	From	To	Weekly Starting Salary	Weekly Last Salary	Reason for Leaving	Name of Supervisor
	Describe the work you did:					

Appendix M: PAR Application Selection Guide (1 of 3)

PAR Application Selection Guide

Remember:

- The following material is meant to be used as a guide or point of reference when reviewing PAR applications and may not address all of your concerns regarding the PAR application. Please, if you have comments or questions about an application that are not addressed here, be sure to keep notes so that they may be considered in the final selection process.
- Some of the application criteria is of a subjective nature. It is therefore important to remember the Safe Community Project goals and interests to give some framework to your scoring.
- It is also important that, when rating applicants, we measure them against one another rather than against our idea of the perfect candidate. This will ensure that our process is most equitable and determine a reliable baseline or point of reference for our qualification expectations.

Scoring:

- 1) **Does the applicant fit our targeted demographic of 18-35, 200% of poverty, and a resident of 19801 zip code in Southbridge and East Wilmington?**

1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comments:

- 2) **Did the applicant answer all questions, demonstrating attention to detail?**

1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comments:

3) Is the application legible, demonstrating care?

1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comment:

4) Did the application – primarily the essay response – convey a passion for community and/or safety issues? Does the applicant have any evident awareness of or experience with community safety concerns?

1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comments:

5) Was the applicant concise and clear in their answer to the essay question?

1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comments:

6) Did the applicant demonstrate critical thinking skills in the essay question response?

1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comments:

Appendix N: PAR Member Interview Questions (1 of 3)

PAR Project Interview Questions, 10/28/2009

Applicant Name:

Community Researcher

(1) Why are you interested in becoming a community researcher?

(2) How do you think research can assist the community in reducing violence?

(3) Do you like to read and write? Why or why not?

(4) Can you talk to us about your employment/educational history?

(5) What would you say are some of your strengths and weaknesses as an employee/student?

1

(6) Are you interested in attending college? Why or why not

Community Violence

(1) What does community violence mean to you?

(2) Why do you think youth sometimes engage in violence in the Eastside? What do you think are some of the causes of violence in the Eastside?

(3) Was there ever a period of your life where you were involved with the streets? If so, why did you feel it was necessary to be involved in the streets? Where are you today in terms of the streets?

(3) Have you ever been incarcerated? To what extent has your incarceration helped or hurt you in successfully returning to your community?

Relationship with the Community

(1) How would you describe your relationship with the local community in the Eastside?
What's your relationship like with folk in the streets of the Eastside?

(2) Is "giving back" to the community, an idea that is important to you? Why are not?

(3) What kinds of activities or community service projects have you engaged in throughout your life?

Appendix O: Research Training Agenda (Sessions 1-18)

The Wilmington Project *Research Methods Training Schedule*

What is Street PAR? **Session 1** **Monday November 9, 2009** **12PM – 4PM**

- 1. PowerPoint Lecture: The Street Life Project**
- 2. 8 Dimensions of PAR**
 - Review the Framework/8 Dimensions
- 3. Learning Style Inventory**
- 4. *Small Break***
- 5. PowerPoint Lecture: What Does ‘Research Methods’ Mean?**
 - Power of Research
 - What is Ethnography?
 - What is Participatory Action Research?
 - What is Ecology?
(Review *Culture, Agency & Structure Framework*)
- 6. Pre Test**
- 7. Group Reading Activity:** Fran Baum, Colin MacDougall & Danielle Smith (2004). “Participatory Action Research” (854 – 857).
- 8. Individual Reading:** (1) Carrie Antlfinger (Dec. 2008). “Two Going Hungry in Delaware.” A1 & A6; (2) “Police Identify Wilmington homicide victim”; & (3) Sean O’Sullivan (2009). “Man Gets 15 Years in Slaying of Boyhood Buddy”. B1, *The News Journal*.
- 9. Individual Reading: Report Comments on Reading to Larger Group**
- 10. Journal Time**
 - Topic: *What does research mean to you? How can research help the Eastside?*

Shootings and Homicide in the Wilmington Community
Session 2
Wednesday November 11, 2009
12PM – 4PM

1. What is Community Violence?

- **Remorse: The 14 Stories of Eric Morse**
 Recorded in Chicago, Illinois. (7:50 minutes)
 Premiered March 21, 1996 on “All Things Considered”
<http://soundportraits.org/on-air/remorse/>
- **Chicago Teen’s Murder (YouTube Clip)**
<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=5370215n>
- Group Discussion

2. PowerPoint Lecture: Shootings and Homicide in the community

- Arthur H. Garrison & Chris Kervick (2005) “Analysis of the City of Wilmington: Violence & Social/Economic Data”
- Review *The News Journal* articles – (1) Esteban Parra & Adam Taylor (Dec. 2008). “Wilmington Breaks Homicide Record” (B1 & B7); (2) T. J. Healy II (Oct. 2009): “Man Shot in Wilmington Break-In” (3) Adam Taylor & Ira Porter (Sept. 2009): “A Growing Audacity Among City Gunmen – Residents Fear They’ll Be Innocent Victims”; and (4) Ira Porter. “Wilmington Man Shot, Hospitalized; 93 incidents in ’09”.
- Joe Walther (Nov. 2008) “A Dude Could Get Killed in That Place”
- Walther Williams (Sept. 2007). “High Murder Rates in Cities with Large Black Populations”. *Capitalism Magazine*.

3. Small Break

4. Small Group Activity

- What’s the lived experience of the following hustles in Wilmington?:
 (Apply Culture, Agency & Structure?: (1) gang life, (2) drug use scene, (3) pimpin’/prostitution, (4) street bars/clubs & parties, (5) Hip-Hop scene, etc.)
- Report to larger group

5. Individual Readings & Report Back to Larger Group: *The News Journal* articles: (1) Ginger Gibson (2009). “Two Injured in Wilmington Shootings.” (B1 & B2); (2) Ginger Gibson (2009). “Gunfire Spoils City Event.” (B1 & B4); and Beth Miller (Dec. 2008). “City Shuts Down Wilmington Club”. B3.

6. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *What does community violence mean to you?; How and why does community violence occur in the Eastside? Why do you think people engage in shooting and homicide in the Eastside?*
- (2) **Topic:** *Written Thoughts, on one of the two articles.*

Hip-Hop and Community Violence
Session 3
Friday, November 13, 2009
12PM – 4PM

1. Def Jam Poetry - Daniel Beaty, "Knock Knock"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nktBsI0PYPs>

PowerPoint Lecture: “A Gangster and A Gentleman”: Styles P. from The LOX and Black Masculinity

(in packet) - Payne, Y. A. (2006). “A Gangster and a Gentleman: How Street Life Oriented U.S. Born African Men Negotiate Issues of Survival in Relation to Their Masculinity”. *Men and Masculinity*, 8, 3, 288-297.

2. What is Hip-Hop?: How Does This Art Help or Hurt the Community?

- Theoretical Framework for Understanding Gangsta Rap Music

3. Group Reading Assignment:

- Payne, Y. A. & Gibson, L. R. (2008). “Hip Hop Music and Culture: A Site of Resiliency for The Streets of Young Black America” (127-141). In H. A. Nelville, B. M. Tynes & S. O. Utsey (Eds.), *Handbook of African-American Psychology*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

4. *Small Break*

5. PowerPoint Lecture: Young Jeezy & “The Recession”: Gangsta Rap Music’s Response to Structural Inequality

6. PowerPoint Lecture: “Street Love”: How Street Life Oriented Black Men Frame Giving Back to One Another and the Local Community

Payne, Y. A. & Hamdi, H. A. (2009). “Street Love”: How Street Life Oriented U. S. Born African Men Frame Giving Back to One Another and the Local Community. *The Urban Review*, 41, 1, 29–46

7. Street Love in Wilmington (Kenny Briscoe’s footage/Alicia Clark’s Street Love Column)

8. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *What’s the Hip-Hop scene like on the Eastside? Does Hip-Hop Help or Hurt the Eastside?; (2) What have been your experiences with Street Love on the Eastside?*

The Criminal Justice System and Community Violence
Session 4
(9 hour week)
Monday November 16, 2009
11PM – 4PM

1. **Individual Reading:** Alex Rose, June 25, 2007). “Deep Background.” (p. 1, 3 & 5). *Daily Times*.
2. **Learning How To Theorize *The Streets*** (Power Point Lecture)
 - What is Theory?
 - Street Life as a Site of Resiliency
 - **3. PowerPoint Lecture: The Criminal Justice System and Community Violence** What is the Criminal Justice System?
 - How is Criminal Justice Data Organized
 - Prison Industrial Complex
 - Origins of Prisons in the U.S.
 - Nigel Holmes (2009). “*Lock Up, USA*” (Group Activity)
 - Prison Re-entry
4. **Police Brutality or Appropriate Law Enforcement**
Bullets in the Hood (22 minutes) – go to website - <http://www.dctvny.org/bullets/>
& “When Kids Get Life” - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/whenkidsgetlife/view/>)
5. **Small Break**
6. **Lecture: Law Enforcement & The Community** (Police Officers: Captain Bobby Cummings & Lieutenant Akil)
7. **Group Reading Activity:** Race, Ethnicity & Health Care: Fact Sheet - Young African American Men in the United States
8. **Individual Readings:** (1) Robert Craig (2009). “What Delaware Can Do to Cut Crime”. A1, *The News Journal*; (2) Sean O’Sullivan & Esteban Parra (2009). “Del. Does Little to Break Felons’ Bad Habits”. A6, *The News Journal*; and (3) Esteban Parra (2009). “Wilmington Expands Community Policing”. A1& A7, *The News Journal*.
9. **Journal Time**
 - **Topic:** *Select one of the readings and summarize it in writing. What does reading mean to you and how can it help us in this research project?*
10. **Share Journal Reflections** (Group Activity)

Social Structural Systems and *The Community*
Session 5
Wednesday November 18, 2009
12PM – 4PM

1. Lecture: Structural Violence: Social Structural Systems and The Community

- Robert King Merton's "Social Theory and Social Structure Economic System"
 - Economic System
 - Educational System
 - Living/Health Conditions

2. Group Reading Activity:

- Jeannine Aversa (2008). "533,000 Lose Jobs in Single Month". A1 & A9, *The News Journal*. - *Unemployment*
- Jennifer Price & Mike Chalmers (2009). State Test Scores Stay More or Less the Same". A1 & A9, *The News Journal*. - *Education/Standardized Testing*
- Pedro Noguera. "Coming To Terms With Violence In Our Schools". *Education/School Violence*
- Hiran Ratnayake (2008). "State Graded on Minority Health Care Disparities". B1 & B2, *The News Journal*. - *Living/Health Conditions*

3. Political and Civic Leadership in Wilmington, DE: (Power Point Lecture) – Charles Madden, JD

4. Small Break

5. Law/Legislation and Community Violence – Leland Ware (Lecture and Activity)

6. Individual Readings: (1) Maureen Milford (2008). "Record Number of Jobless in Del." A1 & A13, *The News Journal*; and (2) Esteban Parra & Ginger Gibson (2009). "School Violence Reflects Society, Educators Say". A1 & A10, *The News Journal*.

7. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *What does structural violence mean to you? How does structural violence impact the Eastside*

8. Share Journal Reflections (Group Activity)

Substance Abuse and Community Violence
Session 6
(11 hour week)
Monday November 23, 2009
11PM – 4PM

1. Review

2. Theory:

- PowerPoint Lecture: Harm Reduction Theory

3. Group Discussion/Video Clip – Substance Abuse

4. Substance Abuse and Community Violence (Power Point Lecture) – Dr. Lana Harrison

- Small Group Activity & Report to Larger Group

5. *Small Break*

6. Individual Reading: *Donald Goines: Chap. 1 & 2*

- Report to Larger Group

7. Group Reading Activity:

- Nicholas D. Kristof (2009). Priority Test: Health Care or Prisons. *The New York Times*.
- The NSDUH Report (2006) – Issue 5.
- Drug War Facts: Race, Prison and the Drug Laws.
<http://www.drugwarfacts.org/racepris.htm>.

8. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *How has substance abuse affected the Eastside? Why do people on the Eastside engage in drug use? Why do people on the Eastside engage in the sales of narcotics?*

9. Share Journal Reflections (Group Activity)

Developing the Question
Session 7
Wednesday, November 25, 2009
10PM – 4PM

1. Lecture; Review - What Does ‘Research Methods’ Mean?

- Theory—Method—Analysis
- Developing Research Questions
- Independent & Dependent Variables
- Qualitative Methods
 - Archival
 - Field Notes
 - Case Study
 - Interview Type
- Review Quantitative Methods
 - Survey

2. *Small Break*

3. Research Question Activity (Small Group Activity & Report to Larger Group)

4. Research Ethics

- What do research ethics mean?
- What is the Internal Review Board (IRB)
- Review IRB application for Wilmington Project
- **The PEOPLE** (Introduce Idea)

5. Reading: Research Ethics: The Tuskegee Syphilis Study

6. Film: *Ms. Evers' Boys*

**Theoretical Modeling
Session 8
(9 hour week)
Monday November 30, 2009
12PM – 4PM**

- 1. What is Theory?**
- 2. Review Independent & Dependent Variables**
- 3. PowerPoint Lecture: The BAMS PAR Team Project**
- 4. *Small Break***
- 5. Theoretical Modeling:**
 - Small Group Activity & Report to the Larger Group
 - Cause-n-Effect Organizer
- 6. Theory Post Test**
- 7. Method Pre Test**
- 8. Complete Film: *Ms. Evers' Boys***

Project Methodology
Session 9
Wednesday December 2, 2009
12PM – 4PM

1. Proposed Research Methodological Design?

- Projected Sample
- Projected Instrumentation
- Projected Procedure

2. Who is our Audience? (Small Group Activity & Report to Larger Group)

3. *Small Break*

4. Lecture: Field Observation/Notes

- How to organize field notes in the community
- How to organize field notes during interviews

5. Organize Field Observation Sites (Small Group Activity & Report to Larger Group)

6. Mock Field Observations

- Report to Larger Group

**Project Methodology
Session 10
Friday December 4, 2009
9:30am – 12:30pm**

(1) Brief Review of Field Note Lecture

(2) Review Reading (Group Activity):

- Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theory and Methods – Field Work (103 – 116).
- Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theory and Methods – Field Work (117 – 133).

(3) Enter the Field in Teams for Field Observations/Notes

(4) Type-Up of Field Notes

(5) Report to the Larger Group

**Monday December 7, 2009
Session 11
(11 hour week)**

(1) Yasser A. Payne, Ph. D. - *Street Life and Fatherhood: How Black Men in the Streets of Harlem Conceptualize Notions of Fatherhood*

Black American Studies
Brown Bag Series
206 Trabant
University of Delaware
12:15PM – 1:10PM

(2) Lunch: 1:30PM – 2:30PM

**Qualitative Research:
Interview Techniques & Design
Session 12
Wednesday December 9, 2009
12PM – 4PM**

1. Review Qualitative Methods

- Archival
- Field Notes
- Case Study
- Interview Type

2. Interview Protocol Design (Small Group Activity)

3. *Small Break*

4. Interview Protocol Design (Report to Larger Group)

5. Qualitative Interview Reading (briefly discuss)

(1) Handout Book Chapter (briefly discuss)

Diane D. Turner (2006)

“The Interview Technique as Oral History in Black Studies” (329-332).

Molefi Kete Asante & Maulana Karenga (Eds.)

Handbook of Black Studies

(2) “Technique Isn’t Everything, But It Is a Lot” (63-78).

6. Film Readings

(1) Review: (1) How to Film an Interview; (2) Students Teaching Teachers: Student Voice Video Inquiry Project; and (3) Guidelines For Shooting Quality Films

(3) Handout Book Chapter (briefly discuss)

Adeniyi Coker (2006)

“Film as Historical Method in Black Studies: Documenting the African Experience” (352 –366)

Molefi Kete Asante & Maulana Karenga (Eds.)

Handbook of Black Studies

7. View Video/Interview Clips

- Interview Excerpts From The Streets of Harlem Project
 - Individual Interview: “Duke the God”
 - Individual Interview: “Devon”
 - Dual Interview: “Capone and Double O”
 - Group Interview: “JD & Crew”

8. Role Playing: Three Kinds of Participants

- Grumpy, Average, Exceptionally Nice

9. Group & Individual Reading:

John A. Rich (2005). Pathway to Recurrent Trauma Among Young Black Men: Traumatic Stress, Substance Use, and the “Code of the Street”. *American Journal of Public Health*, 95, 5, 816-824.

(Review introduction and methodology of paper and then have them individually read and report on the analysis)

10. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *What do you think about the qualitative study we just covered? How can qualitative research be useful in our study on community violence in the Eastside?*

Survey Design
Session 13
Friday December 11, 2009
12PM – 4PM

1. Group Reading Activity – Bruce W. Tuckman (1999). *Conducting Educational Research* (5th Ed.). Chapter 10 – “Constructing and Using Questionnaires and Interview Schedules” (238 – 277).

2. Survey Design – (Small Lecture)

- Strength/Limitations of a Survey
 - Response Sets
 - Subscales
 - Global Scale
- Expose Group to Surveys Selected for Study
- Mock Survey (Report to Group)

3. Design Survey (Small Group Activity)

- What do you like?; What don't you like?; and How would you do it differently?

4. *Small Break*

5. Design Survey (Report to Larger Group)

6. Role Playing for Community Survey Research

7. Individual Readings: (1) Ryan Cormier (Oct. 2009). “Walkers Honor Memory of Slain Community Leader.” B3, *The News Journal*. (2) Terri Sanginiti (2009). “Teen Wanted in Stabbing Death.” B1, *The News Journal*.

8. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *How can survey research be useful in our study on community violence in the Eastside?*

**Street Outreach
Session 14
Monday December 14, 2009
(9 hour week)
12PM – 4PM**

1. PowerPoint Lecture: What is Street Outreach?

- History of Street Outreach
- Dominant Modes of Street Outreach
- Newburgh PAR/Street Outreach Study

2. Wolfie & Dr. Karen Parker – Hope Commission Street Outreach team

3. Small Break

4. Street Outreach Video Clips

- Bevel Up: Drugs, Users and Outreach Nursing
<http://hotdocsaudience.bside.com/2008/?wicket:interface=:1:47:::>
- [Micah Project Street Outreach](#) – (YouTube clip)

5. Group Discussion of Video Clips

6. Street Outreach Individual Readings (*Report to Lager Group*)

- Outreach Calls for Creative Approach. Vol. 9, No. 6, Spring 2002
- Robert Hightower, Peacekeepers Hit the Streets to Mentor Youth

7. Identify Street Outreach Materials - (*Small Group Activity & Report to Lager Group*)

8. Organize Street Outreach Schedule (Group Activity)

Data Collection Strategies
Session 15
Tuesday December 15, 2009
12PM – 4PM

1. Sample Development: Data Collection Strategy

- Street Allies
- Snowball Technique (What is this?)

2. Small Group Activity: Develop a Snowball Sample

- Personal Network
- Family
- Friends
- Social Agencies (Probation Departments, Group Homes, YMCA, etc.)

3. Develop a Snowball Sample (Report to Larger Group)

4. *Small Break*

5. Community Mapping: Survey Data Collection Sites

- Organize Sites
(block-by-block map of Southbridge and the Eastside)

6. Organize Data Collection Schedule

7. Individual Reading: Donald Goines – *Crime Partner* – Chapter 3-7

8. Group Discussion of Readings

9. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *What are your thoughts about the readings? How do the readings (which are on community violence) help us think through our survey design?*

The History of *The Streets*
Session 16
Wednesday December 16, 2009
1PM – 4PM

1. PowerPoint Lecture: “History as Theory, Method and Analysis”

- Theoretical Framework for The Streets of Black America
- Street History Website (Jonathan Hoxter)
- History Databases

2. *Small Break*

3. Video Excerpt: “*Crips and Bloods*”

4. PowerPoint Lecture: “Psycho-Historical Analysis of The Streets”

- Issue Psycho-Historical Analysis of *The Streets*

5. Individual Readings: (1) Jim Crow Laws; (2) Edward L. Kenney (2008). “At Achievement Academy, No Gap is Too Big To Close”. B1 & B2, *The News Journal*; & (3) Esteban Parra (2008). “Woman Gets 22 Years For '06 Murder”.

6. Group Discussion of Readings

7. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *How can a historical analysis help us understand community violence more deeply on the Eastside? Specifically, how can a historical analysis inform the readings for today?*

**Action Workshop Part I
Session 17
Thursday December 17, 2009
12PM – 4PM**

1. PowerPoint Lecture: “What is Action?”

- Theoretical Framework for Action
- Methodological Design for Action

2. Video Clip

- Echoes of Brown DVD
- BAMS PAR Team Video

3. *Small Break*

4. Lecture: “How to Use the Arts for Action” - Raye Jones Avery

5. Reading Assignment: Donald Goines – *Crime Partner* – Chapter 8

6. Post Test

7. Journal Time

- **Topic:** *What Type of Action Would You Like to Do for this Project and Why?*

8. Journal Sharing

**Action Workshop Part II
Session 18
Friday December 18, 2009
12PM – 4PM**

1. Identify Theoretical Framework for Action (*Group Activity*)

2. Identify Methodological Design for Action (*Small Group Activity & Report to the Larger Group*)

- Social Justice Method

3. Small Break

4. The PEOPLE (*Small Group Activity & Report to the Larger Group*)

5. Group Reading Activity:

Tupac Amaru Shakur (1999). The Rose That Grew From Concrete. Pocket Books – Simon & Schuster: New York.

- Preface – Afeni Shakur (xiii)
- Forward – Tupac, C U in Heaven – Nikki Giovanni
- Introduction – Leila Steinberg

6. Individual Reading Activity:

Tupac Amaru Shakur (1999). The Rose That Grew From Concrete. Pocket Books – Simon & Schuster: New York.

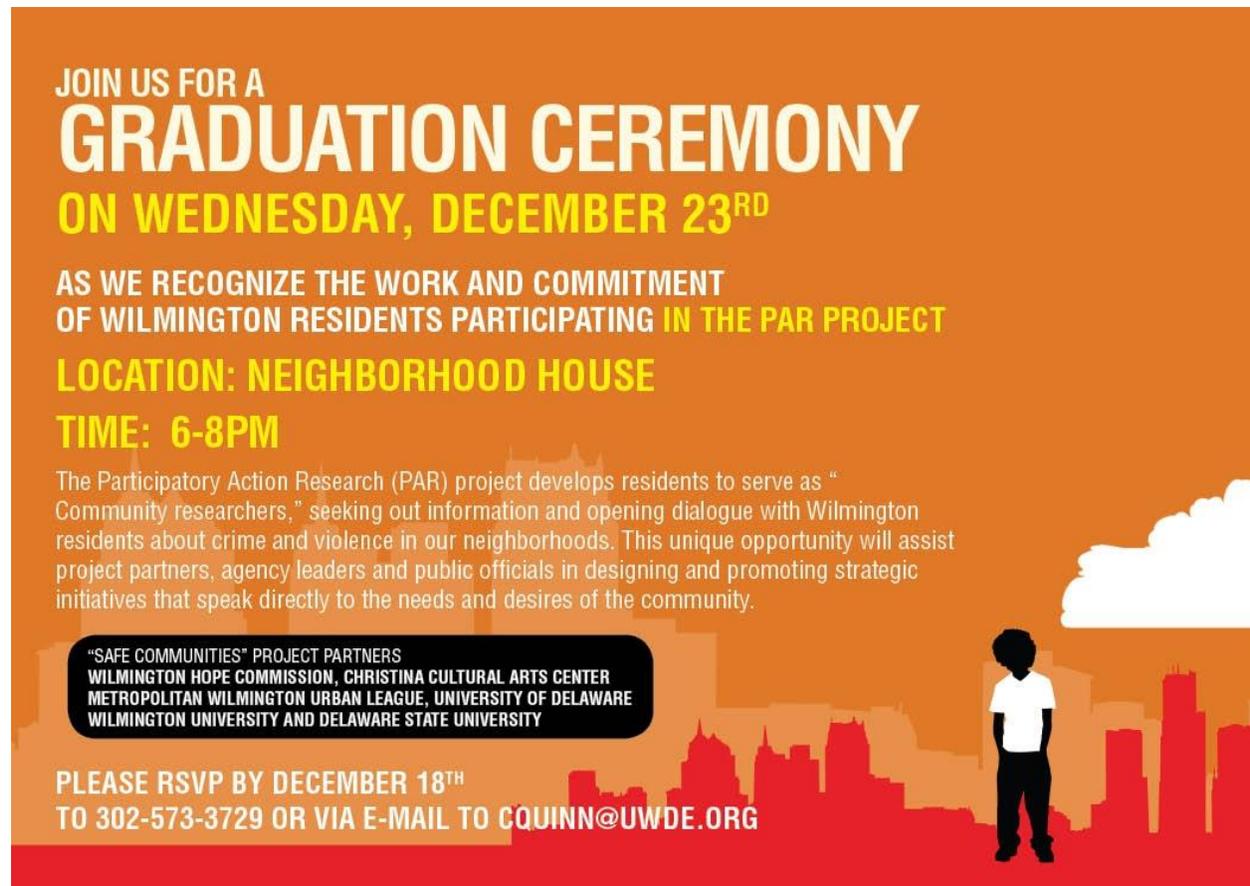
- *Jada* (188-189)
- *Just a Breath of Freedom* (104-105)
- *Fallen Star* (110-111)
- *Government Assistance* (112-113)
- *Family Tree* (114-115)
- *Or My Soul* (116-117);
- *Liberty Needs Glasses* (134-135);
- *How Can We Be Free* (136-137);
- *The Promise* (138-139);
- *And 2morrow* (140-142); and
- *No Win* (142-143)

7. Group Discussion on Individual Reading Activity

Wednesday December 23, 2009
Closing Ceremony
Community Research Graduation
Session 20

- All Street PAR family members are to receive a Certificate of Completion for Research Methods Training

Appendix P: PAR Closing Ceremony Flyer



**JOIN US FOR A
GRADUATION CEREMONY
ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD**

**AS WE RECOGNIZE THE WORK AND COMMITMENT
OF WILMINGTON RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PAR PROJECT**

LOCATION: NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

TIME: 6-8PM

The Participatory Action Research (PAR) project develops residents to serve as “Community researchers,” seeking out information and opening dialogue with Wilmington residents about crime and violence in our neighborhoods. This unique opportunity will assist project partners, agency leaders and public officials in designing and promoting strategic initiatives that speak directly to the needs and desires of the community.

**“SAFE COMMUNITIES” PROJECT PARTNERS
WILMINGTON HOPE COMMISSION, CHRISTINA CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
METROPOLITAN WILMINGTON URBAN LEAGUE, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY AND DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 18TH
TO 302-573-3729 OR VIA E-MAIL TO CQUINN@UWDE.ORG**