Social Dynamics of Concentrated Inequality and Urban Violence

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Murder “Hot Spots”:
Chicago, 1990-1996
Present Concerns

- **Stability and Change in Inequality**
  - especially concentrated poverty and racial inequality; ethnic/cultural diversity and immigration

- **Stability and Change in Social Fabric**
  - e.g., cohesion, trust, collective efficacy, density of social networks, organizational participation
Holds During Era of Gentrification

Continued Durability of Inequality: Neighborhood Poverty, 1990-2000

Proportion 2000 income below poverty vs. Proportion 1990 income below poverty

R Sq Linear = 0.839
The Stable Structure of Neighborhood Violence
Profiles in an Era of Crime Decline: Chicago, 1995-2002

R Sq Linear = 0.932
Stable Asymmetry of Racial Change over Three Decades

Empty quadrant – in 30 years, not one neighborhood transitioned from black → white
Collective Efficacy Theory

Composition/ (e.g., Poverty, Race)

Social Networks/ Interaction

Organizations

Collective Efficacy

Prior Violence

Event Rates of Violence (predictive)

Individual Characteristics

Spatial Processes
Immigration and Violence by Neighborhood Poverty

Index based on 100 foreign countries

Increases in Neighborhood Diversity are also Directly Linked to Decreases in Neighborhood Violence

(Controlling for all time-stable characteristics and concentrated disadvantage)
However, changes in race/ethnic diversity do not erode collective efficacy
Nor Trust in Neighbors: Enduring Quality of Trust Despite Changes in Multi-Group Diversity: Chicago, 1995-2002

N=77 Community Areas

Change in Diversity, 1990-2000
- Low
- Medium
- High
- Fit line for Total

R Sq Linear = 0.385
The Real Culprit? Legacy of Concentrated Poverty