

Immigration: Social Inhibitors Impact on the Increasing Rates of Crime Amongst Latino Populations

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Honors Program

Introduction

- I. Immigration Generations
- II. Social Inhibitors
- III. Social Response
- IV. Policy Recommendations

Immigration Generations

- First Generation – Foreign born, immigrate as adults
- Generation 1.5 – Foreign born, immigrate as adolescents
- Second Generation – American born, immigrant by association

Social Inhibitors

- Social obstacles that inhibit the assimilation process.
- Necessary factors in society that immigrants must utilize, cover come and embrace to succeed.
- Informal mechanisms of social control

Social Inhibitors

Ethnic Identity

- Embrace ethnic background & culture of origin
- Attitudes, values, belief systems
- Multifaceted: groups & individuals identify differently with their ethnic group
- Creation of unique social environments
- Language, social networks, religious groups, political ideology, food, geographic location

Social Inhibitors

- Affective aspect: level of connectedness with one's group
 - Level of membership one possesses within their group
 - How one affirms their belonging to the group
 - Participation in community activities = visible social relationship

- Cognitive aspect: individualistic approach
 - Mental self exploration of ones ethnicity & group
 - Emotional aspect: feelings, knowledge, perception towards one's group

Social Inhibitors

Cultural Maintenance

- Maintain the traditions, customs, language, material aspects, and family ties of one's ethnic group
- Hand down cultural beliefs and practices
 - Selective group of positive collective memories that give hope to ethnic groups
 - Cultural guidelines for future generations
- Shifts with the modernization of society
 - Survival of non-dominate groups
 - Aids assimilation process

Social Inhibitors

Linguistic Isolation

- Community or individual who is separated from mainstream society due to a disconnect between their language and the dominate language
- Inhibits employment, transportation, well-being, social services
- Impedes on assimilation
 - Unable to successfully achieve assimilation due to constant language barriers
 - Increases vulnerability of non-assimilated groups
- Language barrier can be overcome
 - Ability to change, decrease crime, increase assimilation

Social Inhibitors

Economic Deprivation

- Financial situation
 - Below poverty line
 - Resource deprivation
 - Lack means to be able to fill designated role in society
- Influenced by language
 - Obtain legal employment
 - Steady employment

Latino Paradox

- Created by the social inhibitors
- Disproves social disorganization theory linking poverty and criminal behavior
- Latino immigrant communities are economically deprived, yet there are trends of lower crime rates in these poverty stricken areas than in wealthy non-Latino immigrant communities.
- Strong ethnic & cultural ties create informal mechanisms of social control
- Informal social code decreases crime with the unification of immigrants in their community

Assimilation Process

- Successful completion using social inhibitors:
 - Unify members of ethnic communities to create ethnic enclaves
 - Attachment to ones cultural support network
 - English proficiency to overcome language, employment and economic barriers
 - Utilize Latino Paradox to create informal social code

Social Response - Problem

Language Barriers

- Public Schools
 - Specialized language programs
 - Money, time, division between classes
 - Decrease in Latino graduation rates
- Law Enforcement
 - Police less effective
 - Under reporting
- Criminal Justice Court System
 - Right to access of justice
 - Due process of law

Policy Solution

Education

- Maintenance program to increase bilingual education in public schools
- Use of native language to encourage academic achievement in second language
- Importance of language in cultural and ethnic identity
- Build positive connections within ethnic groups through language
- Decreases crime

Policy Solution

Law enforcement

- Spanish language training
- Language access policy
 - Increase community policing
- Bilingual staff members
 - Pay incentive

Policy Solution

Criminal Justice Court System

- Canadian Model
 - Equal access to justice
- Spanish only court
 - Latino dominated areas
 - Already bilingual areas

Conclusion

- The social inhibitors function together to create comunal support systems within immigrant communities.
- The informal support systems positively facilitate the assimilation process.
- Policy changes are society's way of facilitating a positive and successful assimilation process.
- Unifying non-dominate cutlures with the dominate culture with the policy recommendations will decrease crime.

Questions

- Interest in research, thoughts or comments.



Thank you for you time.

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