Police Perceptions and Parenting Styles Among Black American Parents in Miami-Dade County

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Author Note

I have no known conflict of interest to disclose.

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ABSTRACT

A person's perception of something or someone does not develop without external factors affecting the individual. Experiences and lessons people have learned from a young age have molded their perception of the world. One of those lessons is what is considered correct and what is not. In the Black American community, this is accompanied by the "talk". This "talk" is shaped by past experiences with the police towards minority groups, specifically, Black Americans. This paper discusses how parenting styles, race, and authority intersect. The purpose of this paper is to examine the beginnings of one's life, the lessons they are taught, and how parenting has affected one's view on authority.

Keywords: parenting styles, police, Black American, perception, fear

Chapter 1: Introduction

Background of the Problem

This paper will be developed with the help of discussing the past, highlighting the present, and conducting research on the parenting styles of 10 parents from the Black American community. How a person carries themselves depends on how they were raised and what experiences they have encountered. There are three themes that run through this piece of work; beginnings, trauma, and perceptions. This paper discusses Baumrind's research, leading to the three most popular parenting styles: authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive. Parenting styles and the lessons learned from a young age have lasting outcome that translates into adulthood.

This paper then discusses fear and how it relates to authoritative figures such as police officers. In addition, the Social Fear Learning theory will be addressed to support the exploration of why people act the way they do. This is significant exploration because it allows the criminal justice community to understand further the extra caution the minority communities must take to further their protection.

Statement of the Problem

Police officers interact with citizens differently based on their race and communities (Carter & Corra, 2016; Chaney & Robertson, 2013; Johnson, St. Vil, Gilbert, Goodman, & Johnson, 2019). After the killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, it was essential to take account of the perspectives on law enforcement. Two-thirds of Americans believed that police officers treat Black Americans differently than any other race in a survey. This survey consisted of 91% of Black Americans, 71% of Hispanic Americans, 71% of Asian Americans, and 58% of white Americans who think police treat Black Americans differently (Lowery et al., 2020).

According to the study of Baumrind, Black American parents fall under the authoritative style of parenting (Sorkhabi & Mandara, 2012). The authoritative parenting style occurs when the parent does not explain anything to their children, only direct them. The child's job is to listen and do as instructed. This research, this study will specifically answer the question of whether social fear learning and parenting styles dictate Black American citizens' perception towards police. What is not known is precisely how the police behaviors and decision-making of officers in the Miami-Dade Police Department influence the parenting styles of Black American parents of Miami- Dade County.

Within the field of criminal justice, the whys and the hows are essential. This paper attempts to answer whether the parenting styles of Black American parents of Miami-Dade County are affected by Miami-Dade police and gather perceptions of these police officers from Black American parents. Exploring parenting styles incorporated with fear and trauma can answer why people act in a particular manner towards police officers. Studies have shown Black American men are subject to have negative encounters with police officers. The air of caution lingers over minorities in the sight of police officers. This paper attempts to explore the beginnings of a person's upbringing.

This paper will add to the conversation of systemic racism in police encounters by providing insight from Black American families. This thesis aims to continue the conversation that started by others on racial injustices but from a different angle. This thesis will provide a better understanding of how and why minority families have developed a sort of caution against police. In addition, how minority families raise their children to interact with authoritative figures, like the police.

Knowing the different perspectives of this subject matter will allow scholars, the criminal justice community, and others to formulate better policies, laws, and most importantly, create a change beneficial to all citizens. The outcome of this paper will give the reader insight into how minority children are raised and the lengths it takes their parents to do it. This paper will allow the reader to ponder the history of police officers and encourage them to do their research. This piece will be a discussion starter for those who seek to make better policies regarding police officers and the minority community.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this paper is to understand and investigate the intersection of parenting styles, race, and authority. One of the first lessons taught to a young child is what to do and what not to do. This lesson is universal, but it is taught differently among different races. The idea of authority figures is painted To explore in different hues depending on race and upbringing. Learning how to interact with authority figures such as police is taught relatively young.

This study focuses on parenting styles and how fear can affect Black Americans' parenting styles and perceptions of police. Discussing the past of the participants will allow the audience to understand their origins of or their perceptions. Highlighting the present will enable readers to see the difference in home training and what it has done for people of different races. Researching these families will give readers insight to see if home training towards authority continues to be different.

Significance of the Study

This topic is crucial to peruse because it deepens the understanding of Black Americans' precautions while on the streets. Police brutality played in the background for years in America and has started to blare out even louder. With the advancement of technology, police brutality

and injustices are captured for the world to see. A few examples, to name a few, are George

Floyd and Antwan Gilmore. Officer Chauvin killed George Floyd by kneeling on his neck,

restricting oxygen flow (Newsone Staff, 2021). This is why it is essential to speak on the

intersectionality of Miami-Dade police officers and parenting styles.

Antwan Gilmore was found in his vehicle unresponsive and his foot on the break.

Officers saw a gun in his waistband, and the car started to roll forward, and police shot ten

rounds (Newsone Staff, 2021). This research is vital because it will highlight the experiences of

Black American parents in the Miami-Dade County area and how they incorporate extra

protective measures to keep their children safe. Seeing the numbers of Black men being shot by

police rising, this study will investigate Black American parents' channels to guard their children

against police officers of Miami-Dade.

This study will advance the body of knowledge in this discipline by giving future

researchers and criminal justice practitioners insight into the specific experiences of Black

Miami-Dade County residence. This study explains the transmission of threat and the disconnect

between police officers and the Black American community for the future society. For current

and future practitioners, this study introduces a theoretical framework that is relatively new

concerning humans being the subjects. This study is new and different from past research,

considering that it focuses on Black American parents living within the local geographical area

of Miami-Dade County. It breaks down the experiences of Black American mothers and fathers

who know firsthand or have seen the adverse interactions that marginalized communities of color

have with the Miami-Dade Police Department.

According to the research of Alpert, et.al., Miami-Dade Police Officers were more likely

to write more field interview cards and conducted more record checks on Black American people

than any other race (Alpert, et.al., 2007). This type of research fits into various scholarly

conversations such as the criminal justice system, racial profiling, criminology theories: cultural

criminology, and crime and victimization: race and crime. Key developments that will show are

the response of police and race, racial bias, excess force, and parenting styles. This paper will

continue the conversation of police brutality, discuss the history of police versus minorities,

specifically Black Americans, and discuss parenting styles.

Theoretical Framework

Social Fear Learning

This study will use Social Fear Learning as the paradigm to view Black American

parents' perception of Miami- Dade County police and how it influences their parenting styles.

Social Fear Learning is a term that successfully conveys the transmission of threat information

between individuals (Debiec, & Olsson, 2017). Social Fear learning is not only imperative for

survival but, responses to learned fear are developed through direct experience or indirectly

through social communication (Debiec, & Olsson, 2017). One of the learned responses for a

minority individual, more specifically an Black American, is to be cautious with authoritative

figures. This learned response could have stemmed from a past traumatic history of police

brutality and have been passed down for generations.

The qualitative approach is better used on Social Fear Learning because personal experiences

cannot be measured. To reiterate, Social Fear Learning is how one animal or human transmits a

threat.

Social fear learning has taught Black Americans to layer precautions over their children.

Since law enforcement has disproportionally and negatively interacted with Black Americans,

layers Black children with extra precautions become a defense mechanism. This theory is new

and recently applied to humans. It becomes beneficial to any practitioner interested in this topic

as it is now transferred to the Black American experience.

Research Question

To reiterate the question, how does Black American parents within Miami-Dade County

perceive Miami-Dade police officers.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

The overall topic of the thesis is how the police officers of Miami-Dade County sway parenting styles and perceptions of Black American parents. This study will use the social fear learning theory to examine how Black American parents raise their children. This chapter will first present the different parenting styles, discuss fear and Social Fear Learning theory, define transgenerational trauma and transgenerational racial discrimination, then discuss the role of police officers and their relationship to different communities. The literature for this study was found using the keywords: parenting styles, police, Black American, attitude, and fear. The Liberty University library was used to access journals such as APA PsychNet, Proquest, and Wiley. In addition, Google Scholar was used to furthering the literature for this research.

Theoretical Orientation for the Study

Closer Look into Social Fear Learning

Social Fear Learning was first observed in animals, and then researchers realized the same phenomena in humans (Debiec & Olsson, 2017). This theory was easily translated to humans being that humans can also experience fear. Social Fear Learning stems from Classical Fear Conditioning. Within this paradigm, fear must come from a first-hand frightening experience. The amygdala is imperative to this paradigm because this part of the brain involves expressions and emotions (Olsson et.al., 2007). This part of the brain controls the fight or flight response. This theory was chosen because the transmission of fear is vital to understand as it intertwines with learned actions stemming from the learned fear of police.

Fear

Fear is defined as an "unpleasant, often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger" (Merriam-Webster., n.d.). This feeling of danger and awareness is caused by experiences and lessons learned throughout one's life. The emotion fear serves survival by creating appropriate behavioral responses to ensure preservation. In turn, these behaviors are passed down also to ensure the survival of that species. Fear is affected by environmental elements and social elements such as culture, race, and past experiences that may intersect with race and culture. The most important thing about fear is that if it scares a person enough, it will change their attitude or behavior (Lennon & Rentfro, 2010).

Parenting Styles

Diana Baumrind was a developmental and clinical psychologist who is known for her research in parenting styles. Baumrind managed to study parents and how they interacted with their children simultaneously. Baumrind isolated three groups of children: the assertive group, then withdrawn, and the children with little self-control. She also discovered the most common parenting styles through her research, including authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive.

The authoritative parenting style is where the parents are more in control of their children. The authoritative parenting style is the most popular and effective. The authoritarian parenting style tends to control the situation but also provides reasoning. The parents under this style are considered to be more reasonable. The Permissive Parenting Style is where parents put themselves on the same playing field as their kids. These parents are the type to consult with their children and ask their permission to do something (Grobman, n.d).

The authoritative style has proven to be the most effective parenting style. Nadia Sorkhabi and Jelani Mandara pose the question, does parenting styles translate across all cultures. It is a known fact that all cultures faced their battles. In the case of Black Americans, a parent would be more cautious with law enforcement than a white person. Baumrind has discovered that 50% of Black American parents fall under this parenting style (Sorkhabi & Mandara, 2012, pg.114). When Black American girls were compared to white girls, the Black American girls were found to be more assertive and independent. This independence is derived from strength and caution passed down from their parents.

Transgenerational Trauma

Unfortunately, these young Black American children are more likely to be seen as a threat. Black American teenagers are more often mistake as adults, therefore, more likely to be met with violence (Tate et.al., 2020). As a child who has learned that lesson gets older and starts a family, this lesson will be passed down to their children. The air of fear is what travels down from generation to generation. Given the history between Black Americans and authoritative figures in this country, generational instincts have developed to ensure the safety of Black Americans. Transgenerational trauma is not always meant to be passed down, instead, it is idly displayed through emotion and absorbed by a young mind.

A group of researchers was looking to answer the question, is silence about trauma harming their children? A study was conducted on Palestinian families and the goals were to identify the contents of the families' communication about past national trauma; to examine how parents' current war trauma is associated with transgenerational communication; and to analyze the associations between transgenerational communication and children's mental health (Dalgaard, et. al., 2019). How does this study relate to this topic? The trauma Black Americans

have faced in this country has been very apparent. The question again would be, is silence on traumas harmful for children? The answer to that question, according to this study, is no.

This study has shown that the communication content between parents and their children is both positive and negative. Parents spoke of aggression, violence, and suffering, but they also attempted to make their child(ren) understand how the war came to be and boosted their children's morale. This research has demonstrated that although trauma was the focus of discussion, a resilient and prideful light was shown through it all. Again, how does this relate to the Black American experience? Black Americans continue to fight in a racial war and the traumatic experiences that occur in this country. Within this fight, Black Americans must arm themselves with strategies and methods and learn how to conduct themselves, so they are not seen as targets.

The term "war" signifies the state of conflict between nations or groups (Merriam-Webster., n.d.). When mentioned the term "race war" it is implied that Black Americans are in a state of conflict with police officers because of the color of their skin. The history of this country has shown authoritative figures such as police officers interact negatively with Black Americans. The perceptions that Black Americans once had may very well be the perceptions of today. It also can depend on the individual and their personal experience with police officers. The underlying message is using caution when dealing with police officers.

Transgenerational Consequences of Racial Discrimination

W. E. B. Du Bois, a scholar, civil rights activist, and author, pointed out that white people believed that Black Americans did not have problems. Instead, white people thought Black American people were the problem (Yancy, 2011). His first notion already creates a problem considering that it creates a false narrative in this country. This false narrative has forced Black

American people to develop a different mentality, find coping mechanisms, and was forced to arm their children with lessons and methods for survival.

One of the consequences of racial discrimination is scaring a child from a young by changing their outward look on life. Bessel van der Kolk, a psychiatrist, argues childhood trauma disturbs a child's sense of safety and trust in their environment, decreasing their sense of worth (Atkinson, et. al., 2014, pg. 292). Having "The talk" with a child constitutes as traumatic because everyone is created equal in a child's eye. Children do not understand the inner workings of the world they were born into at a young age. "The talk" is used when parents or guardians must teach children about the world for what it has developed into. Another unfortunate detail is that Black American children are more likely to experience an interaction with police at a younger age before any other race.

Another consequence of racial discrimination is historical trauma, either helping or destroying the family or community (Atkinson, et. al., 2014, pg. 294). Historical trauma is transmitted from one family member to another or community member to another. The way historical experiences can be presented determines how the other person will receive the message. This can help the individual by allowing them to absorb the information and adapt or absorb the information and cause psychological damage. Historical trauma leads to the creation of generational instincts. In the case of Black Americans, when being pulled over by police, one should automatically show their hands. These generational instincts are what should ensure the survival of Black Americans.

Review of Research and Methodological Literature

Review of Research on the Topic

Sworn police officers have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, their state, and the law of their agency's jurisdiction (International Association of Chiefs of Police., n.d.). Their duty to the people is to ensure the safety of all who live in the community they serve. Unfortunately, some do not follow the rules down to the letter, and these are the "bad apples." These "bad apples" in law enforcement have shown racism, and excessive force repeated times. This combination causes a strain between law enforcement and minority communities.

Relationship between Police and Different Communities

A study was conducted by Donald P. Haider-Markel and Mark R. Joslyn on the attributes of police treatment of Black Americans. One of the focus points of the study was on attributions on police use of violence against Black Americans. Their goal was to understand how social and political identities shape attributions of police violence (Haider-Markel & Joslyn, 2017). Researchers believed that Black Americans see violence brought on by police because of "systemic forces." In other words, how this country has evolved and made Black Americans wearier of police officers. Results have confirmed that racial characteristics substantially affect perceptions, in this case, the killing of Black American men. Seeing that Black Americans have a strong identity, the killing of Black American men is seen as a phenomenon (Haider-Markel & Joslyn, 2017).

The relationship between police officers and minority communities is almost nonexistent because of individuals' involvement or exposure to police brutality (Haider-Markel & Joslyn, 2017). With the history between Black American and Latino/Hispanic communities, there lacks communication, cooperation, and most importantly, trust. In the article, "The Evolving Strategy of Police: A Minority View," the history of policing was divided into three eras: political, reform, and community. This article explained the three eras and how detrimental it was towards the minority communities, especially the Black American community (Williams & Murphy, 1990).

In the "political era" of policing, history ignores the genesis of policing in the United States and how police officers treated minority communities. This era started in the Reconstruction era and lasted up until the twentieth century. In the "reform era" of policing, Black American people were starting to receive credit and began qualifying to be police officers by the "old" standards" community (Williams & Murphy, 1990).

Although policing was becoming more advanced, this advancement only benefited white people. In the 1960s, the Civil Rights era, police realized that the law was not enough to support. Community policing was introduced in this era, including members of the community helping in the crime-solving aspect. There are two routes to community policing, one being that it excludes vulnerable communities or fulfills the true purpose of police officers.

Police Brutality

Racism within the United States has evolved, and due to its evolution, it is not as tolerated today. Also, this is because people became allies to the Black American community. Police brutality has been a hot topic considering that Black Americans and supporters are becoming even more vocal. We can also attribute the famous case to technology, cell phones, video cameras, and social media. Police departments realize that their actions are not on display for all to see; rather than look bad for the public, they "handle" the situation.

Studies demonstrate that Black American men are accosted mainly by police officers than white men (Chaney & Robertson, 2013). Even though parents of minority children prepare them, it is still not enough for the real world. Chaney and Robertson conducted a study that answers the questions. What do findings from the National Police Misconduct Statistics and Reporting Project (NPMSRP) suggest about the rate of police brutality in America? How do individuals perceive the police department, and what implications do these perceptions hold for Black American men in America? Findings for question one revealed that 18 years of the data in NPMSRP was omitted after the beating of Rodney King. The second finding was that officers convicted of a crime on average serve 14 months while a regular civilian serves 49 months. This study received 36 answers to the questions to answer question two, and all were negative reviews of the police (Chaney & Robertson, 2013).

Perception of Police

Perception towards police seems to be the same across each study that discusses the matter, negative. The conversation on racial climate leans towards it being better for minorities, a step up from Jim Crown Era (Carte & Corra, 2016). As previously mentioned, racism wears a different skin now. This concept has seemed to go underground and recently seems to be resurfacing. The feeling between police and minority communities has just recently started to

become better. Past studies will show how perception has developed between white Americans and Black Americans. Older studies will show just how favored deadly force was towards "past dangerous" individuals and how white people preferred it (Carte & Corra, 2016).

Carte and Corra's mission of their study is to assess resentment on whites' support for police use of force and whether resentment has changed over time. This research suggests that the feeling of resentment from white people has been constant and noteworthy over time. Bitterness on whites' support for police use of force is very apparent in the study and seems like it has always been this way. Anger towards police from a minority standpoint may lead to the demise of their community. As mentioned, "the talk" is used to prepare the children for the outside world. This resentment towards police may give Black American kids the impression that they are not good enough to be protected (Graham et al., 2020).

Review of Methodological Literature

Phenomenology Research Design

Phenomenology is a qualitative research design that allows the researcher to examine a shared experience among a specific group. This type of research design permits the researcher to explore a particular phenomenon particular to that group of participants (Creswell, 2013). This researcher will bring to light first-hand experiences of Black American parents raising their children through recorded interviews. This research design assists with the observation and questioning of the phenomenon. It also answers what influences the phenomenon that is being studied (Creswell, 2013).

Synthesis of Research Findings

To summarize the literature, Social Fear learning is the way a species communicates a threat to another. For Black American parents, this theory influences their parenting styles. The parenting

style used mainly by Black American parents is authoritative parenting which is where the parent

gives directions, and the child must listen. There is no additional explanation. The strength of

this theoretical orientation is that it can explain why Black American parents lay an extra layer of

protection over their children against police. The previous research on this topic is nonexistent.

The idea of using the Social Fear learning against parenting styles of Black American parents in

Miami-Dade County is new.

According to the literature, transgenerational trauma and transgenerational consequences

of racial discrimination have caused Black Americans to provide extra precaution over their

children. Although these two topics can explain how the Social Fear learning theory is applied, it

does not speak to the parenting styles of Black American parents in Miami-Dade County. Police

officers' calling is to protect and serve their community; sadly enough, Black American boys and

men are disproportionality accosted by them (Haider-Markel & Joslyn, 2017).

Critique of Previous Research

The researcher believes that the quality of research reviewed can testify to why Social

Fear learning happens among Black American parents and how it applies. The study's limitation

is that the idea of combining this theory with Black American parents of Miami-Dade is new.

Also, the literature only speaks about Miami-Dade Police Officers but not much of Black

American parents in Miami-Dade County. The researcher does not believe that the weakness can

affect the argument. This study can be applied to any geographical area or even be expanded.

Chapter 3: Methodology

This study examines how Miami-Dade Police Officers are influencing Black American parenting styles. The reason behind this paper is also to explore the conjunction of nurturing styles, race, and authority. One of the absolute first lessons for a child is correcting themselves, learning right from wrong. This paper will be created with the assistance of examining the past, featuring the present, and directing exploration on the nurturing styles of 10 Black parents. Talking about their history will permit the audience to comprehend the beginnings of their perception. Featuring their present circumstances as a parent allows readers to see the distinction of in-home preparation and how it benefits individuals of multiple races. Directing examination on these parents will give readers understanding to check whether home preparing towards power proceeds on being extraordinary.

Research Design

This study will seek to answer how social fear learning dictates Black American citizens' perceptions of police in the Miami-Dade County area and their parenting styles. This question is imperative because it gives the audience a better understanding of what others face in this society. Lastly, this study can answer why the relationship between minority communities and police is strained. As a reader, the concern is warranted because it affects the community, and these issues are nationwide.

A qualitative research design will be used to conduct this study because opinions and experiences are better captured. Using qualitative data will allow me to answer the proposed research questions via interviews. The qualitative research design would be the best option for this study because the questions used in the discussion will be open-ended. It is essential to gather as much insight from each family as possible. Interviewing 10 Black parents from Miami-

Dade County will allow the researcher to gather insight into parenting styles within the Black American scope, how psychological trauma affects how they see authoritative figures and perceived fear towards police officers.

The questions that will be asked are tailored to parenting styles, perceptions towards police, and personal experiences. The questions are open-ended to allow the respondent to share their testimonies. Open-ended questions are used in qualitative data because there are no preset answers; as mentioned, the researchers can gather personal accounts (Allen, 2017). The open-ended question method allows the audience to understand better the Black American experience concerning the police officers of Miami-Dade County.

Again, a study such as this one will propel the discussion and understanding of fear with law enforcement and how it translates across different races and cultures. With qualitative data, researchers can explore the views of homogenous and diverse groups of people to help understand different perspectives within a community (Choy, 2014). A community is where people who share ideas, morals, and values, or not, can coexist. What makes a community run properly is making sure some understanding is established. The answers given by the participants will hopefully enlighten the audience on the issues regarding harmf ul interactions with police and how these issues might relate to public health. As mentioned earlier, fear can be a tool to ensure survival and preservation and lead to one's demise.

Fear is accompanied by anxiety and can disrupt everyday life. When a person does not understand the event, it causes stress and induces fear (Dreyer, 2018). In this case, when police officers are "threatened," they, in turn, impose violence. When a person of color walks down the street and is accosted by police, this is where terror arises and prompts anxiety. Living in terror because of your skin color should raise alarms for everyone that cares about community and

justice. Seeing that fear constitutes an emotion, emotion affects the cognitive system (Dreyer, 2018). There being a disruption in the mental process does not allow a person to decide their next move when faced with fear. This action is what will affect the survival rates against police.

A combination of grounded analysis and social network analysis will be used to analyze the study's data. Grounded data analysis will allow the data to speak for itself by allowing the researcher to view the data in sequential order to help explain a phenomenon. As a researcher, one must read the data and understand what the subject wants to convey. Social network analysis allows a researcher to see the correlation between the individuals and the motivations of their behaviors. This combination allows the researcher to understand why parenting styles, generational instincts, and psychological traumas affect our views towards police.

The expectation from these 10 Black parents is to gather information on what parenting technique they used to raise their children, what lessons, morals, and values they have learned, and their perceptions towards police. It is vital to have an array of races and ethnicities because it allows us to grasp the concepts of fear towards police and where it may have come from. The limitation of this study is that it may be geographically challenged. It only covers a small area of the world. Although it is geographically challenged, it can be a building block for future studies on this matter.

Target Population and Participant Selection

The sample of participants will consist of 10 men and women who have children from the county of Miami-Dade County. Having the sample size at ten people maintains good saturation because the researcher does not believe adding more people would change the outcome or experiences. Saturation transpires when adding more participants to the study adds or takes away from the current perspectives already given. The idea of saturation was provided by Glaser and

Strauss (1967); achieving an appropriate sample size in qualitative studies is necessary. The

participants' responses will start to be redundant (Saunders et al., 2018).

The men and women of this study must be considered Black American. The exclusion

criteria are that they are not parents and are not considered Black American. This researcher will

draw a convenience sample of participants who work at a local charter school, retirees, and local

church members. To conduct a study such as this, permission is given by Liberty University

through a series of approvals from presiding professors and IRB councils. Liberty University's

IRB checklist must be completed to have approval from the institution. The first step is to

complete CITI training and complete the application. All applications must be submitted to the

IRB using Cayuse.

Sampling Procedures

The participants, Black American parents from Miami-Dade County, will be chosen by

answering qualifying questions. The expected sample size will be a convenient sample of ten

participants. Using a suitable sample allows the researcher to save time on choosing their sample.

In addition, nonprobability samples are more representative than other samples (Cozby et

al.,1977). Nonprobability sampling paints the bigger picture of the population. Among

nonprobability sampling sits convenience sampling, which means the researcher picks their

samples in a convenient location. This study is new; convenience sampling is used to gather

preliminary data (LaMorte, 2016). The participants will be contacted individually by the

researcher via phone. Once reached, the researcher will set up a date and time to meet for the

interview.

Instrument

The instrument of choice for this study was an interview. The researcher decided to use an interview because this allowed for open-ended questions to be asked. Open-ended questions are better used to enable the participants to fully express themselves so the researcher can gather more profound insight into the current situation. The type of information collected would regard the community they live in, their parenting style, and their interactions with the police of Miami-Dade County. In addition, how were they talked about police, and how they speak to their children about police. The purpose of these questions is to see whether Miami-Dade police affect them within their community and if it affects the way they parent their children.

Data Collection Procedures

Meetings with retirees and of the local church will be on a one-on-one basis. If these participants are comfortable, the researcher will interview their homes. The participants from the local school will be interviewed at their school on a one-on-one basis. The researcher will introduce the interview, and the discussion will be an hour long. To keep the participant's information secure, the researcher will give them a number between 001-010. The researcher will administer the interview in the presence of the participant.

Before the interview is conducted, the researcher will ask qualifying questions and verbally approve the participant. The researcher will record the interview as well as transcribe it on the researcher's personal computer. The responses will be recorded on a Word document and saved under the participant's number. These documents will be placed on a separate file on the researcher's computer and can only be accessed by their fingerprint. Once the transcribed information is moved to the official analysis stage, the files will be permanently deleted.

Ethical Considerations

This research considers confidentiality, runs on participants who volunteer for the study, and informed consent. Consent forms provided by Liberty University will be handed to each participant and told based on the research. The researcher is to meet participants either at their home, if comfortable, at a local school, or a place where the participant is satisfied. This researcher considers the Coronavirus precaution measures and will adhere to the CDC guidelines. To protect the identity of each participant, each participant will be referenced by a number between 1-10. The researcher will record what they say and take notes without personal information. Transcribed and the recorded information will go onto a word processing document on a personal laptop, requiring the researcher's fingerprint to gain access. Immediately after data analysis, all recordings and transcriptions will be permanently deleted.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis

The purpose of this study is to explore how the police of Miami- Dade influences the parenting of Black Americans. This paper gathers insight into the Black American community to better understand the hardship of another community. This will hopefully assist in the dialogue of policymaking among criminal justice entities. This research took a qualitative approach and used a phenomenology research design to gather insight into the Black American community. This type of research design allows the researcher to study a phenomenon that would be how Black Americans raise their children. In addition, this design enables the researcher to conduct interviews to explore the parenting styles of Black Americans.

Introduction to the Sample

This study called for ten Black American parents to be recruited from the city of Miami-Dade County. These participants ranged from ages 21-76; all were Black American, 5 out of 10 were males, and 5 out of 10 were females. 4 out of 10 were at least high school graduates, 3 out of 10 had their associates, 2 out of 10 had their master's degree, and 1 out of 10 had their doctoral degree. 6 out of 10 were married 4 out of 10 were single, and these participants varied between $0-$140K for their annual income. 6 out of 10 were homeowners, 4 out of 10 were not homeowners, and the participants extended from having 1-5 children varying from ages 8 months-42 years old.

The reason for the term "Black American" instead of "African American" is because of the sample represented American and another country. Half of the sample were second-generation Americans while the other half were first-generation Guyanese American, Haitian American, Dominican American, and Nicaraguan American. Although all the participants

identify as Black, they origins vary thus making the term "Black American" more valid within this study.

<div align="center">**The Process**</div>

Transcriptions

Once the participants were recruited, they received recruitment and a consent form. The researcher asked the participant the qualifying questions and verbally told them whether they were qualified or not. The consent form informs the participant that they will be audio recorded, and the interview was transcribed for note-taking purposes. Once the interview was completed, the researcher used the dictate option on Word to transcribe the interview. Once all the interviews were conducted, the researcher wrote synopses of each interview to make the similarities and differences between each interview.

The interviews took place in various locations. The point was to make it convenient for the person who was being interviewed. In this case, all involved were questioned in their homes. The interviews took up to 45 minutes each. After each interview, the audio was transcribed onto a word document. This process made it easier to categorize each participant and give a brief look into the data.

Organizing Data

Organizing the data was easy once the synopses of each interview were written. Words, thoughts, and ideas started to match within the interviews. The researcher collected the data by questions. Seven questions were asked, so the researcher viewed everyone's answers and drew the similarities and differences between each response. The codes used to label the dataset were "the talk," "fear," "trust," and "neutral." The researcher found it easy to organize the data by order of question because it was easier to see the bigger picture and code. The literature says that

managing data allows the researcher to "develop a storyline" (SAGE Research Methods

Datasets, 2019).

Coding

"The Talk"

What is "The talk"? It is a conversation between parents or guardians and their children

that teaches them how to interact with police officers. This conversation is mainly had by Black

American and Hispanic/ Latino families. Dr. Adrienne Clark, an adolescent psychiatrist,

expresses the importance of being honest with children from a young age (Nettles and Eng,

2019). The rate at which Black Americans and Hispanic/ Latino Americans are being killed and

more than twice the rate of white Americans. To further break it down, these victims were male

and died between the ages of 20-39 (Tate et al., 2020). Being cautious seems to be one of the first

lessons either a Black or Latino/Hispanic child learns. The interview shows that participants

numbers 002, 004, and 005 have had the opportunity to have "the talk" with their children.

Participant 002 was involved in a car accident in their new Audi Q5 with another

vehicle. The other driver was a white male driving an older modeled car and rear-ended 002's

new car for reference. Participant 002 was driving with his son, and he called the police to the

accident. The officer arrived on the scene and aggressively approached 002 and his son. 002 felt

the need to protect his son and placed him behind their back. The officer assumed 002 was

driving the older model car, but 002 corrected the officer while showing him the insurance and

registration to the car. The officer lessened his tone and started to "kiss tail" (Personal

communication, August 24, 2021).

This was the moment that 002 took to speak to their son about dealing with police

officers. This participant instructed their son to relax, do not escalate the situation, and take the

legal matters to court if need be (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). According to 002, the officer looks very embarrassed to assume that the accident was the fault of 002. 002 also noticed that the officer was listening to the conversation between him and his son. The officer became very apologetic and to both and lessened the aggression.

Participant 005 has never had a negative experience with police but, other Black American citizens have not had the same interactions. 005 recognized in their interview that police officers are human beings and can have a "bad day." Because 005 is aware of this, 005 has instructed her son to never fight with the police and settle the matter in court. 005's goal as a parent is to make sure her son does the right thing with police officers and be able to come home (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). Although 005 is concerned for all her children, more emphasis was placed on her son, attributed to the high level of Black men and boys being killed by police.

Fear, Trust, and Neutral

Under the code of "fear," only two participants, 001 and 009, have expressed that they were either taught to fear police or that they have taught their children to fear the police. The parents of subject 001 used the fear tactic to make sure that they were out of the sight of the police. 001 quotes, "child of immigrants know to respect the law" (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). The same fear that subject 009's parents instilled was passed to their children. Parents of 009 told them, "Police dealings only occur when you have done something terrible" (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). We can see that the theory of social fear learning was shown within the families of subjects 001 and 009. The threat of police was transmitted through a fear tactic from parents to children.

Beneath the "trust" category, four participants had trust issues with police, 003, 004, 008, and 010. Their negative experiences have rocked the base of trust between them and the police. Subject 003 was taught to not "make certain movements" (Personal communication, August 24, 2021), and 003 has ensured the researcher that their child will be instructed to do the same. Subject 004 does trust the police enough to treat them like human beings. An incident occurred between 004 and their white spouse, where the spouse called the police.

004 was pregnant at the time and was placed on their stomach to be handcuffed. 004 was defending herself against the spouse from beating her. Police were escorting 004 out of the house, and police spotted a photo of her uncle, a police officer. Police asked 004 why she did not say anything about the uncle, and 004 responded, "because you did not ask any questions." (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). From this experience, 004 has taught her children to respect the law and tread lightly with police officers. 004 has stated that she believes some officers do their jobs while others abuse power.

Subject 008 was involved in a heated argument with their then-boyfriend and father to her child. For reference, the boyfriend was a lighter-complexion Hispanic man. Police were called on them because neighbors thought they were physically fighting. 008's brother, Black American man, came outside to defend his sister against the boyfriend, and police arrived on the scene. Police arrested the brother because they thought he was the aggressor in the situation. 008 set the record straight, but police told her they "wasted their time," and her brother was arrested either way (Personal communication, August 24, 2021).

Below the last category, "neutral," 006 and 007, stand under this category. These two participants have never had an interaction with police or have had an official conversation about interacting with police. Participants 006 and 007 live in the same community. They have

expressed that police officers do not have a presence within the community. Although they have

not had a formal conversation with their parents about the police, 006 and 007 have with their

children.006 has used the example of other surrounding communities to warn his children of

what would happen if they do not follow the laws.

<div align="center">**Interpretations**</div>

Question 1

Question one asked each participant to describe the community in which they currently

lived. 2 out of 10 of the participants live in a predominantly white neighborhood, 3 out of 10

categorized their area as urban, 2 out of 10 ranked their community as decent, and 3 out of 10

labeled their neighborhood respected. Within the sample group who live predominantly in a

white society, participant 002 has expressed their discomfort being a Black individual in such a

"plush" neighborhood. Participant 002 goes on to say, "I'm 6'1" and almost 300 lbs, so I always

had this kind of, you know, look like it was always a double-take whenever we would go into

like a Subway around the corner" (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). Within the

sample who would categorize their community as urban, participant 008 stated that "police

sometimes escalate situations and make them worse" (Personal communication, August 24,

2021).

Question 2

Question discusses the four parenting styles founded by Baumrind, authoritative,

authoritarian, permissive, and uninvolved. Within the research conducted by Baumrind, she

discovered that Black Americans are more likely to use the authoritative parenting method

(Personal communication, August 24, 2021). The series of interviews has proven that the

authoritarian parenting style was used the most. 6 out of 10 currently uses or has used the

authoritarian method, 2 out of 10 uses or used the authoritative method, and 2 out of 10 uses the permissive parenting style. To further break it down, within the participants who use the authoritarian way, 2 out of 10 had no interaction with police, 3 out of 10 had minor incidents (traffic ticket (s), and 1 out of 10 had a severe interaction with the police. Of those who fell under the authoritative category, 2 out of 10 only has encountered minimal incident (s). Within the permissive category, 2 out of 10 had no police interaction.

Question 3

Question three asks whether the participant or their child (ren) has interacted with the police. 4 out of 10 has never interacted with police, 4 out of 10 has only had minimal encounters, and 2 out of 10 of the sample has had significant interaction with police. To reiterate, those who have never encountered police fall under the permissive and authoritarian categories. Those who have had minimal encounters fall under the authoritative and authoritarian categories. The exciting part of this group is that participant 009 has altered their parenting style as their children got older. 009 stated that when their children were young, they must follow their rules and no other way. Now that 009's children are older, 009 "will accept their opinions (Personal communication, August 24, 2021).

The other two participants under minimal encounters were authoritative. It is safe to conclude that this parenting style suited them because of how their parents raised them, with a fear tactic. Parents of 001 instilled fear of the police, and 001 continued the tradition with his children. Although 001's uncles were police in his parents' country, that fear of police 001 thought would translate within the United States. 005 instilled the idea into her kids that one wrong move may cost her son's life. 005 believes strict rules and guidance will ensure her son's safety (Personal communication, August 24, 2021).

Within the category of those who have had severe encounters, these parents are under the authoritarian category. Participants like 004 have had traumatic experiences in the presence of their children. Since this experience, 004 did not need to shelter her children from what police could potentially do. 004 was not given that opportunity to do so since they were witnesses to the traumatic event. Authoritarian became their parenting style when her children experienced the very adult-like event from such young ages. Dialogue about this particular subject seemed very appropriate in 004's case.

Question 4

Question four inquires how the subject's parents spoke to them about police and how they spoke to their children about police. It is important to note that 8 out of 10 of the sample are first-generation Americans, while 2 out of 10 are second-generation Americans. Why is this important? The subjects within the 8 out of 10 of first-generation Americans have been hit with the scare tactics by their parents. In comparison, those in the 2 out of 10 have not had a formal conversation about police. Participant 010's family are from Haiti, and they immigrated to America within the 1960s. Partaker 010 would compare the Haitian police and those of Miami-Dade, sneaky and not trustworthy. The mother of 010 advised him "not to trust the police because of their reputation" (Personal communication, August 24, 2021).

Whether they were first- or second-generation Americans, encountered the police or not, all subjects had the conversation with their children. Whether the opportunity presented itself as 002 and 004 did or when they thought their child (ren) were ready to have "the talk." To these individuals, being Black in America means protecting their offspring(s) like 002 in the car accident from the police officer or like 005 when she sat her son down for "the talk."

Question 5

Question number five asks about the impact Miami- Dade police officers have in their community. Seven participants have started Miami- Dade police have been proving to impact society positively. 001 credited that to the fact that they are under more scrutiny now more than ever (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). 002 stated that police officers in their community are "forced" to engage more with the residents of his community (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). The credit to these actions is to the advancement of technology. As 001 said, Miami- Dade police officers have been in the limelight since the case of George Floyd.

One participant describes their impact to be 50/50. Although participant 004 says they show up when needed, situations are not always peaceful in her community. Partaker 004 believes that not all police officers are meant to be police officers, and their intentions are not always in the right place (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). Two participants have kept neutral because they expressed that police presence is nonexistent within their community (Personal communication, August 24, 2021).

Question 6 and 7

Question six asks how police services in the communities of our subjects. Responses all echo the same ideas, "offers protection" and "keeps criminals off the street" (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). Again, two participants maintained a neutral stance on this question because of their neighborhood's lack of police interaction. The last questions allowed the subjects to add any additional comments to this current topic. While 6 out of 10 of the subjects said no, 4 out of 10 said yes to further comments.

Participant 001 shared about his time in his community and police showing improvement. "Since George Floyd, police are now aware that they are being looked at and scrutinized"

(Personal communication, August 24, 2021). 002 expressed that although some good policemen are out there, some abuse power they are given (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). In the eyes of participant 004, the solution to the police-community disconnect is to make sure city mayors are having town hall meetings to discuss the issues. 004 stated, "the police do not always know the community in which they serve.

Putting the residents and police together and accountability will iron out the disconnect." (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). Question seven asks if there was any additional comments, 004 echo 005's thought about police not knowing the communities they serve. 005 compared the people of Miami to a salad bowl. Everyone brings their ideas, beliefs, and thoughts to different communities without knowing their views, opinions, and statements. This 005's is her reason for the disconnect between residents and Miami-Dade police officers.

Conclusion

The researcher extracted the following codes through this phenomenological study: "the talk," fear, trust, and neutral. "The talk" theme was prevalent within the interviews because the participants used it as a safety tool for their children. This tool was used to teach their child(ren) how to safely interact with the police since the goal is to bring their child home (005, personal communication, August 24, 2021). The fear theme was seen throughout the study because it was apparent that the parents of participants used fear to be out of the way of the police. As participant 009's parent stated, "if you're dealing with police, you have done something severally wrong" (009, persona communication, August 24, 2021).

The theme, trust, was discussed by various participants because many believed or hinted that the trust between Miami-Dade police and the community was lacking. Trust is essential between police and community; this calls for action from Miami- Dade to repair the lack of

confidence. This action would lessen the disconnect and increase the comfortability factor between police and the community. The last code was evident because some participants did not even see police serve their community. It seems that the experiences with Miami-Dade police fall on opposite ends of the spectrum. Either police are over-policing or not enough, or a person has had interactions or simply none.

Chapter 5: Conclusion

Summary

The current problem that is being investigated concerns itself with attitudes towards police of Miami- Dade and their influence on Black American parents' parenting. This research asked how the Miami-Dade police officers affect the parenting style of Black American parents. The researcher hypothesizes that Miami-Dade police officers do, in fact, influence the Black American parents of Miami-Dade. In addition, the researcher thought that most parents would be aligned with the parenting style Authoritative. The results supported the notion that parenting styles are persuaded in some way, but the approach most seen was Authoritarian.

Conclusion

The results of this study have proved that Black American parents have, for the most part, a weary feeling towards Miami-Dade police officers and does influence their parenting styles. The four themes that have come about is fear, trust, "The talk", and neutral stance. The most important theme was "the talk" as it was seen with four of the participants. Four participants took it upon themselves to "arm" their children by discussing the proper way to interact with police officer in the name of safety. The theme "trust" was next in the list of importance as we see four participants discuss the term in relation to their everyday lives. An example of this comes from participant 003 saying, as he says that his parents do not trust police. From this mistrust, 003 was

instructed to not make "sudden" or "certain" movements in the name of safety (Personal communication, August 24, 2021).

In the name of safety, the parents of participants 001 and 009 thought a fear tactic approach would be the best to keep them out of trouble. Although, there were only two participants that had a neutral stance, they still thought to have "the talk" with their children, in the name of safety. The overall theme of this paper is, in the name of safety. As expected, it did not matter their parenting style or their views towards police, the goal is to protect their child(ren).

The specific paradigm used for this study was Social Fear Learning, this the term used to describe how one conveys threat (Debiec, & Olsson, 2017). It was important to incorporate this theory within this study because it described the phenomenon, we saw of how Black American parents protect their children. The transmission that was studied was between parent to child and the threat was Miami-Dade police. This study has shown that fear, transgenerational trauma, and transgenerational consequences of racial discrimination are the causes for the disconnect between Miami-Dade police and the Black American community. Fear from anything or anyone has the potential to change your attitude towards that thing or person (Lennon & Rentfro, 2010). Transgenerational trauma such as the telling of a negative personal encounter with police damages the person's trust with police, in this case. In the opinion of the researcher, the reason why transgenerational trauma continues to happen within the Black community is to protect Black children.

Data is stacked against the idea that Black men have a higher dangerous encounter rate than any other race (Chaney & Robertson, 2013). The research question asks how the police of Miami-Dade influences the parenting style of Black American parents. According to the original

Baumrind study, Black American parents were more likely to use the Authoritative parenting style. This style says that parents instruct their child(ren) and the child(ren) has no say so (Sorkhabi & Mandara, 2012, pg.114). Our study has shown this is no longer the case, Authoritarian is used more by Black American parents in Miami- Dade County. This can probably be attributed to the transgenerational consequences of racial discrimination.

These transgenerational consequences of racial discrimination are scaring a child in their early years and historical trauma hurting or making a community (Atkinson, et. al., 2014, pg. 292). It is apparent that children of the Black American are exposed to the harsher realities of the world only to be protected of them. The phenomenological design used in this study assisted with the idea by allowing the researcher to conduct interviews on ten Black American parents of Miami-Dade. There are two findings within this study, most of the parents within this interview have chosen to use the Authoritarian parenting style as opposed to Authoritative. The second finding is that no matter in which they parented their children, it was for the good of their children.

Findings within Theoretical Framework

Referring to the theoretical framework, the one used in this study is called Social Fear Learning. This theory simply discussed the transmission of threat between beings (Nettles and Eng, 2019). Within this study, we were able to see that this transmission of threat was expressed by "the talk." Participants like 002 and 004, their "talk" with their children came out of firsthand experiences. In this study, the "threat" was transmitted from parent to child. The "threat" specifically was to be careful when dealing with the police of Miami-Dade County.

Participant 002 took the time to speak to their son when they were in an accident, and the police officer talked to them aggressively (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). The rest

of the participants gave a precautionary "talk" to their children to prevent situations. Their

conversation was not during a traumatic event. Participants like 005 made it clear that their goal

is to make sure their children come home (Personal communication, August 24, 2021). This

sentiment was very apparent throughout the interviews, just displayed differently.

<div align="center">**Findings in the light of Empirical Literature**</div>

Most of the literature used in this study agrees with the outcomes of the study. In the

literature review, transgenerational consequences of racial discrimination such as scarring and

making or breaking communities are seen in the interviews. It would be fair to say that the

children who experienced aggressive interactions with Miami-Dade police would be scarred. The

children of participants of 002 and 004 would be potentially scarred children. The consequence

of making and breaking the community was the interviews of participants 003, 004, 008, and

010. In their cases, police officers of Miami Dade County have destroyed their communities by

debilitating the trust factor between the police and the community.

The literature that did not coincide with the study was the research done by Baumrind. In

the study conducted by Baumrind, most of the Black Americans resonated with the Authoritative

parenting style (Sorkhabi & Mandara, 2012, pg.114). The results from this study disagreed with

her study as the majority of the participants have picked Authoritarian. The research done by

Dalgaard and others was to see if silencing trauma is negative or positive. Implications

Theoretical Implication

The theory implied in this research was Social Fear Learning. The implication of this study was

the fear of Miami-Dade police officers is enough to affect the parenting of Black Americans. The

theory, Social Fear Learning, is how the threat is communicated among beings. In this case, the

danger is Miami-Dade police officers and how parents in this study used "the talk" method. To

reiterate, "the talk" is a conversation that is between parent and child (ren) about interacting with police (Nettles and Eng, 2019).

Empirical Implication and Practical Implication

The empirical implication of the study is Miami-Dade police officers have either negatively interacted with the participants or the participants have seen the negative interactions of Miami-Dade police officers. The negative interactions or seeing the negative interactions is what makes "the talk" all more important to these participants. An underlying theme to this study is prevention for their children from having a negative interaction with police. The practical implication of the study was Black American parents need to discuss the importance with interacting with police in a safe and positive manner. If the conversation is not had, the child could potentially have a dangerous interaction with the police officers of Miami-Dade County.

The data collected from participants has shown that all participants have been spoken to about police and they have spoken to their children about interacting with police. The study has proven that "the talk" is an effective method to communicate with children about potentially dangerous interactions with police. The data has also shown that the theory, social fear learning was an acceptable theory in this case. Threat was seen and communicated by Black American parents to their child (ren).

Limitations

A limitation of this study was the number of participants within the study. For the sake of time allotted to this study, a limited number of participants were allowed. It is believed that bigger sample size can better reinforce the point of the study. Another limitation was picking a specific region. Although choosing a particular area was insightful, expanding the sample size and the law enforcement being investigated would be even more so.

Recommendations

A recommendation is other races would be used for the audience to make the comparison and spot similarities. Adding more participants of different ethnicities can deepen the insight into how Black Americans raise their children and the measures they take to protect their children. Within this study, it was realized that more than half of the participants in this study were second-generation immigrants. The second recommendation is to expand this research by comparing second generational Americans and first generational Americans.

This expansion would further develop the conversation of perceptions of police from the Black community. A recommendation for police would be to use this research to strengthen their strategies, techniques, and to form new policy. For parents, this study would be used to better parenting techniques and improve the types of conversation between parent and child about interacting with police. The last recommendation would be examining the attitudes towards different law enforcement. This study was limited because only attitudes towards police officers of Miami-Dade were investigated. Viewing the attitudes towards various law enforcement can benefit the conversation by considering whether attitudes vary.

Conclusion

The question of the study was how Black American parents within Miami-Dade County perceive Miami-Dade police officers. According to this study, Black American parents, for the most part, have a weary feeling towards police officers of Miami-Dade. Caution has been the essential message of the study and as shown through the interviews. The parenting style used mainly by the participants in the study was authoritarian instead of authoritative, as predicted by Baumrind's initial analysis. As previously stated, recommendations include adding other races and comparing first-generation and second-generation Black Americans.

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