

RACE AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN  
DISADVANTAGE CONDITIONS AND VIOLENT CRIME IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

An Abstract of  
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Nife Hawatma Fadul

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## ABSTRACT

Integrating socioeconomic, demographic, and crime data with social disorganization theory, this thesis aims to explore the issue of social inequality in urban America by focusing on the city of Chicago, Illinois. Based on social disorganization theory, the study examined the connection between disadvantage conditions (family disruption, employment, poverty and public assistance) and violent crime with race. The first method used was spatial analysis, which included Choropleth mapping and Local Moran's I to examine the spatial distribution of the study's variables. The second method involved multiple regression analysis to examine the relationship between violent crime, race and disadvantage conditions. Using ArcGIS and SPSS, both methods were conducted to test the hypotheses. The study found African Americans to be the most disadvantaged group in relation to other racial groups in the city of Chicago. The study's findings supported what has been defined by Wilson (1987) as a *contemporary discrimination*, describing the issue of disadvantage conditions in the inner-city.