

Crime and the Economy: Economic Effects on the
Crime Rates of Youngstown, Ohio

by

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Crime Rates of Youngstown, Ohio

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ABSTRACT

Economic decline in large industrialized cities can cause events to occur, for example, large organizations in the area begin to close or move out of the community. These industries suffer a decline in sales and can no longer keep their facilities open. When those who are unemployed cannot find new work, they migrate out of the area leaving the community to crumble. When the economy of the community fails, the influx of crime in the area is not far behind. This research examined the possible economic-crime trend in Youngstown compared to other rustbelt and non-rustbelt cities. The study found that while Youngstown suffered the worse economic decline, the crime in the area was comparable to the other stronger economic cities. This questions the initial thought that the weaker the economic situation in an area, the worse the crime will be. There were some similar trends that were found between Youngstown and the other rustbelt cities; however, the non-rustbelt cities also followed some similar trends. The relationship between economic strength and crime found in this study was not strong enough to draw conclusions or support the hypothesis that a correlation exists. Further research is needed to take a more in depth examination of the crime and economic situation in these areas, like using fewer variables in order to pin point the problem.

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

Economic decline in large industrialized cities often results in large organizations in the area leaving the community. The plants see a decline in sales and can no longer keep the facilities open, and despite the protests and attempts at help from the communities, the plants often times shut down or relocate. When plants shut down or relocate large numbers of people are out of work and search for jobs that are hard to find. This may contribute to migration out of the area and the total economy of the community failing. This trend was seen in Youngstown, Ohio, a town that was built by the steel industry. While it thrived during the industrial period, with the deindustrialization of the country, the city began to stumble (Youngstown Steel, 2009). This has led Youngstown to be a city that is riddled with crime and struggles to rebuild the economy that greatly depended on the steel mills that left the area (Youngstown Steel, 2009).

Youngstown, a town built on immigration and the thriving industrialization era, has become a town filled with violent gangs, murder, and drugs (Viehe, 2007, p.2). Over the course of 30 years, the city managed to lose more than 50 percent of its population (Lanks, 2006), falling from an all time high of 170,000 in the 1970s to the city's current population of about 80,000. When the steel and coal mills shut down, there were a large number of jobs forced out of the area (Youngstown Steel, 2009). Without the jobs, a large number of families migrated out of the area as well.

There have been studies done on the economy and its effects on crime. With all the research conducted, it is a wonder why there needs to be any further research done. The biggest problem is that the majority of the research already completed has been done on the overall population. There have been very few studies that have focused on one specific area. This type of research is important in order to find solutions to the problems associated with the economic effects on crime. Youngstown, in particular, is important to study because of the crime in the area. According to the 2006 Morgan Quinto Awards, Youngstown is ranked the ninth most dangerous city in the country. The Morgan Quinto Awards determine this “based on a city’s rate for six basic crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft.” (Morgan Quinto, 2006, p.1)

While making the top ten most dangerous cities is a sufficient reason to study the area, there are other reasons too to look at Youngstown. Both property and violent crimes in the area are above the national average (Crime Statistics, 2002). Murder alone is 3.1 time the national average. Violent crimes in Youngstown are 1.6 times higher than the national average. The highest property crime in the area is arson with a rate that is 10.8 times the national average. Does this say something about the area and the type of crime that takes place in Youngstown? The hope is that this study will help to begin to answer this questions.

Youngstown is a town that was established during the industrialization era. The town was built and thrived because of the steel and coal mills in the

area; when the steel and coal mills were driven out of the area so was a large number of the city's population (Youngstown Steel, 2009). There was no longer the strong tie to the community. This was followed by a sharp increase in crime in the area.

Summary

Youngstown is a town that has been in an economic decline since the fall of the steel industries in the late 1970's (Youngstown Steel, 2009). In the next chapter a review of the previous research on the topic will be completed. The previous research has been done from many different angles. There have been many studies comparing the relationship between economic distress and crime rates. Previous research has found that there is a positive relationship (as one increases so does the other) between the two on a national level. This is based on the idea that the more people struggle in the economy the more likely they are to turn to crime to solve their problems. There will always be ups and downs that occur in the economy, which means that there will always be the chance for it to affect the increase and decrease of crime. By attempting to better understand this trend, the hope is that this will assist in developing a method of stopping the reaction of people to turn to crime when the economy stumbles. Past research has looked at the effects of crime and the economy on many different areas across the country. Finally, the research looks at the different types of crimes that may be related to economic factors.

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

There has been a large focus on the decline in national homicide rates over the last few years. However, this focus has left out the fact that there are many towns that are not seeing a strong decline, or are seeing no decline at all. Matthews, Maume, and Miller (2001) completed a study that looked at these cities where crime rates were much different than those of the rest of the nation. They argue that while the crime statistics indicate that homicide rates are declining all across the nation, the reality is that many mid-sized cities are not seeing this decline, cities such as Youngstown. In fact, these cities often have murder rates that are significantly higher than those of the national average.

The study, *Deindustrialization, Economic Distress, and Homicide Rates in Midsized Rustbelt Cities* by Matthews, Maume and Miller (2001), focuses on four factors of the economy that may be causes for the higher homicide rates in these cities. These four factors are: (1) unemployment, (2) lack of elasticity, (3) changes in resident population over time, and (4) socioeconomic deprivation. These four factors were examined in order to attempt to demonstrate that there is a positive relationship between economic distress and crime.

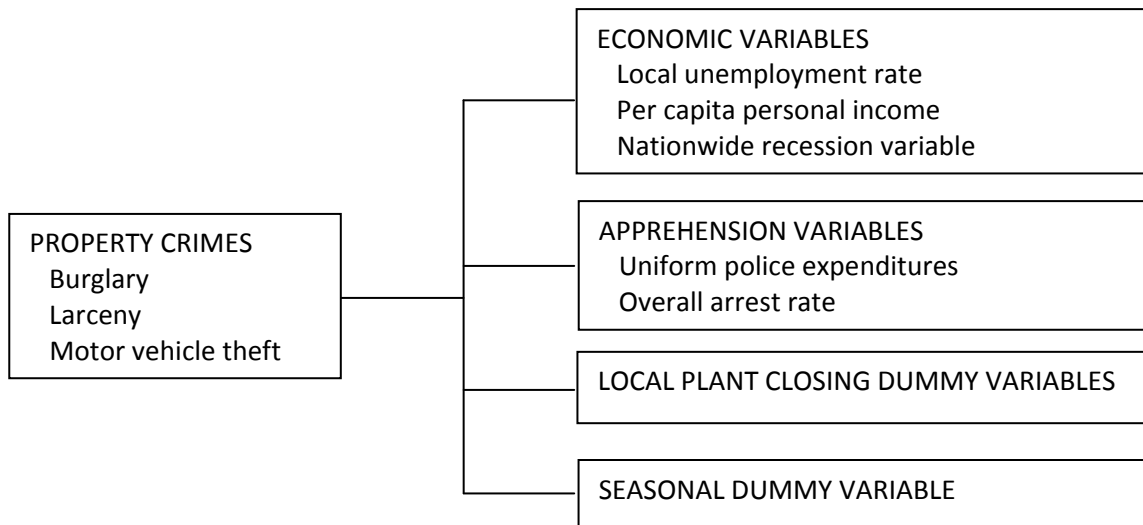
Unemployment is a major factor of economic distress. There are studies that have linked it to an increase in homicides as well as prison admissions. Brenner (as cited in Matthews, Maume and Miller, 2001) found that when there was a one percent (1%) increase in the national unemployment rate over six years there was an increase of 668 homicides and 3,300 state prison admissions. Lack

of elasticity or population decline can be theoretically explained through social disorganization theory (Matthews et. al, 2001). The theory explains that when there is upheaval in an area, it increases the likelihood that there will also be an increase in criminal activity and delinquency. This increase is caused by the lack of societal ties to people in the area. When there is a lack of elasticity in an area, people move in and out of the neighborhoods at a higher rate. If there is a lack of commitment and ties to the community, then it increases the likelihood that the members of the community will commit crimes. When the economic situation of an area is in distress, then there is a high chance there will also exist a lack of elasticity.

Matthews , et al. (2001) looked at cities with populations that had between 25,000 and 150,000 people. This resulted in a sample size of 131 mid-sized cities from across the U.S. The researchers used a pooled time-series analysis called least squares dummy variable (LSDV) regression in order to analyze the results for the study. The factor that was most influential in their study was the socioeconomic deprivation of the city. There is a positive relationship between socioeconomic deprivation and homicide rates. It was also found that cities that experienced zero elasticity (movement of people in and out of the city) had higher homicide rates than those with low to medium elasticity. Unemployment has a low relationship with homicide rates, but was not found to have a strong enough statistical relationship to show a relationship. Finally, cities with higher populations saw higher homicide rates and the density of the population had a positive effect on homicide rates.

The researchers expected to find a positive relationship between the two. This was expected because of the type of environment that exists in the rustbelt cities. While Matthews, Maume and Miller (2001) focused on specific cities in the nation, Lui and Bee (1983) focused on different variables that affect the crime rate.

While the previous study, Matthews et. al., examined the effects of the economy on the homicide rates of many cities, Liu and Bee (1983) examined the effects of economic decline on all criminal activity in one local area. These researchers focused solely on property crimes that took place within local environments. This research is based on the relationship that is seen in the following chart taken from their article.



Source: Liu and Bee's *Modeling Criminal Activity in an Area in Economic Decline*, 1983, p.386

“These variables test the hypothesis that as economic conditions deteriorate, criminal activity against property increase” (p.387). Lui and Bee (1983) focused on four variables. The independent variables were economy

apprehension, seasonal affects, and plant closings. These variables were tested to determine their affects on the dependent variable, property crime.

The researchers found that there was some relationship between each of the variables: economic apprehension, seasons, plant closings, and the criminal activity in the area. When the economy slows, there is an increase in the amount of property crime in the area as well as an increase in the unemployment rates. It was found that there was a negative relationship between the change in arrest rate and property crimes. This means that when there was a change in arrest rate, the property crime in the area decreases providing a type of deterrence in the area. There was a positive relationship found between property crimes and uniformed police expenditures but this was not found to be statistically significant.

There was also a relationship between seasonal changes and property crime, even though weather is not an economic variable. During the winter months there was a decrease in property crime. During the warmer months, there was an increase in property crime. The industrial plant closings in the area were associated with an increase in property crime, but this can be summed up with the positive relationship between unemployment and property crime that was found earlier in this study.

The researchers found that there was correlation between each of the variables and property crime. They also found that as economic conditions deteriorate there was an increase in property crime. “It has been concluded that for every 1 percent increase in unemployment, a 6 percent increase in property crimes occurs and a 4 percent increase in homicides takes place” (p.386). Liu and

Bee (1983) looked at different variables that affect the economic situation and its effect on crime while Howsen and Jarrell (1987) simply looked at what factors may contribute to the deterrence of this problem.

Howsen and Jarrell (1987) focused on an economic model that includes the analysis of sociological and legal considerations. This economic model follows the belief that criminals rationally choose to engage in criminal activity and commit crimes. The study examined the property crimes rates and conducted a study of 120 counties in the state of Kentucky. The study specifically focuses on four questions:

- “How do the results of this study compare with prior economic studies?
- Which economic, sociological, and other factors dominate in explaining the variation in crime rates across Kentucky?
- Do the determinants of crime vary by type of crime, *i.e.* are some more economically motivated than others?
- Does the length of sentence or the probability of apprehension have a greater influence on deterring crimes in Kentucky?” (p.446).

The researchers use these questions to analyze the relationship between property crime and economic factors on a county level.

They used a survey that was mainly based on an economic view of crime. They added in variables that dealt with sociological and legal perspectives. Each of the property crimes, larceny, burglary, robbery were tested individually. The variables were then divided into three different categories and examined through each of the variables, these variables were: law enforcement, economic, and

socioeconomic. Each of the three categories uses a different variety of the variables in the crime equation in order to “form the determinants of crime rates” (p.447).

They found that there are numerous variables that can have a causal relationship with property crime. These variables include, “the level of poverty, the degree of tourism, the presence of police, the unemployment rate and the apprehension rate all affect property crimes” (Howsen and Jarrell, 1987, p. 445). The results were that there was a significant relationship between all the variables and the three types of property crime. While each article reviewed so far has focused on property or violent crime, Green, Glaser, and Rich’s (1998) research focused specifically on the effect of the economy on hate crime.

Green, Glaser and Rich (1998) focus their research on specific types of crime that are affected by the economy. The study attempts to replicate previous research done on the relationship between lynching and hate crimes and economic conditions. Previous research that has been done, on this type of crime has mainly taken place before and up through the great depression. The goal of their research was to look at what happens to major findings of previous research when the time span is expanded to the years after 1930. Green, Glaser and Rich (1998) were examining if the results change when these two variables were added to the equation.

They hypothesized that violence is produced by the frustration caused by unemployment and economic downturn which leads to hate crimes. A positive relationship between hate crimes and the ratings of a poor economy was found.

However, according to the study these results were hard to duplicate and may not be statistically relevant. There is a statistical relationship between hate crime specifically and the economic situation of the environment. This result was found in one underlying study, and when the study was broadened to include other environments, the results faded away. These findings showed that there were no reliable results found from this research (Green et. al., 1998).

The researchers also found no evidence of a relationship between economic performance and bigoted violence against minorities. The original thought was that the hate crime in a specific area would increase when the economic conditions deteriorated because of the increased stress put on those who were feeling the largest brunt of the conditions. The thought was that the stress would be taken out on the “vulnerable minorities” thus increasing the hate crime in the area (p.88). However, theoretical and laboratorial studies have shown that this is not the case in human studies. While the research completed by Green et. al. (1998) found a small positive relationship between hate crimes and poor economic conditions, the research turned up an overwhelming argument against any type of relationship. In the next article by Chiricos (1987), the results of previous studies is reviewed with the hope of eliminating doubt that is formed by studies such as Green, Glaser, and Rich (1998).

Chiricos’ (1987) research was a review of previous crime rate and economic condition studies. The review included 63 unemployment/crime rate relationship studies, 40 of which were completed in the 1970s when the unemployment rate of the country rose drastically. The goal of this research was

to address the “sense of doubt” that is out there, that has come from many economists and sociologists, dismissing research that has shown any relationship between crime and unemployment (p.188). The research looked at the negative response that has taken place concerning unemployment and crime research. Since the 1970s, there has been much doubt in the social science community about the relationship between unemployment and crime. These doubts are “punitive and have failed to recognize the conditional nature of the link between unemployment and crime” (p.188). The researcher hoped to pave the way for future research supporting the relationship.

There were three major previous studies that the researcher reviewed and viewed as significant to creating the sense of doubt. These three studies are Gillespie’s research in 1978, Long and Witte in 1981, and Freeman in 1983. Gillespie wrote that “the strength of the relationship...can best be characterized as neither trivial nor substantial” (p.189). After reviewing 60 previous studies on the topic, Chircos (1987) was able to find a statistical relationship between crime and unemployment. The research found that there is three times more likely to be a positive relationship between unemployment and crime than a negative relationship.

Ohio/Pennsylvania Research

Wang and Minor's (2002) research was the only study obtained that focused on one specific area in Ohio, Cleveland. The majority of research that has been done has been completed on large areas such as the nation, states, or counties. The researchers used data collected from geographic areas in order to establish the employment access for people in urban areas, like Cleveland. They found that there was a relationship between crime and access to employment. The strongest relationship exists for economic crimes, with violent and drug offenses being the next strongest relationship. This research is specifically important to look at because it was completed in a city that is fairly similar to Youngstown. There has also been research conducted on areas that looks specifically at organized crime and the economy.

Huff (1989) completed research that looked at the localized gang activity in seven cities in Ohio. Huff (1989) argues that the gang activity is in the form of violent organized crime. The areas in Ohio that the research examined were: Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, Akron, and Youngstown. Data for the study was collected through four different methods:

- Interviews with gang members, current and former, police officers and other authorities in the areas
- Observation of police stings and operations for youth violence
- Secondary data from local police agencies that has arrest data related to gang activity

- Finally information from surveys from 88 county juvenile courts throughout Ohio.

While the research found that there was a consensus amongst officials in each city that there was a problem with the gang organization in that area, there was no agreement on how to deal with the problem. The research found that poverty levels in both Cleveland and Columbus were related to an increase in the amount of gang activity in the area. The youth in the area turn to “illegitimate activities” in order to gain status (p. 528). Legitimate status is difficult because poverty does not allow them to obtain this through normal means.

Huff (1989) then compiled public policy recommendations for the area. The recommendations came in two phases. The first phase was meant to target the areas that were disproportionately sending offenders to prison. The idea is that specific zip codes, where there is a high crime problem, will be able to be identified. Phase two focused on preventative solutions that would be specifically focused on the problem zip codes areas that were identified through phase one. This research is important because it looked at how organized crimes can also be affected by the economic conditions in an area.

Youngstown Research

While the research completed on various Ohio cities did narrow down the information and focus on one state, it was still broad. The following articles focus specifically on the area of Youngstown. These articles talked about the types of crime in the area, specifically the organized crime in the area. The following three articles are taken from local newspapers in the Youngstown and Pittsburgh area that focus on the organized crime in Youngstown.

The Vindicator, a local newspaper in Youngstown, featured an article from a history professor, Dr. Fred Viehe, from Youngstown State University. In this article, Professor Fred Viehe (2007) argues that Youngstown has handled the organized crime in the area very poorly in the past. Now that the area is seeing an increase in organized crime activity, Viehe sees these patterns repeating themselves. He argues that there needs to be a much stronger response to the problem or else organized crime is going to overtake the area like it has in the past.

There was also a two-part article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* entitled *Mafia has Long History Here, Growing from Bootlegging Days* that focused on the existence of the mob in the area. According to the research, many locals believe that the mafia is no longer a problem in the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh areas but the reality is the mafia still has a strong presence there and is constantly growing. This article's main focus was to raise awareness to those in the area showing that the presence of the mafia is still around and still causing problems. While many believe that the capture and jailing of many mob bosses in

the past has ended the mob, this two part article showed the perception of this was not supported that organized crime was alive and well in these areas (Ove, 2000). The problem with this research is the fact that the article was taken from a newspaper which lacks the support of a literature research paper.

Past Research Conclusion

The biggest gap that was found in previous research was the lack of a small research field. The majority of past research focuses on either the entire country or a broad number of cities in the nation. This may give a general view of the effects of unemployment on crime, but it does not give a specific explanation that may help establish methods in order to make improvements. Since each city has a unique environment and culture, it may be impossible to guarantee that what works in one city will work in another. This is one reason why there is a need for research in specific areas.

Relevant Theories

In researching economic effects on criminality it is important to examine the theoretical explanations that can be associated with the trends. Social structural theory is an umbrella term that characterizes three theories essential to the study of economy and crime. Two of the main theories are social disorganization theory and strain theory (Siegel, 2008). Social disorganization theory focuses specifically on urban areas and characteristics of these areas that affect crime. Strain theory argues that the conflict between the goals of society

and the inability to achieve these goals causes people to turn to crime. These theoretical perspectives examine the relationship between economic distress and criminal behavior from four different angles. By examining each of these theories, it is possible to explain the positive relationship that exists there.

There are many different theories that have been founded on the concept of social disorganization theory. The one that is most relevant for this research is Cohen and Felson's routine activities theory. Routine activities theory argues that there are three requirements needed in order for a criminal activity to occur. These three conditions are: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian (Cohen and Felson, 1979). The criminal must be motivated enough to be willing to commit a crime when there is a lack of motivation then the offender will likely not commit the crime. Even if an offender is motivated unless there is a suitable target available then the offender will likely not commit a criminal act. Finally the absence of a capable guardian, a motivated offender with a suitable target will be less likely to commit a criminal offense when there is a presence of a capable guardian (Cohen and Felson, 1979). When the economy falls there is an influx of motivated offenders who are willing to do what is necessary in order to survive the hardship.

Wilson, 1996 (as cited in Matthews et al., 2001) has done work on the economic situations of inner cities and the effects that these situations have on crime. This work has contributed to social disorganization theory which argues that crimes, homicide in particular, are more likely to occur when inner cities begin to decay (Matthews et al., 2001). Communities that have high resident

mobility, have a high rate of apartment living and low family stability rates are communities that have characteristics of social disorganization. When the nation experiences economic distress it will be more harmful on communities that are already experiencing social disorganization.

Merton (1938) argues that a society “should be a cross between the cultural ‘goals’ of a society—what it holds its members should strive for—and the ‘means’ that are believed, legally or morally”(Merton, 1938, p.674) He stressed that the ups and downs of society would take their toll on the goals of the people in said society. When people have goals that they are struggling to meet there is stress. When there is a down turn the market of society and the goals go from being a far reach to being unreachable than the strain on the people in the society becomes unbreakable. This is what occurs in the society when the economy declines.

Finally the relationship between the economy and criminal activity can be examined through a Marxist perspective. The increase in unemployment that is associated with economic turmoil causes people to feel a sense of hopelessness and despair amongst the members of the community who are facing hardship. This despair leads to the creation of a criminogenic environment in the community, particularly the inner city areas who are often hit the hardest when the economy falls. The increase in unemployment also increases the diversity and division that exists between those who are employed and those who are unemployed. This increase in division causes conflict amongst the two groups in

the community causing strain that can lead to criminal behavior (Matthews et al., 2001).

Previous research focuses on the broader picture of how the economic situation of an area affects the crime situation. These articles and theories show that there is an interest in the relationship and a reason to study the effects on certain areas. This research focuses specifically on one area, Youngstown. The hope of this research is that by focusing on one specific area it may give the area a chance to 'fix' the crime problems that have been found to be associated with a declining economic situation.

Research Question

The goal of this study is to research and how economic factors may relate to crime in Youngstown. The following research question was developed for this thesis project:

1. Is the relationship between crime and economics unique in Youngstown as compared to other Rustbelt and Non-rustbelt cities?

While this research question will be examined the main hypothesis for this research is:

H₁.) In Youngstown as well as the selected non-rustbelt and rustbelt cities, there is a relationship between economic-related items and crime.

This main hypothesis will be accompanied by the following hypothesis that will support the main hypothesis.

H₂.) Youngstown's crime and economic situation will be worse than that of the rustbelt and non-rustbelt cities'.

Summary

In this chapter, previous research completed on the economy and its impact on crime was examined. There has been a wide variety of research that has been completed and there is also a lot of room to grow. The purpose of this research is to examine the research question and two hypotheses. In the following chapter the data that have been collected for this research will be presented. The data will be analyzed and presented as well.

CHAPTER THREE

Research Questions

For this research it was important to examine the impact of the economy on crime rate from a variety of angles. This is why the following research question was developed for this thesis project:

1. Is the relationship between crime and economics unique in Youngstown as compared to other Rustbelt and Non-rustbelt cities'?

These two hypotheses were also examined in this study:

- H₁.) In Youngstown as well as the selected non-rustbelt and rustbelt cities, there is a relationship between economic-related items and crime.
- H₂.) Youngstown's crime and economic situation will be worse than that of the rustbelt and non-rustbelt cities'.

Data Collection

In order to respond to the research questions and hypotheses, data were gathered from a variety of sources. There were two types of data that were needed for this research. First, information on local demographics was needed.

The demographics that this research focused on were:

- The overall population of the city,
- The percent of vacant homes in the area,
- The percent of people 25 years of age and older who did not graduate high school,
- The percent of those living in poverty, and
- The unemployment rate.

These were the economic related areas that this research focused on specifically. They were chosen by looking through all of the previous research outlined in the literature review. It was determined, that while there are numerous different areas that could be focused on, these fit best within the focus of this research. There were economic situations that affected all of the cities that were chosen for this research and data was available. These were also chosen because there were economic situations that could be followed and analyzed through the years.

This information was found by using SOCDs (State of the Cities Data System). Once the information for the local demographics was collected, then data on the crime statistics for the area are collected. The main focus of the crime statistics was the overall crime, violent crime, and property crime.

Collecting data for Youngstown alone is not complete enough to address the research questions for this study. It was necessary to collect the same data from ten different cities as well as Youngstown. It is believed that Youngstown is unique from other cities in the nation. It was important to choose cities that were similar in trends to Youngstown, as well as cities that had no relation to Youngstown in order to get a wide variety of information.

Ten cities were chosen in order to incorporate a variety of cities without having too much information to sort through. This is why five rustbelt cities and five non-rustbelt cities were chosen. “A rustbelt city is one that experiences population loss, rising crime rates, loss of union jobs, particularly in manufacturing, white flight to the suburbs, and a generally declining urban environment.” (Ritzer, 1998, p.1). Because Youngstown is one of these cities that is classified as a “rustbelt city”, it was important to look at other rustbelt cities for comparison purposes. It helps to determine if the information found on Youngstown was either unique or matches that of similar areas. The ten cities that were chosen for this study were:

- Five Rustbelt Cities
 - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 - Dayton, Ohio
 - Cleveland, Ohio
 - Erie, Pennsylvania
 - Toledo, Ohio
- Five Non-Rustbelt Cities:
 - Phoenix, Arizona
 - Austin, Texas
 - Tampa, Florida
 - San Diego, California
 - Charlotte, North Carolina

Data were collected from five specific years beginning in 1970 and ending in 2005, for each of the eleven cities (Youngstown included). The data were chosen to begin in 1970 because it was prior to the beginning of the close of the steel mills. By doing this, it gives the reader a full circle picture of what the city was and what it is now. The five specific years that were chosen were: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2005. The only variance to the years that were used for the data was for the crime data. The earliest available data for both property and violent crime was 1972. In order to collect this information several databases were used. For the demographic information for the centennial years: 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000, was collected through the SOCDS (State of the Cities Data System) Census Data were used. The U.S. Census Bureau was also used to gather the information on the population for all the cities. The earliest crime statistics that were collected were from 1972. For the most recent demographic and crime data the information was taken from a combination of places. The information for the demographic and crime data for the year 2005 was found at <http://www.city-data.com>, <http://bestplacesdata.net>, as well as <http://www.areaconnect.com>. These three websites hold databases that have the information needed to complete this research.

The crime statistics were collected for each city for each year through the FBI's *Uniform Crime Report*. The Uniform Crime Report is a database that holds reported crimes from areas across the country for certain time periods (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007). This database holds reported crimes and does not include the estimates of crimes that go unreported. The latest crime statistics for

the year 2005 came from the three websites, city-data, best places , and area-connect. While the rest of the crime data for the four other years came directly from the Uniform Crime Report. The Uniform crime report was a source that the three other websites used in order to get the crime information for 2005.

The FBI defines violent crime as, “violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault”. According to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program’s definition, violent crimes involve force or threat of force” (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007). The definition that is used for property crime is, “In the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson” (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007). The overall crime is simply a combination of the violent crime and property crime in the area.

The data will be presented through a variety of tables. The tables will be broken down by each city. In the table for each city the data is broken down by year as well as economic and crime category. Each city is shown individually in order to get a better understanding for the type of crime and economic situation in the area. The data will then be presented by overall yearly averages as well as variable averages. The overall populations were found for each of the 11 cities. The percent change in the population was then calculated. This was calculated by taking the population from the year 1970 and subtracted it by the population for the year 2005. By taking the difference of those two years and dividing it by the

population for 1970 multiplied by 100 produces the percent change for the population, see Table 1.

Summary

This chapter examined the research questions and hypotheses that are presented in this thesis. The way that the data were collected for this research was also looked at in this chapter. The research questions and the hypotheses were what drove the research and data collection for this study. Finally, it was laid out how the data were gathered and how it will be presented in the rest of the chapters. In the following chapter the data that were collected will be presented. The data will be presented through tables as well as explanations.

CHAPTER FOUR

Results

The information that was gathered was aimed to answer the research questions addressed in this study. Each piece of literature that was reviewed and each piece of data that was collected was done with the intent to answer the research questions addressed. The following tables are a presentation of the data that were collected. Table 1 outlines the populations of all cities that were used in this research. Table 2 outlines demographics and crime statistics for Youngstown. Tables 3 through 7 consist of the rustbelt cities that were used for comparison and Tables 8 thru 12 consist of the selected cities that were also used for comparison.

Each of the rustbelt cities, including Youngstown had declining populations. Youngstown had the largest population decline of all 11 cities. Each of the non-rustbelt cities had a population increase ranging from 18.5% in Tampa, Florida all the way to 180.7% in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Table 1
Populations for all 11 Cities

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Youngstown, Ohio	139,702	115,436	95,732	82,026	82,938	-40.6
Dayton, Ohio	243,459	203,371	182,044	162,669	166,179	-31.7
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	520,167	423,938	369,879	334,563	325,599	-37.4
Erie, Pennsylvania	129,220	119,123	108,718	103,717	104,120	-19.4
Toledo, Ohio	384,015	354,635	332,943	313,619	305,107	-20.5
Cleveland, Ohio	751,046	573,822	505,616	478,403	458,885	-38.9
Phoenix, Arizona	581,600	789,704	798,403	1,321,045	1,466,296	+152.1
Austin, Texas	251,817	345,496	465,622	656,562	679,198	+169.7
Tampa, Florida	277,736	271,523	280,015	303,447	329,035	+18.5
San Diego, California	696,566	875,538	1,110,549	1,223,400	1,272,148	+82.6
Charlotte, North Carolina	241,215	314,447	395,934	540,828	677,122	+180.7

Youngstown’s demographics are displayed in Table 2 below. The vacant homes percentages in the area increased by 225.4%, increasing from 4.06% to 13.21%. The percent of those 25 and over who did not graduate high school decreased from 1970 to 2005 by 53.4%. The poverty level more than doubled from 14.1% to 37.0%, which is an increase of 162.4%. Unemployment and overall crime both showed a large increase as well. While violent crime in Youngstown increased by 114.5%, the property crime increased by 45.4%, causing the overall crime rate increase of 53.5%. The largest jump in the crime was seen from 1970 to 1980. This was the decade that Youngstown saw the

beginning of the population decrease, decreasing about 18,000 from 1970 thru 1980.

Table 2

Youngstown, Ohio Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	4.06	6.91	9.10	13.23	13.21	+225.4%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	57.50	44.00	34.40	26.80	26.77	-53.4%
Poverty Percent	14.10	18.20	29.00	24.80	37.00	+162.4%
Unemployment Percent	6.70	15.80	15.60	11.30	13.70	+104.4%
Overall Crime Percent	4.71	8.39	8.03	7.68	7.23	+53.5%
Violent Crime Percent	.55	.98	1.37	1.18	1.18	+114.5%
Property Crime Percent	4.16	7.40	6.66	6.50	6.05	+45.4%

When researching Dayton, Ohio, a problem was reached. The Uniform Crime Report data was incomplete for the city. This is why for Dayton alone there is no crime data for 1970. The percent change for the crime statistics for Dayton are taken from 1980 to 2005 instead of 1970 to 2005. Dayton, Ohio saw an increase in the amount of vacant homes in the area by 30.9%. Dayton saw an increase in vacant homes, poverty, as well as unemployment percentages. The areas that saw decreases were each of the crime areas as well as the percentage of those who graduated high school. Refer to Table 3 below.

Table 3

Dayton, Ohio Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	4.43	10.49	9.52	12.67	5.80	+30.9%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	55.20	40.70	31.70	24.90	24.50	-55.6%
Poverty Percent	13.70	20.80	26.50	23.00	28.80	+38.5%
Unemployment Percent	5.10	13.10	10.40	9.20	13.00	+110.2%
Overall Crime Percent		13.76	11.48	9.90	8.12	-41.0%
Violent Crime Percent		1.76	1.70	1.24	.96	-45.4%
Property Crime Percent		12.00	9.78	8.66	7.16	-40.3%

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, similar to Dayton, Ohio saw a decrease in each category except for the poverty percentage, see Table 4. The largest decrease that Pittsburgh saw was for the percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate high school. The percent of decrease from 1970 to 2005 was 77.4%. Property crime spiked in the 1980s and 1990s for Pittsburgh eventually settling back in 2000 leaving Pittsburgh with percent change of property crime of only 5.1%.

Table 4

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	4.06	6.91	9.10	13.23	2.60	-36.0%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	57.50	44.00	34.40	26.80	13.00	-77.4%
Poverty Percent	14.10	18.20	29.00	24.80	22.20	+57.5%
Unemployment Percent	6.70	15.80	15.60	11.30	10.50	+56.7%
Overall Crime Percent	5.42	7.17	8.79	5.70	5.75	+6.1%
Violent Crime Percent	.93	1.21	1.36	.96	1.02	+9.7%
Property Crime Percent	4.49	5.96	7.43	4.74	4.72	+5.1%

As seen in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Dayton, Ohio, the poverty percent in Erie, Pennsylvania, has increased significantly, 135.1% (see Table 5). This was accompanied by a sharp increase in unemployment, 122.0%. For the last 40 plus years the violent crime statistics in Erie have been relatively low. While property crime in the area is higher than the violent crime, the overall percent of crime has decreased 22.5% over the years. Each of the other statistics for the area has decreased over the years.

Table 5

Erie, Pennsylvania Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	3.90	6.80	7.20	8.70	1.20	-69.2%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	45.20	35.20	27.70	20.10	12.90	-71.5%
Poverty Percent	11.10	13.40	19.30	18.80	26.10	+135.1%
Unemployment Percent	4.10	8.10	8.90	8.10	9.10	+122.0%
Overall Crime Percent	4.14	4.09	5.51	3.70	3.21	-22.5%
Violent Crime Percent	.39	.49	.65	.45	.45	+15.4%
Property Crime Percent	3.75	3.59	4.86	3.25	2.75	-26.7%

As seen in the other rustbelt cities, Toledo, Ohio also sees an increase in the poverty percentage over the time span (see Table 6). Toledo saw an increase in each of the property variables except for the percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate high school, which decreased 63.5%. Toledo did see an increase in the amount of violent crime in the area, increasing 35.5%. An increase in violent crime was only seen in one other rustbelt city, Youngstown.

Table 6

Toledo, Ohio Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	1.28	2.88	3.32	3.37	1.70	+32.8%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	50.20	36.10	26.80	20.30	18.30	-63.5%
Poverty Percent	10.70	13.60	19.10	17.90	22.7	+112.2%
Unemployment Percent	4.30	12.50	9.90	7.70	11.60	+169.8%
Overall Crime Percent	5.61	9.60	9.61	7.66	8.97	+59.9%
Violent Crime Percent	.48	.90	1.06	.76	1.22	+154.2%
Property Crime Percent	5.13	8.71	8.55	6.90	7.74	+50.9%

Cleveland, Ohio, saw a decrease in the vacant home percentages and the percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate high school. Each of the other variables saw an increase. Cleveland saw a large rise in property crime from 1970 to 1980 which continued through to 1990; however, the property crime in the area slowly decreased, but not low enough to create an overall percentage decrease (see Table 7).

Table 7

Cleveland, Ohio Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	6.00	8.80	10.90	11.40	5.50	-8.33%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	62.60	49.10	41.20	31.00	25.8	-58.8%
Poverty Percent	17.10	22.10	28.70	26.30	27.00	+57.9%
Unemployment Percent	5.20	11.00	14.00	11.20	17.10	+228.9%
Overall Crime Percent	6.56	10.06	9.12	6.81	7.66	+16.8%
Violent Crime Percent	1.12	2.00	1.82	1.26	1.40	+25.0%
Property Crime Percent	5.44	8.06	7.30	5.55	6.26	+15.1%

Phoenix, Arizona, the first of the five non-rustbelt cities, saw a similar trend in regards to the poverty level in the city. As seen in each of the rustbelt cities, the poverty level increased over the time period. The city of Phoenix also saw an increase in the unemployment level by 47.4% and poverty level by 48.3%. Each of the other variables saw a decrease in percentage over the years. The violent crime level stayed below one percent each year except for 1990 where the violent crime level reached 1.09%. The overall crime percent change for the 35 years was a decrease of 2.7% (see Table 8).

Table 8

Phoenix, Arizona Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	4.50	7.30	11.70	5.20	1.80	-60.0%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	41.10	26.70	21.30	23.40	21.40	-47.9%
Poverty Percent	11.60	11.10	14.20	15.80	17.20	+48.3%
Unemployment Percent	3.80	5.50	6.60	5.60	5.60	+47.4%
Overall Crime Percent	8.89	11.45	10.76	7.38	7.09	-20.3%
Violent Crime Percent	.75	.91	1.09	.74	.73	-2.7%
Property Crime Percent	8.14	10.55	9.67	6.64	6.36	-21.9%

Once again, Austin, Texas, only had an increase in the poverty level, the unemployment level and property crime. The percent of violent crimes in the area remained almost the same in 2005 as it was in 1980 decreasing only slightly by 0.04%. There was a slight increase in 1990 and then a slight decrease in 2000, but the rate ultimately returned to the same in 2005 at 0.5%. The property crime saw a large increase in 1990 when the property crime level hit 11% almost doubling from the property crime percentage in 1970. The property crime then decreased back to 6.63% in 2005 (see Table 9).

Table 9

Austin, Texas Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	8.20	8.50	11.20	3.50	1.80	-78.1%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	38.00	25.20	17.70	16.60	14.60	-61.6%
Poverty Percent	16.00	15.80	17.90	14.40	17.7	+10.6%
Unemployment Percent	3.10	3.80	6.30	4.40	7.00	+125.8%
Overall Crime Percent	6.24	8.76	11.71	6.05	6.63	+6.3%
Violent Crime Percent	.54	.50	.71	.48	.50	-7.4%
Property Crime Percent	5.70	8.25	11.00	5.57	6.13	+7.5%

Tampa, Florida, resulted in different changes than any of the cities seen thus far. While the poverty percent and the unemployment percent rose in a fashion similar to the other cities, the crime statistics for Tampa also rose. The violent crime in the area increased 72.2% over the course of the years, and while the property crime did not see such a high increase it did increase 9.9%. Poverty and unemployment were the only demographic changes in statistics that may have some affect on the crime in the area (see Table 10).

Table 10

Tampa, Florida Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	5.80	7.20	11.00	7.60	2.80	-51.7%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	52.40	39.00	29.40	22.90	18.20	-65.3%
Poverty Percent	18.50	18.70	19.40	18.10	20.10	+8.7%
Unemployment Percent	3.60	5.50	6.50	8.50	7.00	+94.4%
Overall Crime Percent	7.67	6.70	17.13	11.09	7.59	-1.0%
Violent Crime Percent	.83	.61	3.33	2.10	1.43	+72.3%
Property Crime Percent	6.84	6.08	13.80	8.99	6.16	+9.9%

The only increase that the city of San Diego, California saw was in the poverty rate increasing 34.0%. Each of the other variables saw a decrease over the years. The overall crime rate in the area saw a large decrease of 32.7% throughout the years. This large decrease was mainly due to the property crime in the area. The property crime decreased 37.6% from 1970 to 2005 (see Table 11).

Table 11

San Diego, California Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	6.00	6.70	5.10	3.00	2.20	-63.3%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	34.70	22.00	18.10	17.40	13.30	-61.7%
Poverty Percent	10.00	11.30	11.30	12.40	13.40	+34.0%
Unemployment Percent	4.90	6.10	5.60	5.60	5.90	-20.4%
Overall Crime Percent	6.17	8.06	9.15	3.79	4.15	-32.7%
Violent Crime Percent	.35	.71	1.08	.59	.52	+48.6%
Property Crime Percent	5.82	7.35	8.06	3.20	3.63	-37.6%

Charlotte, North Carolina, was the only city in this study that saw no increase in the poverty percent. The poverty rate in Charlotte had a small decrease of only 16.2%. The unemployment percent increased 176.7% and the violent crime rate increased 46.2%. Overall North Carolina saw a large increase in both property and violent crime rates (see Table 12).

Table 12

Charlotte, North Carolina Demographics

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	% Change
Vacant Homes Percent	4.50	5.00	6.50	6.20	3.10	-31.1%
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	46.50	29.90	19.00	15.10	11.80	-74.6%
Poverty Percent	14.80	12.40	10.80	10.60	12.40	-16.2%
Unemployment Percent	3.00	4.40	4.20	5.50	8.30	+176.7%
Overall Crime Percent	5.76	8.43	12.59	7.90	8.05	+39.8%
Violent Crime Percent	.80	.89	2.30	1.20	1.17	+46.2%
Property Crime Percent	4.96	7.54	10.29	6.70	6.88	+38.7%

Data Comparison

The following tables took the averages of the statistics found for each city over a 35 year period (1970 – 2005). The averages were derived by taking the statistics for all five years of the study (1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2005) adding them together then dividing them by the number of cities in each category. These averages were broken down into three categories: Youngstown Averages, Rustbelt City Averages, and Non-Rustbelt City Averages. Table 13 contains all of the averages for Youngstown. Table 14 contains all of the averages for the rustbelt cities:

- Dayton, Ohio
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- Erie, Pennsylvania
- Toledo, Ohio
- Cleveland, Ohio.

Table 15 contains all of the averages for all of the non-rustbelt cities:

- Phoenix, Arizona
- Austin, Texas
- Tampa, Florida
- San Diego, California
- Charlotte, North Carolina

Finally, Table 16 shows a side by side analysis of the averages for Youngstown, the five rustbelt cities, and the five non-rustbelt cities.

Table 13

Youngstown, Ohio Demographic

Averages Over a 35 Year Period

	Average
Vacant Homes Percent	9.30
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	37.89
Poverty Percent	24.62
Unemployment Percent	12.62
Overall Crime Percent	7.83
Violent Crime Percent	1.18
Property Crime Percent	6.65

Table 13 above shows the average results for Youngstown. These averages were found by adding the statistics found for each year: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2005. The sum of these years were then divided by 5.

Table 14

Rustbelt Cities Demographic

Averages Over a 35 Year Period

	Average
Vacant Homes Percent	6.47
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	34.21
Poverty Percent	20.60
Unemployment Percent	10.32
Overall Crime Percent	7.83
Violent Crime Percent	1.13
Property Crime Percent	6.70

Table 14 shows the average economic percentages and crime percentages over the 35 year time period (1970-2005). First the averages for each individual rustbelt city was found. Then the averages for each variable of the rustbelt cities were added together and divided by 5 in order to find the total average of the rustbelt cities. These are the numbers that are seen in Table 14.

Table 15

Non-Rustbelt Cities Demographic

Averages Over a 35 Year Period (1970 – 2005)

	Average
Vacant Homes Percent	5.86
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	25.43
Poverty Percent	14.64
Unemployment Percent	5.45
Overall Crime Percent	8.72
Violent Crime Percent	1.08
Property Crime Percent	7.64

The process for finding the averages of the non-rustbelt cities followed the same steps as the rustbelt cities. The averages were found for each of the non-rustbelt cities through a 35 year time period (1970-2005).

Table 16

**Side by Side Analysis of Youngstown,
Rustbelt Cities, and Non-Rustbelt Cities**

	Youngstown	Rustbelt Cities	Non-Rustbelt Cities
Vacant Homes Percent	9.30	6.47	5.86
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	37.89	34.21	25.43
Poverty Percent	24.62	20.60	14.64
Unemployment Percent	12.62	10.32	5.45
Overall Crime Percent	7.83	7.83	8.72
Violent Crime Percent	1.18	1.13	1.08
Property Crime Percent	6.65	6.70	7.64

The information from Table 13, Table 14, and Table 15 was placed in a side by side comparison in Table 16. By doing this it is possible to compare the three tables, the averages of Youngstown, the averages of the rustbelt cities, and the averages of the non-rustbelt cities.

The following six tables look at the demographic and crime statistics for Youngstown, the rustbelt cities and the non-rustbelt cities. The averages for each demographic and crime statistic was found for each of the years examined in this research. The Youngstown statistics were taken directly from Table 2. The rustbelt statistics were found by adding the statistics for each of the rustbelt cities

by year and then averaging them. The same was done for the non-rustbelt cities. This was repeated for each variable and for each year. The resulting statistics is what is shown in the tables that follow.

Table 17
Average Vacant Home Percentages Through the
Years for Youngstown, Rustbelt and Non-Rustbelt Cities

	Youngstown	Rustbelt Cities	Non-Rustbelt Cities
1970	4.06	3.93	5.80
1980	6.91	7.18	6.94
1990	9.10	8.01	9.10
2000	13.23	9.87	5.10
2005	13.12	3.36	2.34

Youngstown saw a constant increase in the vacant home percentages over the 35 year time period of this study. This differed from both the rustbelt and the non-rustbelt cities. There was no constant increase with the rustbelt and non-rustbelt cities, these cities both peaked and then saw a decrease in the final statistical year that was analyzed. Up until the year 1990 all three city categories (Youngstown, rustbelt, and non-rustbelt) were following a similar trend increasing a few percentages each decade. It was the year 2000 where

Youngstown vacant home percentage increased more than three percent that the similar trend ended.

Table 18

Average High School Non Graduate Percentages Through the Years for Youngstown, Rustbelt and Non-Rustbelt Cities

	Youngstown	Rustbelt Cities	Non-Rustbelt Cities
1970	57.50	54.14	42.54
1980	44.00	41.02	28.56
1990	34.40	32.36	21.10
2000	26.80	24.62	19.08
2005	26.77	18.90	15.86

The percentage of people 25 and over who did not graduate high school followed a similar trend for each city category over the 35 year time period. This was to be expected simply with the advances in education over the last 35 years. All three city categories have a high percentage off those who did not graduate from high school in 1970 and then had a gradual decrease up until the year 2005. The non-rustbelt cities saw a much higher decrease from 1970 to 1980 while Youngstown and the rustbelt cities saw a slighter increase in this time period (See Table 18).

Table 19

**Average Poverty Percentages Through the
Years for Youngstown, Rustbelt and Non-Rustbelt Cities**

	Youngstown	Rustbelt Cities	Non-Rustbelt Cities
1970	14.10	13.34	14.18
1980	18.20	17.62	13.86
1990	29.00	24.52	14.72
2000	24.80	22.16	14.26
2005	37.00	25.36	16.16

With the exception of the year 1970 Youngstown's poverty percentage was higher than both the rustbelt and the non-rustbelt cities. The only exception to this was the poverty of the non-rustbelt cities in 1970 which was .08% higher. Over the 35 year period Youngstown saw an increase in the poverty percent of nearly 18%. This increase was much higher than was seen with either the rustbelt cities or the non-rustbelt cities (See Table 19).

Table 20

**Average Unemployment Percentages Through the
Years for Youngstown, Rustbelt and Non-Rustbelt Cities**

	Youngstown	Rustbelt Cities	Non-Rustbelt Cities
1970	6.70	5.08	3.68
1980	15.80	12.10	5.06
1990	15.60	11.76	5.84
2000	11.30	9.50	5.92
2005	13.70	12.26	6.76

The unemployment percentages saw the greatest variation over the years and between all three city categories. The non-rustbelt cities saw a small consistent increase in unemployment percentages over the 35 year period. The rustbelt cities saw both increases and decreases over the time period eventually ending up with more than an 8% increase from 1970 to 2005. Youngstown followed a similar trend as the rustbelt cities increasing and decreasing over the time period ending with a 7% increase from 1970 to 2005 (See Table 20).

Table 21

**Average Violent Crime Percentages Through the
Years for Youngstown, Rustbelt and Non-Rustbelt Cities**

	Youngstown	Rustbelt Cities	Non-Rustbelt Cities
1972	.55	.73	.65
1980	.98	1.27	.72
1990	1.37	1.32	1.70
2000	1.18	.93	1.02
2005	1.18	.98	.87

All three city categories saw a similar trend in violent crime percentages over the 35 year time period. Each started low and peaked in the 1990's followed by a decrease through 2005. The biggest difference between Youngstown, the rustbelt cities, and the non-rustbelt cities was that Youngstown did not decrease as much as the others after the peak year. Youngstown only decreased .19% from the peak year of 1990 through 2005 while the rustbelt cities decreased .34% and the non-rustbelt cities .83% (See Table 21).

Table 22

**Average Property Crime Percentages Through the
Years for Youngstown, Rustbelt and Non-Rustbelt Cities**

	Youngstown	Rustbelt Cities	Non-Rustbelt Cities
1972	4.16	4.70	6.29
1980	7.40	7.66	7.95
1990	6.66	7.58	10.56
2000	6.50	5.82	6.22
2005	6.05	5.73	5.83

Finally in the comparison of the three city categories and the property crime percentages there was once again a similar trend across the three. Once again all three city categories saw an increase over the years until the property crime rates hit a peak and decreased through 2005. Once again, Youngstown followed a similar trend but remained at a higher percentage of property crime in the year 2005.

The following charts show the average trends of Youngstown, the Rustbelt cities and the Non-rustbelt cities.

Table 24

Rustbelt Cities Average Demographic

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005
Vacant Homes Percent	3.93	7.18	8.01	9.86	3.36
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	54.14	41.02	32.36	24.62	18.90
Poverty Percent	13.34	17.62	24.52	22.16	25.36
Unemployment Percent	5.08	12.10	11.76	9.50	12.26
Overall Crime Percent	2.72	4.47	4.45	3.38	3.36
Violent Crime Percent	.73	1.27	1.32	.93	.98
Property Crime Percent	4.70	7.66	7.58	5.82	5.73

Table 25

Non-Rustbelt Cities Average Demographic

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005
Vacant Homes Percent	5.80	6.94	9.10	5.10	2.34
Percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate High School	42.54	28.56	21.10	19.08	15.86
Poverty Percent	14.18	13.86	14.72	14.26	16.16
Unemployment Percent	3.68	5.06	5.84	5.92	6.76
Overall Crime Percent	2.72	4.47	4.45	3.38	3.36
Violent Crime Percent	.65	.72	1.70	1.02	.87
Property Crime Percent	6.29	7.95	10.56	6.22	5.83

Over the years the rustbelt cities saw a rise and fall for a number of the statistics. As seen in Table 24 around 1980 or 1990 each of the statistics saw an increase and then the percentages began to fall. This was not seen in the non-rustbelt cities. While some of the variables for the non-rustbelt cities saw a rise and fall, the majority of them followed a non-pattern forming trend.

There was also some statistics that simply decreased over the years starting at its highest in 1970, see Table 25. The original thought was that Youngstown would follow the same trends as the other rustbelt cities; however there is some differentiation shown in Tables 23 and 24. For both vacant home percent and poverty percent Youngstown saw a constant increase over the time period, while, on average, the rustbelt cities saw an increase, a peak, and then a decrease. Both Youngstown and the rustbelt cities saw a constant decrease over the time period for those over the age of 25 who have graduated high school, but the rustbelt cities saw much more of a decrease than Youngstown. As for the crime statistics Youngstown and the rustbelt cities followed a similar trend, both rising in the middle years and decreasing towards the later years. However, Youngstown's crime rates, for both violent and property, were slightly higher than those of the rustbelt cities.

When comparing the rustbelt cities, including Youngstown, to the non-rustbelt cities the following observations were made. Crime rates being the exception, the non-rustbelt cities ended with lower rate percentages for every statistic in 2005. While some statistics followed the same patterns as those of the rustbelt cities, the non-rustbelt cities ended in 2005 with stronger and better

geographical statistics. Youngstown saw higher economic data than both the rustbelt cities and the non-rustbelt cities, ending with the worse economic situation in 2005.

Non-rustbelt cities saw a higher property crime percentage than both Youngstown and the rustbelt cities. In 1970 the average of the non-rustbelt cities property crime was 2% higher than Youngstown and 1.6% higher than rustbelt cities, see tables 23 through 25. The trend of the non-rustbelt cities having a higher property crime rate continues through the years until 2005. In 2005 Youngstown has the highest property crime rate followed by non-rustbelt cities and finally rustbelt cities.

Results

With the exception of the property crime rate and overall crime rate for the non-rustbelt cities Youngstown statistics are higher in every category. The five non-rustbelt cities contain the lowest statistics for each category with the exception of property crimes. These cities have lower amounts of vacant homes, less people under the poverty line, more people who have graduated high school, and a lower unemployment rate. The overall economic situation in these non-rustbelt cities was much higher based on these criteria (see Table 16). It is unexpected to see that the crime percentages for these cities are higher than the rustbelt cities and Youngstown. The property crime in the non-rustbelt cities exceeds the other two categories by one percent. The original thought was that cities with a higher economic situation would have a lower crime rate; however, these numbers seem to suggest otherwise.

While Youngstown had the worst economic numbers across the board, the crime rates did not reflect this situation. In Youngstown, for the 35 year period (1970 – 2005), the average percentage of the population that has not received a high school degree is more than 50%. The unemployment rate is more than double the rate of the non-rustbelt cities and 2% higher than the rustbelt cities. While all of this point to a low economic status for the city of Youngstown, the crime statistics were not higher.

According to the review of literature for this research, when the economic situation is worse in a city then the crime in said city will be higher. However the research did show . The city that was found to have the worst economic

conditions based on the four criteria: house vacancy, educational attainment, poverty, and unemployment rate was Youngstown. The main hypothesis for this research is: In Youngstown as well as the selected non-rustbelt and rustbelt cities, there is a relationship between economic-related items and crime. In order for a relationship to be shown than it would be believed that the city with the worst crime rates would also need to be Youngstown, as seen in Tables 23 through 25. This was not the case. Youngstown had the lowest average property crime than any of the other cities and the violent crime in Youngstown is comparable to the other stronger economical cities. The average violent crime rate for Youngstown is only one tenth of a percent higher than the non-rustbelt cities and half that higher than the rustbelt cities.

The other hypothesis that was used in this research was given support both for and against when the data were analyzed. Hypothesis 2: Youngstown's crime and economic situation will be worse than that of the rustbelt and non-rustbelt cities'. This hypothesis is best addressed by examining the results in Table 16, the side by side analysis of Youngstown, the rustbelt cities and the non-rustbelt cities. In Table 16 it shows that for each of the economic variables Youngstown is worse off than the non-rustbelt cities. In many cases this is a difference. The average vacant home percentage in Youngstown over the years was 9.30 while this was only 5.86 for the non-rustbelt cities. The average poverty percent for Youngstown was 24.62, while this was only 14.64 for the non-rustbelt cities. Each of these statistics as well as the higher percentage of those who did

not graduate high school and higher unemployment rates gives support that Youngstown economic situation is worse off than that of the non-rustbelt cities.

According to the previous literature that was reviewed and the hypotheses of this research, it would be believed that this economic situation would point to a worse crime situation for Youngstown. However, this was not found to be the case, as shown in table 16. While Youngstown did have a higher violent crime percentage, the increase was only by one tenth of a percent. Youngstown also did not have a higher property crime percentage than the non-rustbelt cities. The non-rustbelt cities had a property crime percentage of 7.64, as shown in Table 16, while Youngstown only had a percentage of 6.65. These crime percentages make the non-rustbelt cities have a higher overall crime percentage than Youngstown. In conclusion, while Youngstown has the weaker economy and scores worse on the economic situation than the non-rustbelt cities it does not have the worse crime situation as is to be expected through the hypotheses. This does not support the hypothesis two as stated in this research study.

The following is the research question that was addressed in this research.

1. Is the relationship between crime and economics unique in Youngstown as compared to other Rustbelt and Non-rustbelt cities'?

This research question is best answered by looking at the results in Table 16. Youngstown's average economic situation is much worse than both the rustbelt cities and the non-rustbelt cities. Over a 35 year period Youngstown's poverty percent was 24.6 while the rustbelt cities were slightly lower at 20.60% and the non-rustbelt cities were drastically lower at 14.64%. This was not the

only economic demographic of Youngstown that were higher than the rest of the cities analyzed. Youngstown had the highest percentages for each of the economic demographics. The initial thought of this research was that when the economic situation of a city was in turmoil then the crime rates should increase. The crime rates of Youngstown were not found to differ very far from those of the rustbelt and non-rustbelt cities. The average property crime rates for the non-rustbelt cities were one percentage higher than the rustbelt cities and Youngstown.

As seen in Table 2, over the 35 year time period, the vacant homes percent in the area and the poverty percent saw increases from 1970 to 2005. Vacant homes increased by 91.2% and poverty increased by 103.3%. Over this same 35 year time period the violent crime and property crime percentages also saw an increase, violent crime increasing 114.5% and the property crime increasing 45.4%. While these percentages show support that the crime rates have a casual relationship with the economy, there were other variables in this study that disprove this. The percent of people 25 and over who did not graduate high school decreased 39.2% as well as the unemployment percent decreasing 13.3%. These two economic variables seem to suggest that there may not be as strong of a relationship with crime as previously thought.

Summary

In this chapter it was discovered that when an economic situation of a city is weak it does not always mean that the crime rates in the city will be negative as well. The statistics that were gathered in chapter three were analyzed and defined

in this chapter. The research question that was addressed in this study were examined and answered. In the next chapter limitations to this study will be examined. The next chapter will also look at future research that can be done to improve upon this study. Finally, the next chapter has conclusions about the entire study.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

The research goal was to evaluate if economic conditions of an area in decline will also see an increase in the crime in said area. This hypothesis was supported by previous research and theoretical explanations; however, after completing the analysis it was found that this did not occur in the city of Youngstown. Compared to the rustbelt cities and the non-rustbelt cities that were examined in this research, Youngstown's economic situation was far worse than the other cities evaluated. Youngstown's property crime statistics were actually less than those of the rustbelt and non-rustbelt cities. The non-rustbelt cities which had the strongest economic conditions of the cities in this research had the highest percentage of property crime. The rate of property crime in these cities was an average of one percent higher than those in Youngstown. Essentially, the city with the strongest economy had the worse crime rates for this study. This finding should be researched more in-depth in future studies to find out why this happened.

The question that needs to be addressed is why this has taken place. The majority of the previous research seemed to show that support would be found for the hypothesis, In Youngstown as well as the selected non-rustbelt and rustbelt cities, there is a relationship between economic-related items and crime. The research presented in this study did not support this hypothesis. Why did Youngstown deviate from the expected outcome? There is no single explanation

as to why crime rates in Youngstown did not follow the national trend. It is necessary for further research to be done on this matter to find out what factors are causing Youngstown to be different than other cities that have been researched. There are possible outside influences that could be influencing the crime reporting and data in Youngstown. With the strong gang background that Youngstown has seen there may be a higher tolerance by the police for other crime in the area (Ove, 2000).

When completing the research for this study the initial thought was that Youngstown would not follow the same trends found in similar research. The overall conception that was found in the previous research was that when the economic situation was bad, then the crime situation would also be bad. The specific economic situations that were looked at in this research did not always support this. As stated in the results section there were years when the cities in this research did not follow the trend found in the research.

In any city, it is important to research both the crime and economic situations in order to improve on the situation. For Youngstown in particular, it was important in order to improve the overall situation. This research set out to see if the situation in Youngstown followed the same trend as other similar cities. If it had been found that Youngstown did follow the same trends as these other cities, then it would have been possible to see the techniques that these areas had in place. Given Youngstown varied from the other cities, then more research needs to be done in order to find a solution to the problem. However, this is why

doing research like this is so important because in order to fix the problem it first needs to be identified. This is what was attempted to be done with this research.

The previous research on Youngstown, which was not very well documented, showed that the area struggled after the steel industries left, both economically and with crime. The struggle then continued with the emergence of organized crime (Ove, 2000).

Limitations

The major limitation of this research was in the retrieval of the statistical information. The information that is provided is only as good as the person who inputs it. While the UCR is a well documented source this was not the case with each of the sources used in this study. When using a website as a source there is always the chance that the data collected is incorrect. Then when the data were collected and inputted into this study there was another chance for human error. Even when the numbers are reviewed and analyzed there is a chance that a mistake might have been made along the way.

Another limitation for this research was the ability to find the necessary statistics for each category used in the study. Because there were so many different categories, four demographic and two crime variables for eleven cities over four different time periods, it was necessary to gather the research from more than one database. Because this study used more than one database to gather the information there is a possibility that the information might be different from one

database to another. This research functioned as the premise that all databases were reliable from one to the next.

Suggested Changes

If this research were to be started over there would be a few things that are important to do differently. Things might have turned out differently if the statistics would have come directly from the police departments of the cities in the research as opposed to the federal government databases. Dayton, Ohio was the only city that there was no data found in the federal databases. It is uncertain the exact reason why this information could not be found for Dayton in 1972. This is why if the information were to be retrieved directly from the police departments it is possible that this problem would not have arisen in this study. It would have been interesting to go to each of the cities and interview members of each police department to get their professional opinion on the crime in the area. This would add qualitative data to help evaluate the research question and the research hypothesis.

Another item that could have been changed was the type of crime that the study focused. Because Youngstown has a history in organized crime it might have been beneficial to look solely at this type of crime and how the economy affects it (Ove, 2000). By seeing how the economy affects organized crime directly may have been beneficial to the city in patrolling this type of crime in the future. These would be two major changes that might have produced drastically different outcomes for this research.

Future Research

It would be interesting for future researchers to examine these same variables in another five or ten years. Because the variables in this study were averaged from the last 35 years of data it would be interesting to see if the pattern that was found continues into the future. By introducing new variables into the equation, like welfare rates and low income housing rates, it would be possible to expand this research.

Another way that this research could be used in future research would be to change the cities that were used as a comparison. The ten cities, five rustbelt and five non-rustbelt, used in this research were chosen by convenience. The rustbelt cities were chosen because they have a similar relationship to Youngstown and the non-rustbelt cities were chosen because they are large population cities with somewhat similar situations to other striving cities in the United States. Future researchers could take the same concept and choose ten or more new cities to see if it produced the same results. If the same results were produced then it would support the results from this and increase the strength of the study.

Youngstown can be researched in a few different ways in order to further the research that has been completed in this study. Because Youngstown has a high presence of gang and organized crime (Viehe, 2007) it is possible that other crimes in the area are under reported. Citizens of the city might believe that nothing can be done by reporting petty property or violent crimes because there

are much larger crimes taking place around them. It would be interesting to research this in order to figure out if outside influences are affecting the crimes that are reported. If so this could be a reason as to why the crime rates do not follow the same trend as other cities with similar economic situations. By researching the victimization theories as well as victimization surveys in order to find crimes that have not been reported. This may help to explain why the crime rates in Youngstown were low in comparison to the economic variables.

Summary

In this chapter the final conclusion for the research was analyzed. It looked at the possible limitations that the research encountered as well as things that could be altered if the study were to be replicated. Finally this chapter examined the different ways that future research could be done. Youngstown's results showed that while the economic situation was the worst the crime rates did not follow the trend that was predicted. This is why it is important to follow up this study with future research similar to what was suggested in this chapter.

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