

HOW BULLET PROOF IS THE TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION?

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Research Question: Can the Toronto Community Housing Corporation be responsible for the Somali Gun Violence epidemic in Toronto?

Abstract

Over 176 Somali boys since 2013 have passed away due to the current rise of gun violence in Toronto. Through an institutional analysis, research has allowed me to analyse how the Toronto Community Housing Corporation significantly impacts this crisis. Our environment is a key factor to our growth, therefore investigating the Toronto community housing neighbourhoods highlighted many risk factors that influenced the current issue surrounding the violence within the Somali community. The Toronto Community Housing Corporation through research has proven to lack the proper resources and representation that could have assisted the thousands of Somali's living under their corporation. From 2015 to 2017 alone, 15 Somali men died to gun violence, and 14 of the 15 of them all lived in Toronto Community Housing neighborhoods. 40% of crime rates that happen in Toronto are Somali's, and 2 Somali males on average pass away to gun violence monthly. Furthermore, this project investigated when Somali's came to Canada and how assimilating played a factor on the early exposure to violence, how government housing neighborhoods guide Somali's to their failures, and why Somali's are being murdered on government housing property that claims to prioritize safety for their residents.

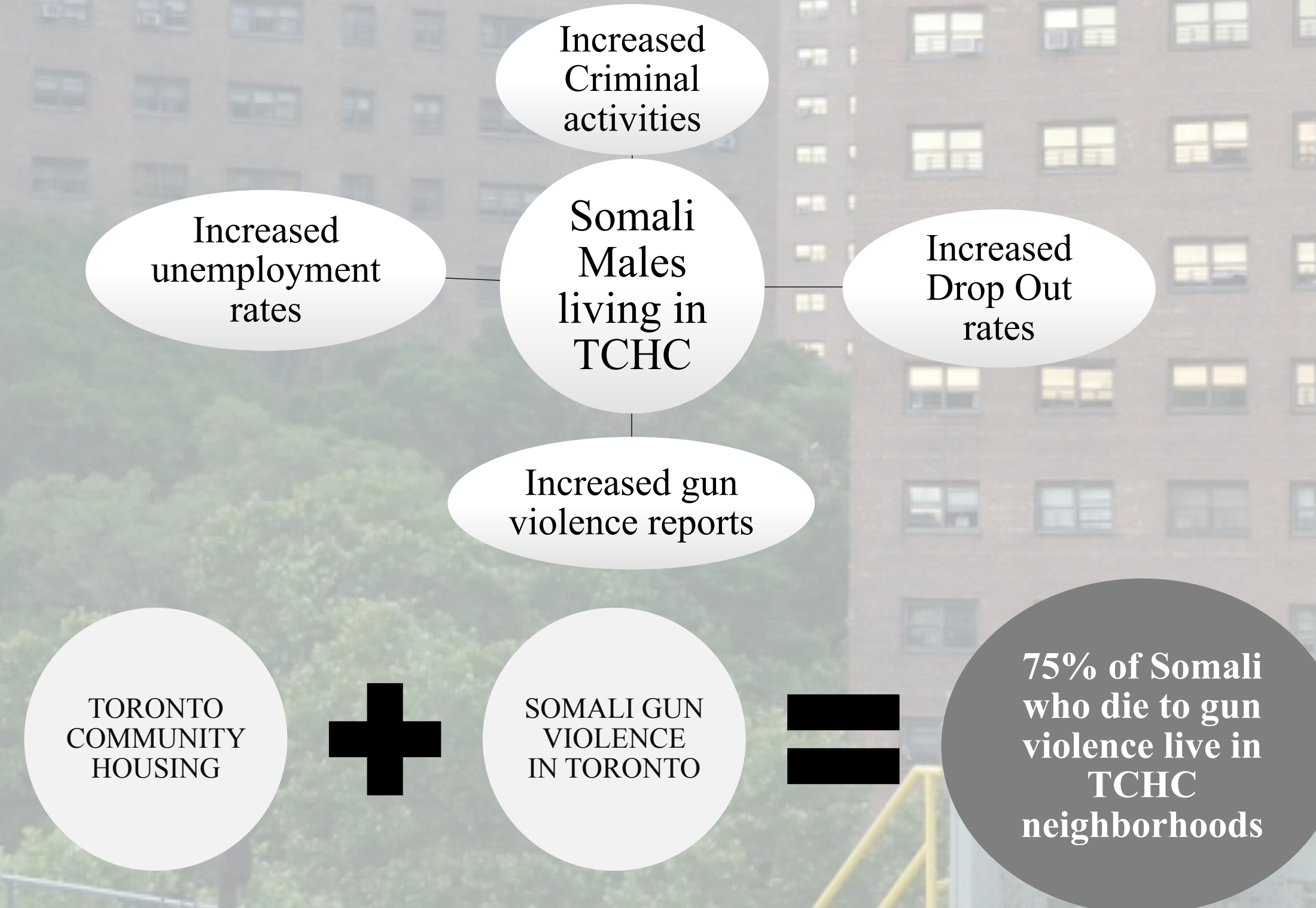
Methodology

This research was conducted by researching available materials such as public available conducted data from the Toronto Police Services, conducted research projects concentrating on the assimilation of the Somali people, interviews, and media resources.

Result

How are Somali's affected by TCHC?

TCHC neighborhoods locations impact the quality of access to education, jobs, and health care. Throughout research, it was made clear that the impact of the Toronto Community Housing neighborhoods dictate the future outcome of their success. Similar to the Stanford Prison Experiment, if the location is concentrated with low-income earners and are treated as criminals through exposure to systematic violence, the chances of acting on criminal activities increase substantially by 68%.



Discussion

Through this analysis, it was made clear that the root cause of the gun violence affecting the Somali youth include many factors that are beyond the stigmatized understanding "gang violence". Somali's have been exposed to a large amount of violence which negatively impacted the development of the first-generation Somali-Canadians. Somali parents have suffered immensely through the assimilation process and due to their lack of knowledge, language, and finance; 64% of Somali's live with low income status. Due to their poor socioeconomic background, it is statistically and scientifically proven that those who live in poor lifestyles are highly likely to experience violence and poverty. Somali's are black and Muslim and experience discrimination to a higher extent. The Toronto community housing neighbourhoods are poorly equipped and residents are always exposed to external violence such as discrimination, racism, Islamophobia, etc.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation isn't bullet proof. This agency lacks effective safety guidelines that include all tenants including the Somali community. The policies regarding the community do not reflect the on-going violence, nor do the TCHC directors reflect the representation of the tenants that live under government housing. TCHC has failed to provide resources and services to help the Somali community deal with the deaths of their sons. They also have not provided primary and secondary prevention strategies that could initially provide assistance and much-needed support. I have also concluded that besides the few good things they have done as a corporation, TCHC have proven to show more interest in their revitalization project that is also influencing an increase in violence within housing property.

BOX N1.2 Somali men who have died to gun violence 2015-2017

Name	TCHC resident (Y/N)	Shooting Victim	Year
Samatar Farah	Y	Y	2017
Said Ali	Y	Y	2017
Mohamed Ali	Y	Y	2017
Ali Rizeig	Y	Y	2017
Yusuf Hagi	Y	Y	2017
Faysal Hees	N	Y	2016
Abdirizak Hersi	Y	Y	2016
Abdirizak Bihi	Y	Y	2017
Khadr Mohamed	Y	Y	2017
Mohamed Abdiwal	Y	Y	2015
Abdiwel Abdullahi	Y	Y	2015
Yusuf Ali	Y	Y	2015

Number of reported shooting victims that lived in TCHC from 2015-2017