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Criminal Homicide in Warren County Kentucky: 1970-1971

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CRIMINAL HOMICIDE IN WARREN COUNTY KENTUCKY:

1970-1971

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Western Kentucky University

Bowling Green, Kentucky

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

by

Timothy J. Carter

June 1972

CRIMINAL HOMICIDE IN WARREN COUNTY KENTUCKY:

1970-1971

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Individuals resorting to violent aggression in the form
of criminal homicide have often been the object of great public
concern. Of the many actions punishable by criminal law, the
taking of a human life by another human being most often entails
a severe sanction, especially when it has been done deliberately
and with a degree of premeditation. Public fear and concern
dictate forceful sanctioning toward the homicide offender or
offenders; no other criminal offense is so likely to result in
the death penalty or life imprisonment.[1]

Statement of the Problem

In order to learn how to deal more effectively with
criminal homicide we must begin to study and identify the nature
of significant factors associated with criminal homicide. If
the community and its agencies of social control are to deal
effectively with control, prevention, and treatment of homicide,
then general principles, patterns, and similarities must be
sought. Albert Morris said,

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[1]Marvin E. Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide,
Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1958, p. xiii.

> To put it in semantically unrefined and unsophisticated
> terms, I am suggesting that if we are to get on with
> the business of learning to deal more effectively with
> crime we had better stop talking about crime and begin
> to identify and study with as much care and thoroughness
> as possible the nature and workings of the significant
> factors essential to each type of criminal behavior.[2]

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the offenses of criminal homicide in terms of its participants, victim and accused, and the existing relationship between them.

Although homicide is quite often a result of an emotional flare-up, and for the most part unplanned, there are discernible uniformities of specific social characteristics associated with the persons involved.

Homicide involves at least two persons, victim and accused; because of this it is of interest to note what their common characteristics are, if any.

Do similarities of age, sex, and race exist, and if so are these qualities relevant? Does homicide most often occur within a particular socio-economic group or is it evenly distributed among the socio-economic strata? What type of relationship existed between the victim and accused; were they kin, close friends, acquaintances or strangers? Did either the victim or accused have a previous police record? Was alcohol present in the situation? Every crime must occur someplace at sometime. What are the situational patterns observable in criminal homicide?[3] These questions will be investigated by this study.

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[2]Ibid., pp. 3-4.

[3]Ibid., p. 7.

This research will analyze criminal homicide and the victim-accused relationship by using Warren County Kentucky, as a community case study. Warren County indicates a need for a study of this kind because of its above average rate of criminal homicide (1970, 29.6 per one hundred thousand). In the year 1971, the criminal homicide rate dropped to 22.6 per one hundred thousand.

In the Barren River Regional Crime Prevention and Control Plan 1971-1972, the Crime Commission claims a large percentage of the reported homicide in the Barren River Regional District, of which Warren County is a part, apparently resulted from domestic quarrels or family disputes. The next largest group resulted from drinking parties or barroom brawls.[4] The Commission provided no evidence to justify such a statement. Is this truly the case, or is it just unwarranted speculation?

This thesis will also give special attention to the city of Bowling Green; for Bowling Green makes up 63% of the Warren County population (36,253 of 57,432).[5]

The two year period, 1970 through 1971, has been chosen for investigation for the above stated problem. The selection of these two years is determined by the available data. Records of criminal activity in this area, preceding 1970, are incomplete, inadequate, missing or not available. However, due to compliance

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[4]Barren River Regional Crime Prevention and Control Plan 1971-1972, Bowling Green, Kentucky, p. 4.

[5]Ibid., p. 10 table 5; p. 9 table 4.

with the Uniform Crime Reports, the area's records have greatly improved in recent years, and in order to project more accurate trends the more recent years are desirable.

Having briefly outlined the purpose of this study, attention will now focus in Chapter II upon a survey of the literature concerning criminal homicide as it relates to both the victim-accused concept, as well as various demographic and eccological variables.

CHAPTER II

SURVEY OF LITERATURE

Victim-Offender Relationship

Morris and Blom-Cooper in the following statement suggest

that crime in general has a personal flavor:

> Not that every crime need have a victim, but in those
> which do there often exists an especially interesting
> quality, the nature of the relationship between
> criminal and victim. More than this; just as the
> commission of a crime is no isolated, idiosyncratic
> act, but the culmination of a process in which many
> factors are at work, so for the most part there are
> few genuinely random victims of crime.[1]

Wolfgang speaks in specific terms of criminal homicide,

and mentions the element of personal flavor in terms of an

existing direct interactional relationship:

> Criminal homicide is probably the most personalized
> crime in our society. Because motives do not exist
> in a vacuum, the subject-object, doer-suffer relation-
> ship is of prime importance in this particular crime.
> Homicide is a dynamic relationship between two or
> more persons caught up in a life drama where they
> operate in a direct, interactional relationship.[2]

This element of personalization or to be more precise

"interactional relationship" is of extreme importance in the study

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[1]Marvin Wolfgang. "The Victims Contribution," Terence
Morris and Louis Blom-Cooper, Studies in Homicide, Harper and
Row, New York, 1967, p. 66.

[2]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 203.

of criminal homicide. If we establish an understanding of the concept interaction, a more sophisticated understanding of criminal homicide will evolve.

Wolfgang postulated the distribution of interpersonal relationships existing between victim and offender in criminal homicide evidences its zenith for those relationships characterized as relatively close, intimate, personal, and direct or those of a primary group.[3] By primary group is meant:

> A number of persons who communicate or interact with one another often over a span of time, and who are few enough so that each person is able to communicate with all the others, not at secondhand, through other people, but face-to-face.[4]

His data strongly supported his postulate. Those categories, classified as primary contacts, constituted sixty-five (65) per cent of all victim-offender relationships.[5]

This primary relationship phenomenon seems to be universal, evidenced by numerous researchers in many parts of the world. In Denmark, Dane found that homicide victims were among acquaintances and family nine times out of ten. The family members of the offender were the most frequent source of victims; acquaintances were the second largest source of victims and strangers were the smallest source of victims.[6] In India, Driver reports that

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[3]Ibid., pp. 203-212.

[4]George C. Homans. The Human Group, Harcourt, Brace, and World, Inc., New York, 1950, p. 1.

[5]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 206.

[6]Kaare Svalastoga. "Homicide and Social Contact in Denmark," American Journal of Sociology, 62:37-41, July 1956.

criminal homicide in India usually involves interaction between

kinsman or close associates rather than strangers and between

persons of the same sex, religion, and caste.[7] Von Hentig in

Germany, and MacDonald in England and Wales found similar

relationships to be true of their samples.[8]

A reason for this primary relationship occurrence in

criminal homicide is provided by George C. Homans in his book,

The Human Group. Homans asserts:

> Interaction between persons leads to sentiments of
> liking, which express themselves in new activities,
> and these in turn mean further interaction. The more
> frequently persons interact with one another, the
> more alike in some respect both their activities and
> their sentiments tend to become. Moreover, the more
> a person's activities and sentiments resembles those
> of others, the more likely it is that interaction
> between him and these others will increase.[9]

What has emerged here is triatic cycle of elements creating a

primary relationship.

Before continuing with this notion, a definition of the

concepts activity, interaction, and sentiment are necessary. The

author used these concepts in similar fashion as did Homans. In

terms of explanation, the abstractness of these concepts is both

justifiable and beneficial.

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[7]Edwin D. Driver. "Interaction and Criminal Homicide in India," Social Forces, 40:153-158, December 1961.

[8]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, pp. 219-220.

[9]Homans. pp. 119-120.

Interaction

The word communication may have been used, but communication is lacking generality, and in a sense is too specific. When one hears communication he thinks in terms of words. Interaction is expressed as verbal as well as non-verbal.

> When we refer to the fact that some unit of activity of one man follows, or, if we like the word better, is stimulated by some unit of activity of another aside from any question of what these units may be, then we are referring to interaction.[10]

Sentiment

Affection, sympathy, respect, pride, antagonism, and scorn all refer to internal states of the human body. These states have been called emotions, drives, motives, feelings or attitudes by many persons, but here they shall be called sentiments.

> We infer the existence of internal states of the human body and call them anger, irritation, sympathy, respect, pride, and so forth. Above all, we infer the existence of sentiments from what men say about what they feel and from the echo that their words find in our own feelings.[11]

Not all sentiments are of a healthy variety, for example: improper channeling of affection, antagonism or anger. Nor are all activities socially acceptable especially when they become aggressive, detrimental, or violent. Homans claims:

> Two persons that interact with one another tend to like one another only if the activities each carries on do not irritate the other too much. If either of

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[10] Ibid., pp. 35-37.

[11] Ibid., pp. 37-39.

them behaves in an irritating way, the mere fact of
bringing them together, increasing their interaction,
may increase negative rather than positive sentiments.[12]

Homans further states, "All sentiment seeks expression in
action."[13] With these statements being true, negative sentiments
may be climaxed by negative activity; and this negative activity
may be an act of criminal homicide. To look at this situation in
full perspective the writer suggests that interaction of an
irritating fashion creates negative sentiments, which may very well
express themselves in a violent activity, criminal homicide.

Activity

Work or action may have been used instead of activity,
but they lack the necessary abstractness. Activity is an element,
not to be divided or placed in categories. Instead, it may be
measured. To be more precise, we can say activity refers to
movements of the muscles of a person even though the importance
of some movements, like talk and ceremony, depend on their
symbolic meaning.[14]

Clinard suggests that most violent aggressive crimes are
a reaction, emerging from "social interaction" where the
predicament has been outlined as needing the use of violence:

In order for such an act generally to take place,
all parties must come to perceive the situation as
one requiring violence. If only one responds in a

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[12]Ibid., p. 116.

[13]Ibid., p. 118.

[14]Ibid., p. 34.

dispute, it is not likely to become violent; likewise, if only one of the disputants is accustomed to the use of violence, and the other is not, the dispute is likely to end only in a verbal argument. On the other hand, when a cultural norm is defined as calling for violence by a person in social interplay with another who harbors the same response, serious altercations, fist fights, physical assaults with weapons, and violent domestic quarrels, all of which may end in murder, may result. In the process of an argument, A and B both define the initial situation as a serious threat, B then threatens A physically, A threatens B, and B then threatens A. By circular reaction, the situation can then rapidly build up to a climax where one takes serious overt action, partly because of the fear of the one for the other. Consequently, the victim, by being a contributor to the circular reaction of an argument increasing in its physical intensity, may precipitate his own injury or death.[15]

By no means does the primary relationship syndrome that has been illustrated explain all criminal homicide, but the majority of criminal homicide cases are this type.[16]

The writer thus far has devoted much of his research selection to the victim-offender relationship, which is only one of several variables being investigated by this research. This has been done because the remaining variables are interrelated with the victim-accused relationship.

In light of previous studies done on the relationship between social interaction and violence, and Homan's analogy of the group the following null hypothesis will be tested:

1-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and the type of interpersonal relationship.

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[15]Marshall B. Clinard. Sociology of Deviant Behavior, 3rd. ed., Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Inc., New York, 1957, pp. 263-264.

[16]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 206.

Race

Merton might suggest that Negroes are caught up in a dilemma of being isolated and restricted from institutional means to achieve the approved goals of the dominant culture, and thus be more likely to commit crime.[17]

Wolfgang remarks:

> . . . if a careful, detached scholar knew nothing about crime rates but was aware of the social, economic and political disparities between whites and Negroes in the United States, and if this diligent researcher had prior knowledge of the historical status of the American Negro, what would be the most plausible hypothesis our scholar could make about the crime rate of Negroes? Even this small amount of relevant knowledge would justify the expectation that Negroes would be found to have a higher crime rate than whites.[18]

These remarks truly apply in the case of criminal homicide. In Philadelphia, 1948-1952, Negroes comprised only 18 per cent of the city's population, accounted for 75 per cent of the arrests for criminal homicide, and represented 73 per cent of the total victims.[19] In St. Louis, for the years 1949 and 1951, an investigation of murder and non-negligent manslaughter revealed that Negroes committed 73 per cent of these homicides, and only represented 18 per cent of the city's population.[20] Harlan, in a study of 500 criminal homicides between the years 1937 and 1944 in Birmingham, Alabama, found a Negro victim rate of 49.0 and a

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[17]Wolfgang. Studies in Homicide, p. 8.

[18]Ibid., p. 8.

[19]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 31.

[20]Ibid., p. 45.

Negro offender rate of 48.0. Negroes comprised 40 per cent of that city's population, and yet 85 per cent of the criminal homicide offenders were Negro.[21] "Statistics on homicide and other assaultive crimes in the United States consistently show that Negroes have rates between four and ten times higher than whites."[22]

"The crimes of Negroes against persons are directed largely against members of their own race. Of 108 admitted to North Carolina prisons for first degree murder between 1950 and 1960, 96 had been convicted of slaying another Negro."[23] Wolfgang reported that in Philadelphia, 94 per cent of the 550 identified relationships involved persons of the same race.[24]

Further analysis of criminal homicide literature suggests an explanation for this high proportion of Negro rates is not to be found in any biological complexities of race, but rather in terms of social class.

> Whenever a culture is racially heterogeneous, with a
> minority that is subservient, suppressed, or in some
> other manner superordinated by a ruling majority, the
> minority group is likely to be viewed as socially
> inferior and to have a high proportion of its members
> in the lower social and economic class.[25]

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[21]Ibid., pp. 42-44.

[22]Wolfgang and Ferracuti. p. 264.

[23]Johnson. pp. 78-79.

[24]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 222.

[25]Wolfgang and Ferracuti. p. 263.

Homans states, "Interaction is accompanied by friendliness among the members of a group," the lower social and economic class, "only if the group as a whole is maintaining itself in its environment," the ruling majority or dominant culture.[26]

In reference to previous studies done on the relationship between race and criminal homicide the following null hypothesis will be tested:

2-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and race.

Age

Criminal homicide is a crime of the young.

Almost universally it can be asserted that the highest incidence of assaultive crimes like homicide are committed by young offenders, most of whom are in their twenties, many of whom are in their late teens or early thirties.[27]

High among the crimes of the young adult (21-34) are assaults and criminal homicide.[28] In J. J. Kilpatrick's study of "Murder in the Deep South," he found seventy per cent (70%) of the deaths were caused by persons between 16 and 37 years of age.[29] MacDonald revealed that persons between the ages 21 to 40 years constituted the largest proportion of murder in England and

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[26]Homans. p. 117.

[27]Marvin Wolfgang and Franco Ferracuti. The Subculture of Violence, Tavistock Publications, New York, 1969, p. 258.

[28]Elmer Hubert Johnson. Crime, Correction, and Society, The Dorsey Press, Illinois, 1968, p. 70.

[29]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, pp. 76-77.

Wales.[30] DePorte and Parkhurst speak in terms of a bell-shaped curve of homicides according to age.

> The curve of homicides according to age is bell-shaped, having a maximum in young adult life, 25-34 years, the rate falling off in the younger and older ages. Somewhat more than half of the persons murdered were between 25 and 45, the median age for the entire group being 35.3 years. The median age of the males, 35.7 years, was greater than that of females, 33.8 years. The highest rate among the males was 9.3; among females, 2.5--both in the age group 25.34 years.[31]

More recently Wolfgang, in an intensive five year study of Philadelphia criminal homicide, also finds criminal homicide to be a crime of the young adult. He further provides evidence of a significant age differential between the offender and the victim. Wolfgang found offenders as a group, between five and ten years younger than victims. In Philadelphia the median age for offenders was 31.9 years, for victims it was 35.1, a median difference of 3.2 years.[32]

Despite inclinations of previous studies concerned with the relationship between age and criminal homicide the following null hypothesis will be tested:

3-H_o There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and age.

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[30]Ibid., p. 77.

[31]Ibid.

[32]Ibid., p. 65.

Sex

Numerous sources of literature indicate criminal homicide
to be a predominately male activity. This is especially true of
the United States. In many countries women comprise a good
proportion of criminal homicide, but laws of criminal homicide
differ from country to country, and comparison of pure statistics
may afford a misleading perspective.[33] Durkheim has suggested
that a woman may:

> . . . kill others less, not because of physiological
> differences from men but because she does not parti-
> cipate in collective life in the same way. Indeed we
> are inclined to forget that there are murders of which
> she has monopoly, infanticides, abortions, and
> poisoning. Whenever homicide is within her range she
> commits it as often or more than men. According to
> Oettingen, half the total number of domestic murder is
> attributable to her. So there is no reason to suppose
> that she has greater respect for another's life because
> of her congenital constitution; she merely lacks as
> frequent opportunities, being less involved in the
> struggle of life. The causes impelling to sanquinary
> crimes affect her less than men because she is less
> within their sphere of influence.[34]

Wolfgang found 76 per cent of the total victims to be male, and
82 per cent of the offenders were male.[35]

Verkko speaks of "Laws" of sex and homicide, a static
and a dynamic law. The static law states:

> In countries of high frequency of crimes against life
> the participation of women in these crimes is small:

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[33]Wolfgang. Studies in Homicide, pp. 36-44.

[34]Emile Durkheim. Suicide, Glencoe, Illinois, The Free
Press, 1951, pp. 341-342.

[35]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 32.

and vice versa: in countries of low frequency of
crimes against life the participation of women in
these crimes is perceptible larger than in countries
of high frequency of crimes against life.[36]

The dynamic law states:

If the frequency of crimes against life in a country
tends to increase, the increase primarily affects
the number of male criminals, and vice versa: if
the frequency of crimes against life in a certain
country is on the decline, the decline primarily
affects the number of male criminals.[37]

Both these laws will be applied to the data of this thesis.

Wolfgang suggests a more defined explanation of sex and

homicide in terms of the interrelationship between race and sex:

The difference in frequency of criminal homicide is
significantly greater between the races within each
sex than the difference between the sexes within each
race. In short, race is more important than sex
differences in contributing to the phenomenon of
criminal homicide.[38]

This interrelationship between races and sex in homicide will

also be pursued in this thesis.

Wolfgang found Negro females accounted for more homicide

than Caucasian males: Negro females (9.3 per 100,000); white

males (3.4 per 100,000). He further discovered that men most

often kill men, and women also most often kill men.[39]

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[36]Wolfgang. Studies in Homicide, p. 42.

[37]Ibid., p. 42.

[38]Herbert A. Block and Gilbert Geis. Man, Crime, and
Society, Random House, New York, 1962, p. 266.

[39]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, pp. 34-35.

Concerning the previous research done on the relationship
between sex and criminal homicide the proceeding null hypotheses
will be tested:

4-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and sex.

5-H_0 There is no significant relationship between the frequency of criminal homicide and the participation of women.

6-H_0 There is no significant relationship between the increase or decrease in the frequency of criminal homicide and the participation of women.

Social Class

In the preceding section on race, the significance of
social class is mentioned. A more detailed analysis of social
class as a variable of criminal homicide will be pursued here.

Henry and Short report a relationship between suicide
and homicide according to social class. "The higher the class
status the higher the incidence of suicide, the lower the class
status, the higher the incidence of homicide."[40]

Gold reports a relationship between the way aggression was
socialized in an individual and whether he directs his frustrations
outward or inward. He found:

. . . persons of a higher status have learned to direct
their frustrations inward, and as a result, have a higher
rate of suicide than members of the lower class. Persons
of a low status direct their frustrations in an outward
fashion and have higher rates of homicide than members of
the higher class.[41]

[40]Wolfgang. Studies in Homicide, p. 5.

[41]Martin Gold. "Suicide, Homicide, and the Socialization of
Aggression," American Journal of Sociology, 63:651-661, May 1968.

Ferracuti and Wolfgang speak of social class in terms of a subculture.

> There is some evidence that social class differences in child-rearing practices produce differential attitudes and conduct relative to the use of physical aggression. The socialisation process is in part built around a complex of attitudes and values transmitted by parents and significant others in the life of a child. When these values are shared by a group, when they are manifested as norms prescribing conduct for group members, when many critical parts of these norms are different from the normative system of the larger society, we may refer to the existence of a subculture.[42]

This outward aggression of the lower class was found to exist in Wolfgang's Philadelphia study.

> In 1958, reporting on my Philadelphia study of homicide and reviewing previous sociological studies with rates according to social class indicators, I noted that in the five-year Philadelphia study all homicides had been committed by representatives from the blue-collar, lower social and economic class, especially the laboring, unskilled working group.[43]

Ferri in Italy, Brearley in the United States, Morris and Blom-Cooper in England, Verkko in Finland, and Lamont in South Africa all report the same relationship between economic class and homicide.[44]

These various selections of literature seem to suggest aggression as a part of the life style of the lower social and economic classes. This is not restricted solely to class

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[42]F. Ferracuti and M. E. Wolfgang. "Design for a Proposed Study of Violence: A Socio-Psychological Study of a Subculture of Violence," British Journal of Criminology, 3:377, April 1964.

[43]Wolfgang. Studies in Homicide, p. 5.

[44]Wolfgang and Ferracuti. The Subculture of Violence, p. 261.

distinction, for a certain life style may be evidenced in terms of age, the young and the elder; sex, the male and the female; race, the Negro and the white. "Although age, sex, and race are physical characteristics, their relationship to crime is largely sociocultural. Social relationships involve behavior standards centering around the individuals social position in groups."[45]

As mentioned earlier in this survey of literature most criminal homicides emerge from primary relationships,[46] and the variables of age, sex, race and socio-economic class may very well be selection factors in forming primary relationships. That is to say, persons of the same socio-economic class, age group, and race develop mutual sentiments leading to increased interaction and thus increased activity.[47] Therefore it is of logical sequence to assume that criminal homicide will occur among persons of the same socio-economic class, within the same age group, and within their own race. This does not hold true for the sex category-- women lack participation in what Durkheim terms "collective life," they are not as well integrated within the social setting as men, and they lack the opportunity to form primary relationships with other women.[48] Although criminal homicides involving female offenders also most often emerge from primary relationships,

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[45]Johnson. pp. 83-84.

[46]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 206.

[47]Homans. pp. 119-120.

[48]Durkheim. pp. 341-342.

these relationships are most often with men, especially among family relationships.[49]

Pertaining to the foregoing studies concerned with the relationship between social class and criminal homicide the succeeding null hypothesis will be tested:

7-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and social class.

Previous Record

"Career criminals make crime a definite part of their life organization."[50]   Clinard asserts that most offenders of crimes against the person are of the noncareer type.[51]

Pittman and Handy in a St. Louis study found the majority of personal offenders to have had no previous arrest record, and among those that did few were crimes against the person.[52] Becker asserts that when a criminal group's attitudes toward an individual are internalized by him and when his actions reflect these attitudes he is committed to criminality.[53]   These elements necessary for commitment to criminality that Becker speaks of are not present among most murders and assaulters

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[49]Wolfgang.   Patterns in Criminal Homicide, Table 24, p. 207.

[50]Clinard.   p. 256.

[51]Ibid.

[52]David J. Pittman and William Handy.   "Patterns in Criminal Aggravated Assault," Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology, and Police Science, 55:462-470, 1964.

[53]Howard S. Becker.   "Notes on the Concept of Commitment," American Journal of Sociology, 66:34, July, 1960.

according to Clinard. Clinard states, "In fact, most murderers and assaulters do not conceive of themselves as being 'criminals,' for there is seldom identification with crime, and criminal behavior as such is not a meaningful part of their lives."[54]

The situation of criminal homicide's being the first offense on the part of the offender was found not to be true in Wolfgang's Philadelphia study. He found 64 per cent of the offenders had a previous arrest record (400 of 621 offenders). Of these 400 persons with a previous arrest record, 66 per cent of them were arrested for crimes against the person; and of this 66 per cent, 48 per cent were arrests for aggravated assault. The remaining 34 per cent had previous arrest records for crimes other than those against the person.[55] In terms of sex, men constituted a larger percentage, with a previous arrest record than did women; and in terms of race Negroes had a higher percentage than did whites.[56]

Regarding previous studies pertaining to the relationship between previous record and criminal homicide the proceeding null hypothesis will be tested.

8-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and previous arrest record.

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[54]Clinard. p. 259.

[55]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, pp. 175-178.

[56]Ibid., pp. 175-176.

Size of Area

Block and Geis claim, "murder shows an erratic pattern in regard to the size of the city, with higher rates in metropolitan and rural areas than in intermediate size cities."[57]

In order to qualify as metropolitan, according to the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (S M S A's), U.S. Bureau of the Census, the following requisites must apply: "an SMSA's is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or 'twin cities' with a combined population of at least 50,000."[58]

Neither Warren County nor the six immediate bordering counties would qualify as a metropolitan area according to these standards. The largest city within this seven county area, Bowling Green, is in Warren County. Bowling Green constitutes a population of 36,253.[59] Other than Bowling Green, Warren County is predominately made up of small towns, villages or hamlets, few of which exceed the population of 2,500, thus they qualify as rural.[60] So, with the exception of Bowling Green, Warren County

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[57]Block and Geis. p. 264.

[58]Jack P. Gibbs. "Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas," Urban Research Methods, D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey, 1961, p. 53.

[59]Barren River Regional Crime Prevention and Control Plan--1971-1972, Bowling Green, Kentucky, (p. 9 table 4; p. 10 table 5).

[60]Fuad Baali and Joseph S. Vandiver. "Urban Places, Urbanized Areas and Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas," Urban Sociology, Appleton-Century-Crafts, New York, 1970, p. 41.

should be considered a rural area. Bowling Green would qualify as a urban city of intermediate size, with a population greater than 2,500 and less than 50,000.[61]

Clinard presents a table of crimes, known to the police, per 100,000, and finds a direct relationship between the population of city and crime. As the population increases the crime rate increases. Only the murder and nonnegligent manslaughter rates are presented although the other crimes listed follow the same pattern.[62]

	Population	Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter
I	Over 25,000	9.9
II	100,000-250,000	6.9
III	50,000-100,000	3.6
IV	25,000-50,000	3.4
V	10,000-25,000	2.8
VI	Under 10,000	2.1

SOURCE: Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States," Uniform Crime Reports--1966 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1967), pp. 96-97. Duplicated by Clinard, p. 104.

According to this table persons living in rural settings within the county should constitute a very low criminal homicide

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[61]Ibid., pp. 41-43.

[62]Clinard. table 3.8, p. 104.

rate.[63] Other than Bowling Green, there are no towns with a population over 10,000 within Warren County;[64] and therefore, county dwellers should contrive a criminal homicide rate close to 2.1.[65] Bowling Green being an intermediate size city should maintain a low criminal homicide rate,[66] but would be, according to the above table, expected to produce a higher rate than that of the rest of the county. Bowling Green should have a rate similar to other cities its size, 3.4.[67]

Because of an earlier statement to the effect that most criminal homicides evolve from primary relationships,[68] and the statement from Block and Geis that higher rates of murder are found in metropolitan and rural areas,[69] one would expect to find Warren County with a high criminal homicide rate. The city of Bowling Green being an intermediate size city should have a low rate.[70] If Bowling Green has a high criminal homicide rate, the author feels it is because Bowling Green attracts many rural persons for various reasons: business,

[63]Ibid.

[64]Barren River Regional Crime Prevention and Control Plan--1971-1972, p. 10.

[65]Clinard. table 3.8, p. 104.

[66]Block and Geis. p. 264.

[67]Clinard. table 3.8, p. 104.

[68]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, pp. 205-206.

[69]Block and Geis. p. 264.

[70]Barren River Regional Crime Prevention and Control Plan--1971-1972, table 5, p. 10.

shopping, visiting, and entertainment, etc.; and these rural

residents constitute a large proportion of the city's criminal

homicide rate.

Primary relationships may play a significant role in

the explanation of rural areas having a higher criminal homicide

rate. Burgess speaks of rural life as being made up of close

personal relationships:

> But the main characteristics of small-town life stand
> out in clear perspective: close acquaintanceship of
> everyone with everyone else, the dominance of personal
> relations, and the subjection of the individual to
> continuous observation and control by the community
> . . . This fund of concrete knowledge which everyone
> else in the small town naturally emphasizes and
> accentuates the role of the personal in all relation-
> ships and activities of community life. Approval
> and disapproval of conduct, likes and dislikes of
> persons, play correspondingly a tremendous part in
> social life, in business, in politics, and in the
> administration of justice.[71]

In light of previous studies concerning the ecological

variable of an area's population and its relationship with

criminal homicide the following null hypothesis will be tested:

$9\text{-}H_0$ There is no significant relationship between
criminal homicide and residency patterns.

Time and Place of Criminal Homicide

"Every crime occurs somewhere--at some particular place in

space. Are there spatial patterns observable in criminal

homicide?"[72]

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[71]Clinard. p. 99.

[72]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 7.

Block and Geis approximate murder to be highest during the months of December, August, and June, in that order. They suggest, the warm weather encourages persons to become more mobile and increase interpersonal contacts. The increase of personal contacts is also high during the month of December, especially family contacts.[73]

Wolfgang found the association between the seasons and number of criminal homicide insignificant:[74]

> Using a winter, spring-autumn, and summer trichotomy
> for the twelve months, we note that more homicides
> occur during the hot months of May, June, July, and
> August (36 per cent); followed closely by the relatively
> warm spring and autumn months of March, April,
> September, and October (35 per cent); and that the
> lowest frequency is in the winter months of January,
> February, November, and December (28 per cent).[75]

"Homicides are likely to stem from quarrels which can occur at any time."[76]

Harlan found criminal homicide to be predominately a weekend and night-time occurrence. Of 500 criminal homicides studied, 24.6 per cent of them occurred on Saturday and 27.2 per cent on Sunday; he also found 53.4 per cent of all criminal homicides studied occurred between 8:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.[77]

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[73]Block and Geis. p. 168.

[74]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 99.

[75]Ibid.

[76]Johnson. p. 47.

[77]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 110.

In a study of 208 murderers sentenced to death,
MacDonald, in England and Wales, found this same occurrence--
with the highest number of murders on Saturday. Almost half
of the murders were between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 2:00
a.m.[78] The 1961 Annual Statistical Report, Detroit Police
Department, reported criminal homicide to be highest from 8:00
p.m. to midnight, and from midnight to 4:00 a.m. the second
highest.[79] The Philadelphia data revealed the highest criminal
homicide rate to be on Saturday 31.8, the second highest on
Friday 17.0, and the next highest on Sunday 16.8.[80] Half or
50 per cent of the criminal homicides were between the hours
of 8:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m., and 25 per cent between the hours
of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.[81]

Wolfgang also found that 51.2 per cent of the criminal
homicides occurred in the home. Those outside the home most
often occurred on the highway (public street, alley, or field)
30.1 per cent. Criminal homicide involving Negroes is more apt
to occur in the home than it is if only whites are involved
(53.3 per cent versus 43.5 per cent). Also, homicide involving
females is more apt to occur in the home than when involving
males (79.8 per cent versus 44.7 per cent).[82]

[78]Ibid., p. 111.

[79]Johnson. Tables 2-8, p. 46.

[80]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, table 9, p. 107.

[81]Ibid., p. 109.

[82]Ibid., table 12 and table 13, pp. 123-124.

Despite implications of previous studies relating to the relationship between variables of time and criminal homicide the following null hypotheses will be tested:

10-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and the time of day.

11-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and the time of the week.

12-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and the months of the year.

Alcohol

In his book, Patterns in Criminal Homicide, Wolfgang lists several studies which involve the association of alcohol and the victim, but none of these is as significant, for my research, as is Wolfgang's Philadelphia study. He classifies his data as follows:

a) alcohol present in both victim and the offender,
b) alcohol present in the victim only,
c) alcohol present in the offender only,
d) alcohol present in the homicide situation,
e) alcohol absent from the homicide situation.[83]

Alcohol was present in the homicide situations 63.6 per cent of the total cases. The highest incidence of alcohol being present in the homicide situation was experienced by the Negro male 70.1 per cent and the lowest by the white female, 44.2 per cent.[84]

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[83]Ibid., p. 135.

[84]Ibid., table 14, p. 136.

When looking at the association of alcohol and criminal homicide one should maintain caution.

> Particular caution must be exercised in evaluating the presence of alcohol in these homicides, since drinking--particularly on Saturday night, the time of highest incidence of homicide--is an integral part of the mores of most groups involved in this crime. A significantly higher proportion of weekend homicides than of homicides occurring during the remainder of the week had alcohol present (in either the victim, the offender, or both). An association between alcohol, weekend slayings, and the payment of wages on Friday was indicated and crudely confirmed by the available data. We have, therefore, suggested that when the socio-economic group most likely to commit homicide almost simultaneously receives its weekly wages, purchases alcohol, and meets together socially, it is not unlikely that the incidence of homicide should also rise.[85]

Bowling Green affords an interesting situation for testing the association of alcohol and criminal homicide. Bowling Green is a wet city (legal sale of alcohol) in a dry county (illegal sale of alcohol). As previously mentioned, persons come to Bowling Green for various reasons; and drinking may very well be a major reason.

In light of previous studies done on the relationship between the presence of alcohol and homicide the following null hypothesis will be tested:

13-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and presence or absence of alcohol.

Chapter II has been concerned with the results of previous studies of criminal homicide, and the relationship between various demological, ecological, and physique variables. The concern of

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[85]Wolfgang. Studies in Homicide, p. 22.

the proceeding chapter, Chapter III, is focused upon the structure or outline of the procedure to be followed by this thesis.

CHAPTER III

STUDY DESIGN

Due to the nature of the data and the recording procedures
of the local law enforcement agencies, no one source of data will
adequately supply the information needed for this research. The
data in this thesis will be comprised of county and city police
records. Coroner reports, court records, Commonwealth Attorney
records, and the local newspaper will also be utilized to verify
the records of the county and city.

Complete enumeration of murder and voluntary manslaughter
cases for Warren County Kentucky, from 1970 through 1971, will
be pursued and described in Chapter IV, Analysis. Cases of
involuntary manslaughter will not be included. Excusable and
justifiable homicides have also been excluded from this study.

Murder

> 'Murder' is the unlawful, willful, and felonious
> killing of another with malice aforethought, not
> in the necessary or apparently necessary self-
> defence of the slayer.[1]
>
> 'Malice aforethought' means a predetermination to
> do the act of killing without legal excuse; it

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[1]Kentucky Digest 1785 to Date, Homicide - Indians, Vol.
10 a, St. Paul Minn., West Publishing Company, May 1957, p. 18.

being immaterial at what time before the homicide
such determination was formed.[2]

Voluntary Manslaughter

One who kills another intentionally but under sudden
impulse and without premeditation is guilty of
voluntary manslaughter.[3]

Voluntary manslaughter essentially differs from
involuntary manslaughter in that in the former
intention and impulsion to kill are present, while
in the latter intent is absent and the impulse to do
the act may or may not be sudden.[4]

In this study occupation will be used to determine socio-

economic status. Subjects will be classified according to the

following occupation scale:

  0
  1 Professional, technical, and managerial occupations
  2 Clerical and sales occupations
  3 Service occupations
  4 Farming, fishing, forestry, and related occupations
  5 Processing occupations
  6 Machines trades occupations
  7 Bench work occupations
  8 Structural work occupations
  9 Miscellaneous occupations[5]

Each individual occupation will be classified by the Dictionary of

Occupational Titles in order to place it in one of the above

categories.

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[2]Ibid., p. 19.

[3]Ibid., p. 34.

[4]Ibid.

[5]Dictionary of Occupational Titles, 1965, Vol. II,
Occupational Classification, 3rd ed., U.S. Dept. of Labor (U.S.
Gov. Printing Office, Washington, D.C.).

Data from the various sources will be hand recorded.
For purposes of manipulation and analysis, they will later be
transferred to I.B.M. cards. These I.B.M. data cards will be
run through the counter sorter for table construction, and tests
of significance will be calculated. Significance levels will
be obtained by calculating a one-way Chi-Square.[6] Census data
will be utilized for the application of this test of significance.

Having described the source of the data, and the procedure
of collection and analysis, Chapter IV, Analysis, will follow.

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[6]Hubert M. Blalock. <u>Social Statistics</u>, New York, McGraw-
Hill Book Company, 1960, pp. 215-220.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

Previous research concerning the victim-offender
interpersonal relationship indicates criminal homidice to be a
highly personalized crime. Classification and presentation of
the motives for the criminal homicide would contribute to the
description of the interpersonal relationship; however, due to
the form of the data, motives are not known for all the cases.
Where motives are known, they were obtained through the personal
knowledge of the Warren County Coroner, and newspaper clippings
from the local newspaper.

Table 1 describes the interpersonal relationship in terms
of four sub-types. The first and second sub-types, relatively
close friends and family relationships, comprise the primary
contacts; and the third and fourth sub-types, acquaintances and
strangers, comprise the non-primary contacts.

Primary contacts comprise (75.0 per cent) of the victim-
accused interpersonal relationships. There is no apparent
difference between the races or sexes as to the existing type of
interpersonal relationship. Table 1 reveals that 75.0 per cent
of the males and 75.0 per cent of the females involved in criminal
homicide evolved from primary contact relationships. Criminal

TABLE 1

TYPE OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND ACCUSED,
BY RACE AND SEX OF VICTIM, CRIMINAL HOMICIDE
WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
1970-1971

Interpersonal Relationship	Both Races			Negro			White		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Kin relationships	8	4	4	2	1	1	6	3	3
Relatively close friends	13	11	2	6	4	2	7	7	0
Acquaintances	4	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	0
Strangers	3	2	1	0	0	0	3	2	1
Total[a]	28	20	8	11	7	4	17	13	4

[a]For two victims there has been no accused to this date.

homicide emerged from primary contacts in 76.9 per cent of the white, and in 72.7 per cent of the Negro total criminal homicide cases. Of the eight family relationship criminal homicides seven or 87.5 per cent of them were between husbands and wives or ex-husbands and wives. Of the total female victims 50.0 per cent were killed by their husband or ex-husband, and 25.0 per cent were killed by a boyfriend. Every female accused of criminal homicide was accused of killing a male with whom they had had a primary contact relationship. These results indicate that when females are killed, they are most often killed by a family relative, usually her husband, or by a relatively close friend, frequently her boy friend. When a female kills, she most often kills a family relation, usually her husband, or a close friend, usually her boy friend. Only 10.7 per cent of the victims were unknown by their assailants. In one of these two criminal homicides among strangers the apparent motive was burglary.

> While attempting to break-in on a local business establishment, the night watchman fired two shots through a back door. The second shot killed one of the three perpetrators. His two companions were charged with his murder.

In the other criminal homicide that occurred among strangers the apparent motive was trespassing.

> Four youths, while parked beside the road, were interrupted by a pecking sound on the car window. When they looked up a man started shooting from his automatic rifle. The driver and one passenger escaped to the woods across the road, the other two passengers were killed.

The only cross racial criminal homicide that occurred in Warren County in 1970 and 1971 was among acquaintances. The apparent motive was robbery.

> A 76 year old Negro woman was beaten to death,
> and then covered with newspapers and set on fire.
> Her assailant was a middle aged white man, who
> had done some odd jobs for her in the past.

The circumstances of the criminal homicides that have been described are exceptions. Most criminal homicides occur among primary contact relationships. Primary contacts are aware of each others personal qualities and have had enough time for form feelings about one another. When interaction creates negative sentiments among primary contacts, these sentiments have a great personal impact which may encourage a negative activity to evolve such as violent aggressive behavior that may result in one's injury or death.

In conclusion, the results in Table 1 indicate criminal homicide to be most frequent (75.0 per cent) among primary contacts, relatively close friends and family relationships. The data of Table 1 yields a Chi-Square value of 8.86. In light of these results the following null hypothesis was rejected at the .05 level of significance.

> 1-H_0 There is no significant relationship between
> criminal homicide and the type of interpersonal
> relationship. This was rejected at the .05
> level of significance.

Race, Age, and Sex

Criminal homicide in Warren County Kentucky is predominately comprised of whites. Regardless of sex, whites exceed Negroes as both victims and accused. The actual extent is summarized in Table 2.

Whites comprise 63.3 per cent of the total number of victims and 68.8 per cent of the total number of those accused. White males make up the highest percentage of both the total number of the victims (50.0 per cent) and accused (62.5 per cent). The lowest percentage of victims, as shown in Table 2, were the categories of the Negro females (13.3 per cent) and the white females (13.3 per cent). In the accused column of Table 2, Negro females represented the lowest percentage (3.2 per cent).

In Wolfgang's Philadelphia study of criminal homicide, Negroes comprised 73.0 per cent of the total number of victims, and 75.0 per cent of the total number of offenders.[1]

> Negroes are arrested for criminal homicide both in the nation as a whole, and in Philadelphia, proportionately four times greater than their proportion in either the national or city population.[2]

While the percentages in Table 2 appear to refute the findings of Wolfgang, on a proportion basis they are quite similar. Negroes represent less than 8.6 per cent of the Warren County population;[3]

[1] Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 31.

[2] Ibid., p. 39.

[3] United States Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, General Population Characteristics, Final Report PC (1) - B19 Kentucky.

TABLE 2

VICTIMS AND ACCUSED, CRIMINAL HOMICIDE,
WARREN COUNTY, BY RACE AND SEX,
1970-1971

Race and Sex	Victims		Accused	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Both Races				
Male	22	73.3	29	90.6
Female	8	26.7	3	9.4
Total	30	100.0	32	100.0
Negro				
Male	7	23.3	9	28.1
Female	4	13.3	1	3.2
Total	11	36.6	10	31.3
White				
Male	15	50.0	20	62.5
Female	4	13.3	2	6.3
Total	19	63.3	22	68.8

thus in Warren County, like Philadelphia and the nation as a whole, the Negro homicide rate is approximately four times greater than their population.

Criminal homicide in Warren County for the two year period, 1970-1971, was predominately comprised of whites, 63.3 per cent of the victims, and 68.8 per cent of the accused. For the relationship between race and criminal homicide Table 3-A (victims), yields a Chi Square value of 7.1, and Table 3-B (accused), a Chi Square value of 10.3. In light of these results the following null hypothesis was rejected at the .01 level for the victims and the .01 level for the accused.

2-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and race. Rejected at the $P < .01$ level for the victims and $P < .01$ level for the accused.

Further relationships of race and sex may develop in terms of a third variable, age. As has been suggested by previous literature, criminal homicide is a crime of the young. Table 3 summarizes the age distribution, by race and sex. Observation of Table 3 (A and B) reveals the age groups (15-24) and (25-34) contained the largest number of victims, nine each, and the age group (25-34) contained the largest number of the accused. When the first and second age groups in Table 3 are collapsed (15-34) to represent the "young adult" age category, the third and fourth age groups collapse into the "middle age" category (35-54), and the fifth and sixth age groups collapsed (55 and over) into the "elderly age" category, there exists an inverse relationship between age and criminal homicide. The

TABLE 3-A

CRIMINAL HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY RACE, SEX, AND AGE
WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
1970-1971

Age	Both Races			Negro			White		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15-24	9	5	4	4	2	2	5	3	2
25-34	9	8	1	3	3	0	6	5	1
35-44	6	4	2	2	1	1	4	3	1
45-54	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
55-64	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
65 and over	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Total	30	22	8	11	7	4	19	15	4

TABLE 3-B

CRIMINAL HOMICIDE ACCUSED BY RACE, SEX, AND AGE
WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
1970-1971

Age	Both Races			Negro			White		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15-24	7	7	0	1	1	0	6	6	0
25-34	15	14	1	5	4	1	10	10	0
35-44	4	3	1	2	2	0	2	1	1
45-54	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
55-64	4	3	1	2	2	0	2	1	1
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32	29	3	10	9	1	22	20	2

young adult represents 60 per cent of the total criminal homicide victims, and 68.8 per cent of the total number of those accused of criminal homicide. The middle age category represents 26.7 per cent of the total victims, and 18.8 per cent of the accused. As age increases participation in criminal homicide decreases. Table 3-A has two victims in the age group (65 and over); its counterpart in Table 3-B has no one.

Criminal homicide in Warren County for the two year period, 1970-1971, was predominately a crime of the young adult (15-34), 60.0 per cent of the total victims, and 68.8 per cent of the total accused. The relationship between age and criminal homicide yields a Chi Square value of 5.0 for the victims and 8.1 for the accused. In light of these results the following null hypothesis was not rejected for the victims, but was rejected at the .02 level for the accused.

3-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and age. Not rejected for the victims and rejected at the $P < .02$ level for the accused.

In Warren County criminal homicide was predominately a male activity. Males constitute 73.3 per cent of the total victims and 90.6 per cent of the total accused. When men kill they most often kill men, and when women kill they also most often kill men. Of the total male victims 86.4 per cent were killed by another male, and 100.0 per cent of the females that killed, killed a male. Wolfgang found race differential to be

greater than sex differential.[4] The data of this study indicates a greater sex differential than race differential, for whites comprised 68.8 per cent of the total accused and 73.3 per cent of the total victims; whereas, Negroes comprised 31.3 per cent of the accused and 36.6 per cent of the total victims. However, males comprised 90.6 per cent of the accused, females 9.4 per cent of the accused, and 63.3 per cent of the total victims were male, 26.7 per cent were female.

Further insight into the relationship between sex and criminal homicide is revealed through the application of Verkko's sex laws of criminal homicide, the "static" and "dynamic."

The "static law" implies that in areas with a high frequency of crimes against life the participation of females will be low.[5] Warren County is an area with a high frequency of crimes against life (1970--29.6 per 100,000 and 1971--22.6 per 100,000), and the participation of females is low, 9.4 per cent of the total accused and 26.7 per cent of the total victims, thus the "static law" holds true for Warren County.

The "dynamic law" implies that as the frequency of crimes against life increase or decrease, the change will primarily affect the male criminals.[6] The criminal homicide rate in Warren County declined 7.0 per 100,000 from 1970 (29.6) to 1971 (22.6).

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[4]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 33.

[5]Marvin Wolfgang. "Static and Dynamic 'Laws' of Sex and Homicide," Veli Verkko, Studies in Homicide, Harper and Row, New York, 1967, p. 37.

[6]Ibid., p. 39.

TABLE 4

CRIMINAL HOMICIDE ACCUSED, MALE AND FEMALE,
WARREN COUNTY KENTUCKY, 1970-1971

Year	Sex of Accused		
	Female	Male	Total
1970	3	16	19
1971	0	13	13
Total	3	29	32

As can be seen in Table 4 an accurate projection of the
dynamic law of criminal homicide is hampered by the limitations of
the data. An accurate projection would require a larger number
over a longer period of time. However, the significance of the
data of Table 4 was tested through the use of the Fisher's Exact
test of significance.[7]

As the frequency of crimes against life decreased from
1970 to 1971, the frequency of male and female criminals each
decreased by three. However, on a percentage basis the frequency
of female criminals experienced the decrease, from nineteen per
cent of the total accused in 1970 to zero per cent in 1971. The
data of Table 4 revealed a Fisher's Exact score of .19. Within
the limits of this data it would appear that the dynamic law did
not hold true.

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[7]Blalock. Social Statistics, pp. 221-225.

Criminal homicide in Warren County for the two year period, 1970-1971, was predominately comprised of males, 73.3 per cent of the total victims, and 90.6 per cent of the total accused. The test for significance between sex and criminal homicide indicates a Chi Square value of 21.1 for the accused and 6.5 for the victims. In light of these results the following null hypothesis was rejected at the .01 level for the victims and at the .001 level for the accused.

4-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and sex. Rejected at the $P < .01$ level for the victims, and at the $P < .001$ level for the accused.

There was a high frequency of crimes against life in Warren County, 29.6 per 100,000 in 1970 and 22.6 per 100,000 in 1971. Women comprise 26.7 per cent of the total victims and 9.4 per cent of the total accused. Despite the high rate of criminal homicide the participation of women was relatively low, thus the "static law" applies to the data of this thesis. With a Chi Square value of 44.2 the following null hypothesis was rejected at the .001 level:

5-H_0 There is no significant relationship between the frequency of criminal homicide and the participation of women. Rejected at the $P < .001$ level.

Observation of Table 4 reveals a direct relationship between the criminal homicide rate and the participation of women, as the criminal homicide rate decreased likewise did the participation of women. The Fisher's Exact test revealed a score of .19, thus the "dynamic law" does not hold true and the following null hypothesis was not rejected:

6-H_0 There is no significant relationship between the increase or decrease in the frequency of criminal homicide and the participation of women. Not rejected.

Concerned with the low representation of women in criminal homicide, Otto Pollak refers to the "masked character" of female criminality. Pollak suggests that women revert to more undetectable means in committing murder, such as poison, and thus are not as likely to be discovered.[8] This may very well be a partial factor of explanation for the low number of females accused of criminal homicide in Warren County, for postmortem examination is not performed in Warren County, and thus some murders may very well be misidentified as some other type of death, for example heart attacks.

Social Class

The variable of occupation in this study does not require any table construction, for all criminal homicides in Warren County for the two year period 1970-1971 were comprised of blue-collar workers, especially unskilled laborers and service workers. This finding indeed supports the hypothesis of a "subculture of violence."[9] Violence may very well be a significant aspect in the life style of persons among the lower socio-economic status. These persons have learned to seek immediate gratification and to

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[8]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, p. 47.

[9]Ferracuti and Wolfgang. "Proposed Study of Violence," p. 377.

48

express their aggressive feelings in an outward manner. The author suggests socio-economic status to be a more significant factor of explanation of violent aggressive behavior, and thus criminal homicide, than any variables of physical characteristics such as: race, sex, or age. When persons of the lower socio-economic status are subjected to primary relationships where negative sentiments arise, they lack the restraint to direct these negative sentiments inward. Instead, they seek immediate satisfaction for these negative sentiments and express them outward in the form of negative activity, which may become violent.

Review of the cases reveals homogeneity of socio-economic status. All cases were comprised of persons of the lower socio-economic status; therefore, there was no need to employ any measure of socio-economic status, since it would do little by way of differentiating these people. Furthermore, there was no need for a test of significance, since all persons involved in criminal homicide in Warren County for the two year period, 1970-1971, were from the lower socio-economic status. In light of these results the following null hypothesis was rejected.

7-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and socio-economic status. This null hypothesis was rejected.

Previous Record

In this study, due to the form of the data, the previous record of the victim or accused, as a variable, could not be

developed. The author was denied the opportunity to obtain the data from the agencies that could supply such information. The only indication obtainable was discovered in newspaper coverage of the criminal homicide, which is not a valid indication of any particular pattern or trend. However, from this source, it was found that 22.0 per cent of the total number of the accused did have a previous conviction record.

Size of Area and Residency Patterns

There were thirty cases of criminal homicide in Warren County during the two year period, 1970-1971. Of these thirty cases, 60.0 per cent occurred within the Bowling Green city limits. Of these city criminal homicides, 72.2 per cent of the victims and 78.9 per cent of the accused were city residents. Only one third of the victims of criminal homicides that occurred out in the rural county area were actually residents of that area; 41.7 per cent of these victims were from another county, and 25.0 per cent were residents of Bowling Green. However, 41.7 per cent of the accused were county residents, another 41.7 per cent were residents of Bowling Green, and the remaining 17.6 per cent were from another county.

For the total number of criminal homicide victims, 53.3 per cent were residents of Bowling Green. County residents comprised 23.3 per cent of the total number of victims, and residents of another county also comprised 23.3 per cent. The largest number of the accused, like the victims, were residents

of Bowling Green, 59.4 per cent. County residents comprised 31.3 per cent of the total number of the accused, and the remaining 9.4 per cent of the accused were residents of another county. These findings indicate criminal homicide in Warren County to be predominately comprised of residents of the city of Bowling Green, not the residents of the rural portion of the county. The data of this study reveals seventy per cent of all criminal homicides were among persons of similar residency. In other words, in seventy per cent of the total number of criminal homicides the victim and accused were residents of the same area.

High rates of criminal homicide are found in the densely populated metropolitan areas, and in the sparsely populated rural areas. Intermediate size cities display a lower rate.[10] Accordingly then the city of Bowling Green, an intermediate size city with a population of 36,253, should have a lower rate of criminal homicide than the rural county area. Exclusion of Bowling Green, to determine the rate of criminal homicide in the rural county area, revealed a rate of 28.32 per one hundred thousand in 1970. The rate of criminal homicide per one hundred thousand for the city of Bowling Green that year was 33.1. In 1971, the rates coincided with what might be expected. The rural county area rate was higher than the rate of Bowling Green (28.32 versus 16.56). These findings indicate the size of a particular area to be less of a factor in explaining

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[10]Block and Geis. p. 266.

the frequency of criminal homicide than assumed. The author suggests that the type of social relationships fostered by a community are a more influential factor of explanation than the mere ecological factor of size. Despite its urban size, Bowling Green is a rural community at heart. Informal, primary relationships dominate the life style of Bowling Green. Commerce is predominately conducted on a face-to-face interaction basis, and in Bowling Green it is still important to know who someone is, rather than what someone can or cannot do. It is in this type of setting that the criminal homicide rate is high. Where day-to-day living requires continuous social contact and personal relations, sentiments emerge, and if these sentiments become negative they often seek expression in the form of negative activity, which may prosper the likelihood of crimes against life.

As previously stated, the majority of incidences of criminal homicide occurred within the Bowling Green city limits, and the major portion of the victims and accused were residents of Bowling Green. However, the city of Bowling Green contains 63.0 per cent of the total Warren County population. For the significance of the relationship between criminal homicide and residency a Chi Square value of 1.29 for the victims and 0.0 for the accused was obtained. In light of this result the following null hypothesis was not rejected.

8-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and residency patterns. This hypothesis was not rejected.

Time and Place of Criminal Homicide

The highest frequency of criminal homicides are concealed by darkness. This was true of both races and both sexes. The actual extent to which this was true is revealed through describing the various time periods, by race and sex, as they relate to criminal homicide, in Table 5.

An overwhelming percentage of criminal homicides were committed during the six hour period, 8:00 p.m.-1:59 a.m. Regardless of both race and sex, as indicated in Table 5, 8:00 p.m.-1:59 a.m. contained the highest number of homicides, 69 per cent. The first and second six hour periods, which are predominately concealed by darkness, contained 79.3 per cent of the total number of victims.

Table 6 may further aid in the description of a time pattern of criminal homicide.

Table 6 revealed criminal homicide in Warren County to be predominately a weekend phenomenon. From 8:00 p.m. Friday to midnight Sunday, 66.6 per cent of the total victims were victimized. The highest percentage of the total victims were killed on a Friday (26.6 per cent), next was Sunday (23.3 per cent), and third was Saturday (16.6 per cent). The highest percentage for the total female victims was evenly distributed, 25.0 per cent on each of the three weekend days: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. For Negro victims the pattern shifts. Saturday had the highest percentage of Negro victims (36.4 per cent), next was Friday (27.3 per cent), and third was Sunday (18.2 per cent). Males

TABLE 5

DISTRIBUTION OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE BY FOUR SIX HOUR PERIODS OF THE DAY:
BY RACE AND SEX OF THE VICTIM,
WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
1970-1971

Hours	Both Races			Negro			White		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
8:00 p.m.-1:59 a.m.	20	15	5	7	5	2	13	10	3
2:00 a.m.-7:59 a.m.	3	1	2	2	0	2	1	1	0
8:00 a.m.-1:59 p.m.	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
2:00 p.m.-7:59 p.m.	5	4	1	2	2	0	3	2	1
Total[a]	29	21	8	11	7	4	18	14	4

[a]One case deleted: time of death undetermined.

TABLE 6

DAILY DISTRIBUTION OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE
BY RACE AND SEX OF THE VICTIMS,
WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
1970-1971

Day	Both Races			Negro			White		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Monday	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1
Tuesday	4	3	1	1	1	0	3	2	1
Wednesday	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Thursday	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Friday	8	6	2	3	2	1	5	4	1
Saturday	5	3	2	4	2	2	1	1	0
Sunday	7	5	2	2	1	1	5	4	1
Total	30	22	8	11	7	4	19	15	4

experienced the highest percentage of deaths on Fridays (27.3 per cent) followed by Sunday (22.7 per cent), and Saturday and Tuesday each contained 14.3 per cent of the total male victims. Whites also experienced the highest percentage of victims on Fridays and Sundays, each comprising 26.3 per cent; however, Saturdays experienced the lowest percentage (5.3 per cent).

It was not surprising to find crimes against life to be at their peak during the darkness of night and on weekends. Between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 1:59 a.m. on the days of the weekend are when social relationships are more frequent (parties, dances, social gatherings, dating, etc.). Propinquity and interaction, quite often mixed with an increase in drinking, may encourage negative sentiments (jealousy, distrust, dislike, etc.) to seek expression in the form of negative activity (insults, arguments, fights, etc.), which may result in criminal homicide. Usually pay checks are distributed on Friday or Saturday, which may encourage persons to participate in social events that quite often require spending.

Negroes quite often have non-union jobs or service occupations which may require working on Saturday. This may partially explain why the highest percentage of the total Negro victims are victimized on Saturday nights, rather than on Fridays.

Table 7 revealed further support of the influence of social contacts and criminal homicide. Table 7 was classified by using a winter, spring-autumn, summer trichotomy.

TABLE 7

THE SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE
BY RACE AND SEX OF VICTIMS
WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
1970-1971

Season	Both Races			Negro			White		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Winter	10	7	3	3	2	1	7	5	2
Spring-Autumn	8	7	1	3	2	1	5	5	0
Summer	12	8	4	5	3	2	7	5	2
Total	30	22	8	11	7	4	19	15	4

The summer months May, June, July and August contained the highest number of victims (12 or 40.0 per cent), followed by the winter months November, December, January and February (33.3 per cent). The lowest frequency was in the spring-autumn months of March, April, September and October (27.7 per cent). Male victims showed little variation between the seasons. The female victims showed the most variation, and thus effect the distribution of the total victims. Of the white female victims, 50.0 per cent were killed in the summer months. Of the Negro female victims, 50.0 per cent were killed in the summer months, and the winter months and spring-autumn months each contained 25.0 per cent of the total Negro female victims. Female participation in criminal homicide was generally low, and may very well have illuminated the effect of social contacts and criminal homicide. Social contacts, especially family contacts, increase during the winter holidays--Christmas and New Year. With the spirit of the holidays comes more social events and parties and an increase in drinking. During the summer months, social contacts also increase due to the warm weather, which promotes mobility. People cook out, visit, travel, and vacation. Families and friends unite in festive activities. Females are generally less mobile than males and less often involved in the frequent social contacts that men experience. Whether a woman works primarily inside or outside of the home, she spends a major portion of her time in domestic duties which further hamper her mobility and number of social contacts. During the winter

holidays and summer festivities when the female is more mobile and subject to social contacts, her involvement in criminal homicide increases. As a further illustration of this point there were only three females accused of criminal homicide in this two year period, and two of these three accused females were accused of criminal homicides that occurred in the winter and summer months.

In describing the spacial patterns of criminal homicide, the place at which the homicide occurred may reveal some significant patterns in terms of race and sex of the victim. In Warren County 63.3 per cent of the criminal homicides occurred outside of the home, 43.3 per cent occurred on the public street, alley or field, and 20.0 per cent occurred in a place of business. Wolfgang found the majority of the Philadelphia criminal homicides occurred in the home (51.2 per cent).[11] The principle reason for this discrepancy between this study and the Philadelphia study is that the majority of those involved in criminal homicide in Warren County were white, and the majority of the Philadelphia study were Negro. Criminal homicides involving Negroes were more apt to occur in the home than they were if whites were involved (45.5 per cent versus 31.6 per cent). Also, criminal homicides involving females were more apt to occur in the home than when involving males (50.0 per cent

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[11]Wolfgang. Patterns in Criminal Homicide, tables 12 and 13, pp. 123-124.

versus 31.8 per cent). These findings juxtapose the findings of the Philadelphia study.

Establishing spacial patterns of Warren County criminal homicides during the two year period 1970-1971 was pursued by describing them in terms of hours of the day, days of the week, time of year, and the place where the crime occurred. This pursuit revealed criminal homicide to be a night-time occurrence (69.0 per cent) of the homicides emerged between the six hour period 8:00 p.m.-1:59 a.m. The test of significance yields a Chi Square value of 32.7. In light of this result the following hypothesis was rejected at the .001 level of significance.

9-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and the time of day. This was rejected at the $P < .001$ level.

Criminal homicide was most likely to occur on the weekend, from 8:00 p.m. Friday until midnight Sunday (66.6 per cent). The test of significance for this datum revealed a Chi Square of 6.65. In light of this result the following hypothesis was rejected at the .05 level of significance.

10-H_0 There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and the day of the week. This was rejected at the $P < .05$ level.

Criminal homicide in Warren County most often occurred during the summer months (40.0 per cent); however, there was no significant difference between the seasons, as revealed by the Chi Square value of .8. The following null hypothesis was not rejected.

11-H$_0$ There is no significant relationship between criminal homicide and the months of the year. This hypothesis was not rejected.

The place at which the criminal homicide occurred was not a hypothesis of this study; however, it is a point of interest in the description of spacial patterns of criminal homicide. In Warren County criminal homicide most frequently occurred outside the home (63.3 per cent).

Alcohol

Due to the lack of available data the consumption of alcohol was not a major variable of this research design. The information that was obtainable was supplied through the recollection of the Warren County Coroner, and newspaper clippings, which lack the validity required for the implementation of scientific research techniques.

In Warren County alcohol was present in the criminal homicide situation in 46.6 per cent of the total number of criminal homicides. Negroes comprised 57.1 per cent of those incidences where alcohol was present and males comprised 79.4 per cent of those cases.

Of those criminal homicides that involved drinking, 71.4 per cent occurred within the Bowling Green city limits, which was not surprising since Bowling Green is a wet city located within a dry county. However, 57.1 per cent of the victims and 35.7 per cent of the accused, of those criminal homicides where alcohol was present, were residents of Bowling Green. These results suggest

that persons from outside the city may desire to socialize in
Bowling Green, where the purchase and consumption of alcohol is
legal, and thus involved in many of the criminal homicides that
occurred. The majority of those criminal homicides where alcohol
was present occurred in drinking establishments (70.0 per cent).

The significance of drinking and the phenomenon of
criminal homicide is revealed in terms of socio-economic status,
as previously suggested by Wolfgang.[12] Drinking, especially on
the weekends, is associated with the life style of persons of
the lower socio-economic status. Encouraged by Friday or Saturday
pay checks, it is not at all surprising to find excessive
drinking on the weekend rather than during the work days--64.3
per cent of those cases where alcohol was present in the homicide
scene occurred on the weekend. Once these considerations have
been pointed out, it does not seem surprising to find a high
percentage of criminal homicides mixed with the flavor of alcohol.
When persons of the lower socio-economic status, the group in
which the frequency of criminal homicide is highest, receive
their weekly wages at the beginning of the weekend, purchase and
consume alcohol, and get together socially, criminal homicide is
not an unlikely situation to occur.

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[12]Wolfgang. Studies in Homicide, p. 22.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This study has been concerned with the investigation of criminal homicide in Warren County Kentucky, during 1970 and 1971, in terms of victim-accused relationship. This study revealed a significant relationship between criminal homicide and the interpersonal relationship of the victim and accused. Most frequently the victim and accused were relatively close friends or family relations. In a great number of these criminal homicides the status of victim or accused very easily could have been reversed. In several incidences both persons were armed, and it was not uncommon for the accused to have been wounded. Criminal homicide was found to be predominately intra-racial. There was only one reported interracial criminal homicide during this two year period. Victim and accused were also relatively homogeneous in terms of age. Most criminal homicides involved men. When men killed, they most often killed other men, and when women killed they also most often killed men.

There was a significant relationship between criminal homicide and the physical characteristics of race, sex, and age. Criminal homicide in Warren County for the two year period, 1970-1971, was predominately comprised of whites, both victim and

accused. Further description of the victim-accused composition revealed criminal homicide to be most often among males. Age statistics showed criminal homicide to be a crime most frequent for young adults between the ages of 15 and 34.

In this study occupation was used to determine the socio-economic status, and it was found that there exists a significant relationship between criminal homicide and socio-economic status. No measure of socio-economic status or test of significance was employed because the total number of victims and accused in 1970 and 1971 were members of the lower socio-economic class, which suggests the presence of a subculture of violence. A violent reaction for the solution of frustrations is an aspect of the life style embedded within the mores of the lower socio-economic status. Generally these persons lack the articulation to channel their frustrations verbally, and thus revert to a more physical means.

Due to the form of the data, the previous record of the victim and accused was not developed as a major variable. However, from newspaper clippings it was found that at least 20.0 per cent of those accused of criminal homicide had a previous conviction record.

The relationship between criminal homicide and residency patterns, city residents or rural county area residents, was not significant. The majority of the victims and the accused were both residents of Bowling Green; however, Bowling Green is 63.0

per cent of the Warren County population. Furthermore, the victim and accused were most often residents of the same area.

The time of day and day of the week that the criminal homicide occurred was found to be significant. Criminal homicide most often occurred between the six hour period, 8:00 p.m.- 1:59 a.m. Criminal homicide was predominately a weekend occurrence, between 8:00 p.m. Friday and midnight Sunday. Fridays had the highest frequency of criminal homicides. Despite these significant findings, the relationship between criminal homicide and the months of the year in which it occurred was not significant. A further note of interest of criminal homicide was the place where the crime occurred. In this study criminal homicide was found to occur outside of the home most often, usually on the public street, field or alley.

Presence or absence of alcohol in either the victim or accused or both was not obtainable from the data. The information of alcohol being present or absent from the homicide scene was obtained through testimony of the County Coroner and newspaper clippings. The relationship between alcohol and criminal homicide was best described in association with the life style of the lower socio-economic status.

Table 8 contains the significance levels of the various variables as they relate to criminal homicide.

TABLE 8

SIGNIFICANCE LEVELS OF VARIABLES AS
RELATED TO CRIMINAL HOMICIDE

Item	Victim	Accused
Interpersonal relationship	Sig. $P<.05$	-
Race	Sig. $P<.01$	$P<.01$
Age	Not Sig.	$P<.02$
Sex	Sig. $P<.01$	$P<.001$
Socio-economic status	Sig.[a]	-
Hour of the day	Sig. $P<.001$	-
Day of the week	Sig. $P<.05$	-
Month of the year	Not Sig.	-
Residency patterns	Not Sig.	Not Sig.

[a]Every victim and accused was of the lower socio-economic status.

Generalizations and predictions from this study are limited, due to the form of the data. In Warren County, the recording of criminal activity is insufficient, and in many incidences there are no records. Better recording procedures would not only improve the study of crime; it would also aid in police investigation. Despite the limitations of this study, it is the most intensive investigation of any form of criminal behavior in this area.

This study of criminal homicide in Warren County does not reveal the true extent of which violent aggressive behavior

exists. Observation of court records indicate that crimes of violent behavior, other than criminal homicide, represent a large portion of the total number of crimes that are brought to court. Some of these crimes are malicious shooting, shooting with intent to kill, and aggravated assault. Further research needs to be done in the area of violent aggressive crimes, as well as crime in general. Effective crime prevention must be pursued on a local level. If a community is to deal effectively with crime prevention, it must study the crime of that community.

In conclusion, it is the author's contention that no one variable examined by this research could sufficiently explain the phenomena of criminal homicide. Instead, each variable is an aspect of a criminal homicide syndrome.

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