

Chicago Black Mother's Project on Violence, Depression, Resilience, and Sociogenomics

Osazomon Imarenezor, Chemistry

Research Mentor: Ruby Mendenhall

Abstract

This paper explores the South Chicago Black Mothers' Resiliency Project that examines issues of violence, resilience, depression, and sociogenomics within the Chicago Englewood neighborhood. This study reviews the stories of 93 low-income single women from the Black Mother's Chicago project and their reasons for parenting decisions. This study looks at how the single mothers view themselves as women and as parents while living in neighborhoods with high levels of violence crime. The findings fall into three main categories: commitment to well-being, resiliency and sacrifices. We see that there is a serious commitment of the mothers to ensure that their children have the safest and enriched experience growing up in their own neighborhoods. The mothers exhibit their resiliency through an adaptation of their environment by tapping into their resources and hunkering down within their homes and neighborhoods. Lastly, these mothers are also consistently sacrificing their daily lives in order to ensure their children are healthy, and successfully functioning.