Breaking the Chain:  
America’s Incarceration Prevention of Young Urban Minorities
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History  
- Post-Civil Rights Movement and the Abandonment of Affluent Role Models in Urban Communities  
- War on Poverty and War on Drugs causing Generational Harm  
- Stereotypes and Implicit Bias in Real Life Scenarios

Data/Statistics  
- High School Dropout Rates Reflected in the “School-to-Prison” Pipeline (53%)  
- Probability of Engaging in “Combat Environment” (e.g. gang violence)

Problems Today  
- Crime rates have been declining since the 1990s, yet the amount of people incarcerated has increased from 357,292 in 1970 to 2,306,200 in 2014 due to mandatory minimum sentencing, over-policing, and drug laws.
  - The cycle of lack of equal opportunities in education, housing, jobs, resources, etc. can create a negative feeling of hopelessness that’s felt for generations.

What Has Been Done  
- Family/kinfolk tend to be the first place where children learn cultural values, but some households fall victim to instability of broken family structures or crime-ridden neighborhoods.

What Can Be Done  
- St. Louis has created “Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC)” in attempt to desegregate the county’s schools. VICC desegregated approximately 20% of county schools, compared to the mere 4% change that would’ve occurred if the program wasn’t created.
  - “Building the Block” encourages co-production and cooperation between police and community members in NYC to relieve tensions between the groups.

What Can Be Done  
- Social services, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), at the local level may provide aid at a more intimate level with community members, but county organizations still fall victim to competition with larger privatized corporations.
  - The Criminal Justice System needs to reform their $80 billion dollar failing jail system that causes more mental and health problems for people after they served their term.
  - The “Racial Empowerment Collaborative (REC)” in Pennsylvania focuses on children’s mental health when dealing with social stress.