

CANADA'S INEQUALITY STORY

RACIAL INJUSTICE V. YOUNG BLACK MEN

ADAM LAKE AP/SOCI 4230 A YORK UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT

RACIALIZED YOUTH ARE HIGHLY OVERPOPULATED WITHIN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. THE FACE OF REPRESENTATION WITHIN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM IS CHANGING. INSTITUTIONAL AND SYSTEMIC FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION LEADS TO THE CRIMINALIZATION OF MINORITY YOUTH. FROM THIS EXPERIMENTATION, SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND CULTURAL IDENTITY CONTINUES THE PRACTICE OF RACIAL ANTAGONISM, HALTING THE SOCIAL MOBILITY OF MINORITY YOUTH.

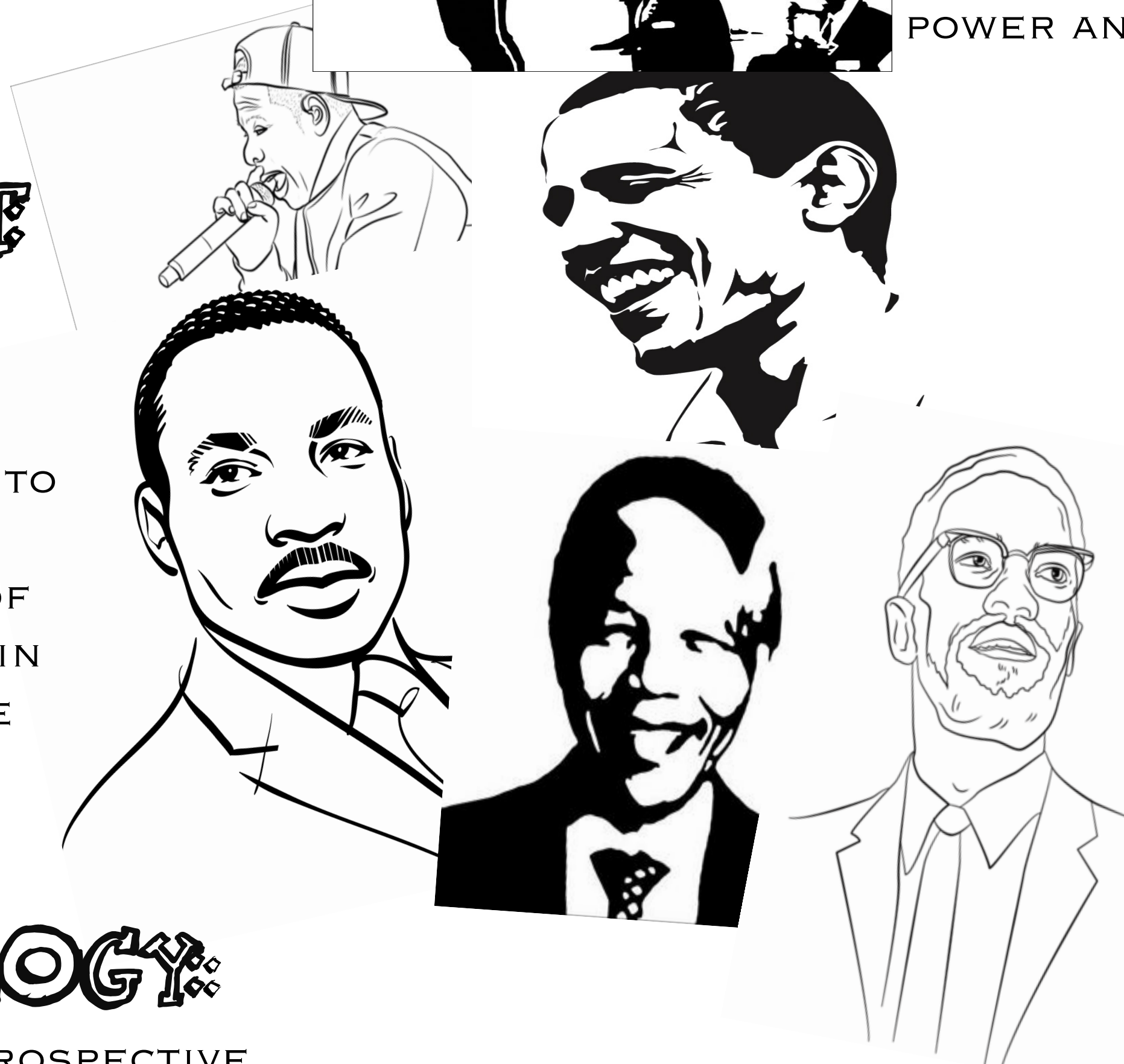


DISCUSSION

THE CANADIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM AND MEDIA CATEGORIZES THESE ISSUES AT FACE VALUE INSTEAD OF GOING BEYOND THE SURFACE. INSTITUTIONS AND THE CANADIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM PRACTICE ANTI-BLACK RACISM ON A CONSTANT BASIS BELIEVING THAT THE USE OF RACIAL STEREOTYPING IS REASONABLE. THE POLICE FORCE HAS CAUSED MISTRUST TO OCCUR WITHIN SOCIETY AS MANY OFFICERS MISTAKE AUTHORITY FOR POWER. ALTHOUGH THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOM HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED, PROMOTING ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY, RACISM IS STILL PREVALENT DUE TO POWER AND PRIVILEGE.

THESIS STATEMENT

RACIAL AND CULTURAL DISPARITIES INTERFERE WITH CRIMINAL OFFENDING THAT LEADS TO THE OVERREPRESENTATION OF RACIALIZED YOUTH WITHIN THE CANADIAN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.



METHODOLOGY

THIS STUDY USED A RETROSPECTIVE SEMI-STRUCTURE DESIGN, EXAMINING HOW RACIALIZED YOUTH ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY INVOLVED WITHIN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. I GATHERED INFORMATION ON YOUNG ADULTS WHO WERE BETWEEN THE AGES OF NINETEEN AND TWENTY-SIX YEARS OLD. ALL OF THE YOUNG ADULTS WHO WERE INVOLVED WITHIN THIS STUDY WERE AFRICAN CANADIAN AND FROM THE GENERAL TORONTO AREA. THIS STUDY WAS DESIGNED TO HIGHLIGHT THE PERSISTENCE OF BIASES WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, DUE TO DECISION MAKERS. I WANTED TO DETERMINE HOW RACE AND SOCIAL CLASS CORRELATED, AS VARIABLES.

GRAPH

85% PERCENT OF PARTICIPANTS BELIEVED THAT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IS DISCRIMINATORY

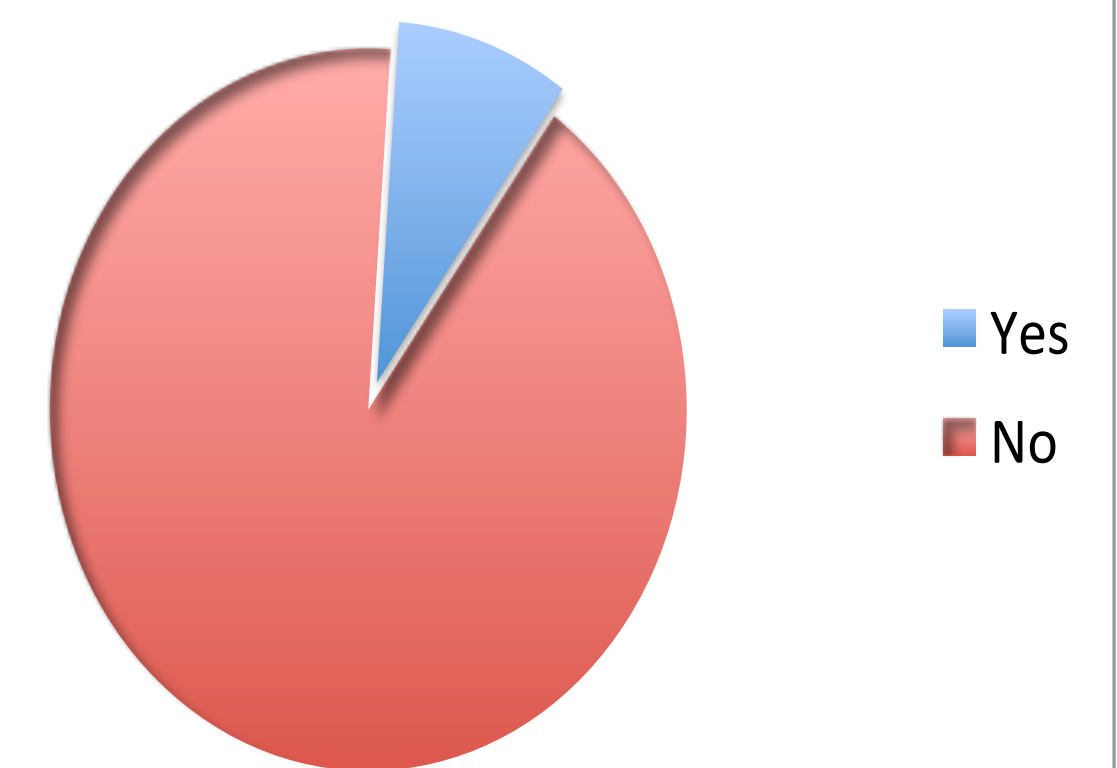


FIGURE 1. OVERALL PERCENTAGE THAT BELIEVES THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IS DISCRIMINATORY.

RESULTS

THE RESULTS FROM MY RESEARCH STUDY, SHOWS THAT RACIALIZED JUVENILES CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE MORE DISPARITIES RELATED TO THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT EFFORT TO ELIMINATE THE VARIOUS DISPARITIES, THIS CAUSES RACIALIZED JUVENILES TO BE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. THIS LEADS TO AGENTS OF SOCIAL CONTROL, SUCH AS DECISION MAKERS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO CREATE A NEGATIVE NARRATIVE OF INJUSTICE. THE ENVIRONMENT IS EXTREMELY TOXIC, AS DELINQUENT PEERS, EDUCATIONAL FACTORS, AND FAMILY PATTERNS FOR FAMILIES WHO WERE A PRODUCT OF JIM CROW. THIS HAS CONTINUED THE STRAIN OF RACIAL INEQUALITY.