

Abstract

Researchers and urban development experts alike have studied the causes and symptoms of urban decay and yet the conditions in Detroit have improved very little. Revitalization efforts often fail due to misguided strategies and policies that are implemented by weak leadership. Poor social and economic conditions are the driving forces behind urban decay in Detroit. In order to reverse the decay trend, revitalization strategies and policies have been directed to alleviate these adverse conditions. Many factors contribute to urban decay, making it difficult to develop appropriate revitalization strategies.

Prior conducted research of Detroit evaluates urban development based on economic growth and does little to consider social factors, hence the focus on educational attainment and employment. Known by many urban development experts as a barrier to the region's ongoing development, Detroit's leadership must combat the local symptoms of urban decay so that upward social mobility of Detroit's lower socioeconomic classes can occur, benefitting the revitalization process.

This report successfully examines the relationship between lower class socioeconomic Detroiters and the influence that this class has on Detroit's revitalization process. The resulting statistical analysis supports the literature and establishes a linear flow of variables and relationships that has an outcome of a mutually beneficial relationship existing between Detroit's lower class and the revitalization process, supporting urban development experts and local politicians.