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COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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Walden University
2012

Abstract

Exploring the Lives of Salvadoran Families

After the Implementation of *Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility*

Act of 1996 § 287(g)

by

Chernoh M. Wurie

MA, Walden University, 2008

BS, Radford University, 2004

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

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May 2012

Abstract

In one mid-Atlantic county, implementation of the *Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act* of 1996 § 287(g), has created dystopic conditions among both legal and illegal Salvadoran immigrants. This policy allows the county law enforcement agency, after federal training, to enforce immigration law by inquiring about citizenship status after making immigrant custodial arrests. Many immigrants mistakenly believe 287(g) allows law enforcement to profile immigrants and to detain or deport them at will. Drawing on acculturation, social disorganization, and migration push-pull theories, the purpose of this phenomenological study was to understand lived experiences of participants in relation to 287(g) enforcement. Snowball sampling was used to recruit three men and four women to participate in semi-structured interviews regarding their daily lives and their understanding of the 287 (g) policy. Themes were identified using manual and computer-assisted techniques. Findings showed participants came to the county looking for property ownership, business opportunities, education, and healthcare; their lives, have been characterized by fear, however, since 287(g) enforcement began. Regardless of legal status, immigrants have feared reporting crimes and attending cultural celebrations, believing they may be detained or deported. Individuals with illegal family members report problems with property ownership, maintaining employment, providing schooling for their children, and receiving medical care. Recommendations include informing county political leaders who can educate the Salvadoran community about the scope of 287(g) policy. Implications for social change are that this education could restore trust between law enforcement and Salvadoran families.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Introduction

As a resident of Prince William County, VA, a law enforcer, and a doctoral student, two major events fueled my motivation for this study. First, as a resident, I know that the county is one of the fastest growing counties in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Second, in July 2007, the county adopted and implemented the 287(g) policy, due to major concerns of its citizens in terms of overcrowding, crime rates, disorderliness, and public services (Gerhart, 2007). Furthermore, I encountered a publication by Garni and Miller (2008) about the life experiences of Mexicans residing in South California. Garni and Miller (2008) noted that federal immigration policies clearly affect immigrant communities, affecting the lives both authorized and unauthorized immigrants. Pevnick (2009) produced an article that increased my curiosity regarding immigration policy. Pevnick (2009) noted that immigration policies threaten the social trust and collaboration between community members and public safety officials. These articles collectively, along with personal observations, influenced my presumption that a similar situation may be happening in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. Singer, Wilson, and DeRenzis (2009) noted the county of Prince William, VA has undergone a significant increase in its Hispanic population from the years of 1980 to 2006. The authors further mentioned that, because of this significant increase in Hispanic population, the county is within the top 20 counties in the United States that have experienced this sudden population growth. Furthermore, the 2007 census concluded that Salvadorans are the largest growing population in the metropolitan area and in Prince

William County. My initial assumption was that, based on the sudden immigrant population and the implementation of the 287(g) policy, various systems (real estate, public safety, education, employment, and healthcare) have been affected within the immigrant community. It was my assumption that these negative repercussions arise because of the Salvadoran community's perception of the immigration policy implementation and their perception of law enforcers in general. A qualitative study was necessary in order to explore the situation and to understand the impact that 278(g) implementation has had on the lived experiences of Salvadoran residents of Prince William County, VA.

Background of 287(g)

According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Web site, section 287(g) was added to the original Immigration and Nationality Act through the implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. Prior to this act, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was responsible for enforcement activity until 2003; currently the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the federal agency charged with the recognition, apprehension, incarceration, and the removal of criminal aliens from the United States. Through the 287(g) program, the United States Attorney General reserves the right to enter into written agreement with any state agency and political local subdivision in order to enforce immigration regulations in its locality. This enforcement includes the investigation, apprehension, and deportation of illegal aliens present in the United States (Immigration and Nationality Act, 2003).

The 287(g) policy has its roots in Iowa, under the leadership of Republican Senator Charles Grassley, who was a sponsor of the legislation in the Senate. As Tsankov and Martin (2009) noted, the Iowa senator contended he wrote the law for people like Justin Younie of Sheldon, IA, who was brutally attacked and murdered by an illegal immigrant. The immigrant was deported but returned to the United States illegally in 1995. Following the incident in Iowa, the federal government faced constant pressure with regard to the treatment of criminal aliens. While the federal government has a broad law enforcement and homeland security mission, state and local law enforcement officers are usually the first to encounter individuals engaging in criminal acts within the United States (Tsankov & Martin, 2009). In order for them to seize the opportunity, local law enforcement officials would have to be granted federal immigration authority.

Section 287(g) was born from practicality, because of incorporating local law enforcement officials in pursuit of criminal aliens. The purpose of this policy is to combat terrorist acts and criminal activities by illegal aliens. Two major events influenced its formation: the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, and the enhanced gang-related criminal offenses in the Washington, DC, area. Pinheiro (2009) suggested, because of the planning and actions of several undocumented immigrants in carrying out the September 11 attacks, policy makers strived for effective immigration enforcement strategies. Romano (2005) noted the notorious Latino gang called Mara Salvatrucha (MS 13) orchestrated several horrific murders within and near the Washington, DC area. The national media has concluded that MS 13 is the most dangerous gang in the United States. Upon discovering that the majority of the September

11 orchestrators were undocumented immigrants, the Department of Homeland Security devised a new strategy in order to incorporate local law enforcement officers in immigration enforcements. The main reason for this strategy was that law enforcement officers are primarily the first responders for all calls for service.

The state of Arizona enacted a similar policy, originating from and mirroring the 287(g) policy, called SB 1070, on April 30, 2010. This policy mandated that individuals without legal authority and presence in the United States are in violation of U.S. Code sec. 1304(e) or 1306(a). In addition, this policy stated that law enforcement officers may detain an individual if they have a reasonable suspicion that the individual is in the United States illegally. Upon confirming the individual is in the United States illegally, the individual will be arrested. In this particular policy, it is also unlawful for anyone to stop in order to pick up an illegal immigrant for work/hire.

In July 2007 in Virginia, the Prince William County Police Department entered into a section 287(g) agreement with the federal government. In further detailing how the process of the 287(g) policy should be carried out, the Prince William County Police Department's manual of general orders (2007) stated that, upon determining the probable cause that an individual has violated any local or state ordinance, the investigating officer shall inquire into the immigration status of the individual. The order also noted that the investigation should not exceed the duration of the detention (G.O. 45.01 C, 2007). Further, section (D) emphasized the exclusion of racial profiling, while enforcing this statute. The section further noted that stopping an individual based on race, ethnicity, and

color does not constitute reasonable suspicion for further investigations. (G.O. 45.01 D, 2007).

These two sections of this general order are the foundational statements that guide the use of the 287(g) policy in Prince William County. In comparing Arizona's SB 1070 and Prince William County's 287(g) policies, it is imperative to note that the two policies have significant differences. The most notable similarity between the policies is that they mandate the verification of the individual's legal status in the United States. Specifically, Arizona's SB 1070 authorizes its officials to verify the individual's legal status prior to arrest if there is a reasonable suspicion that the individual is illegally residing in the United States. Conversely, Prince William County's 287(g) authorizes its officials to verify the individual's legal status only after an arrest; however, in special situations during an investigation of an alleged crime wherein the individual cannot provide any identification, prearrest status verification is allowed if reasonable. Chapter 2 will elaborate further on both policies.

Immigration policies are controversial and can be easily misconstrued. In an attempt to eliminate possible confusion, a further explanation of the policies is needed. The two major keywords in G.O. 45.01 C are *lawfully detained*. Local police officers have the authority to detain an individual who is in violation of a state or local ordinance. During the process of an investigation, the officer shall inquire into the immigration status of the detained individual after probable cause has been established for the violation. Additionally, correctional officers are also granted the authority to enforce immigration violations. Upon booking an inmate for incarceration, the officer shall

inquire about the immigration status of the inmate. Upon determining that the inmate is not a legal resident of the state, further notifications are made to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The 287(g) policy is applicable to postinvestigation and postarrest proceedings. It should not be assumed that the enforcement effort is initiated during preinvestigation and prearrest proceedings.

Most immigration reformers adhere to the notion that the major focus for this policy implementation is to address criminal aliens currently residing in the United States. Criminal aliens are individuals with no legal status for their presence in the United States and who have been convicted of a serious offense. These crimes include offenses such as fatal driving under the influence of alcohol accidents, murder, and rape. National consensus is that the 287(g) policy authorizes local and state police officers to enforce immigration statutes, but the implementation of this policy has had negative repercussions (Osterling and McClure 2008). According to Walker (2008), the Hispanic community has been negatively affected after the implementation of the 287(g) policy nationwide. It has been perceived that this policy has had an effect on real estate systems, health care systems, business systems, public safety systems, and school systems within the Hispanic community. In addition, these factors mainly affect the Hispanic community because it is the fastest-growing immigrant community in the United States.

Walker (2008) noted that Prince William County is one of the most noticeable counties to have adopted this program. Prince William County has experienced dramatic demographic change. The majority (63%) of Hispanic immigration growth between 1980 and 2006 occurred since 2000 in Prince William County, putting it in the top 20 counties

in the United States for recent Hispanic growth (Singer, Wilson, & DeRenzis, 2009). According to the data sources provided by the 2007 census, Salvadorans are one of the largest growing populations in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. As a result of this rapid population growth, Salvadorans are the population most affected by this policy.

As a researcher for this particular study, I was aware of the issue of illegal immigration in the United States. Additionally, as a law enforcement officer, I was aware of the possible conflict of interest in being both an enforcing agent under the 287(g) policy and a researcher studying the experiences of Salvadoran families. This study was not an attempt to measure illegal immigration or resolve this issue. I realized that the majority of my research population was comprised of illegal immigrants, and their confidentiality has been guaranteed. I am a firm believer in protecting victims, witnesses, and law-abiding individuals regardless of status. Chapter 3 will explore selecting the research population, ethical considerations, biases, limitations, and trustworthiness in detail.

Statement of the Problem

There is a problem in Prince William County with the misunderstanding of 287(g) policy implementation within the Hispanic community, specifically among Salvadorans. Su (2010) argued that understanding newly implemented immigration policies is imperative to communities and their inhabitants. The author further noted that disintegration and differentiation arises as a result of misunderstanding of various immigration policies. Walker (2008) suggested that the implementation of this policy has had a negative effect on the Hispanic community. In addition, Osterling and McClure

(2008) noted that with the numerous anti-immigration policies implemented in various counties in Virginia, Prince William County is heading toward a state of dystopia. In light of the literature referenced above, the understanding and interpretation of 287(g) policy within the Hispanic community presents a problem. According to the Prince William County demographic factsheet (2010), the Salvadoran community is the fastest-growing population in the county. Consequently, it has been the most affected population within the real estate system, health care systems, the public safety system, and the school system (Osterling & McClure, 2008). Despite the contributions by Walker (2008), Osterling and McClure (2008), and Singer (2004), currently few studies have exclusively focused on the experiences of Salvadoran families that have a misconception of the policy. Based on the presumptive problem, an exploratory phenomenological study was necessary. The purpose of this phenomenological study was to explore the repercussions of the misinterpretation of this policy in the lives of Salvadoran families in order to support clearer understanding, possibly ameliorating the perceived dystopia.

Introduction to the Problem

Upon the creation of the 287(g) policy, the Department of Homeland Security has entered into agreements with numerous state and local agencies. In response to this partnership, local private and public organizations have expressed their opinions of the policy implementation. Predominantly private organizations have suggested that this policy has affected the Hispanic community negatively, among them the National Council of La Raza (www.nclr.org) and the League of United Latin American Citizens (www.lulac.org). Walker (2008) suggested the Salvadoran population is the fastest

growing population in the Washington DC, area. Singer et al. (2009) noted Prince William County has become one of the most diverse counties in Virginia. The author further mentioned the county has experienced a maximum immigration boom since the year 2000. The majority of this population is Salvadoran-heritage men and is undocumented. In addition, the increase in unreported crimes among Salvadoran males in Prince William County remains undocumented. Because of the implementation of 287(g) policy, these individuals have chosen to remain silent in reporting crimes against themselves, their families, and their friends. Davis and Erez (1998) conducted illustrative research on immigrant victims. Their research revealed significant results concerning immigrants not reporting crimes due to their immigration status. The authors concluded that the most prevalent crime that goes unreported is domestic violence amongst immigrants. Based on the contributions from Singer et al. (2009), Walker (2008), and Davis and Erez (1998), the outlying issue is the misunderstanding and misconception of the current immigration policy implementation in Prince William County. The policy is not very well explained to its populace, especially the immigrant communities. As Su (2010) noted, the understanding of immigration policies is key to the community in which it is implemented. In accordance with Prince William County Board of Supervisor resolution No. 07-609, immigrants are denied various benefits due to their immigration status. As a result, outlying factors such as real estate, education, healthcare, and public safety, have been affected within this community. In addition, Newton and Adams (2009) mentioned that the following factors were affected within immigrant communities as a result of the 287(g) implementation: employment, identification and drivers license,

public benefits, education, public safety, healthcare, and other public services.

Considering the above assumptions and contributions from various researchers, a phenomenological research study was conducted in order to explore the Salvadoran families' understanding of the policy implementation in Prince William County.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this phenomenological qualitative study was to explore and present the perceptions and understandings of Salvadoran families in Prince William County concerning the 287(g) implementation. In order for this goal to be accomplished, it was imperative to explore Salvadoran families' lived experiences. This study described and explored the underlying factors and experiences of these families concerning reporting crimes to law enforcement officials after the implementation of the policy. My overall purpose for this study was to mend the broken relationship that the misconception of this policy has created between the immigrant community and local law enforcement officials. This phenomenological research was intended to explore the experiences of the Salvadoran families, thus paving the way for policy reform.

Nature of the Study

Various qualitative strategies could be employed for studying this topic. Strauss and Corbin (1990, 1998) identified the measures of grounded theory research. Wilcott (2008) summarized ethnography, and Stake (1995) expanded on case study research and its processes. While these are all acceptable qualitative methods, one of the most appropriate methods of study that can be applicable in addressing the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County is phenomenology. Creswell (2009)

suggested that, with this particular form of study, the researcher investigates the experiences of the participants based on a perceived or given phenomenon. With this type of study, a small number of participants were selected from convenience samples such as churches, schools, day laborer camps, and community meetings. Convenience sampling is a nonprobability sampling technique whereby the subjects are selected because of ease of access and closeness to the researcher. This method was also appropriate because it is impossible to test the entire population, yet the selected participants represent the population as a whole. This method was also fast, inexpensive, and easy, and the participants were readily available. In chapter 3, the methodology section, the nature of the study is explored in more detail.

Qualitative Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

Research Question 2: What systems (real estate, education, employment, healthcare, private, and public safety) have been affected within the Salvadoran community because of community members' perceptions of the 287(g) policy implementation?

Research Question 3: How have acculturation experiences influenced the Salvadoran families that migrated to Prince William County before and after the policy implementation?

Conceptual Framework

The following theories were explored for this study: police theory (Sir Robert Peel [1829]), assimilation theory (Michel Guillaume Jean de Crèvecoeur [1782]), acculturation theory (John W. Powell [1880]), and migration/push-pull theory (Ernest Ravenstein [1880]). The major theorists who guided the origination of modern American policing are Sir Robert Peel (1829) and August Vollmer (1902). Peel is considered the father of modern policing and was responsible for establishing the first formalized London police force, due to the increased criminal activities in the locality. Most police historians believe that the New York police department is modeled after Peel's centralized police force of London. This particular theory is important and applicable to my research because it demonstrates a clearer understanding how the formalized early police force influences the current immigration enforcement strategies.

Vollmer (1902), another famous police reformer, fought for the reformation of U.S. police organizations with regard to technology and higher standards of professional policing. Vollmer is also known as the individual who advocated and initiated the implementation of patrol-wide police signal systems, the first complete mobile patrol, modern record systems, beat analysis, and modus operandi. In addition to the credibility of Vollmer's contribution towards modern police, Swanson, Territo, and Taylor (2005) mentioned, "The image of professional policing as we know it today is largely the creation of one man, August Vollmer" (p. 74).

As the nation began to experience industrialization, urbanization, and immigration in the 1830s and 1840s, several branches of police organizations were created. These

branches now include, but are not limited to, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Air Marshal Service, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The policing agencies identified in this section of the theoretical framework provided the foundation for the creation of the USCIS, the branch of the federal government that is responsible for the implementation of the 287(g) policy. Based on the tireless contributions of these two police reformers, our criminal justice system has made tremendous improvements to include the manner in which it addresses immigration. In addition, in order to know the history of our immigration agency, it is pertinent to know its origination.

In reference to assimilation theory, the famous French theorist Michel Guillaume Jean de Crèvecoeur (1782) used the term *melting pot* in 1782 in his essays in *Letters from an American Farmer*. He described the young country as comprising a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Thomas (2006) said the melting pot metaphor reflected a time in which a large number of immigrants who came to the United States traveled in order to escape persecution and/or to seize the tremendous opportunities offered by the American dream. The author further noted that the melting pot did not represent an equal blending of ethnic identities of both voluntary and forced immigrants; instead, for many citizens, it represented an avoidance and exclusion of their differences and identities. Thomas was precise in making this statement. The melting pot theory justified the diversity in the U.S. general population. This theory is applicable to my study because it presents the basic understanding why immigrants migrate from their countries. As indicated in the

literature, Salvadorans are the largest immigrant population in Prince William County, as a result, knowing why they choose to migrate to the county is imperative.

The acculturation theory refers to cultural modification wherein various individuals from other cultures adapt to their host culture (Black, 2005). Organista (2010) added that acculturation is a complex theory rather than a simple transition from one culture to the other or host culture. The author stated that acculturation could occur on both the group and the individual levels, thus demonstrating that immigrants may face consequent psychological adaptation and adjustment issues. Stegner (1954) explained that John Wesley Powell was credited with coining the term *acculturation*. In 1883, he defined *acculturation* as the psychological changes induced by cross-cultural imitation (Stegner, 1954). The acculturation theory is important to this study because it provided the theoretical base for understanding the adaptations and behavior patterns of the Salvadoran families in Prince William County. In addition, this theory is important to this study because it provided the base for understanding cultural conflicts between the Salvadoran families and American families. Chapter 2 explores this theory further.

Ernest Ravenstein is known as the earliest migration theorist. Ravenstein (1889), an English geographer, used census data from England and Wales to develop his “laws of migration.” The theorist conversed about two major types of migration, internal migration and international migration. Internal migration refers to migration from one state, province, locality, municipality, or town to another for various reasons. International migration refers to migration from one nation to another, across international boundaries. There are three types of international immigrants: legal

migrants, illegal migrants, and refugees. This particular concept is applicable to my study because it explains the reasons why immigrants migrate. According to this theory, one can perceive that Salvadorans migrated to the United States (Prince William County) in order to seek various opportunities. Upon migrating to the United States, they are faced with the laws and regulations of the county. As a result, they have to adhere by these ordinances.

Chapter 2 explores these theories in detail. It also includes a thorough discussion of how the components of the listed theories contribute to a greater understanding of the implementation of the 287(g) policy and Salvadoran families in Prince William County.

Operational Definition of Technical Terms

287(g): Section added to the Immigration and Nationality Act via the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, effective September 30, 1996, specifying the performance of immigration officer functions by state officers and employees. Primarily, this section authorizes local and state officers with the appropriate training to act as immigration officers (USICE, 2010).

Acculturation: The process by which those new to a society adopt the attitudes, values, and behaviors of the dominant culture (Noels, Pan, & Clement, 1996).

Citizenship: The designation that one is a legal citizen of the United States (USCIS, 2010).

Counterterrorism: The tactics used in a defensive or retaliatory manner to mitigate or oppose terrorist acts (Heymann, 1998).

Domestic terrorism: Activities that “involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State” (U.S. Congress, 2001).

Dystopia: Chaotic visions of possible future worlds, in which the conditions of life are characterized by human misery, poverty, oppression, violence, disease, pollution, and hopelessness (Osterling & McClure, 2008).

Enculturation: The process by which immigrants adapt to a new culture (Suarez-Orozco & Suarez-Orozco, 1995).

Hispanic: Literally means “of Spain” but is used to describe people of Spanish-speaking heritage (Halgunseth, 2004).

Illegal immigrant: Any individual who is residing in or enters the United States by other than legal means, by crossing the U.S. border illegally or by overstaying a visa (Hayworth, 2006).

Immigrant: An individual who leaves his or her country of origin to establish him- or herself in another country either as a legal resident or as a citizen (USCIS, 2010).

Latino: Includes people from all countries in Latin America as well as parts of the Caribbean that have Latin-based languages but may not necessarily speak Spanish (Halgunseth, 2004).

Legal alien: A person who is residing in the United States as a legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent resident (USCIS, 2010).

Migration: The process in which various individuals move around to search for food, survive, conquer frontiers, colonize new territories, escape from war zones or political turmoil, or look for new and more exciting opportunities (Liang, 2006).

Police: In Anglo-American societies, authoritatively coordinated legitimate organizations, made up of many diverse agencies, that stand ready to apply force, up to and including fatal force, in a legitimate territory to sustain political order (Manning, 2004).

Push-pull theory: Theory indicating that if conditions in the homeland become intolerable, an individual or family may be compelled to leave, “push.” The individual family pushed from their homeland will choose a place to relocate that has some redeeming value and is judged to be superior to the original homeland, “pull” (Pitzl, 2006).

Salvadoran: A native inhabitant of El Salvador (Oxford English Dictionary, 1989).

Social disorganization theory: Theory reflecting the influence of an urban, industrial setting on the ability of immigrant subcultures, particularly parents, to socialize and effectively control their children (Bartollas, 2006).

Terrorism: The use of fear or terror by an adversary on a populace for the purpose of coercion of the government or population (U.S. Congress, 2001).

Undocumented immigrant: Any individual who is residing in or enters the United States by other than legal means, either by crossing the U.S. border illegally or by overstaying a visa (Hayworth, 2006).

Assumptions

1. It was assumed that all participants would participate willingly and honestly.
2. It was assumed that all participants are aware of the 287(g) policy program.
3. It was assumed that all participants would put away their biases and respond truthfully.
4. It was assumed that all participants would be easily accessible through a convenience sample.
5. It was assumed that due to my professional affiliation, the participants might have felt intimidated to at least some degree.
6. It was assumed that based on my diverse cultural background, I might bring bias to the process of reporting the data.
7. It was assumed that with my professional background and diversity training, I should be able to eliminate biased personal opinions.

Scope and Limitations

This study followed a phenomenological method of inquiry. It focused on in-depth interviews of members of five families (a total of seven individuals) who have lived through the implementation of the 287(g) policy in Prince William County, Virginia. These families were comprised of men and women, aged 18 and older. Upon completing the interviews, I analyzed the data by reviewing the transcripts several times in order to identify common themes. The research investigation did not reflect the

experiences of all Salvadoran families that have experienced the implementation of the 287(g) policy in the county; however, it was assumed that it would represent majority of the populations' experiences. Hall (2010) interviewed five homeless individuals for a phenomenological study on homelessness, and results of the interviews indicated that participants' perceptions and experiences represent the entire homeless population in the United States.

The major limitations and weaknesses of the study were: I am not a native of El Salvador, Spain, Mexico, or any other Latin American country. I am not fluent in speaking the Spanish language. A second weakness and limitation was gaining the full trust and participation of my designated population due to my professional affiliation. An accredited Spanish speaker performed the interpretation during the data collection phase. A phenomenological method of inquiry was well suited for this study because provided a means to illustrate the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County. A thorough description of the justification for the methodology of this study is provided in chapter 3.

Significance of the Study

The need for systematic exploration of the lived experiences of Salvadorans in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy was eminent. Although several researchers (Osterling & McClure, 2008; Seghetti, Ester, & Garcia, 2009; Singer, 2004, 2008; Walker, 2008) have addressed various immigration issues in the United States, I exclusively explored Salvadoran families that have had diverse experiences based on their understanding of the policy. It was vital for their voices to be

heard and for them to present their perceptions of the policy. Furthermore, similar studies (Chaudry, Capps, Pedroza, Castaneda, Santos & Scott, 2010; Singer, Wilson, & DeRenzis, 2009) have addressed the implications and negative effects of this policy among various Salvadorans and Latinos in different metropolitan areas. Understanding the experiences of the Salvadoran community was not only important to the entire Hispanic community, but it also has extensive potential social change implications for other immigrant families in the county. A better understanding of the lived experiences of these families could foster positive social changes such as creating a sense of normalcy within the county, improving housing systems, and possibly leading to the creation of several diversified private entities in the county. In addition, creating a sense of normalcy for Salvadoran families in the county was important because as Singer (2009) noted, they are the largest growing immigrant population in the county. As a result, it was perceived that this study ameliorated the fear and misconception this population has about the 287(g) implementation. As Davis and Erez (1998) summarized, immigrants are the largest population of domestic violence and other serious crimes victims, yet victims are afraid to report crimes to the police due to their legal status. The study is also important in affirming the existence of a safe environment for witnesses, victims, and law-abiding immigrants. This study presents a clear explanation of the policy and emphasizes the importance of confidentiality and trust between law enforcement officials and victims, witnesses, and law-abiding immigrants.

Summary Statement

A thorough discussion on the background and foundation of the 287(g) policy was presented in chapter 1. Chapter 1 also detailed the origination, enforcement, and process of the 287(g) policy. This chapter detailed the problem statement of the study, the nature of the study, research questions, the purpose of study, philosophical foundations, operational definitions of technical terms, assumptions, limitations, and the significance of the study. Chapter 2 contains an inclusive literature review related to the philosophical foundations and influential continuous variables of the study. Within that chapter, various aspects of 287(g) policy are examined. It is imperative to include advocates both for and against policy implementation. Providing both sides of the spectrum ensures a better understanding of the topic. Chapter 2 also covers theories such as acculturation, social disorganization, and migration/push-pull forces. Chapter 3 focuses mainly on a detailed methods section for the study. It presents types of research designs, setting and samples, instrumentation and materials, and data collection and analysis. Chapter 4 contains the findings of the study. It addresses the systems used for keeping track of data, patterns, relationships, and themes emerging from the data. Chapter 5 contains a summary of the study, the interpretation of findings, implications for social change, recommendations for action, and recommendations for further study.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

This chapter presents a unique theme for reviewing the literature for this study. It includes a description of the historical, philosophical, and theoretical perception that encompasses immigration, public safety, migration, and crime rates. This review of the literature begins with a brief overview of the historical background of immigration, policing, and crime. The first section will address the scholarly literature regarding the origination of policing and immigration enforcement. The second section will be comprised of scholarly literature related to categories of lived experiences that will be addressed in the study: real estate systems, school systems, health care systems, and public safety systems. Though the literature refers to individuals from different ethnic backgrounds, the predominant population for this study was Salvadoran families. This chapter will also include a review of theories, such as acculturation theory, the social disorganization theory, and the migration theory/push-pull process. The third section will include current scholarly literature related to the implementation of the 287(g) policy and the various affected systems among immigrants, specifically Salvadorian families. Generally, in order to understand the situation in Prince William County, the above concepts will be examined from all angles including Salvadoran families and the enforcing agencies. The final section will include a review of the literature related to methodology as it pertains to this study.

This review of the literature includes readings recommended by instructors, colleagues, and trusted Web sites. In order to present a thorough understanding and

illustration of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of the subject matter, several textbooks were purchased and utilized. The following research databases were also utilized: EBSCO, ProQuest, ERIC, Google Scholar, Academic Search Premiere, and Criminal Justice Periodicals. The following keywords guided the search: *immigration and crime, local police and immigration, local police and crime, 287(g), police theory, immigration theory, migration theory, acculturation theory, mosaic theory, and push-pull theory*. In addition, several reference lists were utilized from peer-reviewed journals and professional journal articles published after 2005. Statistical information was collected from the Bureau of Justice Statistics Web site, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Crime Victimization Survey online library.

A Historical Account of Immigration and Crime

Immigration and crime have been perceived as correlating since the early 1800s. Individuals migrate from their original surroundings for various reasons. Moehling and Piehl (2009) stated that 9,000,000 immigrants migrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Because of this sudden wave of immigrants, a major demographic shock impacted the U.S. population during that period.

These diverse immigrants migrated with embedded behaviors that generally were acceptable in their places of origin. They were faced with either transitioning to the accepted behavior in the United States or carrying on with their original behaviors. Some accepted the norms of the United States, and others did not, setting many off on a path leading to crime (Moehling & Piehl, 2009). Bingham (1908) noted that immigrants were associated with a variety of criminal offenses based on their diverse backgrounds. The

author contended that immigrants predominantly from Eastern Europe were particularly viewed as being more prone to violent crimes than old-stock immigrants (Bingham, 1908).

Moehling and Piehl (2009) noted these assumptions greatly influenced the current immigration laws. According to the 1917 Immigration Act, an immigrant who has been in the United States for fewer than 5 years and commits a serious offense such as murder, rape, burglary, prostitution, or grand theft auto will be deported. This act was predominantly geared toward violent immigrants. It addressed the problem with violent immigrants on a surface level; however, it did not eliminate the issue in its entirety. Shaw and McKay (1942) discussed social disorganization theory at length in their earlier publications. The authors related the theory to delinquency. They argued social disorganization creates a negative influence among immigrants in an urban locality. The theory, which originated at the University of Chicago, mainly explored life in inner-city America and how it destabilized social relationships (Bursik, 2006; Wikstorn, 1998). The authors said immigrants initially chose to settle in less expensive neighborhoods, which happened to be those prone to high crime rates. As a result, the immigrants were viewed as contributors to these crimes based on their localities (Bursik, 2006; Wikstorn, 1998).

Others have argued that the differences in experiences across immigrant groups, caused by the endowments people carried with them and how these intersected with social disorganization, are the reason for the correlation between immigration and crime (Thomas & Znaniecki, 1920). It is difficult to determine if there is some degree of truth to

this statement; however, it is imperative to note that immigrants have different beliefs, thus transitioning to new social mores will result in culture conflict. This concept can also apply to criminality; for instance, Sellin (1938) mentioned that the process of immigrants adjusting to their new cultures causes cultural conflicts, consequently leading to criminal activities. Others noted that immigration and crime are connected not only due to immigrants' nativity but, rather, also because of the immigrants' residential locality (Bursik, 2006; Shaw & McKay, 1942; Wikstorm, 1998). One can assume that the locality immigrants choose to reside in upon migrating to the United States plays a major role in their life of crime or justice.

In expounding further on culture conflict, three major advocates were Sellin (1938), Vold (1958), and Turk (1969). Collectively these theorists agreed on the assumption that criminal activities occur predominantly when there are extreme cultural differences leading to cultural conflicts. With different beliefs and backgrounds, conflict within and among cultures is inevitable. It is imperative to acknowledge that several factors influence the presumption that there is a relationship between crime rates and immigrants.

History and Origination of Policing

There are five major types of policing (Bayley, 1996): Islamic-traditional, authoritarian, democratic, Asian, and continental. One of the most accepted definitions for policing is noted by Manning (2004), who defined policing as any entity made up of several agents or agencies with the legal authority to use force, including fatal force, in order to maintain public order. In addition to this definition, Samaha (1994) advised that

the original word *police* is derived from the word *polity*, which means the broad and general governmental responsibility for public good, and not the narrower crime fighting that modern usage denotes (p. 142). The reform of policing has brought marked changes. It originated from England and slowly progressed to the United States. Various factors influenced the reformation of policing. These factors include, but are not limited to, poverty, economic migration, economic status, political affiliations, corruption, and public safety.

The two major players credited for the origination and reform of modern policing are Sir Robert Peel and August Vollmer. Sir Robert Peel (1829) is considered the father of policing. According to Samaha (1994), in the end, England modified the constable-watch system into a strengthened and centralized constabulary. The author stated that in 1829, under Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel's leadership, Parliament mandated publicly funded police forces, called the Bobbies, throughout England. Samaha (1994) added that the Bobbies were tasked with the responsibility of maintaining peace and order among citizens, providing various services, and responding to calls for service relating to criminal or noncriminal activities. The Bobbies were the first organized police force in the United Kingdom. The force was fairly organized in its original structure, containing both order and a chain of command. Upon witnessing this success in maintaining peace and order among citizens in England, major cities such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia quickly adopted this form of structured policing (Samaha, 1994).

Order, safety, crime rates, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and vandalism remained a high concern for the newly founded police forces. Because of the lack of training and

educational requirements for police officers, the newly established police forces were prone to corruption, bribery, graft, use of excessive force, and lack of communication and discipline. These nationwide police corruptions led Berkeley, CA police chief August Vollmer (1902) to develop several police reform strategies. According to Samaha (1994), Vollmer is responsible for refining the selection process for police recruits. These refinement measures included neurological tests, intelligence tests, and psychiatric tests. This method is utilized in the modern selection process for police officers and federal agents nationwide. Another police activist, Nathan Douthit (1975), advised that Vollmer was also responsible for suggesting that police officers would be able to cover a wider beat area with patrol cars and mobile, two-way transmittable radios. With the implementation of patrol cars, the response time for calls for service was immensely reduced. In addition, with the use of the two-way radios, police officers were able to communicate with each other effectively and provide their locations for safety reasons.

As the population of the United States grew due to the migration of various immigrants from all over the world seeking new opportunities, labor, lifestyles, protection, and investment, an effective and more enhanced form of police organization was needed. These organizations would be tasked with maintaining peace and order inside and outside the jurisdiction of the United States depending on the offense. Unlike other nations, the United States does not have a national police force. These modern forces operate within the executive branches of federal, state, county, and municipal governments. Samaha (1994) stated that the federal law enforcement agencies were created because of the constant opposition for the creation of a central or national police

force (p. 147). As a result of this disagreement, the initial agencies were established: the U.S. Marshals Service; U.S. Customs Service; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Immigration and Naturalization Service; Drug Enforcement Administration; and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Immigration

For the purpose of this synopsis, the only applicable agency from the above listed agencies is the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). According to Walker (1983), the INS is responsible for administering immigration and naturalization regulations. The border patrol agents are responsible for patrolling the bordering lands and waters of the United States. The INS also handles investigations, arrests, and deportation procedures of illegal aliens residing in the United States. These were the initial responsibilities of the INS prior to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. As compared to the reformation of policing, this series of horrific events mainly influenced the reexamination of the current immigration policies and strategies.

According to “Federation for American Immigration Reform” FAIR by Jack Martin (2005), the repercussions of the September 11 terrorist attacks on American soil has forever affected the immigration strategy and enforcement in the United States. The author continued by comparing the effect among American citizens on how they felt after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. In addition, the same publication noted that after September 11, it was determined that the terrorists had made their way through the current ineffective immigration system. In light of this apparent systematic failure, the Department of Justice was forced to reexamine its immigration policies and strategies.

One of the major restructuring moves that the INS accomplished was to change its name and implement added responsibilities to its agents. Furthermore, the publication also mentioned that the terrorist attacks of September 11 caused a dramatic shift in U.S. immigration policy, the most notable of which was the reorganization of the agency that oversees immigration, the INS. Prior to 2001, the INS was responsible for providing services to immigrants and for enforcing immigration law. In 2003, after the September 11 attacks and the constant pressure for an effective immigration system and structure, the INS was reorganized and called the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS). Another significant change was agency oversight: prior to 2001, the INS was being overseen by the Department of Justice; after 2001, BCIS was overseen by the Department of Homeland Security.

In addition to the above reasons for the restructuring of immigration enforcement, Bouris (2005) explained that, in 2002, the Bush administration's primary obligation after the September 11 terrorist attack was threefold. The administration focused on combating terrorism within and around the confines of the United States, promoting democracy and free trade within and around the United States, and implementing offensive actions and strategies in order to protect the nation. These components mentioned were the primary reasons for a newly restructured immigration system. The *combating terrorism* strategy consisted of three major objectives: targeting terrorists and their supporting allies, strengthening homeland defense, and keeping a close eye on impecunious nations and their allies that are likely to cultivate and tolerate terrorist cells (Bouris, 2005). Within the second component, *promoting democracy and free trade strategy*, it is imperative to

assist other impoverished nations so that they might become allies to the United States (Bouris, 2005). Free trade, national or international business not restricted by government interference or regulation such as duties, was also suggested as a positive notion in combating terrorism because it creates a positive perception of the United States in other nations (Bouris, 2005). The third strategy is an offensive security posture. According to Bouris (2005), during the Bush administration, a proactive stance to preventing the spread of weapons of mass destructions and destroying potential terrorist cells before they could materialize was adopted. Due to this proactive stance, the United States is taking every necessary step to preventing further attacks on U.S. soil, which includes implementing tougher immigration laws (Bouris, 2005). This stance has initiated several negative perceptions within Arabic and Middle Eastern, Hispanic and Latino, and African and Asian immigrant communities (Bouris, 2005). Some have viewed these strategies as unjustly aggressive; others have viewed them as a breach of their civil rights; still others have viewed these measures as positive immigration reform policies combating terrorism (Bouris, 2005).

Immigrant Communities and 287(g)

Immigration in general has always been a contentious subject in the United States. In addition to this perception, several communities were affected by the active strategy toward immigration policies and regulations as a result of the September 11 attacks. Jonas and Tactaquin (2004) noted in their article that the proactive measures taken by Homeland Security in order to combat terrorism have resulted in several high-profile situations within the Arab-American, South Asian, and Muslim communities. It is clear

that the listed communities definitely saw the worst repercussions of the September 11 attacks. The authors implied that in addition to the above affected communities, Latino communities were also tremendously affected.

The authors listed and discussed six major components that came about post-September 11. First, with the initiation of proactive approaches toward immigration, the U.S. public's perception of immigrants has permanently changed. According to the Center for Immigration Studies, in a 2003 poll, a majority of the U.S. population perceived that the high percentage of migration is a threat to the nation. These negative perceptions of immigrants being terrorists have been associated directly to all the immigrant communities in the United States. Some advocates have argued that targeting undocumented aliens is somewhat similar to targeting and eliminating terrorists. Furthermore, the notion of national security is contented in capturing and deporting illegal aliens. Scholars such as Kerwin (2002) and Cornelius (2004) have argued that these strategies are ineffective means of providing security and safety to the United States. Second, these approaches have created constant fear and anxiety among immigrant communities (Garni & Miller, 2008). Third, as a result of these proactive strategies, the fear and difficulty of travel, domestically and internationally, have been instilled among immigrant communities (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004). Fourth, according to the Department of Homeland Security (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004), a background check is required for all applications to BCIS. As a result of this implementation, the process for all applications has greatly slowed. Fifth, the detention and deportation process has been greatly improved with little room for immigration violation appeals (Jonas & Tactaquin,

2004). Last, in addition to the fear and anxiety state that immigrants have developed, many others lost their means of employment due to the economic recession, the war in Iraq, and the lack of tourism and travel (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004).

U.S. Citizens Reactions to 287(g) Implementation

Sandra Day O'Connor mentioned to an audience at New York University's law school that the repercussions for a preemptive response toward terrorism would entail citizens' freedom being affected due to the reexamination of laws regarding immigration, surveillance, and wiretapping (*New York Times*, September 29, 2001). The Supreme Court justice is accurate in her statement. Because of the preemptive strikes aimed at preventing future terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, several stakeholder groups have been affected. In addition to the immigrants being affected by these proactive measures, U.S. citizens have also been greatly affected (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004). In a positive aspect, this horrific event brought Americans closer to each other (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004). However, it also has created constant chaos among Americans, causing them to view foreigners as different (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004).

According to Jonas and Tactaquin (2004), several programs have been proposed to Congress in order to assist in the preemptive strike against future terrorist attack. The select proposed programs include Operation TIPS (Terrorism Information and Prevention System), the TIA (Total Awareness Information System) program, the Terrorist Awareness Information System, and the Security and Freedom Ensured Act. Out of the listed programs, the most controversial program was Operation TIPS. This program was proposed by the Justice Department in 2002; it would allow neighbors and utility workers

to report any noticeable suspicious acts in citizens' homes. The House of Representatives rejected the proposal. In addition, this proposal was also controversial because some argued that it violated citizens' privacy and rights.

287(g)

In addition to the preemptive strike on terrorism, another measure aimed at immigration enforcement was 287(g) policy. The section (g) was recently added to the original 287 program implemented in 1996. According to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Web site, the 287(g) program is primarily a partnership program allowing local and state governments to enter into an agreement by which the local and state agencies are granted federal authority in enforcing federal immigration laws (www.ice.gov). According to the information furnished by the ICE fact sheets, these enforcement authorities are extended to local police officers, correctional officers, detectives, investigators, and other designated local and state enforcement officers (Campbell, 2010). These officials are entrusted with the authority to investigate crimes committed by illegal immigrants ranging from minor offenses to human trafficking (www.ice.gov).

Although this policy was adopted by several agencies, it has its advantages and disadvantages. This section will expound on its primary responsibilities, adopting agencies, and affected communities. Currently ICE has 287(g) agreements with 71 law enforcement agencies in 26 states (www.ice.gov). The major states include but are not limited to Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North

Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Within each state, several county agencies including police, sheriff, and detention facilities have entered into agreements in enforcing the policy (Campbell, 2010).

States Enforcement of 287(g)

The debate on whether immigration enforcement should be the sole responsibility of federal officers has been a controversial issue since the initiation of the 287(g) policy. Advocates have argued that this enforcement authority should be extended to local law enforcement officers because they are the first responders. From another viewpoint, Seghetti, Ester, and Garcia (2009) noted that it is complicated to distinguish the roles between federal and state agencies concerning enforcing immigration laws in civil and criminal procedures. This confusion is clearly depicted in enforcing a civil violation of an alien who is illegally present in the United States and a criminal offense of illegally entering the United States (Seghetti, Ester, and Garcia, 2009). According to the ruling in *United States v. Vasquez-Alvarez* (1999), the authority of state and local law enforcement officers to investigate and arrest for violations of federal law is determined by reference to state law. In order for a state to enforce federal immigration laws, it has to be clearly granted that authority by the federal government (Seghetti, Ester, and Garcia, 2009). A typical example is the general memorandum agreement between the state and federal government in enforcing immigration laws (Campbell, 2010). In another example, a legal nonimmigrant with an expired visa who has been categorized as an overstayed immigrant will be deported through civil actions by the immigration courts. This civil prosecution also covers individuals with expired student visas (Seghetti, Ester, & Garcia, 2009). In

another approach, criminal violations such as bringing and harboring undocumented aliens would be handled by federal courts (Seghetti, Ester, and Garcia, 2009).

Case Law

There are several cases that have influenced this topic; however, the four most significant cases are *Gonzalez v. City of Peoria* (1983), *United States v. Salinas-Calderon* (1984), *United States v. Vasquez-Alvarez* (1999), and *United States v. Santana-Garcia* (2001). According to Seghetti, Ester, and Garcia (2009), the following are the facts of the case *Gonzalez v. City of Peoria* (1983). The plaintiff argued that he was arrested based on his race and appearance; he also alleged that the city's police officers arrested him for federal violations of immigration law. In addition, he alleged that he had been unlawfully stopped, questioned, and detained by the city police officers and that this act was in violation of the 4th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The case concluded in favor of the defendants, the City of Peoria's Police Department. The district court ruled that the city officers did not violate any civil rights of the plaintiff. The court also ruled that the officers acted in good faith in pursuing their actions against the plaintiff. It was resolved that the plaintiff did not provide any identification or proof of residency to the officers. As a result of that, they acted appropriately in taking him into custody. This ruling applied to civil and criminal violations.

According to Seghetti et al. (2009), the following are the facts of the case of *United States v. Salinas-Calderon*. Salinas-Calderon was driving a pickup truck with his wife in the passenger seat and six undocumented aliens in the bed of the truck. He was driving erratically on a U.S. highway near Howell, Kansas. He was stopped by a highway

state trooper based on the suspicion that he was under the influence of alcohol or drowsy. Upon further investigation, the trooper discovered that Salinas-Calderon was unlicensed and was transporting six illegal aliens. Following the stop, the trooper contacted the nearest immigration field officer. He was instructed to take the occupants in the vehicle to the immigration field office, including Salinas-Calderon. Salinas-Calderon was subsequently charged with six counts of violating 8 U.S.C. sec. 1324(a)(2). This statute prohibits willingly and knowingly transporting illegal aliens within the United States. Salinas-Calderon filed a notice of appeal in order to suppress the statements that he and the occupants made in reference to their legal presence. At an initial hearing, the court upheld that the plaintiffs' statements should be suppressed. The government filed a timely notice of appeal in order to have the higher court reverse the suppression order handed down by the lower court. The order was granted, and the case was reopened. In conclusion, it was discovered that the state trooper had enough probable cause to arrest Salinas-Calderon. Several related case files were used in effecting this decision. The higher court eventually ruled in favor of the state government.

According to Seghetti et al. (2009), the following are the facts of the case of United States v. Vasquez-Alvarez. Ontoniel Vasquez-Alvarez was arrested by an Oklahoma City police officer based on the fact that he was an illegal alien. Upon further investigation, it was determined that Vasquez-Alvarez had been previously deported for a felony offense. He was charged by a federal court judge for illegally reentering the United States after a deportation in violation of 8 U.S.C. sec. 1326. Vasquez-Alvarez filed a notice of appeal in order to suppress his postarrest statements, fingerprints, and

identity. The presiding judge denied his request, and he was charged with the original offense. Vasquez-Alvarez asserted that his arrest by the officer was unconstitutional and unauthorized because the officer did not know his prior criminal deportation record at the time of the arrest. He also asserted that the officer did not receive the appropriate confirmation of his status from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The background of the case was as follows. An INS agent was having dinner at a nearby restaurant. The agent observed a Hispanic male conducting a drug deal in the parking lot of the restaurant. The agent advised the local police department in reference to the drug activity. The next day, the officer responded to the restaurant and observed the vehicle described by the INS agent. The owner of the restaurant informed the officer of the vehicle's owner. The vehicle owner turned out to be Vasquez-Alvarez. The INS agent had also mentioned that Vasquez-Alvarez was an illegal alien. The officer arrested Vasquez-Alvarez and transported him to the local headquarters for being an illegal alien. The INS agent responded the following morning and interviewed Vasquez-Alvarez. It was also revealed that Vasquez-Alvarez had been deported three times from the United States and had two prior state felony convictions.

According to Seghetti et al. (2009), the following are the facts of the case United States v. Santana-Garcia. A Utah police officer stopped Santana-Garcia in reference to a traffic violation. Santana-Garcia could not speak English, but his passenger spoke limited English; therefore he was asked to translate for Santana-Garcia. The officer discovered that Santana-Garcia did not possess a driver's license or a state-issued identification card. This lack of identification led the officer to believe that both Santana-Garcia and his

passenger were in the United States illegally. Upon determining their legal presence, he arrested the individuals for violating the civil immigration law pertaining to proving legal presence in the United States. Mr. Santana-Garcia filed an appeal with regard to why a local police officer was authorized to enforce federal immigration laws. The court held that the officer had enough probable cause to arrest Santana-Garcia.

Brief Analysis

These four cases paved the way and demonstrated the foundation for the modern-day immigration policy 287(g). In examining these cases, a similar pattern is noted in reference to the appeals filed by the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs in each case alleged that the officers involved did not have probable cause to arrest them for minor offenses. These plaintiffs also addressed the notion that the officers involved had no authority in enforcing federal immigration laws. The four different courts involved ruled in favor of the defendants—the officers. It was stated that the officers acted in good faith and were within the confines of their regular outlined duties. Another distinction that can be derived from these four decisions is the difference between civil immigration offenses and local criminal offenses. These officers were granted authority by their designated cities to enforce local, state, and federal ordinances. These ordinances included minor traffic violations, major criminal offenses, and civil immigration violations such as those involving undocumented aliens. These case laws are applicable to this study because they provide a foundational understanding of the 287(g) and its enforcement in different localities.

Arizona's SB 1070: Case Analysis Comparison

Somewhat similar to 287(g) is Arizona Senate Bill 1070. According to the Arizona state government Web site, Governor Jan Brewer signed this bill on April 30, 2010 (www.az.gov). According to this statute, upon initiating a lawful contact by any local or state enforcement agent and determining a reasonable suspicion that the individual is illegally present in the United States, the agent is authorized to further inquire regarding the citizenship status of the individual. In addition, any person arrested is subjected to immigration status screening prior to release. Section 13-2928 stated that it is unlawful for individuals to knowingly and willingly stop alongside roadways in order to hire undocumented workers for labor.

Under Arizona's SB 1070 policy, unlike Prince William County's 287(g) policy, when an individual is found to be in violation, it is classified as a Class 1 misdemeanor. The major similarity Arizona's SB 1070 has with Prince William County's 287(g) is the mandatory immigration status check pre- or postarrest. Arizona's SB 1070 warrants its officials to check immigration status if there is a reasonable suspicion that the individual is residing in the United States illegally. Prince William County's 287(g) policy warrants its officials to check immigrant status only postarrest; however, a pre-arrest verification is warranted if the officer is investigating an alleged offense wherein the involved party cannot provide identification.

Each of these policies has controversial repercussions depending on the perception of the general populace. The literature suggested that 287(g) policy accommodates thorough training of local officials for at least four to six weeks by federal

immigration officials in order for them to identify and investigate criminal illegal immigrants. On the other hand, SB 1070 authorizes officials to investigate and arrest illegal immigrants. With 287(g) already in place, SB 1070 will be effortlessly executed. Some critics would say that the 287(g) policy paved the way for SB 1070; others would argue that there is a significant difference between the two policies.

Pros/Cons Analysis of 287(g)

Seghetti, Ester, and Garcia (2009), suggested that the controversial issue of having local and state law enforcement agents enforce federal immigration laws was inevitable. Because of the 287(g) policy, issues about the impact on communities, resources, national security, and training have inevitably arisen. Harris (2004) argued that having local and state officers enforcing federal immigration laws will sever the close relationship between local officers and the communities they are serving. The local communities have always viewed the local police as local enforcers for local ordinances (Seghetti et al, 2009). With the new responsibility given to the local police officers, local community members may be forced to cut their ties with these officers. Depending on the region, the majority of the community members may primarily be undocumented aliens. On the other hand, other critics argue that local and state police officers are suitable for enforcing immigration laws because they are familiar with the communities.

Seghetti et al. (2009) ascertained those who question the policy argued that local and state funds are for local and state issues, and these funds should not be spent on federal immigration enforcement strategies. Such opponents also argue that local enforcement officers should focus their limited resources on dealing with local

ordinances and responsibilities, and that federal responsibilities would take away from local officers' ability to meet their original mandate (Seghetti et al., 2009). Kobach (2004) contended, however, that in order to improve the security of the nation, local and state enforcement agents should be granted the authority to arrest illegal aliens and potential terrorists who are illegally present in the United States. Both Harris (2004) and Kobach (2004) made valid points in reference to federal immigration laws being enforced by local law enforcement officials.

Concerning training, Seghetti et al. (2009) agreed that a substantial amount of training is needed in order for state and local authorities to enforce immigration laws and acknowledged this endeavor can be very time consuming and expensive. Advocates argue that there are several fraud documents detection methods that can be used to prove one's legal presence in the United States. Without the appropriate training, local officials would lack the proper knowledge to recognize these documents as legitimate or illegitimate. In addition, Waseem (2007), in the CRS report "Immigration Fraud: Policies, Investigations, and Issues," mentioned that it is imperative that immigration authorities be vigilante in identifying and detecting fraudulent documents as a result of the growing market of fraudulent producers nationwide. According to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement fact sheet in 2007, advocates for the 287(g) policy agreement contended that the training provided to all partner agencies is adequate for basic enforcement. Prior training is pivotal for law enforcement officials in reference to enforcing newly implemented policies. Various police, sheriff, and detention facilities have adopted the 287(g) policy.

The above section explored the various pros and cons in reference to the implementation of this policy. The perceived reactions concerning 287(g) are controversial. Certain individuals believe that it has a negative impact on a community and its relationship with the local police officials. Others believe that it is the ultimate preemptive strategy in reference to combating terrorism. With regard to this study, the next section will focus on examining the 287(g) policy and Prince William County, Virginia.

287(g) and Prince William County

Walker (2008) noted that Prince William County, among many other local jurisdictions in the country, participates in the 287(g) program. In participating jurisdictions, local police authorities enter into an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security rendering the local officers de facto immigration officials and enabling them to check the immigration status of detainees (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 2007). According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey (ACS) statistical figures, the estimated population for Prince William County in 1999 was 215,686. In 2000, this population increased to 280,813. In 2009, this population almost doubled to 379,166. In further examining these data sets, out of an estimated 379,166 population in Prince William County, 22,058 are Salvadorans. In addition, Singer, Wilson, and DeRenzis (2009) stated that Prince William County has experienced explosive growth recently. Its total population nearly doubled between 1980 and 2006 to 357,000 (Singer et al., 2009). The mass influx of immigrants into the county has created traffic congestion, demand on schools and services, clustered homeownership among

Hispanic residents, physical/visible changes to property, the perception of decline in quality of property and in quality of life, and rising anxiety among long-term residents (Singer et al., 2009). Following the rising anxiety among long-term residents, the county board of supervisors was faced with addressing the rapid growth of illegal immigration and citizens' concerns regarding its impact. According to the police interim study presented to the board of supervisors on August 31, 2007, the police chief noted three major strategies for enforcing immigration laws in Prince William County. First, the Prince William County police have always notified ICE regarding the arrest or detention of any criminal illegal alien. Second, the department has always performed a criminal history check for physical custodial arrest, and when it found immigration violations, ICE was contacted. Lastly, the police department has been a member of the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force since July 2003. This gang task force also addresses criminal aliens' investigations, apprehensions, and detentions.

Public Eye on Prince William County and 287(g)

On October 3, 2007, the National Public Radio host Michael Martin interviewed Craig Gerhart (Deputy County Executive, Prince William County, VA) in reference to the immigration resolution in the county. Several questions were posed to Gerhart regarding reasons for considering the policy, addressing citizens complaints, and expenses in carrying out this enforcement and implementation. Gerhart said the major reason for adopting this policy is because of the numerous citizen complaints of overcrowding, littering, loitering, public drunkenness, public disorderliness, drunk driving accidents, and criminal-alien related crimes (Gerhart, 2007).

As growing tension in Prince William County has mounted because of the implementation of 287(g), several scholars have published articles regarding this policy. Osterling and McClure (2008) have stated they are directly opposed to 287(g) policy because they believe it is leading Prince William County toward a state of dystopia. The authors defined dystopia as a place or a state that is considered unsafe for living (Osterling and McClure,2008). The authors also indicated that implementation of the policy has made Prince William County an unpleasant place to live, which is consistent with the notion of dystopia being a place where the quality of life is poor. The authors said that by county statute, local police not only have authority to check the residential status of criminals/arrestees, but also to deny basic benefits such as healthcare, housing benefits, drug rehabilitation, senior services, and several other public services (Prince William County, 2007, Resolution 07-609). Osterling and McClure (2008) indicated that the policy creates chaos between community members and the authorities.

From an alternate perspective, a group called Help Save Manassas (HSM) emerged; this group is perceived to be entirely against diversity in Prince William County. The group claims to be larger than the Prince William County Republican and Democratic organizations combined, with 1,500 members in September 2007 (HSM, 2007). The group emerged after an effort failed in Manassas to redefine the *family* in zoning codes to immediate family members (Constable, 2007; McCrummen, 2006).

HSM was a strong advocate for and contributor to the implementation of the 287(g) policy. In an article presented by the president of the organization, Letiecq (2007) explained the HSM's goal is to preserve Prince William County to its prior state wherein

productive citizens populated it. Letiecq noted issues of overcrowding, increased crime committed by illegal residents, increased burdens on schools and emergency care systems, and demand for public services catering to illegal aliens. Letiecq, who considers the presence of illegal alien counterproductive, said, “Our productive citizens are leaving” (2007).

Help Save Manassas has also influenced organizations in several neighboring jurisdictions, one of which is Save Stafford. Stafford County shares a border with Prince William County. Walker (2008) noted that Save Stafford is interesting in that it purports to take a proactive response to immigration by mirroring HSM, despite the fact that the jurisdiction admittedly has not had significant problems with illegal immigration. According to Buske (2008, p. 2), Meg Jaworowski, the president of Save Stafford, described her organization’s goals as follows: “We don’t want to become a haven and invite problems that come along with illegal immigration.” The president continued by stating, “This hasn’t produced a lot of crime or been a burden on taxpayers of Stafford yet, so we need to take action in order to keep it from becoming the problem it has become in surrounding areas” (Buske, 2008, p. 2). Both Letiecq (2007) and Jaworowski (Buske, 2008) directly favored the implementation of the 287(g) program in their respective counties and expressed that this is the only solution for combating illegal immigration.

Not all the neighboring jurisdictions in the Washington, D.C. area share this perspective (Walker, 2008). Leaders in Montgomery County, MD, and Fairfax County, VA, have reiterated that they do not intend to follow Prince William County’s lead in

cracking down on illegal immigration (Walker, 2008). Each jurisdiction is aware of the repercussions of such implementation: some are willing to participate with the support of its citizens, and others choose not to participate (Walker, 2008).

Most Affected Community—Salvadoran

According to research conducted by Greater Washington Research at Brookings (GWRB, 2009), Prince William and Loudoun counties have had especially rapid and recent increases in the foreign-born population. Between 2000 and 2007, in Prince William, foreign-born residents increased from 12% (32,000) to 21% (76,000) (GWRB, 2009). In further examining the dispersion of immigrants in the county and surrounding counties, the GWRB (2009) noted that, by 2000, immigrants settled in the core of Washington, DC, but also further dispersed through Montgomery, Fairfax, and Prince George's counties and into Manassas and Prince William County. These figures are constantly growing in Prince William County (GWRB, 2009). According to an article in the *Washington Post* (Stewart, 2005), the newly established Salvadoran consulate in Woodbridge, Virginia is to cater to the increased number of Salvadorans that have migrated to Prince William County. The new consulate was located in Prince William County because the Salvadoran population has been growing rapidly in the area as immigrants search for more affordable housing and find jobs in the county in construction, housekeeping, and business (Stewart, 2005). According to Leon, Maronick, De Vita, and Boris (2009), one of the first counties to implement measures against undocumented immigrants was Prince William County. In addition to granting local police immigration enforcement authority, this same legislation denied many social

services to undocumented aliens (Leon et al., 2009). According to the Prince William County Demographic Fact Sheet (PWCDF, 2010), the percentage of the county population born outside the United States was very high in the 1990's and continued to increase during the 2000's (www.pwcecondev.org). The 2008 American Community Survey indicated that 20.0% of Prince William County's population was foreign-born in 2008, compared to 6.2% in 1990. The survey indicated that the largest proportion of foreign-born residents is from Latin America. As of the 2000 Census, there were 280,813 people, 97,570 households, and 72,724 families residing in the county. The racial makeup of the county was 68% White, 18.76% Black or African American, .39% Native American, 3.81% Asian, .13% Pacific Islander, 4.35% from other races, 3.62% from two or more races, and 9.74% of the population was Hispanic or Latino of any race (PWCDF, 2010).

Affected Systems Within the Salvadoran Community

Sridhar and Khan (2008) noted the following systems have been affected within the Salvadoran community: the health care system, the housing system, the educational system, and the public safety system. In reiterating this perception, Sridhar and Khan (2008) stated that several systems have been affected in Prince William County based on the implementation of this policy. The authors further noted that Latino- and Hispanic-origin businesses are suffering from fewer or no customers, thus resulting in going out of business. In addition, the authors further mentioned that the school systems are being affected due to the policy implementation. Parents without residency status are leaving the county abruptly removing their children out of school without notification. School

systems have fewer Hispanic students due to parents uprooting and leaving the county. Residential blocks are becoming vacant due to owners migrating from the county in order to explore less chaotic localities., Sridhar and Khan mention that due to the preemptive immigration enforcement, there is a backlog with ICE processing thus affecting regular immigration proceeding. Based on these observations from Sridha and Khan (2008), Salvadorians and Mexicans are the most affected racial group concerning the implementation of the 287(g) policy. One of the most important affected systems is the education system (Sridha & Khan, 2008).

Along the same lines, Laskowski (2010) focused on the effects of the implementation of 287(g) in Prince William County and how it affects the Hispanic community with regard to the school system, the housing system, and the business system. The author noted as a result of the immigration policy, immigrants are constantly living in fear of deportation as a result of being separated from their children. The author stated that the majority of the immigrants in Prince William County described loss of stable housing due to the new immigration law. With regard to housing systems, Laskowski (2010) mentioned that as a result of the policy implementation, Latino immigrants have uprooted and abandoned their houses thus resulting to a high number of foreclosed homes in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. One immigrant from El Salvador said he was forced to abandon his home because, without a means of income, he could not afford it (Laskowski, 2010).

According to a Prince William County Board of Supervisors resolution (2007) county personnel must inquire regarding the citizenship and residential status of anyone

applying for public services. The resolution also noted the fact that the county does not deny access to schools and other legally mandated services. These public benefits and services are primarily health care and social welfare services within the county. Because of the implementation of the 287(g) policy, undocumented immigrants are not considered to be eligible for such services. In exploring a nationwide perception for affected systems among immigrant communities, Newton and Adams (2009) mentioned that between 2006 and 2007, the passage of immigration policies nationwide has affected the following: obtaining identification and driver's license, employment, public health, education, public safety, healthcare, and other public and legal services. Considering these affected systems, it is imperative to focus and explore a designated population that has been tremendously affected.

Associated Theories

The issues related to illegal immigration can be considered from a number of perspectives. The following theories were explored in reviewing the literature for this study: acculturation theory, by John W. Powell (1880); social disorganization theory, developed at the University of Chicago; and migration theory/push-pull process, by Ernest Ravenstein (1889). These theories will be considered in order to explore the diverse reasons why Salvadoran families may have chosen to settle in Prince William County and the impact their presence there has had.

Acculturation Theory

Acculturation theory focuses on the adaptation from one culture to another wherein various forces are encountered during this adaptation process (Smart & Smart,

1995). Taking into consideration the Salvadoran families that have migrated to the United States, acculturation theory has played a major role in their settlement. John W. Powell is the known for developing of the word *acculturation*; he defined it to be the psychological changes induced by cross-cultural imitation (Abramson, 1980). Kottak (2005) mentioned that acculturation is basically the constant firsthand contact of cultural exchange between different cultural groups. Organista (2010) added that acculturation is based on subsequent psychological adaptation and adjustment among individual and group levels. The author added that the four acculturative stages are contact, conflict, crisis, and adaptation. Organista (2010) explained that adaptation involves four major strategies: assimilation, separation, integration, and marginalization.

In analyzing acculturation in this sense, it is clear that this theory is associated with Salvadoran families that have migrated to the United States in search of employment, safety, and improved living conditions. Each strategy described above can be associated with Salvadorian families, but the two most applicable are assimilation and separation. Assimilation is significant in the migration process of immigrants who are compelled to learn and adapt to the host culture (Organista, 2010). In reiterating the notion of separation, the issue of gangs can be applicable to some extent. Romano (2005) noted that the notorious Latino gang called Mara Salvatrucha (MS 13) orchestrated several horrific murders within and near the Washington D.C., area. In addition, the national media has concluded that the MS 13 was the most dangerous gang in the United States. This is a distinct example of immigrants who chose to retain their original culture

and desired not to adapt to or adopt a positive relationship with their host culture (Romano, 2005). To various extents, the issue of gangs is common in all cultures.

In addition to the acculturation theory, Miville (2006) mentioned that integral to the acculturation process is the experience of acculturative stress, which arises from the movement from one cultural context to another. Three aspects often characterize acculturative stress—(1) lifelong duration, (2) pervasiveness, and (3) intensity.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of acculturative stress for Hispanic Americans is the loss of social support in the form of family, which can lead to pervasive feelings of anxiety and loss of control, affecting their ability to cope with challenges. (Miville, 2006, p. 1)

Acculturation theory is applicable to this study because it provides the basic understanding of cultural conflicts among immigrants and their new cultures. This theory also explains the importance of accepting the rules and regulations of their new culture. Finally, understanding the Salvadorans acculturation experiences is pertinent to this study because it address research question three.

Social Disorganization Theory

Social disorganization theory provides a basic understanding and foundation of the perception that immigrants, such as Salvadorians, are more likely to be associated with gangs and crime. Thabit (2003) defined social disorganization as the failure of social institutions or social organizations (schools, businesses, police, real estate, group networking) in certain communities and/or neighborhoods. The author further elaborated

that this concept originated from the study of ecology. The study of ecology is simply examining the relationship between the individual/organism and the environment.

In applying this concept to immigrants and delinquent acts, it is imperative to note that the immigrant is exposed to a new environment. The immigrant is faced with different choices; he or she has the opportunity to choose a life of crime or a life of positive improvement (Thabit, 2003). The Thomas theorem states: "If a person defines something as real, it's real in its consequences" (Thomas & Znaniecki, 1920). Thomas, a famous sociologist, defined social disorganization as the ability of a neighborhood to solve its problems together (Thomas & Znaniecki, 1920). In analyzing this definition, it is apparent that the environment and context of immigrants play a role in their decision between committing a delinquent act and living a productive life. In addition, Thabit (2006) noted that belonging to a community or neighborhood is important in driving individuals' fundamental sense of their environment. There are four underlying desires associated with this notion: the new experience, security, response, and recognition (Thabit, 2006). Working to meet these needs and desires may lead immigrant communities into social disorganizations (Thabit, 2006).

In disputing this notion, Robinson (1950), one of the many critics of social disorganization theory, discussed ecological inference. He pointed out that there is a difference between ecological correlations and individual correlations. Robinson used a simple example in comparing the relationship between nativity and literacy. He used the percentages of people who are foreign-born and people who are literate in the United States. Upon completing a simple regression analysis, he concluded that there is a

significant difference between foreign-born individuals and native-born individuals with regard to literacy (in American English). In analyzing his own theory on social disorganization, Robinson contended that instead of saying that socially disorganized neighborhoods contribute to the delinquent behavior among immigrants in that neighborhood, one should say that socially disorganized neighborhoods contribute to conflicts among low-income families.

These two sociologists present different perspectives on social disorganization. Despite these differences both address potential causes of crime among immigrants. Furthermore, both viewpoints include consider the immigrant environment, the immigrant's level of education, the immigrant's choice of actions, and the immigrant's income level.

Migration Theory/Push-Pull Process

The third applicable theory for this study is migration theory. In order to understand why Salvadorian families migrated to the United States, it is imperative to understand this theory concerning origination and foundations. According to migration theory, individuals migrate from one region to the other throughout history in order to explore positive and improved opportunities (Liang, 2006). The United States is one of the most distinct examples that demonstrate migration theory (Liang, 2006). Liang (2006), crediting Ravenstein (1889) as one of the original proprietors of the migration theory, noted that those who migrate do so in a search for improved life, employment, and family structure. These motivating factors seem probable reasons for Salvadorians to migrate to the United States.

As the literature noted, there are two major types of migration, international migration and internal migration. From a broader perspective, Waldinger (2008) noted, international migration and the traveling from one nation to the other for worldwide trade endeavors have exemplified the theory of migration. Two major considerations should be addressed pertaining to migration (Waldinger, 2008). First, a nation's structural force, such as the global economy, dictates the migration type and pattern. Second, sociocultural differences such as gender, class, race, and ethnic background, dictate the migrant's mobility. Waldinger (2008) identified Salvadorans, Columbians, and Dominicans as the populations that most frequently immigrate into the United States. As summarized by Portes in Waldinger (2008), food, education, improved family lifestyle, and diverse prospects are the driving forces for migration from one nation to the other.

In analyzing the perspectives of both Liang (2006) and Waldinger (2008), migration is inevitable. It provides the opportunity for immigrants to pursue their dreams. Pitzl (2006) noted that sociologists point to two factors in explaining migration: push factors and pull factors. If conditions in the homeland become intolerable, an individual or family may be compelled to leave. This action is considered the push factor. On the other hand, the individual or family *pushed* from the homeland will choose a place to relocate that has some redeeming value and is judged to be superior to the homeland. This action is considered the *pull* factor. Pitzl (2006) mentioned that virtually all migrations involve both push and pull factors. The three types of push and pull factors are economical, cultural, and environmental (Pitzl, 2006). The three factors of the Push-Pull Process that have been identified are directly associated with why Salvadoran families

choose to migrate to the United States. This theory explains the reasons for their actions. First, these families may migrate in order to find a nation with an improved economical lifestyle with regard to employment and quality of life. Second, these families may migrate in order to become associated with different cultural values and norms. Last, these families may migrate from their homeland in order to seek an environment of new opportunities for employment.

From an alternative perspective, Waldinger, Popkin, and Magana (2008) noted that the concept of migration is twofold. First, it is considered a social movement; second, it is considered as a political movement. It is social in nature for trade and economic reasons; it is political in nature with regard to boundaries and jurisdictional regulations (Waldinger, Popkin, & Magana, 2008). As a result of the political aspect of migration, policies are implemented. In exploring this particular notion, the literature suggested that in today's world, international migrants are not allowed to easily come and go as they please; there are strict immigration rules and regulations pertaining to their entry into and exit from the United States (Waldinger, Popkin, & Magana, 2008). Although there are various reasons for immigrants to migrate to the United States, their migration is determined by the individual state and its people, consequently demonstrating the democratic process in the United States.

Future Enforcement

Immigration enforcement will continue to be a controversial issue in the United States. The two parties that make up the U.S. government are in constant disagreement about solutions to the immigration issue. Martin (2007) suggested an effective

immigration reform strategy should encompass a stable, permanent, and efficient enforcement system. Lawmakers are indecisive about whether more resources should be used in securing the surrounding U.S. borders, in augmenting strict enforcement strategies, and in granting undocumented immigrants protected status, which eventually leads to the pathway of citizenship. As mentioned in the earlier portions of this literature review, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is now a subsection of the Department of Homeland Security. The literature suggested that the primary purpose of the Department of Homeland Security is to combat terrorism (Martin, 2007). In light of this perception, enforcing immigration law will be viewed as fighting terrorism, thus providing a negative context for immigration reform.

Immigration enforcement is an important issue. It was on the agenda of the Bush administration, and it is a pressing agenda in the Obama administration (Aguirre, 2008). According to Aguirre (2008), policy-working groups advised the Obama administration on the following key points to be noted in an immigration reform bill: (a) make provisions for undocumented immigrants to start the process towards citizenship, (b) create effective border security enforcement, and (c) prosecute employers who hire undocumented workers and/or abuse undocumented workers. With respect to these recommendations, it is evident that the Obama presidential administration is now working on a reform bill. Several advocates have mixed feelings with regard to this immigration reform bill; its value will be determined upon being introduced in Congress.

Arizona SB 1070 is still being evaluated concerning its effectiveness and efficiency. Concerns arise from this state legislation such as whether other states will

adopt similar legislation, whether it supports a form of racial profiling, whether it will be effective in resolving issues with illegal immigration, and whether the Obama administration will circumvent it and 287(g) with an amnesty program. These are unanswered questions; they will remain in the minds of researchers, policy advocates, law enforcement agents, and political agents. Future immigration studies will eventually address these unanswered questions.

Methodology

Literature Related to the Methods

For this study, three related literature reviews influenced the research method. Hall (2010) conducted a phenomenology study with several homeless individuals in studying their individual challenges toward independence. The author conducted in-depth interviews with five homeless individuals in order to generalize the population sample's experiences toward independency. This study is similar to my study because both our initial presumptions were to explore the experiences of a certain population. Hall's population was the homeless community; my population will be the Salvadoran community. The distinct difference is the type of population. The second influential literature review was by Davis & Erez (1998). The authors conducted a phenomenology study with immigrant populations' experiences as victims toward a multicultural criminal justice system. This study is intended to explore immigrant victims who have been affected based on their perceptions towards the criminal justice system. The similarity between this study and my study is both studies explored a designated population based on their perceptions. The difference is the type of population. The final and most

influential literature that I encountered is an article by Garni and Miller (2008). These authors conducted a phenomenology study with Mexican migrants' life experiences in South California. This study is very similar to my study because both studies explored the life/lived experiences of a designated population. Their population was Mexican migrants whereas mine was Salvadorans. Upon reading these three major contributions, I decided in order to explore the experiences of Salvadoran families, a phenomenology study would be most appropriate. These three literature contributions greatly influenced my research methodology. In addition, several methodologists' suggestions were explored, such as Denzin, Moustakas, Trochim, Donnelly, Lincoln, Guba, and Hurserl. Their contributions and justifications will be thoroughly addressed in Chapter 3.

Literature Related to Differing Methodologies

Originally, I anticipated conducting a mixed methods study wherein I would seek to determine if there was a relationship between the policy implementation and the affected entities in the county (real estate, schools, public safety, and businesses) within the Salvadoran community. The qualitative portion would focus on exploring the experiences of Salvadoran families in the county based on their perceptions of law enforcement strategies. Finally, I decided to conduct a qualitative study based on the following contributions from the renowned authors Denzin and Lincoln (2009), and Creswell (2009). Denzin and Lincoln (2009) surmised that qualitative researchers seek to discover the meaning of various experiences, seek to understand social and real-life experiences whereas quantitative researchers seek to understand casual relationships between variables. In order to satisfy my curiosity for exploring my participants'

experiences, I needed to conduct a real-life experience study. Considering this notion along with my chair's input, I decided to conduct a qualitative study. In addition, Creswell (2009) noted that there are five major types of qualitative methods: ethnography, grounded theory, case studies, phenomenology, and narrative. I thoroughly researched each of the above methods. I initially was intending to conduct a narrative study in order to explore my participants' experiences. I explored two narrative studies that were somewhat similar to my proposed study. Black (2005) conducted a narrative study with 10 Mexican families that had experienced separation from their children due to various reasons. These families were interviewed in order to portray their experiences from being away from their children. These interviews were conducted at the participants' residencies in order to establish credibility and trust. Brown (2010) also conducted a narrative study with nine undocumented day laborers concerning their lived experiences of leaving or staying in a county because of local immigration enforcement strategies. The author conducted the interviews at the day laborer sites, establishing credibility and trust with the participants. These two studies are similar to my proposed research, however, both researchers focused on the individuals entirely, whereas, my proposed research will be focusing on an entire population's experiences, consequently a phenomenon. Moustakas (1994) stated that in order to explore the lived experiences of individuals and groups, a thorough engagement is eminent in order to understand their experiences through interviews. Moustakas's contributions greatly influenced my decision for utilizing phenomenology research for exploring the experiences of

Salvadoran families in Prince William County. Chapter 3 will provide detail justifications for utilizing a phenomenology study for this research.

Summary

As mentioned earlier in this section, immigration is a continuous issue within the realm of the U.S. government. The literature suggested that there is no apparent effective solution for illegal immigration. Several efforts have proven ineffective, and the problem of illegal immigration is still a problem in the United States.

This chapter presented the following sections. The first section provided a broad range of foundational bases of immigration, policing, and the implementation of immigration policies. The second section described the most affected cultural groups and citizens within the United States concerning immigration policies. Furthermore, this section explored the elemental case law, a pros/cons analysis of the 287(g) policy program, affected systems, and the public view on Prince William County's enforcement of the 287(g) program. These facets acted as the initial reasons and considerations for immigration policy implementation. The final section provided the theoretical base that provided the basic understanding about my participants and their cultural attributes. Three applicable theories were discussed: acculturation theory, social disorganization theory, and migration theory. Acculturation theory provided a basic understanding of how immigrants choose to adapt to their host culture or remain true to their original culture. Social disorganization theory provided the general explanation of why immigrants are associated with crimes. This theory also serves to elaborate on the fact that immigrants are faced with numerous opportunities while in their host nation. The

migration theory presented the notion that immigrants move from one place to another in order to seek an improved quality of life and to seek employment opportunities.

This research provided a basic background of immigration in order to appeal to a wider range of readers. This literature illustrates several perceptions, opinions, and viewpoints from various advocates extracted from alternate sides of the immigration reform spectrum. The purpose of this literature is to bridge the conceptual gap that exists between law enforcement officials and immigrant communities in reference to the implementation of the 287(g) policy. Based on this presentation, it is presumed social change is inevitable. This social change can be initiated with the assistance of the following stakeholders: policy makers, federal and local officials, community leaders, and citizens. The fact that there are limited studies on the experiences of these affected families, both illegal and legal, demonstrates the need for this study. It is also presumed that an apparent product from this research will be a clearer understanding of the existing policy. This chapter also revealed that future research in immigration policies is imminent.

Chapter 3 describes in detail the methodology used in exploring the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. Chapter 3 also provides the size of the selected population, the sample used, the research design, and the analysis process used to interpret the data collected. This chapter will entail a comprehensive description of thoroughness, informed consent, reliability and validity, and other ethical considerations. Following this chapter, chapter 4 provides the results and findings from the data analysis. Finally, chapter 5 provides

interpretation of the findings and provides detailed implications for social change and recommendations for further studies.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

Introduction

This study was a qualitative exploration, using a phenomenological research design. The primary focus was based on the lived experiences of Salvadoran families that have encountered the implementation of the 287(g) policy in Prince William County. The literature on immigration does not address the issue of 287(g) impact on the lived experiences of immigrants, so little is known about how immigrants understand this policy and how their understanding of it affects them and their communities. Based on local media depictions, it appears that Prince William County is reaching a state of dystopia, perhaps in part due to flawed understanding of 287(g) policy implementation. This chapter illustrates the following: the research questions, interview questions, qualitative methodology, role of the researcher, data collection procedures, data group, ethical considerations, phenomenology inquiry, validity, reliability, and conclusion. Creswell (2009) noted that qualitative research is primarily to explore, understand, and describe a social issue. This method of research involves collecting data from the participants' settings in order to develop themes and codes from interpreting the data (Creswell, 2009).

Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

Research Question 2: What systems have been affected within the Salvadoran community because of their perceptions of the 287(g) policy implementation?

Research Question 3: How have acculturation experiences influenced the Salvadoran families that migrated to Prince William County before and after the policy implementation?

Interview Questions

In order to achieve a holistic understanding of the participants' perceptions, and therefore to explore their experiences, a minimal number of unstructured questions were asked. In order to eliminate biases and directional tone from the questions, I asked neutral questions allowing the participant to answer freely, willingly, and uncontrolled. In order to maintain the level of trust and confidentiality, I guaranteed my participants that I would not ask their status information concerning their legal documentation. As mentioned earlier, the overall purpose of this study was to explore their basic understanding of the policy implementation in Prince William County and how their lives have changed based on their perceptions. Their legal statuses were not explored, even though this plays a significant role in the study; their immigration status did not emerge from the data. The following questions were asked:

Research Question 1: What are the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

- What comprises your family structure?
- What is your level of awareness of the new 287(g) policy implementation in Prince William County?
- How has this policy affected you?
- How has this policy affected your family—parents, children, and siblings?

- Describe specific experiences you have had after the implementation of this policy.

Research Question 2: What systems (Real Estate, education, employment, healthcare, private, and public safety) have been affected within the Salvadoran community because of their perceptions of the 287(g) policy implementation?

- What is your understanding of the current immigration policy implemented in Prince William County—287(g)?
- What does this immigration policy mean to you?
- What are the attitudes among your friends and families toward immigration enforcement in Prince William County?
- Explain how this policy implementation has affected you concerning your future educational goals.
- Explain how this policy has affected you concerning owning a home.
- Explain how this policy has affected you concerning healthcare.
- Describe how this policy has affected you reporting crimes or criminal activities to the police.

Research Question 3: How have acculturation experiences influenced Salvadoran families to stay in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

- Describe the similarities and differences of your original culture and the American culture.
- Describe your cultural experiences in Prince William County before the implementation of the policy.

- Describe your cultural experiences in Prince William County after the implementation of the policy.

Qualitative Methodology

Initially, a mixed methodology was considered for this research study. As Creswell (2009) explained, mixed methods research is a combination of qualitative and quantitative research designs. In addition, a quantitative research method was also considered. The purpose of this study was twofold. The first aspect was to explore and understand the experiences of Salvadoran families after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. The second aspect was to evaluate whether there is a relationship between unreported crime rates among Salvadoran families and the implementation of the 287(g) policy. As Creswell (2009) noted, quantitative research is a means for testing objective theories by examining the relationship among variables (p. 4). My goal and purpose were to focus on exploring and explaining the experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County. A quantitative research approach would have been applicable if I were testing the relationship between identified variables. I also considered several reasons why qualitative phenomenological research is suited for this study. Denzin and Lincoln (2009) noted that qualitative methods are predominantly multimethod in nature, meaning in order to explore various and meaningful outcome, qualitative study is recommended. The authors added that qualitative research is used for understanding the phenomenon in question. (p. 7). With positive guidance from advisers and the consideration of time management and expenses, I determined that a single methodology is suited for this study and recommended a mixed methodology for future research. I explored several readings

in order to justify the methodology for this study. The writings of the following authors were explored: Rudestam and Newton (2007), Creswell (2007, 2009), Creswell and Plano Clark (2007), Miles and Huberman (1994), Trochim and Donnelly (2008), McNabb (2008), Moustakas (1994), Denzin and Lincoln (2008), Husserl (1970), and Lincoln and Guba (1985). I ultimately selected the qualitative research method for two reasons. Initially, Denzin and Lincoln (2008) articulated that, in order to explore and understand lived experiences of participants, a qualitative research design is inevitable. Second, in order to achieve reliability in the study, I was prompted to conduct face-to-face, open-ended interviews. This form of data collection provided me with the opportunity to observe the participants' facial expressions and body language, consequently providing real, truthful, and precise answers to the interview questions. Another advantage in conducting face-to-face, open-ended interviews is that doing so allowed me to address immediate questions and concerns that the participants had. I am also aware of the disadvantages of this form of data collection. It can be intrusive and reactive, costly, and challenging in terms of locating respondents for follow-up interviews if necessary.

Phenomenological Research

Various definitions apply to phenomenology, and Creswell (2007) noted although a narrative study is designated to exploring the life on one individual, a phenomenological study is geared toward exploring the lived experiences of several individuals in the context of a social or personal phenomenon. Husserl (1970), the reputed founder of phenomenology, argued that traditional science distances people from the world of everyday experiences. With an understanding of phenomenology in mind, it

is imperative to explore the background of phenomenology. According to Denzin and Lincoln (2008), phenomenology is rooted in the work of Husserl and Shutz. Husserl (1970) focused most of his work on the consciousness and experiences of individuals. In exploring the concept of consciousness, Moustakas (1994) noted that ideas and concepts can emerge from one's consciousness, and one's experience can fill in concepts derived from consciousness. In addition, Shutz (1967) addressed the life world and the process of making the social world meaningful. Consciousness and the life world are two distinct concepts. Consciousness is based on observations (Moustakas, 1994) and perceptions, whereas the life world consists of daily surroundings (Shutz, 1967). Considering these two major contributions, it appears the study of phenomenology is greatly influenced by personal observations, surroundings, experiences, and consequently a phenomenon. My methodology was strictly influenced by these contributions.

McNabb (2008) further noted that, in public administration research, phenomenology is utilized to explore the social meanings of issues, events, symbols, and works. These characteristics identified by McNabb (2008) are consistent with the types of data I gathered. There are two common types of phenomenological research: hermeneutic phenomenology (Van Manen, 1990) and empirical, transcendental, or psychological phenomenology (Moustakas, 1994). Upon thoroughly examining the types of phenomenological research, the most applicable type for this study is hermeneutic phenomenology. According to McNabb (2008), the main approach to qualitative research methodology is to interpret social phenomena. This type of phenomenological research was developed in the 18th century solely for interpreting classical, legal, and biblical texts

(McNabb, 2008). Upon thoroughly exploring the meanings, definitions, and background of phenomenological study, I concluded that this method was suitable for this study, primarily because it allowed me to describe the experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. The social situation at play is the reaction of the Salvadoran community as a result of policy implementation; the event and work at play are the policy implementation and its enforcement. This study primarily explored local understanding and interpretation of the policy's implementation and the effects it has had on the lived experiences of the selected population.

Creswell (2007) explained that phenomenological researchers have the primary purpose of describing and exploring the participants' experiences toward phenomena. It is perceived that the Salvadoran community is the fastest-growing cultural group in Prince William County. Because of this growth, this community is the most affected population. This research was conducted based on the perception that this population has a limited understanding of the newly implemented immigration policy in the county. As a result of their limited understanding of the policy, members of the Salvadoran community perceive law enforcement officers as their enemies, therefore creating a dystopia for law enforcement officers and the Salvadoran community (Osterling & McClure, 2008). Due to this misconception, many in the Salvadoran community have chosen to migrate from the county, which has affected education, real estate, and public safety, as well as economic and private systems (Laskowski, 2010). Consequently, it is imperative to presume that this population has experienced a phenomenon; therefore, a

phenomenological study was essential. In order to justify this design, Moustakas (1994) mentioned the following with regard to phenomenological studies:

1. It seeks to reveal more fully the essences and meanings of human experiences;
2. It seeks to uncover the qualitative rather than the quantitative factors in behavior and experiences;
3. It engages the total self of the research participant, and sustains personal and passionate involvement;
4. It does not seek to predict or to determine relationships;
5. It is illuminated through careful, comprehensive descriptions, vivid and accurate renderings of the experience, rather than measurements testing, or scores. (p. 105)

There are limitations, advantages, and disadvantages associated with using phenomenological design. Farber (1943) noted in Moustakas (1994) the five major delineations of phenomenology study as follows: it is the study of the initial knowledge of the issue; this method is solely geared toward meanings rather than essentials; it deals with real and possible essences; it provides the direct meanings of things and what emerges from the various issues being studied; and lastly, it seeks to achieve understanding based on subjectivity, while focusing on reflecting and thinking.

Role of the Researcher

I migrated to the United States at age 17 from Sierra Leone due to the civil war that plagued the country for more than 10 years. Prior to moving to the United States, as a young boy growing up in Sierra Leone, I had always expressed my interest in becoming a

police officer. Upon migrating to the United States and beginning as a sophomore in high school, I faced several cultural changes such as education, language, environment, climate, food, and the population in general. In order to fulfill my long-held aspiration of becoming a police officer, as a recent graduate of Radford University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, I joined the Prince William County Police Department. As a 6-year, well-seasoned officer with the county, I have enforced the 287(g) policy to its entirety since its inception in August 2007. I became interested in this particular issue based on two issues. First, I became interested in exploring the experiences of Salvadoran families after the implementation of the policy when I began to notice that many of these individuals have a misconception of this policy. Second, I have personally observed many of the county's businesses closing, immigrant children absent from school due to parents' immigration status, the increased foreclosure of homes in the county, the rise in tension between local police and immigrants, and last, victims and witnesses staying silent in reporting crimes against themselves and their loved ones. Based on my work experiences, it appears the misconception is that local police officers can arrest and detain illegal immigrants despite their roles as victims or witnesses. Consequently, the immigrant community views local police officers as deportation agents. On a personal note, since the implementation of the policy, I have had several encounters with individuals that have escalated from a simple traffic violation to a serious and criminal act due to panic and a negative perception of my presence. In addition to my second reason for this qualitative inquiry, I had personally approached several community leaders, fellow scholars, fellow instructors, and fellow officers; they have also concluded

that there is a problem in the county because of the misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the policy. It was my goal to conduct original research that describes the experiences of these families based on their understandings and to consider how these experiences might have contributed to or be the result of the county's current state of dystopia.

I believe that my experiences of working as a police officer in Prince William County and an enforcer of the current policy have helped me observe both groups affected by policy implementation—the communities and the policy enforcers. The major form of bias that materialized during this study is empathy. As a police officer, I am granted the authority to enforce this policy without any exceptions. I am fulfilling my regular police responsibilities. Conversely, as a migrant from Sierra Leone who is legally residing in the United States, I slightly projected my own feelings and emotions toward these families. Due to these projected feelings, bias feelings emerged. In order to eliminate this bias from affecting my interpretation of the data, I will revert to my professional training and experience in cultural diversity and sensitivity. Second, I will rely on my personal self-discipline in differentiating between personal feelings and reporting the data analysis accurately. I used bracketing (Creswell, 2009) to help separate my own feelings and perceptions from those of my research participants. The use of a Spanish-language interpreter also affect this study because this person might attempt to guide or interrupt the flow of the information from the participants. As listed in one of the limitations of this study, I am not a native Spanish speaker; therefore, a certified interpreter was used. The interpreter was be clearly instructed in reference to the

importance of the validity of the study. Additionally, the interpreter will be advised to be cautious in interpreting the questions asked in order to avoid guiding the study. My role as a police officer could have influenced this study. I approach data collection from the perspective of a researcher, rather than a law enforcement officer. Though some participants revealed to me information about their immigration status as part of the research process, because of the context in which the information was provided, I was not mandated by my position to act on any information regarding immigration status.

Data Collection Procedures

In order to solicit my research population, I explored social institutions such as Salvadoran churches and businesses. The key action during this process was to seek the help from a gatekeeper, an individual who belongs to this population or is very familiar with this group. I approached both the leaders of two of the most prominent Salvadoran churches. I introduced myself and briefed them on my topic. Both leaders were particularly interested in my research; as a result, they provided letters of cooperation. Upon approval receiving approval from Walden's IRB, two different presentation dates were scheduled for each institution. My contact information was provided after each presentation for face-to-face interviews for interested participants. It was particularly difficult for participants to volunteer to participate. After both presentations, I conducted follow up meetings with the leaders; I also designated them as my gatekeepers into the Salvadoran communities. Both leaders advised me that due to my profession, participants would be a bit intimidated in order to participate. A strategy was developed to focus on securing one interview, and after that interview was successfully conducted I then used

snowball sampling, and that participant referred the remaining participants from among his assoc. It is imperative for the researcher to employ the snowball sampling technique in order to determine the appropriate number of participants (Rudestam & Newton, 2007). This technique, as applicable to my research, will depend in large part on the level of cooperation from the church community. In utilizing this technique, several influencing factors should be taken into consideration, including demeanor, appearance, attitude, and assertiveness. As a police officer, I am trained to display a professional appearance and attitude at all times. As mentioned in the earlier chapters, I used the guidance of a trained interpreter who assisted in carrying out my interviews. This interpreter was thoroughly screened in order to eliminate possible introduction of biased language or opinions. The interpreter did not have any affiliation with the study. He was an independent, professional, hired interpreter. The interpreter was hired based on professional references and recommendations. The interpreter and I were mindful of our tone of voice, facial expressions, and body language in order to eliminate participants' distrust and fear. In addition, we were dressed appropriately, wearing formal comfortable clothing that did not depict any name brand, political affiliations, governmental/county seal, or symbols or any other characteristics that would negatively affect the level of participation.

Target Group

For this particular study, the majority of the participants were Salvadoran families residing in Prince William County. Natives of Bolivia, Honduras, and Guatemala participated in order to generate a more generalized response. As mentioned earlier in

the literature, Salvadorans are the fastest growing immigrant population in Prince William County, thus, accessing this population will be convenient. According to the Oxford English Dictionary (2010) a family is defined as the individuals on one household to include parents, children, and servants. For the purpose of this study, I focused on the parents and their close relatives residing with them. Their immigration statuses were not specifically explored, though some participants discussed their status anyhow. The qualitative data were obtained through unstructured interviews with all sets of participants. Unstructured interviews are geared toward achieving a holistic perception of the participants' experiences (Dawson, 2009). This particular type of interview is suitable for this study because it is less organized, and the participants should be able to express their experiences. The ultimate purpose of the interviews was to discover the level of understanding of the 287(g) policy in each family and, second, according to their level of understanding of the policy, how their social, personal, and professional lives have been affected. These experiences were recorded with a tape recorder for translation and transcription. I was aware that my participants were vulnerable populations; as a result, I took the necessary steps to protect their vulnerability. I assured participants that their immigration statuses would not be explored or revealed for any reason. An informed consent form was provided to each family (individually) both in English and in Spanish. The form was thoroughly reviewed with each participating family before signing and initiating the interview. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, in either English or Spanish, before signing the consent form. The sexes of the participants varied. Only adult participants were interviewed. In order to justify the age range of the family

members, Black (2005) and Menjivar (2008) conducted similar studies of immigrant families. Both authors interviewed adults ranging from 21-55 years of age. I interviewed similar age ranges for my study. Children were not interviewed for this study. For the purpose of this study, I considered participants younger than 21 years of age as children; therefore, they were not interviewed. The first initial interviews were performed at the participants' residences. As the interpreter proceeds with the interviews, I took field notes concerning attitudes, emotions of participants, and environments of the interviews.

In order to justify a reasonable number of participants, Josselson and Lieblich (2003, in Rudestam & Newton, 2007) reported the point of saturation should be reached, wherein the collected data becomes repetitive and redundant. The authors further noted that the researcher should be mindful of the possibility of becoming overwhelmed with the data or the data becoming repetitive. A sufficient amount of data should be collected in order to represent the phenomenon. Rudestam and Newton (2007) concluded that previous phenomenological studies have used from five to 30 participants. In addition, similar studies have proposed a minimum of 10 participants (Hall, 2010, & Davis & Erez 1998). Boyd (2001) noted that participants for a phenomenological study should be between the numbers and two and ten participants. Taking all the above justifications for the number of participants in a phenomenological study, a total number of five families to include seven participants were interviewed for this study. As I collected the data, I evaluated it in order to determine whether saturation (Dawson, 2009) point has been reached. The saturation point was the point at which I, as a researcher, determine the collected data contains all the answers to the research questions and the data was

becoming repetitive. With this study, after the fifth interview, I determined that saturation point has been reached wherein I was not receiving any new information. However, in order to broaden to responses of participants, I interviewed seven participants from five different families.

Recruiting Process for Participants

Recruiting participating families for this study was extremely difficult based on the fear and lack of trust of prospective participants. Creswell (2007) noted that in order to gain access to such a group or population establishing a gatekeeper is helpful. I shared my topic/study with several known Salvadoran community leaders through emails in order to solicit their interest and to develop a gatekeeper. I received positive feedback and letters of cooperation from the leaders of two churches in the community. These two leaders are very active in the community concerning immigration issues; in addition, they were very interested in my study.

In establishing the two gatekeepers for this study, further meetings were scheduled in order for me to familiarize myself with my participants' environment. A plan was devised with both leaders. Both agreed that I would be granted a time slot of about 15-20 minutes in a service in order to present my study and provide my contact information so that prospective participants could contact me if they wanted to participate. I conducted two information-sharing sessions at two prominent Salvadoran gatherings in the county. The first information session was shared with the officiating pastor for the Hispanic service at a church on October 21, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The pastor advised that he would make the announcement and pass out my contact information

along with a brief statement extracted from the consent form explaining the reason, benefits, risks, confidentiality, my profession, and significance of the study. Due to time constraints, my interpreter and I did not wait in order to confirm that the information was shared with the congregation. The officiating pastor assured us that he would distribute the information. The other information-sharing session was done in an oral presentation fashion at another church on November 7, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The presentation lasted for about 15-20 minutes; the interpreter translated my speech as I spoke. My information was left, along with a brief statement about my research. I was not contacted directly even though my contact information was provided. Several individuals who were present at the service contacted the officiating pastor and expressed their interest in participating. The pastor contacted me advising that several of his congregants wanted to participate. Their contact information was provided to the pastor who in turn provided me with the information. Contact was made and interview dates were scheduled. The remaining participants were recruited by referrals from original participants, thus justifying the use of snowball sampling technique for this study. Prior to the interviews, the technique of prolonged period of engagement noted by Lincoln and Guba (1985) was utilized. I spent a moderate time at the church in order to create ease and comfort in the minds of my participants. The consent forms were provided both in English and in Spanish and were thoroughly explained during the first meeting. Several questions were answered on the first meeting, thus justifying that face-to-face interviews were pertinent. Majority of the interviews lasted for about 25-30 minutes. The interviews were conducted in Spanish and were later translated in English by the interpreter whiles I type the translated transcript.

Based on the fear of participants, it was agreed that it would be better to conduct the interviews at the gatekeeper's residence. By conducting the interviews at his residence, it eased the burden of families for whom transportation was a problem because transportation was provide for them. This location helped the participants feel more safe about not disclosing where they lived. Interviewing the participants at the gatekeeper's residence also provided a calm and less anxious environment. The interviews were taped with a digital tape recorder and were downloaded unto my computer for translating and transcribing. A copy of the recorded interviews was provided to my interpreter. One lesson learned from this entire process is that majority of the participants trusted their officiating pastor, as oppose to contacting me directly in order to participate. The pastor reiterated the assurance that their confidentialities were protected and their statuses would not be explored. Bailey (1996) warned that using a gatekeeper might limit the researcher from reaching potential and influential participants. Using snowball sampling helped to address this limitation.

Interview Guide and Family Responses

The interview guide questions are as follows:

Research Question 1: What are the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

- What comprises your family structure?
- What is your level of awareness of the new 287(g) policy implementation in Prince William County?
- How has this policy affected you?

- How has this policy affected your family—parents, children, and siblings?
- Describe specific experiences you have had after the implementation of this policy.

Research Question 2: What systems (Real Estate, education, employment, healthcare, private, and public safety) have been affected within the Salvadoran community because of their perceptions of the 287(g) policy implementation?

- What is your understanding of the current immigration policy implemented in Prince William County—287(g)?
- What does this immigration policy mean to you?
- What are the attitudes among your friends and families toward immigration enforcement in Prince William County?
- Explain how this policy implementation has affected you concerning your future educational goals.
- Explain how this policy has affected you concerning owning a home.
- Explain how this policy has affected you concerning healthcare.
- Describe how this policy has affected you reporting crimes or criminal activities to the police.

Research Question 3: How have acculturation experiences influenced Salvadoran families to stay in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

- Describe the similarities and differences of your original culture and the American culture.

- Describe your cultural experiences in Prince William County before the implementation of the policy.
- Describe your cultural experiences in Prince William County after the implementation of the policy.

These questions were thoroughly screened to remove any bias, direct, and loaded, languages. Concerning confidentiality issues, families were identified by numbers.

Data Analysis

There are three major approaches to qualitative data analysis: interpretivism, social anthropology, and collaborative social research (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The most applicable to my study was interpretivism. According to Miles and Huberman (1994), this approach is not geared toward laws and ordinances; it is geared toward a “practical understanding of meanings and actions” (p. 8). In order to properly perform a qualitative analysis, the researcher must follow six simple steps (Miles & Huberman, 1994).

1. During the interview, the researcher records all observations of the participants and their environments.
2. The researcher notes comments and reactions of the participants on a notepad.
3. The researcher should manually organize notes for themes, relationships between variables, patterns, and similarities.
4. The researcher should separate the observations from the main data collected in order to maintain neatness.

5. Upon making the necessary observations and noting all themes and codes, the researcher should start generalizing the overall concept.
6. Lastly, the researcher should add existing theories to their generalizations in order to provide strength of their study.

Taking into consideration that my research produced large quantities of data, I used both manual coding with themes and cross checking. As mentioned above, manually organizing my collected data was essential because it provided me with a firsthand experience of the results. In addition, a positive reason for using both manual coding and cross checking was that doing so increased accuracy and provided a means to compare the reliability of the analytical method. Codes are tags or labels for assigning units of meaning to the descriptive or inferential information compiled during a study (Miles & Huberman, 1994). Codes are usually attached to chunks of varying size—words, phrases, sentences, or complete paragraphs, connected or unconnected to a specific setting (Miles & Huberman, 1994). I used horizontalization, a process by which the researcher identifies significant statements and quotes in order to explore the understanding of the participant's experience (Moustakas, 1994). In utilizing this coding method, I started by designating codes in relation to my research questions. Miles and Huberman (1994) also noted that it is advisable to create a “start list” of codes prior to fieldwork. This list of codes was guided by the research questions steering this particular study; the overall rationale for these questions was to discover and describe (a) understanding and awareness of the policy implementation, (b) any misconception of the policy implementation, (c) the lived experiences as a result of (a) and (b), and (d) acculturation

experiences. The master code was PA, to indicate Policy Awareness, with other subcodes such as PS—Public Safety, RE—Real Estate, HS—Health Care Systems, BS—Business Systems, and SS—School Systems. The negative notion to consider in using this method was that I as the researcher limited the results that would naturally emerge from the data analysis by creating coding prior to collecting the data. In order to address this limitation, I established a neutral code in order to allow the natural occurrence of the data that emerged from the interviews. A second option of coding software was explored, (QSR NVivo), however, I was unsatisfied with its results. The use of Hyper Research software proved beneficial and assisted in the coding process, it yielded additional themes from the data transcript. By using manual coding, cross checking methods and the Hyper Research software, I determined that they provided the most accurate results for analyzing interview data. Chapter 4 provides details the accuracy of utilizing manual coding.

Ethical Considerations

Taking into consideration the sensitivity and confidentiality issues of my participants and their legal status, I used pseudonyms for each participant as well as for their family names. In support of this concept, Creswell (2007) mentioned in order to protect the confidentiality of the participants, exact names were not used, and numbers or letters should were assigned to the participants. Consent forms were provided to the participants in both English and Spanish. These forms stated clearly the reason and purpose of the study. Adding to this phase, Creswell (2007) noted that in order to gain a high level of trust and support from participants, the researcher should explain the reason and purpose of the study to the participants. I did not use any deceptive techniques or

strategies with my participants. As a research student and a professional, I demonstrated a high level of honesty and ensured trust and confidence between my participants and me. My participants were also assured specifically that their confidentiality was protected both in writing and orally. In addition, the consent forms clearly note that their participation was greatly appreciated and their participating may consequently bring about positive social change in Prince William County. The transcripts were provided to the participants for review, and a follow up interviews were scheduled if necessary in order to eliminate any inconsistencies.

Building the trust between myself a trained law enforcement officer and the designated populations was a challenge. As mentioned earlier in this project, my profession would somewhat hinder my participants' from participating. A significant amount of time was spent with the initial participants in order to build trust by verbally assuring them that their identities will be protected. Some perceived that this project might be a conflict of interest with my profession; however, it was not. I focused my study on families that have experienced various outcomes based on their understanding of the policy implementation. As a researcher, I documented complete information that was relayed to me during the interview, and limited my interaction to that role.

Concerning the interview questions, the following were explored: participants' family structure, awareness of the current immigration policy, affected families and friends, understanding of the policy, and last, overall experiences before and after policy implementation in the county. Cultural heritage questions such as lifestyle, food,

environment, and languages were explored in order to address the acculturation research question.

Trustworthiness

Several terms have been used to address the trustworthiness of a study. Despite the numerous terms described by various researchers, according to Lincoln and Guba (1985), in order to establish the trustworthiness of a study the following principles should be addressed: credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability Lincoln and Guba (2005) provided simple definitions for these principles. Credibility refers to the confidence in the truth of the findings. Transferability refers to showing that the findings have applicability in other contexts. Dependability refers to showing that the findings are consistent and could be repeated. Last, confirmability refers to the degree of neutrality or the extent to which the findings of a study are shaped by the respondents and not researcher bias, motivation, or interest.

In order to demonstrate the credibility of the study, the following techniques should be addressed, peer debriefing, prolonged engagement, triangulation, persistent observation, negative adequacy, and member checking (Lincoln & Guba, 2005). Prolonged engagement is primarily when the researcher spends a tremendous amount of time in the field in order to understand the culture, social setting, and phenomenon of the study (Moustakas, 1994). Once the primary setting was established for this study, the Centrio Cristiano De Restauracion Mundial, I spent a great amount of time there. This time was spent in order to familiarize myself with the environment and participants. I attended Monday evening bible study/service. Persistent observation presents

thoroughness according to Lincoln and Guba (1985). Although I utilized a professional interpreter, I observed all the interviews and interpretation processes. By being a persistent observer, I was able to eliminate the most pertinent problems and irregularities by clarifying questions and answering concerns. Triangulation is the utilizing of several forms of data in a given study in order to develop a concise interpretation. This process is eminent in a phenomenological study. Lincoln and Guba (1985) further noted that various methods should be explored in order to understand the phenomenon. Denzin and Lincoln (2009) said triangulation is using multiple methods in order to validate perceptions and clarify meanings. For this particular study, I used both observational techniques in order to document real life emotions and reactions and secondly conducted in-depth interviews with my participants. Peer debriefing is applicable to establish the credibility of my data collection procedures. Lincoln and Guba (1985) defined this technique simply as introducing the study and concept to unfamiliar participants in order to obtain constructive feedback and understanding. A typical disinterested peer for this particular study was a fellow student who has no knowledge of the study. This person was solicited from my public administration dissertation class At Walden University. A general announcement was placed in the classroom shell soliciting a volunteer. This individual read and commented on the project. I also engaged this individual in an in-depth discussion concerning various aspects of this project. One of the major outcomes from this phase was identifying my biases and eliminating them from interpreting the results of the interview. His exact words were, "I can tell you relate to these participants because you were originally an immigrant who migrated to the United States." Based on

his recommendations and observations, I was able to rephrase the results in order to eliminate biased language. The main purpose of involving a disinterested peer is to uncover taken-for-granted biases, assumptions, and selfish perceptions on the researcher's part. Lincoln and Guba (1985) briefly talked of negative case analysis process. This particular process is applicable to my data analysis process. Upon gathering the data from the selected interviews, I revised the information thoroughly so that it confirms the patterns and themes that emerged from the study.

Concerning member checking, Lincoln and Guba (1985) noted that this technique encompasses the inclusion of participants reviewing the collected data for accuracy and representation. With this particular technique, the members in question were my participants. It was imperative to have them view the data, as this provided more leverage and validity for the study.

The technique for establishing transferability is mainly thick description. Lincoln and Guba (1985) described thick description as a way of achieving a type of external validity. The authors indicated that by describing a phenomenon in its entirety, one could conclude that the results are transferable to other situations involving another phenomenon. In addition, Holloway (1997) noted that thick description proves an extensive account of studied experiences in order to develop patterns in cultural contexts. With this particular study, I produced results that provided grounds for generalizing to individuals from another races and geographic settings. With the proper and accurate transferability, I was able to apply my results, generalizations, and observations to other communities such as Mexicans, Guatemalans, and Spanish heritage individuals.

The major technique for establishing dependability is inquiry audit. Lincoln and Guba (1985) posited that with this specific technique, the findings of the study are consistent and could be repeated. In addition, dependability emphasizes the responsibility of the researcher to describe changes that occurred in the setting and how they affected the way the researcher approached the study (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). The authors noted that maintaining field notes throughout data collection to document the researcher's observations and impressions increases the dependability of the study. As I mentioned earlier, even though a professional Spanish translator/interpreter was utilized, I personally observed, conducted, and supervised the entire process in order to document my observations and impressions. This eventually increased the dependability level of the study.

Last, in order to establish the confirmability of a study, Lincoln and Guba (1985) noted that the following steps should be covered: confirmability audit, audit trail, triangulation, and reflexivity. The most applicable steps to this study were the audit trail and triangulation. Rudestam and Newton (2007) suggested that the audit trail provides a direct path for the study in order to provide guidance for other researchers to conclude similarly. This step was somewhat complicated because it involved my personal thoughts, intuitions, and reactions during the interviews and data analysis. The main reason for this step is to elucidate my possible biases and assumptions in order to eliminate them and keep them from affecting the research. It is possible that biases as a result of being an immigrant myself would produce empathy toward my participants, thus affecting my interpretation. In addition to this step, the authors also note that an external

consultant who has no relationship to the study could be utilized to review the materials and assess the findings and interpretations for consistency. Member checking by a disinterested party was utilized as mentioned above.

The second applicable step is triangulation. Rudestam and Newton (2007) defined this step as soliciting data from multiple and different sources as a means of cross-checking and corroborating evidence and illuminating a theme or a theory. In simple terms, this method involves the use of several data sources in an investigation in order to produce understanding. Using multiple methods can help facilitate deeper understanding. As mentioned above, I used triangulating my data by constantly documenting my participants' reactions and emotions through observations, secondly, through the in-depth interviews. Triangulation method was also important and applicable because it provided both my participants and me a certain degree of freedom to communicate with each other.

Summary

This chapter included the following sections: a brief introduction justifying the need for this study, a brief description, and reasons for using a qualitative method for this study. The chapter included discussion of my role as the researcher, along with the data collection procedures, target group, data analysis, and ethical considerations. Each of these subsets was thoroughly defined, and various examples were provided in order to provide a simple understanding and application of the concept to the topic. A complete definition and background were also provided for phenomenological research. In addition, a reasonable justification was provided in order to demonstrate that this method of research is suitable for this study. Finally, trustworthiness was discussed in its entirety.

In a quantitative study, the researcher strives to prove internal validity, external validity, reliability, and objectivity. Conversely, this was a qualitative study; therefore, my overall goal and purpose were to strive to establish the credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability of my study.

As noted in the literature, Salvadorans are the fastest growing immigrant community in Prince William County. As a police officer, I have personally observed various members of this population distinctly misconstrued the policy meaning and its implementation. The purpose of this study was to explore the Salvadoran population to consider what their perceptions of police officers are and to set the stage for providing necessary education for Salvadorans regarding police roles and responsibilities.

With regard to the method use for this study, Moustakas (1994) noted that in order to explore and understand the lived experiences of an individual or individuals, a phenomenological study is the method of choice. Such a study should address two questions: what is experienced and how it is experienced? (Moustakas, 1994). Because I am working to address these two basic questions regarding implementation of 287(g) policy, I decided to utilize phenomenology for exploring the experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County.

I will present the findings from the in-depth interviews and the data analysis in Chapter 4. Chapter 4 will cover in detail the participants, their backgrounds, their family structure, and their perception of the immigration laws. The method of collecting the data from the interviews will be somewhat similar to a narrative inquiry.

Chapter 4: Research Findings

Introduction

As mentioned in chapter 1, the purpose of this study is to explore the lived experiences of Salvadoran families (and other Hispanic families) after the implementation of the 287(g) policy in Prince William County. This chapter presents profiles of each of the participants, who were assigned pseudonyms in order to protect their identity and to make it easier to follow the stories of their lived experiences.

Participants

Angie

Participant 1 will be called Angie. Angie was the most emotional of all participants. She came well dressed and was very confident in her responses. She is a native of El Salvador. She was a bit nervous at first; however, the warm and welcoming environment of the interview location made her feel at ease. I did not proceed right to the interview upon introducing myself to her, I spent close to 10 minutes explaining my reason and purpose for this research to her. I also shared my personal story with her about being an immigrant. We also talked about several issues relating to the county and her family. The host/gatekeeper also provided food and drinks for everyone who was participating. Upon becoming acquainted with each other, I introduced the Spanish consent form to her; she read it thoroughly and asked no further questions. She signed it, and we proceeded to conduct the interview.

Susana and Pedro

Participants 2 and 3 are a wife and husband and are natives of El Salvador. They will be called Susana and Pedro. They were very passionate in sharing their stories. We shared in a simple Salvadoran meal prepared by the gatekeeper's wife prior to conducting the interviews. It was my first time partaking in traditionally-prepared Salvadoran food. It was a Salvadoran stuffed masa flatbread called popusa. I was properly educated upon how to eat it. After dining together, I slowly introduced my topic to the participants and informed them the main reasons and purposes of my study. Upon being well fed and feeling calm and less anxious, the couple was very eager to share their experiences. I explained the consent forms to each participants; they read the Spanish consent forms thoroughly and signed them prior to the interviews. Pedro was a bit hesitant to sign the consent form. I had the interpreter explain it thoroughly to him and addressed his questions and concerns. Upon receiving both signed consent forms, Susana and Pedro were interviewed separately.

Lola

Participant 4, referred to here as Lola, is a native of Bolivia and has lived in the United States for over 25 years. Although she has little knowledge of the subject that I am studying, she was eager to participate and share her thoughts and opinions. I explained to her that I was focused on Salvadoran families; however, I would include her in the interview because it is important to get the points of view of participants from other Hispanic cultural heritages in order to determine if there is a common theme. She was also included due to triangulation methods wherein collecting and comparing data from

excluded participants will present validation of the study. The pastor of the church referred her to me. She was very friendly and entertaining, she shared jokes, and funny scenarios prior to the interview; this created a calm atmosphere. Prior the interview, she offered to provide lunch and dinner several times, her hospitality and welcoming strategy was very impressive. After getting to know each other, I explained the consent form to her and addressed all her questions. She placed her reading glasses on and read it thoroughly, she signed it and the interview began.

Fernando and Elena

Participants 5 and 6, are married to one another. Their passion for this issue was as strong as how they represented their professional affiliations. Both participants hold themselves accountable to God. These individuals are by far the most passionate and involved with the issue being studied. Fernando is a native of El Salvador and his wife, Elena, is a native of Bolivia. Both participants were very friendly and welcoming. Prior to the interviews, we watched their baby girl sit very closely to the television set watching an educational show and dancing. She was also a very friendly little girl; she warmed the environment by reaching out to everyone present and asking for help to count. With the little Spanish I retained from the police academy, I was able to recognize some of her words. Prior to interviewing both participants, I had met with them on several occasions; as a result, they were very much familiar with my study. Both participants expediently signed the consent forms and were interviewed separately.

Roberto

Participant 7, referred to as Roberto here, is in his mid-40s. He is a Salvadoran man who is married and has children. He has lived in Prince Will for 10 years. At the time of the interview, Roberto had many relatives living in Prince William County; however, his parents are still in El Salvador.

Research Question 1

Research Question 1: What are the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

Participants in the study reported varying degrees of familiarity with the 287 (g) policy. In general, participants reported that their familiarity with the policy stemmed from their own, their family members', or their friends' negative experiences with law enforcement officials. These interactions often were described by participants as including elements of racial profiling.

Awareness of 287(g)

Angie, who lives with her husband and 10-year-old son, reported that she was well aware of 278(g) policy and its implementation I Prince William County.

“Personally, my understanding of this policy is that it is implemented in a racial manner,” Angie said. Despite the fact that 287(g) policy specifically applies to those who have been arrested and charged with a crime, or those who are being questions and cannot provide positive identification, Angie understood the policy to pertain to much more general circumstances, “The law gives the power to detain individuals by just the simple fact that they resemble someone from the Hispanic race.”

Susana said the policy was not explained well and attributed immigrants' fear of the law to this lack of information and understanding. She said 287(g) enforcement and the related misunderstandings on the part of Prince William County immigrants has left this population feeling scared. "Several individual left the county regardless of their jobs and houses. Mostly, they are moving out of the county and sometimes out of the state because of the implementation of immigration laws." Her perception that most immigrants view 287(g) as an abusive law that leaves people feeling they are not respected by police officers. "It is almost as if they would rather not talk to you because you are not a white American."

Pedro, Susana's husband, reported a similar concern about the lack of knowledge of 287(g) policy among the immigrant community in Prince William County. "They did not explain this law thoroughly to us; as a result, we do not have any understanding about it," he said. "I know several individuals that have moved out of the county because of the little information they know about the law."

Lola was not aware of 278 (g) specifically, but was aware that members of the Hispanic community in Prince William County were fearful of a new law and the manner in which it was being enforced. "I have also heard that a lot of individuals are afraid to ask for help because they do not have the proper documentation to seek public services."

Elena's awareness of 287 (g) policy, like Lola's, is based on her understanding of its affect on others. She said her knowledge is sparse because she intentionally limits her news consumption. "I make it a habit not to watch the news because there is so much negativity on nowadays." She also noted that her sense of accountability is a spiritual

one, rather than a worldly one, and that is where she has focused her attention. “On the other hand, I have come to the realization by listening to concerns from others that this law goes against Hispanic families.”

Fernando reported that he was aware of 287(g) policy. As a legal resident he does not share the same concerns as some of the participants from a personal perspective; however, he works in a profession for which he cares for other immigrants in the community, and he is familiar with many immigrants’ perceptions regarding abuse of the law. “Personally, I believe that this is a program without a structure and without a conscience in reference to human rights or regarding human rights. Whether we are citizens of this nation or not, as human beings we have the right to live anywhere we choose to live. These are the basic human rights.” Fernando said he felt Prince William County’s enforcement of the law was not aimed at helping people, but rather at addressing racial/political issues regarding Latino immigrants.

Roberto’s understanding of 287(g) implementation is based on stories related to him by other Hispanic community members. “From what I have heard, it is wrong because we came here with the right to do something, since we cannot live in our countries; we have to migrate to this country to see the opportunities that this county gives us.” He said he is not personally affected by the law because he entered the country legally; however, he has family members who are illegal, they are hiding because of the immigration laws and related problems.

Experiences With and Perceived Effects of 287(g)

For Angie, 287(g) enforcement has negatively affected her family. Although her husband works in Prince William County, he has moved to Alexandria, a jurisdiction about 20 miles away that does not participate in the 287(g) program. He made this move after an experience with the police that he perceived to be unfair, and which inspired fear of subsequent similar events if he continued to reside in the county.

Angie said her husband was driving home from work with one other passenger in the front seat of his vehicle, and four passengers in the back seat. “The way he explained it to me was, the minute the officer saw four people seating in the rear seat, he got behind the vehicle and activated his emergency lights.” The office asked Angie’s husband for his license. He could not produce one, but said he needed to drive in order to go to work. He was then arrested, and the vehicle was impounded. “They took him away. I tried to go and get him out, but I was told that there was a hold on him placed by immigration.” Angie’s husband was detained for more than a week, and she reported during this time officials would not give her the key to the vehicle that he had with him when he was arrested. Because that was the only key, Angie was not able to obtain the vehicle during her husband’s incarceration. “When he finally got out of detention, they charged us over \$1,000 in order to get the vehicle out. We did not have that kind of money.” Angie said overall her family’s experiences with 287(g) were bad. She observed, “This law has an effect on people because it seems as if a fear has been planted in their minds.”

Susanna said 287(g) enforcement in the county has affected her and her family. Like Angie’s husband, Susanna’s husband, Pedro, had an incident with the police

because he did not have a driver's license. "Regardless if it was our fault or not, the police officer actions were abusive because he left me stranded in the highway with my four kids; he took our vehicle." Angie said seeing her children cry because their father was taken to jail and their vehicle was taken was upsetting to her. "When we talk to others that know about the law, they said that the police officer could have left the car there with me and my kids." Susana said she felt the police officer could have given Pedro a ticket indicating a court date and placed him under arrest in court, not in front of the children. "His actions were considered abusive," she said of the officer.

Although Pedro related the story of his arrest, he said overall the law has not affected his family or him since they have been living in Prince William County. "I do not know what is going on around me because I do not participate in a lot of things that others participate in." Despite seeing himself as less attuned to the situation, Pedro said, "I am sure many have been through a lot with this law. I am very much aware of this law, in fact, I heard that officers have maltreated and deported some individuals because of this law and the way they behaved."

Pedro said his arrest during the driving incident was his only experience with 287(g). He said it was a hot summer day when he was arrested and his family was left stranded on the roadside. "My vehicle was impounded, and my wife and children were left on the side of the road." Pedro said that the Virginia State Troopers were speaking in English, and he believed they did not think he could understand them, though he could. "One of the officers said to the other, I could not have arrested him in Woodbridge; their car would have only been in impounded for three days." Pedro said the officer continued

by telling his partner that he waited for the vehicle to cross into Fairfax County, the adjoining jurisdiction, where they hold the vehicle for 30 days to get more money. “I do not know what business they are gaining by their actions. At that point, I felt it was a fraud against us, the immigrants,” Pedro explained. Pedro noted he acknowledged the fact that he was in violation of the law by driving without a license. He explained that his license was expired, but that he was eligible to have one. He said:

The bad thing he did was that he humiliated me in front of my kids. When they saw that they got me out of the car and in handcuffs, they were very sad in their little hearts. They felt bad, and I felt bad as well. I felt bad when I saw that they were looking at me from far away.

Pedro said another thing he did not like was that the officers removed the family out of the van, rather than waiting for the person who was going to give his family a ride. Pedro felt the officer who arrested him did not care how hot it was because he had air conditioning in his police car. “I asked if my family can go back in the car and turn the air conditioner on, he said no, no, it’s not that hot outside.” Pedro said he told the officer that is it was not that hot then he could turn off the air conditioner in the police vehicle. The officer replied by telling Pedro the person who was going to give his family a ride would be there soon. “Then, I told him ok, I guess you know what you are doing. I know you are against us because we are Hispanics. After I said that, he just ignored me and did not say anything else.”

Lola reported that she had not specifically heard of 287(g) and that she did not feel that is has affected her. She did recall, however, that she had heard of others living in

fear in Prince William County due to the new immigration law. “I have also heard that a lot of individuals are afraid to ask for help because they do not have the proper documentation to seek public services.” She said she heard some families refuse to call the police because of fear of immigration consequences.

Fernando said 287(g) does not affect him or his wife and daughter because they are legal immigrants. “My family and I are stable concerning the current immigration laws; however, I know several others who have been affected negatively.” Fernando observed that the law has damaged those around his family. “Because of the bad application of this law, individuals are without jobs, houses, and without income in order for them to survive and live a normal life.”

Pedro said many families he knows have had to run away from Prince William County. Business owners have had to close down due to the exodus of people out of Prince William County. Other businesses are struggling. “This place has become desolate due to the racial political affairs implemented through this program,” Pedro said.

Pedro said he knows people who have been affected by the law. For example, he knows individuals who have been detained because they were driving without a license. He reported they commit a minor traffic violation such as running a red light, and they have ended up in serious trouble with law enforcement officials. “After they take them to court, supposedly because of their license, they ended up under the immigration proceedings. In addition, there are some that have been deported.”

Elena said she has come across many who have been affected by this program, and they have shared their stories. “I feel their pain and it has become a part of my life.”

One example she saw was that someone she knew was leaving church when he was pulled over. The individual had a driver's license and insurance, but the officer took away his license and didn't say why. The DMV did not return the license or reissue another license, and subsequently the man was not able to drive, and he is a business owner. "Now his business is short because he cannot drive to improve his business," Elena explained.

Roberto said he feels 287(g) is unfair because immigrants have come to the United States with the right to do something because they cannot live in their native countries. "We have migrated to this country to see the opportunities that this country gives us." Roberto said he has many family members who are illegal, and they are hiding because of the immigration laws, and because of the problems they are having. The most affected family member for Roberto was a close relative who had to leave because immigration came to the house, but he was not there. "He ran away and left his children, his wife, and everyone in order for them to have a better opportunity."

Research Question 2

Research Question 2: What systems (real estate, education, employment, healthcare, personal and public safety) have been affected within the Salvadoran community because of their perceptions of the 287(g) policy implementation?

Real Estate

Angie's perception is 287(g) policy has had a negative affect on her ability to own a home. "Ever since I came to this country, it was my dream to become a homeowner.

Based on this policy and its implications of requiring certain documents in order to be qualified for a home, I have been disqualified in several instances.”

Susana expressed that she was grateful not to have to any issues regarding homeownership, yet she perceives that others have not been so fortunate. “I have heard of several that it has affected. Because of the stipulations attached to the law, it has prevented immigrants to own a home.”

Pedro said he used to own a home, but he lost it. Now it is difficult to envision being a home owner again. “Seeing everyone losing their homes due to not qualifying, discourages me from owning one.”

Lola said concerns regarding home ownership have not been an issue for her. She bought her house nearly 20 years ago, long before 287 (g) enforcement. “They did not ask for any documentation. It is not affecting me now.”

Fernando discussed what he perceived to be the overall impact of 287(g) on the housing market in Prince William County. “Due to the implementation of this law, the housing market has been tremendously affected because several individuals have vacated and left their houses. They went to other counties.” He said the property values have decreased, especially in comparison to nearby Fairfax County. Fernando said the impact for him personally has been positive.

Due to the fact that the prices have gone down, I am able to buy one, two, three houses. However, I know people who have been affected because they had to give up their houses for less than half of what they paid for it.

Fernando said if he had the opportunity to share his views with county officials he would share this advice with them:

I will be concern with that you are doing to the lives of the immigrants in the county. You need to wake up; you need to open your eyes. I think you are being deceived. What I am really saying is that, you need to be really concern because this county is becoming desolate because of this law.

Elena said the housing situation has not affected her, but she thinks about what is going to happen in the future. She also thinks about what it is going to be like as a homeowner.

Last year, I was in the process of looking for a home, some homes were for short sale, sometimes when we would go look at the house, we would find people living in them, mostly Hispanic families.

Elena said she felt sorry for these families because she did not want them to be kicked out of their houses and become homeless.

Roberto has documents that allow him to be in the United States, but his wife does not. That has affected their ability to own a home. “Here in the county of Prince William, if we try to get a house, there are several forms that should be completed. We cannot afford it because of the resources they say we need.”

Education

Pedro said in terms of educational goals, 287(g) has not affected him, however, he heard people saying that their dreams of going to school and improving themselves has been affected due to this law. Schools are asking for documentations before enrolling

students. “Since these schools are requiring further documentation for enrolling Hispanic individuals, some families have given up this dream and settled for working so they can provide for their families.” Fernando said education in general has suffered among immigrants. “It has been damaged because many immigrants are not allowed in schools. They have problems registering them in school, when it is a necessity and should not be denied to human beings.” Roberto noted that 287(g) has impeded his plans for his children. “It has caused a lot of damage for scholarships. They are singled out, and people say oh, here comes the criminals. In many universities, they call Hispanics as criminals.” Roberto said it is Hispanics who maintain the United States, and they want to go to school. “I just stopped thinking about it, the constant stereotype from the school authorities have discouraged me.”

Employment

Participants made general comments about 287(g) and its affect on employment addressing issues such as extended commutes in order to avoid authorities, businesses closing because of immigrants fleeing the Prince William County, and lost income caused by detainment. Fernando offered specific insight. “The unemployment is high. I think this is a racial political program well hidden and well structured against the immigrants, and I think it should not be like this.” Fernando’s perception is that the United States has been sustained by the work of immigrants because there are many hard jobs that the “Anglos and Gringos” despise doing. “The hard jobs are left for the slaves. They manage this concept, and I think that the only ones that can perform these jobs that they do not want to do are the immigrants.” Fernando said he sees Latin people, like El

Salvadorans, as the most qualified labor force in the world. He said Latinos come to the United States with the intention to work and the nation should be thankful for the Latin immigrants because they are the ones sustaining the. “Due to the unemployment, people are desperate, they are even leaving the country because their families in Central and South America depended on the income they were obtaining here. It is a chaos, completely chaos.”

Healthcare

Angie has not had any issues as far as healthcare is concerned because she has not attempted to apply for any assistance from the government. Susana said she has not been affected personally either because she has a work permit. On the other hand, she has two friends who have been affected because they do not have documentation. “They are afraid that if they go to the clinic they will be asked for their documents. During their whole pregnancy, they never saw a doctor.” She said she knows several others who have been denied medical assistance based on their race; however, they are afraid to talk about it. Lola has had a similar experience. She has documentation and is able to receive health coverage. “But I heard many people who have no documentation are denied healthcare and as a result, they do not ask. Some do not take their children to the clinics because they are afraid of being questioned.”

Fernando, as a U.S. citizen with needed legal documents, is able to obtain healthcare, but he too knows people for whom obtaining needed healthcare is challenge. He said he believes that some people who do not have documentation are despise and some are not cared for because of the 287(g) has a hidden racial discriminatory agenda. “I

know many people who have been denied the rights such as Medicaid and social services aids because of their immigration statuses. This is wrong because this is a necessity for human beings, not just citizens.” Fernando said he sees medical services as a human rights issue and feels lawmakers have placed their focus in the wrong areas. “They have focused their attention on the racial system; they are focusing their attention on the immigration programs and immigration problems.” Fernando said he does not believe social health, medication, and hospital services should be provided based on a person’s legal status because such services are a right of human life. “Human lives should be respected all around the world.” Elena said her family is fortunate because it does not rely on the county government for healthcare services.

Roberto has seen ill effects on the healthcare system first hand. “As immigrants, we cannot qualify for it. Even if we are residents or immigrants, we cannot qualify, they deny everything, and they look at us as criminals.” Roberto noted that he does not see immigrants in this light. “We are not criminals, we are people that come here to fight for this country, to give them many things. For them to repay us like this is not okay.” Roberto said children are most affected by the lack of healthcare. He said applications for programs such as Women Infants and Children (WIC), a government nutrition support program, are denied, as are those for other healthcare programs. “We cannot go to the hospital because they see us as criminals. If they see you is because they do not have a choice, and because you go through the emergency room.”

Personal and Public Safety

Angie said she is afraid to call on the police for assistance. An example of this fear, she said, occurred when she was dealing with an irate customer at work. “The customer returned to the store and threatened me that he has several friends that could cause harm on me.” Angie contacted her boss, who advised her to call the police. She said she did not call the police because she was overwhelmed with fear of what the police might do to her.

Susana maintained that she, like other immigrants, is misinformed and fearful. She said even though she is in the United States legally, she is fearful of being pulled over by police and having to prove that she is. She also has concern for those who are not legal and wonders what will happen to them. “Personally, I think the meaning of this law is as follows: It means that the police are given more authority than what they should have.” She said she believes authority that should be left to the judicial system has been given to the police. Susana said she believes it is unjust for the police to be able to detain illegal immigrants who have done things like committed minor traffic violations. “I think they should give you a court date and let the judge decide.” In relating to reporting a crime or criminal activities to the police, Susana said she has had several issues that she wanted to report to the police but I did not because she feared a response based on racial prejudice. “The whole incident that happened with my husband and the police has given me a bad perception of police officers. Again, I did not pursue legal actions because they will not believe me, and I do not have the money to afford an attorney.”

Pedro said for the most part Hispanic immigrants do not understand the law and are under the impression that the police can ask for papers from anyone they stop. “This law is simply discrimination towards people who have come here as refugees from countries where crime is rampant such as gangs, abuse towards human beings.” Concerning reporting crimes to the police, Pedro said he has heard people say there were crimes against them, but that they would not call the police because they lack immigration documents and fear they will be arrested. “That is the trend right now; we are afraid to call because they will just refer us to immigration.”

Lola also noted concern among immigrants that it is unsafe to ask for police assistance because they fear they will be asked for their immigration documents. She said some people she knows left the county to live elsewhere because they were afraid of authorities. Lola said she has not had any issues with the police herself, and she has found them to be friendly when she has called on them for assistance.

Fernando said there are immigrants in Prince William County who are afraid to call the police or talk to a police officer because they believe eventually they will end up in a difficult situation because they have called the police for assistance. Fernando said he feels the issue extends to all immigrants, not just Latinos; however, he does believe people from El Salvador and Central America are singled out because of their culture.

I think they are wrong because in every part of the world, the same way there are good people, there are bad people. The Anglos, I do not think they are all good, even in this nation; there are corrupt people, even in the middle of congress.

Fernando identified 287(g) as part of what he described as the nasty, hidden side of politics. “I cannot refer to this as a plan. I cannot call it a program. The name I am giving this law is simple: a racial politics that is negatively implemented against Latinos.”

Fernando said one thing that really hurts him to witness is the destruction of families that he believes has arisen as a result of 287(g) enforcement. “The parents are being deported, and their children are staying behind because they are citizens. It makes me very angry when I see the destruction of families due to feelings of evil.” Fernando said those in power in the United States do not have regard for basic human rights. He offered this warning:

There will be a day that you the Anglos, the Gringos, or I do not know how to classify your race, will need someone to do the dirty job, the hard job because you guys will not want to clean the bathrooms in the offices. You people do not like to vacuum, you like people to do everything for you, you like the office jobs; I do not have a problem in telling you the truth. You people need to be concerned, open your eyes because the only one that will sustain this county are the group of Latinos the same groups you guys call immigrants.

Elena said she takes a “don’t judge a book by its cover” attitude when it comes to her perception of the police. She said she does not judge the whole force for things she has heard about individual representatives. “I still respect and will still call on them and would trust that they will do the right thing. I also pray that the spirit of God will come upon them in order for them to do the right thing.”

Roberto said 287(g) policy has affected him greatly in terms of his willingness to report crimes. “Not every police officer is racist; there are some that have proper manners. There are others who when they see that you are Hispanic, they try to humiliate you. They can arrest you regardless if the kids are crying.” He said because of the actions of some police officers, he cannot trust them entirely.

Research Question 3

Research Question 3: How have acculturation experiences influenced Salvadoran families to stay in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

Angie observed cultural differences regarding law enforcement. “The police force in my country is not as advanced as the United States, nevertheless, we are still able to approach them and ask for assistance.” She said people have confidence in the police force in her native county because individuals are “free to live.” Angie noted before 287(g) policy was adopted individuals had confidence in reporting crimes to the police, and she perceived they were able to move freely and attend social functions. “In addition, before the law was passed, we knew that we would not worry about being interrogated about our immigration status when pulled over for a simple traffic infraction.”

Angie said after the law was passed, Hispanic immigrants stopped having certain social activities they used to hold because they did not want to expose themselves to possible interactions with law enforcement. “For the most part, there is a fear in everything we do, even if it is just shopping,” she said. Angie explained Hispanic families are afraid to express themselves in front of people they do not know for fear that the fact that they talk differently will cause problems for them. “The American culture is

very different from our culture. However, I think we all make an effort to adapt and be a part of the American culture.”

At the end of the formal interview, Angie asked if she could read a formal statement that she had prepared in advance. That statement is included below:

Before we finish, I would like to I consider myself a citizen of this country. I am a good person, I do not do harm to anyone. Year after year, I pay my taxes with my money, I offer my help to different institutions, and I help my family and my country. I try to support the economy though my financial contributions. It is impossible to explain the fear and anxiety that we experience everyday when we leave our houses to go to work without knowing if we will come back. We cannot explain the terror we feel when we look at the rearview mirrors of our cars and see a police vehicle. A thousand things go through your head. You ask yourself what would happen with my family, how am I going to be arrested, are they going to physically abuse me, for the mere reason because I have to drive to work without a license. Alternatively, just for the simple fact that they saw my face and saw that I am Hispanic. It is an injustice that rather than to prosecute criminal, rapists, fraudulent activities, child molesters, and others, this law allows to detain and incarcerate a maid, a gardener, painter, carpenter, a babysitter, just because they are Hispanic and they think they don't have documents. This law does not see the human side; it does not think that it is going to split families. In addition, it will take away the support from thousands of families, including, children, and the elderly that depends on these hardworking people. It is absurd because they

are arresting hard working people that do not harm anyone. They only contribute to the economy of this country. It is time to put a stop to the abuse against our community. Hundreds are leaving the counties that are implementing these laws. Some of them are going back to their native countries, others migrating to other states, because this law have infused fear in the minds of our people. In the personal level, I am thankful for this nation and I feel part of it. Nevertheless, I am not in favor of the law 287(g) because I feel it is racist and inhumane.

Susana said the greatest cultural concern for her is the culture of fear that 287(g) has propagated. “The fear now is not what the criminals will do to you at night, but what the police will do to you.” She explained that recently she was pulled over and the officer said she was speeding, though she believed she was not. “He took me out of the car and checked everything,” Sasana explained. “He told me I am not going to give you a ticket for speeding, but I will give you one for driving with a suspended license.” When Susana said she was not speeding, the officer told her that his radar detector machine does not lie.

I continue to tell him that I do not understand why he was not giving me a ticket for speeding, but he stopped me for speeding. I think that is injustice. You do not need to be smart to realize that he did not pull me over for speeding, because why did not give me a ticket for speeding.

Susana said the officer told her to be thankful because he was not giving her a ticket for speeding. She said incidents such as this one affect Hispanic immigrants because they no longer fear harm from criminals, but rather from the police who are supposed to protect them.

Susana said the Hispanic community's lifestyle has changed tremendously since the implementation of 287(g) policy. She said cultural festivities have been limited because people fear drawing attention to themselves will lead to trouble. She said although she has a work permit and has not had to worry as much personally, she can imagine how different life has become for immigrants who are not in the United States legally.

Pedro expressed concerns similar to Susana's, stating he perceived most people now are more concerned about being arrested than dealing with criminals. He said woman who are married to husbands with no status are afraid that eventually their husbands will be deported, leaving them alone in the United States with their children.

Pedro said he has seen more churches in Prince William County since 287(g) enforcement began, and has seen more people are surrendering their lives to God. He said the policy's enforcement has been a life lesson for some people who were formerly out of control, but now are behaving differently for fear of being detained or deported. "There are things that I use to see before and did not blame the police, I blamed the people, due to people's disobedience and their behaviors." Pedro said at one time people who came from El Salvador who lived in the county wanted to do things that were accepted in their own country, even if they were not accepted in the United States, but that is changing. "This country when we come here, we do not have any documents, we have to respect the laws and the culture."

Lola said she found people in South America more warm and close-knit compared to people in the United States. "We have lived here in the county for about a year, and do not know our neighbors next to us or across the street. That is how unfriendly the

neighborhood is.” She said before 287(g) policy the culture was thriving. There were more festival celebrations and uniting activities, but that has all changed now. Lola said Hispanics in the community tend to band together to preserve their culture, and that the main component of American culture they need is in terms of services such as medical care.

Fernando said culture is an important and multifaceted topic. “When we talk about cultures, we talk about three important things: number one is customs, secondly habits, and thirdly, in breaking down habits—we get good and bad habits.” He said with that in mind, the two cultures are completely different and the Anglo culture cannot be compared with the culture of Hispanic countries. Fernando noted that the religious background of the Hispanic immigrants is at the heart of many of the customs, but religion in the United States is applied differently. “Religion is mixed with politics, customs, and corruptions here in the United States. These things do not lead us anywhere; they do not lead us to success.”

Fernando explained the nature of Hispanic cultural celebrations. “In our countries, our customs with our food and celebrations are exquisite.” He described some of the major festivals in the Washington, DC metro area and pointed out during these festivals Salvadoran families are happy. “The Anglo system is too boring. People like to stay locked up in their houses without socializing. Our cultures are the complete opposite.” He said this difference likely has created barriers that do not allow Salvadoran families to get close to American families. “It is because we are happy.” Fernando said another positive aspect of Hispanic culture is that the people are hard working. “We like to do things the

right way.” Fernando said Americans like to do things partially. “I have experience working with Americans. They do not like the hard work, and they do not like to do the hard work. They like to take things slow because their politics is that if we finish the job soon, they will not have something to do later.” He said Hispanics like to work hard and this creates a clash between the two cultures.

Fernando observed that before 287(g) policy enforcement life in Prince William County was more colorful. “I knew that before this program, this county was better economically, there were more business, more happiness, more movements, and the Latinos were more involved in social celebrations.” He said if he were a politician, he would be concerned in doing something to give opportunity to the Latinos who want to work and do things the right way, who want to bring back their businesses and their companies so the economy of the county would be back to normal.

Fernando described the post policy situation as a disaster and chaos that has inspired poverty and depression.

You can feel the smell of poverty because poverty is a culture and most Latinos come here to learn to get out of that culture because the culture of poverty is contagious. If you walk with poor people, you gonna end up poor. However, if you work with entrepreneurs you will become an entrepreneur.

Fernando said Latinos come to the United States to give color to their communities and to be of help and that this should be acceptable to their Anglo counterparts.

Elena said although 287(g) policy means nothing to her personally, she has seen “The behavior and the conduct of police officers is driving our Hispanic families out of

Prince William County, just clearing out the county.” She said she is in good legal standing, and does not have to worry about the police. “I respect authority, and I respect justice, and I love justice, but we all know that not everybody with a suit or a badge or whatever it is that may represent authority are just or do exercise that.” Even though she knows her documentation is in order, Elena said she prays every day that she will not encounter law enforcement officers who do not practice justice.

Elena said some people she knows are finding American culture inhospitable. She said she has some uncles and other male relatives who talk negatively about the United States and say they want to return to their native country. While she understands their frustration and does not blame them for their feelings, she also said she recognizes that there is a price for freedom. She said the 287(g) program has discouraged some of her friends because they have not found the country they envisioned before they immigrated. “Back at home, my friends see this country as the New Jerusalem, the streets are paved with gold, money grows out of the trees, and that it is a much better life.” She said it is a much better life, but also said that not having legal status or documents and not knowing English makes life harder and causes suffering. “I guess the people end up weighing the suffering here and the suffering there.”

Roberto indicated that Salvadorans have difficulty adapting to American culture. He said if members of the Salvadoran community stay in the United States it is not because they like the country; it is because it is cheaper to live here. He said families also recognize that moving around is not good for their children. “Before the program we had

many opportunities. We did not have to hide from the police, from immigration, or not from anyone.” He said after implementation of 287(g) everything has changed.

After the program we had to stay quiet at our house, maybe do not go out because of the fear and relationship of the police. Now as fathers, we do not let the kids go out because for the simple fact that other kids call them immigrants or discriminate against them.

Coding of the Data

Manual Coding

The following were subject areas relating to each research questions that were used for coding purposes: (a) understanding and awareness of the policy implementation, (b) misconception of the policy implementation, (c) the lived experiences as a result of (a) and (b), and (d) acculturation experiences. The master code was PA, to indicate policy awareness, with other subcodes such as PS—Public Safety, RE—Real Estate, HS—Health Care Systems, BS—Business Systems, and SS—School Systems. After a considerable amount of time was spent in reading and organizing the collected data, it was apparent that there were several themes emerging throughout the interview. Figures 1 through 7 illustrate the themes that emerged from this study for each participant.

Research Question 1	Research Question 2	Research Question 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little understanding. • It is implemented in a racial manner. • Affected my husband, he had to move out of the county because of fear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, is has affected me in owning a home. • Yes, it has affected me in trusting the police. Even in my country of origin, El Salvador, the police are corrupt, but we are not scared to approach them to report a crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, cultures are very different. • Yes, the policy has affected our cultural celebrations. We feel like we are not ourselves anymore. We are afraid.

Figure 1. Manual coding table for Participant 1.

Research Question 1	Research Question 2	Research Question 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little understanding • Several moved out of the county • Several are afraid and live in fear • It affected us(family) pulled over by police. Husband was arrested for not having a license and they left us on the side of the Highway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police have too much power and authority because of this law. • Not affected me with owning a home or healthcare. • Affected my friends tremendously. • I do not trust reporting crimes to the police. They will stereotype me as just another Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultures are very different. • Fear is what rules this community now(Salvadoran) • It is appalling when we are not afraid of the criminals that can hurt us at night, but afraid of the police that should protect us day and night.

Figure 2. Manual coding table for Participant 2.

Research Question 1	Research Question 2	Research Question 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy was never explained to me fully. • I have been affected greatly when I was arrested for driving without a license. I was arrested with no regard of leaving my family stranded on the side of the highway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am under the impression that the police can stop and ask for papers from anyone now. • This policy means discrimination towards immigrants in the county. • The common attitude amongst us all is fear and deportation • Families are not allowed to enroll in schools. • Families are not calling the police because they are afraid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lives have changed dramatically. Several are turning their lives to God. • Less celebrations, thus preventing getting arrested for being drunk and getting into trouble. The cultures are very different and after the policy, we are doing less to celebrate our cultural heritage.

Figure 3. Manual coding table for Participant 3.

Research Question 1	Research Question 2	Research Question 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have limited understanding and awareness of this program. • I heard several are afraid to approach the police and ask for help. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I received no explanation of this program and do not watch the news that much because it is too depressing. • I have a lot of friends who have left the county because they are afraid of this policy • As far as medical assistance, school, and owning a home, I thank God it has not affected me. • Concerning calling the police, I have called the police a few times for personal problems; they have responded and performed professionally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cultures are very different. For example, we have lived here for over a year and do not even know our neighbors. • Before the policy, our culture was thriving with lots of celebrations. • After the policy, we are afraid to celebrate our cultural festivities.

Figure 4. Manual coding table for Participant 4.

Research Question 1	Research Question 2	Research Question 3
Yes, I am well aware and understands this policy. It was implemented without structure and violates human rights. Several have been affected by this policy.	The housing market have been tremendously affected Families are being separated due to fear. Immigrants are not allowed to register for schools because of their statuses. Several are afraid to call the police for any reason because of their statuses. This policy is racially implemented against Hispanic individuals. The common attitudes are concerns, fear, disgust, and depression. It is a complete chaos.	We are happy people, we love to celebrate. Celebrations is what brings us together, before the policy we felt free to celebrate. After the police, our celebrations have been reduced due to fear. The American system is very boring. The county is becoming desolate due to individuals leaving, as a result, the economy is being affected as well. The Hispanic community is here to help and do the jobs they do not want to do, so we are contributing to the greater good of the county and nation.

Figure 5. Manual coding table for Participant 5.

Research Question 1	Research Question 2	Research Question 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have little understanding of the policy, I am under the impression that it is implemented in order to target the Hispanic population. Personally, I have not been affected by it, however, I know several that have been affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My understanding is that the actions of the police is driving our Hispanic community away from the county. This policy means nothing to me because I am under the authority of God. I pray that the authorities practice justice. Fear exists within this community right now. Several have been affected in owning a home and furthering their education. • My perception of the police have always been positive, I don't judge a book by its cover. I pray they do the right thing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, the cultures are very different. Before the policy many would move the county to join families for celebrations. After the policy, businesses and houses are being vacated because of fear of encounters of the police.

Figure 6. Manual coding table for Participant 6.

Research Question 1	Research Question 2	Research Question 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have little understanding of the policy, • I am under the impression that it is implemented in order to target the Hispanic population. • Personally, I have not been affected by it, however, I know several that have been affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My understanding is that the actions of the police is driving our Hispanic community away from the county. • This policy means nothing to me because I am under the authority of God. I pray that the authorities practice justice. • Fear exists within this community right now. Several have been affected in owning a home and furthering their education. • My perception of the police have always been positive, I don't judge a book by its cover. I pray they do the right thing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our cultures are very different. • Before the policy, we use to do everything together as a family with all our celebrations. After the policy, everything has changed. • We are staying quiet and in our houses now, we are afraid to see the police driving behind us. • Our kids are being discriminated against also.

Figure 7. Manual coding table for Participant 7.

Additional Coding Using Hyper Research

In addition to the manual coding, I also used the Hyper Research software to check for major themes from the collected data. The results from the coding are attached in appendix D.

Validation of Quality of Data

Numerous steps were taken in order to maintain the ethical and unbiased standards for the entire duration of this research. Throughout the processes of selecting participants, developing the research and interview questions, designating the interview

locations, and presenting the data, all stages underwent thorough scrutiny and approval by committee members. All questions were screened in order to remove biased languages. I personally conducted and was present during every interview in order to record the emotion, expressions, and behaviors of participants while they were responding to the questions. A few follow up interviews were scheduled in order to clarify and confirm accuracy for specific participants. Upon retrieving the entire data set from the interviews, I manually organized data from each participant in a table to depict their respective responses to each research questions. In doing so, the themes emerged immediately. Moustakas (1994) expounded on the process of horizontalization, an initial stage of data analysis in which all the data is laid out and each element is given equal weight in order to identify the characteristics of the phenomenon. I found this process very intriguing and useful during my data analysis, because it aided me in separating my personal feelings from relaying the participants' experiences and relayed the accurate facts.

Summary of Data Analysis

Upon completing the data analysis, it was apparent that majority of the participants had limited understanding of this policy, code (a), thus justifying the problem statement for this research. Based on the majority of their responses, it was clear that they did not receive thorough explanations of the policy implementation. In examining their responses further, code (b), misconception of the policy, and code (c), lived experiences, surfaced. Based on their response, it was surmised that they had a misconception of the policy. The majority of the responses indicated the policy is racially driven and only

targets Hispanic individuals. These perceptions were based on various experiences that are illustrated on their responses. In relating codes (b) and (c), it is apparent that due to their understanding and misconception of the policy, their sense of normalcy in the county has been affected tremendously. The majority of responses confirmed that participants feel the policy is targeting immigrants; as a result, they are afraid to go about their normal daily activities. The majority of the participants expressed how these perceptions of the policy and its enforcers have affected their close family members and friends. In addressing code (d) acculturation experiences, it was evident that before the policy the Salvadoran population freely expressed its cultural celebrations through the forms of festivals, restaurants, religious entities, and businesses. After the policy, participants felt they were not free to express their cultural experiences anymore due to the fear of encounter of the police. Concerning the subcodes, PS-public safety, RE-Real Estate, HS-Health Services, BS-Business Systems, and SS-School systems, the participants were affected two of the five systems. The majority responded they were public safety was a concern because of 287(g) policy implementation. They viewed the police as immigration agents, and therefore, they do not feel they can report crimes or suspicious activities to the police for fear of being arrested or deported. This perception is rooted in negative personal experience or the experiences of close family members or friends. Concerning real estate, the majority of the participants advised that they have not been personally affected, however, several of their close families and friends have left their residences and have moved out of the county due to fear of encounter with the police. In relating to health systems and school systems, the majority of the participants

mentioned that these systems have not been affected within their families. Concerning business systems the majority relayed they have been affected because most of the Hispanic businesses have closed and migrated to other counties and even states in order to prevent any negative encounters with the police. Some mentioned that due to the closings of these businesses the revenue of the county has become reduced thus resulting to a lower county budget. In summarizing the participants responses, one can decipher that codes (a), (b), (c), and (d) are all related and are tied together, thus answering all three research questions. It can be presented as a mathematical formula deduced as such $(a) + (b) = (d) (c)$. This can be further explained as follows: due to level of understanding and awareness of the policy and in addition to the constant misconception of the policy, both acculturation experiences and negative experiences have become eminent in the Salvadoran community.

In examining figures 1 through 7, the following themes were made evident through the interviews: depression, disgust, racially implemented, without regard to human rights, anger, fear, unfairness of police actions, negative police encounters, less traditional festival celebrations, lack of understanding, and separation of families. Several of the of the above themes appeared throughout each interview. The major themes that were observed were fear of the police, lack of understanding of the policy, and a racially driven policy implementation. The fear of the police is inevitable, as mentioned in chapter one, this policy grants the local police the authority to inquire the residential status of arrestees. These three themes are somewhat related, the lack of understanding or

explanation of the policy drives the other two. It was also evident the majority of the participants have had negative experiences with police encounters.

Several solutions and recommendations will be proposed in the next chapter. These recommendations will apply to local law enforcement officials and policy makers in the county and nationwide in order to target this misconception. Chapter 5 will also present possible solutions, future research strategies, social change implications for this research, and transitional statement.

Chapter 5: Findings, Recommendations, and Social Change Implications

Introduction

The purpose of this qualitative inquiry was to explore the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. As a resident of Prince William County and the policy enforcer, I was compelled to conduct this study in order to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?
2. What systems (real estate, education, employment, healthcare, personal and public safety) have been affected within the Salvadoran community because of their perceptions of the 287(g) policy implementation?
3. How have acculturation experiences influenced Salvadoran families to stay in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

Contributions from both renowned researchers Creswell (2007) and Moustakas (1994) guided the methodology of this study. Several themes emerged; however, the two major themes were lack of understanding and awareness of the policy and misconception of the policy. Narrative and ethnographic methods were considered for this study; however, taking into consideration the perceptions of the participants, the most suitable was a phenomenological study. Creswell (2007) and Moustakas (1994) both noted in order to explore the perceptions of participants and to truly understanding the meaning of their experiences, a phenomenological study is eminent. In using this method of study,

the participants' perceptions were thoroughly captured through open ended questions. Participants were recruited through a convenience sample of members of a religious institution and utilizing a snowball sampling, other participants were recruited throughout the greater Prince William County. Five families, to include seven participants, were interviewed. The point of saturation was reached after the fifth participant; however, in order to broaden the span of the research, I continued to interview seven participants in total. The findings and interpretations of the data are presented below. This chapter will also address recommendations and future research, social change implications, reflections of the researcher, and overall conclusion.

Presenting and Interpreting the Data

As mentioned previously, several codes and themes developed during the data collection phase of this research. Overall, 11 codes emerged; however, the total number of themes were eight along with their subcategories: (a) lack of understanding and awareness of the policy; (b) fear toward individuals of authorities; (c) separation of families; (d) racially implemented against Hispanic individuals; (e) different cultural heritages, before and after the policy implementation; (f) unreported crimes; (g) perceived police behavior, and lastly and collectively; (h) The perceived American dream. In addition, in order to dig deeper into the data transcript and examine major themes, HyperRESEARCH software was used in order to isolate the apparent themes.

Themes Related to Research Question 1

What are the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

Lack of understanding and awareness of the policy. It was evident the majority of the participants had a minimal understanding and awareness of the policy. Most stated that they did not understand the policy, it is geared towards deporting immigrants regardless of the situations. This misconception can be attributed to lack of education among the immigrant community. The Prince William County police chief (Deane, 2007) attended educational seminars with regards to educating the general populace; however, this endeavor did not reach the entire immigrant population. It is also perceived that the media covered addressed the purpose of this program through news coverage; however, at least two of the participants advised that they do not watch the news due to numerous negative news-related issues. There is no clear-cut solution to this issue; there will always be an unreachable population when it comes to educating the public about a policy implementation. Consequently, based on their lack of understanding and misconception of the policy implementation, they have experienced several negative experiences in the hands of the authorities, as a result, research question one has been answered, their lived experiences have been thoroughly described throughout the interview responses.

Separation of families. In relation to research question 1, based on their perceptions of this policy, Salvadoran families are fleeing from the county based on fear. Separation of families is tied in to their lived experiences because families are breaking apart in order to escape notice or encounters with law enforcement officials. It is evident that law enforcement officials are enforcing this policy fully, nevertheless, with limited understanding that families are not being targeted; families will continue to retain the mindset that they are being targeted. It is a ripple effect, with families that have not been

affected are being convinced by others with negative experiences (due to being arrested) to flee from the county and leave their families behind. One of the participants clearly stated, “My husband had to leave the county and is now residing in another county because he is afraid.” It is also apparent that some families have had negative encounters due to biased and corrupt law enforcement officials, as another participants stated, “I will not judge the book by its cover, I pray that they all carry their duties in a respectful manner.”

Themes Related to Research Questions 2

What systems (Real Estate, education, employment, healthcare, private, and public safety) have been affected within the Salvadoran community because of their perceptions of the 287(g) policy implementation?

Fear of authority, police. It was apparent that all the participants except two have a personal fear for the police. Although, their immigration statuses were not explored in this study, it was clear that regardless of their residential statuses, they were in fear of the police. These fears were rooted from negative experiences of being arrested for a minor traffic violation or constantly hearing that their friends and families are being arrested because of not having the proper documentation. Corrupt officials who have arrested individuals and have portrayed no regard for the arrestee’s safety, privacy, and rights drive this fear. One participant stated, “Why call the police when they would just say I am just another Hispanic.” Another stated, “We are afraid of the police that should protect us and not afraid of the criminals that could hurt us.” This problem lies with both law enforcement and the immigrant community. Based on these negative encounters,

they police are viewed as controlling, racist, the enemy, deportation agents, and the cause of separation of families. According to Chief Deane (2007), families and communities were assured that victims, and witnesses would be protected, their immigration statuses would never be questions, thus urging victims and witnesses to come forward. Based on the perceptions of the few negative encounters, the police have been viewed as the enemy, thus justifying the bad outweighs the good. A simple solution to this misconception is to assure the public continuously, including the immigrant population, that witnesses and victims are protected.

Racism implemented against Hispanic individuals. Almost all the participants advised that they personally feel this policy is implemented on a racially charged strategy and is targeting members' Hispanic population, regardless of their status. Collectively, the racially charged system perception along with the fear of interaction with police both answered research question two. In addition, one participant added:

Personally, I believe that this is program without a structure. And without a conscience in reference human rights or regarding human rights. Whether we are citizens of this nation or not, because as human beings we have the right to live anywhere. Because those are human right. I think this program has been created not in accordance with the politics to help people and human beings but rather with a racial politics towards the Latin immigrants here in the United States, specifically Prince William County (Fernando).

Salvadoran families have been affected in various ways after the implementation of this policy to include the following systems: real estate, education, employment, healthcare,

and public safety systems-police). Based on their responses, they view the policy as a program that is implemented against them. Out of the five subcategories listed above, they most affected is the public safety systems. The majority of the participants either has had negative encounters with the police or has a close relative or friend who has had a negative encounter of the police. These negative experiences have creating the negative perceptions of law enforcement officials.

Perceived police behavior. This theme emerged as a result of the participants' perceptions of police officers in Prince William County. For instance, one of the participants stated,

With regards to reporting crimes to the police, this policy has affected me greatly. Not every police officer is racist, there are some that have proper manners. There are others who when they see that you are Hispanic, they try to humiliate you. They can arrest you regardless if the kids are crying. (Roberto)

This particular perception is based on one incident with police encounter. Based on this perception of the behavior of this single officer, the participant has developed a negative perception of all police officers. It is not prevalent to decipher whether this incident even took place, it was prevalent that this participant has experienced an incident along with her family that will never be forgotten. In addition, another participant stated the following,

My perception of the police, like they say, don't judge the book by its cover, not one person represents the million or the bunch, but it hasn't, I still respect and will still call on them and would trust that they will do the right thing. I also pray that

the spirit of God will come upon them in order for them to do the right thing.
(Elena).

Based on these two perception, it is eminent to decipher that majority of the participants have a perceived perceptions of police officers. Concisely, police officers are viewed as not passionate, harsh, and inconsiderate, without due regard of immigrants. Another participant also mentioned that before going to bed, she prays that when she wakes up, she does not have any encounter with the police regardless if the encounter is positive or negative. In examining these three perceptions, one cannot help but wonder what fuels these perceptions? These perceptions justifies the reason for research question 2, various systems have been affected due to the implementation of this policy.

Unreported crimes. As a seasoned police officer, I can attest to the notion that unreported crimes are a major issue in today's society. It not only affects the immigrant community, but others as well. Various individuals choose not to report crimes among them are the elderly, sexually abused victims, juveniles, battered women, battered children, battered spouses, and most applicable, the immigrant community (Su, 2010). Su (2010) further noted that newly implemented policies play a great role in influencing the behaviors of immigrant communities due to being very scared and misunderstanding or misconception of the policy implementation. Unreported crimes drove the very essence of this research from its inception, taking into consideration my professional affiliation. Upon completing the designated interviews, it was apparent that participants were afraid of the police, and as a result, they choose not to report crimes committed against them and their loved ones as well as crimes that they have witnessed. For instance, one

participant noted, “I have had several issues that I wanted to report to the police, but I did not because they will just say I am just another Hispanic” (Susana). Another participant mentioned:

I never had to call the police but I hear others saying that there are several crimes, people killing others, why would we want to call the cops, because we don't have any documents when we call, they will just send us to immigration. That's the trend right now, we are afraid to call because they will just refer us to immigration. (Pedro)

Based on the above perceptions, it appears a significant portion of the crimes are going unreported in Prince William County. Majority of the interviewees noted that they are unwilling to report crimes to the police because they are afraid their immigration statuses would be questioned. These perceptions are valid and thus justified research question 2. Recommendation 7 is proposed in order to address this perception.

Theme Related to Research Question 3

How have acculturation experiences influenced Salvadoran families to stay in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy?

Lack of cultural celebrations after the policy implementation. Based on the majority of the responses, it was concluded that both the American cultures and the Salvadoran cultures have significant differences, thus justifying the exploration of this particular research questions. It is with no question that the cultures are different, many described their culture as a happy culture, “We are happy people, we enjoy and mingle with each other.” Participants advised that prior to the implementation of this policy, they

felt free to explore, attend, and organize cultural festival celebration in order to recognize their cultural heritage. After the implementation of the policy, many were afraid to organize these celebrations because of the mere fact that they are afraid of police encounters. On an alternative note, another participant advised that this policy has awakened everyone; it has drawn individuals close to God. He further mentioned that individuals are becoming God fearing and turning toward churches. The participant also mentioned that individuals are becoming aware of the fact that partying and celebrating too much will get them in trouble when they are drunk in public. Furthermore, another participant mentioned:

After the policy, I think we have stopped doing certain activities we use to do before. Because you cannot expose yourself and anything can happen. Well I think there is always fear in everything that you do, even if you go shopping. In respect to our culture, maybe because of the accent we have when we talk. We are afraid to express ourselves in front of people we don't know. (Angie)

Based on the overall affected acculturation responses, I concluded that the acculturation experiences have been affected tremendously within this community, thus causing families to separate and refrain from gathering to celebrate their cultural beliefs. In summation, 287(g) policy has affected the acculturation experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the policy.

Overarching Theme

According to Hanson and Zogby (2010), the American dream is a famous concept wherein immigrants prior to migrating and those who have migrated to the United States

adhere to the belief that this is the land of freedom, liberty, and justice for all. All of the aforementioned themes and the concerns expressed by the participants appear related to the pursuit of the American dream. Taking into consideration the Salvadoran community and their responses, it was evident that they migrated to the United States in pursue of the dream job, support of their families, acquire wealth, live freely, accomplish educational goals, own properties, experience diversity, and experience justice from the police. In support of pursuing the American dream, Angie, after completing her interview requested if she could read a letter that she personally wrote for the interview. She stated:

Before we finish I would like to I consider myself a citizen of this country. I am a good person, I do not do harm to anyone. Moreover, year after year, I pay my taxes and with the money, I offer my help to different institutions, I also help my family and my country. I try to support the economic though my financial contributions. It is impossible to explain the fear and anxiety that we experience everyday when we leave our houses to go to work without knowing we going to come back. We cannot explain the terror we feel when we look at the rearview mirror of our cars and see a police vehicle.

Another participant stated, “I have always dream of owning a home and getting my education.” Another participant also noted that, “Before the law passed, people have confident in reporting crimes and were able to move freely.” The participant also added that their heritage and ethnic celebrations were important to them; however, after the policy implementation, the festivities have reduced. Taking into consideration these perceptions, it appears immigrant families migrate to the United States in order to pursue

the American dream thus justifying the inclusion of the migration theory in this study. This theory explored the reasons why immigrant families migrate to different nations in order to seek a more improved and opportunistic lifestyle. Regardless of whether the true extent of the concerns expressed by participants are root more in their perceptions or reality, it is clear that they see a disconnect between the dreams of immigrants and their actual experiences.

Recommendations and Future Research

There are several recommendations that emerged from this study. It was only conducted in Prince William County, and thus there is opportunity for further research in neighboring counties. The following recommendations will be carefully disseminated to the appropriate parties such as police chiefs, community leaders, various organizations that present county workshops regarding immigration issues meetings and provide advertisements relating to these issues:

- 1) Local law enforcements should adopt strategies to assure the public that the policy only affects individuals who are under custodial arrest.
- 2) Local law enforcement should adopt strategies to assure that immigrant population to include witnesses, victims, and reporting parties are protected.
- 3) Community leaders should be thoroughly briefed on the correct meanings of the policy.
- 4) Community leaders should educate their immigrant populations regarding the proper meanings and understandings of the policy.

- 5) Information about 278(g) policy and enforcement should be provided to unreached populations through Spanish newspapers, Spanish television networks, and Spanish gatherings.
- 6) Spanish-speaking officers should be designated to act as a conduit between the Spanish community and the police department.
- 7) Roll call training should be conducted to inform officers how this policy has affected the immigrant communities thus giving them the firsthand knowledge of how they are perceived by immigrants.
- 8) Results of this study should be presented to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

As a researcher, I will follow through with the above recommendations, the ones I cannot affect, I will make the necessary attempts to address. In addressing recommendations one, two, six, and seven, I have developed a professional relationship with the chief of police in Prince William County and Fairfax County. I will approach both individuals, share my study, and address my recommendations to them. I will also advise them of the significance of implementing these recommendations in their respective counties. I will also advise them of the possibility of positively assisting in changing the perceptions of law enforcement officers thus reducing the tension between the immigrants and the officers. In addressing recommendations three, four, five, and eight, I will address these endeavors on my own. The Board of Supervisors has daily hearings and meetings, and I will schedule a meeting with one or two of the prospective board members and introduce my research to them.

Concerning future research, I recommend the following: (a) exploring the lived experiences of Mexican and South American families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy and (b) exploring the lived experiences of West African families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. Information gathered from these studies would provide a broader framework for the diverse immigrant community in the entire United States including. These studies are important because they would provide additional information to policy makers, community leaders, and individuals in authority. In addition to these areas of study, I would also recommend quantitative research on the relationship between crime reporting, crime rates, and Immigration enforcement strategies in the county before and after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. This research could be conducted based on the crime statistics recorded before and after the policy implementation in addition to structured interviews with participants. Upon collecting the data, the researcher could decipher if there is a relationship between the two variables, crime rates, and immigration enforcement strategies in the county.

Implications for Social Change

There are three major possible social change implications after the completion of this research. Better understanding of 287(g) policy may help not only Salvadoran families, but also all immigrant families to include, but not limited to, Mexicans, Africans, Asians, South Americans, and Middle Easterners to have a better quality of life. The results of this study may provide a broader understanding for law enforcement officials as to why immigrants refrain from trusting the police or having negative

perceptions of police. Lastly, the study gave a voice to the experiences of the participants and others immigrants in the community.

The results of this study is not only applicable to Salvadoran families in the county, it is applicable to all the immigrant communities in the county. Other immigrant communities have expressed similar concerns as Salvadoran families, so they may also benefit from this study. With the results of this study, law enforcement leaders will be equipped with training strategies for their troops in handling immigrant communities and being aware of how law enforcement officials are perceived. This endeavor is important because it may help in bridging the gap that the policy has created between the officials and the immigrants. In the long run, with the assurance from law enforcement officials, immigrants may freely and willing be able to report crimes and criminal activities to the police. Upon conducting these interviews, I realized the eagerness and anxiousness in participating and sharing in the end produced a positive experience for the participants. Each participant participated willingly and appeared to derive happiness through the process. Even though some have had negative experiences, having the opportunity to be heard with regard to these experiences appeared to bring joy to them as they shed a light upon their tribulations.

Reflections of the Researcher

As an immigrant myself, I had to make a concerted effort to distinguish my personal feelings from the feelings relayed from the participants. As a researcher and a professional, in order to distinguished these feelings, I used the process described by Moustakas (1994) called horizontalization. This process is described by the researcher

that it assigning the same level and value of each responses from the participants. By relaying the responses in a similar manner, it was apparent that I was relaying the responses fairly. Lincoln and Guba (1985) addressed the topic of member checking. Five out of the seven participants interviewed checked the transcribed data in order to make accurate depictions of their responses. Some of the participants offered to assist in changing the Spanish interview guides in order for it to be easily understanding for future participants. They were cautioned that the interview questions have been thoroughly scrutinized and examined by the Institutional Review Board and they have approved it. Making any changes would require IRB approval.

Another important lesson that I learned throughout this process is that gaining the trust of a vulnerable population is very difficult. Taking into consideration my professional affiliation, I utilized the prolonged engagement (Lincoln & Guba, 1985) in order to create a sense of trust between my participants and myself. Furthermore, this technique assisted me in building the trust and eliminate my own personal preconceive perceptions of the Salvadoran community. Member checking and prolonged engagement were the two major techniques that assisted me in identifying my gatekeeper and furthering this research. During the data collection process, I was astounded to notice that the all the participants have similar experiences concerning their lack of understanding and awareness of the policy. It was shocking to hear so many horrific stories due to fellow officers' actions. I was able to control my emotions and feelings and continued with the process without interrupting. One particular participant drafted a personal letter and asked if she could read it and be recorded. In her letter, she stated that

she considers herself a citizen of this nation and works very hard. She stated that she pays her taxes and contribute to social organizations and obeys all laws and regulations in the county. However, because of her race, she is being viewed as an immigrant and will be judged unfairly throughout her life. Her story was very touching, she was very confident in providing her responses. Upon listening to her responses, I felt a great joy internally that in some way, this information will be disseminated to the respective parties.

Summary and Conclusion

Chapter 1 addressed the history and background of this policy and a thorough explanation and definition of the policy. It also addressed the initial curiosity that drove me to conduct this study. Chapter 2 a review of the literature related to the subject. Chapter 2 also included literature from various states and counties with regards to the implementation of this policy. Chapter 3 justified the use of phenomenological methodology for this study. Chapter 3 also gave a detailed explanation and justification to the number of participants for this study. Chapter 4 provided details regarding the locations and recruitment of participants, and presented the responses of participants. This chapter also included discussion of the quality and validation of the data. Chapter 5 illustrated the findings, recommendations and future research, social change implications, and my reflections of the research.

The findings justified and answered my research questions. The findings also fulfilled my curiosity. Despite the trustworthiness of the responses from my participants, these responses are their personal responses towards the policy implementation. The actuality of the policy and as mentioned above in chapter 1 is that the policy primarily

focuses on after a full custodial arrest has been made. In explaining this concept furthermore, police can investigate the citizenship status of an individual after they have been physically arrested (Deane, 2008). Furthermore, in some instances, the officer can inquire the citizenship status prior to arrest when he or she has a probable cause that the individual cannot prove their identity as a result they will not be present in court as a result of the charge (criminal or traffic). Moreover, according to the local enforcement response to illegal immigration brochure that was published by the Prince William County Police Department in 2008;

Police officers are not authorized to arrest or detain a person solely on the belief that the person is in the country illegally. However, if the officer has probably cause to believe that the person has committed, or is about to commit, a crime, that person may be detained and arrested. (Deane, 2008)

In addition, the publication states that:

The policy directs police officers to inquire about immigration status if they have probable cause to suspect that a person is in violation of federal immigration laws AND if that person is lawfully detained for a violation of state or local law. (Deane, 2008)

These two sections are the most controversial issues in the county and within the police department. There is a fine line between establishing probable cause in such a situation. Primarily, the police department has made it clear that its goal is to focus on criminal aliens, in addition, police officers will protect witnesses and victims of crimes regardless

of their immigration status. Furthermore, the chief of police has reiterated on several occasions that racial profiling is expressly prohibited in the county.

The two major themes as mentioned above are the lack of understanding and explanation of the policy and the fear of authority-police. These two major themes appear to be rooted in participants' perceptions based on their experiences and the experiences of others. While there is no easy answer for addressing these problems, my research may provide a foundation toward mending the relationship between the Prince William County government authorities and its immigrant communities. It is apparent that fear has been implanted in the hearts of the immigrants in the county, regardless of their immigration statuses. These issues might be addressed by exploring the eight recommendations mentioned above. These recommendations are a starting point for policy makers and authorities in the county. As a student researcher and a law enforcer of the policy, I strive to see the relationship between fellow officers and the immigrant community grows from being chaotic to cooperation. The social change implications for this study are immense and have the potential to lead Prince William County out of its dystopia state.

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Appendix A

Name of study/research: *Exploring the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy.* Even though the title states Salvadoran families, this study is not limited to only Salvadoran families; it is open to all Spanish heritage families residing in Prince William County.

Researcher(s): Chernoh M Wurie, Doctoral student with Walden University. Assisted by Leandro E. Pena. (Translator/candidate for Masters in Linguistics with George Mason University)

Why this study is significant? This study is important because there is a problem in Prince William County with the understanding of the new immigration policy implemented in July/August 2007. We are exploring your basic understanding of this policy. We are asking questions such as; was this policy explained to you thoroughly? Based on your understanding of this policy, what are your experiences? What are your encounters with the enforcers of this policy? Do you have any specific situation or experience you want to share with others?

Your voices need to be heard, the results of this study will be presented to the county board of supervisors in their 2012 meeting. It is not guaranteed to change the current immigration laws; however, it is a good start. It takes many voices to affect a change. Your voices need to be heard based on your experiences of the current immigration laws. Your immigration statuses will not be explored or asked during the entire duration of this study. You are participating in this study on your own willingness.

Demographics: According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 2004 American Community Survey, Prince William County had 59.5% of individuals from Latin Americans, 4.9% Africans, 1.0% other, 8.1% Europeans, and 26.5% Asians. According to the same source, in 2008, Prince William County had 50.9% Latin Americans residing in the county. As an immigrant myself from Sierra Leone, I know that this is a significant decrease in population size, therefore, a study is warranted to investigate this sudden drop in population. I can truly say that I understand how every immigrant population feels.

How to participate? If you are interested in participating and want to share your experiences with this immigration policy, please call us at **7038620327**. Please leave us a message with your name and phone number. Your real names, identities, and addresses will not be revealed in the publication of this study. They will only be made known to us as researchers. We will label each participating family with numbers.

Where to participate? A location will be designated after we call you back. Most likely, the destination for the interview will be decided based on your choice.

Process: After the interview date has been set, we will meet with you and ask you the above questions about your experiences. Your stories will be taped for typing and publishing in my dissertation. These stories will also be presented to the county board of supervisors at some point in one of their 2012 board meetings. The interview will not last more than an hour. Upon answering these questions, I will provide you with a copy of your story after it has been typed and stored.

Appendix B

CONSENT FORM

Exploring the lives experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy.

Consent Form (Adults)

You are invited to take part in a research study of exploring the lived experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. You were chosen as possible participant for this study because you are a native from El Salvador. This form is part of a process called “informed consent” to allow you to understand this study before deciding whether to take part. Please read the form carefully and address any questions before agreeing to participate in this study.

This study is being conducted by Chernoh M Wurie, a police officer with Prince William County and a doctoral student at Walden University.

Background Information:

The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of Salvadoran families in Prince William County after the implementation of the 287(g) policy. This study will also explore your basic understandings and perceptions of the policy. Lastly, because of your perception of the policy, the positive and negative repercussions that you have experienced will be explored as well.

Procedures:

If you agree to be in this study, I would ask you to do the following:

- You will be asked to meet with me at least once or twice for follow up interviews if necessary
- Each interview will take place at a destination of your choice at which you feel your privacy will be maintained.
- Each interview will last for about an hour or an hour and a half.
- Each interview will be conducted either in English or Spanish, based on your preference
- Each interview will be recorded for transcribing later

Voluntary Nature of the Study:

Your participation in this study is voluntary. This means that everyone will respect your decision of whether or not you want to be in the study. No one at Prince William County Police Department and the Prince William County Government will treat you differently if you decide not to be in the study. If you decide to join the study now, you can still change your mind during

the study. If you feel stressed during the study, you may stop at any time. You may skip any questions that you feel are too personal.

Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:

The only foreseeable risk with this research is that your participation in telling your story might be an emotional experience. By participating in this study, you may be reminded of past negative experiences. If retelling your story makes you exceptionally uncomfortable, I will refer you to local social services providers who might help you address your feelings. Your stories and your understandings are prevalent to this study. In order to get your point across to the county government and the legislative body, your stories have to be told. You are participating in this study on your own volition. You can withdraw from this study anytime without any penalties or negative associations. In addition, your participation in this study will represent the entire immigrant population in the greater Washington area that is constantly implementing new immigration policies. Your immigration status will not be explored, inquired, or revealed in this study. I will not ask your immigration status, and you should not disclose it to me.

Compensation:

No compensation will be provided for participating in this study. Your participation is important though, in that it will help others learn about the experiences of Salvadorans in Prince William County

Confidentiality:

Any information you provide will be kept private. This research will be viewed by me, my doctoral research committee (Chair person and content expert, and my methodologist expert). Their roles are to guide me while I pursue this research and to abide in Walden University's standards in conducting a doctoral research. My professional interpreter will also view this information retrieved from the interviews only for interpretation purposes. He has signed a confidentiality agreement, agreeing not to divulge the data from this study. The data recorded from the interviews will be transcribed and saved on my computer, which is secured with a password and located at my residence. The audio tapes and transcribed data will be saved for five years before properly discarding (burning/shredding) according to Walden University's guidelines. All information relayed to me will be kept confidential. Individuals will be identified in numerical basis. There will not be any identifiers such as sex, employment, location, affiliation, etc. individuals will be identified as adult #1 from family #1, proceeding interviews will identify as such. Ages of the participants will only be inquired because it is important in order to eliminate individuals below 18yrs (children). Your immigration status **will not be asked** through the entire duration of this interview. Because of my role as a police officer, if you reveal information to me about a crime, I have a duty to report and/or investigate it. In order to aid me in keeping our conversation as confidential as possible, you should not reveal information that implicates yourself or others in a crime.

Contacts and Questions:

You may ask any questions you have now. Or if you have questions later, you may contact me the researcher Chernoh M Wurie via telephone (703) 786-4039 or via email, chernoh.wurie@waldenu.edu. Dr. Richard Worch is my advisor for the entirety of this project. If you have any further questions, he can be reached at (941) 286-6620. If you want to talk privately about your rights as a participant, you can call Dr. Leilani Endicott. She is the Walden University representative who can discuss this with you. Her phone number is 1-800-925-3368, extension

1210. Walden University's approval number for this study is **IRB will enter approval number here** and it expires on **IRB will enter expiration date**.

The researcher will give you a copy of this form to keep.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information and I feel I understand the study well enough to make a decision about my involvement. By Insert signing below, I am agreeing to the terms described above.

Printed Name of Participant

Date of consent

Participant's Written or Electronic* Signature

Researcher's Written or Electronic* Signature

Electronic signatures are regulated by the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act. Legally, an "electronic signature" can be the person's typed name, their email address, or any other identifying marker. An electronic signature is just as valid as a written signature as long as both parties have agreed to conduct the transaction electronically.

Appendix C

cwtranscript.txt	
American Dream Police Behavior American Dream	moment, they took him out of the car, asked him for his license, he told them that he didn't have a license, but he needed to drive in order to go to work. I need to drive because it is a necessity for me; I have to go to work and come back home. At that moment, they arrested him, took his vehicle, and didn't allow him to continue driving. They took him away, I tried to go and get him out, but I was told that there was a hold on him that immigration has on him and they couldn't let him out. He was there for more than a week. As a result of that, we lost the vehicle because my husband was the only one with the key and they didn't want to give us the key to get the vehicle out. We lost the car because when he got out of detention, they charged us over a thousand dollars in order to get the vehicle out. We did not have that kind of money. So collectively, we have had bad experiences with the implementation of this policy.
Police Behavior	
American Dream	
American Dream	
Fear American Dream	Research Question #2: I have limited knowledge and information of what the law is about. The way I see it is that it is a law that is directed against the Hispanic communities, in which it gives the power to the authorities to detain people just for the simple fact that they are Hispanic. There are a lot of attitudes like I said before, there is always fear among people and friends. We are all Hispanics, I think we always live with the fear, we don't live freely and easily, we always live in fear that something will happen.
American Dream	With regards to education, this question does not apply to me. Yes it has affected me because ever since I arrive in the country, my interest is to have my own house. Because of the implementation of this law, it is preventing us from fulfilling our dream of owning a

Appendix D
Code Frequency

Code	Total
American dream	44
Fear	21
Misunderstanding of law	3
Police behavior	23
Unreported crime	9

Curriculum Vitae

CHERNOH WURIE

cwurie@pwcgov.org • 703-786-4039

OBJECTIVE

Seven years of progressive experience in the criminal justice field. Experience as an Adjunct Professor in the academic arena seeking a full-time teaching position within a university, college setting, or public safety establishment. Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; fluent in a second language (**Krio**).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Northern Virginia Community College, Woodbridge VA
Adjunct Professor Online

January 2012-Present

- Post and observe office hours, whether online or face-to-face at ELI or on campus.
- Proficient on Blackboard 9.
- Respond to student inquiries within 24-48 hours.
- Provide grades and detailed, constructive feedback on assignments within one week.
- Be available and responsive to students five days (of your choosing) per week.
- Maintain active and a visible presence in the course throughout the semester, including:
 - Make regular, proactive contact with each class (for example, make a weekly text or voice announcement in Blackboard, send a weekly email to the class, keep a class blog, etc.).
 - Facilitate course discussion forums without dominating them. For example: Intervene by clarifying/refocusing if a discussion wanes or veers off topic; model the kind of thinking and interaction you want from your students as necessary; highlight and summarize important ideas when appropriate; correct inaccurate information or misuse of course material when needed.
 - Provide an “Ask the Instructor” forum and respond to queries posted in it each of the five days per week you are available to students.
 - Establish a social presence (sharing personal information about yourself so your students can get to know you and using a friendly tone in your communications to them).
 - Work to develop rapport with students, just as you would in the classroom. Find out about your students’ backgrounds and interests and use these to tailor explanations and feedback.
 - Deal promptly with disruptive students to restore order and a safe environment for the class.
 - Encourage students to communicate with me and to share ideas and cooperate with each other.
 - Contact, encourage, and follow up with students who are not participating/making progress in the course.
- Follow good practices for effective communication in an online environment:

- Be aware of challenges in conveying information by email. Word messages carefully, use language that students understand, use humor judiciously, and consider using phone calls or voice emails instead of text emails for complicated matters.
- Model and encourage respectful and constructive communication in the discussion forums and in my email messages and feedback.

Northern Virginia Community College, Woodbridge VA
Adjunct Professor

August 2009-Present

- Teach units of instruction to students in higher education programs, adults and continuing education courses.
- Instruct classroom economic development activities. Responsibilities include presenting instruction based on the competencies and performance levels of the courses; maintaining accurate scholastic student records; participating in the university assessment process; responding to questions to ensure learning; and submitting required reports.
- Plan learning activities and use teaching methods designed for a variety of learning styles to facilitate students in achieving course goals.
- Assist with maintaining a classroom culture emphasizing a hospitable learning environment; safety and security.
- Use course text, outlines, syllabi, and other curriculum materials in accordance with college department guidelines.
- Participates in communications with the college, department, and students in reference to syllabus material and other relevant teaching documents. Meet response deadlines as required.
- Participates in professional development and in-service activities such as seminars for faculty members; including Blackboard training, IT training, and Smart Cart training.
- Acquire and maintain teaching certification required by the Northern Virginia Community College System and other licensing agencies. Consult with program and course directors and other faculty members to define course objectives; specify and approve learning approaches and necessary resources; develop individualized instruction and multimedia presentations to ensure learning; select and approve textbooks and learning materials for student use.

Strayer University, Loudoun, and Alexandria, VA
Adjunct Professor

April 2011-Present

- Teach units of instruction to students in higher education programs, adults and continuing education courses.
- Instruct classroom economic development activities. Responsibilities include presenting instruction based on the competencies and performance levels of the courses; maintaining accurate scholastic student records; participating in the university assessment process; responding to questions to ensure learning; and submitting required reports.
- Plan learning activities and use teaching methods designed for a variety of learning styles to facilitate students in achieving course goals.
- Assist with maintaining a classroom culture emphasizing a hospitable learning environment; safety and security.
- Use course text, outlines, syllabi, and other curriculum materials in accordance with college department guidelines.
- Participates in communications with the college, department, and students in reference to syllabus material and other relevant teaching documents. Meet response deadlines as required.
- Participates in professional development and in-service activities such as seminars for faculty members; including Blackboard training, IT training, and Smart Cart training.
- Assist with student advising and writing center tutoring.
- Completed Blackboard 9 training

- Acquire and maintain teaching certification required by the Strayer University Incorporated and other licensing agencies. Consult with program and course directors and other faculty members to define course objectives; specify and approve learning approaches and necessary resources; develop individualized instruction and multimedia presentations to ensure learning; select and approve textbooks and learning materials for student use.
- Participate in student advising and tutoring students at the writing lab.

Prince William County Police Department, Woodbridge, VA
Police Officer II

June 2004-Present
April 2005-Present

- Operates a patrol car to observe violations of traffic laws, suspicious activities and disturbances of law and order.
- Respond to radio dispatches and answers calls and complaints; serve warrants and make arrests; testify in court; provide police escorts; direct traffic. Performs special assignment of booking desk officer responsible for taking reports from walk-in citizens, serve warrants on fugitives, checks on the well-being of prisoners and maintains cell log.
- Assist with criminal investigations by presenting/preserving evidence; and interviewing victims and witnesses.
- Investigates major offenses such as burglary, robbery, rape, homicide, auto theft, aggravated assaults; domestic violence complaints; and offenses committed against juveniles. Assist authorities in the handling of traffic accidents, fires, vandalism, and other emergencies.
- Directs traffic; enforce parking and traffic laws and regulations; issues citations and makes arrests as appropriate. Direct police, fire and other emergency vehicles.
- Respond to inquiries received and relay communication such as wanted status of suspects.
- Plan and directs law enforcement programs such as police and community partnership, DARE, community policing, and other programs geared towards the establishment of a positive relationship between the police and the community. Coordinates law enforcement activities within assigned areas of responsibility.

Intern, Criminal Investigation Division

June 2004 – August 2004

- Participated in Community and Police Partnership Programs (CAPP), which is responsible for re-establishing positive relationships between crime prone neighborhoods and the police department.
- Responsible for filing case logs; assisted detectives in interrogating/interviewing victims and suspects.

Prince William Co. Police Department/Crime Prevention, Woodbridge, VA June 2003 – January 2004
Crime Prevention (Seasonal)

- Responsible for citizen service requests for concerned citizens moving into a new location by researching the crime rate in the respective neighborhood.
- Facilitated community neighborhood watch programs; informed citizens of community services and recommended options to facilitate community safety.

Pulaski Police Department, Pulaski, VA
Intern (Crime Prevention)

August 2003 – December 2003

- Aided Crime Prevention Specialist in organizing community watch programs.
- Involved in awareness programs directed towards the safety of elderly citizens.

EDUCATION

Walden University, Baltimore, MD

Candidate for Doctoral Degree; Major Public Administration Expected Completion Date March, 2012

M.S., Public Safety Management

December 2008

Radford University, Radford, VA

B.S., Major Criminal Justice

December 2004

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Basic Criminal Investigations for Patrol Officers
- Patrol Level Drug Diversion Investigation Course
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Course
- Identity Fraud and Check Fraud Investigation for Patrol Officers
- Illegal Firearms and Trafficking Course for Patrol Officers
- Handling Emotionally Disturbed Persons Training
- CPR and First AID Certified
- Less Lethal Projectile Operator
- Taser Operator
- Firearms and Emergency Vehicle Maintenance Certified
- Basic Photography for Patrol Officers
 - Photographs over-all, mid-range, and close-up evidential value items, structures, and locations
- Crime Scene Technician (CST)
 - Successfully trained in documenting, sketching, and collecting items of evidential value
 - Successfully trained in collecting trace evidences such as hair and fibers from crime scenes
 - Successfully trained in collecting fingerprints from porous and nonporous objects
 - Successfully trained in collecting footwear and tool impressions with specific casting materials
- Proficient in APA citations and writings
- Conducted Criminal Justice Seminar and Workshop for students transitioning into law enforcement
- Assisted PWCPD accreditation manager in compiling accreditation standard requirements

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Vice President and cofounder of Barrels of Hope International Incorporated Organization 2010-Present
- Co-Author (Chapter 3) Breakthrough Mentoring in the 21st Century: A Compilation of Life Altering Experiences. By Walter McCollum PHD
- Mentor for Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization, 2009-Present
- Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy, 1998 – 2001
- Member of the Fraternal Order of Police, 2006-Present
- Member of Battle Field Lodge, Police Association Hall Meetings, 2006-Present
- Member of the American Society for Public Administration, 2006-Present
- Member of Lambda Alpha Epsilon Northern Virginia Community College Chapter, 2001 – 2002
- Recognition of excellence recipient-Virginia Community College System-New Horizons, 2011
- Received the only the driven faculty award from Strayer University, 2012