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these

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I've always wondered about the way murdercrimes were solved but more specifically if the victims were ever discovered and identified and if the perpetrators were apprehended. For this essay, I will be discussing "cold" cases and how they can negatively affect a community. Moreover, how it affects an individual. With that in mind, "cold" cases are defined as unsolved cases, usually involving homicide, on which police work has ceased. Unsolved cases do not provide any sort of closure for the victim's loved ones and if they remain unsolved, are at risk of allowing the offender to continue to commit homicidal crimes. These cases add up to the already overwhelming amount of cases detectives must solve.

But alas, there is still hope for these cases to be solved. In some police stations, there are units that solely specialize in solving these kinds of cases. Despite this, there is a one in three chance that the police won't identify the killer. The national "clearance rate" for homicide today, is 64.1% but 50 years ago, it was more than 90%.

What's worse is that this "clearance" doesn't necessarily equal a conviction. Notably, it just means that these cases lead to either an arrest or the offender died. Additionally, having an excessive amount of unsolved cases can increasingly hinder the performance of police officers and other professional employees such as medical examiners.

It can slow down the process of solving the cases in a satisfactory and timely manner and can impose great stress on the already stressed officers. Criminologists have estimated that at least 2,000 murders have gone unsolved since the 1960s. This, in turn, leaves family and friends holding on

to false hope. However, what many people don't realize or don't consider, is that solving homicidal cases have become increasingly difficult over the years.

This is evident in the amount of "cold" cases police are presently plagued with. Vernon Geberth, a retired NYPD police officer states that DNA analysis has helped but that it has also contributed to worsening relationships between the public and the police. There is also a lack of trust between the officers and these scientific approaches to solving cases. If this continues then these methods will conclusively cease in aiding with criminal investigations.

There is also the lack of assistance from the public itself. Nowadays, most people, if not all of them, are wary of the police and offer little to no help in solving cases. This in turn, leaves the police "in the dark". On the other hand, police officers are still capable of solving certain murder cases such as those that are considered "the hardest kind of homicide to solve" because they typically occur in areas that have low clearance rates.

In addition to that, they are stranger-to-stranger homicides that have a high retaliation percentage among witnesses. Nonetheless, they are almost always cleared. Given the circumstances, there is still a good chance that the amount of "cold" cases will decrease due to the development of cold case squadrons and with the ongoing improvement of technology. These new methods can help shed light on those cases that did not have the appropriate resources to solve them.

These unidentifiable victims and their equally unidentifiable murderers will have an opportunity to finally be discovered and the affected loved ones' will finally receive the peace and assurance they deserve.