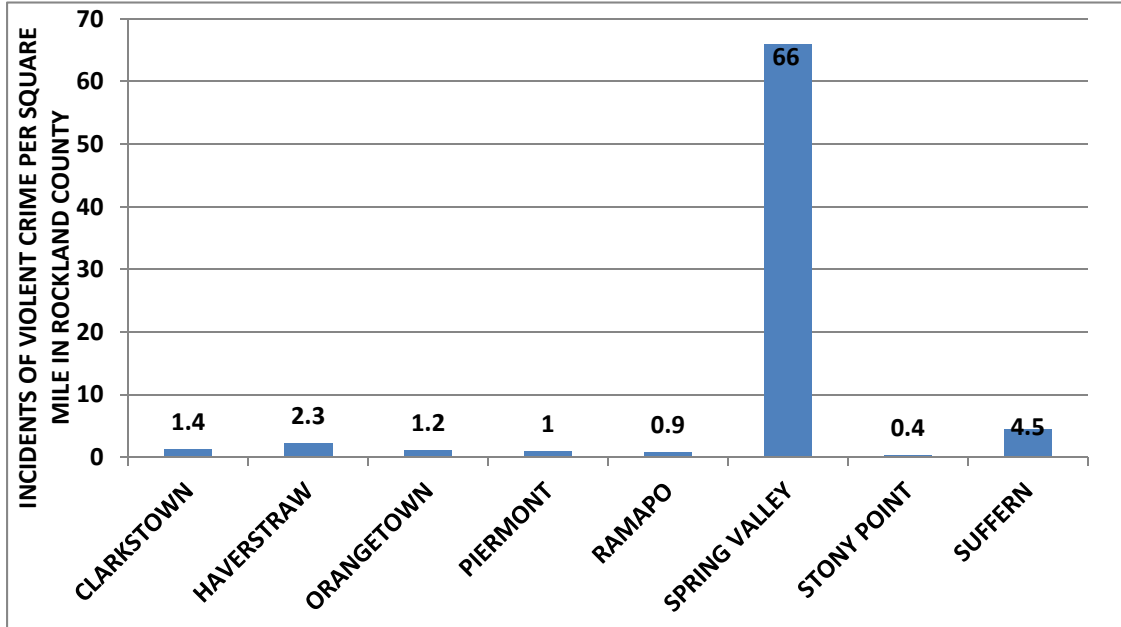


## **1. Statement of the Problem**

The Village of Spring Valley is located 30 miles north of New York City in Rockland County, New York, with a population of 32,359 residents. Spring Valley is 2.02 square miles, making it the most densely populated municipality in Rockland County with over 15,000 people per square mile. Per capita income in Spring Valley is a mere \$16,359 per year, barely half of the New York State average of \$32,382. Approximately 48.0% of residents are immigrants and 66.4% of residents speak a language other than English in their home. In addition to documented residents, it is also estimated that an additional 10,000 undocumented residents live and utilize resources in Spring Valley and Rockland County. The majority of undocumented residents are from Central and South America or the Country of Haiti. In 2010, there were over 5,000 Haitian-Americans living in the Village of Spring Valley (USA Today, 2-16-10). The Village of Spring Valley also has a large Hispanic population: 28.9% of the residents of the Village are Hispanic individuals who are not Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban. This represents an increase of 144.53% in Spring Valley's Hispanic population since the 2000 U.S. Census. Of Spring Valley's Hispanic population, 31.6% live below the poverty level.

Spring Valley also has one of the highest crime rates in New York State. The Village is one of only 17 designated GIVE (formerly IMPACT) Sites in New York State, which represent those communities with the highest crime rates. Despite making up only 1% of Rockland County geographically, Spring Valley is home to 35% of the county's violent crime, more than twice as much as any other municipality in the county. As evidenced in the following charts, Spring Valley's crime problem is exceptionally severe compared to the surrounding areas.

## INCIDENTS OF VIOLENT CRIME PER SQUARE MILE IN ROCKLAND COUNTY



## NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER VIOLENT CRIME IN ROCKLAND COUNTY

