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Central City Weed & Seed, Fourth Annual Community Survey

Community Research Institute-Johnson Center

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February 2009

Community Research Institute
Empowering communities with quality research and data

Central City Weed & Seed

Fourth Annual Community Survey




Johnson Center
at Grand Valley State University

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About the Community Research Institute

The Community Research Institute (CRI) provides innovative applied research to communities. CRI empowers communities with quality research and data, it generates information that will improve their decision-making process, it forecasts trends for effective problem solving, and it measures results and reports outcomes of investments in community change.

CRI gathers, analyzes, interprets and shares national and local data through partnerships with nonprofit and neighborhood groups, and assists local and regional nonprofit leaders with decision making, grant writing, and program evaluation. This is research that makes a difference through a distinctly valuable blend of university rigor and community relevance.

Questions about the Central City Weed & Seed Evaluation may be directed to Maria Gajewski at 616.331.7238 or gajewsma@gvsu.edu.

Executive Summary

Central City Weed & Seed has contracted with the Community Research Institute (CRI) for evaluation services. Those services for 2008 include conducting a community perception survey in the Weed & Seed area, which is the focus of this report.

This report includes background information regarding the development of the survey instrument, and the steps taken to administer the survey. The Findings section discusses the analysis of the survey results.

The overall results of this survey show some differences of opinion on life in the Weed & Seed area. Residents indicated that they believe their neighborhood is becoming a better place to live, but they are less convinced that it is currently a great place to live. Some perceptions of crime and neighborhood issues have remained consistent with previous results while others have worsened.

- 33% of survey respondents rated their neighborhood as “Very Desirable” or “Desirable.” This compares to 74% of respondents to a 2005 survey of Kent County residents¹ who rated their neighborhood as “Very Desirable” or “Desirable.”
- 40% believe that their neighborhood has become a better place to live in the past 12 months. This is the highest percentage in the 4 year history of this survey.
- 38% feel “Somewhat Safe” or “Very Safe” in their neighborhood in general, but only 31% feel the same way after dark.
- When compared to national data and Grand Rapids data, Weed & Seed residents seem much more likely than the national average to be victims of crime, or have a crime victim in their household.
- Most respondents seem to feel comfortable reporting suspected crime to the police, with some residents calling to report as many as 20 crimes in a 12 month period.
- Sightings of police officers interacting with neighborhood residents decreased. Police officers have been observed driving through the Weed & Seed neighborhoods by 89% of respondents. 45% had seen an officer on a bicycle or on foot. This is a 14% decrease from 2007. 29% had observed a friendly interaction between an officer and a neighborhood resident.

¹ This question was removed from the Kent County Community Survey after 2005.

How the Survey Was Collected

Central City Weed & Seed included a resident survey as a data gathering tool in the funding application. Through statistical analysis, CRI determined that a door-to-door survey had the best chance at achieving a +/- 5% margin of error, which is the generally accepted range for social research. This is due to the small size of the area, which has 2,573 residential addresses and over 8100 people, as of the 2000 Census. A mail survey typically has a response rate of 2-3%, which would only be 51-77 expected responses. Cost was also a factor, since mailing and printing costs would be at least \$2,000. A phone survey was not possible because there is no reliable way of determining whether a telephone number is within the Weed & Seed boundaries.

In order to receive honest feedback and keep costs down, the Weed & Seed committee chose to utilize community volunteers as surveyors. In the past, time constraints have forced community police officers to conduct the majority of surveys. This year's surveys were conducted entirely by community volunteers.

To make the survey as statistically valid as possible, CRI generated random samples of addresses. CRI used the City of Grand Rapids directory to determine which addresses fell within the Weed & Seed boundaries, then used the statistical analysis program SPSS to randomly sample 1000 addresses.

The community volunteers that conducted surveys were given an instruction sheet to help them survey residents consistently. (Appendix B). The volunteers received a map of the Weed & Seed area and a list of the sample addresses, which was divided by neighborhood association and street. All completed surveys were returned to CRI for analysis.

A total of 128 surveys were successfully completed between June and October 2008. According to the 2000 Census, which is the most recent data available at the address level, the Weed & Seed area has 5,340 residents aged 18 or over. This sample size results in a +/- 8.6% margin of error.

Because of the large margin of error, the survey data cannot be reliably analyzed by sub-groups. This means that the report contains no analysis based on race, gender or other demographic variables. Breaking down results by these groups creates such large margins of error that the results are essentially meaningless. There are also no tests of statistical significance of results.

CRI designed the survey instrument to measure resident perceptions as outlined in the Central City Weed & Seed funding proposal. The specific measures noted in the proposal are resident perceptions of juvenile crime, narcotics-related crime, aggravated assaults, and gun crime. It also includes questions about

police effectiveness, gang activity, housing availability, and community involvement.

Some questions were modeled from the 1995 and 1997 national Weed & Seed Community Surveys. Other questions were borrowed from the annual Greater Grand Rapids Community Survey conducted by CRI. This allows for comparison between the Weed & Seed area and Kent County as a whole.

Volunteers put in a great deal of time and effort to collect the survey results and the small sample size does not reflect all of the work that went into collecting it. A small sample of the address lists shows that of 159 of the 1000 addresses, there were 74 addresses where no one was home, 20 where the resident refused to participate, 39 where the address was either a vacant lot or an unoccupied house, and 26 surveys completed. Volunteers visited some addresses multiple times to make the best effort to get a representative sample, but with so many people not home or refusing to take the survey, the collection effort had to be ended before the weather turned too cold and unpredictable in the fall.

This year some significant changes were made to the survey which affects comparability to previous years. Some questions were added that are modeled on the National Crime Victimization Survey. Because of time constraints, other questions that covered roughly the same subject areas were removed. Additional questions were rewritten to include a Likert-type 5 point scale. This helped keep the survey response time similar to last year's shorter survey. It also gives the opportunity to calculate means and modes for responses. A copy of the survey is attached.

Respondent Profile

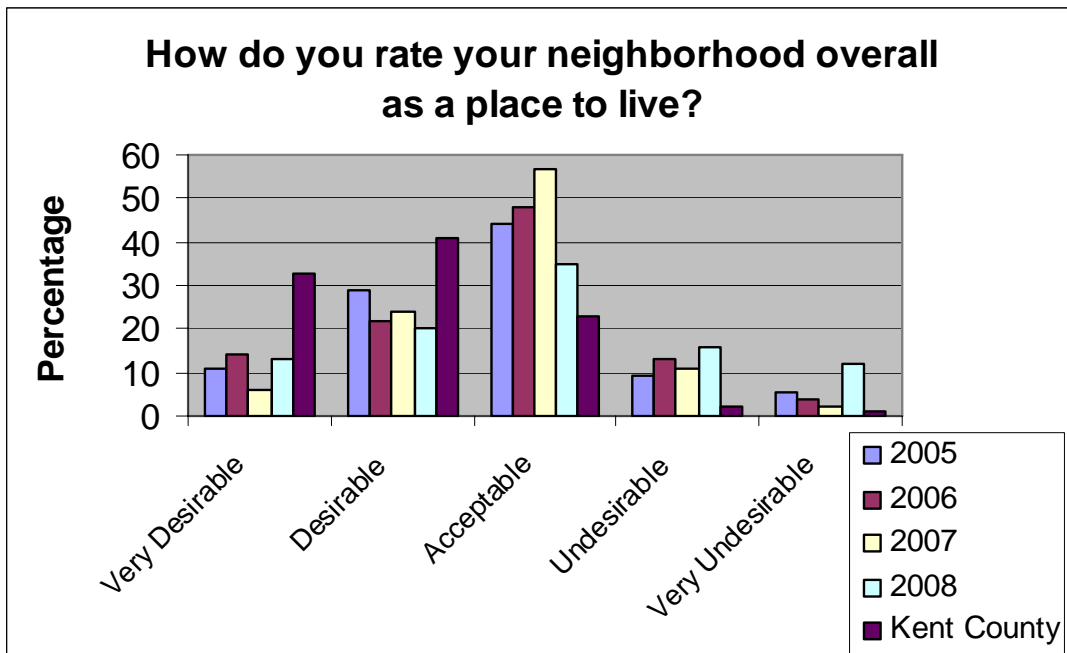
	Number of Respondents N=128	Percent of Respondents
Gender		
Male	50	39%
Female	69	54%
Age		
18-24	23	18%
25-44	42	33%
45-59	24	19%
60 and over	18	14%
Race		
White Non-Hispanic	27	21%
Black	73	57%
Hispanic	6	5%
Multi-Racial	3	2%
All Others	2	2%
Neighborhood		
Baxter	43	34%
East Hills	25	20%
Easttown	9	7%
MANA	11	9%
SEENA	40	31%
Length of Residence		
Less than 1 year	21	16%
1-5 years	36	28%
6-10 years	16	13%
11-25 years	25	20%
26 and over	28	22%

Findings

The findings for this report attempt to draw on all four years of data now collected. Because the Weed & Seed initiative is intended to improve the target area over a period of five years, this evaluation will concentrate on aspects of change over time.

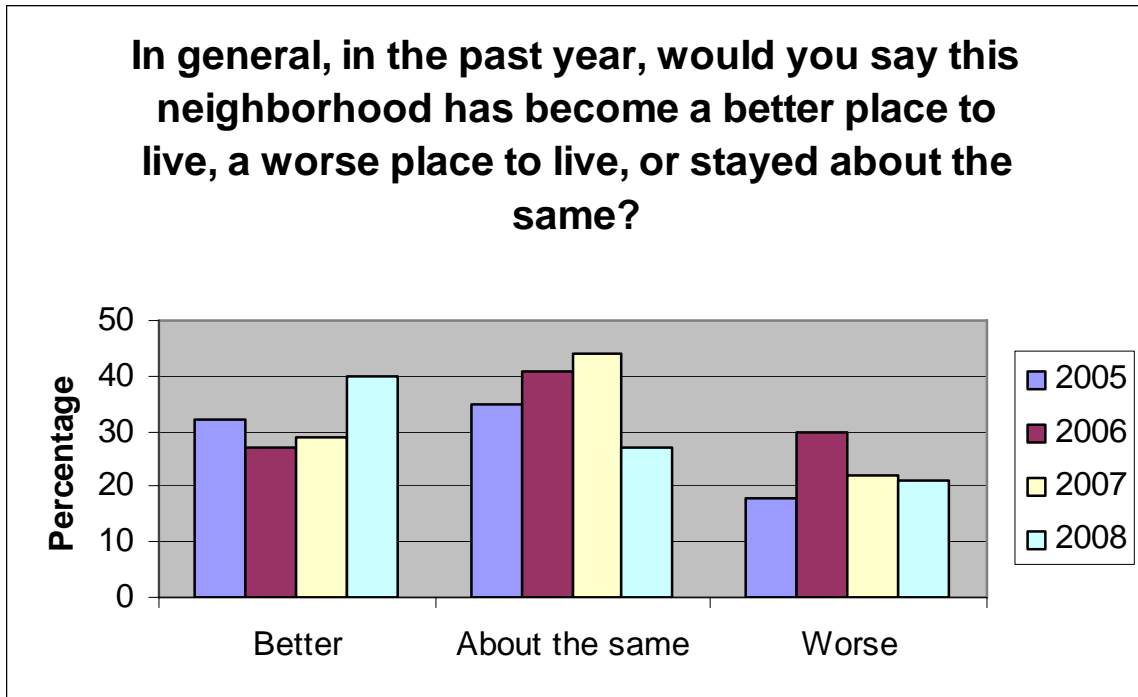
How Do You Rate Your Neighborhood?

The chart below compares how residents of the Weed & Seed area rated their neighborhoods in 2005 through 2008, and how residents from all of Kent County rated their neighborhoods in 2005 (this is the most recent data available). It seems that in 2008, resident perceptions of the Weed & Seed area have become more negative. 28% rated their neighborhood as “Undesirable” or “Very Undesirable” in 2008 compared to 13% in 2007, 17% in 2006 and 15% in 2005. In the Kent County survey, 33% rated their neighborhoods as “Very Desirable” and 41% as Desirable. All of the years of the Weed & Seed survey are much lower than this.



Has the Neighborhood Become Better or Worse?

The next question on the survey is, “In general, in the past year, would you say this neighborhood has become a better place to live, a worse place to live, or stayed about the same?” The results for this question seem to contradict the overall neighborhood ratings. In 2008, 40% said that they thought the neighborhood has gotten better. This is the highest percentage ever, with 32% in 2005 being the second highest. It seems that there is some amount of optimism in the area.



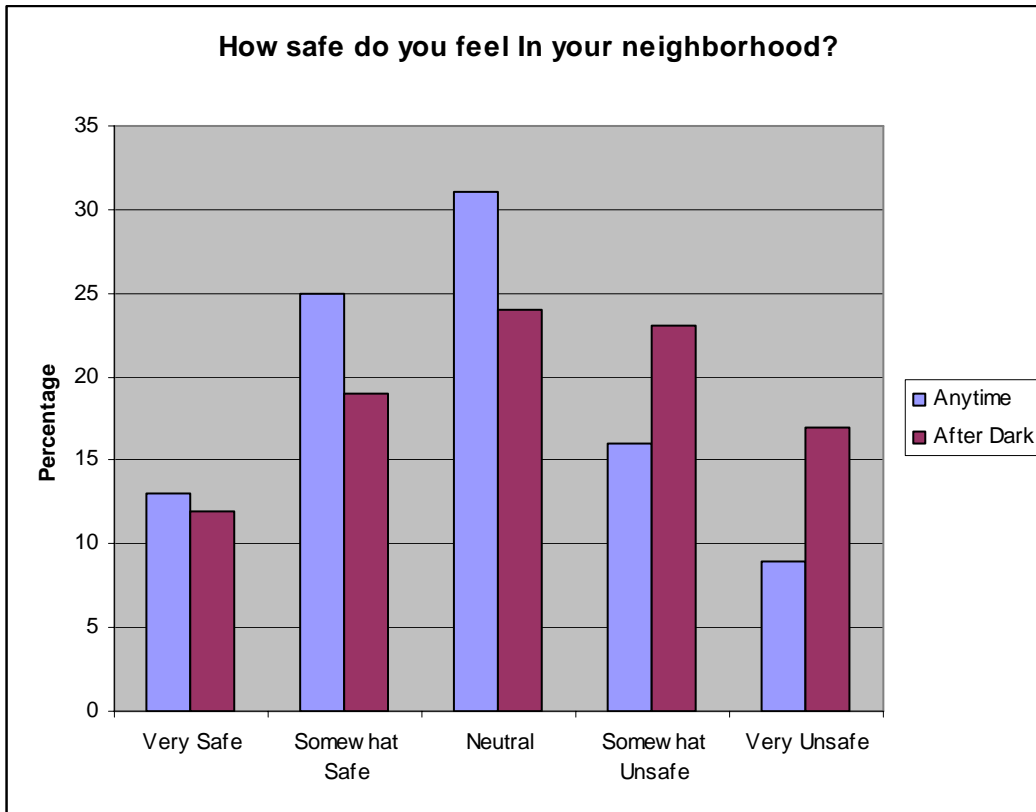
How Safe Do You Feel?

The Weed & Seed area has one of the highest crime rates in the Grand Rapids metro area. Because Central City Weed & Seed’s activities are focused on reducing crime and providing positive activities for area residents, the survey asks several questions on crime and safety. Resident perceptions of safety are important indicators of the effectiveness of Weed & Seed efforts.

However, it is important to note that an increased focus on law enforcement and crime prevention can lead to *decreased* feelings of safety in the short term. This is simply because publicity and increased police presence can lead to greater awareness of a crime problem and does not necessarily mean that crime has increased in the area. Police department statistics are a much more accurate way of determining changes in actual criminal activity in the Weed & Seed area.

Two questions on the 2008 survey asked residents about their feelings of safety. The first question asked “How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?” and the

second added the qualifier, “at night.” The results show that residents feel relatively safe most of the time. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of residents felt “Very Safe,” “Somewhat Safe,” or “Neutral.” However, at night 40% of residents felt “Somewhat Unsafe,” or “Very Unsafe.”

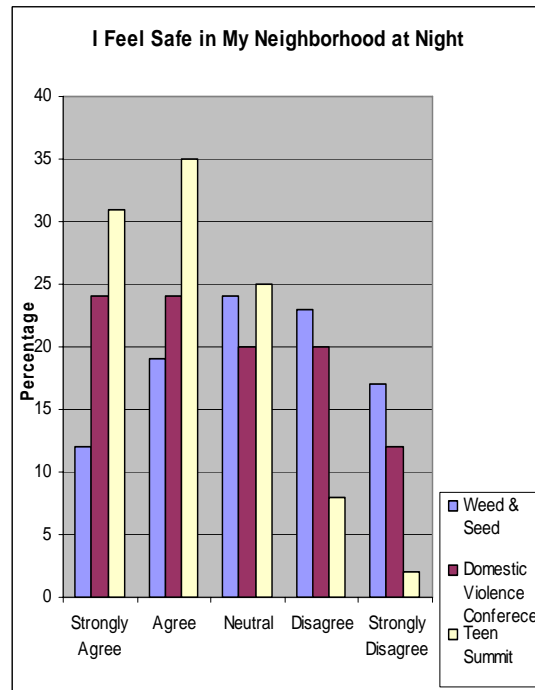
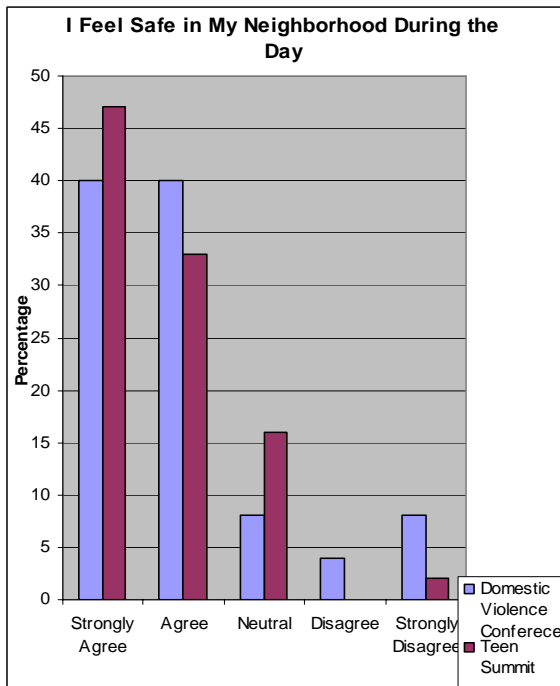
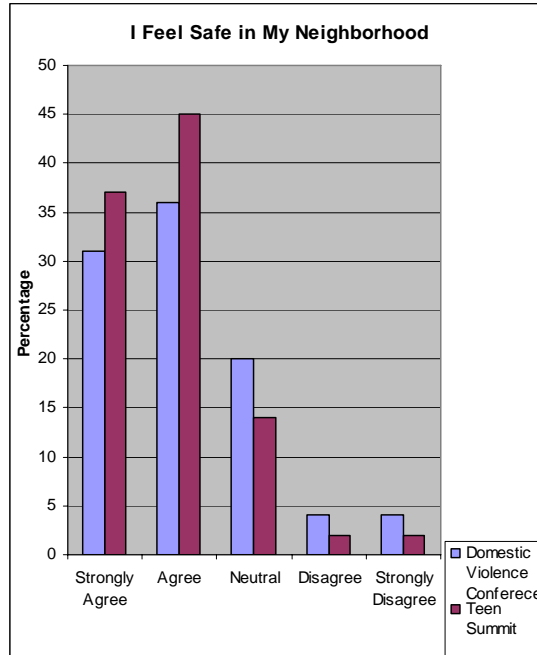


Surveys given at the Weed & Seed sponsored Teen Summit and the Domestic Violence Conference asked a series of three questions about safety, so we can compare those results. At the Domestic Violence conference, 31% Strongly Agreed and 36% Agreed that they feel safe in their neighborhood in general. At the Youth Summit, 37% Strongly Agreed and 45% Agreed that they feel safe in their neighborhood in general.

These numbers go up when asked if they feel safe during the day. At the Domestic Violence conference, 40% Strongly Agreed and 40% Agreed that they feel safe in their neighborhood during the day. At the Youth Summit, 47% Strongly Agreed and 33% Agreed that they feel safe in their neighborhood during the day.

The question, “I feel safe in my neighborhood at night,” was asked nearly identically on all three surveys, so we can compare the answers directly, which you can see in the table below. In general people who took the Weed & Seed survey feel less safe at night than those at the Domestic Violence Conference and at the Teen Summit. There are many possible reasons for this such as the age of the attendees and their activities in the community.

I feel safe in my neighborhood at night				
	Weed & Seed	Domestic Violence Conference	Teen Summit	
Strongly Agree	12%	24%	31%	
Agree	19%	24%	35%	
Neutral	24%	20%	25%	
Disagree	23%	20%	8%	
Strongly Disagree	17%	12%	2%	



Have You Been the Victim of a Crime?

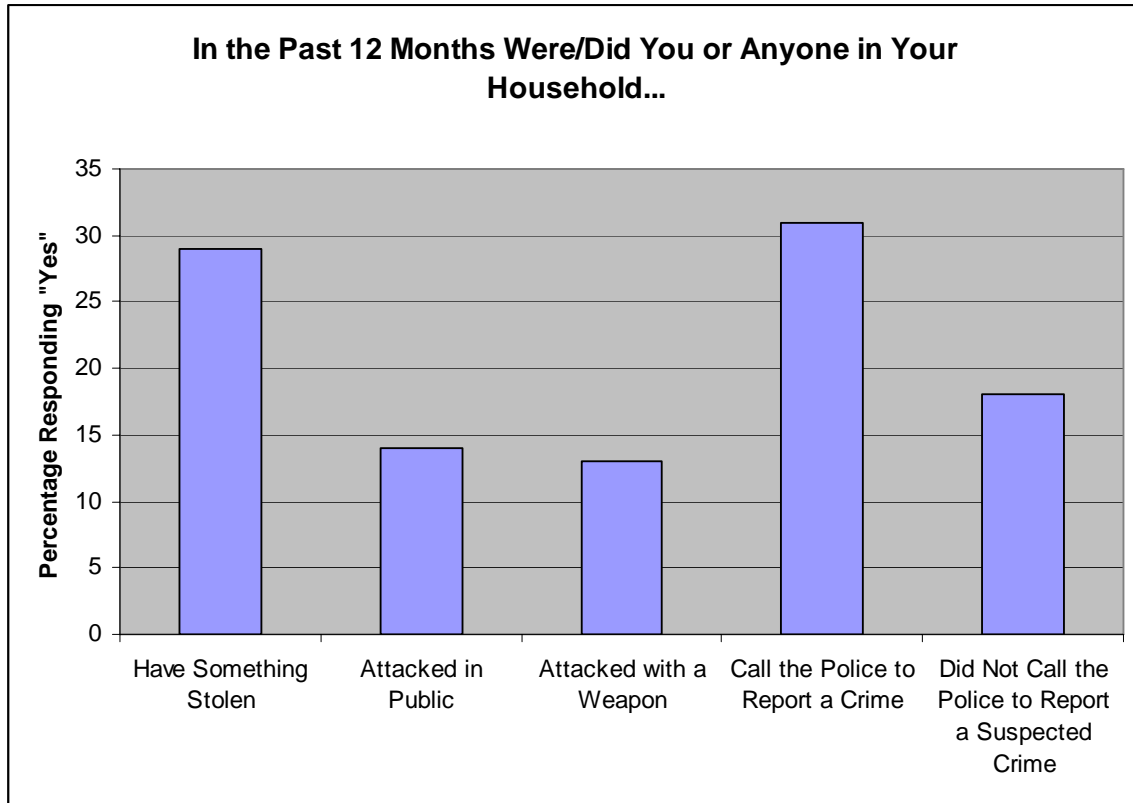
A series of five questions on the survey were modeled after the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which is conducted nationally by the U.S. Department of Justice. The first question in this series asked residents about property crime. The latest data from the NCVS shows that in 2007, approximately 15% of all households in the U.S. had been the victim of a property crime. According to survey respondents, approximately 29% of Weed & Seed residents had suffered some type of property crime.

The next two questions asked respondents if they had been attacked or threatened in a public place, and attacked or threatened with a weapon. 14% reported that someone in their household had been attacked or threatened in public and 13% reported being attacked or threatened with a weapon. These types of crimes fall into the category of aggravated assaults. The national data shows that in 2007, 3 of every 1000 people in the U.S., or 0.3% of the population was the victim of an aggravated assault. Local data from the Grand Rapids Police Department, shows that in 2006, 0.6% of the Grand Rapids population was the victim of an aggravated assault. Among the Weed & Seed neighborhoods, Baxter and MANA have higher rates than the city average, but nowhere near the rates reported on the survey.

The final two questions in this sequence asked respondents if they had called the police to report a crime in the past 12 months, or if they had witnessed a suspected crime but chose not to call the police. Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents reported calling the police to report a crime in the past 12 months. On average, the people in that 31% called the police 4 times during the year, and some residents called as many as 20 times in 12 months. Another 18% of respondents reported witnessing a suspected crime but did not call the police to report it. The National Crime Victim Survey estimates that at least 50% of all crimes go unreported to police, so this data isn't out of line with the rest of the country.

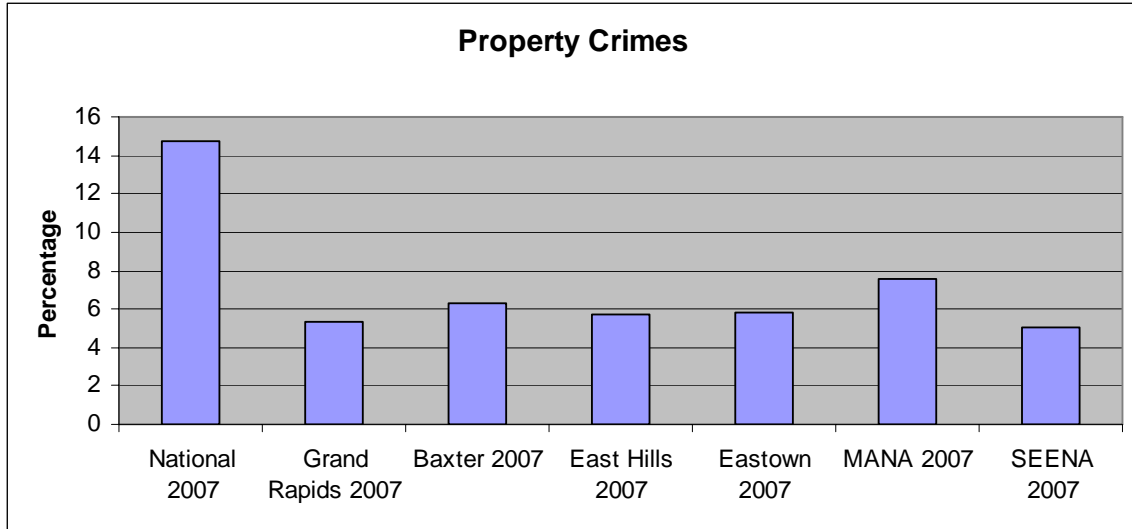
The following graph shows the percentage of Weed & Seed survey respondents who reported that they or someone in their household:

- a) Had something stolen
- b) Were attacked in a public place
- c) Were attacked with a weapon
- d) Called the police to report a crime, or
- e) Did not call the police to report a suspected crime



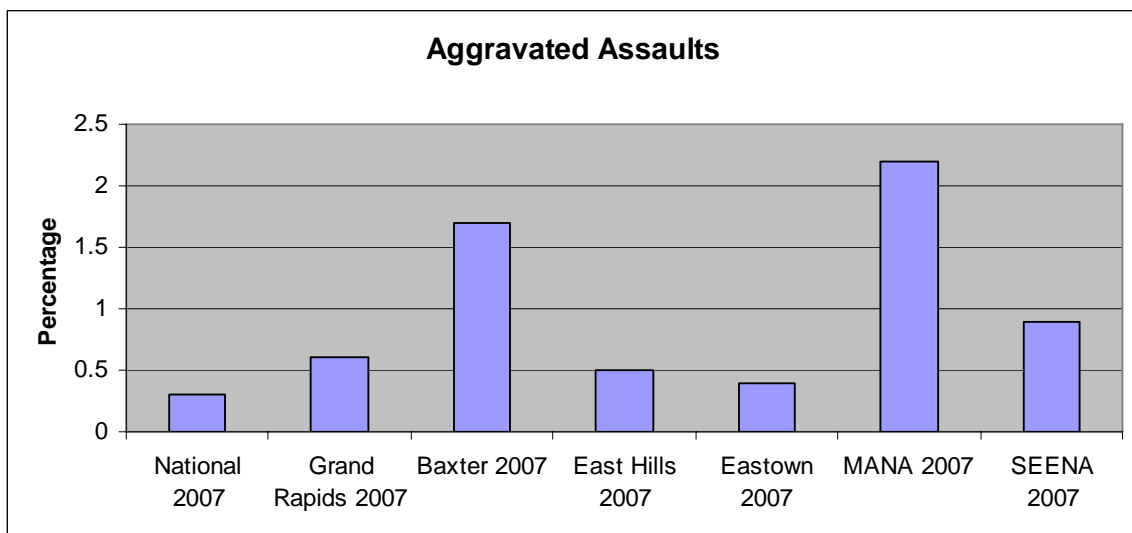
The next graph shows the percentage of people who were the victims of property crimes in the U.S., the city of Grand Rapids, and the neighborhoods that are involved in Central City Weed & Seed. According to the FBI, property crimes include a crime that causes destruction of property or a theft where no force or threat of force was used against the victim. The U.S. data comes from the National Crime Victim Survey and is from 2007. All Grand Rapids crime data comes from the Grand Rapids Police Department.

By comparing this graph with the with the percentage of people who reported having something stolen in the previous graph, we can see that a much greater percentage of people in the Weed & Seed survey believe they have been the victim of a property crime than the national and local crime data shows.



The following graph shows the percentage of people who were the victims of aggravated assaults in the U.S., the city of Grand Rapids, and the neighborhoods that are involved in Central City Weed & Seed. An aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury usually involving a weapon. The U.S. data comes from the National Crime Victim Survey and is from 2007. All Grand Rapids crime data comes from the Grand Rapids Police Department.

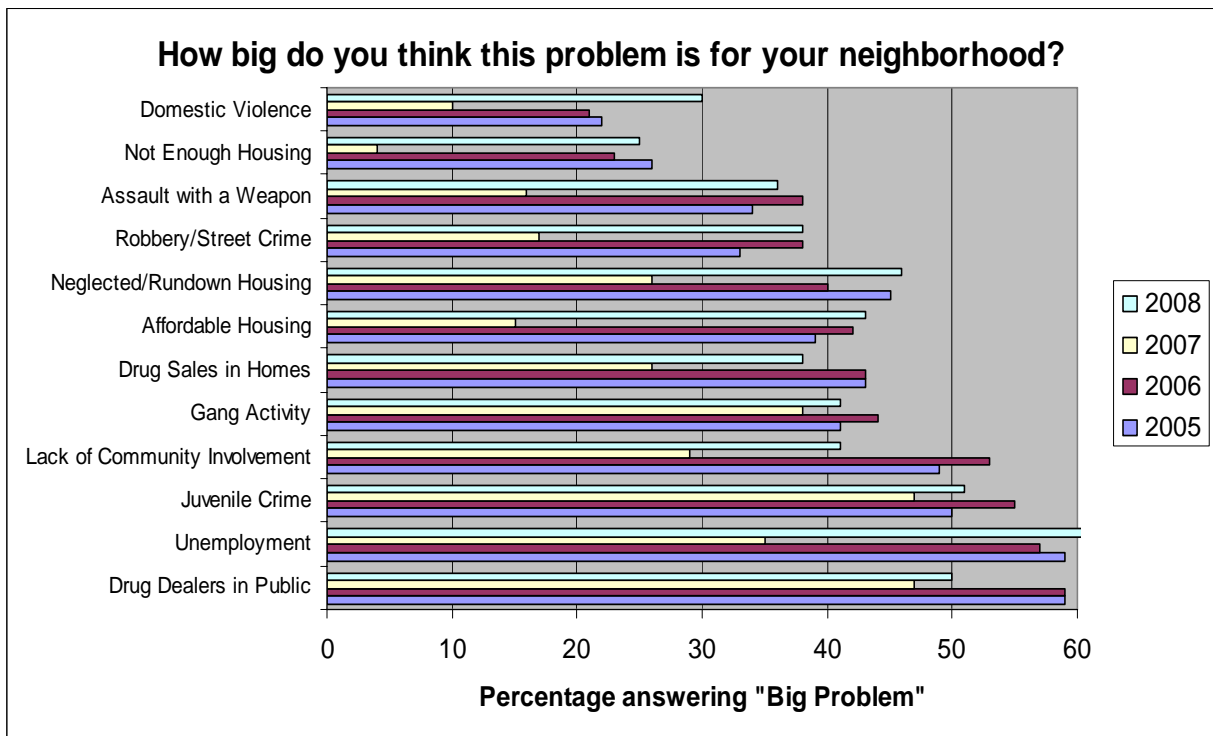
Like the Property Crimes graph, we can see a large difference between the Aggravated Assault crime rate and the number of survey respondents who reported being attacked in public or attacked with a weapon.



What Are the Big Problems in Your Neighborhood?

A series of questions in the survey asked residents to give their opinion on the challenges faced by the Weed & Seed neighborhoods. All of the challenges presented in the questions come from the issues that the original Weed & Seed grant discussed. This series of questions asked residents to rank each problem on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is No Problem At All and 5 is a Very Big Problem for their neighborhood.

Overall, in 2008 respondents were as likely to identify any issue as a “Big Problem” or a “Very Big Problem” as in 2005 and 2006. In 2007, fewer respondents saw issues as being problems. This may have been because all of the surveys were completed by police officers, or it may have been due to other reasons that are difficult to measure.

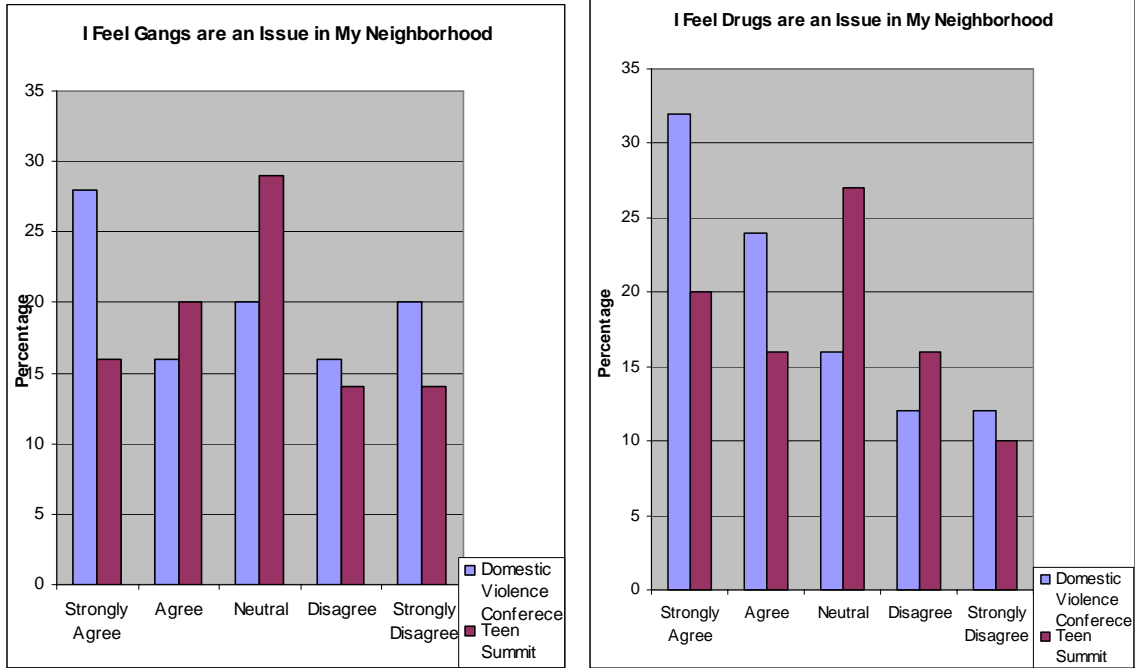


Of all of the issues listed in this question series, respondents were most concerned about unemployment. Sixty-six percent (66%) of 2008 respondents said that unemployment is a major concern for the area. This is an increase over all previous years, with 2005 being the second highest response rate at 59%. This result reflects the general distress of the national economy in general and the Michigan economy in particular.

The other area of general increase in concern is domestic violence. In 2008, 30% of residents identified domestic violence as an area of concern, when in 2005 only 22% did. While this may be discouraging on the surface, this data could also

be an indicator that the extensive domestic violence education going on the Weed & Seed area is making people more aware of the problem.

The surveys at the Teen Summit and the Domestic Violence Conference asked about gangs and drugs being a problem for the neighborhoods. The questions weren't asked in the same way as they were on the Weed & Seed survey, but they show us that at least 1/3 of the people at those events think that gangs and drugs are problems in their neighborhoods.



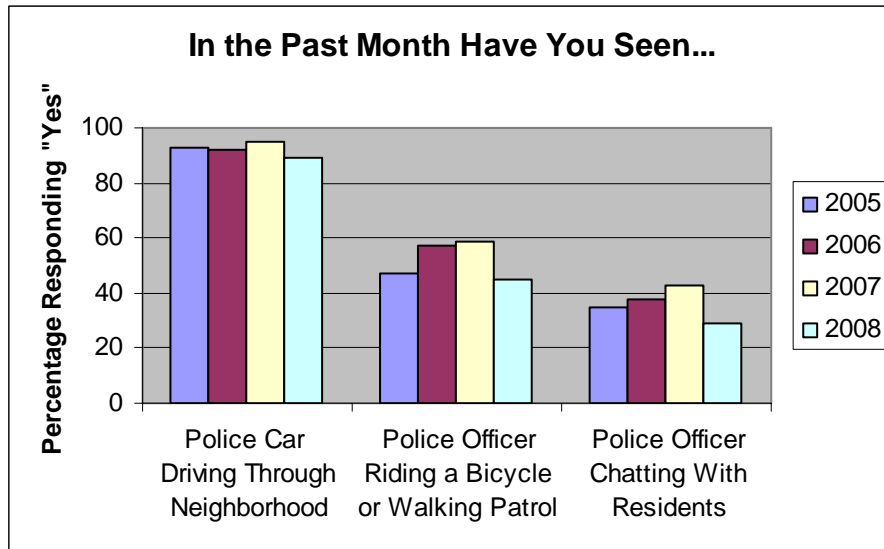
In general, the other responses for 2008 are consistent with 2005 and 2006 levels. For more information on each question, see the individual graphs in Appendix C.

How Effective Are The Police?

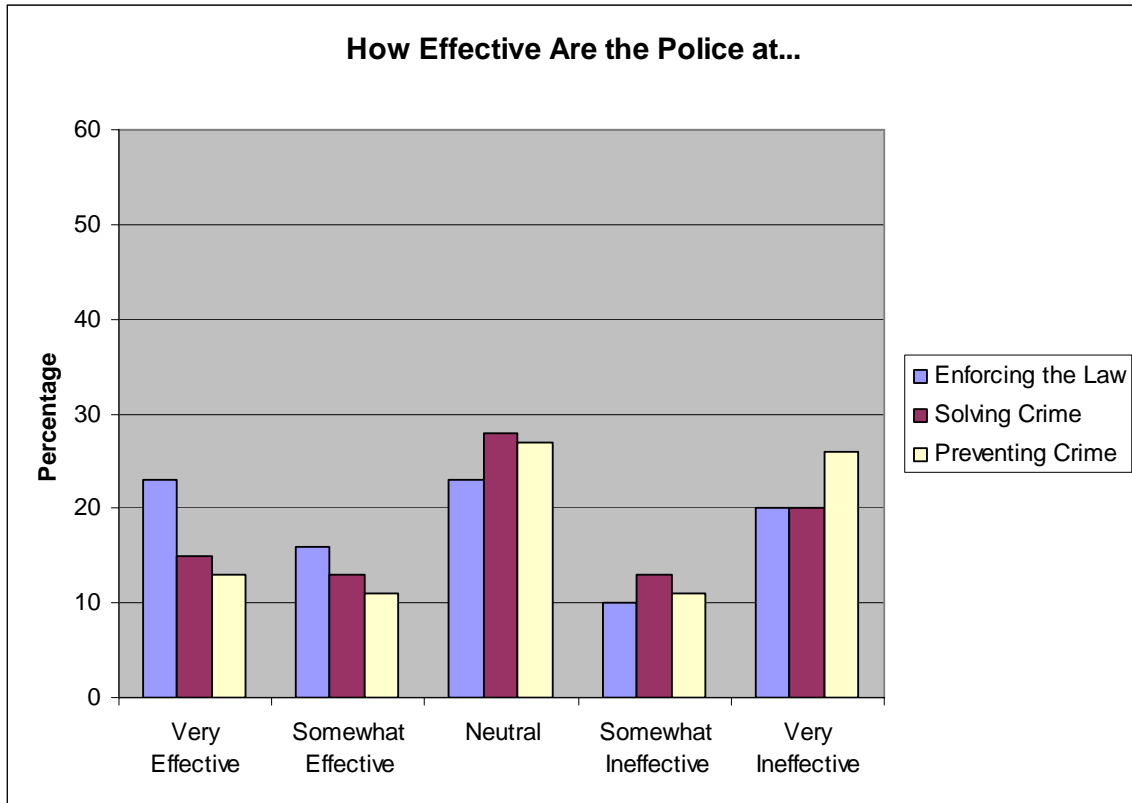
Two questions in the survey asked residents to discuss their observations and opinions of police activity. The first asks respondents if, in the last month, they have observed police a) driving a police car through the neighborhood, b) riding a bicycle or walking on patrol, and c) chatting or having a friendly conversation with people in the neighborhood. This question is designed to measure how much a part of the neighborhood the police are, and if they are observed having direct and positive interactions with residents. Nearly everyone (89%) had seen a police car in the past month.

The other questions about police bicycle and foot patrols and police offers interacting with residents in a positive way showed declines in observations. In 2008, only 45% of respondents reported seeing a bicycle or foot patrol, which is a sharp decline from 59% in 2007 and 57% in 2006. A similar decline was

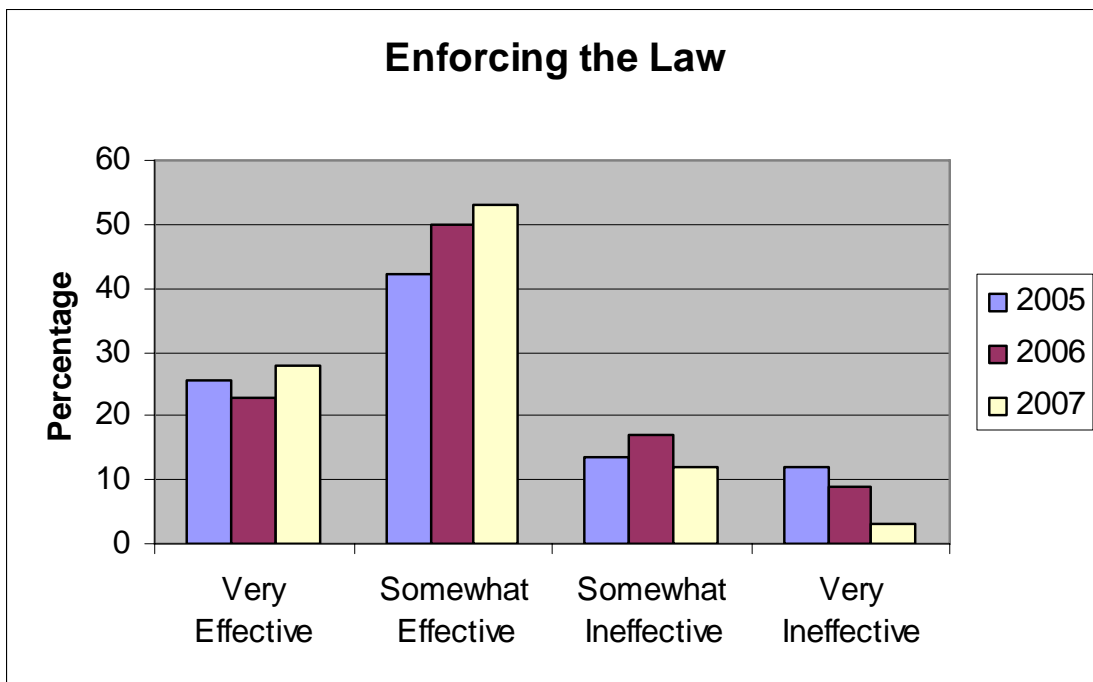
reported in observations of friendly interactions. Only 29% of residents observed a friendly conversation between a police officer and a resident in 2008, compared to 43% in 2007, 38% in 2006, and 25% in 2005.

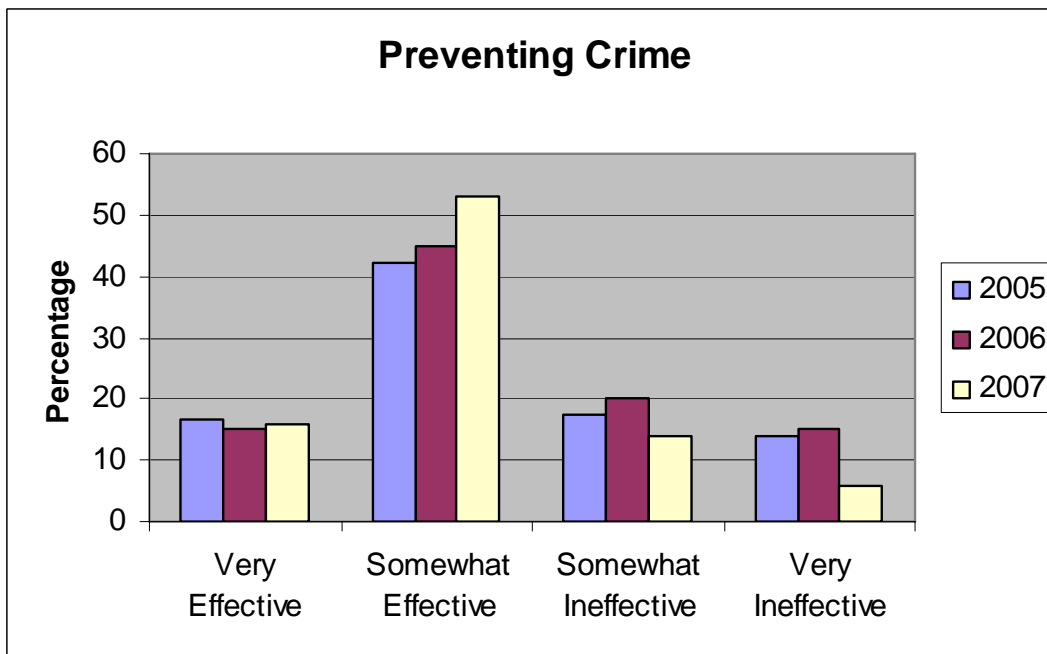
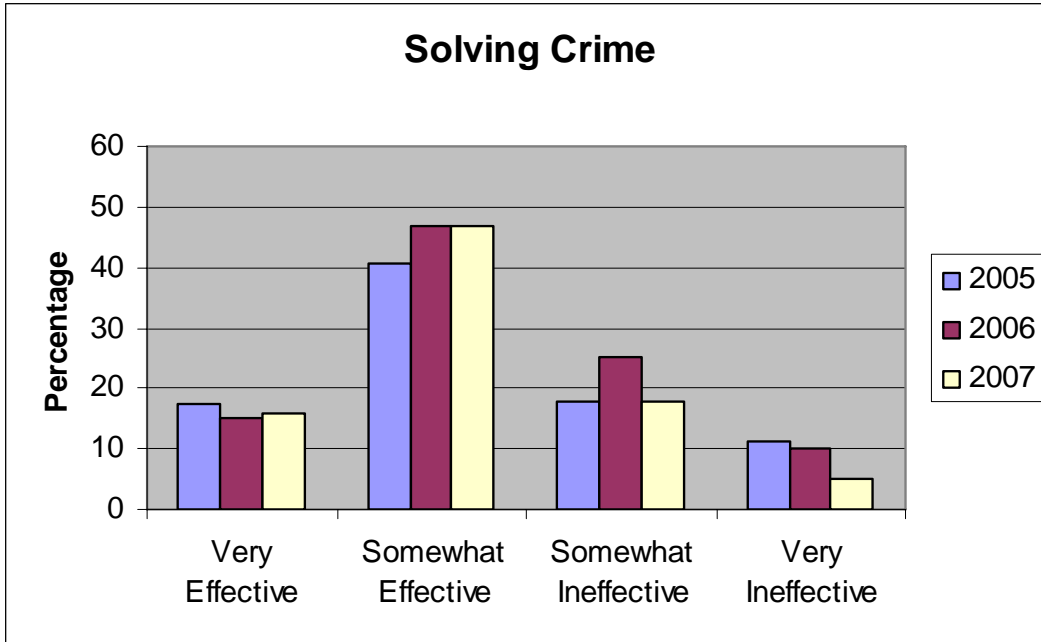


The next question consisted of three parts asking respondents to rate the effectiveness of the police at enforcing the law, solving crime, and preventing crime. Police earned the highest rating on enforcing the law, with 39% of respondents rating them as “Very Effective” or “Somewhat Effective.” When it comes to solving crime, residents were most likely (28%) to rate police performance as “Neutral.” Finally, the results show that 37% of respondents believe that the police are “Somewhat Ineffective” or “Very Ineffective” at preventing crime.



This question was changed a bit from the 2005-2007 version, with the addition of the choice of “Neutral” but it is still helpful to see that data in the three charts below.





Overall these results are consistent with the previous section on resident perceptions of safety and crime. Because many residents have been the victims of, or witness to, crimes it is reasonable that they believe the police are not as effective at preventing crime as they are at enforcing the law.

Conclusions

With four years of survey data available, it seems that the results of the survey are mixed. The highest level yet of respondents felt that their neighborhood has become a better place to live in the next year. However, this positive result is offset by the number of residents that view their neighborhood as an undesirable place to live.

Comparing crime victimization rates in the survey to national data suggests that Weed & Seed residents are much more likely to be the victims of crimes than the national or local averages. The results of this survey may be inaccurate due to the high margin of error and the possibility of respondent exaggeration or misunderstanding of the law. However, the differences are striking enough to build a credible case that crime is a reality of life for many residents.

Survey results in the area of police performance seem to have been affected by having residents administering surveys rather than police officers. In all areas, residents rated police performance at lower levels, and rated crime issues at higher levels, than they did in 2007. In fact, fewer respondents reported seeing a police bicycle patrol in 2008 than they did in 2005, before Weed & Seed funded patrols began.

Overall, there are no clear trends showing either improvement or decline in the Central City Weed & Seed area. This is unsurprising in many ways given the systemic nature of many of the problems that the collaborative is addressing. The evaluators suspect that the true results of this initiative will not be seen for many years, when the youth that are receiving services grow to adulthood and begin to make positive contributions to their communities.

Appendix A

Central City Weed and Seed

Year 4 Community Survey

Introduction

Hello, my name is (SAY FIRST NAME). I'm a community volunteer helping with Central City Weed & Seed. Weed and Seed is a community rebuilding strategy focused on weeding out criminal activity and seeding with positive influences. We are knocking on doors and asking residents their opinions about important neighborhood issues. I just have a few short questions for you, which should take about 10 minutes. Please feel free to express your opinions, because there are no right or wrong answers. The form we complete today will not be marked in any way that would identify you.

Background Information

Q1. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Years _____

Months _____

(OR) Since _____

Perceptions of Neighborhood/Safety

Q2. On a scale of 1-5 where 1 is Very Desirable and 5 is Very Undesirable, how do you rate your neighborhood overall as a place to live? (CIRCLE NUMBER. IF NO ANSWER OR DON'T KNOW, CIRCLE N/A)

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Q3. In general, in the past year, would you say this neighborhood has become a better place to live, a worse place to live, or stayed about the same? (DO NOT READ IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED LESS THAN 1 YEAR IN Q1)

- Better
- Worse
- About the same
- (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Q4a. On a scale of 1-5 where 1 is Very Safe and 5 is Very Unsafe, how safe do you feel in your neighborhood in general? (CIRCLE NUMBER. IF NO ANSWER OR DON'T KNOW, CIRCLE N/A)

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Q4b. On a scale of 1-5 where 1 is Very Safe and 5 is Very Unsafe, how safe do you feel in your neighborhood after dark? (CIRCLE NUMBER. IF NO ANSWER OR DON'T KNOW, CIRCLE N/A)

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Q5. Now, I'm going to read you a list of problems that occur for some neighborhoods. After I mention each problem tell on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is No Problem At All and 5 is a Very Big Problem, tell me how big you think the problem is for your neighborhood. How about (INSERT)? (CIRCLE NUMBER. IF NO ANSWER OR DON'T KNOW, CIRCLE N/A)

▪ Unemployment	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Not enough housing available	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Available housing is not affordable	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Neglected or rundown housing	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Youth or juvenile crime	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Gang activity	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Drug dealers on streets, street corners, or other public places	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Drug sales out of homes or apartments	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Fights in families or domestic violence	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Robbery or other street crime	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ Assault with a weapon	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
▪ People don't get involved in efforts to improve the community	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions about ways that crime might have affected you and your family in the past year. Before we start, I want to remind you that this form won't be marked in any way that can identify you.

Q6a. I'm going to read some examples of different types of crime. As I go through them, please tell me if any of these happened to you or anyone in your household in the past 12 months that is since June 2007.

Was something belonging to you or someone else in your household stolen, such as:

- Things that you carry like a wallet, purse, cell phone, or iPod
- Things in your home like a TV, stereo or tools
- Things from a vehicle such as groceries, CDs or a car stereo OR
- Did anyone ATTEMPT to steal anything belonging to you or your household?

Yes

No (SKIP TO Q7a)

(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Q6b. How many times in the last 12 months has someone stolen or attempted to steal something from you or your household?

Record Number _____

Q7a. Were you or anyone in your household attacked or threatened in any of the situations I'll read in the past 12 months?

- At home including the porch or yard
- At or near a friend's relative's or neighbor's home
- At work or school
- In a public place such as a shopping mall, restaurant, street, or parking lot
- While riding in a vehicle OR
- Did anyone attempt to attack you or anyone in your household in any of these places?

Yes

No (SKIP TO Q8a)

(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Q7b. How many times in the last 12 months has someone attacked or attempted to attack you or someone in your household?

Record Number _____

Q8a. Were you or anyone in your household attacked or threatened in any of the ways I'll read, in the past 12 months?

- With any weapon, for instance, a gun, knife or baseball bat
- By something thrown such as a rock or bottle
- By grabbing, punching, or choking
- Any face to face threats OR
- Any attack or threat or use of force by anyone at all? Please mention it even if you are not certain it was a crime.

Yes

No (SKIP TO Q9a)

(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Q8b. How many times in the last 12 months has someone attacked or threatened you or someone in your household?

Record Number _____

Q9a. During the last 12 months, did you or anyone in your household call the police to report something that happened to one of you which you thought was a crime?

Yes

No (SKIP TO Q10a)

(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Q9b. How many times in the past 12 months did you call the police?

Record Number _____

Q15. Which of the following U.S. Census categories best describes you? (READ LIST. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)–

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Native American, or,
- (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Q16. (RECORD RESPONDENT DWELLING TYPE BY OBSERVATION)

- House
- An apartment
- Don't know

Q17. Do you own or rent the place where you live?

- Own
- Rent
- Neither
- (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Those are all the questions we have today. Thank you for taking our survey about these important neighborhood issues. If you would like to see the results of the survey or learn more about Weed & Seed I have a flyer that shows you where you can get more information. Would you like a copy? Have a great day.

Appendix B

Central City Weed and Seed Annual Community Survey Surveyor Protocol

Pre-Survey

- Each surveyor will receive a packet with survey forms, a map, and a list of addresses.
- After approaching a residence and knocking or ringing the bell, if the resident does not appear to be home, write “Not Home” next to the address under Attempt 1 (or 2 or 3 if this is a repeat attempt). *All “Not Home” addresses can be visited again if needed.*
- If a resident answers, but refuses to take the survey, or a resident is obviously home but does not answer the door, write “Refused” next to the address under Attempt 1 (or 2 or 3 if this is a repeat attempt). *“Refused” addresses should not be visited again.*
- If a young person answers the door, ask if he or she is 18 or older before asking any survey questions. If an adult aged 18 or over is not available, write “Not Home” under Attempt 1 (or 2 or 3 if this is a repeat attempt). *All “Not Home” addresses can be visited again if needed.*
- If the address on the list is for a vacant lot, write “Vacant Lot” next to the address on the list.
- If the address on the list is for an unoccupied apartment or house, write “Unoccupied” next to the address on the list.

Survey Questions

Q1-5. “**Neighborhood**” is the Weed and Seed area. Show the resident the Weed and Seed Surveying Quadrants Map – the White & Red Map – if needed.

Q1. **How long have you lived in this neighborhood?** If respondent does not live in the neighborhood, ask if a resident is home. If not, thank him or her and write “Not Home” next to the address on the list.

Q5.

b. **Not enough affordable housing:** Not enough housing available, or the housing that is available is too expensive for residents to afford

c. **Neglected housing:** Housing that looks bad from the street, has lots of interior problems such as bad plumbing or bad electric, or abandoned/vacant houses.

e. **Juvenile crime:** Crimes committed by people under 18.

f. **Gang activity:** Crimes committed by people in organized gangs

k. **Assault with a weapon:** Using a weapon to commit a crime such as stealing or physical violence

l. **People don't get involved in efforts to improve the community:** Can include volunteering with neighborhood associations, attending meetings, helping church groups or youth programs

Q7. **Police in your neighborhood:** All the police that you see in your neighborhood including community police officers and regular patrol officers.

Q9-14. **Demographics section:** We ask the questions in these ways in order to match the U.S. Census. This helps us compare our community to others.

Q11. and Q12. **Are you of Hispanic origin?:** Whether the resident answers "Yes" or "No", they also need to answer "Which of the following U.S. Census categories best describes you?" A person can be Hispanic and White, Hispanic and Black, or any other race. They can also be Non-Hispanic and White, Black or any other race.

Q13. **Dwelling type:** a "House" is a single-family, stand-alone home. "Apartment" is any building with more than one unit. If you can't tell by looking, you can ask the resident.

Appendix C

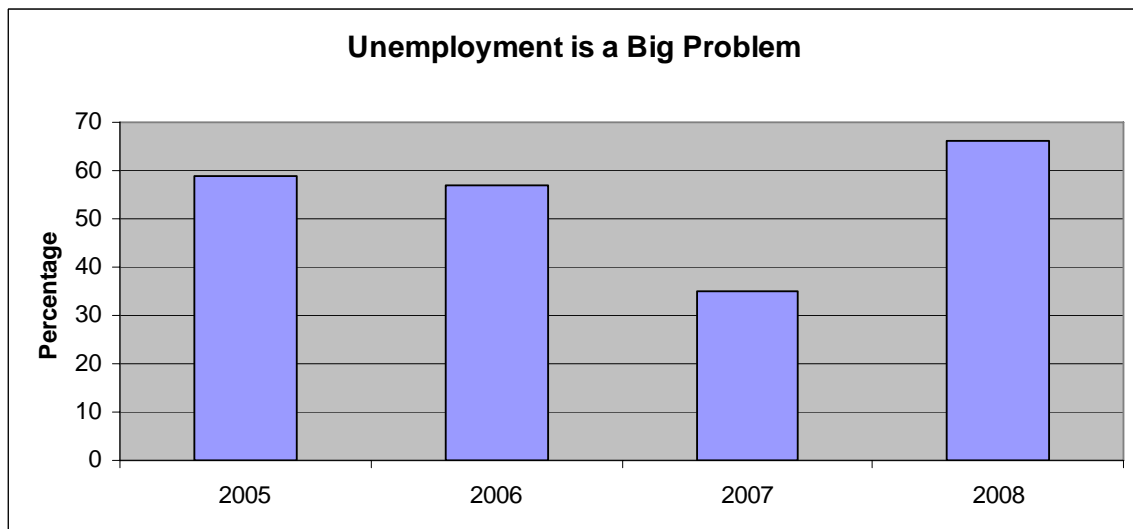
What are the Big Problems in Your Neighborhood?

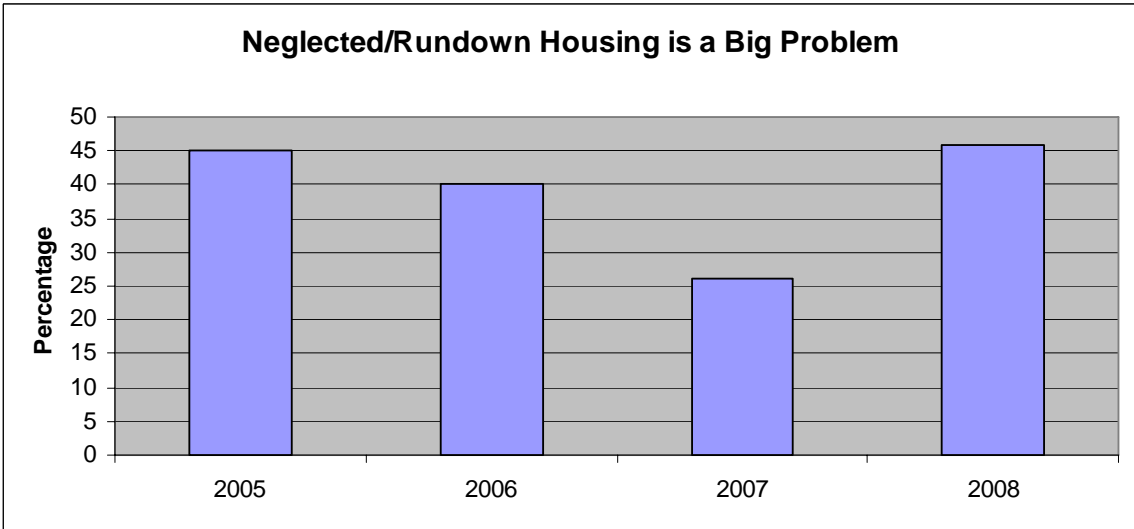
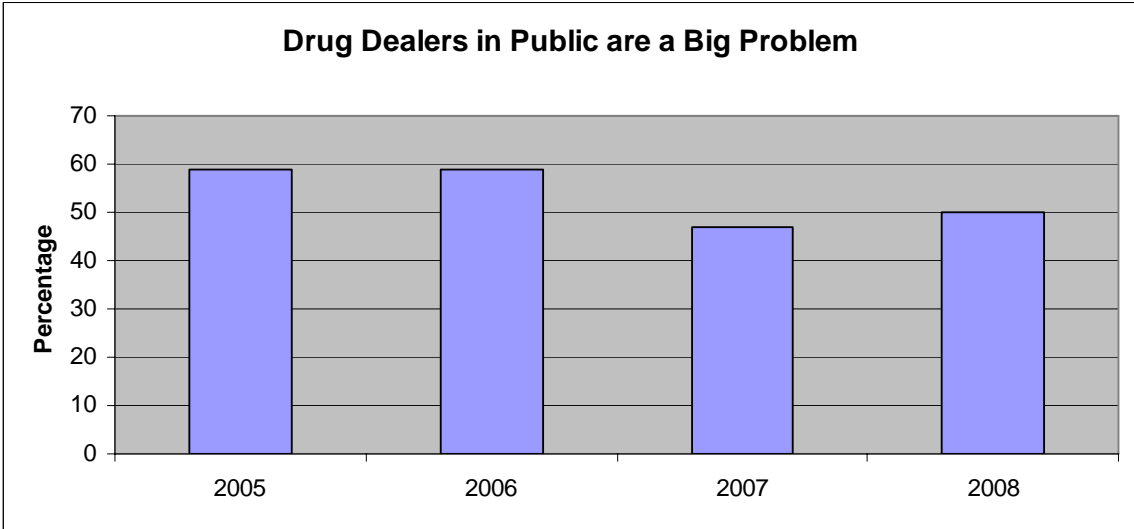
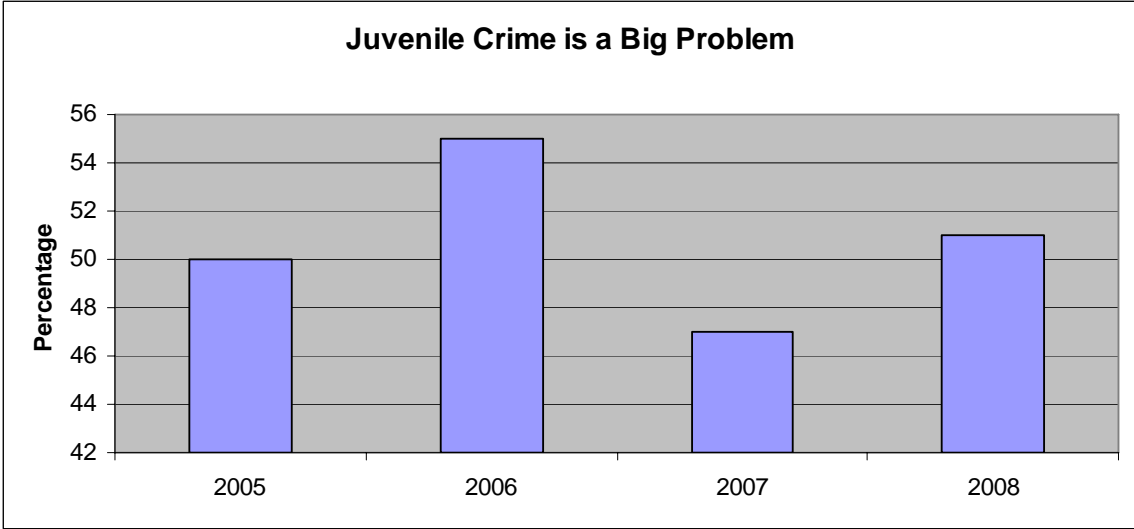
For the past four years, the Weed & Seed Survey has included the following question:

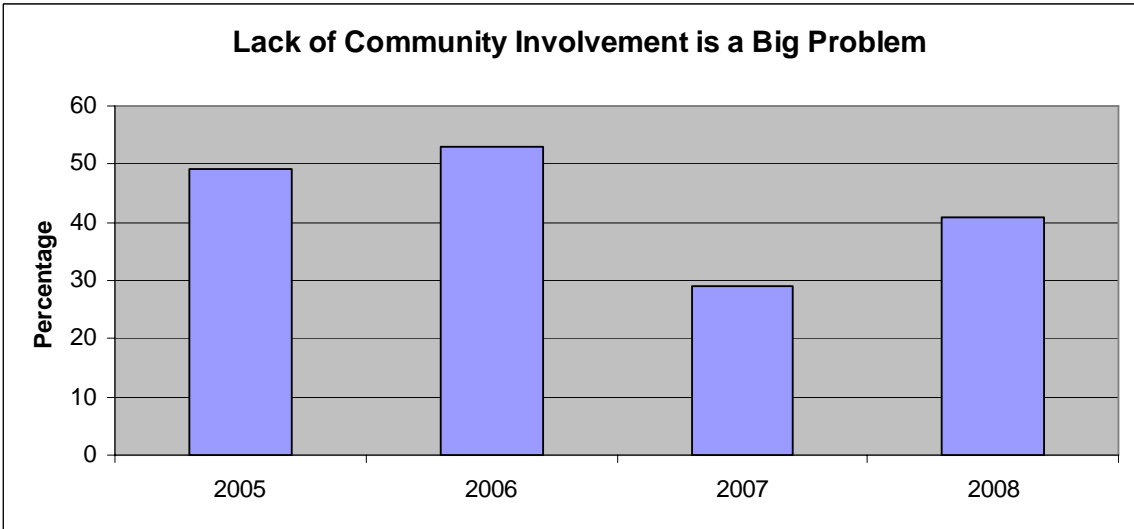
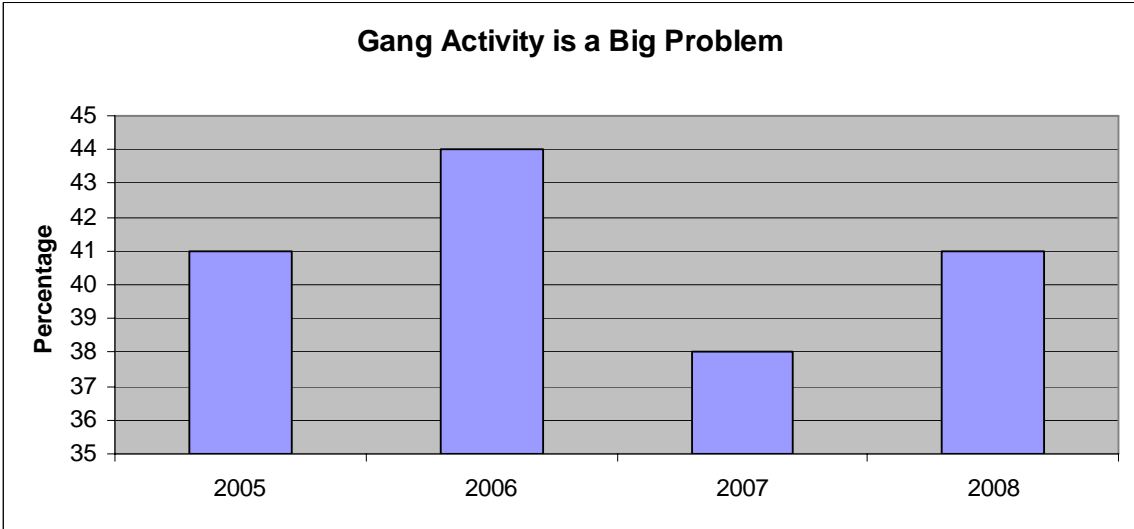
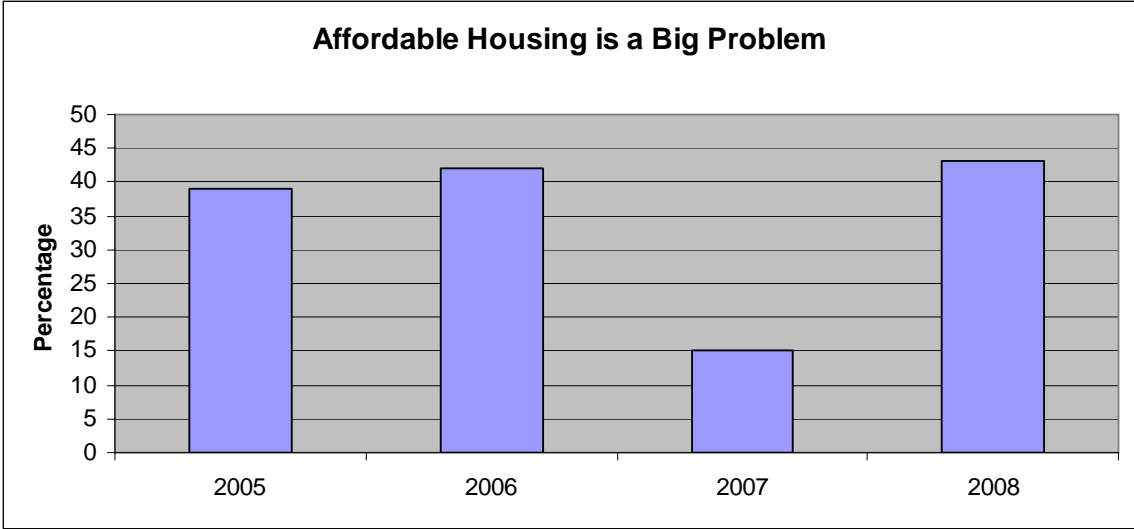
“Now, I’m going to read you a list of problems that occur for some neighborhoods. After I mention each problem tell on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is No Problem At All and 5 is a Very Big Problem, tell me how big you think the problem is for your neighborhood.”

The 1-5 scale is new for 2008. In previous years, the choices were Big Problem, Small Problem, and No Problem. In order to compare all four years, anyone answering with a 4 or 5 was counted as a Big Problem.

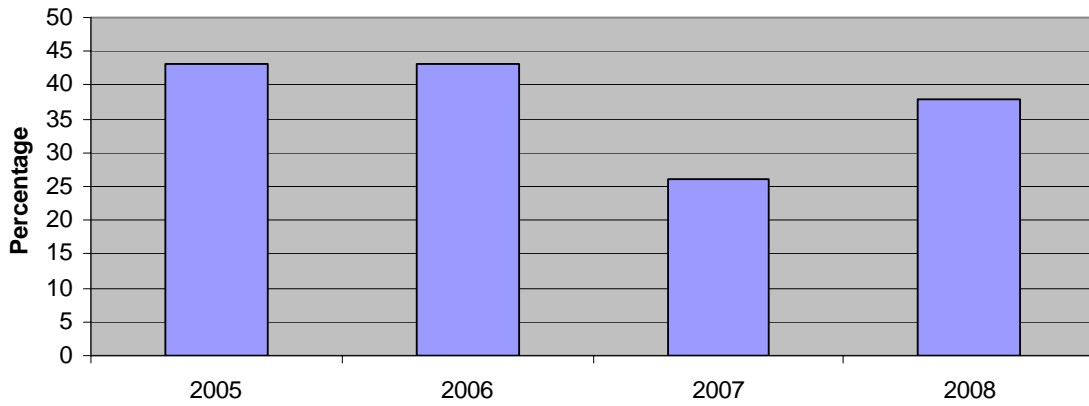
In this Appendix, we have created charts for each problem to better show how responses have changed over time. They are displayed in order of how many people thought the problem is a Big Problem in 2008. The highest ranking Big Problem is first. All of the charts show what percentage of people thought that each issue is a Big Problem.



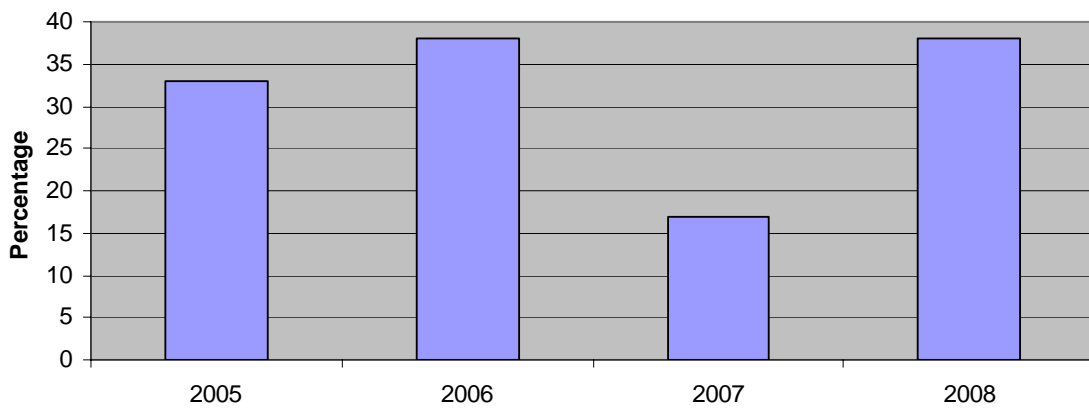




Drug Sales in Homes are a Big Problem



Robbery/Street Crime is a Big Problem



Assault with a Weapon is a Big Problem

