

Analysis of “TIPS” Survey

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On the 13th of August, 2008, the very first TIPS Initiative was put into affect. The initiative took place on the corner of Driving Park Ave. and Dewey Ave. in the City of Rochester, N.Y., the location of a particularly heinous homicide several months earlier. TIPS was designed to both; rebuild ties between the community and various public organizations such as the police and the fire department, and to obtain information about what issues most concern local community members.

Methodology

The data gathering method of this research involved the use of a survey developed under TIPS and administered by groups of people participating in the initiative that walked the neighborhood door-to-door. The location of the initiative was selected because of the occurrence of a brutal murder that had taken place only a few months prior, not for the purpose of administering a survey. As a result the sample that was obtained for this research was not a random sample, but instead an opportunity sample. Another thing to note is that of the **262** dwellings checked, **215** resulted in a completed survey, the other **47** checked were dwellings where people didn't answer the door or where not home. It is possible that that population surveyed has certain concerns or views that will not be reflected in our data do to that exclusion, but there is no evidence to say that that is a certainty.

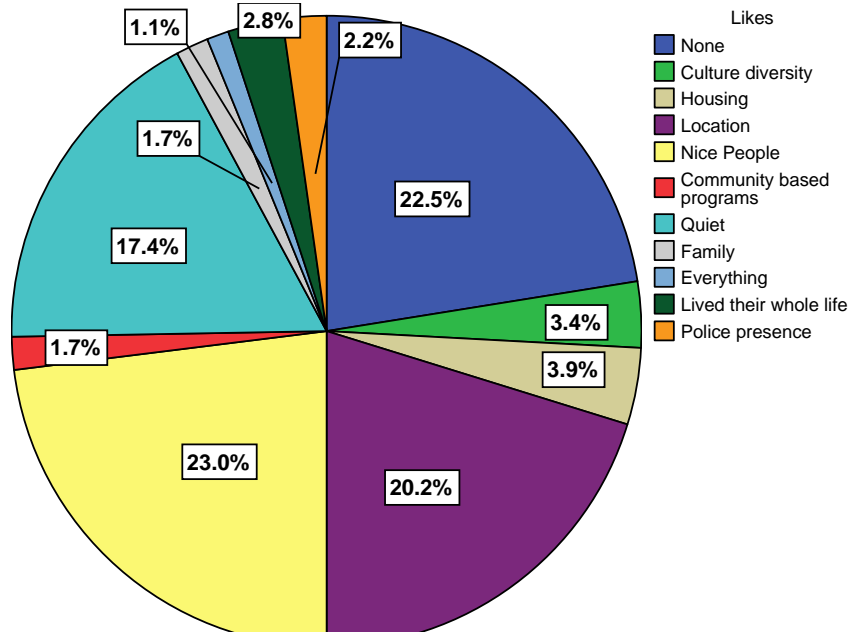
The survey used in this research asked participants to list four things using open ended questions: 1) the thing that that person liked most about living in their community, 2) three concerns that they had about their community, 3) their greatest fear about living in their community, and 4) one possible solution for dealing with issues they see in the community. Using SPSS those surveys were coded and analyzed, this is what that analysis showed.

Residents Likes

Of the 178 respondents that answered this segment of the survey, thirty-six interviewees responded that they found the location that they lived in convenient (20.2%), meaning that it was in close proximity to either stores or community organizations like a church or a school. Another forty-one interviewees responded that members of the community were kind and that they had formed friendships with many of them (23%). Thirty-one respondents stated that they liked living in the community because their particular segment was quiet (17.4%). The last significant subject that many interviewees responded was that they liked nothing in the community in which they live, forty people responded this way (22.5%). It is important to note however that *only* 22.5% of the respondents stated that they liked nothing in their communities, compared to the 77.5% that *did* identify at least one thing that they liked. Included in the thirty (17.1%) respondents that did not note these four main subjects were; the diversity of culture in the area (3.4%), the availability of cheap housing (3.9%), the existence of community based programs (1.7%), members of their families lived there (1.7%), they had lived there their whole life (2.8%), and the visible presence of police officers (2.2%). Two respondents were compelled to state that they liked everything about their communities. It is important to discuss the limitations of the first question of the survey.

Because the question was limited to only one “like”, it is possible that the respondents liked more than one aspect of their communities but were discouraged from saying so because of the wording of the question.

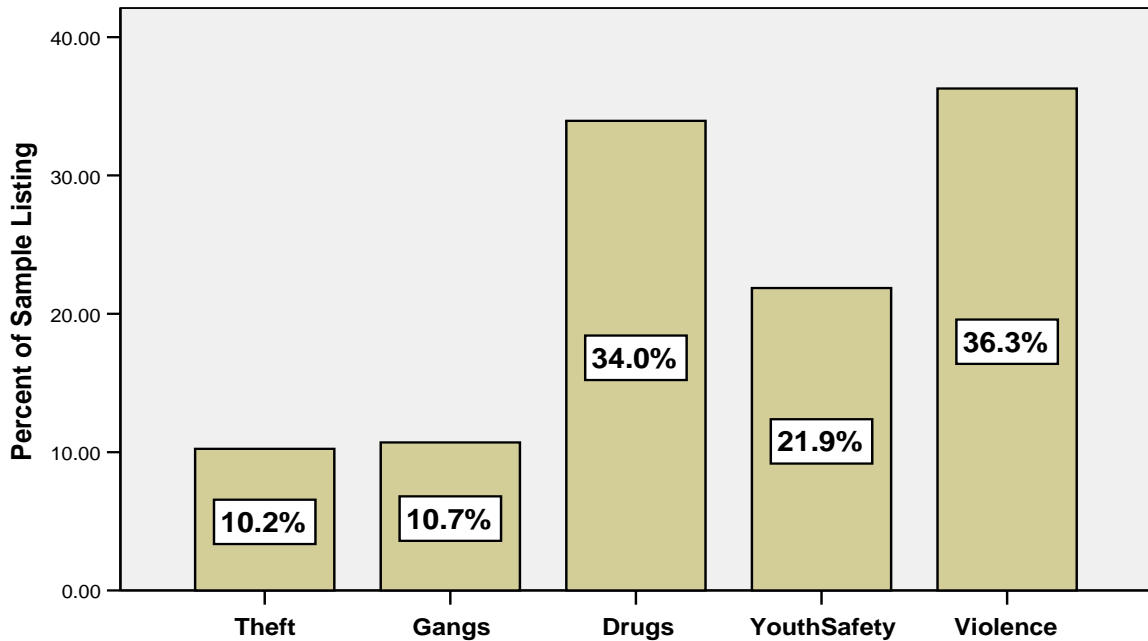
Results: What Residents like Most about Their Neighborhood



Resident’s Concerns

In the second part of the survey residents could list more than one issue of concern. The data for this section were, thus, analyzed by calculating the percentage of respondents that listed a particular concern. The different concerns listed included; theft, gangs, drugs, loitering, police actions, garbage on the street, personal safety, the safety of the communities youth, violence, prostitution, the housing market, traffic and speeding, noise, and finally the rising crime rate. Theft (10.2%), gangs (10.7%), loitering (7%), the actions of the police (2.3%), garbage on the street (3.3%), personal safety (7.9%), prostitution (4.7%), decline of the housing market (1.9%), traffic and speeding (9.8%), noise (7%), and an increase in crime rates (4.7%) all were observed by less than 11% of the survey sample. The three concerns listed much more frequently than those eleven above were; the safety of the community’s youth (21.9%), the existence of drugs in the community (34%), and the occurrence of violence in their communities (36.3%). Concern for the community’s youth included youth getting caught up in any form of violence, youth getting hit by a speeding car, youth being out late, or youth being unsupervised. Violence included any reference to fights, shootings, stabbings, or other acts.

Residents' Concerns About their Neighborhood (Percent listing)

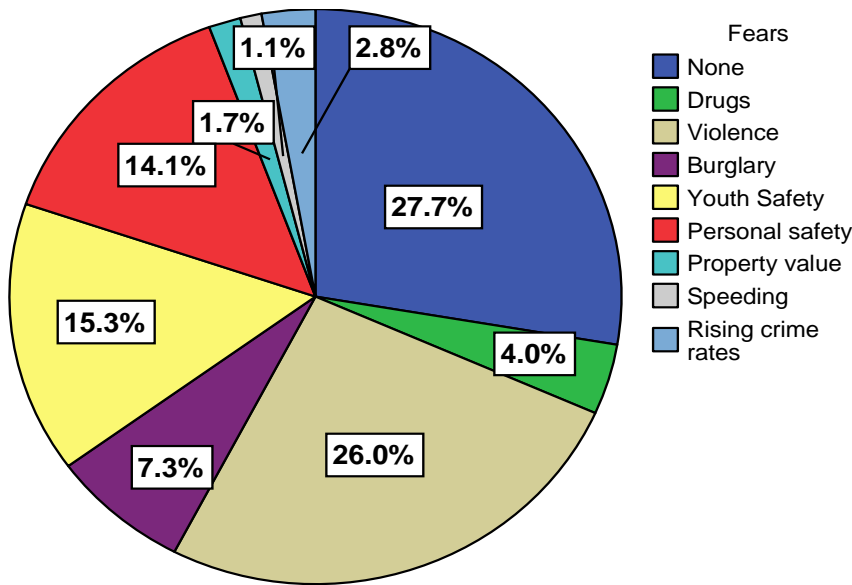


Resident's Fears

The third section of the survey asked respondents to list their single greatest fear in the community. One-hundred and seventy-seven respondents completed this section. Of the responses to this section, drugs (4%), burglary (7.3%), declining property value (1.7%), speeding cars (1.1%), and rising crime rates (2.8%), were all reported relatively infrequently. Personal safety (14.1%), youth safety (15.3%), and violence (26%) were the three most reported fears. Surprisingly forty-nine (27.7%) of the respondents reported they had no fears living in their communities, which is more than any other fear category.

Residents' Greatest Fear in the Neighborhood

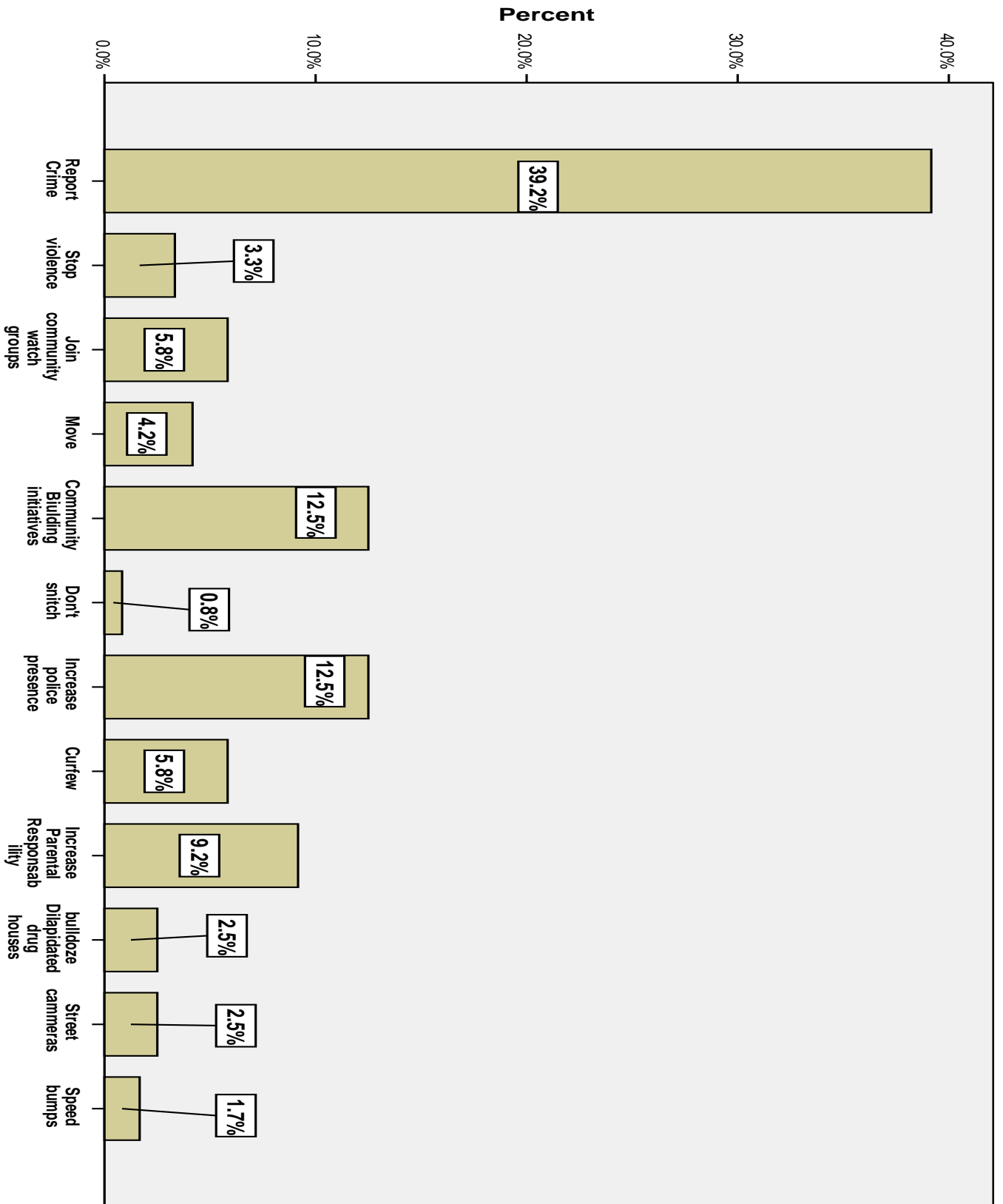
Sources of Fear as Expressed By Residents



Resident's Solutions

The final segment of the survey asked respondents to list one possible solution to the problems that they see in their communities. Twelve different ideas were represented with nine infrequently listed and three listed more frequently. The infrequently listed ideas included, actions to stop the violence (3.3%), joining community watch groups (5.8%), moving (4.2%), enforcing the curfew (5.8%), increasing parental responsibility and supervision (9.2%), knocking down condemned houses used in drug trade (2.5%), installing street cameras (2.5%), and installing speed bumps to reduce speeding (1.7%). The more frequently listed ideas included, increasing police presence on the street (12.5%), participating in more community building initiatives “like this one” in the city (12.5%), and reporting crime and calling the police if a crime was witnessed or discovered (39.2%). One last idea listed that should be noted was the notion to “stop snitching” (.8). Though this was only one respondent of the 177 completed surveys, it is important to note because of the efforts to reverse such thinking in the city.

Possible Solutions to Community Problems



Conclusion

This report analyzed data from a neighborhood survey which was part of a response to a local homicide. The data show that most residents reported positive attributes of their neighborhood while also reporting concerns over crime and violence. When residents reported fears, they often said they had no fears or their fears were for the safety of youths. Alternately, a nearly equal group indicated fears around violence and personal safety. One curious finding was that drugs ranked high among residents' concerns but low as a source of fear. The solutions residents felt most strongly about dealt with actively participating in their neighborhood by reporting crime to the police and participating in community building initiatives followed by getting greater police and parental engagement.

Appendix: Raw Frequencies for August 2008 TIPS Survey

Likes

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	40	18.6	22.5	22.5
	Culture diversity	6	2.8	3.4	25.8
	Housing	7	3.3	3.9	29.8
	Location	36	16.7	20.2	50.0
	Nice People	41	19.1	23.0	73.0
	Community based programs	3	1.4	1.7	74.7
	Quiet	31	14.4	17.4	92.1
	Family	3	1.4	1.7	93.8
	Everything	2	.9	1.1	94.9
	Lived their whole life	5	2.3	2.8	97.8
	Police presence	4	1.9	2.2	100.0
	Total	178	82.8	100.0	
Missing	Missing value	37	17.2		
Total		215	100.0		

Theft

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	193	89.8	89.8	89.8
	Yes	22	10.2	10.2	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Gangs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	192	89.3	89.3	89.3
	Yes	23	10.7	10.7	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Loitering

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	200	93.0	93.0	93.0
	Yes	15	7.0	7.0	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

PoliceActions

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	210	97.7	97.7	97.7
	Yes	5	2.3	2.3	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Garbage

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	208	96.7	96.7	96.7
	Yes	7	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

PersonalSafety

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	198	92.1	92.1	92.1
	Yes	17	7.9	7.9	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

YouthSafety

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	168	78.1	78.1	78.1
	Yes	47	21.9	21.9	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Violence

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	137	63.7	63.7	63.7
	Yes	78	36.3	36.3	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Prostitution

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	205	95.3	95.3	95.3
	Yes	10	4.7	4.7	100.0
	Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Housing

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	211	98.1	98.1	98.1

Yes	4	1.9	1.9	100.0
Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Traffic

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid No	194	90.2	90.2	90.2
Yes	21	9.8	9.8	100.0
Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Noise

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid No	200	93.0	93.0	93.0
Yes	15	7.0	7.0	100.0
Total	215	100.0	100.0	

IncreasingCrimeRates

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid No	205	95.3	95.3	95.3
Yes	10	4.7	4.7	100.0
Total	215	100.0	100.0	

Fears

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid None	49	22.8	27.7	27.7
Drugs	7	3.3	4.0	31.6
Violence	46	21.4	26.0	57.6
Burglary	13	6.0	7.3	65.0
Youth Safety	27	12.6	15.3	80.2
Personal safety	25	11.6	14.1	94.4
Property value	3	1.4	1.7	96.0
Speeding	2	.9	1.1	97.2
Rising crime rates	5	2.3	2.8	100.0
Total	177	82.3	100.0	
Missing 99.00	38	17.7		
Total	215	100.0		

Sollutions

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Report Crime	47	21.9	39.2	39.2
Stop violence	4	1.9	3.3	42.5
Join community watch groups	7	3.3	5.8	48.3

	Move	5	2.3	4.2	52.5
	Community Building initiatives	15	7.0	12.5	65.0
	Don't snitch	1	.5	.8	65.8
	Increase police presence	15	7.0	12.5	78.3
	Curfew	7	3.3	5.8	84.2
	Increase Parental Responsibility	11	5.1	9.2	93.3
	bulldoze delapidated drug houses	3	1.4	2.5	95.8
	Street cammeras	3	1.4	2.5	98.3
	Speed bumps	2	.9	1.7	100.0
	Total	120	55.8	100.0	
Missing	99.00	95	44.2		
Total		215	100.0		