

Community Concerns and Desires: Analysis of Jefferson Avenue TIPS Initiative

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Analysis of Jefferson Avenue Project TIPS (2013)

Survey

On July 18, 2013, the TIPS (Trust, Information, Programs, and Services) initiative was implemented around Jefferson Avenue in Rochester, New York, both to show support for the neighborhood and to investigate community members' concerns and desires for their neighborhood. This report is designed to analyze the collected surveys and will discuss the various aspects of the neighborhood that the Jefferson Avenue community liked, the assessment the community made of their neighborhood, and the initiatives or activities the residents would like implemented within the neighborhood. Finally, this paper will provide multiple anecdotes that the Jefferson Avenue community wishes to share with law enforcement and community members in the neighborhood.

Methodology

The initiative used a survey of residents to obtain this information. The survey asked people to list their likes, concerns, and desires for things to be done within their neighborhood. The survey asked community members how much they liked living in their area, how long they have lived there, and how likely they were to be living in the area in the future. The survey then asked the respondents if they had anything specific to tell the police, and, finally, if they had anything to share with their fellow community members.

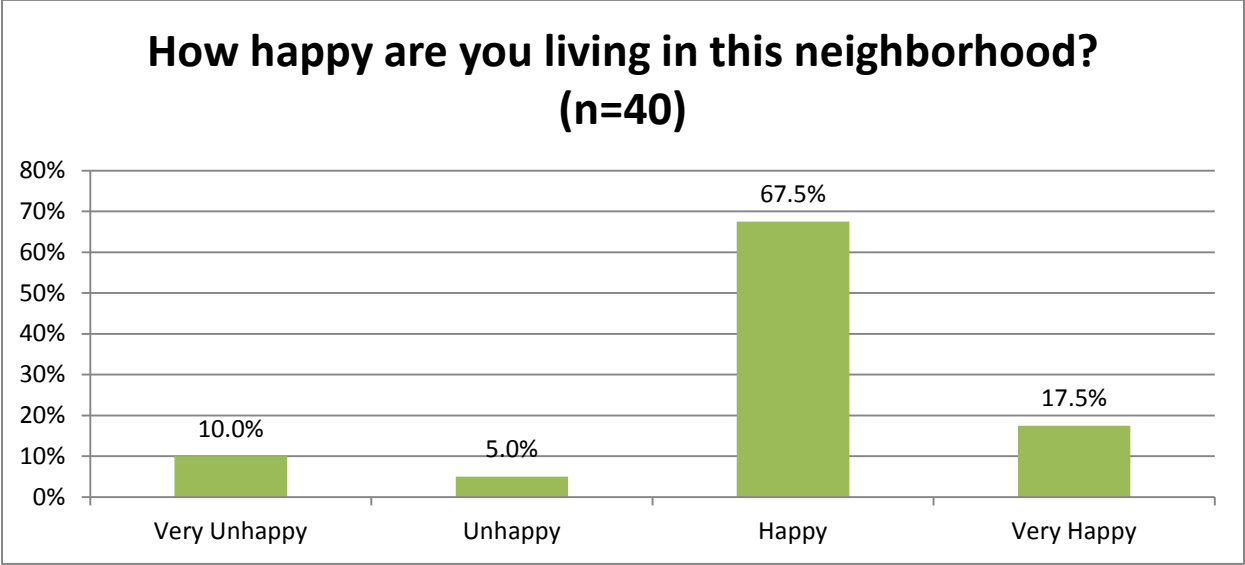
Groups of three or four volunteers were sent out to administer the survey to preselected streets in the neighborhood. Each group had at least one law enforcement officer with them. These groups were instructed to travel down one side of the street and then return on the other side, knocking on every door. When residents answered, the volunteers were to read a readymade script to the participant and then conduct the survey. Only those houses where adult residents responded and agreed to take the survey are included in the sample.

Because of this door-by-door sampling method, the resulting sample is not a random sample of the Jefferson Avenue community. Despite this, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various issues within the community.

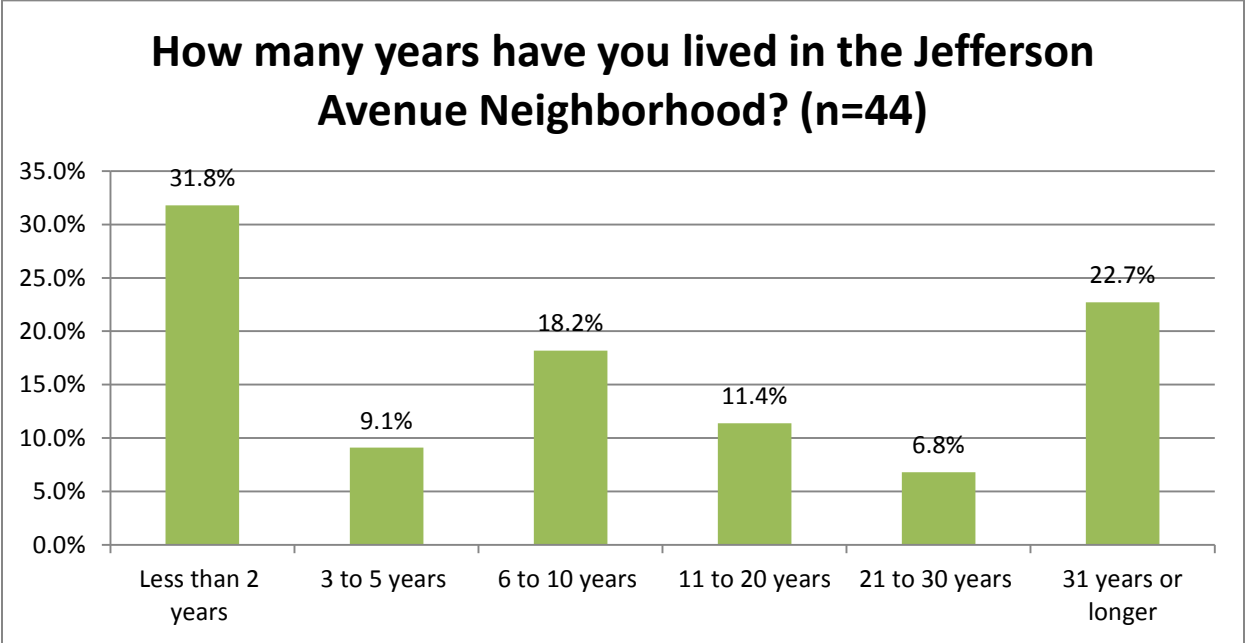
Data

Due to the small number of surveys collected on each street, it is difficult to accurately compare between them. Therefore, the surveys collected will be pooled together for analysis. This group will be referred to as 'the Jefferson Avenue community.' A total of 44 surveys were collected from the neighborhood.

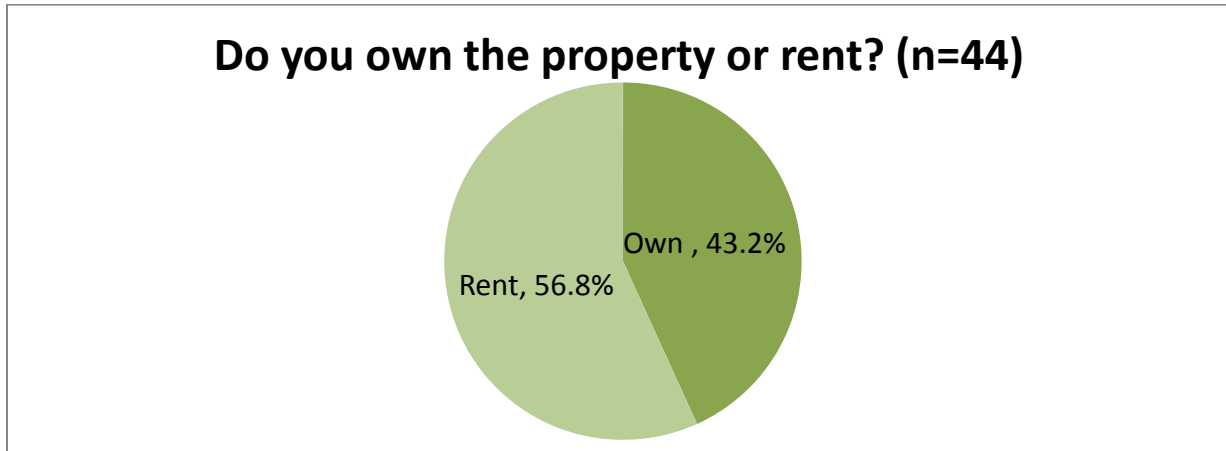
The first question asked residents how happy they were living in the Jefferson Avenue community. A majority (85%) of respondents said that they were happy or very happy living in the neighborhood. The other 15% of respondents felt either unhappy or very unhappy living in the neighborhood.



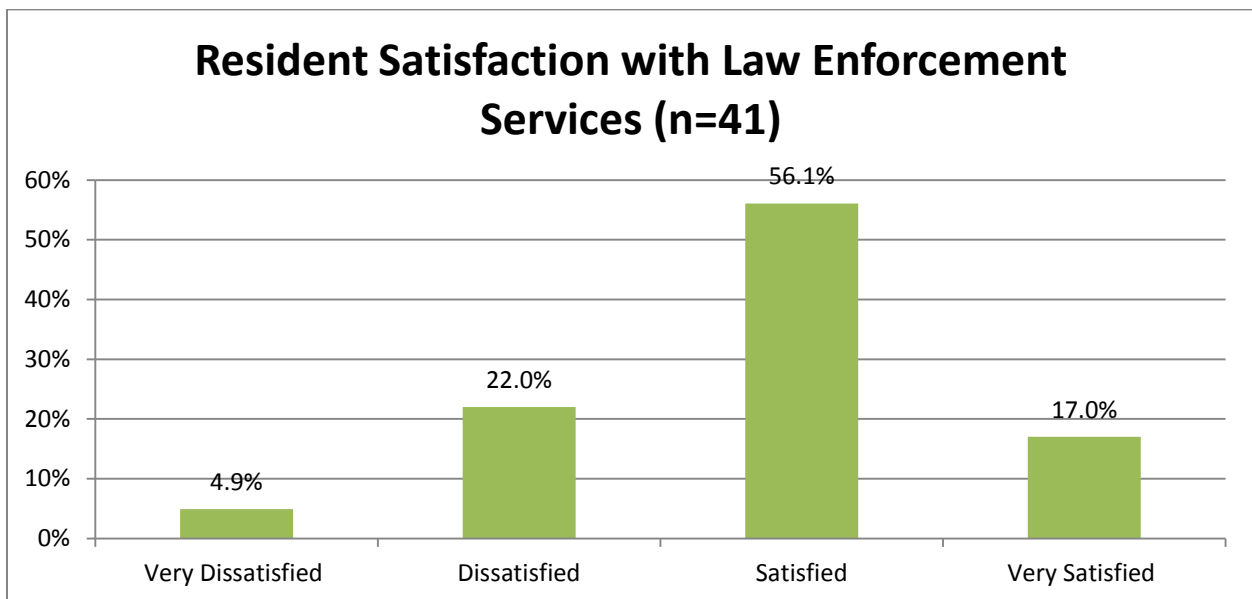
The next question asked residents how long they have lived in the Jefferson Avenue area. About one third of respondents (31.8%) said that they have only lived in the area 2 years or less. Even though there is a high amount of newer residents in the area, there is also a large amount (22.7%) of residents who have lived in the area for 31 years or longer. The community seems unusually split between these two extremes of residence length.



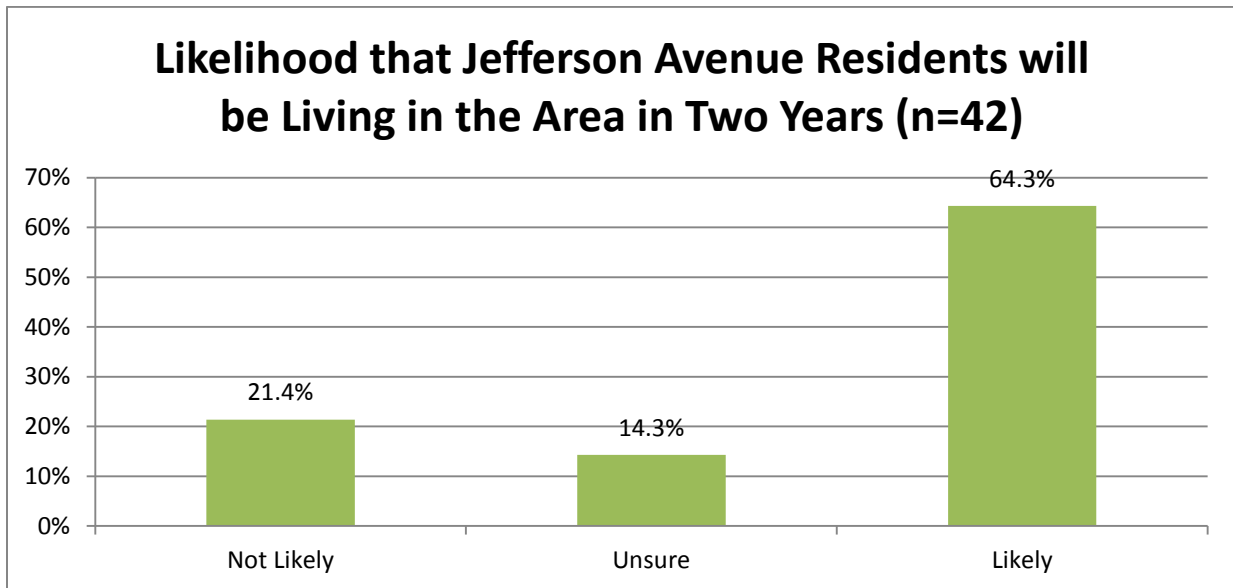
The next question asked respondents if they owned the house that they were living in or if they rented from a landlord. A little over half of the respondents (56.8%) said that they rented their property.



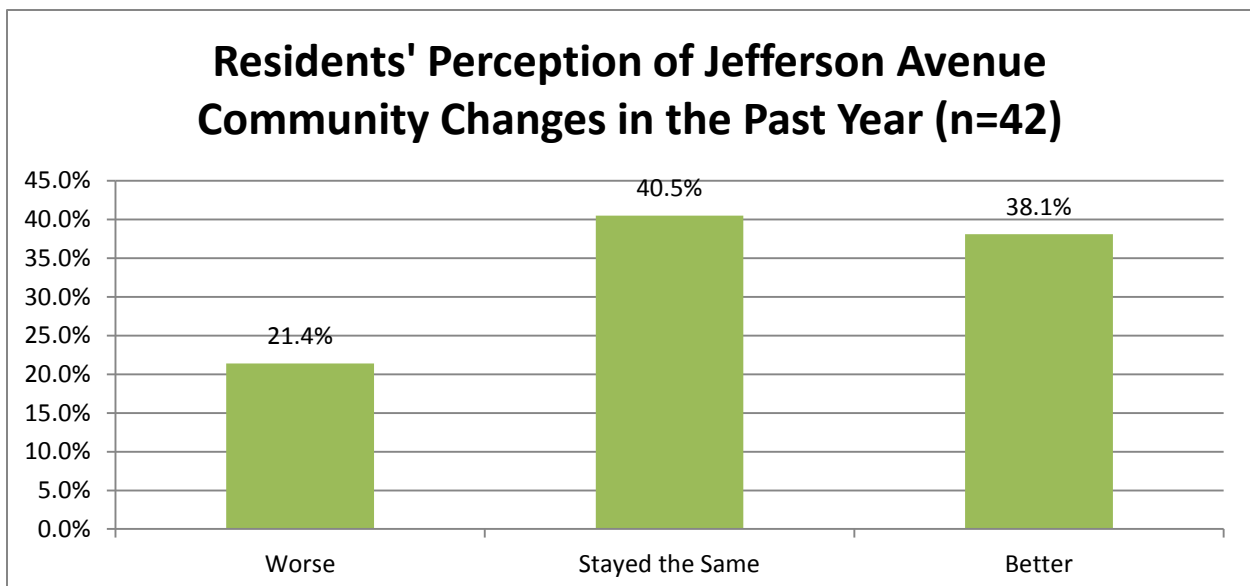
The next question asked respondents how satisfied they were with law enforcement in the Jefferson Avenue area. A majority (73.1%) of respondents said that they were satisfied or very satisfied, while 22.0% said they were dissatisfied, and 4.9% said that they were very dissatisfied.



We also asked respondents the likelihood that they would still be living in the Jefferson Avenue area in two years. Many respondents (64.3%) said that it was likely that they would still be living in the area in two years. This is somewhat expected considering the majority of respondents also said that they were happy living in the area and were satisfied with law enforcement. There is still 35.7% of respondents who were unsure or felt that it was not likely that they would still be living in the Jefferson Avenue area in two years. It would be interesting to know the reasons why those respondents felt they would stay or move in two years.



The survey also asked respondents if they felt the community had gotten better, worse, or stayed the same over the last year. Many respondents (40.5%) felt that the community neither improved nor declined but that it stayed the same since last year. A little over one third (38.1%) felt that it has actually gotten better, and 21.4% felt that the community got worse in the last year.



There was a portion of the survey that asked respondents to list what they valued about the community. Many (40%) said that they valued the community and that the people in the community were nice. Others mentioned that it was quiet and peaceful most of the time (22.5%). Some respondents also listed that they enjoyed having kids in the area (12.5%). The rest of the values are listed in the chart below.

Jefferson Avenue Resident's Community Values

	Frequency	Percent
Nice People/Community	16	40.0
Quiet/Peaceful Most of the Time	9	22.5
Kids	5	12.5
Location	2	5.0
Family/Friends	2	5.0
Safe	2	5.0
House/Property	1	2.5
Lived There a Long Time	1	2.5
Nature (Trees, etc.)	1	2.5
Clean	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0
Missing -99.00	4	
Total	44	

There was also a portion of the survey that asked respondents to list their three greatest concerns in order of what was most concerning to what was least concerning. Of the 38 people who responded to this portion, 23.7% said that they were most concerned about speeding or traffic issues in the area. Some also mentioned that drugs were a concern.

Jefferson Avenue Greatest Community Concerns

	Frequency	Percent
Speeding/Traffic	9	23.7
Drugs	5	13.2
Loitering	5	13.2
Violence	3	7.9
Noise	3	7.9
Location	3	7.9
Neighborhood Cleanliness	2	5.3
Lack of Police Presence	1	2.6
Safety	1	2.6
Slumlords/Absent Landlords	1	2.6
Liquor Store	1	2.6
Lack of Parental Supervision/General Parenting	1	2.6
Corner Store	1	2.6
Outsiders	1	2.6
General Crime	1	2.6
Total	38	100.0
Missing	-99.00	6
Total	44	

Many more (34.5%) respondents were concerned about drugs in the area as a more of a secondary concern.

Jefferson Avenue Second Greatest Community Concerns

	Frequency	Percent
Drugs	10	34.5
Theft/Burglary	3	10.3
Violence	3	10.3
Speeding/Traffic	3	10.3
Liquor Store	2	6.9
Loitering	1	3.4
Neighborhood Cleanliness	1	3.4
Youth Safety	1	3.4
Slumlords/Absentee Landlords	1	3.4
Noise	1	3.4
Lack of Parental Supervision/General Parenting	1	3.4
Lack of Youth Activities	1	3.4
Snow Removal	1	3.4
Total	29	100.0
Missing	-99.00	15
Total	44	

Only 12 respondents listed a third concern, thus the table is not included. Some of the concerns that came up as a third concern were violence and lack of parental supervision or general parenting.

Regarding these concerns listed above, respondents were asked what specific things they felt their neighbors could do to help decrease these concerns. Of the 29 residents who responded to this portion of the survey, 31% said that there needs to be more community or resident involvement. Others also mentioned that speed bumps would help the issue of speeding traffic. The rest of the requests can be seen in the table below.

Jefferson Avenue Community Requests

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Community/Resident Involvement	9	31.0
	Speed Bumps	8	27.6
	Report Problems to Police	4	13.8
	More Parental Involvement	3	10.3
	Neighborhood Watch	2	6.9
	Neighborhood Meetings	2	6.9
	Better Police Presence	1	3.4
	Total	29	100.0
Missing	-99.00	15	
Total		44	

Bivariate Analysis

Bivariate Analysis is the analysis of the relationship between two variables. By using a crosstab, it is possible to examine subsets of the population surveyed and the relationship between variables. Contingency Coefficients were also run alongside the crosstabs to determine the nature and significance of any observed relationships. It should be noted that a Chi-square test was run on each crosstab, with results discussed below.

There were no significant relationships between:

- How many years lived in the neighborhood and how happy they were living in the area
- How happy a person was living in the area and their satisfaction with law enforcement in the area
- How many years someone lived in the neighborhood and their satisfaction with law enforcement in the area
- How many years someone lived in the neighborhood and the likelihood that they would still be living in the neighborhood in two-years' time

- How happy a person was living in the area and their perception of whether the community improved over the past year
- How likely someone was to be living in the community in two years and whether they owned or rented their current property
- Whether a person owned or rented their current property and their satisfaction with law enforcement in the area
- How likely someone was to be living in the community in two years and their satisfaction with law enforcement
- Whether a person owned or rented their current property and their perception of whether the community improved over the past year
- Satisfaction with law enforcement in the area and their perception of whether the community improved over the past year

There was a significant relationship between how many years someone lived in the area and whether they owned or rented their property. As would be expected, those who lived in the neighborhood longer were more likely to own their property.

		% of those who lived in the area...						Total
		Less than 2 years	3 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 years or longer	
Do you rent or own your property?	Rent	92.9%	100%	37.5%	80.0%	33.3%	0.0%	56.8%
	Own	7.1%	0.0%	62.5%	20.0%	66.7%	100.0%	43.2%

Chi Square = 26.595 (5), $p < 0.05$; Contingency Coefficient = .614, $p < 0.05$

There was a significant relationship between how many years someone lived in the area and their perception of whether the community improved over the past year. Specifically, those who lived in the area between 3 and 5 years and those who lived there more than 30 years tended to feel the community had gotten worse in the past year. There is no consistent pattern here, though, which may be a result of the low number of surveys collected in the area.

		% of those who lived in the area...						Total
		Less than 2 years	3 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 20 years	21 to 30 years	31 years or longer	
Over the past year would you say the neighborhood has gotten...	Worse	0.0%	50.0%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	60.0%	21.4%
	Stayed the Same	46.2%	25.0%	57.1%	80.0%	0.0%	20.0%	40.5%
	Better	53.8%	25.0%	28.6%	20.0%	100.0%	20.0%	38.1%

Chi Square = 23.634 (10), $p < 0.05$; Contingency Coefficient = .600, $p < 0.05$

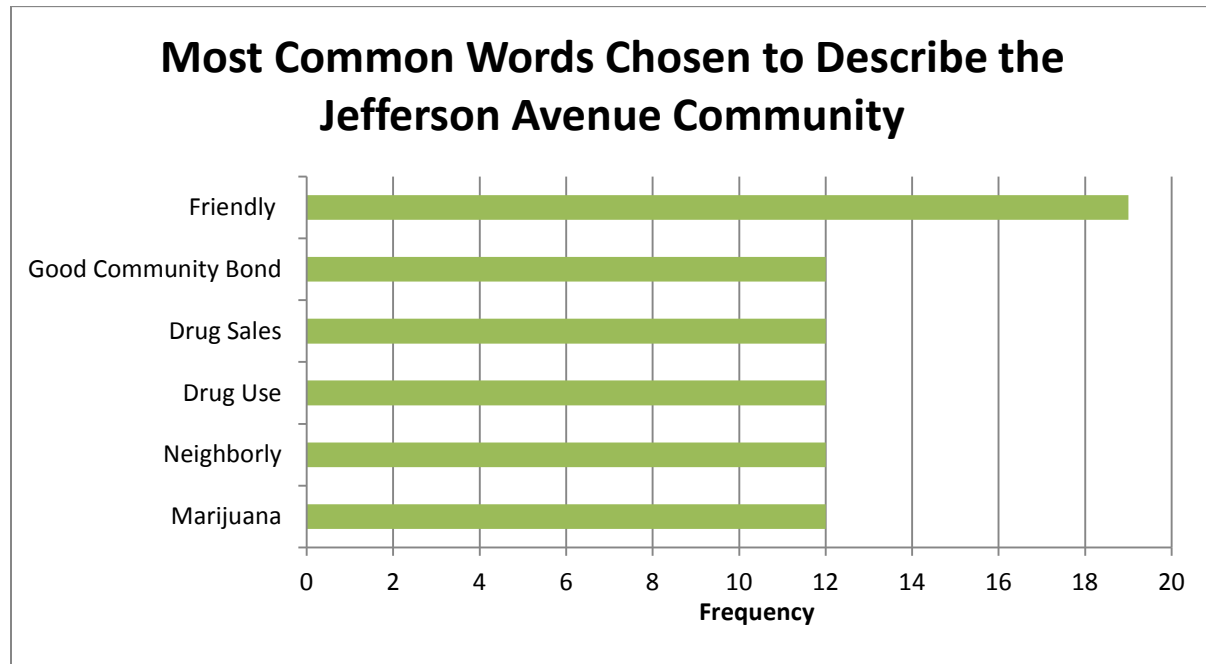
There was a somewhat significant relationship between how happy residents were living in the area and how likely they were to be living in the area in two years. Specifically, those who were happier living in the area were more likely to still be living in the area in two years.

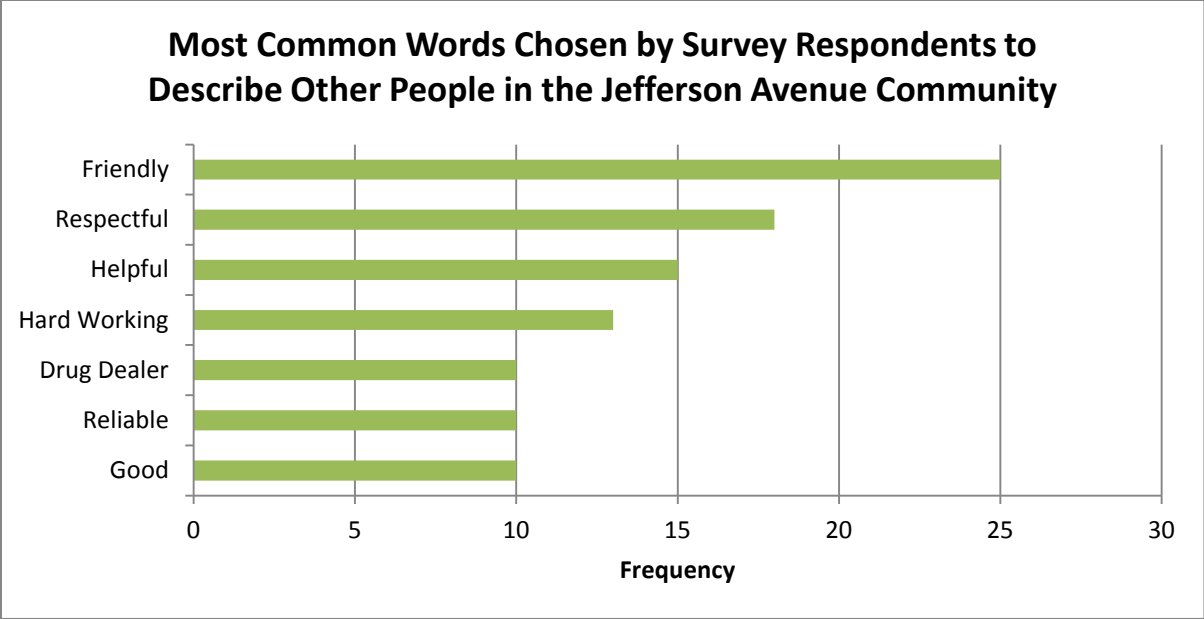
		% of those who were...				Total
		Very Unhappy	Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	
Likelihood to be Living in the Area in Two Years	Not Likely	75.0%	50.0%	11.1%	16.7%	20.5%
	Unsure	0.0%	0.0%	14.8%	33.3%	15.4%
	Likely	25.0%	50.0%	74.1%	50.0%	64.1%

Chi Square = 11.650 (6), p<0.1; Contingency Coefficient = .480, p<0.1

Adjective Checklists

The final portion of the survey asked respondents to circle all the words or phrases that best describe their community and the people in it from a given list. Some examples of the words/phrases respondents could choose from were friendly, positive, exciting, full of strangers, dangerous, happy, good for kids, respectful, mean, responsible, and so on. The words with the highest frequency are shown in the charts below. Overall, people chose positive words to describe the community and people in it, but there it is clear that there are concerns about drugs in the area.





Conclusion

Most residents in the Jefferson Avenue community are happy living in the neighborhood. Slightly over half of the residents are renters. As such, there is some degree of mobility in the neighborhood, with 41% of survey respondents living in the area for less than five years. However close to 20% of respondents have been living in the community for over 30 years. A majority of survey respondents said that it was likely that they would continue to be living in the community in two-years-time, though there was no significant difference between renters and homeowners on their likelihood to continue living in the area. Those who were unhappy, however, were more likely to state that they would move away from the area in two years. It would be interesting to know the reasons why residents were less likely to continue living in the area.

The majority of residents felt satisfied with law enforcement services, though about a quarter of residents felt dissatisfied. Interestingly, residents’ satisfaction with law enforcement services did not correlate with their likelihood to be living in the area in two years or their overall happiness living in the neighborhood. Many residents in the Jefferson Avenue community felt that the community had stayed the same or gotten better over the last year and about 20% of survey respondents indicated that it has gotten worse. This perception seemed to have little to no effect on the level of happiness that residents felt living in the area.

Regardless of the fact that most residents are happy living in the Jefferson Avenue community, there were still some concerns about drugs, speeding, and other traffic concerns. In order to combat these issues, residents suggested more community involvement from neighbors and

requested speed bumps. On the positive side, residents felt that the community had a good bond and was neighborly. They also felt that the people are nice and that the community is quiet and peaceful most of the time.

Questions remain as to how the community can or already is organizing to address some of these issues around drugs. It would be interesting to know how various community organizations in addition to law enforcement are targeting this area for prevention, deterrence, and social service efforts. It would be interesting to see how the positive attributes of the neighborhood could be built upon to reach these goals. We would also like to explore what it is exactly that makes residents of Jefferson Avenue either satisfied or unsatisfied with police services. More discussions would need to be had with Jefferson Avenue residents to understand the data from this survey more thoroughly.