

Community Concerns and Desires: Analysis of Jay Street TIPS Initiative

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Analysis of Jay Street Project TIPS (2014)

Survey

On August 21, 2014, the TIPS (Trust, Information, Programs, and Services) initiative was implemented around Jay Street 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 features that the Jay Street community liked about their neighborhood, 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 Jay Street 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.

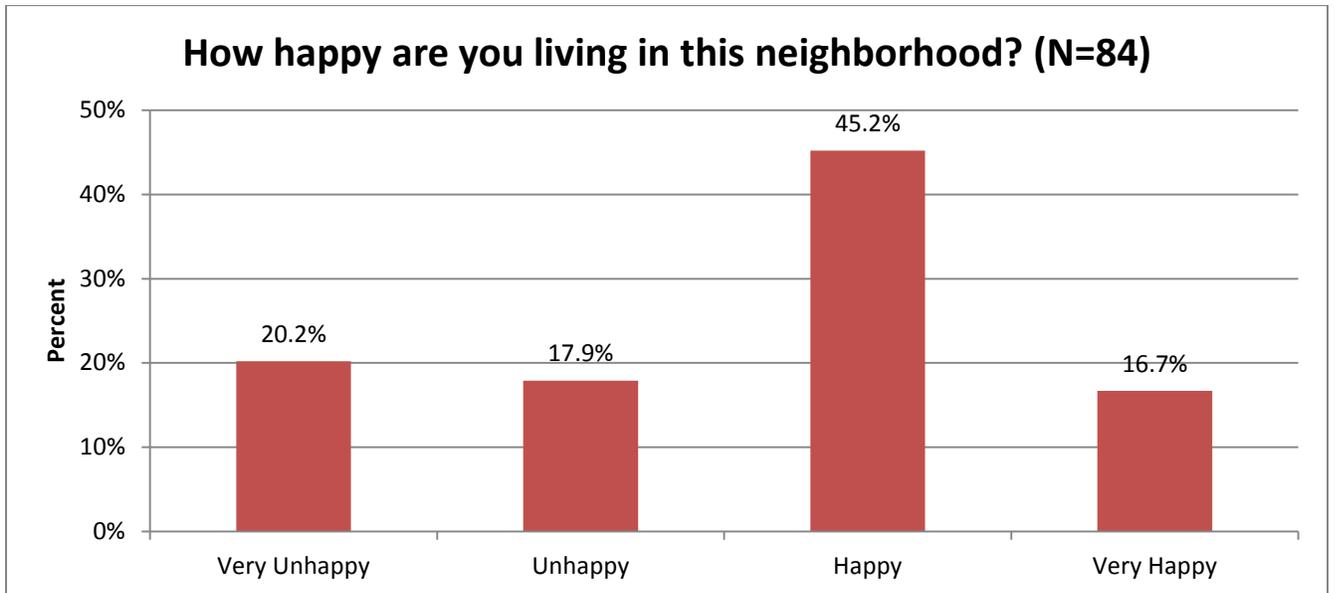
Because of this door-by-door sampling method, the resulting sample is not a random sample of the Jay Street community. Despite this, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various issues within the community.

Data

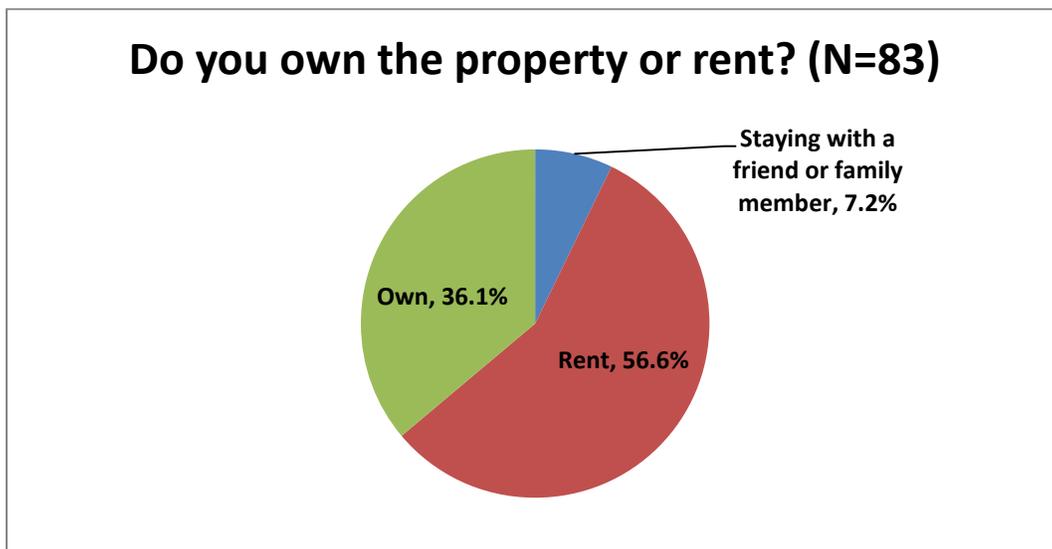
A number of groups surveyed 18 streets in the Jay Street community. Due to the small number of surveys collected on each street, it is difficult to accurately compare between them. Therefore, the surveys collected from the streets mentioned above will be pooled together for analysis.

This group will be referred to as 'the Jay Street community'. A total of 84 surveys were collected from the neighborhood.

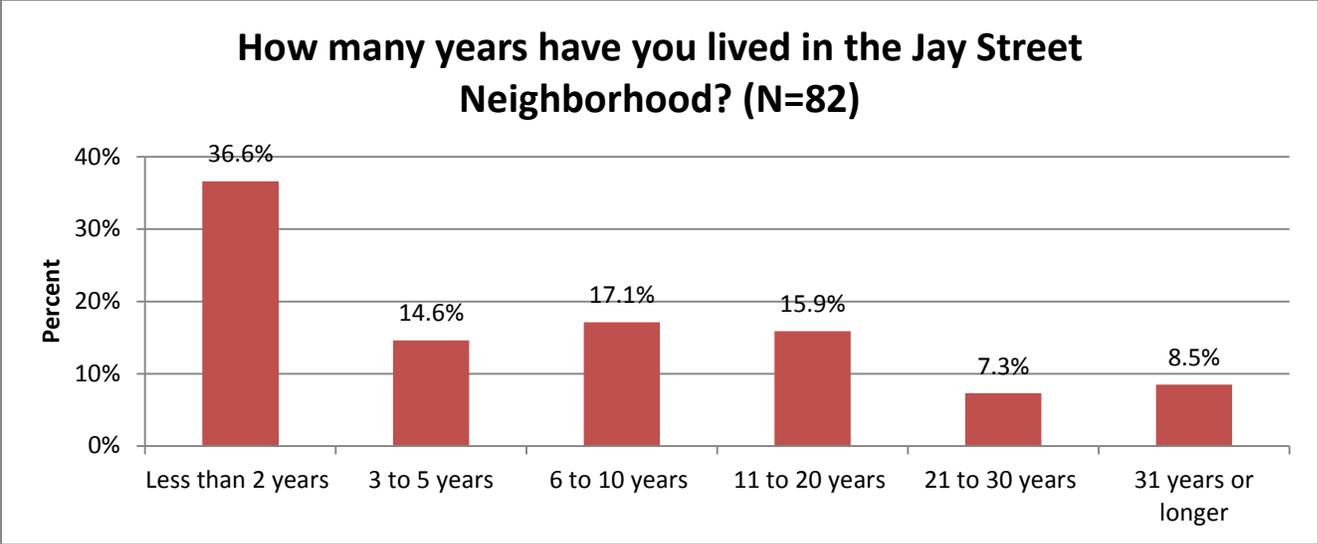
The first question asked respondents how happy they were living in their neighborhood. Of those surveyed, 61.9% reported that they were happy or very happy living in the Jay Street community.



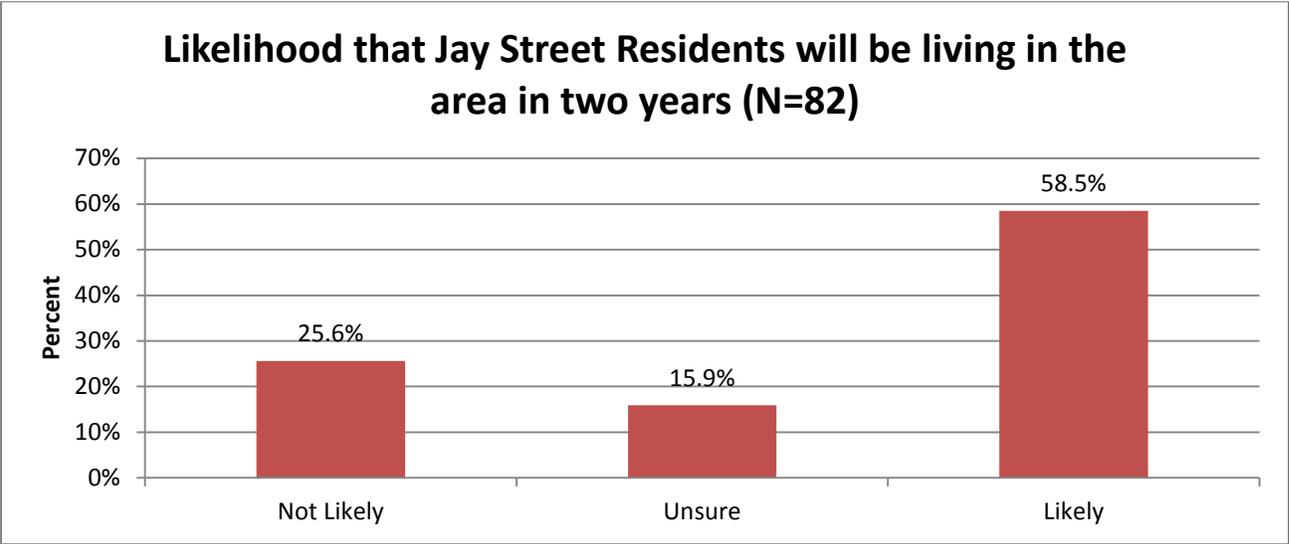
Next, the survey asked residents about their living situation. Specifically, residents were asked if they owned or rented their property. Of the 83 residents who answered this question, a little over half (56.6%) reported that they rented their property, 36.1% reported that they owned the property, and six respondents (7.2%) reported that they were staying with a friend or family member.



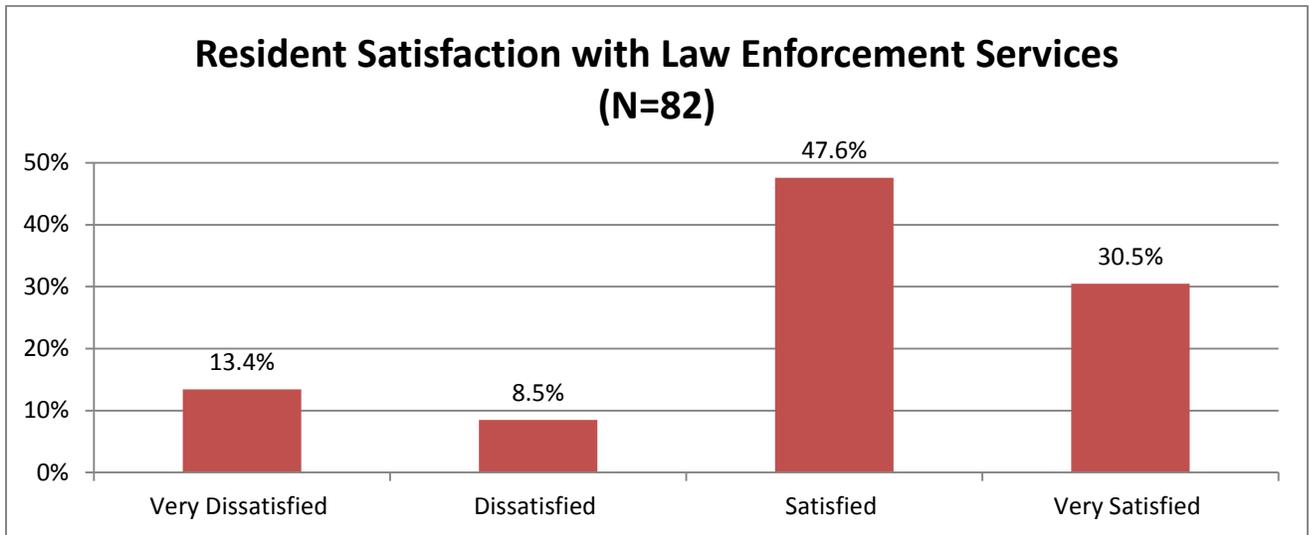
The next question asked respondents how long they had lived in the Jay Street community. Of the 82 respondents, 36.6% had lived in the area two years or less, 51.2% reported living in the area five years or less, and a large majority of the respondents (68.3%) reported living in the area 10 years or less. This shows a high degree of mobility in the neighborhood, since most residents lived in the area less than five years and there were comparatively few residents of over 20 years.



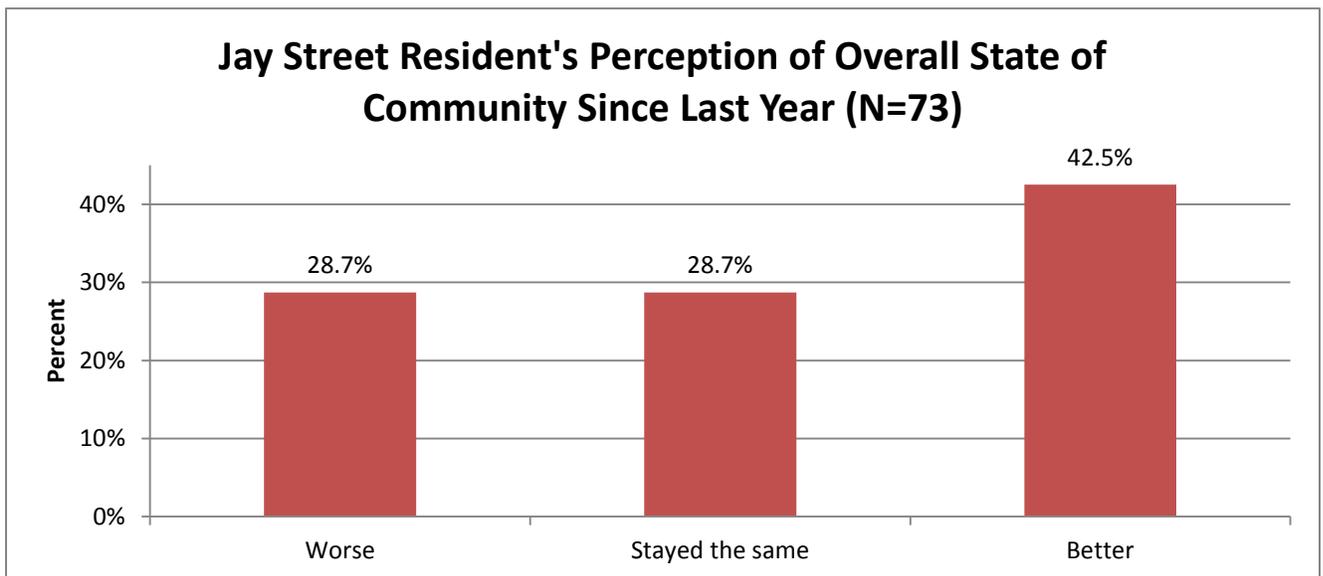
The next question asked residents how likely they were to be living in the Jay Street community in two years' time. Responses were taken on a three point scale consisting of the responses 'not likely', 'unsure', and 'likely'. Of the 82 residents who responded to this question, 58.5% stated that they were likely to be in the area in two years, 15.8% responded that they were unsure, and 25.6% reported that it was not likely that they would be in the area in two years. Despite the fact that over a third of residents surveyed had only lived in the neighborhood for less than two years, most felt they were likely to still be living there in two years.



The next question asked respondents how satisfied they were with the services offered to them by law enforcement officers. About half (47.6%) of the 82 respondents reported that they were satisfied with the quality of law enforcement services, and 30.5% reported that they were very satisfied. That being said, there were still a number of respondents who were dissatisfied (8.5%) or very dissatisfied (13.4%) with the services provided to them. Many of those who voiced dissatisfaction cited long response times and a feeling of a lack of police presence as reasons for their low rating.



The next question asked respondents if they felt the neighborhood had changed over the past year, and if it had changed for the better or for the worse. Just under half of people (42.5%) in the Jay Street community felt that the neighborhood became better over the course of the last year. Of those surveyed, an equal number of people (28.7%) believed that the community stayed the same or became worse in the last year.



The next question asked residents to list the one thing they liked the most about the Jay Street community. This question was open-ended, meaning that the residents were not limited as to what they could respond. For the few residents who listed multiple responses, the first response was chosen. Their responses were coded into general categories, shown below. The most common response was that the people were friendly (29%), and that they felt the neighborhood was quiet (20%). A number of respondents stated that they liked the area for the location (9%). The remaining responses are depicted in the table below. Of note, 19 people did not list any features they liked.

Jay Street Community Values

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Nice People/Community	19	29.2
	Quiet/Peaceful Most of the Time	13	20.0
	Location	6	9.2
	Schools	6	9.2
	Family/Friends	4	6.2
	House/Property	3	4.6
	Safe	3	4.6
	Park/Playground/Rec Center	3	4.6
	Police	3	4.6
	Active Community	2	3.1
	Church(es)	2	3.1
	Kids	1	1.5
	Total	65	100.0
Missing	-99.00	19	
Total		84	

The next question asked residents to list up to three concerns that they had in the Jay Street community. In this survey, the respondents were also asked to list these concerns in ranked order. The highest concerns listed by the Jay Street community will be discussed first.

For the residents' highest listed concerns, 18.8% reported that they were concerned with drugs in the area, 17.2% reported that they were concerned with violence, and 10.9% reported that they were concerned with lack of parental supervision or general parenting. Twenty respondents reported that they had no concerns whatsoever.

Greatest Concerns for Jay Street Residents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Drugs	12	18.8
	Violence	11	17.2
	Lack of Parental Supervision/General Parenting	7	10.9
	Speeding/Traffic	5	7.8
	Loitering	4	6.3
	Safety	4	6.3
	Gangs	2	3.1
	Slow Police Response	2	3.1
	Noise	2	3.1
	Lack of Youth Activities	2	3.1
	Poor Lighting	2	3.1
	Lack of Jobs/Poverty	2	3.1
	Agressive Policing/Harassment	1	1.6
	Neighborhood Cleanliness	1	1.6
	Stray Animals	1	1.6
	Slumlords/Absentee Landlords	1	1.6
	Lack of Businesses	1	1.6
	Rape	1	1.6
	Vandalism	1	1.6
	Outsiders	1	1.6
	General Crime	1	1.6
	Total	64	100.0
Missing	-99.00	20	
Total		84	

Of the 42 residents who reported a second-highest concern, 23.8% reported that they were concerned with violence, and 14.3% reported that they were concerned with drugs. These were also the most common highest concern listed, as discussed above. The same amount of people (9.5%) reported that they were concerned with loitering and with speeding and traffic concerns in the Jay Street area. Because of the ranking system in the survey, those respondents who left only one concern, captured in the previous table, were reported as having no second-highest or third-highest concern. These individuals were also coded as 'none', and were excluded from the table below.

Second Greatest Concerns for Jay Street Residents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Violence	10	23.8
	Drugs	6	14.3
	Loitering	4	9.5
	Speeding/Traffic	4	9.5
	Lack of Parental Supervision/General Parenting	3	7.1
	Theft/Burglary	2	4.8
	Lack of Police Presence	2	4.8
	Neighborhood Cleanliness	2	4.8
	Slumlords/Absentee Landlords	2	4.8
	Lack of Jobs/Poverty	2	4.8
	Slow Police Response	1	2.4
	Safety	1	2.4
	Youth Safety	1	2.4
	Prostitution	1	2.4
	Outsiders	1	2.4
	Total	42	100.0
Missing	-99.00	42	
	Total	84	

Only 27.4% of respondents reported a third concern. These are listed in the table below; 61 did not report a third concern, and were thus excluded from the table below. Again, violence topped the list, as did speeding and traffic concerns.

Third Greatest Concerns for Jay Street Residents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Violence	5	21.7
	Speeding/Traffic	3	13.0
	Neighborhood Cleanliness	2	8.7
	Safety	2	8.7
	Vandalism	2	8.7
	Theft/Burglary	1	4.3
	Lack of Police Presence	1	4.3
	Drugs	1	4.3
	Loitering	1	4.3
	Agressive Policing/Harassment	1	4.3
	Youth Safety	1	4.3
	Prostitution	1	4.3
	Lack of Parental Supervision/General Parenting	1	4.3
	Poor Lighting	1	4.3
	Total	23	100.0
Missing	-99.00	61	
Total		84	

The next question asked respondents if there were any specific requests they would like to be executed in the Jay Street community. A total of 45 requests were made, with the most frequent requests being better police presence (28.9%) and more community and resident involvement (20%). The remainder of the residents' responses are listed on the table below.

Requests from Jay Street Community

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Better Police Presence	13	28.9
	Community/Resident Involvement	9	20.0
	Clean up Area	4	8.9
	People more Respectful	4	8.9
	Report Problems to Police	4	8.9
	Recreational Activities/Jobs for Youth	3	6.7
	Neighborhood Watch	2	4.4
	Neighborhood Meetings	2	4.4
	Better Police Attitude	1	2.2
	More Parental Involvement	1	2.2
	Talk to/Mentor Kids in Area	1	2.2
	Put in Cameras	1	2.2
	Total	45	100.0
Missing	-99.00	39	
Total		84	

The next question asked respondents if they had anything specific to tell the police. Because this question was open-ended, it is difficult to accurately quantify these statements. However, these anecdotes can provide interesting insight into how the members of the Jay Street community think and feel about police, crime, community, and quality of life issues in their neighborhood.

With regard to specific statements for police, 32 of the 84 residents left a response. Of those, two reported specific crimes or criminal behaviors. Those reports were kept confidential and have been provided to the Rochester Police Department. A number of respondents felt that the police were friendly and cooperative, but also felt that the police should have a more visible presence in the neighborhood, and that police response could be improved. Something that was frequently mentioned in these statements was that cars have been regularly driving the wrong way on one-way streets in the neighborhood. There were also a number of respondents who mentioned the drug activity in the neighborhood and would like to see police in the area to try to decrease the problem.

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 such as how long respondents have lived in the neighborhood, how happy respondents are within the neighborhood, if respondents own or rent, and if respondents believe they will be living in the area within two years. Several statistics were calculated (Pearson's correlation coefficient, and chi squared tests) to determine the nature and significance of any observed relationships.

There were no significant relationships between how long residents had lived in the neighborhood and how happy they were. In other words, there was no evidence that the longer someone lived in the neighborhood, the more or less happy they were. There was also no relationship between how happy they were and how likely they felt they were to be living in the neighborhood in two years. Even among those who reported being very unhappy, many said they were likely to still be living in the neighborhood. There was no relationship between residents' satisfaction with the police in their area and how likely they felt they were to be living in the neighborhood in two years. This means that resident's satisfaction with police had no statistically significant impact on their perceived likelihood to be living in the area.

The next table shows that those who own their home were more likely to live in the neighborhood longer, compared to those who rent or were staying with friends or family. As would be expected, most of those who had lived in the neighborhood more than ten years were home owners, while most of those who lived there less than ten years were renters.

	% of those who lived in the neighborhood...						TOTAL %
	Less than 2 years	3-5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	21-30 years	31 years or longer	
Staying with friend or family	10.3%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	14.3%	7.4%
Rent	75.9%	50.0%	71.4%	38.5%	33.3%	28.6%	58.0%
Own	13.8%	41.7%	28.6%	61.5%	50.0%	57.1%	34.6%

Chi squared=16.307 (10), $p < 0.1$; Contingency Coefficient=.409, $p < 0.1$

There was a strong, significant relationship between how long residents have lived in the neighborhood and their feeling as to how it has changed in the past year. Generally, the longer someone had lived in the neighborhood, they were more likely to think the neighborhood had improved over the last year. Of the people who lived in the neighborhood 31 years or longer, 100 percent reported that they felt that the neighborhood has gotten better over the past year. In contrast, half of those who had been there 6-10 years felt the neighborhood had gotten worse, as did nearly half of those who had lived there less than two years.

	% of those who lived in the neighborhood...						TOTAL %
	Less than 2 years	3-5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	21-30 years	31 years or longer	
Worse	41.7%	9.1%	50.0%	9.1%	33.3%	0.0%	28.2%
Stayed the same	25.0%	54.5%	33.3%	18.2%	50.0%	0.0%	29.6%
Better	33.3%	36.4%	16.7%	72.7%	16.7%	100.0%	42.3%

Chi squared=25.672 (10), $p < 0.01$; Contingency Coefficient =.515, $p < 0.05$

There was a weak correlation showing that those who lived in the neighborhood for more time when they were surveyed also felt they would be more likely to live there in two years. In other words, if they had been in the neighborhood for a long time, they intended to stay.

		% of those who lived in the neighborhood...						TOTAL %
		Less than 2 years	3-5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	21-30 years	31 years or more	
How likely are you to be living in the area in 2 years?	Not Likely	43.3%	18.2%	7.7%	7.7%	16.7%	28.6%	25.0%
	Unsure	20.0%	0.0%	7.7%	23.1%	33.3%	14.3%	16.3%
	Likely	36.7%	81.8%	84.6%	69.2%	50.0%	57.1%	58.8%

Chi squared=16.947 (10), $p < 0.08$; Contingency Coefficient =.418, $p < 0.1$

There was a significant relationship between how happy residents were and whether they felt the neighborhood had changed for the worse, the better, or stayed the same. The majority of people who reported being very happy reported that the neighborhood has gotten better over the past year. It is also interesting to note that over half of the people who reported being very unhappy also reported that the neighborhood has gotten better. However, 58.3% of people who reported being unhappy also reported that the neighborhood has gotten worse. It seems like those with extreme opinions (either very unhappy or very happy) were more likely to think the neighborhood had improved in the past year.

		% of those who were...				TOTAL
		Very Unhappy	Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	
Over the past year, would you say that the neighborhood has gotten...	Worse	26.7%	58.3%	21.2%	23.1%	28.8%
	Stayed the same	13.3%	16.7%	51.5%	0.0%	28.8%
	Better	60.0%	25.0%	27.3%	76.9%	42.5%

Chi squared=23.376 (6), p=.001; Contingency Coefficient =.492, p<0.05

Finally, there was also a significant relationship as to how likely they were to still be living there in two years, based on whether they owned or rented their property. As would be expected, 75% of homeowners reported that it would be likely that they would be living in the area in two years, compared to about half of renters and only 16.7% of those staying with a friend or family member.

		Do you own the property or rent?			TOTAL
		Staying with friend or family	Rent	Own	
How likely are you to be living in the area in two years?	Not Likely	33.3%	27.7%	17.9%	24.7%
	Unsure	50.0%	17.0%	7.1%	16.0%
	Likely	16.7%	55.3%	75.0%	59.3%

Chi square=9.73 (4), p<0.05; Contingency Coefficient =.327, p<0.05

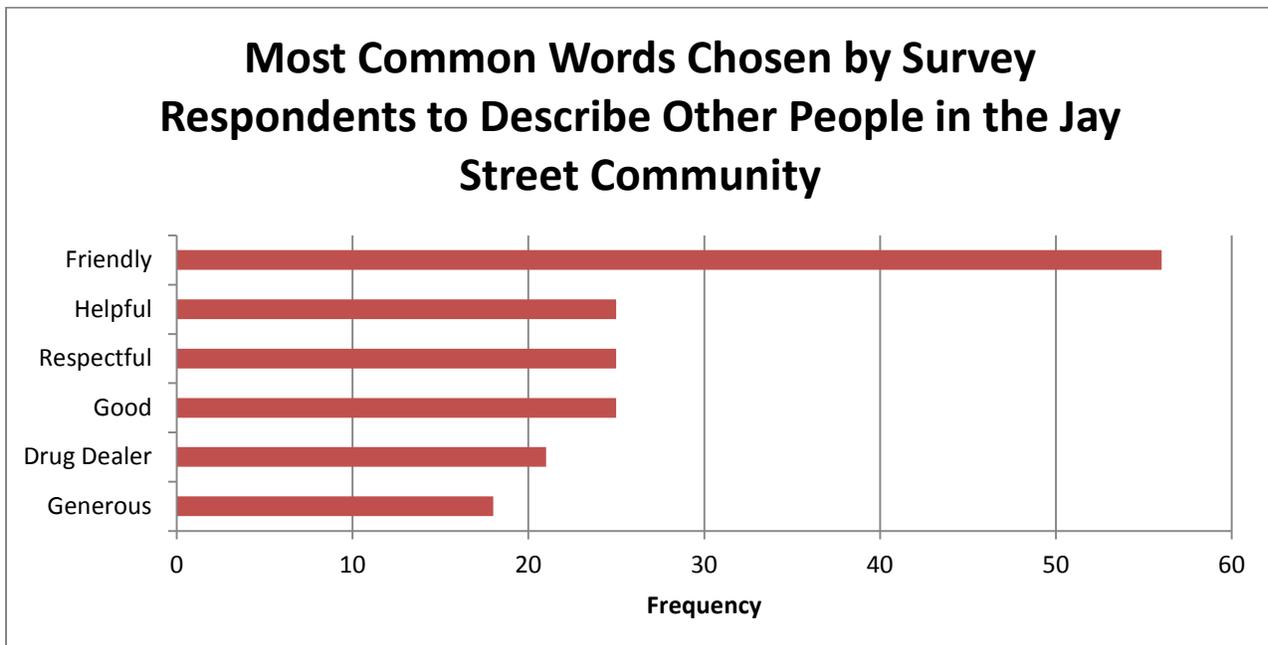
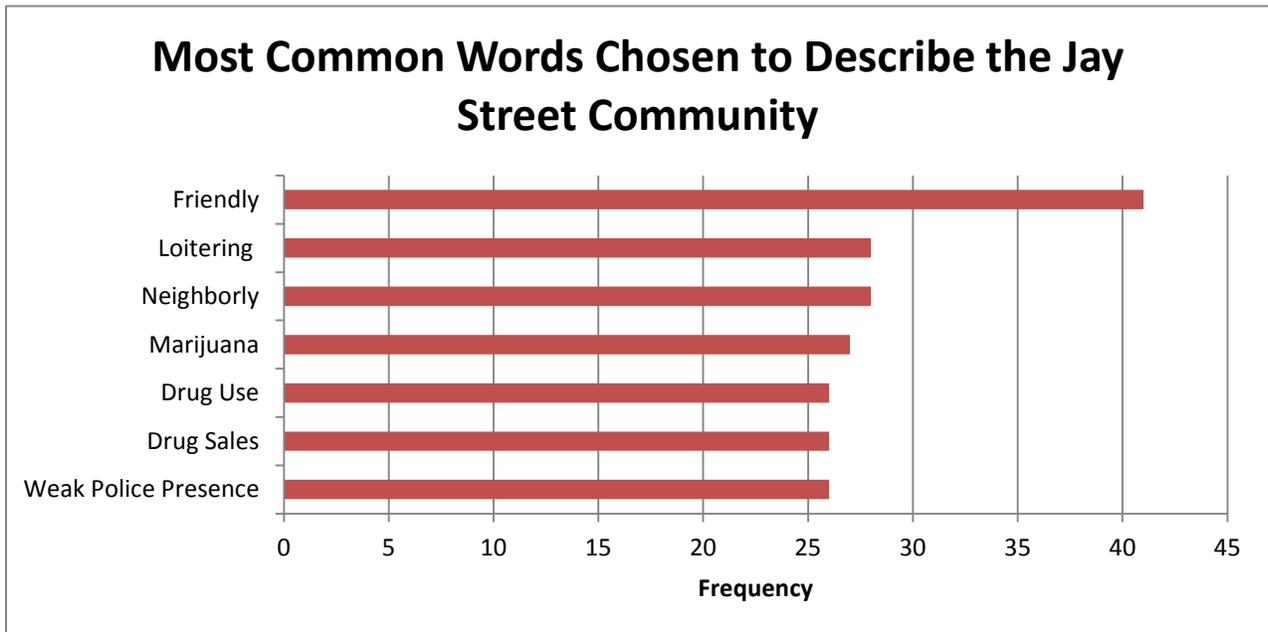
There is a significant relationship between the feeling of how the neighborhood changed over the last year, and how likely people are to be living in the area in two years. Over half (57.1%) of people who felt that the neighborhood has gotten worse over the last year reported that it was not likely that they would be living in the area in two years. Similarly, 74.2% of people who felt that the neighborhood had gotten better over the past two years reported that it was likely that they would still be in the neighborhood in two years.

		Over the past year, would you say that the neighborhood has gotten...			TOTAL
		Worse	Stayed the same	Better	
How likely are you to be living in the area in two years?	Not Likely	57.1%	9.5%	16.1%	26.0%
	Unsure	9.5%	23.8%	9.7%	13.7%
	Likely	33.3%	66.7%	74.2%	60.3%

Chi Square =17.044 (6), p<0.05; Contingency Coefficient =.435, p<0.05

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. Some examples of the words and 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 their neighborhood and the people in their neighborhood, though there are clear concerns about drugs in the area. Other concerns included loitering and a weak police presence.



Conclusion

A majority of people living in the Jay Street community were happy living in the neighborhood. Many of them were renters, with a majority living in the area 5 years or less. Even though many of the people in the neighborhood have not lived there for a long time, more than half said it was likely that they would still be living in the neighborhood in two years. We found no statistically significant correlation between how happy residents were and how likely they were to be living in the area in two years. Even those that said they were unhappy, often said it was still likely that they would be living in the area in two years. It may be of interest to know the reasons why people plan to continue to live in the area. It is possible that some of the reasons include things that are more pressing than their happiness levels, such as income levels, family ties, lack of resources, and so on. On the other hand, they could simply not feel “unhappy enough” to want to move.

The bulk of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with law enforcement in this community. The biggest concerns residents had were related to drugs or violence. Some residents who reported being dissatisfied with law enforcement mentioned that they felt the police did not respond to disturbances quickly enough. They also mentioned that they wished the police would show more of a friendly presence and create a relationship with the community. Though it was not possible with this survey data, it would be interesting to find out the reasons why people were satisfied with police and to compare this with the reasons some people were dissatisfied.

Along with a better police presence, people in the community want their neighbors to become more involved. Along those lines, people felt that neighbors should work to keep the neighborhood clean, as well as being respectful to each other, and reporting problems to the police.

Generally, residents in the Jay Street community felt that their neighbors were friendly, helpful, and respectful. They did express concerns about drug use and dealing, as mentioned above, as well as loitering, which may be related to the drug problem. It would be helpful to know how the community plans to handle some of these issues, if they plan to. It would also be helpful to know if there are community organizations that can or are willing to work with the residents to help them combat some of the problems in their neighborhood. Additionally, we would like to know how law enforcement is targeting the area for prevention, deterrence, community relationship building, and social service efforts. More discussions would need to be had with Jay Street residents to understand the data from this survey more thoroughly.