

Community Concerns and Desires: Analysis of Troup Street TIPS Initiative (May 2015)

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Analysis of Troup Street Project TIPS (2015)

Survey

On May 28, 2015 the TIPS (Trust, Information, Programs, and Services) initiative was implemented around Troup Street in Rochester, NY. The purpose of this initiative is to improve relations between the community and law enforcement as well as to investigate the community's feelings towards their neighborhood and local law enforcement. This report will analyze and discuss the findings of the collected surveys. This includes residents' concerns, satisfaction with local law enforcement, and perceptions of the community, among other things.

Methodology

The TIPS initiative uses a survey of residents to obtain information about the community. Groups of two or three volunteers are sent out with a law enforcement officer to administer the survey to preselected streets in the neighborhood. Each group was 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 the houses where adult residents who lived in the area responded and agreed to take the survey are included in the sample. Some respondents were also stopped on the street and asked to participate if they lived in the area.

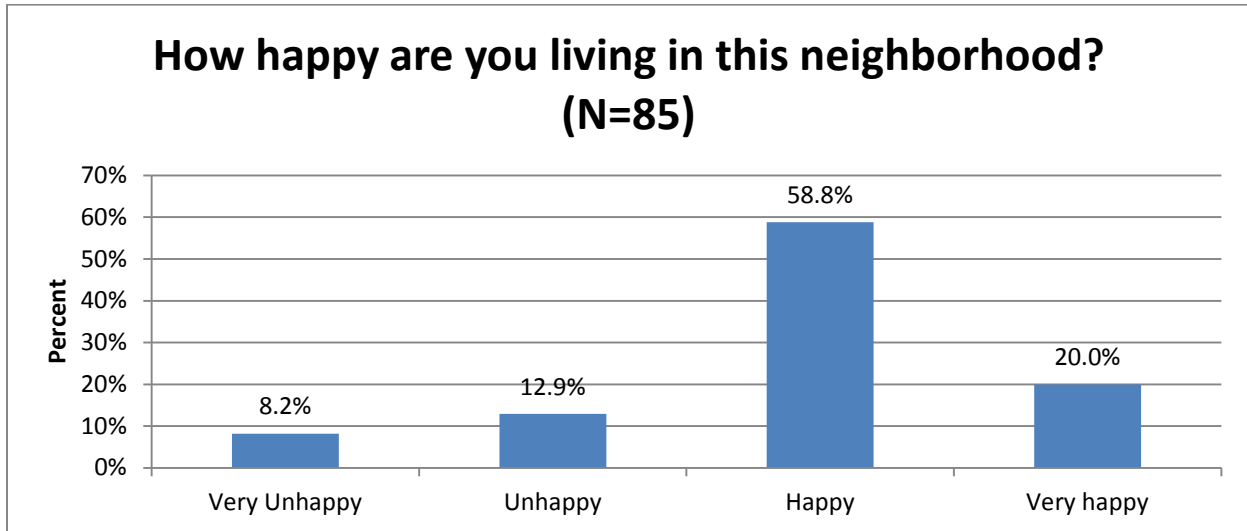
Because of this door-by-door sampling method, the resulting sample is not a random sample of the Troup Street community; therefore, the results should be interpreted cautiously. Despite this, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various issues and overall feelings of the community.

Data

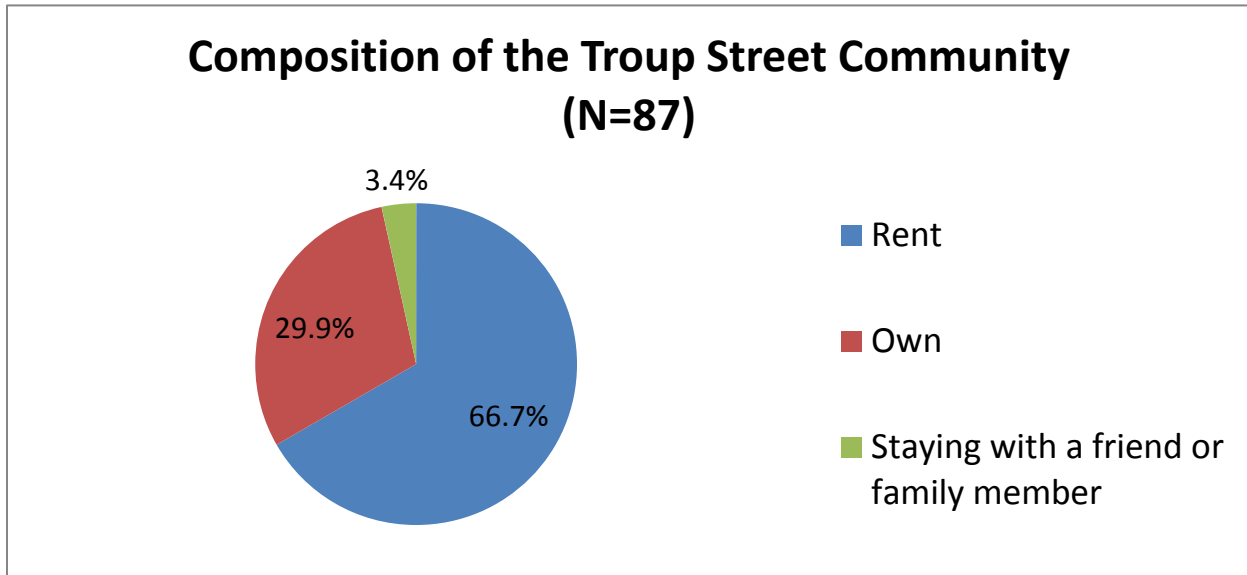
A number of groups surveyed 11 streets in the Troop Street community. Due to the small number of surveys collected on each street, it is difficult to accurately compare between them. Therefore, the surveys collected from the streets mentioned above will be pooled together for analysis.

This group will be referred to as "the Troup Street community." A total of 88 surveys were collected from the neighborhood.

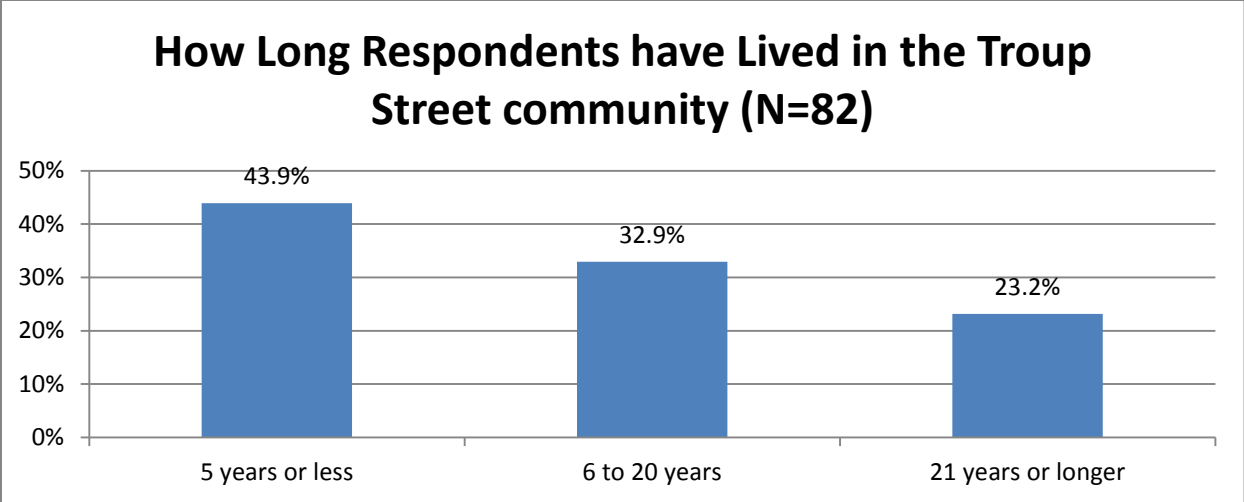
The first question asked respondents how happy they were living in their neighborhood. Of those surveyed, 78.8% reported that they were happy or very happy living in the Troup Street neighborhood.



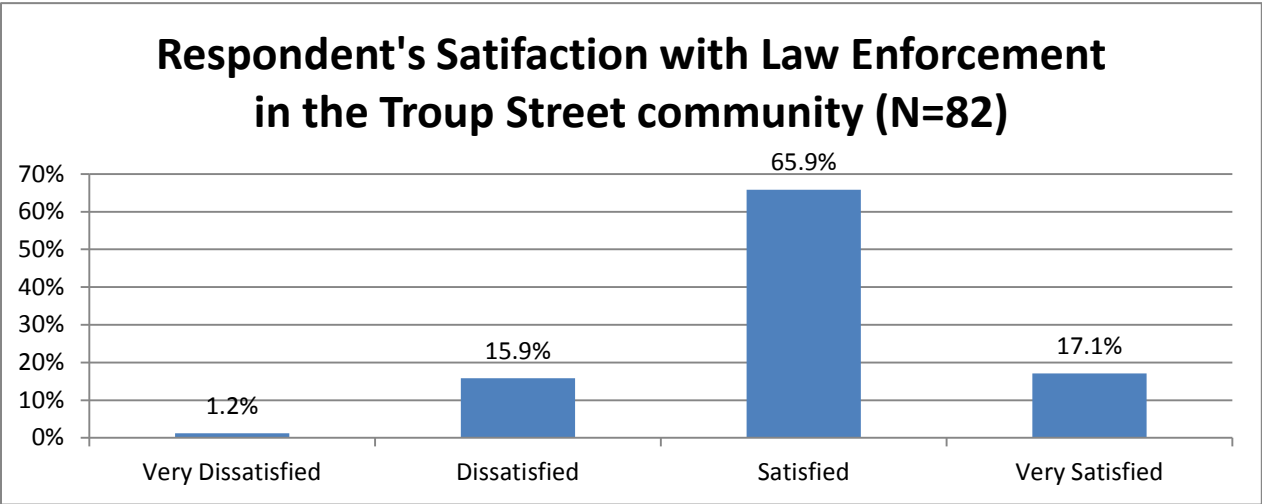
The next question asked respondents whether they rented or owned the property that they were living in. Over half (66.7%) of respondents rent their home in the Troup Street community.



Next we asked respondents how long they have been living in the Troup Street community. The bar chart below is clearly skewed right, showing that there are many people in the Troup Street community who have lived in the community for a short period of time. About 43.9% of respondents have only lived in the area for 5 years or less, while 23.2% of respondents have lived in the area 21 years or longer.

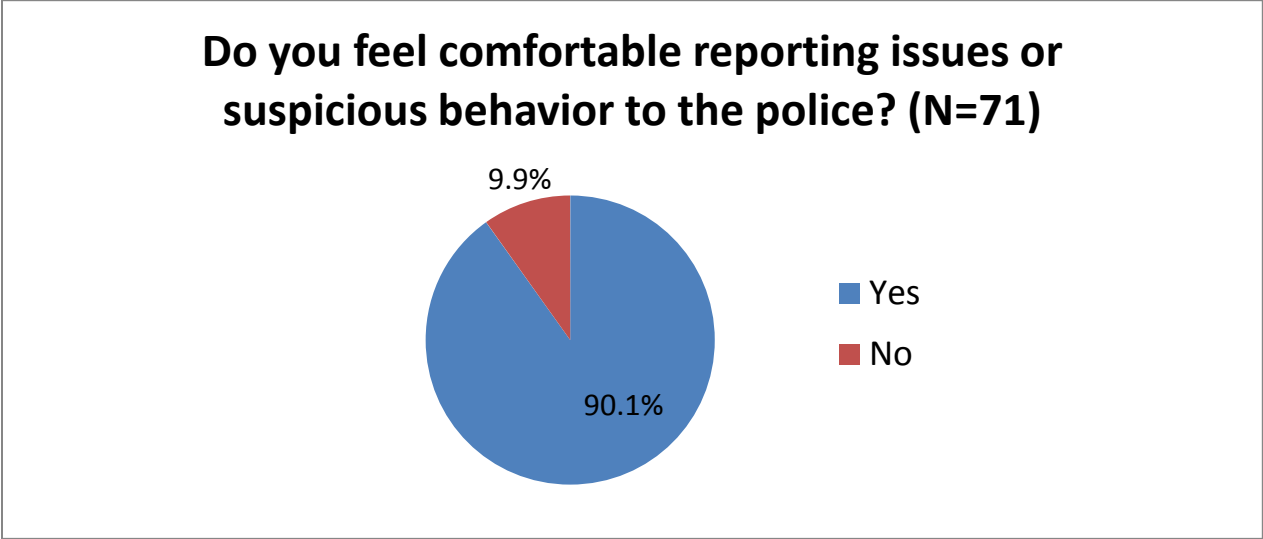


Next we asked respondents if they were satisfied with law enforcement in the Troup Street community. The bar chart below shows that a majority (83%) of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with law enforcement.

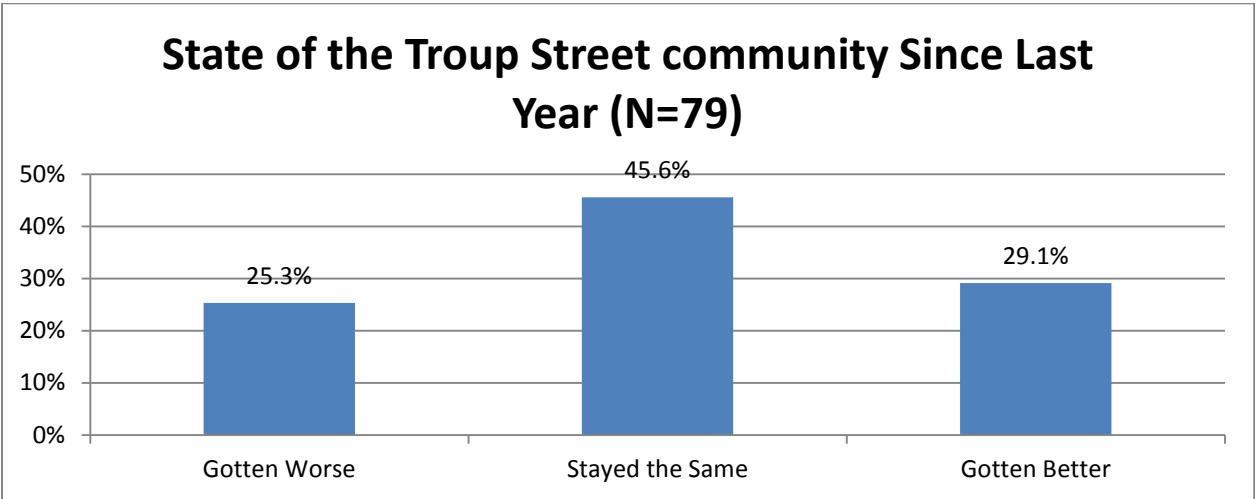


On the survey for 2015, we felt that it was important to ask respondents why they were satisfied or dissatisfied. This question was an open-ended question, allowing respondents to say as much or as little as they wanted. Many people said that they felt satisfied or very satisfied because the officers in the area responded when called and were friendly when interacting with residents. Others mentioned that the police presence was helpful but that they would like to see officers get out of their cars and interact with residents more often. Those who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied said they felt that officers' response time was too slow. Many people, whether satisfied or dissatisfied, expressed concerns about the Troup Street Park. Respondents felt that there needs to be more police presence in the park so that it could be a safe place for children to play. As of the time of the survey, many said that the park is a point place for gambling and drugs, and many residents did not feel safe there.

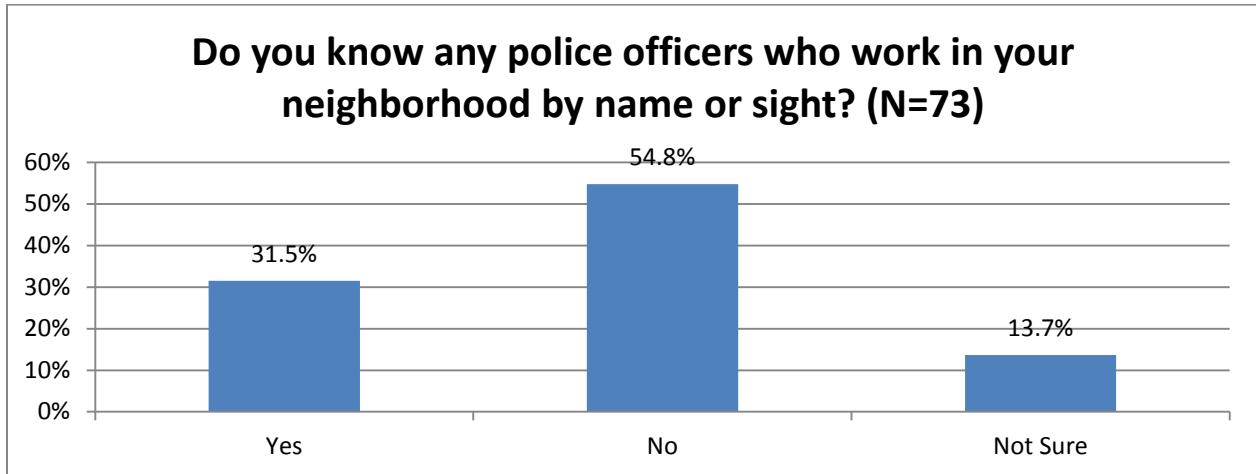
This year, we also asked respondents if they felt comfortable reporting issues or suspicious behavior to the police. About 90% of people surveyed in the Troup Street community felt comfortable reporting issues to police. The 10% of respondents who did not feel comfortable reporting issues mentioned that they felt that calling to report issues in the neighborhood was not an effective way to deal with the issues. One respondent felt that the police didn't do a good job responding to these calls therefore they felt that it was more effective to deal with their problems on their own. Others also expressed concern about potentially being retaliated against for giving information to the police.



Next we asked respondents if over the past year they felt the neighborhood had gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same. Since last year, 45.6% of respondents felt that the state of the neighborhood has stayed the same. An almost equal amount of respondents felt that the neighborhood has gotten better (29.1%) as those who felt it had gotten worse (25.3%).



This year, with the reorganization of the local police department into quadrants, we felt that it was important to ask respondents if they knew any officers in the area by name or by sight. As the years go by, it would be interesting to see if these numbers change and if this change could be attributed to the reorganization. In the Troup Street community, only 31.5% of respondents said that they knew area police officers by name or sight. An additional 13.7% of respondents said that they were not sure if they knew area police officers by name or sight.



Next we asked residents what they valued about their community. This was an open-ended question, but the results were categorized for analysis. In the Troup Street community, 33% of respondents valued that the neighborhood was quiet or peaceful most of the time. Others mentioned that they valued their neighbors and felt that the people and community were “nice” (28%). The other values mentioned by respondents are listed in the chart below.

Community Values

	Frequency	Percent
Quiet/Peaceful Most of the Time	27	32.5
Nice People/Community	23	27.7
Location	18	21.7
Affordable	4	4.8
Park/Playground/Rec Center	4	4.8
Schools	3	3.6
Family/Friends	1	1.2
Lived There a Long Time	1	1.2
Safe	1	1.2
Nature (Trees, etc.)	1	1.2
Total	83	100.0
Missing	-99.00	5
Total	88	

Along with the community values, we also asked respondents what their biggest concerns were for the neighborhood. The most common and most urgent concern in the Troup Street community was drugs (20%). As mentioned previously, many respondents listed the park as a major drug area and thus any concerns about drugs in the park were categorized under the broader concern “drugs” for analysis. As you can see from the chart below, only one respondent listed a concern about slow police response, even though when respondents were asked about why they were either satisfied or dissatisfied with police in the area, many listed slow police response as a concern. This shows that though slow police response was a reason why respondents may have been dissatisfied with area police, it was not a primary concern for the neighborhood. The other concerns mentioned by respondents are listed in the chart below.

Resident Concerns

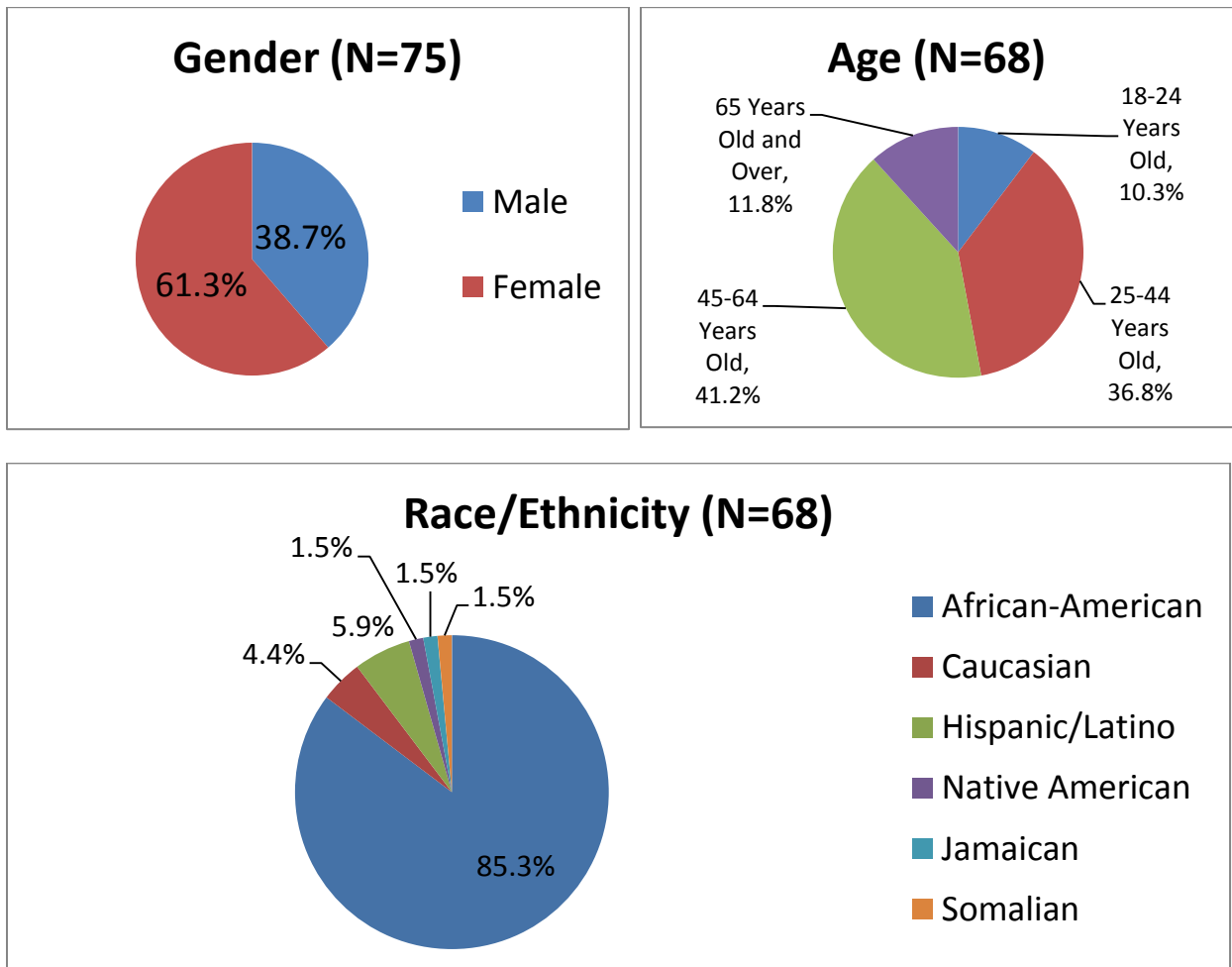
	Frequency	Percent
Drugs	15	20.3
Gangs	11	14.9
Theft/Burglary	10	13.5
Violence	8	10.8
Neighborhood Cleanliness	6	8.1
Lack of Police Presence	4	5.4
Speeding/Traffic	4	5.4
Loitering	3	4.1
Noise	3	4.1
Lack of Parental Supervision/General Parenting	3	4.1
Slow Police Response	1	1.4
Agressive Policing/Harassment	1	1.4
Safety	1	1.4
Youth Safety	1	1.4
Prostitution	1	1.4
General Crime	1	1.4
Lack of Jobs/Poverty	1	1.4
Total	74	100.0
Missing	-99.00	14
Total	88	

This year, we also felt that it was important to ask respondents if there was a specific place and/or situation in their neighborhood where they felt unsafe. By asking this question, we can easily relay this information to the police in the area. The places that were mentioned most often were the Troup Street Park, Jefferson Avenue in general, neighboring stores, and West Main

Street. Situations that were mentioned most often were walking at night, anywhere where there is a crowd (such as outside stores), during the summer, and walking long distances.

Finally, we asked respondents if there was anything specific they wanted to tell police. Of the 88 respondents, 53 left a response to this question, with 6 of these responses being related to specific crimes or criminal behaviors. Those reports have been kept confidential and have been provided to the Rochester Police Department.

Demographics of Respondents



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 respondents' feelings about the state of the community. Several statistics were calculated (Pearson's correlation coefficient and chi squared tests) to determine the nature and significance of any observed relationships.

There was no statistically significant relationship between how many years residents lived in the Troup Street community and whether they knew any police officers in the area by name or sight. This means that the length of time residents lived in the community did not predict whether they knew any police officers in the area. This could be due to the fact that many Rochester Police officers take care of many different places across the city. The reorganization of officers in the city may enable residents to get to know the officers in their area more easily.

There was only a statistically significant relationship between how happy residents felt and whether they felt comfortable reporting issues or suspicious behavior to police. Those who felt very unhappy were split 50/50 on whether they felt comfortable reporting issues. Those who felt happy or very happy were more likely to say that they felt comfortable reporting issues.

		How happy are you living in this neighborhood?				Total
		Very Unhappy	Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	
Do you feel comfortable reporting issues or suspicious behavior to the police?	Yes	50%	100%	94.9%	92.9%	91.3%
	No	50%	0%	5.1%	7.1%	8.7%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Chi Squared 14.513 (3), $p < 0.05$; Contingency Coefficient .417, $p < 0.05$

Conclusion

A majority of people surveyed who live in the Troup Street community were happy or very happy living in the area. Over half of respondents rented their homes, and many were somewhat new to the area. When asked about satisfaction with law enforcement, the majority was satisfied but felt that officers should interact with the community more by getting out of their cars and getting to know the residents of the Troup Street community. Almost everyone that we surveyed felt comfortable enough to report issues or suspicious behavior to the police. Many said that they felt that way because they wanted the community to be safe for themselves as well as for the kids

in the area. Those who did not feel comfortable reporting issues said that they were concerned about retaliation. Some others mentioned that they called in the past to report issues, however, the respondents did not feel anything was done to address the issue.

An issue that continually came up when surveying residents of the Troup Street community was that the Troup Street Park was unsafe. Residents requested that there be a heavier police presence at this park so that kids could have a safe place to play. Residents reported lots of drug activity at this park as well as gambling and violence. It would be interesting to know how area police are already addressing this issue in the park and what they plan to do in the future, especially because it seems to be an important issue to the residents in the area.