

Community Concerns and Desires: Comparing Responses to Jefferson Avenue TIPS Survey over Time (2009-2014)

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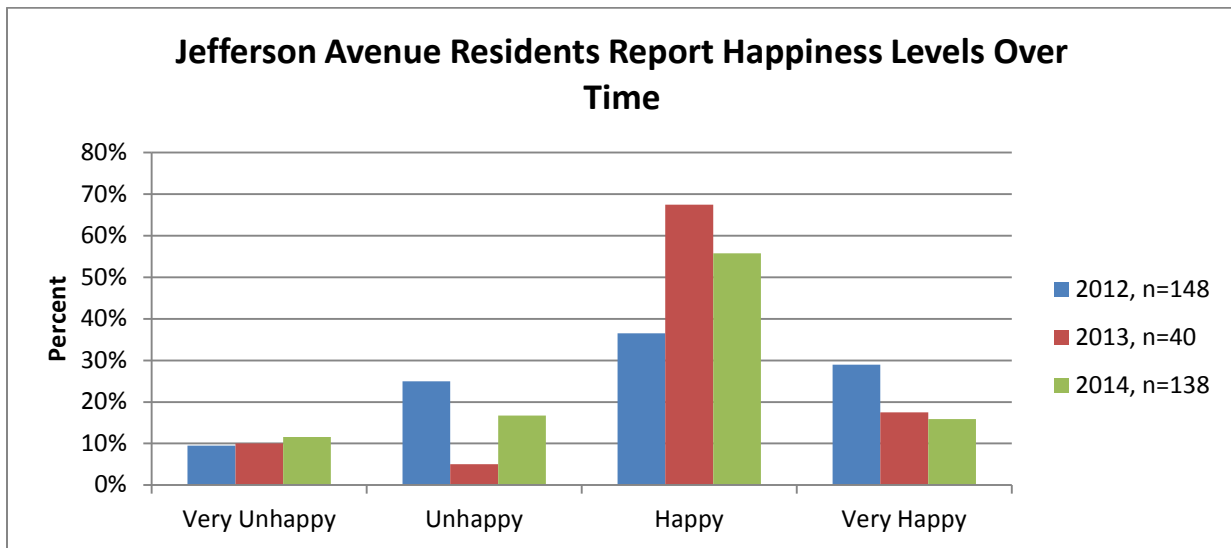
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The TIPS (Trust, Information, Programs, and Services) Initiative has been conducted in the Jefferson Avenue area a total of four times – in 2009, 2012, 2013, and in 2014. (For analysis of the individual years’ data, see the papers labeled “Community Concerns and Desires” at www.rit.edu/cpsi/).

This paper will analyze all of the data collected from the Jefferson Avenue area as a whole. The purpose of this analysis is to see what, if anything, has changed since the first time the TIPS initiative was held in the Jefferson Avenue area in 2009. This analysis will be important in deciding whether it is valuable to conduct the TIPS initiative in an area more than once and whether the survey instrument is able to detect year-to-year community changes. Note that if data is not displayed or discussed for a given year, it is because the survey has changed somewhat over time, and the question was not asked that year.

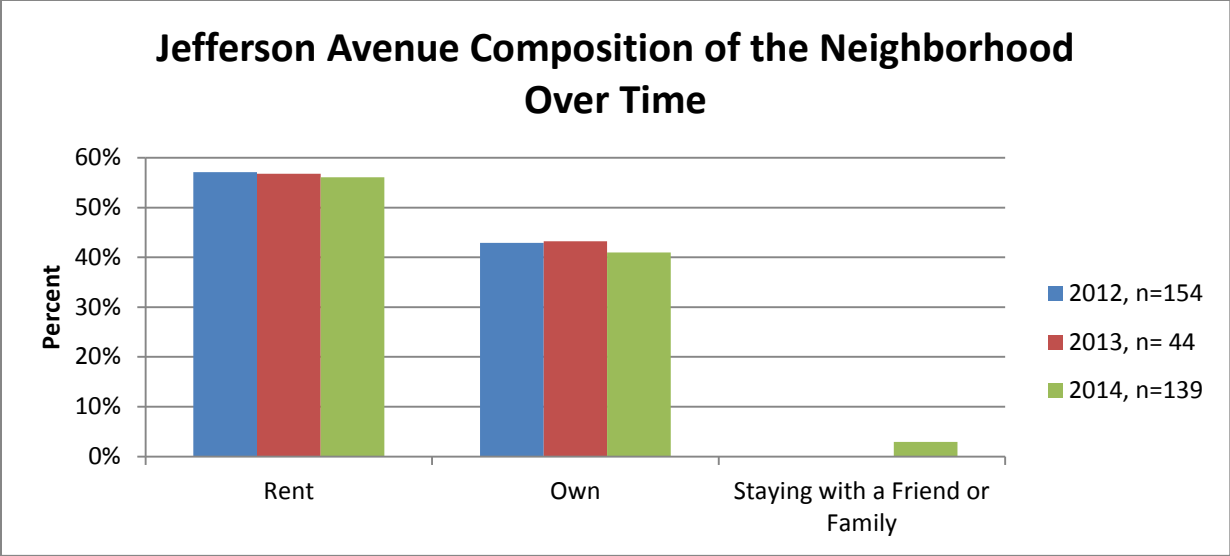
The first comparison we looked at was happiness levels. An independent samples t-test was conducted to compare happiness levels in the area between 2012 and 2014. Although it looks as if, in the chart below, there have been some changes in happiness levels, there was no statistically significant difference between 2012 and 2014.¹



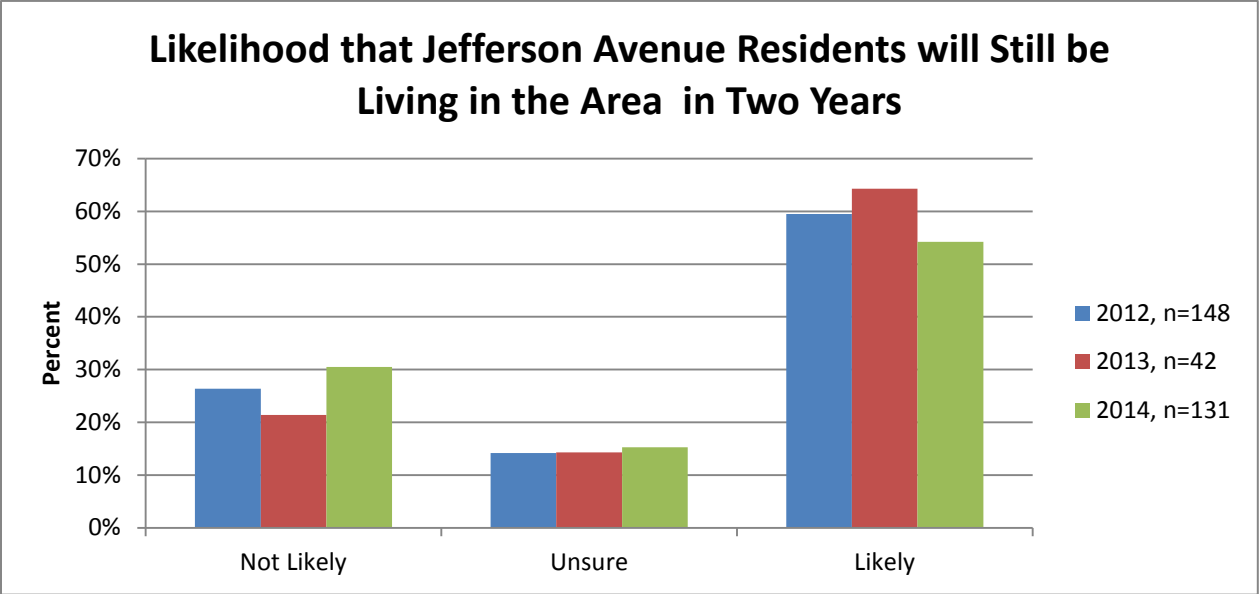
The second comparison that we looked at was whether residents rented or owned their property. An independent samples t-test was conducted to compare composition of the Jefferson Avenue neighborhood between 2012 and 2014. There was no significant difference found in the composition of the neighborhood between 2012 and 2014.² The graph below shows the percentage of people who owned their property versus those who rented between 2012 and 2014. You can see from the graph that the composition has not changed much.

¹ 2012 (M=.85, SD=.95) and 2013 (M=.93, SD=.80); t(186)=-.449, p=.654 2013 (M=.93, SD=.80) and 2014 (M=.76, SD=.86); t(176)=1.08, p=.281. 2012 (M=.85, SD=.95) and 2014 (M=.76, SD=.86); t(284)=.843, p=.400.

² 2012 (M=.43, SD=.50) and 2014 (M=.38, SD=.54); t(291)=.778, p=.437. 2012 (M=.43, SD=.50) and 2013 (M=.43, SD=.50); t(196)=-.04, p=.970. 2013 (M=.43, SD=.50) and 2014 (M=.38, SD=.54); t(181)=.547, p=.585.

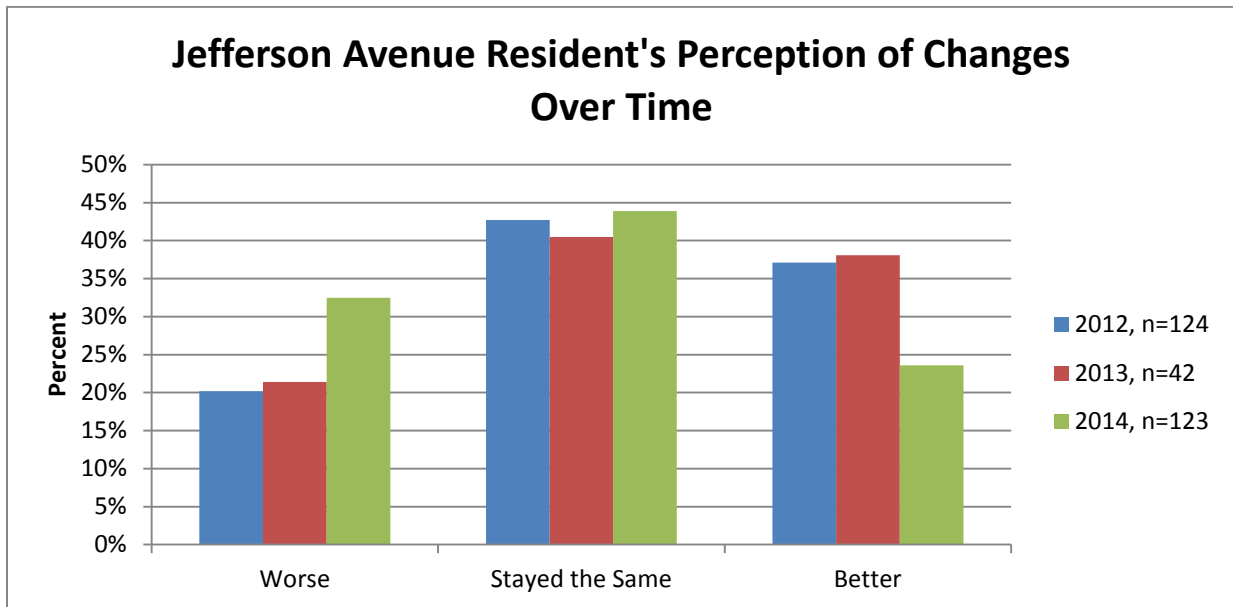


The next comparison that we looked at was the likelihood that residents felt they would still be living in the area in two years. There was not a significant difference in responses between 2012 and 2014.³ The graph below shows the difference in the percentage of people who felt it was not likely, were unsure, and those who felt it was likely that they would still be living in the Jefferson Avenue area in the next two years between surveys given in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Even though the graph shows some variation in the percentages of people, the statistics show no significant difference.



³ 2012 (M=.33, SD=.87) and 2013 (M= .43, SD=.83); t(188)= -.648, p=.518. 2013 (M=.43, SD=.83) and 2014 (M=.24, SD=.89); t(171)=1.232, p=.220. 2012 (M=.33, SD=.87) and 2014(M=.24,SD=.89); t(277)=.895, p= .372

The next comparison that we looked at was Jefferson Avenue residents' perception of changes over time. The survey asked residents if they felt the neighborhood had gotten worse, better, or stayed the same over the last year. The graph below shows these responses for each year this question was asked in the area. There was a statistically significant difference in resident's perception between 2012 and 2014.⁴ We can see from looking at the graph that in 2012, people were a bit more positive than in 2014. In 2012 about 20% of residents felt that the neighborhood had gotten worse compared to about 32% in 2014. There was no statistically significant difference in resident's perception between 2012 and 2013⁵. Between 2013 and 2014 the changes approached significance⁶ and from the graph below it looks that people were slightly more positive in 2013 than in 2014.

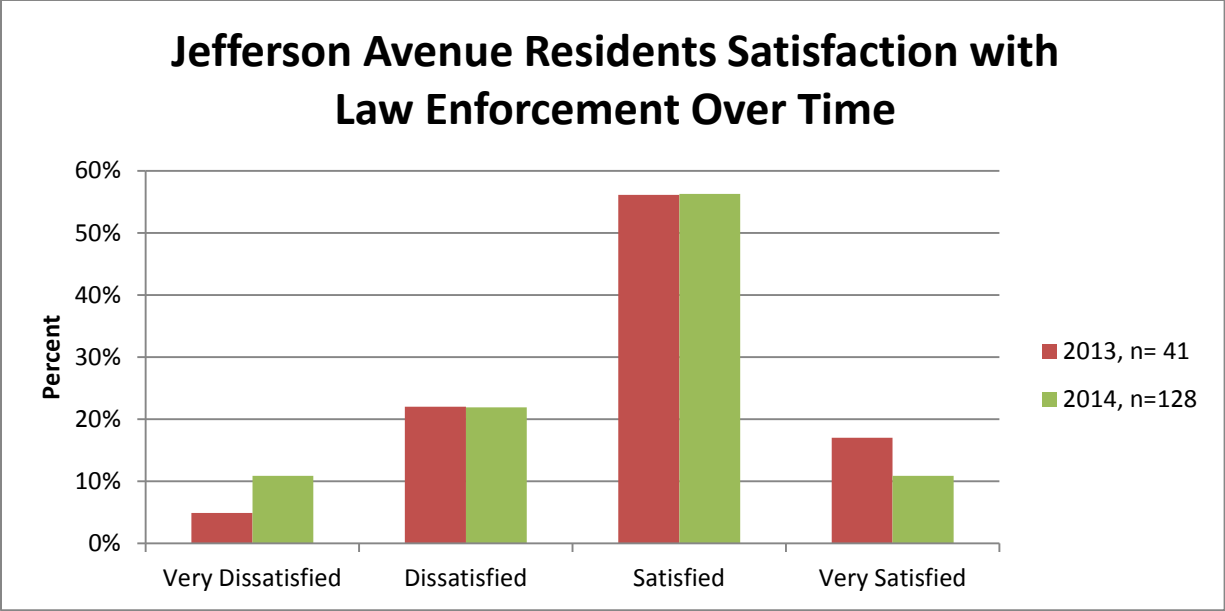


The next comparison that we looked at was Jefferson Avenue residents' satisfaction with law enforcement in the area. This question was added to the survey in 2013, so we are only comparing 2013 and 2014. There was no statistically significant difference between 2013 and 2014. You can see from looking at the graph below that the amount of people who felt dissatisfied was about the same both years as well as the amount of people who felt satisfied. In 2014, it looks like there were more people who felt very dissatisfied and less people who felt very satisfied, however, this difference is not statistically significant.

⁴ 2012 (M=.17, SD=.74) and 2014 (M= -.09, SD=.75); t(245)=2.74, p=.007

⁵ 2012 (M=.17, SD=.74) and 2013 (M=.17, SD=.76);t(164)=.020, p=.984

⁶ 2013 (M=.17, SD=.76) and 2014 (M= -.09, SD=.75); t(163)=1.90, p=.058



Community Values

When comparing T.I.P.S. survey outcomes between 2009 and 2014 in the Jefferson Avenue area, we felt that it was also important to look at how the community’s values and concerns may have changed over time.⁷

The two highest rated values in the Jefferson community have been “quiet” and “nice people and community” from 2009 through 2014. The table below shows the most common community attributes that people rated highest each year.

Highest-rated community attributes	Percentage of people in 2009	Percentage of people in 2012	Percentage of people in 2013	Percentage of people in 2014
Nice people	19.8%	31.6%	40.0%	39.8%
Quiet	24.4%	23.9%	22.5%	21.1%
Location	6.9%	5.2%	5.0%	10.2%
Kids	-	1.9%	12.5%	5.5%

⁷ Note that methods for coding responses to these questions has changed slightly over time, including what categories were used to group responses. As such, any comparisons between years should be made with caution.

Community Concerns

Since 2009, it seems that drugs, violence, and loitering have always been among the highest concerns for the Jefferson Avenue community. More recently however, speeding and traffic concerns seem to have been raised more often. The table below shows the most common community concerns that people rated highest each year.

Highest Rated Community Concerns	Percentage of people in 2009	Percentage of people in 2012	Percentage of people in 2013	Percentage of people in 2014
Drugs	22.8%	15.8%	13.2%	17.9%
Speeding/Traffic	3.1%	11.2%	23.7%	11.6%
Loitering	10.2%	6.6%	13.2%	3.6%
Violence	3.1%	9.2%	7.9	15.2%

Conclusion

Since 2009, we have surveyed the Jefferson Avenue community a total of four times. It seems that between 2009 and 2014, not much has changed in how the community responded to the survey. Residents are still generally happy, and a slight majority of residents continue to rent their property. People in the community are continuing to report that it is fairly likely for them to be living in the area in two-year's time. Residents report that they are still satisfied with the law enforcement in the area, however, in 2014 more people felt that the area had gotten worse over the past year as compared to 2012. Throughout all four of the surveying events, people reported that they highly valued quietness in the neighborhood as well as the nice people and a nice community. Also, the highest concerns seemed to have remained very similar over the years, with the highest-rated concerns being drugs, violence, and loitering. It seems that speeding and other traffic concerns have become more highly-rated concerns in the last year or two.

It would be interesting to know what is currently being done to combat these concerns that residents continue to have. It would be beneficial to come up with new ways to address these concerns since they have continued to be a worry for residents for several years.

From doing this comparison, we have learned that responses to the TIPS survey in this community varied little from year to year, but more changes might be able to become apparent if surveyed several years apart. As such, we recommend that the TIPS initiative:

- Returns to a community only after at least two years since the last survey;
- Considers changes to the survey to be able to better detect variation from year to year;
- Consider changes to the survey to better measure dynamic characteristics like community cohesion and trust in police rather than more static, structural conditions such as residential mobility; and
- Focus on comparing communities rather than comparing single communities over time.