

**Community Concerns and Desires: Analysis of
Genesee & McCree TIPS Compared to TIPS
Average
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On June 23, 2016, the TIPS (Trust, Information, Programs, and Services) initiative was held at the Wilson Foundation Elementary School on the corner of Genesee and McCree Streets in Rochester, New York. The main goal of this initiative is to improve relations between the community and law enforcement through face-to-face interaction, as well as community building through the event that takes place during the initiative with a barbecue, activities for children, and services. During the event, surveys developed by CPSI, were administered in twenty-seven different street segments surrounding Genesee and McCree Streets. Through collecting quantitative data regarding the community's concerns, perceptions of police practices, demographics, as well as feelings of safety and social cohesion in the neighborhood we are able to gain the perspective of the residents. The purpose of this paper is to present the findings from the surveys.

Methodology

Twenty-seven groups of one to three volunteers and a law enforcement officer were sent out to the various street segments selected in the Genesee and McCree neighborhood. Each group was given brief instructions to knock on every door in the street segment and verbally administer the survey to those who agree to participate. All the survey participants must be 18 years or older and live in the area that was surveyed. It is important to note that, because the survey respondents were not selected randomly, there is likely some bias in the results (i.e., only those home when the survey was conducted can take it), and the results from this study cannot be generalized to the population at large.

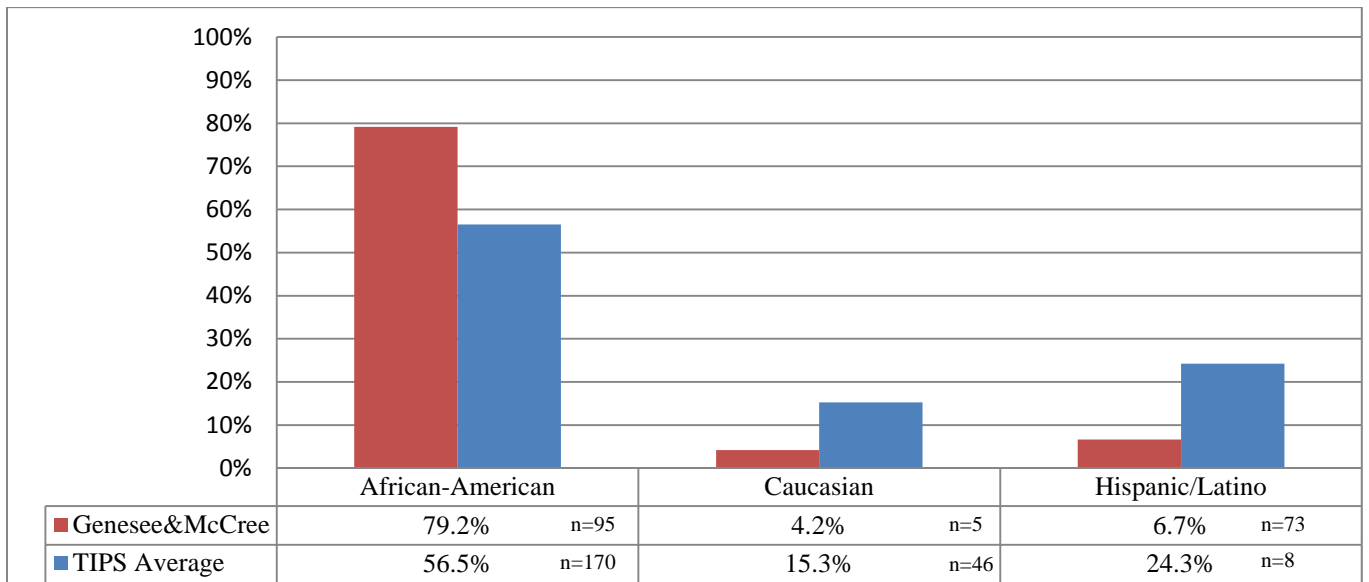
Throughout this paper, the results from Genesee and McCree are compared to the average of all TIPS surveys completed at the four TIPS events in 2015. Those four TIPS locations were: Troup Street, Grand Avenue and Chamberlain Street, Avenue D and Conkey Street, and Carter and Norton Streets.

Demographics

Ethnicity

In the Genesee & McCree community, the community surveyed was primarily African American (79.2%). This is substantially different from the average TIPS 2015 location (See Figure 1).

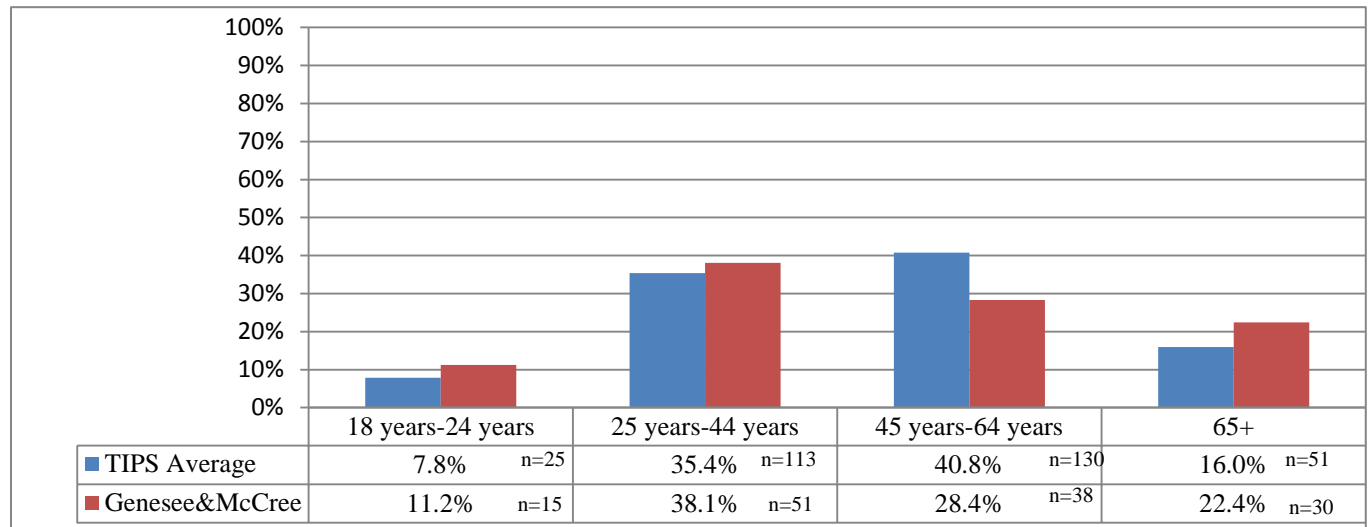
Figure 1: Ethnicity of 2016 Genesee & McCree TIPS Respondents (N=120) vs. 2015 TIPS Average (N=301)



*Due to the limited responses from participants identifying with other ethnicities, they were not included in this chart. Therefore percentages will not add up to 100% for the 2015 TIPS Average or Genesee & McCree.

As shown in Figure 2, the largest percentage of respondents are 25-44 years-old (38.1%), and the second largest percentage are in the 65+ age category (22.4%); both of these percentages are higher than the average TIPS 2015 respondents'. The mean age of Genesee & McCree TIPS respondents is 46.9 years old.

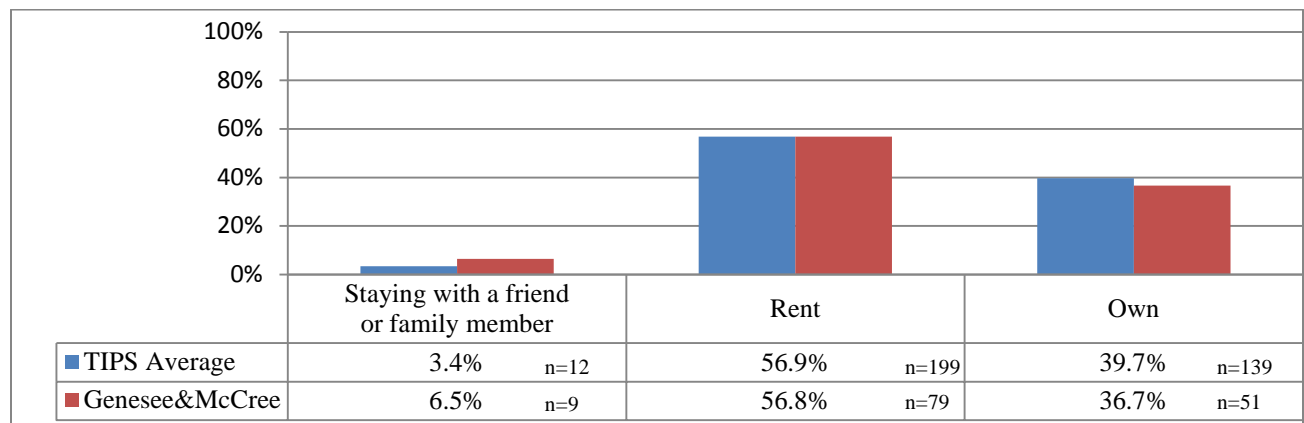
Figure 2: Age Groups of 2016 Genesee & McCree TIPS Respondents (N=134) vs. 2015 TIPS Average (N=319)



Homeownership and Social Cohesion

Respondents were asked if they owned or rented their residence. Most respondents are renters (56.8%) and 36.7% are homeowners. These results are similar to the TIPS 2015 average (See Figure 3).

Figure 3: Residential Status of 2016 Genesee & McCree TIPS Respondents (N=139) vs. 2015 TIPS Average (N=350)



Social cohesion of a neighborhood was measured through the Likert-style question “How often do you have conversations with your neighbors,” as well as through the open-ended

question “How many *different* neighbors do you speak with *regularly*?” Compared to TIPS 2015 averages, Genesee & McCree had slightly lower percentages of participants who spoke to no neighbors or never spoke to neighbors, but otherwise, Genesee and McCree respondents were similar to the TIPS 2015 average (See Figure 4).

Figure 4: How Often 2016 Genesee & McCree TIPS Respondents Speak To Their Neighbors (N=135) Versus 2015 TIPS Average (N=260)

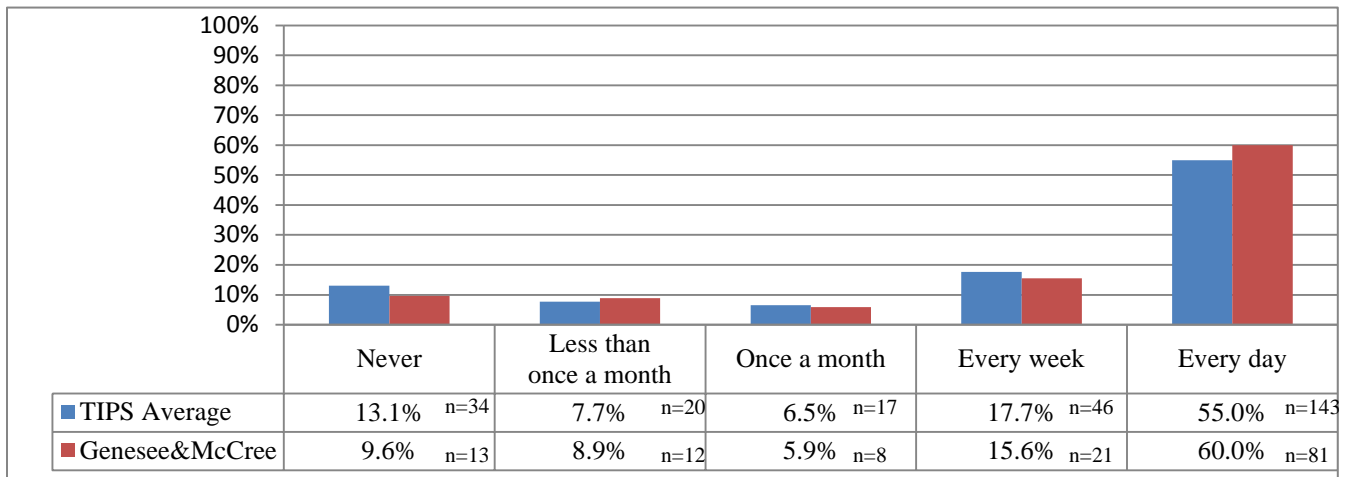
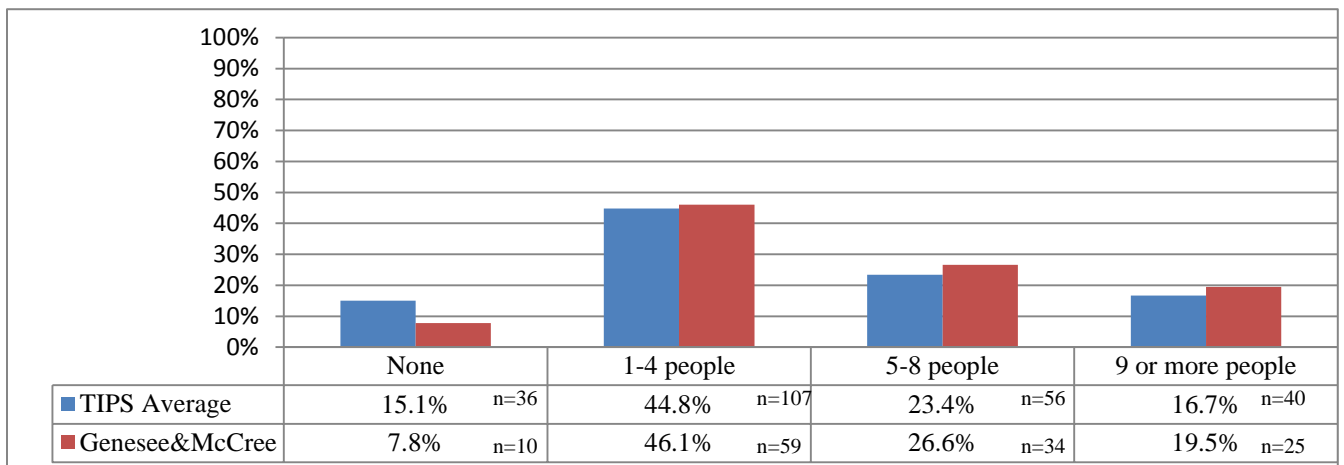


Figure 5: How Many Different Neighbors Genesee & McCree TIPS Respondents Speak To (N=128) Versus 2015 TIPS Average (N=239)



Community Concerns

Participants were also asked a variety of forced choice questions about their concern with specific issues in the neighborhood. Respondents were given the following choices to respond to a concern question with: not at all, minor concern, or major concern. Overall, the major neighborhood concerns identified by Genesee and McCree respondents were violence, speeding, and drug usage with percentages shown in Table 1.

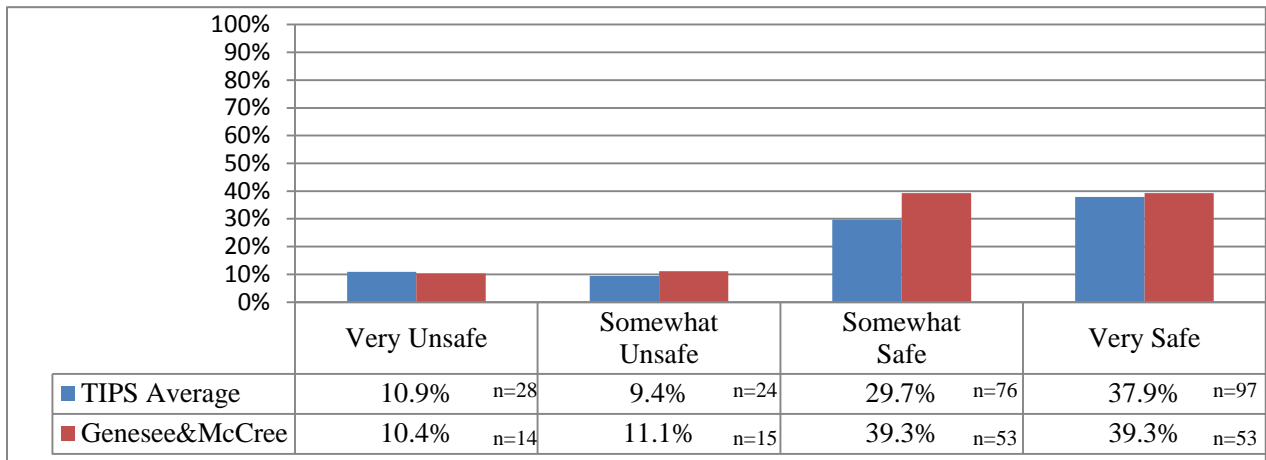
Table 1: Genesee & McCree Major Community Concerns versus 2015 TIPS Average

Concern	Genesee & McCree		2015 TIPS Average	
Violence	N=137	51.1% (n=70)	N=255	38.8% (n=99)
Speeding	N=137	47.4% (n=65)	N=253	54.5% (n=138)
Drug Usage	N=133	45.9% (n=61)	N=250	50.0% (n=125)
Drug Selling	N=133	39.1% (n=52)	N=252	44.4% (n=111)
Gangs	N=136	31.6% (n=43)	N=249	31.3% (n=78)
Theft/Burglary	N=136	27.9% (n=38)	N=254	35.4% (n=90)
Property Maintenance	N=129	25.6% (n=33)	N=237	25.3% (n=60)
Stray Animals/Pests	N=135	25.2% (n=34)	N=251	20.3% (n=51)

Feelings of Safety

We asked respondents how safe they felt in their neighborhood. The majority of Genesee & McCree respondents felt “very safe” or “somewhat safe,” which was similar to the TIPS 2015 Average (See Figure 6).

Figure 6: How Safe Genesee & McCree TIPS Respondents Felt in their Neighborhood (N=135) vs. 2015 TIPS Average (N=256)



Note: The response of “neutral” feeling of safety was omitted as it was only included in the Grand Avenue and Chamberlain Street survey. Therefore, the 2015 TIPS Average will not total 100%.

Collective Efficacy

A portion of our survey asked questions related to the concept of “collective efficacy.” Collective efficacy is a term coined by Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls (1997) in their study of Chicago neighborhoods.¹ We used three of the questions, shown in Table 2, from a survey developed by Sampson et al. (1997) to measure the collective efficacy of Genesee & McCree neighborhoods. Higher collective efficacy is related to decreased neighborhood violence, motivational commitment to group missions, and resilience to adversity.²

Respondents were given options to respond to collective efficacy questions with: strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. For the purpose of this table and the collective efficacy scale, strongly agree and agree were coded into “agreement.” Similarly, strongly disagree and disagree were coded into “disagreement.” Furthermore, we compiled the coded

¹ Sampson, J. R., Raudenbush, W. S., & Earls, F. (1997). Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy. *Science*, 277, 918-924

² Bandura, A. (2000). Exercise of human agency through collective efficacy. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 9(3), 75-78

responses into a scale in which “agreement” to a question was counted as a point into the scale, in which the highest score is “3” and the lowest score is “0.” Respondents in Genesee and McCree responded similarly to the TIPS 2015 average, and most agreed with these statements.

Table 2: Percentage of Genesee & McCree Respondents Who Agree with Collective Efficacy Questions vs. TIPS Average

Statement	Genesee & McCree		TIPS 2015 Average	
People around here are willing to help neighbors.	N=129	78.0% (n=101)	N=259	79.9% (n=207)
People in this neighborhood share the same values.	N=119	60.5% (n=72)	N=253	58.1% (n=147)
I could count on my neighbors to intervene if a fight broke out in front of my house.	N=129	56.7% (n=77)	N=256	65.2% (n=167)

Overall, Genesee & McCree’s mean score for collective efficacy was 2 out of 3, about the same as the TIPS 2015 average of 2.03.

Law Enforcement Satisfaction

Table 3 shows the items that respondents were asked about satisfaction with law enforcement. In general, Genesee & McCree respondents perceived the Rochester Police Department’s (RPD) practices slightly better than the TIPS 2015 average. The biggest difference was that Genesee & McCree respondents agree substantially less than the TIPS 2015 average that the RPD exhibits excessive force or unwarranted stopping (See Table 3).

Identical to the protocols of the collective efficacy scale, we compiled a scale for RPD satisfaction. Respondents were asked to choose from: strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree as response choices. For the purpose of the scale, strongly disagree and disagree were coded into “disagreement,” and strongly agree and agree were coded into “agreement.” Agreement to a question would imply satisfaction and add a point onto the RPD satisfaction scale, with the exception of the last two questions in the table which were reverse coded, and

agreement would signify dissatisfaction. The lowest score on the RPD scale is a “0” and the highest is a “6.”

Overall, Genesee & McCree’s mean Rochester Police Satisfaction was 4.58 out of 6, which is substantially higher than the TIPS 2015 Average of 4.22.

Table 3: Percentage of Genesee & McCree Respondents Who Agree With Police Satisfaction Statements vs. 2015 TIPS Average

Statement	Genesee & McCree		TIPS 2015 Average	
	N	% (n)	N	% (n)
The police work with the community to solve problems that really matter to people in my neighborhood.	N=116	80.2% (n=93)	N=252	75% (n=189)
RPD officers listen to what you have to say.	N=121	76.9% (n=93)	N=258	76.7% (n=198)
The RPD does a good job preventing crime.	N=131	77.9% (n=102)	N=261	71.3% (n=186)
RPD response time is appropriate.	N=120	71.7% (n=86)	N=255	63.5% (n=162)
Police stopping people without good reason is a problem in my neighborhood. ³	N=126	25.4% (n=32)	N=259	30.5% (n=71)
Police use of excessive force (verbal or physical) is an issue in my neighborhood. ³	N=126	23.0% (n=29)	N=256	33.2% (n=78)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the majority of respondents to the Genesee & McCree TIPS survey were African American, which was substantially higher than the TIPS 2015 average and an average age of approximately 47 years old, which is older than the average TIPS 2015 respondents. The Genesee and McCree respondents were primarily renters, which is very similar to the average 2015 TIPS respondent. Genesee & McCree respondents socialized with their neighbors slightly more often than the average TIPS 2015 respondents, but both TIPS 2015 and Genesee and McCree TIPS had similar collective efficacy scores.

Violence, speeding, and drug usage were the most frequently identified major concerns of the respondents living in Genesee and McCree neighborhood. Over half of these respondents

³ Responses were reverse coded as agreement would imply dissatisfaction with police.

identified violence as a major concern in the Genesee and McCree neighborhood, yet, these respondents reported higher satisfaction with Rochester Police Department practices than the 2015 TIPS average. One possible explanation is that RPD has been working closely with the neighborhood to address the reported violence, as 80% of respondents agreed that RPD was working with the community to solve problems that matter to residents. If RPD continues to work with the residents to reduce violence, then future TIPS surveys conducted in this neighborhood may reveal that violence is no longer a major concern to 50% of the respondents.