REPORT ON WESTSIDE-SOUTH VALLEY
WEED AND SEED COMMUNITY SURVEY

PREPARED BY THE NEW MEXICO STATISTICAL ANALYIS CENTER

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INTRODUCTION

Weed and Seed is a community-based strategy, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, for preventing, controlling, and reducing violent crime, drug abuse and gang activity in high-crime neighborhoods across the country. The Weed and Seed strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers and public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. The Albuquerque Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area was established in 2003. The current report outlines the findings from the Westside-South Valley community survey. The survey team includes members of the New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center (the research partner of the Albuquerque Weed and Seed Program), Dolores Herrera (Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed Coordinator), and local volunteers from the program area neighborhoods. This report was compiled by the New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center.

The goal of the survey was to collect information from a sample of program area residents concerning important neighborhood characteristics that relate to the overall objectives of the Weed and Seed program. These characteristics include both positive attributes such as helping behavior among neighbors, and police activity in the neighborhoods, as well as more problematic attributes such as crime, and fear of crime. In addition to assessing community member perceptions of these attributes, we were also interested in evaluating how these perceptions have changed over the last year. While reported changes cannot be directly linked to Weed and Seed, they do indicate whether or not the general direction of change is consistent with Weed and Seed goals.

The following sections report the data collection methods; the characteristics of the respondents; their perceptions of their neighborhoods; and how they feel their neighborhoods have changed over the last year. We also, where possible, discuss how perceptions of the neighborhoods are related to the characteristics of the respondents.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

The data were collected using a survey instrument adapted from the Weed and Seed Community Survey, published by the U.S. Department of Justice (Roehl, 2002). The Weed and Seed Community Survey was modified to focus on issues specific to the Albuquerque West-Side South Valley Weed and Seed program area. Our original sampling strategy was to survey a sample of two hundred respondents in various public settings within the program area. Local volunteers came up with a list of neighborhood businesses, community centers, and churches that service a diverse set of community constituents to serve as the survey locations. We planned to have volunteers spend a few hours at various times of the day inviting individuals to participate in the survey. While this would not create a random sample of respondents, our goal was to survey a wide variety of individuals with varied demographic characteristics in at attempt to gather a broadly representative group of respondents. This strategy was also intended to insure representation from all of the different neighborhoods in the program area.

The Weed and Seed coordinator made significant efforts to recruit volunteers from the seven neighborhood association's steering committees. The sampling strategy had to be changed during the final stages of the survey's field process, in response to lack of participation by three of the neighborhood associations. The shortage of volunteer interviewers was solved by collaborating with the participating neighborhood representatives and other weed and seed

program associates (N =17) who, volunteered to recruit residents from the program area to participate in a less systemic fashion.

As a result, the respondents are not as representative of the program area population, nor do we have strong representation from all of the neighborhoods in the Weed and Seed program area. However, the respondents do represent a convenience sample of a broad range of program area residents. Thus, while we cannot be sure that their views and opinions represent the larger population, we feel that the data can offer insight into the attitudes of a group of program area residents and the community issues that are salient to their lives.

A total of one hundred and eighteen (n= 118) interviews were conducted with residents of seven Weed and Seed site neighborhoods (the survey instrument is included as Appendix 1). Of these, six cases are eliminated due to blocks of missing data. A discussion of the missing data is available in Appendix 2. The findings presented here are generated from the remaining 112 interviews.

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

We begin by reporting respondent neighborhood of residence and length of residence in their current neighborhood. Next, we summarize individual demographic characteristics including: sex, age, race/ethnicity, educational background, and employment status. The composition and income of respondent households are presented in the final part of this section. For each area, we also highlight how the survey sample compares to the general population of the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area.

Respondent Neighborhoods

Respondents to the Westside-South Valley survey come from seven of the eight neighborhoods within the Weed and Seed program area: Alamosa, Armijo, Crestview Bluff,

Five Points, Pat Hurley, Vecinos del Bosque, and West Mesa. Los Altos Civic is completely

contained within the program area; however, no respondents to the survey report living in this

neighborhood. Similarly, some areas of the program site are not contained within a

neighborhood association; again no survey respondents reported living outside of the seven

neighborhoods. It should be noted that almost seventy percent of survey respondents come from

only three neighborhoods: Pat Hurley (n = 28), Crestview Bluff (n = 30), and Alamosa (n = 20).

Figure 1 shows the percentage of survey respondents by neighborhood.

Figure 1. Percentage of Respondents by Neighborhood, n = 112
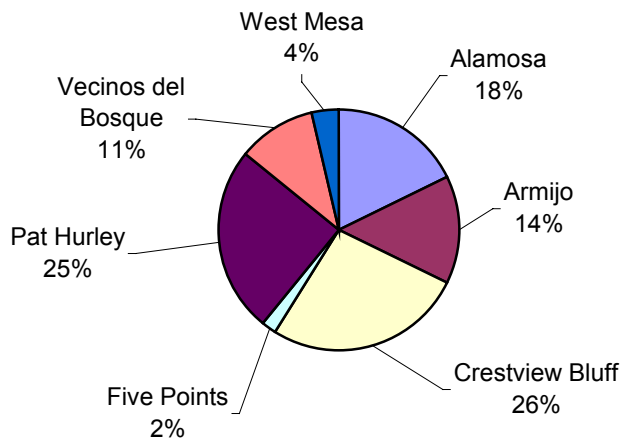
Survey respondents also tend to be long-term residents in their neighborhoods. Over fifty

percent of the survey sample has lived in the reported neighborhood for more than ten years (n =

59). An additional 18.8 percent of respondents report between five and ten years of residence (n

= 21), 16.1 percent report between two and five years (n = 18), 7.1 percent between one and two

years (n= 8), and 5.4 percent of respondents have lived in their neighborhood for less than twelve

months (n = 6). Over 50 percent of respondents in each of the three most represented

neighborhoods fall into the 10 + years of residency category. This means that almost 37 percent

of the total sample is a long-term resident of one of the three most represented neighborhoods (n = 42).

<div align="center">**Respondent Demographics**</div>

Sex and Age

The sample of Westside-South Valley residents participating in the survey differs somewhat from the population of the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area in terms of age distribution, but is quite similar in regards to sex. Males comprise slightly less than 50 percent of Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed area residents (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005), while 53 percent of the survey sample is male (n = 59)[1]. Survey participants most often report being between the ages of 50 and 54 years (n = 39, 34.8%). Slightly more than 52 percent of respondents report that they are over the age of 50 and over 68 percent of the sample report being over the age of 40. The average age of area residents is 32.6 years, younger than the median age of both Albuquerque and Bernalillo County residents (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). The average age of survey respondents cannot be calculated from the data collected; however, the average age of respondents is clearly higher than the age of the program area population.

Race/Ethnicity

The distribution of the race/ethnicity of survey respondents is somewhat comparable to the program area population. The Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed site has a higher percentage of Hispanic residents and a lower percentage of White residents when compared to the city and county population (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). This is also true for the distribution of survey respondents. Hispanic is the most often reported race/ethnicity among survey participants (n = 73, 65.2%), followed by White (n = 26, 23.2%),

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[1] Calculated based on a sample size of 110 due to missing information on sex for two respondents.

and the remaining participants reporting Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian or some other race/ethnicity (n = 13, 21.6%). U.S. Census data from 2000[2] show that slightly more than 83 percent of Westside-South Valley residents are Hispanic, 11.6 percent White, and 5 percent Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian or some other race/ethnicity. Given the ethnic distribution in the program area, White residents are over represented and Hispanic Residents are under represented in the sample of survey respondents.

Educational Background

Survey participants again differ from the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program site population in terms of educational achievement. Thirty-five percent of the population has less than a high school education and 31 percent of the population age 25 and older have some post-secondary education (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). Among survey respondents, there is both an under-representation of residents without a high school diploma (n = 8, 7.3%)[3] and an overrepresentation of residents with post-secondary education (n = 60, 54.6%).

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[2] Race/Ethnicity of Westside Weed and Seed Program Area retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau and compiled by the Statistical Analysis Center, Institute for Social Research at the University of New Mexico.
[3] Educational attainment percentages are calculated based on a sample size of 110 due to missing information on two surveys.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents

	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Sample
Sex		
Male	59	53.6
Female	51	46.4
N	110	
Age		
Under 18	2	1.8
18-24	7	6.3
25-29	11	9.8
30-39	14	12.5
40-49	18	16.1
50-64	39	34.8
65 +	20	17.9
Don't know	1	.9
N	112	
Race/Ethnicity		
Hispanic	73	65.2
White	26	23.2
Black	4	3.6
American Indian	2	1.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	1.8
Other	4	3.6
Don't know	1	.9
N	112	
Education		
No high school degree	8	7.3
Completed high school or equivalent	42	38.2
Some college	39	35.5
College Graduate	9	8.2
Post-Graduate Degree	12	10.9
N	110	

Employment Status

Labor force participation is lower among survey participants when compared to the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed area population. Previous reports estimate that among residents 16 years of age and older, slightly less than 62 percent are in the labor force (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). Only forty-nine percent of survey respondents (n = 56) report either full or part-time employment. Figure 2 presents the distribution of respondents by employment status.

Figure 2. Percentage of Respondents in Employment Status Categories, n = 112
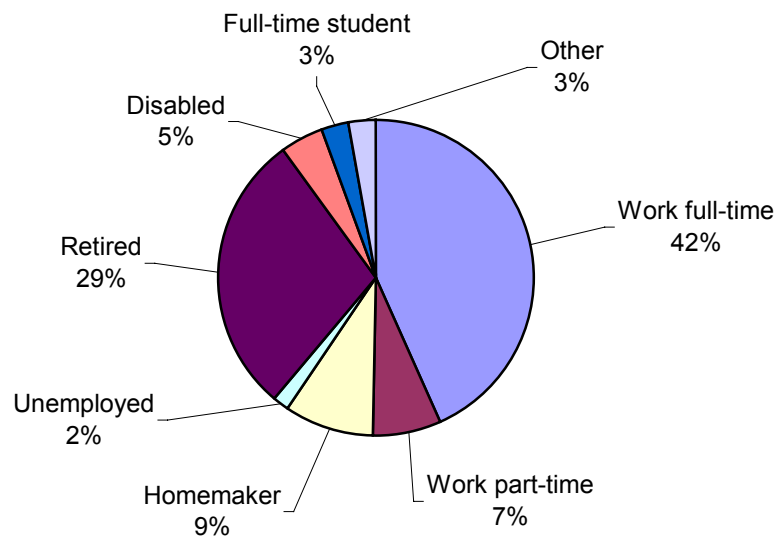
Similarly, there is an under-representation of unemployed persons among survey respondents. Slightly less than 2 percent of the sample reports being unemployed. The program area has an unemployment rate of 9.1 percent, higher than the rate of unemployment in the city, county, and the state (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). Figure 3 compares the labor force participation and level of unemployment among survey respondents, the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed area population, the city of Albuquerque, the county, and the state.

Figure 3. Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Comparing Survey Respondents to Local Populations[4]

% in labor force
% unemployed

Survey Respondents

Westside Weed and Seed Site

Albuquerque

Bernalillo County

New Mexico
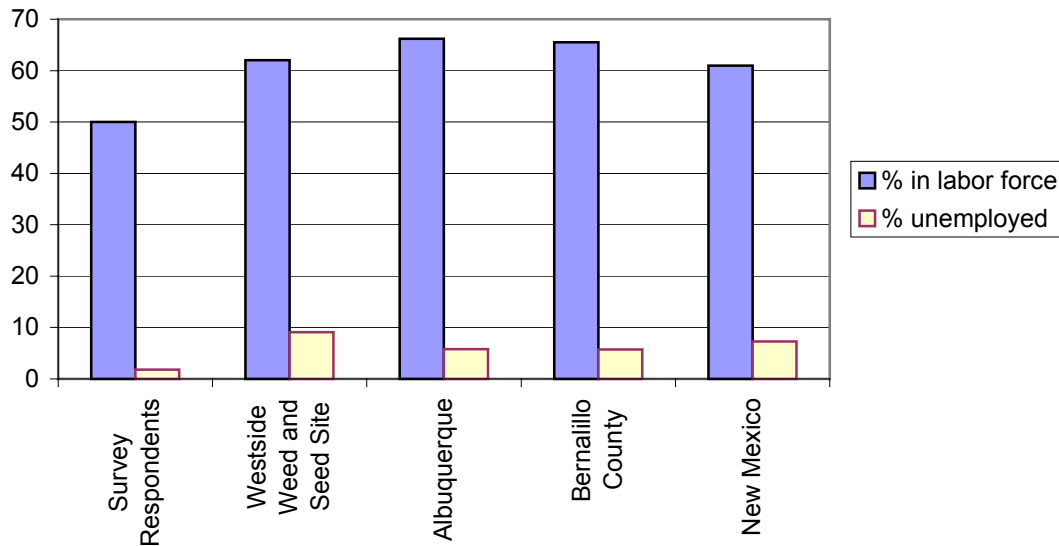
The under-representation of labor force participation and unemployment among survey respondents is perhaps influenced by the age distribution of the sample. Almost 29 percent of the sample report that they are retired (n = 32).

Households

Composition

The majority of survey respondents live in a household with at least one other person over the age of 18 (n = 81, 72%), while 25 percent report living alone (n = 28). We are unable to provide an accurate count of the number of persons under the age of 18 years in survey respondent households due to an error in the survey instrument. The question regarding the number of minors did not offer zero as a response category. As a result, over 51 percent of responses were coded as "don't know" or missing (n = 58). What we do know is that fifty-four

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[4] Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed site figures taken from "The Westside Weed and Seed Site: Social Attainment, Demographic, and Crime Characteristics in Nine Contiguous Neighborhoods." (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). Figures for the city of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and the state of New Mexico retrieved from the American Fact Finder table on "Employment Status and Commuting to Work: 2000" (U.S. Census Bureau).

persons responded that at least one person under the age of 18 years lived in the household. Within this group, slightly more than 51 percent have one minor living in the household, 33 percent of respondents have two, 9 percent have three, and the remaining respondents report four persons under the age of 18 years living in the household.

We also examined these data applying the assumption that the 58 cases coded as "don't know" or missing on this variable have no children under 18 in the home. Figure 4 demonstrates the change in the distribution using this assumption. It should be noted that it is not possible to know for certain whether each missing case is actually a household without a minor. A review of the interview documents reveals that slightly more than 41 percent of these respondents indicated to the interviewer that no minors live in the household (n = 24). Moreover, for a sample that is predominately over the age of 50 years, it is reasonable to think that over 50 percent of respondents would not have persons under the age of 18 living in the household.

Figure 4. Comparison of Reported and Estimated Number of Persons under the Age of 18 years in the Household
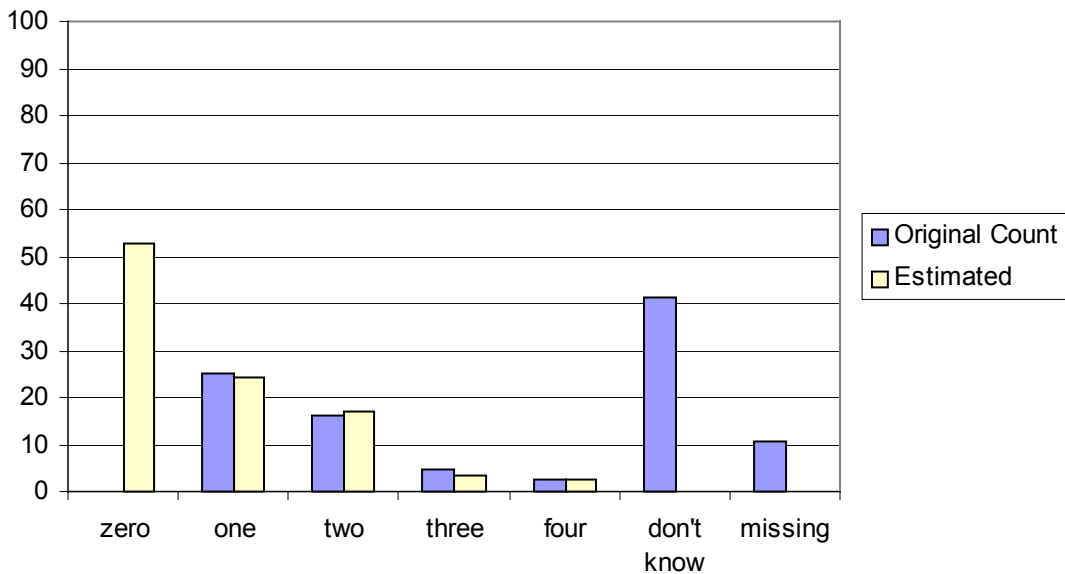
Household size in the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area is larger on average than both city and county households. The average number of people per household within the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area is 2.97, with approximately 46 percent of households having at least one minor child (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). While we can neither calculate household size nor provide an accurate account of number of children in the household, it appears that survey respondent households are atypical when compared to the program area.

Income

The survey sample also differs from the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed area population in terms of household income. The per capita income for Westside-South Valley program area residents is $13,116; with 34 percent of households in the program area having an income below $20,000 (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). Survey participants most commonly report a household income between $30,000 and $39,000 (n = 25, 22.3%). Slightly more than 52 percent of respondents report a household income of over $30,000, and less than 15 percent report income below $20,000. More than 13 percent of participants either did not know or chose not to answer the question on household income (n = 15). In sum, these findings suggest that survey respondents came from households with incomes above the average of the program area. Table 2 presents the distribution of household income among survey respondents.

Table 2. Respondent Household Income

	Number of respondents	Percentage of Reporting Sample
Household Income		
Under $13,000	8	8.2
$13,000-19,999	8	8.2
$20,000-29,999	22	22.7
$30,000-39,999	25	25.8
$40,000-59,999	16	16.5
$60,000 and up	18	18.6
Don't Know	15	-
N	112	97

Overall, survey respondents are not representative of the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area population. This is to be expected since the survey sample was not representatively drawn. However, this description is important because special caution should be exercised in interpreting the perceptions of survey participants. The vast majority of respondents come from fewer than half of the neighborhoods in the program site, tend to be long-term residents, and differ from the general population in terms of age, education, employment status, and household income. Therefore, it would be inaccurate to characterize the following findings as reflective of the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area population as a whole. However, the responses do represent the sentiment of a group of generally older respondents with established roots in the Weed and Seed site area. Their observations, though not reflective of the community as a whole, are nonetheless one lens through which we can view the current community climate.

PERCEPTIONS OF NEIGHBORHOOD

An important element of the Weed and Seed strategy for reducing neighborhood crime is building stronger communities. This section summarizes respondent perceptions of their neighborhoods. Respondents were first asked to comment on their overall perception of

neighborhood improvement. Many report that over the past year, their neighborhood has

become a better place to live (46.4 %, n = 52). Only 17 percent of respondents indicate that the

neighborhood is worse today than it was one year ago (n = 19). Table 3 presents the distribution

of respondent opinions on neighborhood improvement. Respondents living in their neighborhood

for at least five years are more likely than others to report that their neighborhood has become a

better place to live. Residents were then asked more detailed questions on their relationships with

others in the community, public nuisances, and fear of crime. Respondents were also asked to

comment on whether or not they perceive improvement in these specific areas over the past year

or since they have established residency. The findings are organized into four categories:

relationships with neighbors, community/police relations, public nuisances, and fear of crime.

Table 3. Perceptions of Overall Neighborhood Change, n = 112

	Number	Percentage
Direction of Change		
Better	52	46.4
Same	40	35.7
Worse	19	17.0
Don't Know	1	.9

Relationships with Neighbors

Overall, Westside-South Valley residents characterize their neighbors as both helpful and

trustworthy. The majority of respondents report observing at least some helping behavior among

their neighbors (66.9%, n = 75), with slightly more than 22 percent reporting such behavior as

occurring "a lot" (n = 25). When asked if helping behavior had changed over the past year, the

most frequent response was no change. Among those reporting change, an increase in helping

behavior is reported more often than a decrease (32.1%, n = 36 compared to 6.3%, n = 7). Long-

term residents more often report "a lot" of helping behavior among neighbors. Respondent

opinions on helping behavior among neighbors also differ by income, with residents in the lower

income ranges being more likely than others to report "a lot" of such behavior in their

neighborhoods. Figures 5 and 6 show the distribution of responses to survey questions regarding

helping behavior among neighbors.

Figure 5. Perceptions of Helping Behavior Among Neighbors, n = 112
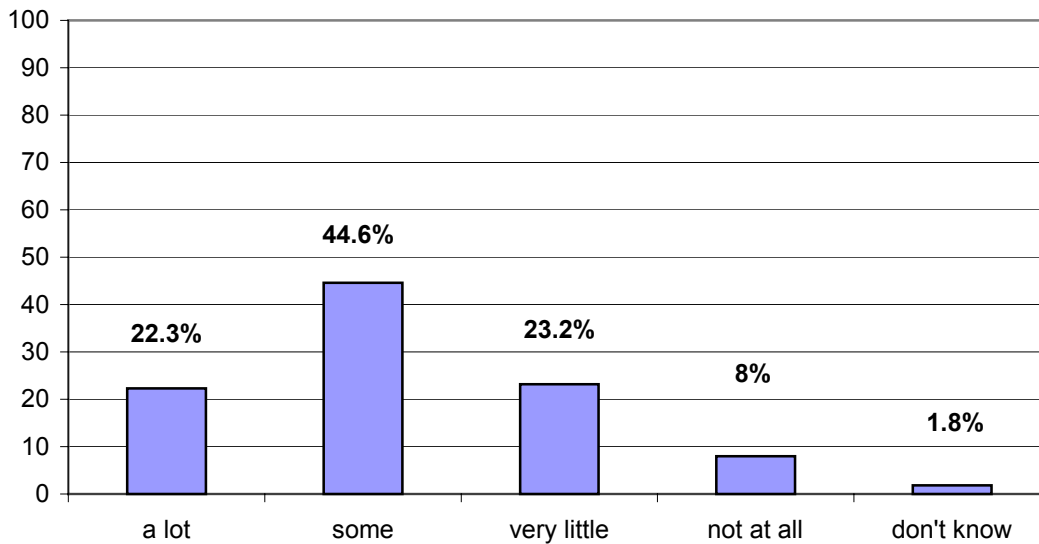
Figure 6. Perceptions of Change in Helping Behavior Among Neighbors, n = 112
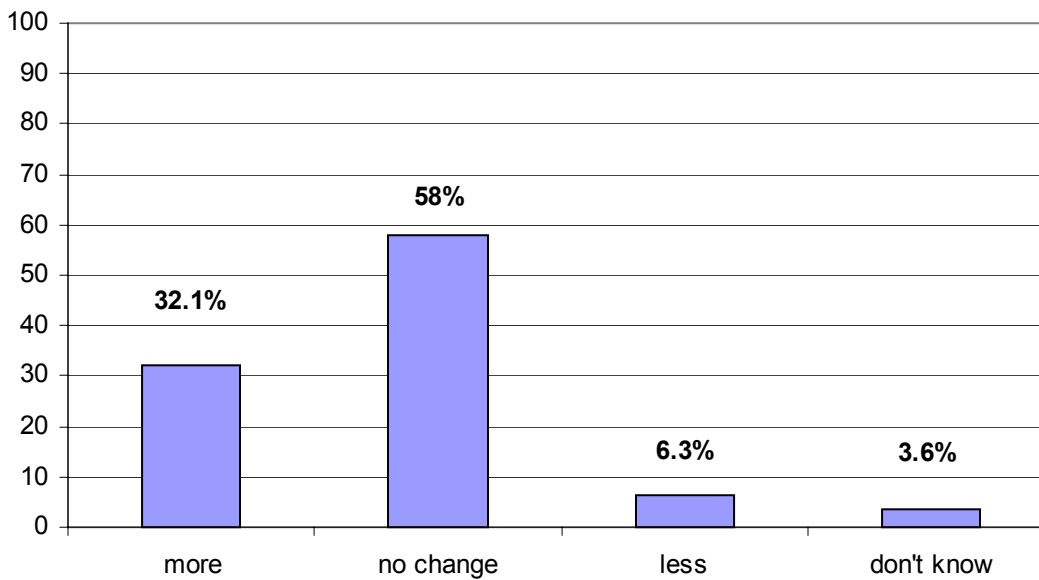
When asked how many neighbors they trust to watch their homes while they are away,

over 86 percent report at least a few trustworthy neighbors (n = 96). Of those with trustworthy

neighbors, slightly more than 36 percent (n = 35) have many trusted neighbors. Only fourteen

participants report that they trusted no one in the neighborhood (12.5%). Again the most

frequent response to change in the number of trusted neighbors over the past year was no change.

Among those reporting change, an increase in trusted neighbors is reported more often than a

decrease (33.9%, n = 38 compared to 10.7%, n = 12). Figures 7 and 8 present the distribution of

survey responses to questions on trust in neighbors.

Figure 7. Number of Trustworthy Neighbors, n = 112
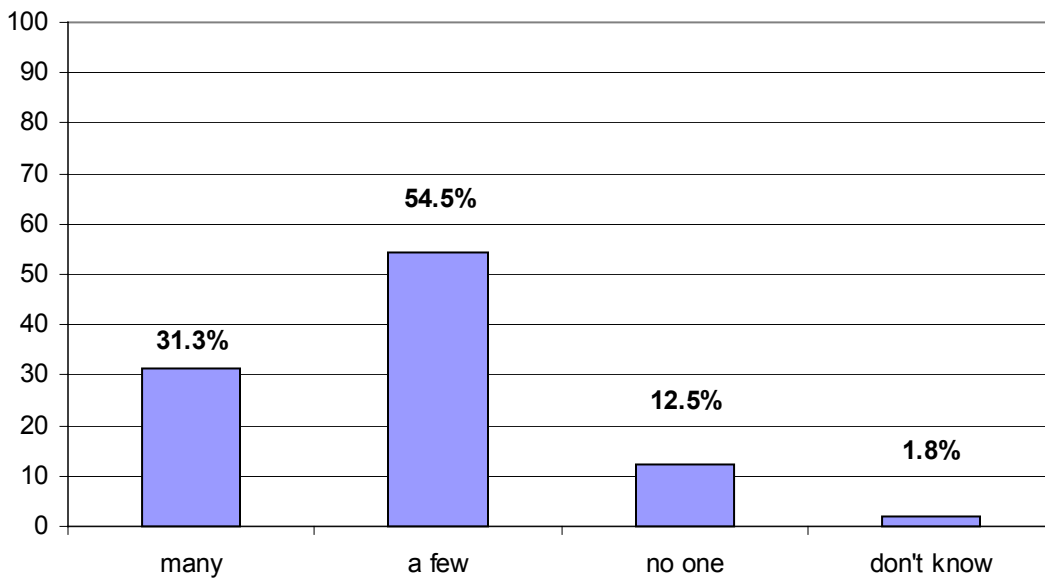
Figure 8. Change in Number of Trustworthy Neighbors, n = 112
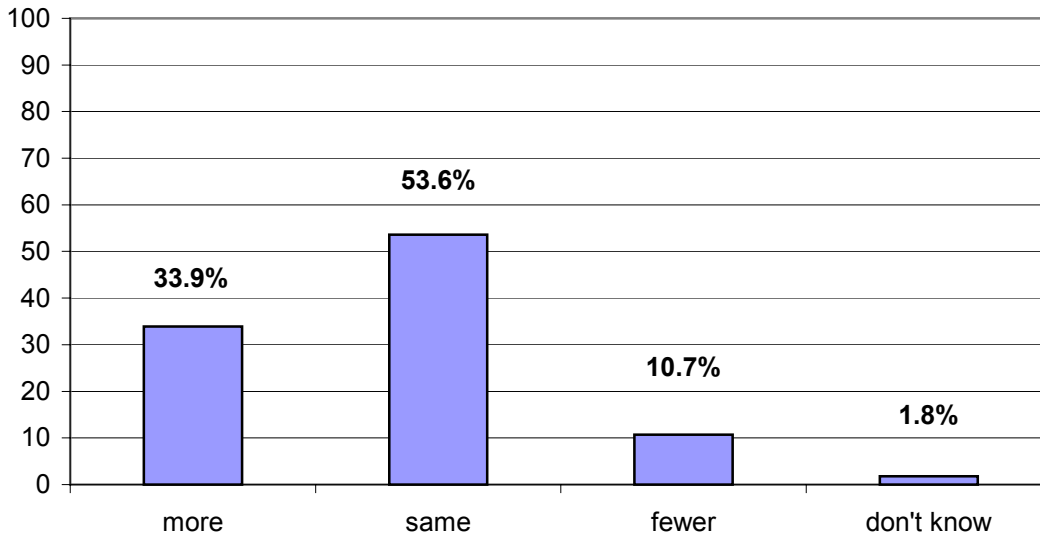
Community/Police Relations

A key objective of the Weed and Seed program is to foster positive relationships between neighborhood residents and the police. Figure 9 presents the distribution of respondent opinions on community/police relations. Overall, respondents indicate a preference for more contact with the police in their neighborhoods. Sixty two percent of survey participants (n = 70) report that not having enough contact with police is a moderate to serious problem. However, thirty four percent of respondents (n=38) indicate that police stopping citizens for "no good reason" is at least a minor problem. These findings suggest somewhat mixed feelings about community relationship with the police.

Figure 9. Perceptions of Policing Activity, n = 112
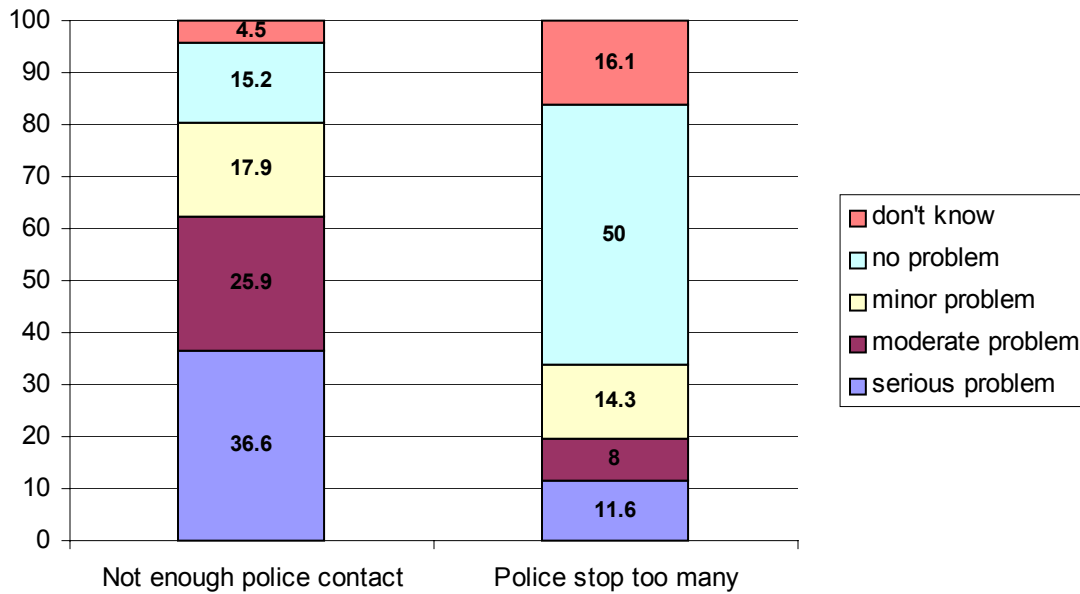
Figure 10 demonstrates the distribution of respondent opinions on change in community police relations over the past year. For both questions, most report that community police interaction has changed little over the past year. Among those who responded that the level of police contact in the neighborhood has changed, the more frequent opinion is that the situation is worse rather than better (19.6 %, n = 22 compared to 13.4 %. n = 15). There is a negligible difference between the changes in direction reported for police stopping citizens without cause (6.3 percent better, 7.1 percent worse). However, slightly more than 30 percent of participants report that they have no knowledge regarding change in police stopping citizens without cause over the past year (16 percent did not know if this was a problem in their neighborhood). One explanation for the high number of "don't know" responses may be that the survey respondents are largely concentrated in higher age groups; and therefore lack the personal experience of being stopped by the police, which is most common among younger residents.

Figure 10. Perceptions of Change in Policing Activity, n = 112
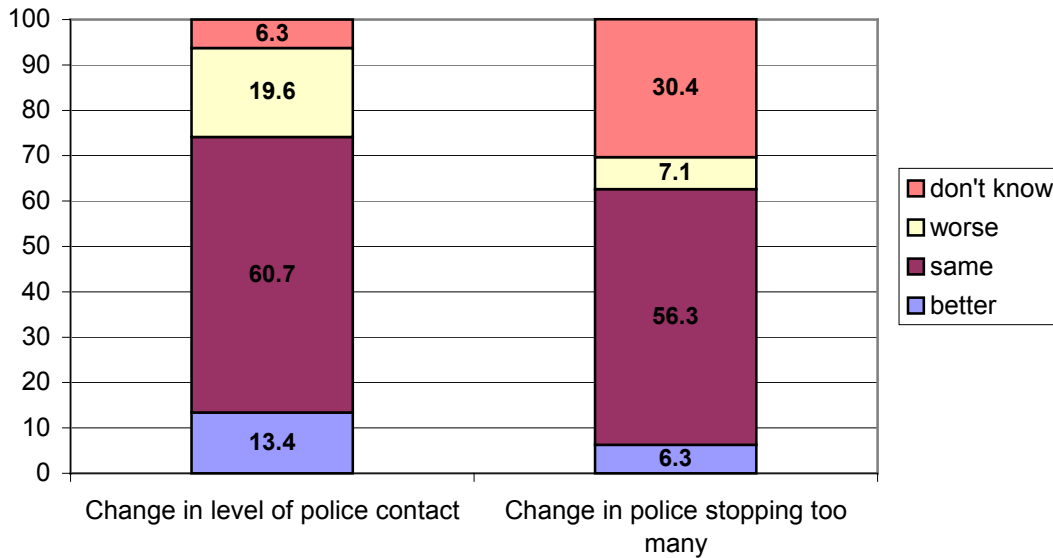
Resident attitudes on police/community relations differ on the basis of respondent employment status and neighborhood of residence. Retirees are more likely than any other employment status group to report police not making enough contact with residents as a "serious problem." Both part-time workers and homemakers are more likely than those in other employment categories to report that police contact with residents has improved over the past year. Survey participants living in the Alamosa and Crestview Bluff neighborhoods seem to be the most satisfied with community/police relations (all differences across neighborhoods are listed in a table in Appendix 3).[5] Respondents from these neighborhoods are more likely than others to report unnecessary police stops are "no problem," and residents of Alamosa also more likely than others to report improvement in the level of police contact in their neighborhoods. Residents from Armijo are more likely than other respondents to characterize both a lack of police contact and police stopping citizens unnecessarily as "serious problems." Respondents

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[5] Even in the most represented neighborhood (Crestview Bluff), only thirty residents participated in the survey. The disproportionate and low number of respondents per neighborhood combined with the unrepresentative nature of the sample suggests that findings of neighborhood difference should be interpreted with caution.

from Armijo are also the most likely to say the level of police contact has gotten worse over the past year.

Public Nuisances and Youth Disruption

Although public nuisance crimes are less serious in nature and subsequently carry less severe penalties than other types of crime, they can and do affect the quality of neighborhood life. Litter on the streets, public drinking and gambling, and youth loitering and vandalism are highly visible offenses. Over 50 percent of survey respondents characterize both littering and youth disruption in the forms of loitering, vandalism, and noise as moderate to serious problems in their neighborhoods (n = 61 and n = 57, respectively). Public drinking and gambling is less frequently reported as a serious problem (11.6%, n = 13) and most frequently reported as no problem at all (38.4%, n = 43). Figure 11 presents the distribution of survey responses to questions regarding public nuisance crimes and youth disruptive behaviors.

Figure 11. Perceptions on Public Nuisance and Youth Disruption, n = 112
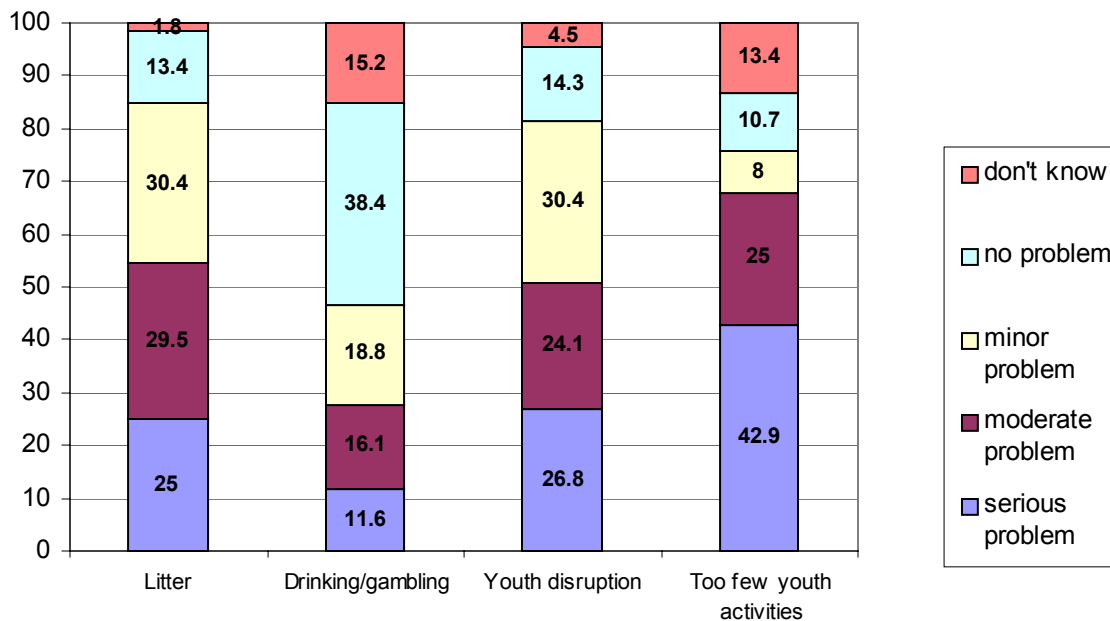
Survey participants overwhelmingly agree that there are too few activities for youth in their neighborhoods. Slightly less than 43 percent of respondents characterize the lack of

activities for young people as a serious problem (n = 48), with an additional 25 percent agreeing

that this is a moderate problem in the community (n =28).

When asked to characterize how these problems have changed in the past year,

participants most frequently responded that there has been no change. Among those reporting

change, both litter in the streets and public drinking and gambling problems are more frequently

perceived as improving rather than getting worse. The opposite is true for respondent opinions

on youth disruption and neighborhood activities for youth. Just under 16 percent of survey

participants say youth disruption is getting worse (n = 17) and twenty-five percent of survey

respondents report the lack of youth activities as worsening (n = 28 compared to 9.8%, n = 11

who report improvement in this area). Figure 12 provides a graphical representation of the

distribution of survey responses on changes in public nuisance and youth disruption problems.

Figure 12. Perceptions on Change in Public Nuisances and Youth Disruption, n = 112
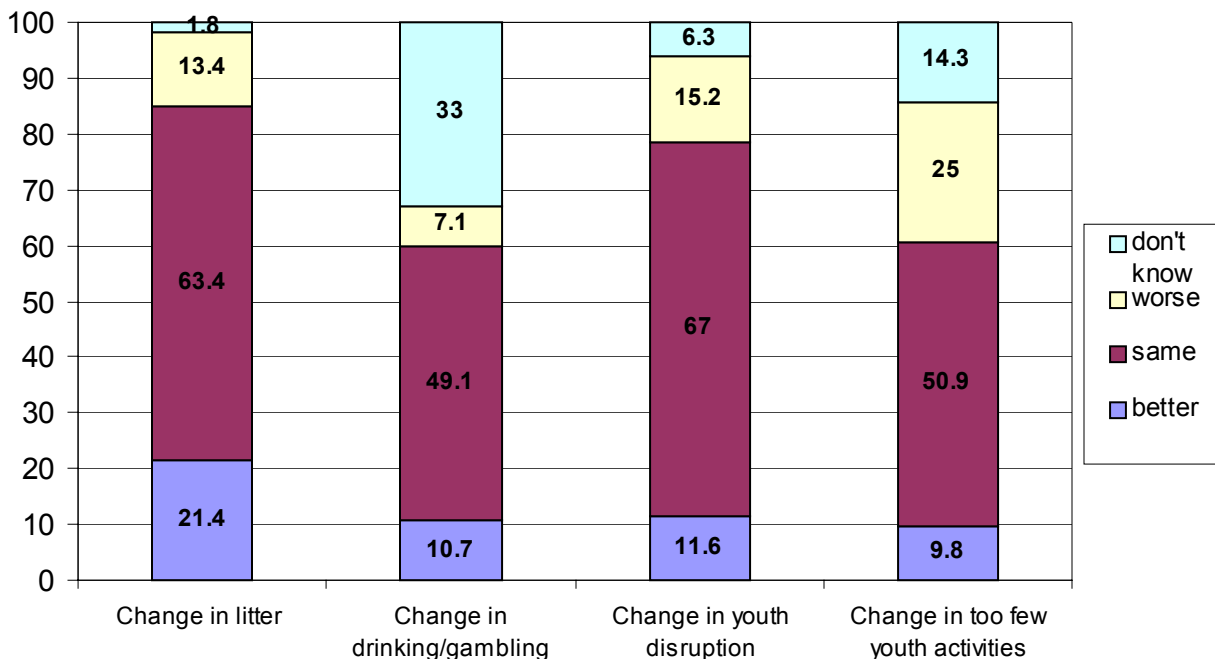
Respondent perceptions of public nuisances and youth disruptive behaviors differ on the

basis of neighborhood of residence. Residents from Alamosa and Pat Hurley are more likely

than others to report littering as "no problem" in their neighborhood, while residents of Crestview Bluff are most likely to characterize litter as a "serious problem." A lack of youth activities is also characterized as a "serious problem" for residents of Crestview Bluff. Residents of the Armijo neighborhood are more likely than others to characterize public drinking and gambling, youth disruption and too few youth activities as "serious problems." Respondents from this neighborhood are also more likely than others to say public nuisances and youth disruptive behaviors are getting worse.

In addition, we find significant length of residence, employment status, age, and gender differences in opinions on public nuisances and youth disruption. Long-term residents were more likely than others to characterize the litter problem as getting worse over the past year. Female respondents are also more likely than male respondents to characterize littering as a serious neighborhood problem. Survey participants falling into the two upper age categories are more likely than younger respondents to report youth disruptive behavior as getting worse. Residents who are homemakers, all of whom live in Alamosa, are more likely than other respondents to say that "too few youth activities" is "no problem" in their neighborhood.

Neighborhood Safety/Fear of Crime

Westside-South Valley residents participating in this survey feel somewhat safe from crime in their neighborhoods. However, the feeling of safety is contingent upon the time of day. During daylight hours, 28.6 percent of respondents feel very safe (n = 32) and an additional 45.5 percent report feeling at least somewhat safe (n = 51). Over 45 percent also report feeling somewhat safe after dark (n = 51), however the proportion of those reporting feeling very safe drops to 9.8 percent (n = 11). Figure 13 demonstrates the differences in the distribution of responses on feeling safe in one's neighborhood by time of day.

Figure 13. Fear of Crime in Neighborhood by Time of Day, n = 112
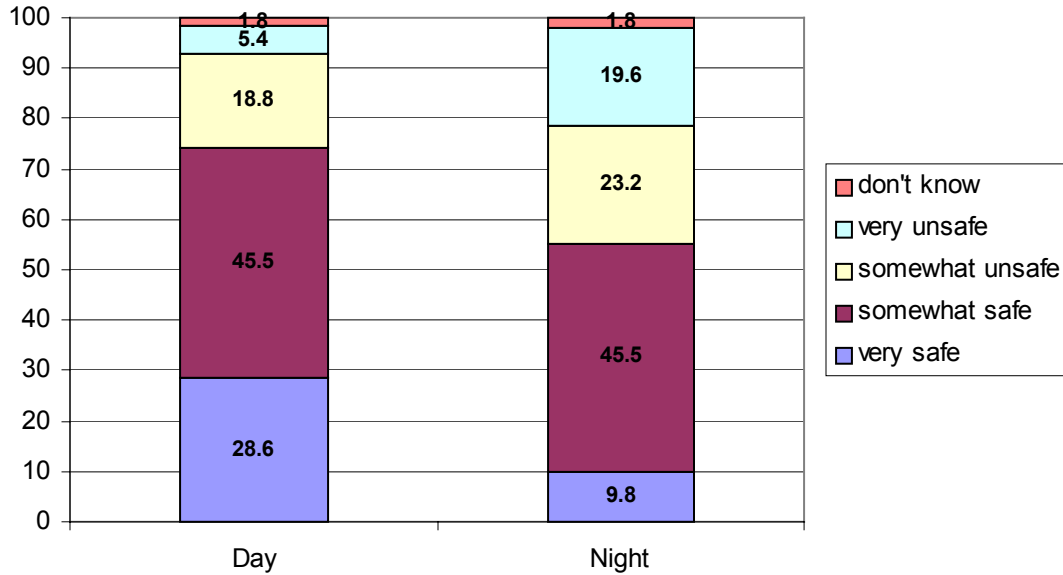
As depicted in Figure 14, the majority of respondents report no change in their perceptions of neighborhood safety over the past year. Among those who do perceive change, feeling less safe is reported more often than more safe regardless of the time of day.

Figure 14. Changes in Fear of Crime in Neighborhood by Time of Day, n = 112
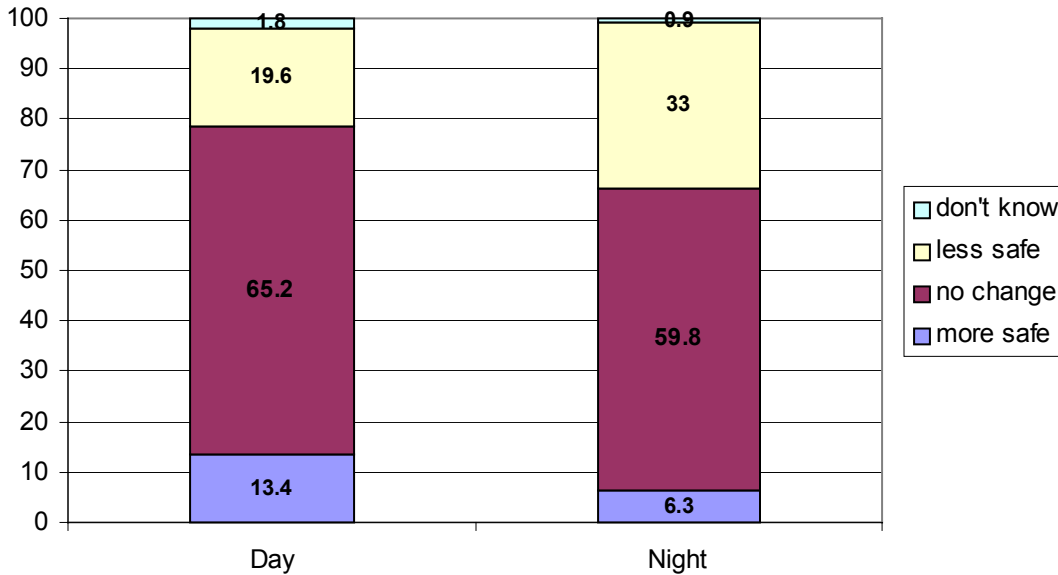
Slightly more than 85 percent of respondents report that fear of crime prevents them from visiting neighborhood parks and other public areas at least some of the time (n = 95). Twenty-three of these participants respond that worrying about safety often prevents such visits (20.5%), while forty-five respondents report that fear of crime rarely affects decisions to visit public places now compared to a year ago (40.2%). When asked how this situation has changed over the past year, the most frequent response was no difference. Among respondents reporting change, fear of crime more often rather than less often affects their decisions to visit public places (19.6%, n = 22 compared to 8.9%, n = 10). Figures 15 and 16 present the distributions of survey responses for questions on how fear of crime affects visits to neighborhood places.

Figure 15. Frequency with which Fear of Crime Prevents Visiting Neighborhood Public Places, n = 112
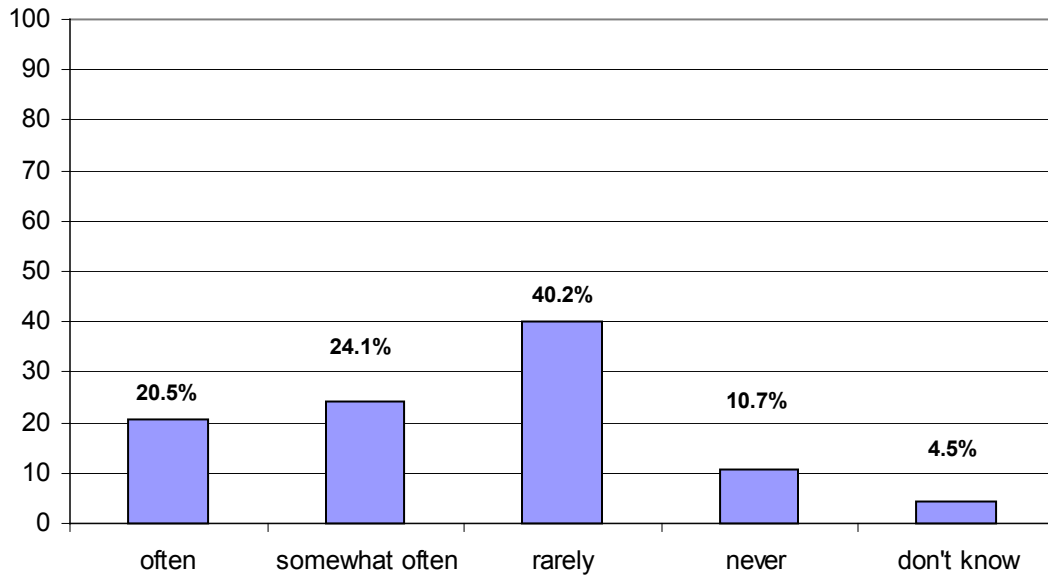
Figure 16. Change in Frequency with which Fear of Crime Prevents Visiting Neighborhood Public Places, n = 112
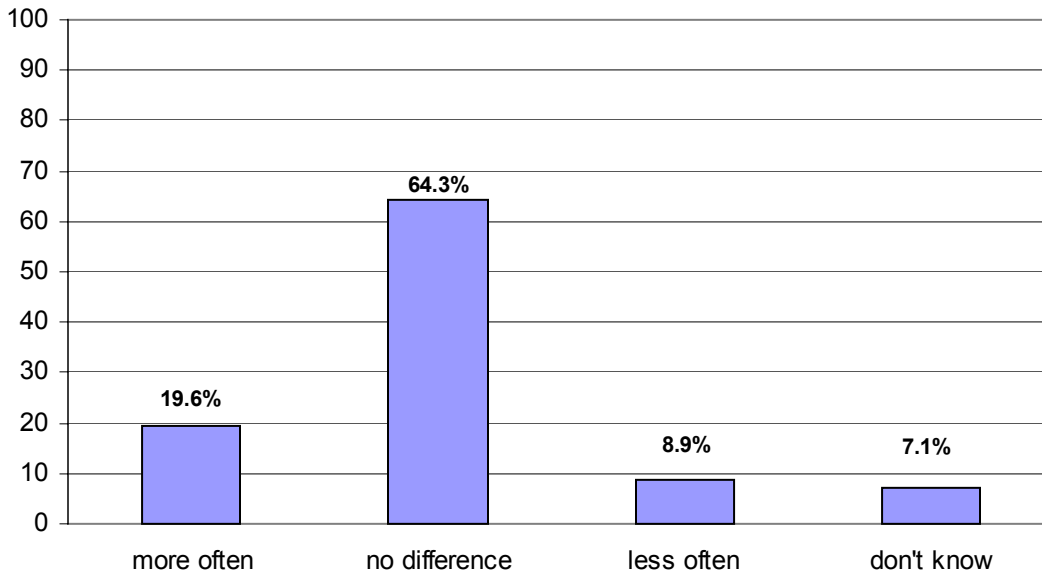
The investigation of responses to questions on fear of crime and neighborhood safety shows some significant neighborhood patterns. As we pointed out earlier, respondents differ in how they feel about neighborhood safety depending upon the time of day. While there are no

significant differences between neighborhoods with regards to how safe they feel during the daytime, residents from Pat Hurley and Vecinos del Bosque are more likely than others to report that in the past year they have come to feel "more safe" during the day. Residents from Alamosa are more likely than other respondents to report that they feel both "very safe" and "somewhat safe" in their neighborhoods at night. Armijo residents are the most likely to report feeling "very unsafe" at night. Respondents from Armijo and Crestview Bluff are both more likely than others to report feeling "less safe" than they did one year ago, regardless of time of day.

There is a similar neighborhood pattern for responses to questions on whether or not fear of crime prevents residents from visiting public places. Respondents from Pat Hurley and Vecinos del Bosque are more likely than others to report that worry "never" prevents them from going to public areas. Residents from Armijo and Crestview Bluff are both more likely than other respondents to respond that fear of crime "often" prevents such visits. The most frequent response to how this has changed in the past year is "no change" for all neighborhoods except for Armijo. Residents from Armijo most frequently responded "more often."

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

The "Weed" aspect of the Weed and Seed Program is aimed at decreasing crime and violence in program neighborhoods through a variety of law enforcement strategies. One of the goals of the community survey was to measure respondent perceptions of criminal activity in their neighborhoods and how these problems have changed over the last year. This section of the report presents respondent perceptions, broken down by crime type. The description begins with perceptions of burglary/property crime followed by robbery and other violent crime, gun crimes, drug use and sales, and gang activity. We also provide recent crime statistics for the Westside-

South Valley Weed and Seed program area.[6] It must be noted that the time period for which official crime data for the program areas are available do not correspond perfectly with the time period for which the survey questions solicit information. The official data are for 2002 through 2005. The survey, which was administered in May 2006 asked respondents to assess whether crime problems had changed over the previous year—since May 2005. While there is some overlap between the official data and the survey time period, all conclusions concerning the accuracy of respondents' assessments, based on the official data, should be made with caution.

Property/Burglary

Property crimes include all incidents in which individuals take physical property that does not belong to them without the use of force or threat of force. Official data representing property crime include incidents involving burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson. Property crime in the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area is 10% higher than the city of Albuquerque in general, 1.9 times higher than the state, and with the exception of burglary property crime is most common on major commercial roadways (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). Survey respondents agree that burglary and other property crimes are problematic in the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area. As Figure 17 shows, slightly less than 60 percent of survey participants characterize property crime as a moderate to serious problem (n = 64), with an additional 24 percent reporting it as at least a minor problem (n = 27). Perceptions of burglary/property crime differ by neighborhood of residence. Respondents from Alamosa most frequently report burglary/property crime as a "minor problem." Survey participants from Armijo and Crestview Bluff are more likely than other respondents to characterize burglary and property crime as a "serious problem" in their neighborhoods.

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[6] Unless otherwise noted, crime data is derived from arrest statistics reported by the Albuquerque Police Department and the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office and compiled by the Statistical Analysis Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of New Mexico.

Figure 17. Perceptions of Burglary and Property Crimes as Neighborhood Problems, n = 112
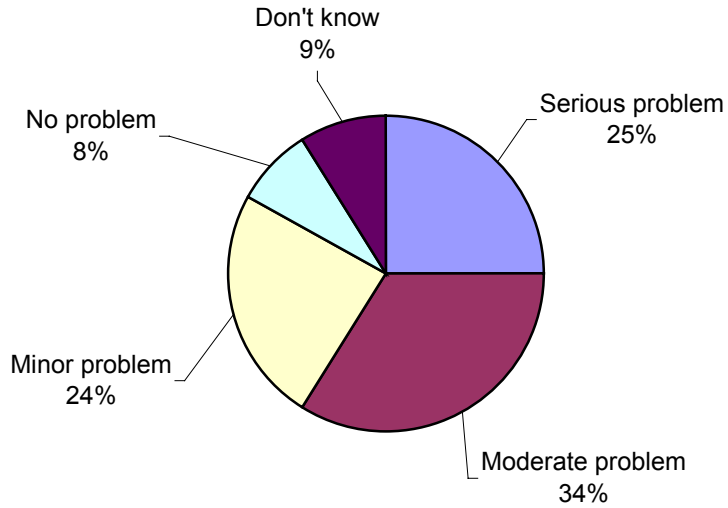
When asked if the burglary/property crime problem has changed over the past year, respondents most frequently responded that they observed no change (59%, n = 66). Among those who report change, the problem is more often characterized as worsening rather than improving (21%, n = 23 compared to 7.1%, n = 8). Hispanic residents are slightly more likely than other respondents to report that the burglary and property crime problem is worse today than it was one year ago. Figure 18 shows the distribution of respondent opinions on change in the problem of burglary/property crime in their neighborhood.

Figure 18. Perceptions of Change in Burglary and Property Crimes as Neighborhood Problems, n = 112
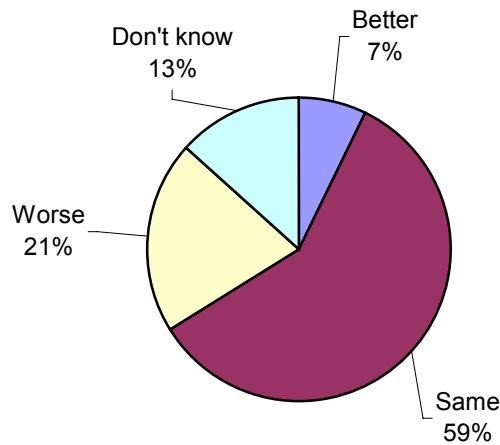
The number of property crime arrests in the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area decreased between 2002 and 2004, and increased slightly in 2005 (see Table 4). Property crime rates also declined for both Albuquerque and Bernalillo County between 2002 and 2004 (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). Based on arrest statistics, property crime represents the most frequently recorded offense in the area. As such, it makes sense that residents perceive this type of crime as a problem in their neighborhoods. Furthermore, the view that property crime rates have remained static is also accurate.

Table 4. Number of Property Crime Arrests in the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed Program Area, 2002-2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Burglary	250	250	189	195
Larceny	873	567	540	548
Motor Vehicle	169	180	129	134
Arson	8	10	4	7
Total	1300	1007	862	884

Robbery/Violent Crime

Violent crimes include all criminal incidents in which individuals use force or threat of force against other individuals. Official data representing violent crime include incidents involving homicide, rape, robbery, and assault. Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area's serious violent crime rate was 1.6 times higher than the metro area, 2.2 times higher than the state, and 3.5 times higher than the U.S. There were 84.9 violent crimes per square mile of the Weed and Seed program area between 2002-2004 (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005).

Both robbery/street crime and violence are reported as problems for residents living in Westside-South Valley neighborhoods. Almost 47 percent (n = 52) of survey participants characterize robbery and other street crime as a moderate to serious problem, with an additional 32 percent reporting that it is at least a minor problem (n = 36). Violent crime is perceived as somewhat less of a problem when compared to robbery/street crime. While over 40 percent of the sample report violence as a moderate to serious problem (n = 45), and an additional 24 percent characterize it as at least a minor problem (n = 27), over 21 percent of survey participants report that violent crime is not a problem in their neighborhood (n = 24). There is a pattern of significant differences in perceptions of violent crime by neighborhood. Residents of Armijo and Pat Hurley are more likely than other respondents to characterize violent crime as a "serious problem." Respondents from Armijo are also more likely to report violent criminal offending as getting worse when compared to residents of other neighborhoods. Figure 19 demonstrates the distribution of responses for survey questions on the seriousness of robbery/street crime and violent crime.

Figure 19. Perceptions of Robbery and Violent Crime as Neighborhood Problems, n = 112
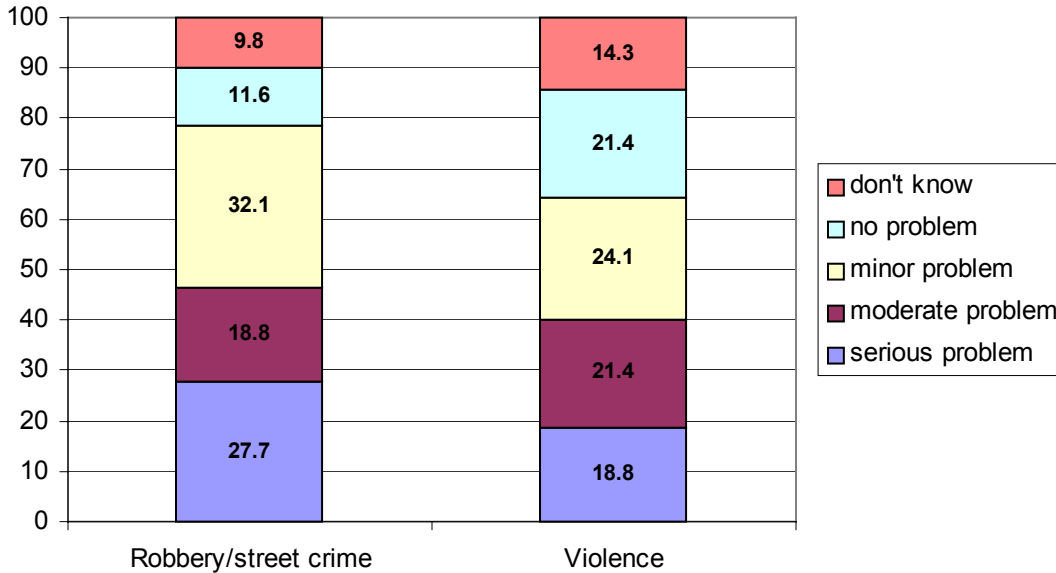
Survey participants most frequently report that they perceive both the levels of robbery/street crime and violent crime as staying the same over the past year (55.4%, n = 62 and 39.3%, n = 44 respectively). The first column in Figure 20 shows that among those who report changes to robbery/street crime, more perceive the problem as increasing rather than decreasing (18.8%, n = 21 compared to 7.1%, n = 8). A negligible difference (approximately 1%) is observed for the distribution of respondents with regards to the direction of change in violent crime. However, almost 30 percent of responses on change in violent crime indicate a lack of knowledge on the trend in Westside-South Valley neighborhoods (n = 33).

Figure 20. Perceptions of Change in Robbery and Violent Crime as Neighborhood Problems, n = 112
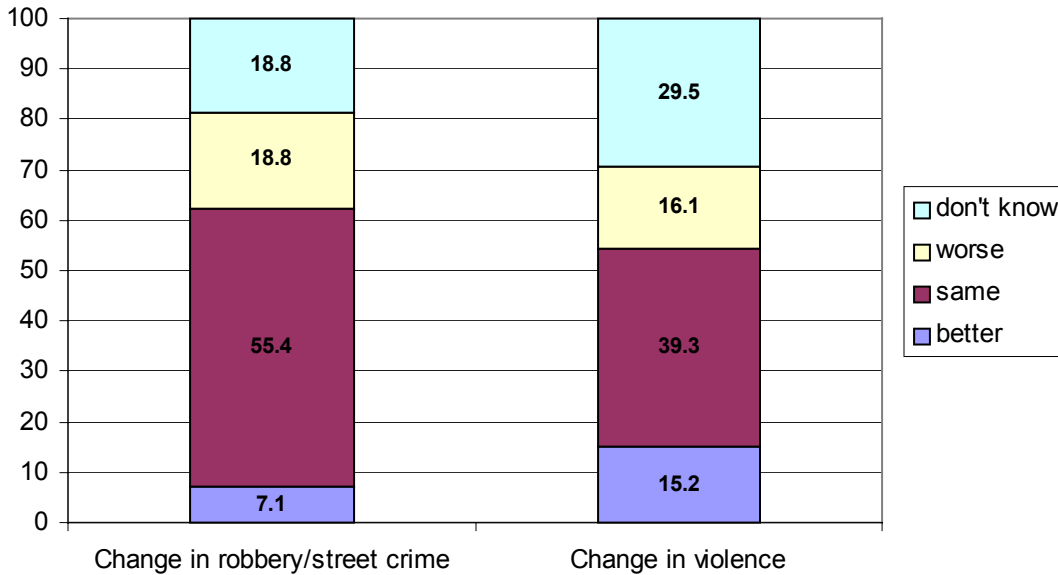
Arrest statistics for the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed program area, presented in Table 5, on robbery and violent crime show a decrease in the number of recorded offenses between 2002 and 2004. In 2005, there is an increase in the total number of incidents with more incidents for both robbery and homicide but fewer incidents for aggravated assault and rape. Viewing survey responses in light of the actual arrest trends indicates that participants have a realistic view of robbery and violent crime trends in their neighborhoods. However, it should be noted that official rate changes were not constant across the various neighborhoods comprising the program area. If such data were available, we would likely find that some respondents more accurately assessed changes than others.

Table 5. Number of Robbery and Violent Crime Arrests in the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed Program Area, 2002-2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Robbery	88	60	56	70
Homicide	4	1	1	4
Aggravated Assault	196	190	198	187
Rape	19	13	12	11
Total	307	264	267	272

Gun Crimes

Weapon offenses are criminal incidents involving the unlawful possession, use, purchase or sale of any item that can be used to cause harm to others including but not limited to knives, explosives, and firearms. Official data on weapons offending is broken into two areas: general weapons offenses and firearm offenses. Overall, weapons violations are higher in Westside-South Valley area when compared to both city and county, with firearm offenses occurring most often in commercial areas during the commission of some other violent crime (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005).

The survey does not address the general question of weapon offenses but focuses specifically on the availability of guns and gun crime. Respondents suggest that guns are too readily available in their neighborhoods. Over 30 percent of the sample report gun availability as a moderate to serious problem (n = 35), and slightly less than 18 percent responded that it is at least a minor problem (n = 20). Close to 35 percent of survey participants report that they did not know if gun availability is a problem in their neighborhood (n = 39). This may, again, be a reflection of the average age of the respondents. Unlike predatory crimes, individuals are less likely to have experience with illegal gun markets unless they themselves are participating in such exchanges. Such participation is much less likely among older individuals.

Survey respondents most frequently report gun crime as a serious problem in their neighborhood (31.3%, n = 35).   While an additional 30 percent of respondents characterize gun crime as at least a minor problem, we again see a significant number of residents reporting that they do not know if this is a problem in their neighborhood (23.2%, n = 26). Residents from Armijo and Pat Hurley are more likely than other respondents to report both illegal firearms availability and gun crime as serious problems in their neighborhoods. Crestview Bluff respondents are more likely than others to report gun availability as "no problem," and Alamosa residents are the most likely to report gun crime as "no problem." Figure 21 presents the distribution of survey responses to questions on gun availability and crime.

Figure 21. Perceptions of Gun Availability and Gun Crime as Neighborhood Problems, n = 112
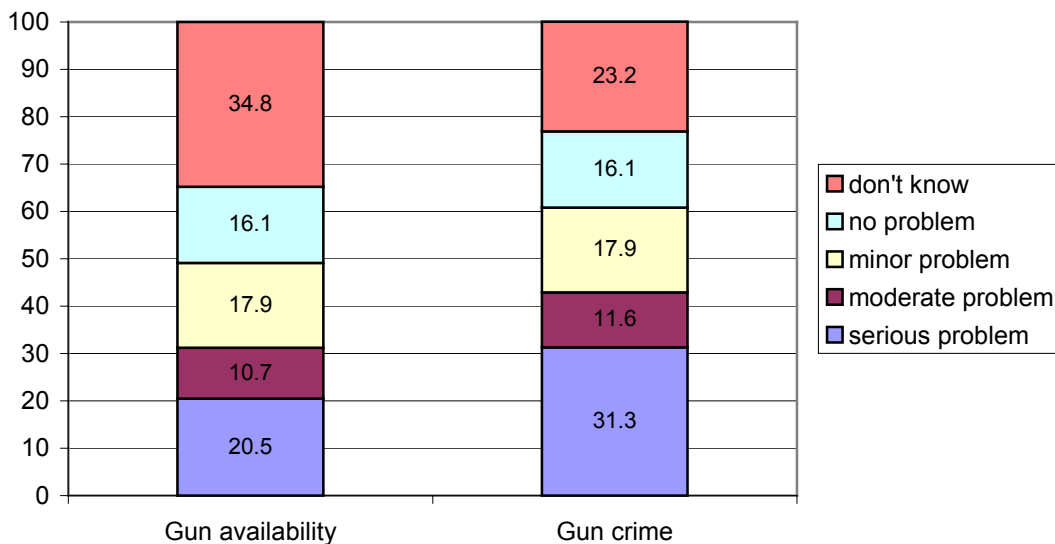
The pattern of responses for the questions on changes in gun availability and gun crime also illustrate that this is an issue on which residents lack information. Forty-two percent of respondents report that they do not know if gun availability has changed over the past year (n = 47) and almost 29 percent report that they do not know if the level of gun crime has changed (n = 32). Among those who express an opinion on the matter, the most frequent response indicates that the problems have stayed the same (41.1%, n = 46 for availability and 44.6%, n = 50 for gun

crime). For those who perceive a change in the gun problem, the pattern appears to indicate both

problems are getting worse rather than better. Figure 22 presents the distribution of responses

for questions on change in gun availability and gun crime.

Figure 22. Perceptions of Change in Gun Availability and Gun Crime as Neighborhood
Problems, n = 112
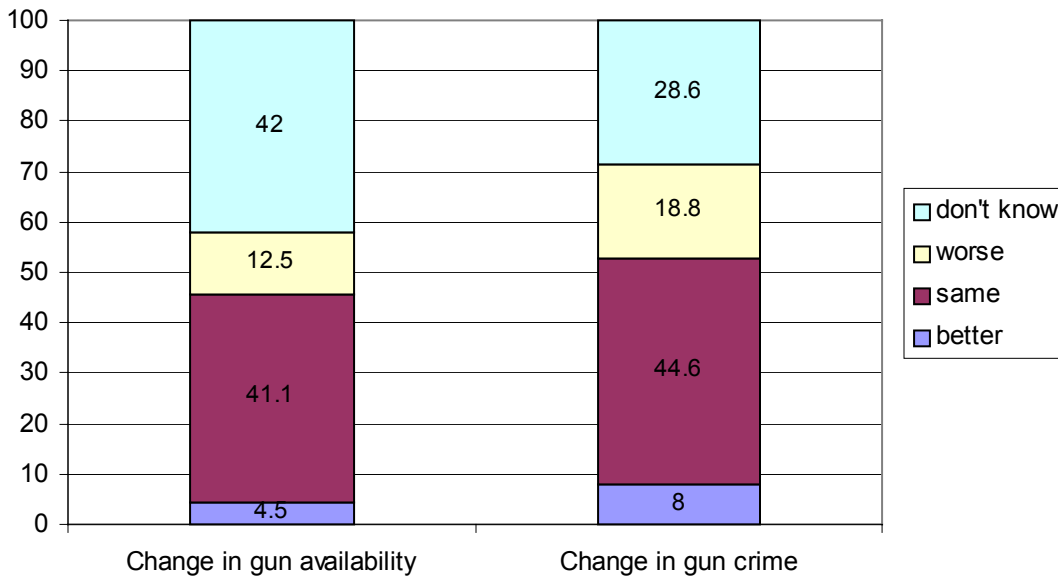
The number of arrests for firearm related offenses mirrors the general pattern of crime in

the Westside-South Valley area. There was a decrease in the number of incidents involving a

firearm in the commission of a violent crime between 2003 and 2004. In 2005, there is a

significant increase in the number of arrests for violent offenses involving the use of a firearm

(see Table 6).

Table 6. Number of Arrests for Weapons Offenses and Use of Firearms in Commission of a
Violent Offense in the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed Program Area, 2002-2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Weapons Offenses	28	29	31	33
Firearm use in violent offense	98	83	66	106
Total	126	112	97	139

Drug Use and Sales

Narcotics offenses include the possession and distribution of illegal substances and some types of drug paraphernalia. Narcotics offense levels are higher in Westside-South Valley than in the city or county as a whole. The majority of arrests are for possession, followed by trafficking, then paraphernalia (possession, manufacture, delivery, delivery to a minor). Arrest data in 2004 show that among the 153 narcotics related incidents occurring in the program area, slightly more than 68 percent include a charge for possession. Twenty-five percent of arrests include paraphernalia charges, and 30 percent of narcotics arrests included a charge for trafficking (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005).

Overall, respondents perceive both drug use and sales as serious problems in their neighborhoods. Almost 40 percent report drug use as a serious problem (n = 44), with an additional 20 percent characterizing it as a moderate or minor problem (n = 34). Both the presence of drug dealers in public places and the sale of drugs in private residence are most commonly viewed as moderate to serious problems (50.0%, n = 57 and 46.4%, n = 52 respectively). When asked to characterize the seriousness of illegal drug sales in commercial establishments, respondents most frequently answered that they did not know if this was a problem (35.7%, n = 40). When compared to other respondents, Armijo residents are more likely to characterize drug dealers in public areas, drug sales in commercial establishments, and drug sales in private homes as "serious problems." Crestview Bluff residents were the respondents most likely to characterize drug sales as "no problem." Figure 23 shows the distribution of responses for all four questions on drug use and sales.

Figure 23. Perceptions of Drug Use and Sales as Neighborhood Problems, n = 112
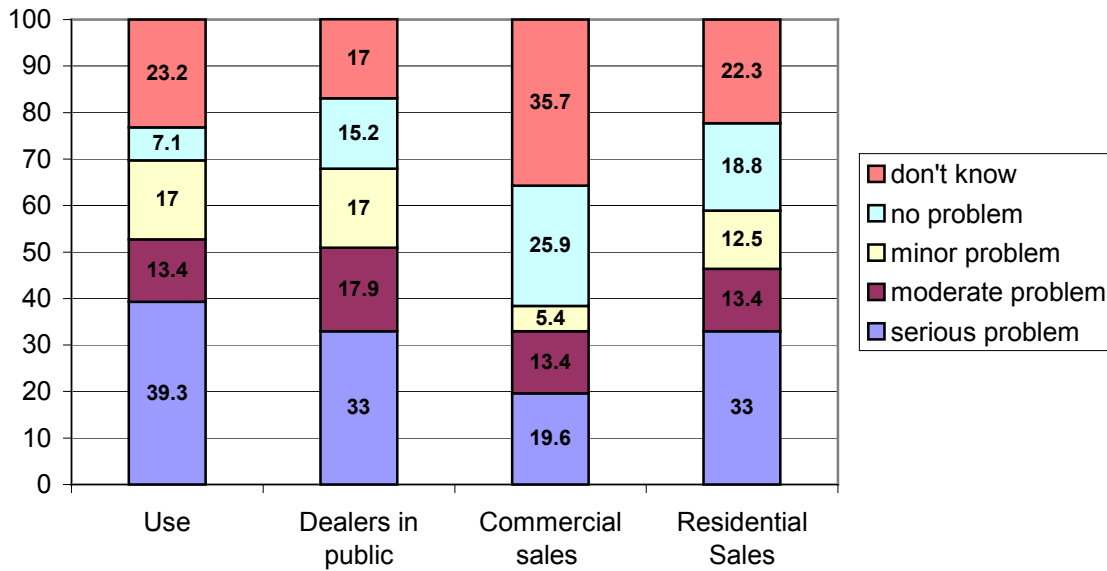
Across the board, participants with an opinion on how neighborhood drug problems have changed over the past year most often report that no change has occurred. For each issue, respondents who perceive changes occurring characterize the problems as escalating rather than improving. Armijo residents are more likely than other respondents to characterize drug use and sales as getting worse over the past year, and Alamosa residents are more likely than others to report the drug use problem in their neighborhood as improving. Figure 24, which presents the distribution of responses on questions relating to drug problems, also shows that many respondents report a lack of information on how drug problems have changed over time.

Figure 24. Perceptions of Change in Drug Use and Sales as Neighborhood Problems, n = 112
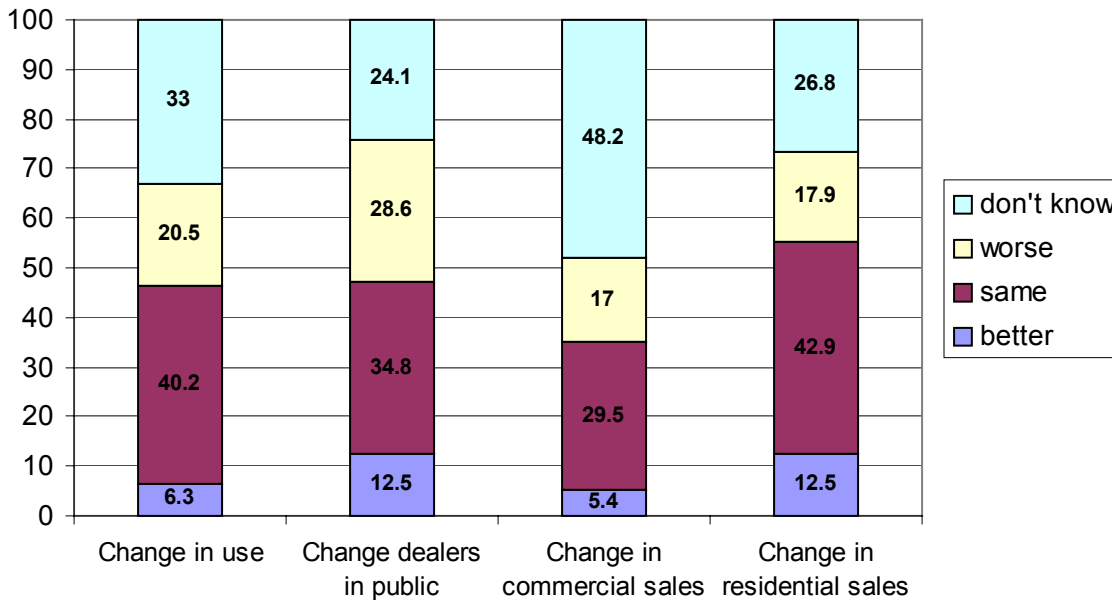
The number of arrests for drug related offenses in the Westside-South Valley area are presented in Table 7. Both Albuquerque and Bernalillo County saw a decrease in narcotics arrests between 2002 and 2004, but the Westside-South Valley did not (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005). A slight decrease in arrest incidents occurred between 2002 and 2003, but a significant increase is observed in 2004. In 2005, the number of arrests for drug crimes again declined.

Table 7. Number of Arrests for Narcotics Offenses in the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed Program Area, 2002-2005

	Number of Arrests
Year	
2002	173
2003	167
2004	226
2005	173

Gang Activity

Gang activity is a growing concern among residents and law enforcement officials in the city of Albuquerque and its surrounding areas. The Westside-South Valley program site is one of four areas in the city with a high concentration of gang related incidents[7]. Approximately nine percent of all gang related prosecutions by the Albuquerque District Attorney's Office stem from arrests occurring within the Westside-South Valley area[8] (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005).

Overall, survey participants characterize gang activity as a problem in their neighborhoods. Respondents most often report that gangs are a serious problem (32.1%, n = 36). An additional 16 percent report gang activity as a moderate problem (n = 18), and almost 27 percent answered that it is a minor problem (n = 30). Residents of both Armijo and Pat Hurley most frequently report gang activity as a "serious problem." Residents of Alamosa and Crestview Bluff most frequently characterize gang activity as a minor neighborhood problem. The distribution of responses to the question on the seriousness of neighborhood gang activity is reported in Figure 25.

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[7] Other areas include the far South Valley, neighborhoods south of the downtown commercial district, and the southeast neighborhoods near Central Avenue and San Pedro (New Mexico Criminal Justice Analysis Center 2005).
[8] Official data on gang related offenses count any criminal incident involving a person who is a known gang member as a gang offense. The offenses counted as Westside-South Valley program area incidents are all those occurring inside the boundaries of the program neighborhoods and those occurring within 100 feet of the site boundary.

Figure 25. Perceptions of Gang Activity as a Neighborhood Problem, n = 112
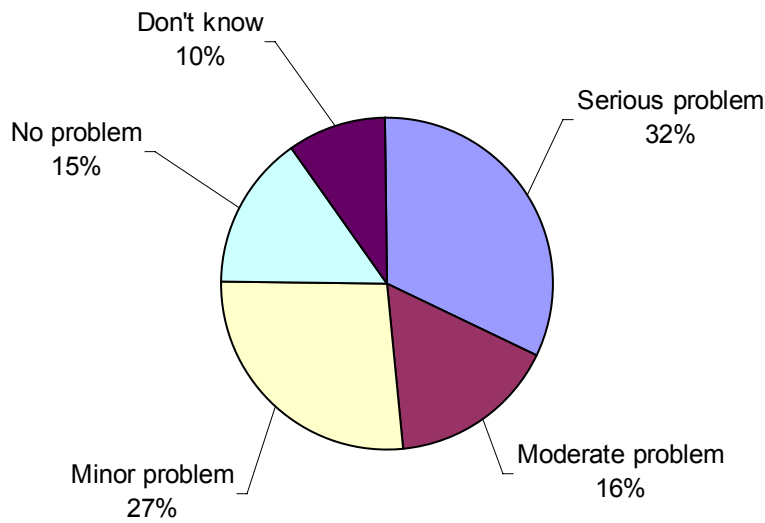
When asked how the gang problem has changed over the past year, respondents most frequently report that they have observed no change. Among those who perceive a change in the level of gang activity, the problem is more often viewed as increasing rather than decreasing in seriousness (20%, n = 22 compared to 12%, n = 13). Respondents from Armijo are more likely than residents from other neighborhoods to report the gang problem as "worse" today than it was one year ago. The distribution of responses to the question on change in the level of gang activity in Figure 26 also shows that 21 percent of respondents do not know how or if activity is increasing or decreasing in their neighborhood. Residents of Crestview Bluff and Vecinos del Bosque are more likely than other respondents to say they "don't know" how this problem has changed. This highlights another area where community information on criminal activity may be lacking.

Figure 26. Perceptions of Change in Gang Activity as a Neighborhood Problem, n = 112
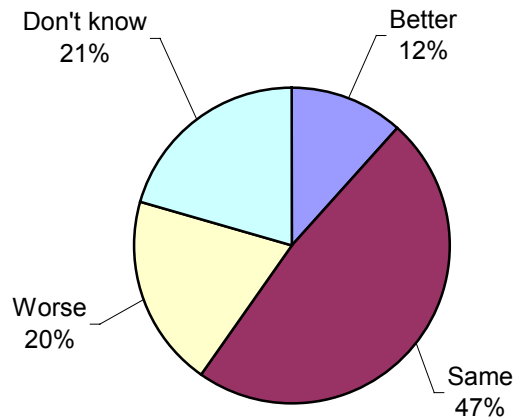
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of the Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed survey was to gain insight into how program area residents perceive both the quality of neighborhood life and the problem of crime in their communities. Moreover, Weed and Seed steering committee members were curious to find out whether, regardless of respondents actual knowledge of the Weed and Seed program, area residents see some local benefits, in the form of stronger communities and less crime, in the year since Weed and Seed was established in the area. Taken as a whole, survey respondents indicate that their neighborhoods are improving, but both crime and fear of crime are perceived as either static or increasingly problematic. In this section, we summarize the major patterns emerging from resident responses to the survey questions. Again, we suggest the reader be particularly cautious in generalizing the findings of this report to the Westside-South Valley resident population as a whole. There are two important things to keep in mind. First, the survey sample is not representative of the program area population. Second, judging the accuracy of respondent opinions on crime in comparison to actual crime is difficult as the arrest

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data provided do not reflect the year in which respondents are asked for their perceptions. We begin with an overview of patterns among all survey respondents, followed by a discussion of neighborhood differences.

The vast majority of respondents characterize their neighborhood as becoming a better place to live. An examination of responses to questions on neighborhood change shows that respondents most often characterize specific neighborhood problems as unchanging. Among respondents reporting change, we see a trend toward perceived improvement in three areas: relationships with neighbors, public nuisance issues, and fear of crime in public areas. Most respondents observing changes report increased helpfulness and trustworthiness among neighbors. Respondents also more often recognize improvement rather than deterioration for both litter and public drinking and gambling problems. Furthermore, the majority of survey participants characterize their feelings of neighborhood safety positively regardless of time of day. Despite these positive signs, when asked to characterize how feelings of safety have changed more report negative change rather than positive.

There are two areas where respondents indicate preferences for change. First, survey participants report youth disruption as a serious problem that is getting worse. They also agree for the most part that there are "too few youth activities" in their neighborhoods. Second, respondents show a preference for increased police contact. The majority of respondents report that a lack of contact with police is a problem in their neighborhood. Additionally, respondents more often characterize "police stopping citizens for no good reason" as "no problem" and unchanged over the past year. This suggests that residents want a stronger police presence and are not worried that this would lead to police unfairly targeting innocent citizens. However, as

stated earlier there are some neighborhood differences with regard to community police relations, with residents in Armijo expressing more distrust of the police.

We can get some insight into respondent concerns regarding crime in their neighborhood by looking at the problems in order of how frequently they were characterized as moderate to serious problems. More than half of all survey respondents characterize burglary/property crime as a moderate to serious problem. Arrest data for the Westside-South Valley program area show that burglary and property crime account for more arrests than any other type of crime. Over 50 percent of respondents also report that the presence of drug dealers in public places is a moderate to serious problem. Slightly less than half of the sample characterizes gang activity, robbery and street crime, and drug sales in private residents as moderate to serious problems, followed by gun crime, violent crime, and drug sales in commercial establishments.

Overall, respondents seem to have a realistic perception of change in crime in the Westside-South Valley area. Keeping in mind our interpretative limitations, we can say that for the most part respondents see most crime as staying pretty much the same. While we have seen arrests both increase and decrease over the past few years, its not likely that changes are really observable by citizens who are neither involved in a criminal lifestyle nor working in some capacity in the justice system. This is also demonstrated by the high number of respondents who report that they have no knowledge about gun availability, gun crime, drug sales and changes in the level of gang activity in their neighborhoods.

Conclusions regarding neighborhood difference are limited to the four neighborhoods, where the majority of survey respondents reside: Alamosa, Armijo, Crestview Bluff, and Pat Hurley. The remaining neighborhoods either have too few cases or exhibit few significant patterns with regard to perceptions of neighborhood problems. Residents of Alamosa are more

likely than others to report improvements in police contact, youth disruption, drug use, violent crime and gang activity. These respondents are also more likely to report that fear of crime does not prevent them from visiting neighborhood places. Armijo residents view both public nuisance and most of the more serious crimes as significant neighborhood problems. Respondents from Armijo more often than other respondents characterize these problems as getting worse—and report that over the past year they have come to feel less safe at night, less safe during day, and fear of crime more often prevents visits to neighborhood places. Residents of Crestview Bluff are more likely than others to report litter, too few youth activities, and burglary/property crime as serious problems. These respondents are also more likely to report drug crimes, violent crime, gun crime and gang activity as unproblematic. However, respondents residing in the Crestview Bluff neighborhood also report that fear of crime frequently prevents them from visiting neighborhood places and that they feel less safe today than they did one year ago regardless of time of day. Respondents residing in the Pat Hurley neighborhood are more concerned about violent crime, gangs, and guns and are more likely than others to view public nuisance issues as unproblematic.

The goal of the Westside-South Valley community survey was to gain a better understanding of community perceptions of the program area neighborhoods, specifically as they related to key objectives of the Weed and Seed program. While our findings must be interpreted with caution, given the nonrandom sample of area residents, we believe these findings can be useful in program development geared at both "weeding" and "seeding". Of specific value are the insights into important differences across neighborhoods within the program area. These must be considered as program strategies are developed.

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**Westside-South Valley Weed and Seed Strategy Community Survey
Basic Interview Data**

Interviewer:_____
 (to be entered as 3 letter initial on scantron)

Location of interview: _____
(location code to be entered following interviewer initials and one space on scantron)

Date of interview:_____
(to be entered in space for birth date on scantron)

Time of Interview: _____ *circle:* a.m. or p.m.
(to be entered as military time in space for special code on scantron)

Perceptions of your Neighborhood
I want to begin by asking you some questions about your perceptions of the neighborhood you live in.

1. How long have you lived in the neighborhood?   1._____

_____ less than 3 months (1)
_____ 3 to 6 months (2)
_____ 6 to 12 months (3)
_____ 1 to 2 years (4)
_____ 2 to 5 years (5)
_____ 5 to 10 years (6)
_____ over 10 years (7)
_____ Don't know (10)

2. In general, in the past year (or since you've lived here, if you have been here   2._____
less than a year), would you say this neighborhood has become a better place to
live, a worse place to live, or stayed the same?

Worse	About the same	Better	Don't Know
1	2	3	10

3. In some neighborhoods, people do things together and help each other. In ot 3._____
neighborhoods, people mostly go their own way. In general, how much do people
in your neighborhood help each other?

Not at all	Very Little	Some	A Lot	Don't know
1	2	3	4	10

4. Has this changed in the past year (or since you've lived here, if you have been
here less than a year), meaning do people now help each other more or less th 4._____
they did a year ago?

Less	No Change	More	Don't know
1	2	3	10

5. How many people in your neighborhood do you know and trust well enough 5._____
ask them to watch your house when you are gone?

No one	A few	Many	Don't know
1	2	3	10

6. Compared to a year ago (or since you've lived here, if you have been here less
than a year), do you know and trust more, fewer, or about the same number of
neighbors as today?   6._____

Fewer	About the same	More	Don't Know
1	2	3	10

Now I am going to read a list of things that you may think are problems in your neighborhood. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a serious problem, moderate problem, minor problem, or almost no problem in this neighborhood. You can refer to the response card to remind yourself of the answer categories. *(mark an X in the appropriate box)*

	Serious Problem (1)	Moderate Problem (2)	Minor Problem (3)	No Problem (4)	Don't Know (10)	
7. Police not making enough contact with residents						7.____
8. Police stopping too many people on the streets without good reason						8.____
9. Litter and trash on the streets and sidewalks						9.____
10. Public drinking or gambling						10.____
11. Too few activities for young people						11.____
12. Youth disruption -- young people hanging out, vandalizing, making noise						12.____
13. Drug dealers on streets, street corners, or in other public places						13.____
14. Drug sales in commercial establishments (stores, etc.)						14.____
15. Drug sales out of homes or apartments						15.____
16. Burglary and other property crime						16.____

	Serious Problem (1)	Moderate Problem (2)	Minor Problem (3)	No Problem (4)	Don't Know (10)	
17. Drug use						17.____
18. Robbery and other street crime						18.____
19. Violent Crime						19.____
20. Gang activity						20.____
21. Availability of illegal firearms						21.____
22. Gun crime						22.____

Compared to a year ago (or since you've lived here, if you have been here less than a year), would you say the following problems have gotten better, worse, or stayed the same? You can refer to the response card the remind yourself of the answer categories. *(mark an X in the appropriate box)*

	Worse (1)	About the Same (2)	Better (3)	Don't Know (10)	
23. Police not making enough contact with residents					23._____
24. Police stopping too many people on the streets without good reason					24._____
25. Litter and trash on the streets and sidewalks.					25._____
26. Public drinking or gambling					26._____
27. Too few activities for young people					27._____

	Worse (1)	About the Same (2)	Better (3)	Don't Know (10)	
28. Youth disruption -- young people hanging out, vandalizing, making noise					28._____
29. Drug dealers on streets, street corners, or in other public places					29._____
30. Drug sales in commercial establishments (stores, etc.)					30._____
31. Drug sales out of homes or apartments					31._____
32. Burglary and other property crime					32._____
33. Drug use					33._____
34. Robbery and other street crime					34._____
35. Violent Crime					35._____
36. Gang activity					36._____
37. Availability of illegal firearms					37._____
38. Gun crime					38._____

Fear of Crime

Now I am going to ask you some questions about your sense of safety in your neighborhood.

39. Today, how safe do you feel out alone in your neighborhood during the day?

39.____

Very safe	Somewhat Safe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe	Don't Know
1	2	3	4	10

40. Today, how safe do you feel out alone in your neighborhood after dark?

40.____

Very safe	Somewhat Safe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe	Don't Know
1	2	3	4	10

41. Today, how often does worry about crime prevent you from visiting public parks or other neighborhood places? Would you say . . .

41.____

Never	Rarely	Somewhat Often	Often	Don't Know
1	2	3	4	10

42. Compared to a year ago (or since you've lived here, if you have been here less than a year), do you now feel more or less safe out alone in your neighborhood during the day?

42.____

More Safe	No Change	Less Safe	Don't Know
1	2	3	10

43. Compared to a year ago (or since you've lived here, if you have been here less than a year), do you now feel more or less safe out alone in your neighborhood after dark?

43.____

More Safe	No Change	Less Safe	Don't Know
1	2	3	10

44. Compared to a year ago (or since you've lived here, if you have been here less than a year), does worry about crime prevent you from visiting public parks or neighborhood places more or less often now?

44.____

Less Often	No Difference	More Often	Don't Know
1	2	3	10

Respondent Information

That is all the survey questions I have. I would like to ask several questions about you, for statistical purposes only.

45. Which of the following categories corresponds with your age?

_____ Under 18 (1)
_____ 18-24 (2)
_____ 25-29 (3)
_____ 30-39 (4)
_____ 40-49 (5)
_____ 50-64 (6)
_____ 65 or older (7)
_____ Don't know/no answer (10)

46. What is your educational background?

46.____

_____ No high school degree (1)
_____ Completed High School or equivalent (2)
_____ Some College/Associates degree/Trade School (3)
_____ College Graduate (4)
_____ Post Graduate Education (M.A., M.S., M.D., J.D., Ph.D) (5)
_____ Don't know/no answer (10)

47. Are you presently employed full-time, part-time, a student, a homemaker. or unemployed? *(Check one or two categories as needed.)*   47.____

_____ Working full-time (1)
_____ Working part-time (2)
_____ Homemaker (3)
_____ Unemployed (4)
_____ Retired (5)
_____ Disabled (6)
_____ Full-time student (7)
_____ Part-time student (8)
_____ Other (9)
_____ Don't know/no answer (10)

48.____

48. How many people under 18 years old live in your household?

_____ one (1)
_____ two (2)
_____ three (3)
_____ four (4)
_____ five or more (5)
_____ Don't know/no answer (10)

49.Including yourself, how many people 18 or older live in your household?

_____ one (1)
_____ two (2)
_____ three (3)
_____ four (4)
_____ five or more (5)
_____ Don't know/no answer (10)

50. What is your racial or ethnic background? Are you . . . *(check all that apply)*

_____ Black (1)
_____ White (2)
_____ Hispanic (3)
_____ Asian/Pacific Islander (4)
_____ American Indian (5)
_____ Other (6)
_____ Don't know/no answer (10)

51.Respondent sex:

_____ Male (1)
_____ Female (2)

52. We would also like to have an idea about the total annual income of your household. Referring to the response card, please tell me which category inclu 52.____ your total annual household income (the combined yearly income of everyone you live with). You don't have to give me the actual total- just tell me the number that corresponds to your response.

_____ under $13,000 (1)
_____ $13,000 - $19,999 (2)
_____ $20,000 - $29,999 (3)
_____ $30,000 - $39,999 (4)
_____ $40,000 - $59,999 (5)
_____ $60,000 or more (6)
_____ Don't know/no answer (10)

53. Please identify the neighborhood you live in on this map *(show map)*

53. _____

_____ Alamosa (1)
_____ Armijo (2)
_____ Crestview Bluff (3)
_____ Five Points (4)
_____ Los Altos Civic (5)
_____ Pat Hurley (6)
_____ Vecinos Del Bosque (7)
_____ West Mesa (8)

That is all. Thank you very much. You have been very helpful.

APPENDIX 2

Missing Data

Upon receipt of the data set a number of data quality issues were identified. This appendix provides an explanation for how these issues were addressed before producing the final survey sample utilized for this report. Four general problems were identified: cases with no response for complete question sets, cases coded with values that do not match possible response codes, cases missing values for one or more variables, and one question with over 50 percent of the sample not providing a response. Before making adjustments to the dataset, we used interviewer initials, interview place, and time to match the survey forms completed by interviewers to the corresponding case in the data set. We checked each incident of missing data for data entry errors. After correcting data entry errors, we deleted some cases from the data set and imputed values for others. Six cases where large blocks of questions were left unanswered on the survey were deleted from the data set, resulting in a total sample size of n = 112. The specific problems and the procedures used for correcting the remaining missing data are discussed below.

Twenty-eight survey items were found to have possible data entry errors. These cases have responses coded with numbers that are not applicable to possible response categories and are also not coded as don't know/missing. For each, we checked the dataset against the survey form used by the interviewer to determine if the entries were made correctly. We were able to correct each miscoded item.

There were three cases where level of education was missing from the data set. Two of these cases are from surveys that were conducted in Spanish. A review of the translated survey shows that respondents interviewed in Spanish were not asked for their educational background.

Both cases were coded as missing. The remaining case missing educational background is from a survey where the interviewer checked two areas: some college and college graduate. While we cannot be sure which is the correct classification, we imputed some college.

Ten cases are missing a value for employment status. An investigation of survey forms shows that in each instance two values are recorded. For each case, the respondent indicated an employment status and either a student status, disability status, homemaker status or that they had multiple jobs. For each case we imputed on the side of employment status.

Double selection of categories is also a problem for the race variable. Two cases in the dataset selected both Hispanic and White. For both, we imputed Hispanic. One case is missing a value for the number of persons in the household over 18; the sample mean was substituted for this case. Two cases were missing a response for respondent sex; each is coded as missing. There are a large number of missing cases for the question on number of persons in the household under 18. This problem is attributable to an error in survey construction and is thoroughly explained in the text.

Two cases are also missing a response for neighborhood of residence. Both cases are from interviews conducted in Spanish. The translated survey did not ask for neighborhood of residence. After a review of other survey forms, we determined that the majority of interviews were conducted in the neighborhood where the respondent lived. As such, we imputed the interview location for the neighborhood of residence for both cases.

There are eleven missing values for seven different respondents on questions relating to neighborhood problems. We visually inspected the pattern of responses on other questions in the same set for each case and were able to identify a consistent pattern for each. Values that fit the pattern were substituted for missing values.

Statistically Significant Relationships between Respondent Perceptions and Neighborhood, Individual, and Household Characteristics *

	Time	Neigh	Sex	Age	Race	Inc	Edu	Emp
Better place to live	X							
Helpful neighbors	X					X		
Change in helpful neighbors	X			X		X		
Trustworthy neighbors								
Change in trustworthy neighbors		X						
Police contact		X						X
Police stops		X						
Litter		X	X					X
Drinking and gambling		X						
Too few youth activities		X						X
Youth disruption	X	X					X	
Drug dealers on street		X						
Drug sales in commercial		X						
Drug sales in homes		X						
Burglary/property crime		X						
Drug use								
Robbery and other street crime						X		
Violent crime		X						
Gang activity		X				X		X
Availability of illegal firearms		X						
Gun crime		X						
Change in police contact		X						X
Change in police stops		X						
Change in litter	X							
Change in drinking and gambling		X		X				
Change in too few activities for youth								
Change in youth disruption		X		X				
Change in drug dealers on street		X						
Change in drug sales commercial		X	X					
Change in drug sales home		X						
Change in burglary/property crime					X			
Change in drug use		X						
Change in robbery and other street crime					X			
Change in violent crime		X						
Change in gang activity		X						
Change in availability of illegal firearms								
Change in gun crime								
Safe in neighborhood day								
Safe in neighborhood night		X						
Worry prevents visits		X					X	
Change in safe neighborhood day		X						
Change in safe neighborhood night		X					X	
Change in worry prevents visits		X						
Time in Neighborhood		X		X	X	X		

*X indicates a statistically significant relationship between the distribution of survey question responses and the neighborhood, respondent or household characteristic.