

THE EASTSIDE WEED AND SEED SITE:
UPDATED SOCIAL ATTAINMENT, DEMOGRAPHIC, AND CRIME
CHARACTERISTICS
IN FOUR CONTIGUOUS NEIGHBORHOODS

Report Prepared for:

The Eastside Weed and Seed Steering Committee

The Residents of the Neighborhoods Comprising
the Eastside Weed and Seed Site

and

The City of Albuquerque

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to describe the general area comprising the Eastside Weed and Seed site in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Of particular interest are the structural and demographic characteristics of the neighborhoods that comprise the site as well as the patterns of criminal behavior that occur within the site's boundaries. This work builds upon the 2005 report, "The Eastside Weed and Seed Site: Social Attainment, Demographic, and Crime Characteristics in Four Contiguous Neighborhoods," by updating community information and crime trends to the most recently available data.¹ The information is presented as an aid to strategic planning for Weed and Seed site decision-makers, and also provides useful baseline information to assist local evaluation efforts. This report has been prepared by the staff of the New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), the research partner for this Weed and Seed site.

The Weed and Seed Strategy²

The Weed and Seed approach is a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. It is a comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. Weed and Seed is intended to revitalize communities by supporting community based efforts to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime sites across the country. Four fundamental principles underlie the Weed and Seed strategy: collaboration, coordination, community participation, and leveraging of existing community resources.

Weed and Seed relies on several strategies to meet the goal of community revitalization: law enforcement; community-oriented policing; crime prevention, intervention, and treatment; and neighborhood restoration. These activities are organized into a dual approach to community crime reduction. First, law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers. Second, public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" human

¹ This report was revised September 2006 to reflect Weed and Seed site boundary changes.

² This description of the Weed and Seed strategy is adapted from the United States Department of Justice's Community Capacity Development Office website, at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/ws/welcome.html>.

services into Weed and Seed communities, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. Community-oriented policing bridges the weeding and seeding elements.

Citizen involvement is critical to the Weed and Seed approach. Residents of designated sites facilitate weeding activities by identifying groups and locations for justice intervention, and by providing information to assist law enforcement professionals. Residents also support seeding efforts by identifying community needs, participating in planning activities, and participating in programs as staff and volunteers.

In most Weed and Seed sites, a joint law enforcement task force comprised from all levels of government join together to reduce both crime and fear of crime, and to set the stage for community revitalization. Community-oriented policing embraces two key concepts: community engagement and problem solving. Community policing strategies foster a sense of responsibility within the community for solving crime problems and help develop cooperative relationships between the police and residents.

The prevention, intervention, and treatment component concentrates an array of human services on the designated neighborhood and links law enforcement, social services agencies, the private sector, and the community to improve the overall quality of services to residents. Every Weed and Seed site is required to establish a Safe Haven, a multi-service center where many youth- and adult-oriented services are delivered. Through coordinated use of federal, state, local, and private-sector resources, neighborhood restoration strategies focus on economic development, employment opportunities for residents, and improvements to housing and the physical environment of the neighborhood.

At each site, the U.S. Attorney's Office plays a leadership role in organizing local officials, community representatives, and other key stakeholders to form a steering committee. The U.S. Attorney's Office also facilitates coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts so that sites effectively use federal law enforcement partners in weeding strategies. In some instances, the U.S. Attorney's Office helps sites mobilize resources from a variety of federal agencies for seeding programs.

Promoting the long-term health and resilience of the community is a true goal of Weed and Seed. Identifying and securing existing and new resources and funding

sources are essential in sustaining the Weed and Seed strategy beyond the life of the grant.

Scope of the Report

This report is organized to address two principle goals. First, the information contained in this report provides the foundation for site evaluation efforts. The 2005 Eastside Weed and Seed report provided crime data from 2000 to 2004, to serve as a baseline period from which to assess the success of Weed and Seed activities during the previous contract period. The SAC has continued to monitor crime trend data and will present expanded and updated statistics covering 1999-2006 in this report. Additionally, updates to water quality, voter registration and school performance measures have been added to this report.³ These updates should facilitate the manner and degree to which those involved in Weed and Seed activities in the Eastside site are able to both reach and evaluate the law enforcement, community policing, prevention/intervention/treatment and neighborhood restoration goals specified in the Eastside site's grant application to the federal Community Capacity and Development Office, throughout the contract period.

Second, and consistent with the perspectives of interactive assessment and empowerment evaluation, this report is intended to provide basic information in a clear and useful format to the residents, neighborhood associations, and the community and professional leadership of the Eastside Weed and Seed site. The engagement of citizens and community leaders is critical to the success of the Weed and Seed strategy. We have refined and expanded this document and it is our understanding that the Eastside steering committee will make this report and its findings available to community members and key policy stakeholders with the aim of enhancing community engagement and improving the dialogue between citizens and government decision-makers.

The next chapter provides a general description of land use and resources in the four neighborhoods that comprise the Eastside site: La Mesa, South Los Altos, South San Pedro, and Trumbull. This will be followed in Chapter III by a presentation of individual and household characteristics of those residing in the Eastside site, including demographic, socio-economic, and social attainment information. After depicting the

³ Decennial census-based data such as housing and demographics were not updated as newer data is not yet available.

social and economic context of the site, Chapter IV discusses crime patterns within the site. These trends and descriptions are compared to those in the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, whenever such comparisons are appropriate.⁴ The report concludes with a general summary of the findings and directions for future activities in Chapter V.

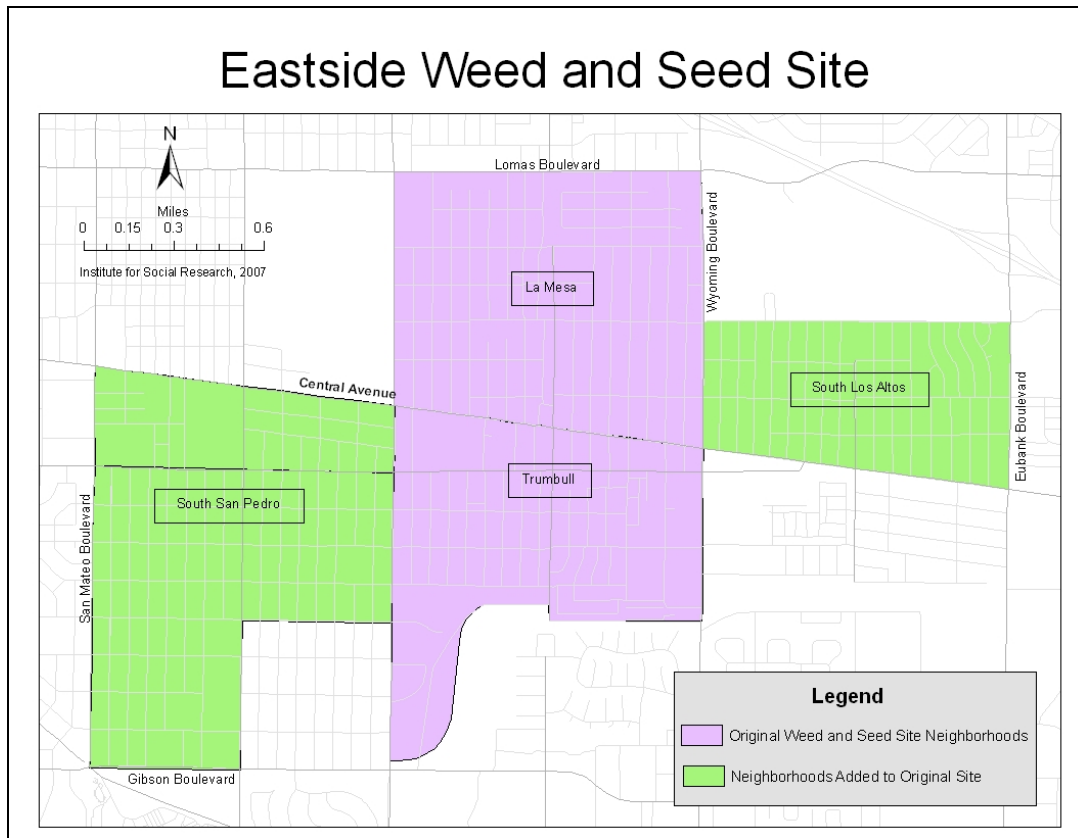
⁴ The previous report also included comparisons with both the State of New Mexico and the United States. We have chosen to exclude these comparisons as the data are collected and compiled differently, which may result in misleading interpretations.

CHAPTER II

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EASTSIDE SITE

The Eastside site, originally comprised of only the Trumbull and La Mesa neighborhoods, began Weed and Seed activities in 1998. Due to its persistent crime problems and other related high-risk characteristics, i.e., above average rates of residential mobility and poverty, and below average rates of resident employment and educational attainment, the area was selected as the original Weed and Seed site in New Mexico.⁵ In 2003, the site was expanded to include the South San Pedro and Los Altos neighborhoods that are contiguous to Trumbull and La Mesa on the West and North, respectively. The four neighborhoods that make up the present-day Eastside Weed and Seed site are illustrated in the map below (Map II.1).

MAP II.1



⁵ See Application for Weed and Seed Official Recognition, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1997.

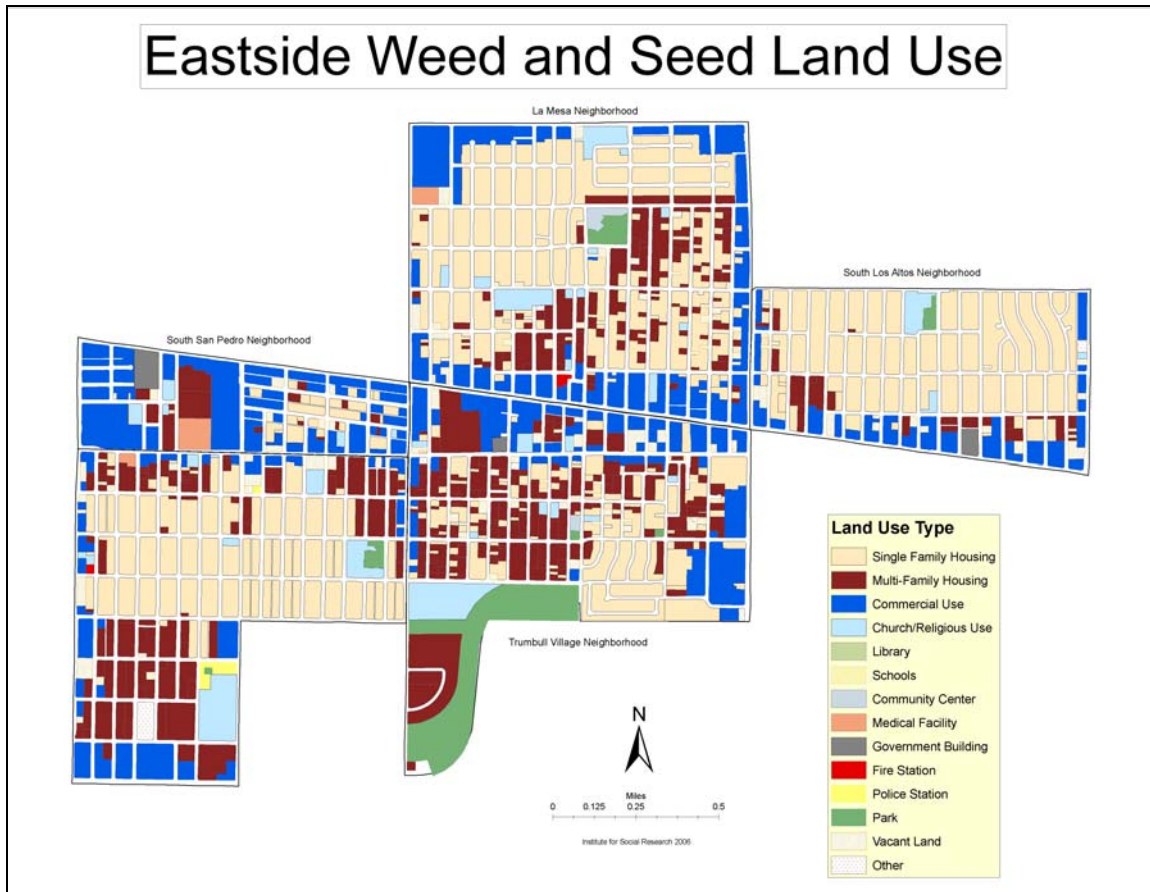
It is noteworthy that Central Avenue borders all of the neighborhoods. Central was the original route for Highway 66 through Albuquerque. After the development of the federal Interstate Highway system in the 1960s, many motels and other commercial businesses along Central fell into decay, and either attracted more of a high risk clientele or were replaced with less respectable establishments such as adult theaters. As a consequence, the Central Avenue corridor became a magnet for drug and vice crimes. Government and private sector partners have labored in recent years to improve the area through strategies such as economic development, community restoration, neighborhood beautification, expansion of social services, public transportation improvement, zoning changes and nuisance abatement. These efforts have produced positive effects and, in fact, some relatively large areas within the site enjoy residential stability and relatively high levels of public safety. Still, the Central Avenue corridor is an area noted for its urban social problems, relative to the entire Albuquerque metropolitan area.

Land Use

Using data maintained by the City of Albuquerque's Planning Department, we are able to describe land use patterns in the Eastside Weed and Seed site and gain some insight into the social environment of the area.⁶ Consistent with the rest of the city, the most common land uses within the boundaries of the Eastside site are single- and multiple-unit residences, commercial buildings and vacant lands. The area also contains two group home/social rehabilitation residences and twenty-five religious facilities (some of which may have schools attached). The Eastside site currently has one public library, five public schools, two community centers, two fire stations, one police substation and eight parks.

⁶ See <http://www.cabq.gov/gis/download.html>

MAP II.2



Housing

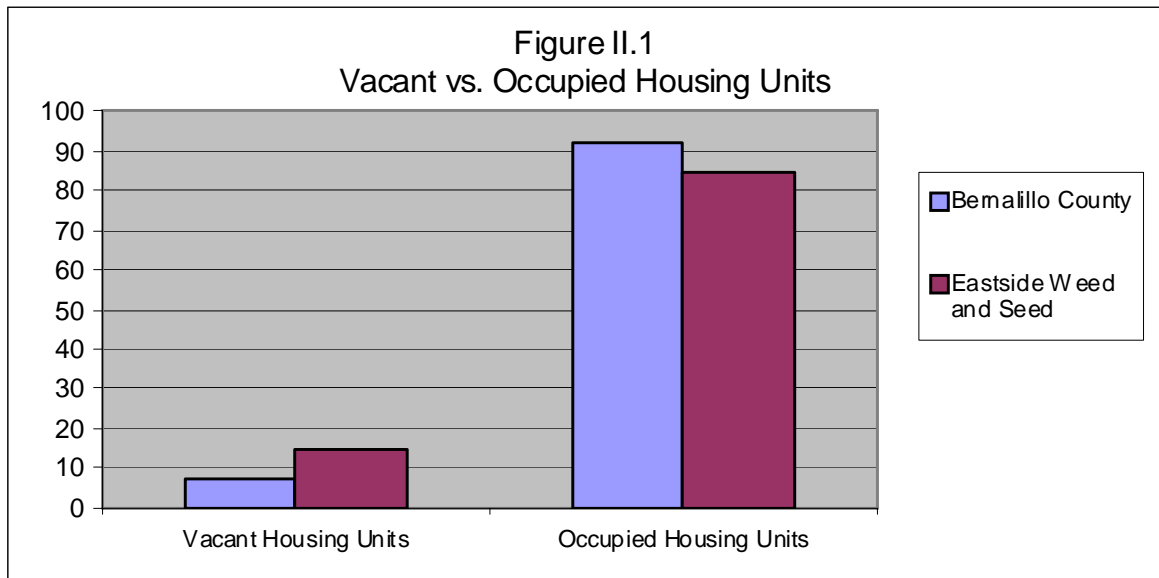
More than one-half of the residential properties in the Eastside site are designated as multi-family housing (53%, for a total of 359 properties). This proportion is significantly greater than that in the city as a whole, where only 21% of residential units are multi-family. Twelve of the multi-unit residential properties in the Eastside site have 50 or more units. Indeed, one of the objectives for neighborhood development identified by Eastside Weed and Seed site residents and stakeholders is the provision of decent, affordable housing with a better mix of single and multi-family residences.⁷

Vacant housing

The percentage of vacant housing units is also somewhat higher in the Weed and Seed area than in Bernalillo County as a whole (see Figure II.1). This is likely a

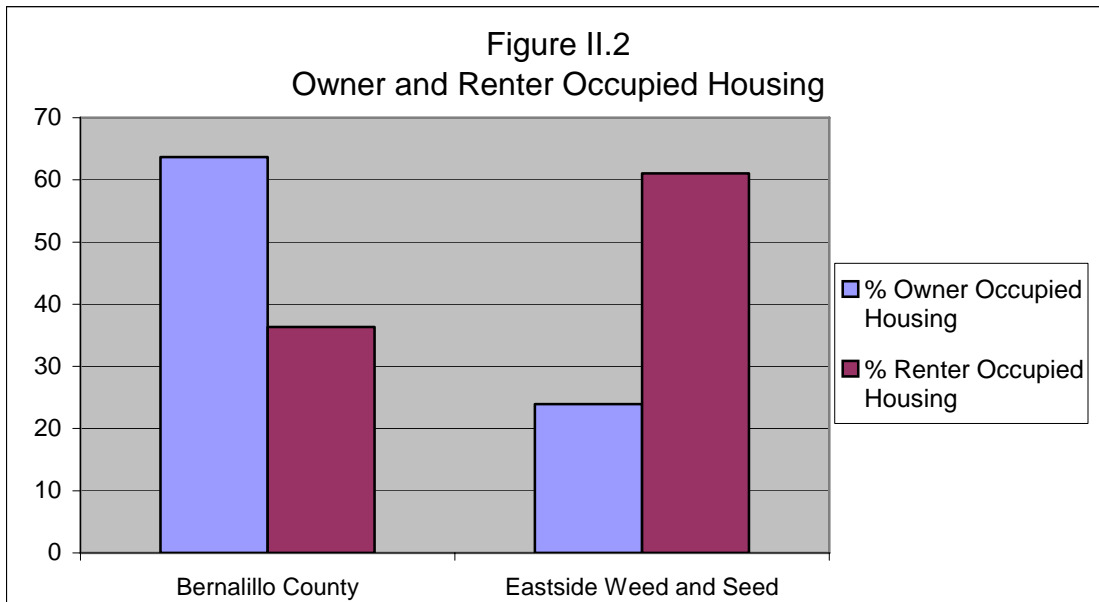
⁷ See "Application for Weed and Seed Official Recognition, Albuquerque, New Mexico" 2002.

reflection of the large number of rental units within the area.



Renter vs. owner-occupied housing

Among occupied housing, Figure II.2 shows that a greater percentage is renter rather than owner occupied in the Eastside site, compared to Albuquerque as a whole. This is perhaps not a surprising finding since there are many rental units in the area.



Population

The 2000 census indicates that 27,983 individuals live within the boundaries of the Eastside site.⁸ The four neighborhoods comprising the site differ substantially in number of residents. Approximately 34.7% of the Eastside site population resides in the South San Pedro neighborhood and the adjoining area; 31.3% of the population resides in the Trumbull neighborhood; La Mesa includes about 26% of the population, while Los Altos has the least number of residents, with about 10% of the area population residing there. Population estimates suggest that the population for the entire site has declined by approximately 0.5% over the last five years.⁹

Given the rather small land area encompassed by the site, the overall population density is relatively high, with approximately 9716 people per square mile.¹⁰ This is a comparatively high population density- almost four times that of the City of Albuquerque- reflecting the high concentration of multifamily housing units in the area.

Public and Private Schools

There are five public schools (K-12) within the Eastside Weed and Seed boundaries: three elementary schools (Emerson Elementary School, Hawthorne Elementary School and La Mesa Elementary School) and two middle schools (Van Buren Middle School and Wilson Middle School). Hayes Middle School is adjacent to the Weed and Seed boundary and also enrolls students from the site (see Map II.3 below). The site has no high schools within its boundaries.

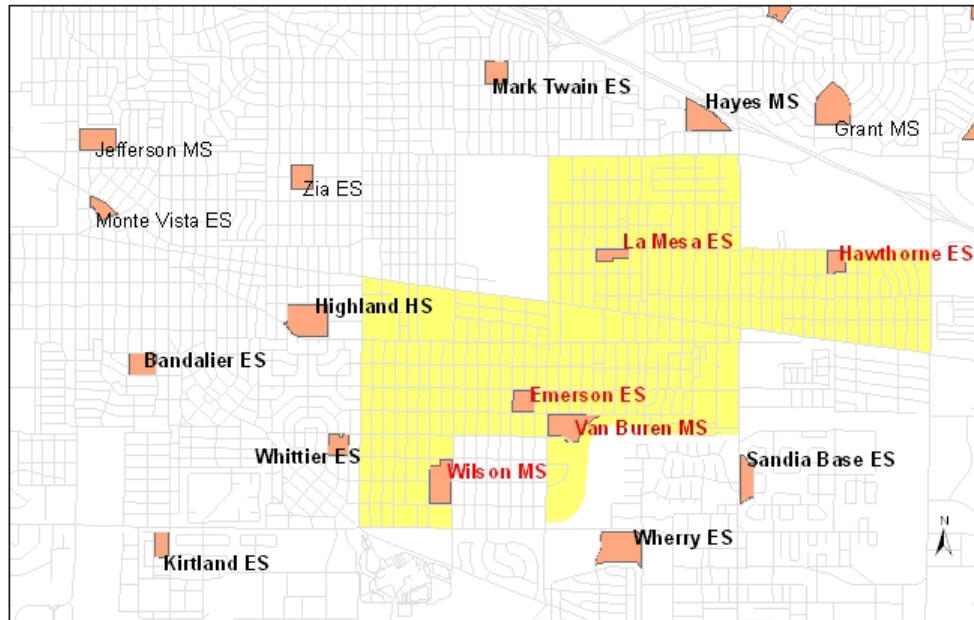
⁸ Data were gathered from the Census 2000 Summary Files using the smallest census grouping available, i.e., census blocks, to most accurately describe the population of this area. If a census block was mostly outside the area, it was excluded, conversely, if it was mostly inside the neighborhood, it was included.

⁹ See CCDO website <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=NM>

¹⁰ In comparison, Albuquerque, the population density is 2483 per square mile. See: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albuquerque>

MAP II.3

Schools in and around the Eastside Weed and Seed Area



Seven of the of the nine elementary schools that fall into the Highland High School Cluster of the Albuquerque Public School (APS) District serve students within the Eastside Weed and Seed area. These are Emerson ES, Hawthorne ES, La Mesa ES, Mark Twain ES, Sandia Base ES, Wherry ES and Whittier ES. In addition to APS schools, there are at least two private faith based schools located within the Eastside Weed and Seed site: Holy Ghost (pre-K to 8) and Our Lady of the Assumption (K-8).

Most children in the area are enrolled in a public school. Sample data from the U.S. census indicates that approximately 98% of children living in the Eastside site that enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12th attend a public school. In Bernalillo County as a whole, 88% of enrolled children attend public school.

Head Start is a national program that serves children from birth to age 5. Its goal is to increase school readiness among children in low-income families.¹¹ There are two

¹¹ <http://www2.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb/about/indx.htm>

Head Start centers within the boundaries of the Eastside Weed and Seed site: Mesa Verde Head Start and General Bradley Head Start.

School enrollment, educational attainment and other issues related to crime and quality of life in the Eastside Weed and Seed site are examined in greater depth in Chapters III and IV.

Environmental Concerns

There are many pollutants that can affect quality of life in any area. However, many of these cannot be measured within a small area. For example, air pollution is obviously not confined to a small geographic location. However, the quality of the water supply in Albuquerque can be measured in relatively small locales. Water in Albuquerque is pumped from wells into storage tanks. Each well and system of storage tanks serves a different section in Albuquerque, referred to as a Water Zone. The Eastside Weed and Seed area falls into Water Zone 3.

Table II.1 shows the average level of water contaminants detected in samples taken in Zone 3 in 2002 and 2003, Table II.2 gives the levels measured in 2004, while Table II.3 illustrates the levels in 2006.¹² None of the contaminants listed exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) currently allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency. However, new arsenic levels are slated to go into effect in 2008. The future MCL levels are not currently listed; however, previous reports published on the City website stated that the MCL for arsenic would be .01, a level significantly lower than the current allowable level of 50. Note that while the average arsenic levels exceed this future MCL, the City-wide average level is substantially higher than that in Zone 3. Some of the problems associated with high arsenic levels include skin damage, problems with circulatory systems and possibly increased risk for cancer.

¹² More detailed Albuquerque water quality information is available at <http://www.cabq.gov>

Table II.1**Well Water Contaminants¹³: Zone 3 and City-Wide, 2002 and 2003**

CONTAMINANT	ZONE 3 AVERAGE LEVEL DETECTED 2002 and 2003	CITY-WIDE AVERAGE LEVEL DETECTED 2002 and 2003	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL ALLOWED
Arsenic	4	13	50
Barium	.2	.1	2
Chromium	2	2	100
Fluoride	.5	.9	4
Nitrate	.2	.6	10
Xylenes	ND	ND	10
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthlate	ND	ND	6
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	1.8	ND	15
Uranium	2.6	3.9	30

Table II.2**Well Water Contaminants: Zone 3 and City-Wide, 2004**

CONTAMINANT	ZONE 3 AVERAGE LEVEL DETECTED 2004	CITY-WIDE AVERAGE LEVEL DETECTED 2004	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL ALLOWED
Arsenic	4	12	50
Barium	.16	.1	2
Chromium	1	2	200
Selenium	ND	ND	50
Fluoride	1	1	4
Nitrate+Nitrite	.3	.5	10
Iron	.062	ND	.3
Manganese	.001	ND	.05
Zinc	.064	.015	5
Chloride	33	27	250
Sulfate	31	50	250
Total dissolved solids	234	270	500
pH	7.9	7.9	6.5-8.5

¹³ Measured in parts per million.

Table II.3**Well Water Contaminants¹⁴: Zone 3 and City-Wide, 2006**

CONTAMINANT	ZONE 3 AVERAGE LEVEL DETECTED, 2006	CITY-WIDE AVERAGE LEVEL DETECTED, 2006	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL ALLOWED
Arsenic	5	12	50*
Barium	.14	.09	2
Chromium	1	2	100
Selenium	ND	.07	50
Fluoride	.8	.8	4
Nitrate	.3	.5	10
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthlate (2005 reading)	ND	ND	6
Uranium	2.6	4.1	30
Iron	.03	.03	.3
Manganese	ND	ND	.05
Zinc	.07	.01	5
Chloride	33	26	250
Sulfate	32	50	250
Total dissolved solids	254	290	500
pH	7.8	7.9	6.5-8.5

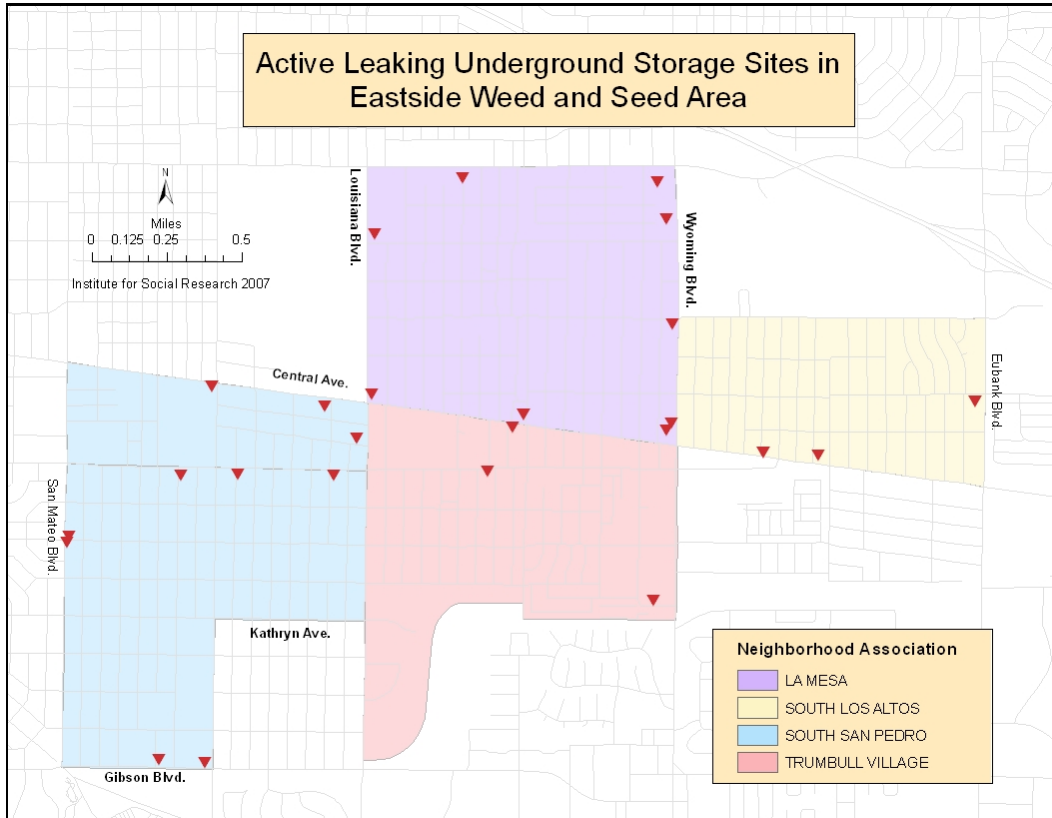
***This value is in effect until 2008, changed from 2006**

¹⁴ Measured in parts per million.

Ground seepage

The Environmental Health Department has identified the locations of underground storage sites that are actively leaking throughout the City. These sites leak petroleum-based products into the ground that can adversely affect ground water. Of the 534 sites identified in the City, there are 22 located within the Eastside site.¹⁵ Their locations are illustrated in Map II.4.

MAP II.4



Summary

Overall, these data suggest that the Eastside Weed and Seed site is characterized by notable structural disadvantages when compared to the City as a whole. Specifically, these neighborhoods must contend with low rates of home ownership, notable population turnover, and exposure to environmental toxins. Such structural disadvantages are undoubtedly tied to the notably high crime rates in the area and are among the criminogenic factors that the Weed and Seed model aims to counteract. The next chapter

¹⁵ Data was generated from the “actulist” ESRI files available at <http://www.cabq.gov/gisshapes/>

delves further into potential structural disadvantages in this area by examining educational attainment and achievement, unemployment, and income differentials.

CHAPTER III

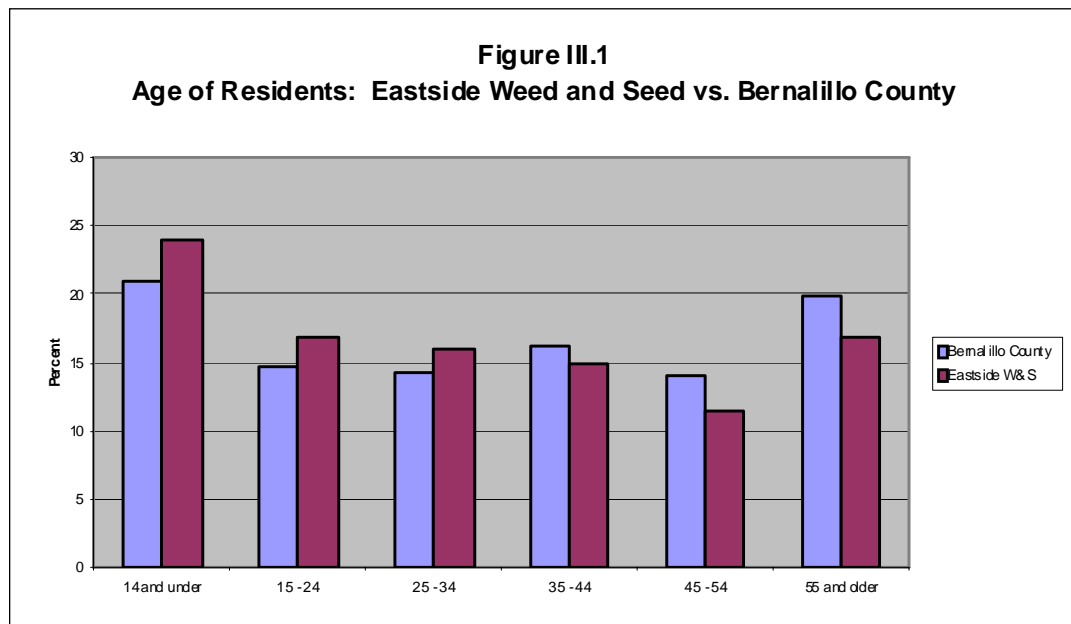
RESIDENT AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter presents information concerning the residents of the Eastside Weed and Seed site, at the individual and household levels. First, we describe individual demographic characteristics, employment and civic participation, followed by information concerning students attending schools in the site. The final section of this chapter concentrates on household composition and income information.

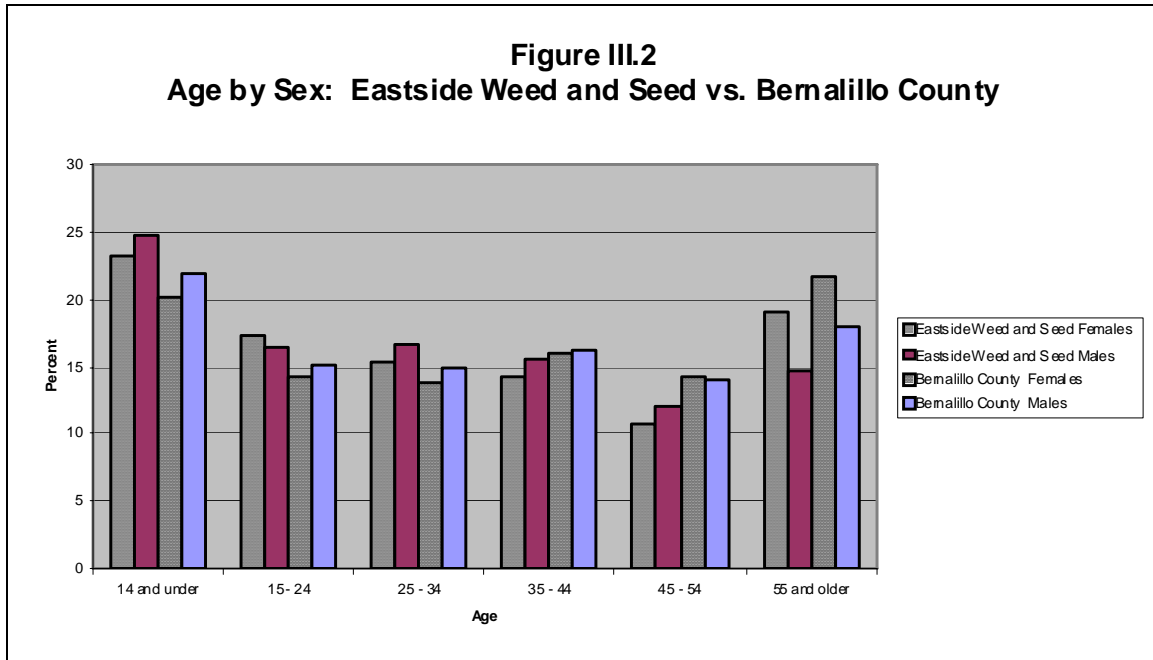
Resident Demographics

Age and gender

There are slightly fewer males in the Eastside neighborhoods, with 49.9% of the population being male. The median age of Eastside residents is 34.5 years of age. This is comparable to the median age of people in Bernalillo County, which is 35 years of age. Females in the area are slightly older on average (34.5 years old) when compared to males (33.7 years). However, the average age of females in the Eastside Weed and Seed area is lower than the County average of 36.2. The median age of males in the County is 33.8. There is a greater proportion of Eastside residents represented in the youngest age groups (34 and under) when compared to Bernalillo County (see chart below). This is particularly notable given the overrepresentation of adolescents and young adults among active offenders.

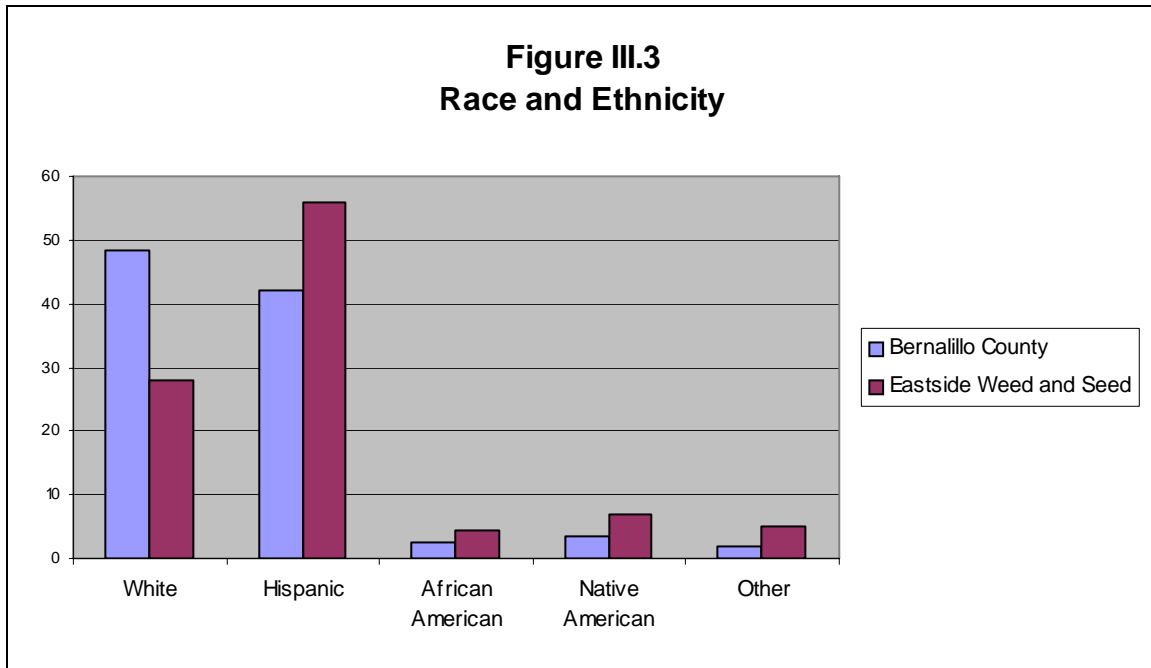


Additionally, as shown in Figure III.2, both males and females in the area are over represented in the youngest age categories (34 and younger) compared to those residing in the County as a whole.



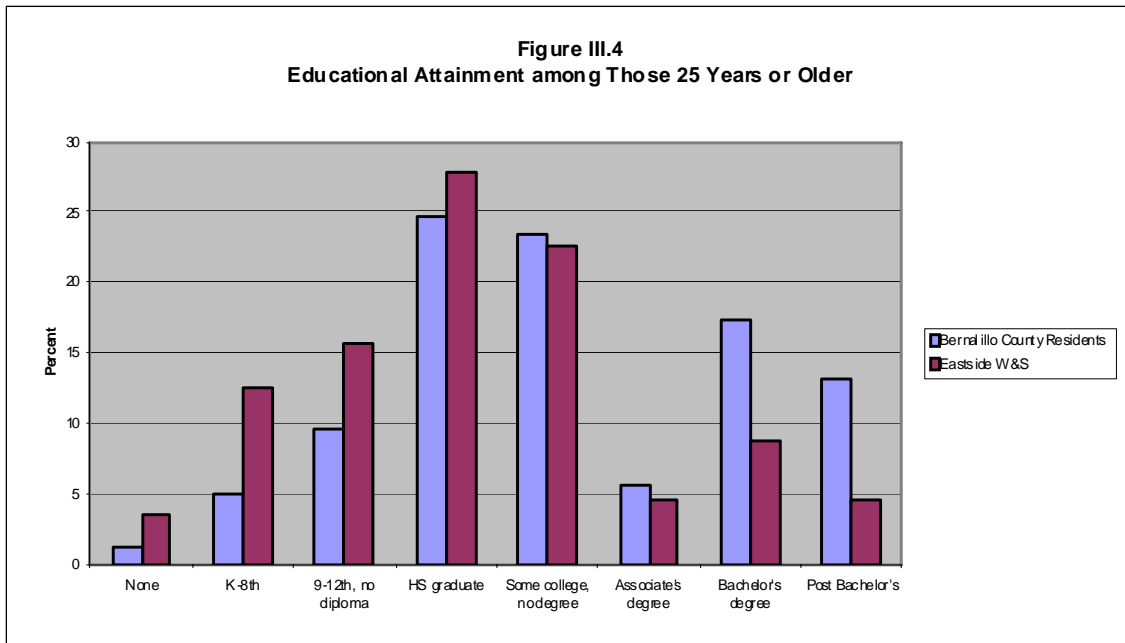
Race and Ethnicity

Figure III.3 presents information on the racial and ethnic makeup of the Eastside site. As illustrated below, the site has a significantly lower percentage of white residents and a significantly higher percentage of Hispanic residents when compared to Bernalillo County. While relatively low, the percentage of African American, Native American and other ethnic minorities living in the Eastside area is also higher than the representation of these racial/ethnic groups in Bernalillo County.



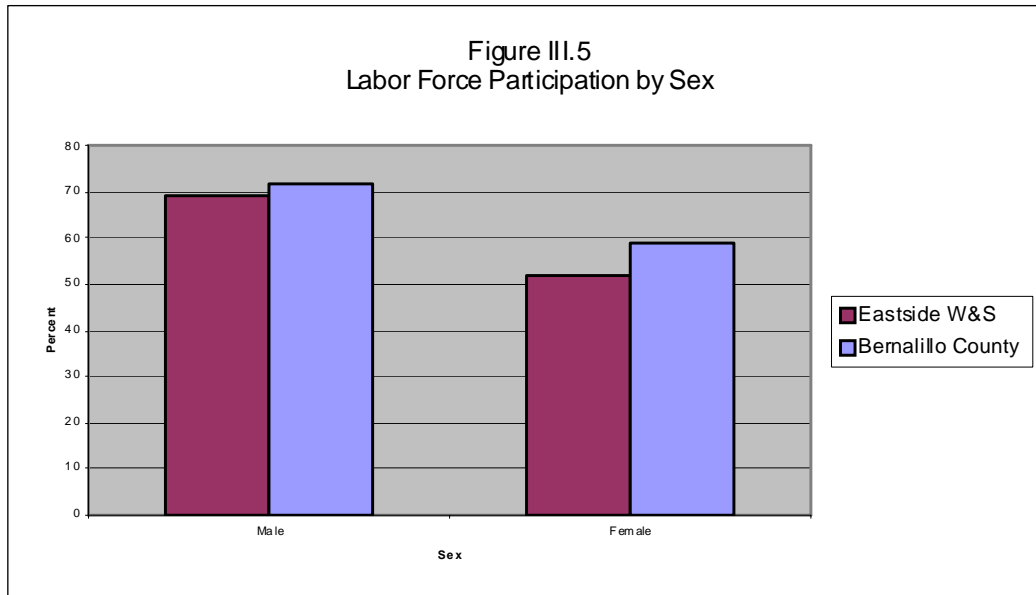
Resident Educational Attainment

Compared to residents of Bernalillo County as a whole, educational attainment is lower among individuals residing within the Eastside site area. Figure III.4 illustrates the educational attainment levels in more detail. While 60% of Bernalillo County residents at least 25 years of age have some college education, only 40.5% of residents within the Eastside site have attended college. Further, 3.5% of Eastside residents have no formal education, as compared to 1% of County residents. Still, 68% of residents have, at a minimum, completed high school.



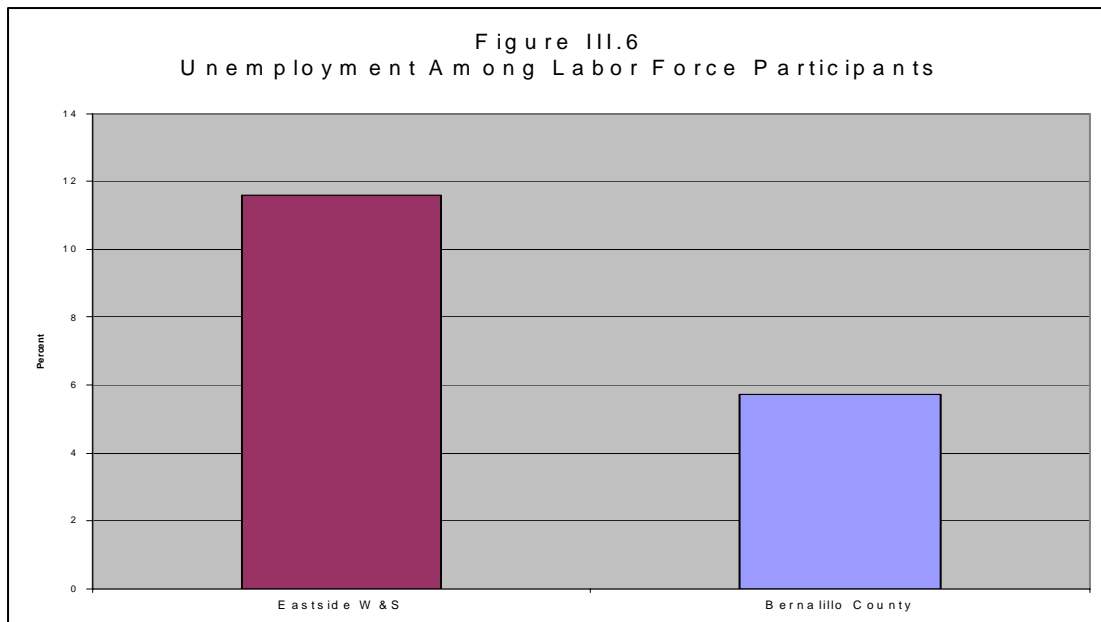
Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation is somewhat lower among those living in the Eastside site compared to Bernalillo County as a whole. While 65% of Bernalillo County residents aged sixteen and over identified themselves as labor force participants, slightly less than 62% of comparable Weed and Seed residents are in the labor force. Figure III.5 presents information concerning labor force participation for both men and women. It shows that females in the Weed and Seed area are less likely to be in the labor force compared to female Bernalillo County residents. While males in the Weed and Seed area are also less likely than their male Bernalillo County counterparts to be in the labor force, the difference for females is greater. Recall that there is a larger percentage of young children in the area compared to the County as whole. Females are typically more likely to be involved in childcare activities, perhaps accounting for this discrepancy.



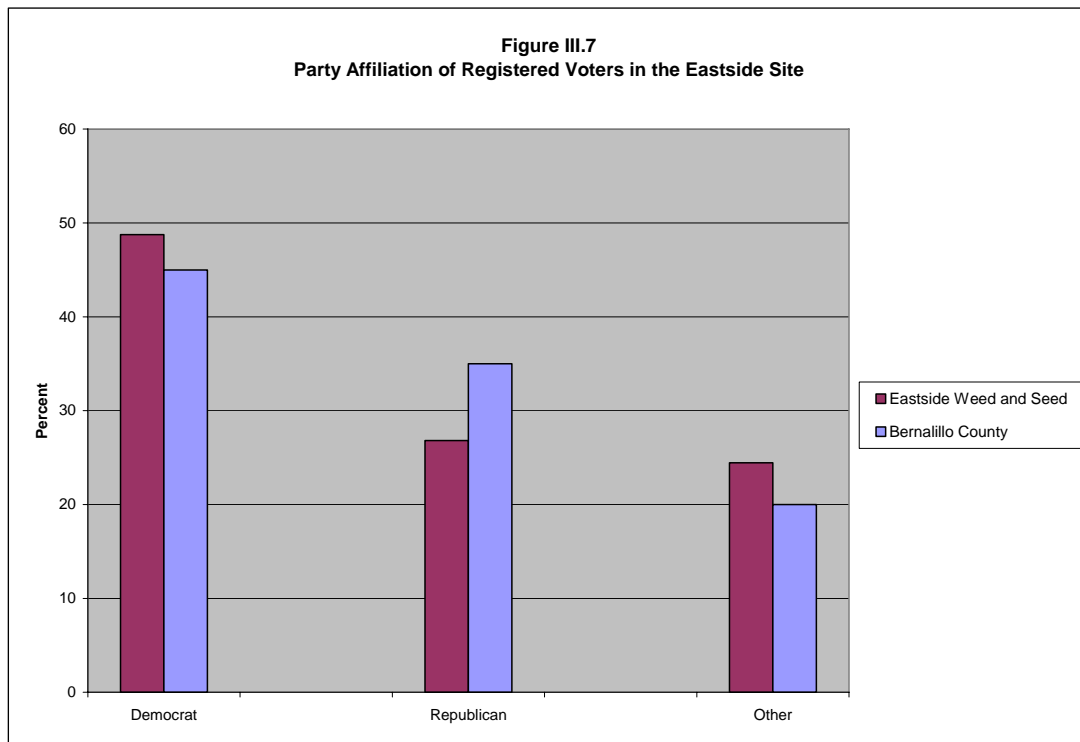
Percentage of unemployed among those in the labor force

Among labor force participants, unemployment is greater in the Weed and Seed area (11.8%) than in Bernalillo County as a whole (5.7%). Unemployment rates have been linked to offending rates, so this is another notable concern. While not shown in Figure III.6, there is no discernable difference in unemployment by sex.



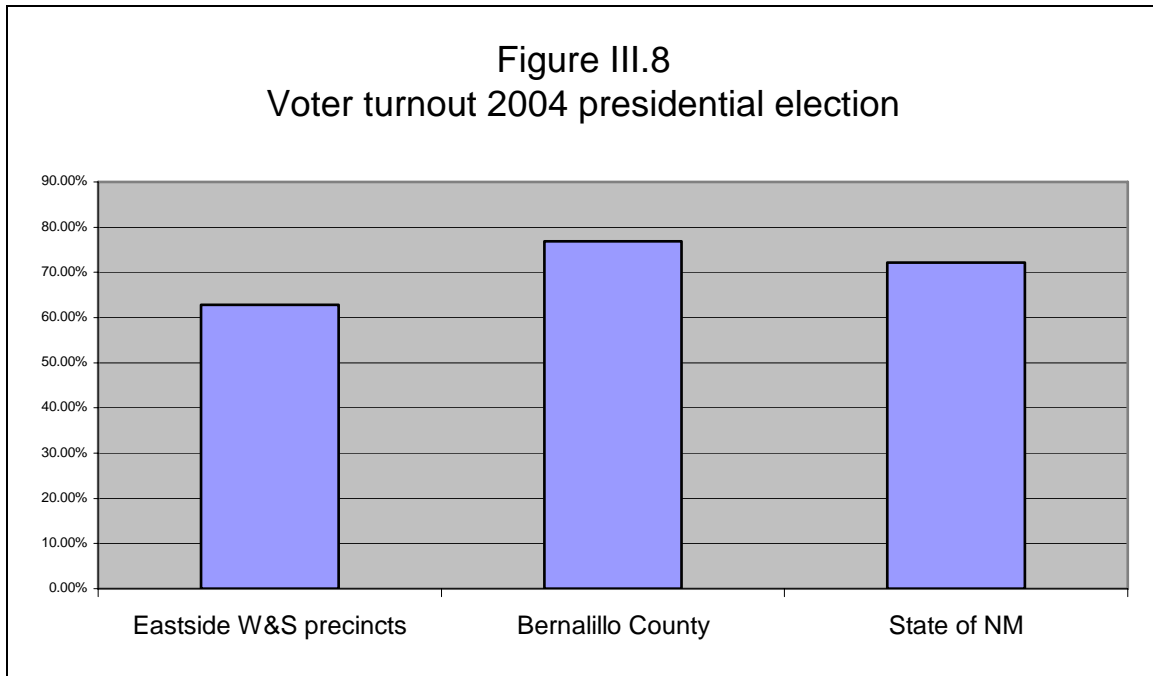
Civic Participation

There are fifteen voting precincts within the Eastside site. According to data posted on the New Mexico Secretary of State's website, the majority of registered voters in the area are members of the Democratic Party.¹⁶ As shown in Figure III.7, about 49% of registered voters in the Eastside site are Democrats; this is slightly higher than the County average, which is 45%. We noted a very slight increase (1%) in the percentage of Republican voters from 2005 to 2007.



Over half of registered voters in the Eastside weed and seed area participated in the 2004 presidential election. Figure III.8 illustrates that this percentage was lower than that of voter turnout in both the County and State.

¹⁶ See <http://www.sos.state.nm.us/avrs/BERNINDEX.HTM>



Characteristics of Students and their Academic Performance

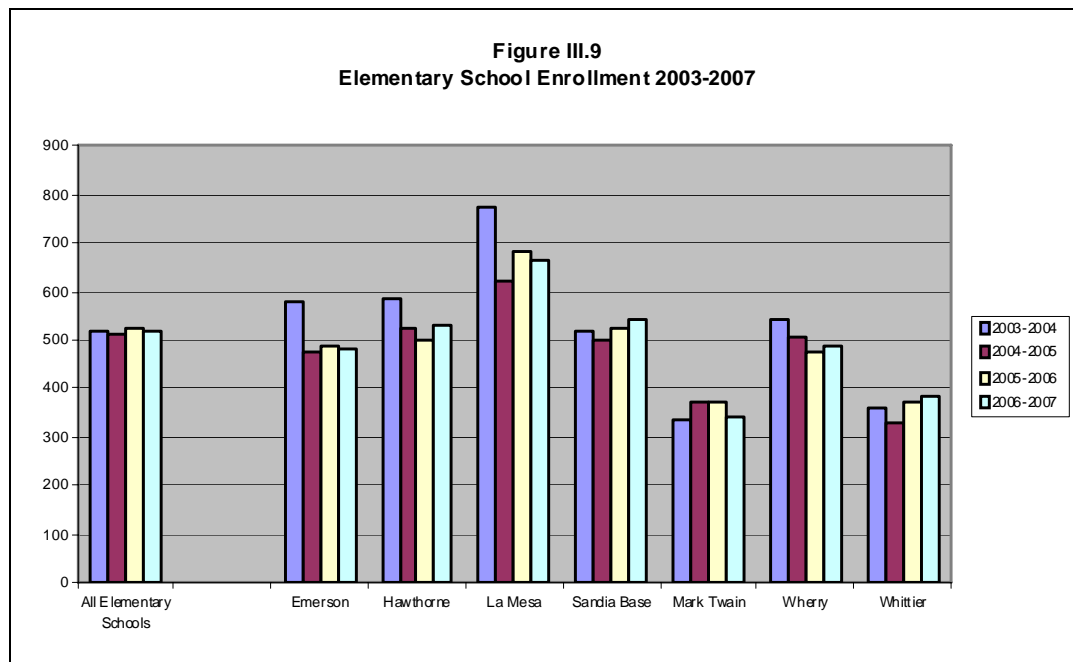
This section focuses on the public schools within the Weed and Seed area. Here we present school enrollment figures, subsidized lunch statistics and test scores. These are each compared with the district average, which includes all public schools in the Albuquerque area. These data are important since we know that school performance at the individual and community levels is correlated with criminal involvement and crime rates.

Student enrollment

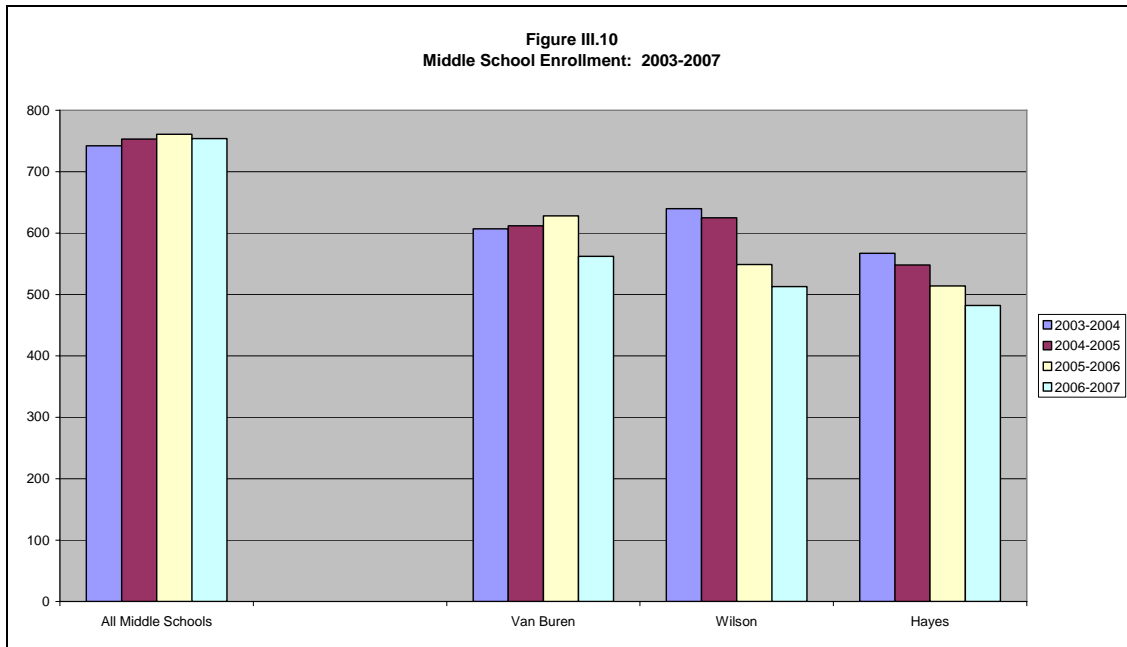
Elementary schools. For all elementary schools in the Albuquerque Public School (APS) District, the average number of students enrolled has varied from a low of 514 in 2004-2005 to a high of 524 in 2005-2006. Figure III.9 presents the number of students enrolled in elementary schools located within the boundaries of the Eastside Weed and Seed site, and those enrolled in schools near the site, which serve Eastside residents. Enrollment figures vary both from school to school and from year to year. La Mesa Elementary school consistently had higher enrollment figures than both the district average and other nearby elementary schools. The number of students enrolled at

Emerson Elementary school in the 2003-2004 school year, exceeded the district average, but was lower in subsequent years.

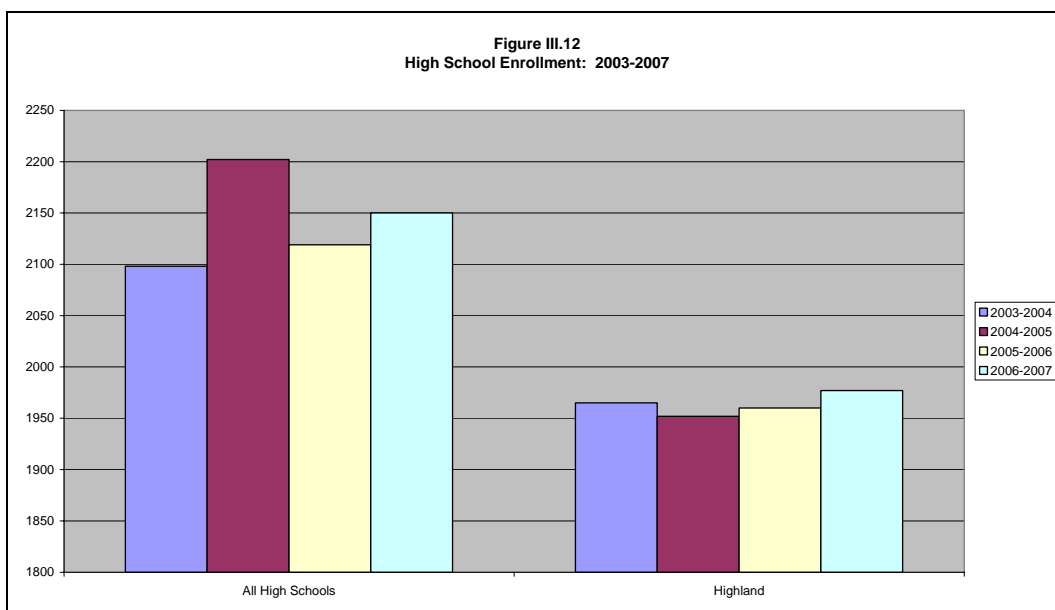
While most elementary schools provide education for children from kindergarten through fifth grade, two elementary schools within the Highland Cluster also include sixth grade. These are Bandelier and Sandia Base. One of these schools, Sandia Base, serves the students living within the Weed and Seed boundaries. Despite the increased number of grade levels, enrollment at these schools never reached the high that was experienced at La Mesa ES, and was closer to the district's average when compared to other schools in the site.



Middle schools. The average enrollment of the middle schools within the Weed and Seed area and within the Highland Cluster was lower than the District-wide average (see Figure III.10). Wilson Middle School had the highest enrollment in the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school years. In recent years Van Buren Middle School has also had increasing enrollment figures.

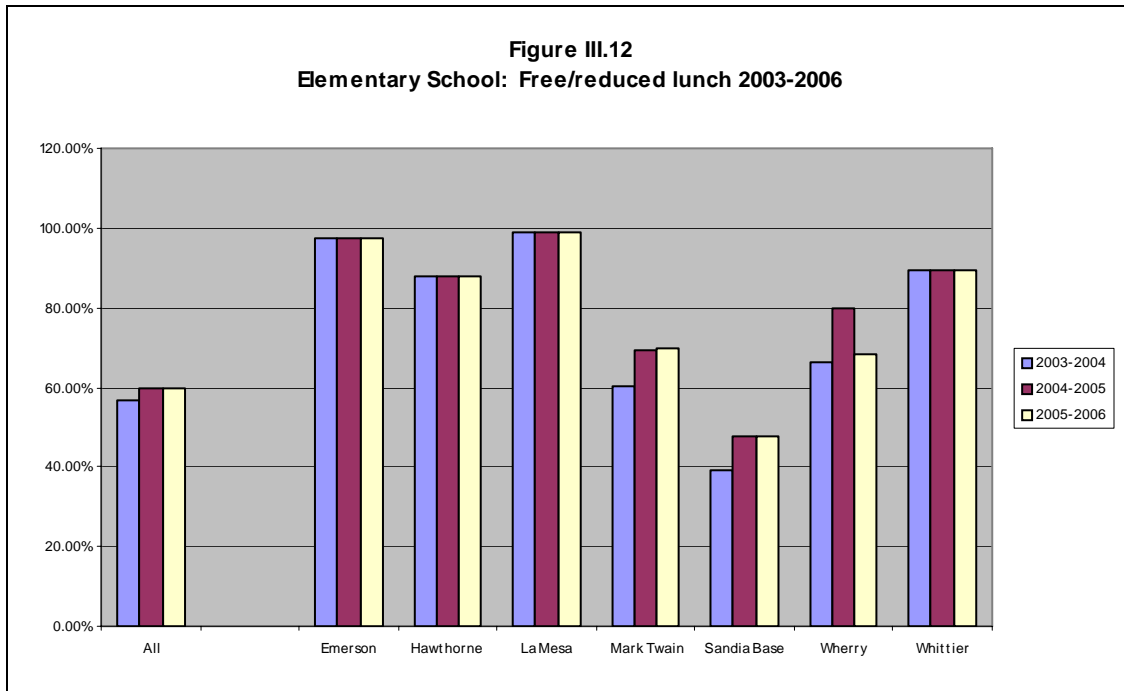


High school enrollment. The number of students enrolled at Highland High School was greatest during the 2006-2007 school year, with an enrollment of 1977 students (see Figure III.11 below). While Highland students also come from outside the Eastside site, some of these students reside within the site boundaries. Although enrollment figures have increased over the past two school years, Highland High School student population size continues to be lower than the district average.

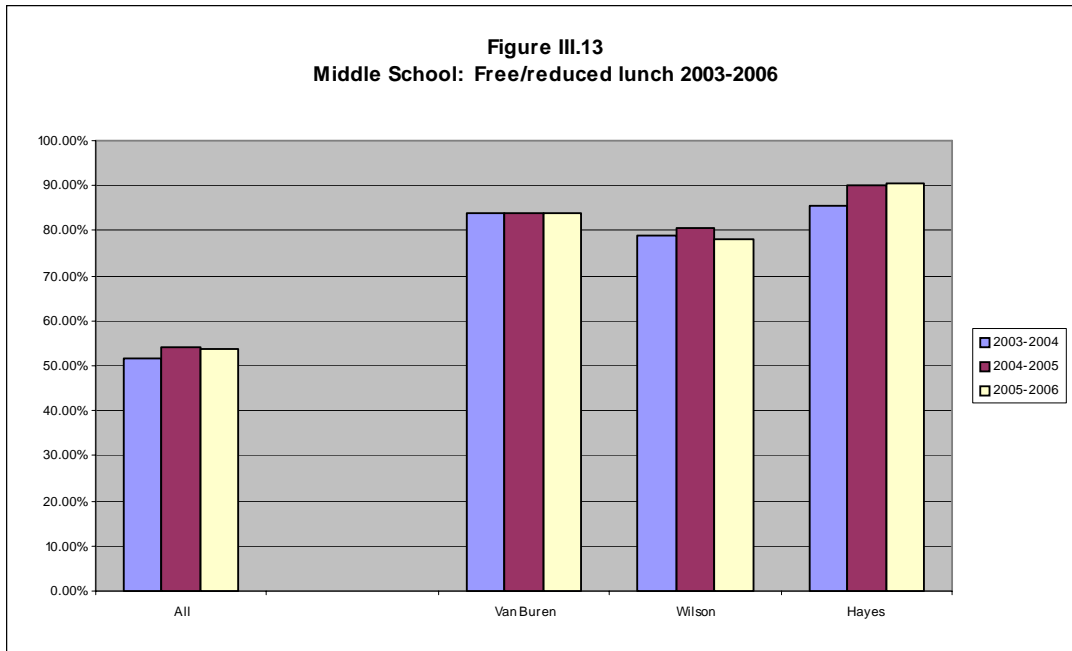


Subsidized lunch program

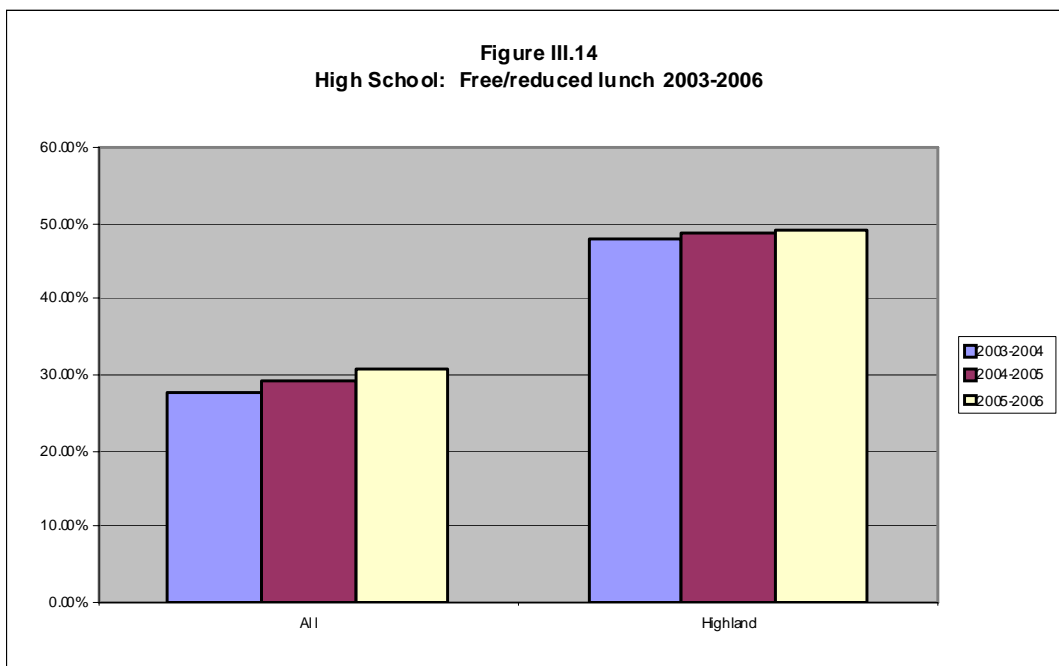
The free/reduced lunch program is designed to assist students whose household income is low. The percentage of elementary school students receiving free/reduced lunch at schools located within the boundaries of the Weed and Seed site has remained essentially the same for the years examined. However, the percentage of elementary school students receiving aid within the Eastside site is higher than the APS average for every year reported (Figure III.12). Among other elementary schools in the cluster serving Weed and Seed area students, three also have a greater percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch. These include Mark Twain ES, Wherry ES and Whittier ES.



Among middle school students, children in the Weed and Seed schools were also more likely to receive free/reduced lunch than APS students as a whole (Figure III.13). This was true for each year examined. A slightly greater percentage of students at Hayes Middle School received aid compared to the two other middle schools.

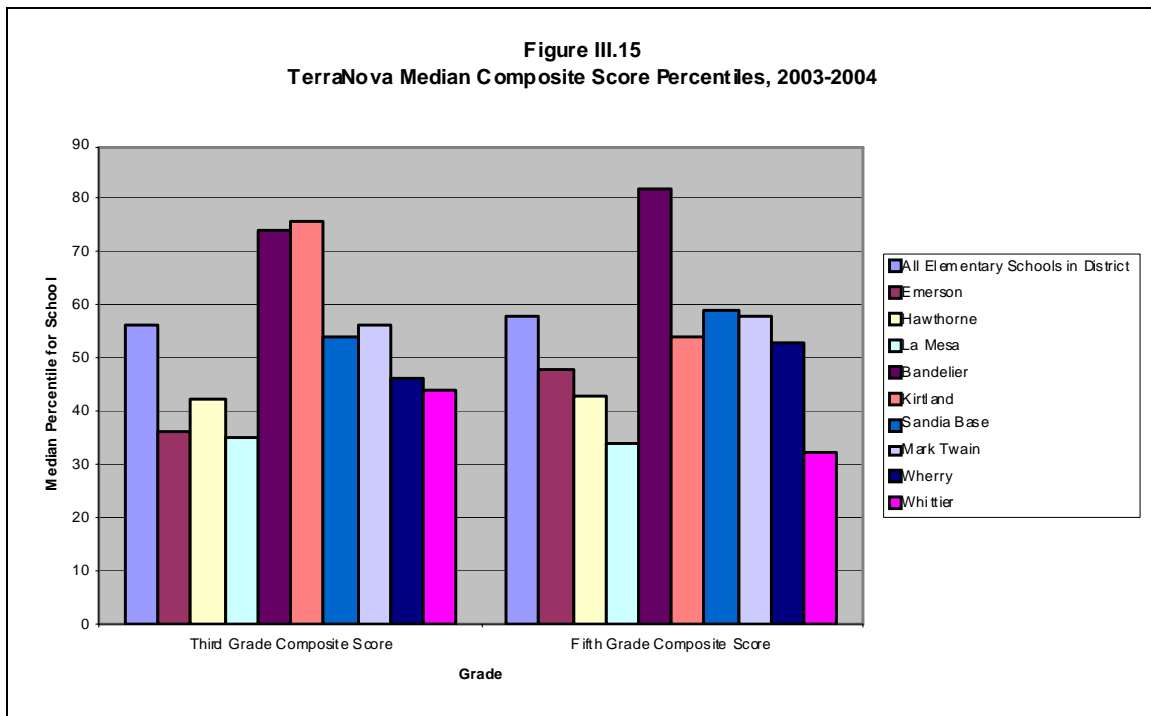


Finally, a much greater percentage of students at Highland High School received free/reduced lunches when compared to other APS high schools (Figure III.14). A slight increase in the percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch was observed for each year examined.



Academic attainment

Elementary School Students. As illustrated in Figure III.15, students enrolled in elementary schools located within the Eastside site (Emerson ES, Hawthorne ES and La Mesa ES) performed below APS Terra Nova test averages for the 2003-2004 academic year in both the third and fifth grades. While Emerson's scores improved relative to APS averages between the third and fifth grades, Hawthorne's average scores stayed relatively the same, and La Mesa's averages decreased. Whittier ES is located just outside the site, and presumably enrolls students from Eastside neighborhoods, particularly South San Pedro. Its averages are also below APS norms for both the third and fifth grades. Wherry ES scores were also below APS averages. Of the other elementary schools in the Highland cluster, Bandelier ES consistently scored well above the APS mean, and both Mark Twain ES and Sandia Base ES were near the APS level. Kirtland ES scored the highest on the Terra Nova test for the third grade, but below APS averages for the fifth grade.



Rather than the Terra Nova, APS now employs the New Mexico Standard Based Assessment. This test can be given in both English and Spanish and the results are tallied

separately. Three subject areas are assessed: Reading, Math and Science. Results for Grade 3 for the 2005-2006 school year indicate that for the English version test, students' Reading and Math scores from Eastside Weed and Seed schools were lower than the district wide average (see Table III.1). Reading scores at Mark Twain ES approached the district average, while math scores at Whittier ES were just slightly below average. Science scores were the same as the district average at Mark Twain ES.

Three schools also administered the Spanish version of the test: Hawthorne, La Mesa and Wherry ES. Scores of La Mesa students taking the Spanish version far exceeded the district average in all three subject areas. Students from Hawthorne ES exceeded the Spanish version district average in science and neared the average in math.

Table III.1 NM Standard Based Assessment Results- Grade 3 2005-2006

	Reading		Math		Science	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
All Elementary Schools	55	35	47	55	83	28
Emerson	16		24		75	
Hawthorne	37	15	30	50	68	37
La Mesa	27	49	29	82	58	42
Sandia Base	40		28		70	
Mark Twain	50		34		83	
Wherry	31	6	16	19	65	0
Whittier	47		45		78	

SBA scores for fourth grade students are shown in Table III.2 below. Fourth grade students from Mark Twain ES taking the English version of the SBA exceeded the district average in both reading and math and scored just slightly below average in science. Scores from the six remaining Eastside elementary schools taking the English version were below the district average in all three subject areas. Some schools scored just slightly below average while others were much lower.

Among those students taking the Spanish version of the test, scores from students from La Mesa ES again far exceeded the district average in all three subject areas. Wherry ES students exceeded the district average on the science exam.

Table III.2 NM Standard Based Assessment Results- Grade 4 2005-2006

	Reading		Math		Science	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
All Elementary Schools	58	32	43	27	57	27
Emerson	33		27		26	
Hawthorne	52	24	40	24	38	19
La Mesa	37	51	39	42	46	37
Sandia Base	56		34		53	
Mark Twain	58		45		55	
Wherry	29	12	15	12	27	29
Whittier	50		36		39	

Fifth graders from the Weed and Seed area schools taking the English version of the SBA scored below average in all three subject areas (see Table III.3). However, students from Mark Twain ES scored close to the district average in reading; students from Sandia Base ES scored just below the average in science.

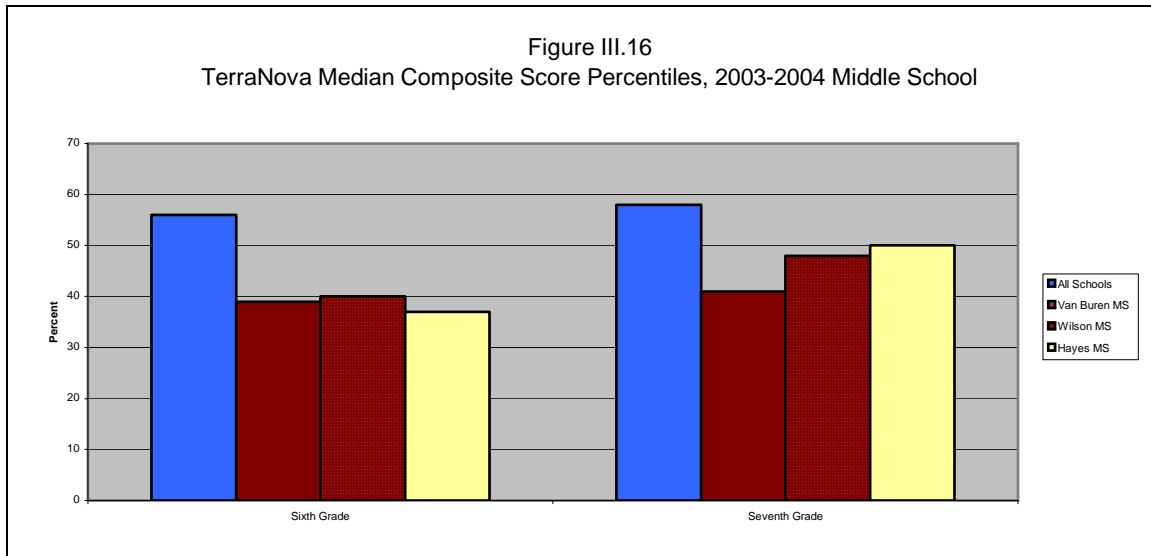
Among those taking the Spanish language version, La Mesa ES students exceeded the district average scores in math and science and scored just below the average in reading. Wherry ES students scored below average in all three subject areas. There were no Spanish language version scores for students from Hawthorne ES in fifth grade; presumably there were not enough Spanish speakers to take this test.

Table III.3 NM Standard Based Assessment Results- Grade 5 2005-2006

	Reading		Math		Science	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
All Elementary Schools	61	29	40	16	46	27
Emerson	38		24		18	
Hawthorne	41		28		33	
La Mesa	37	28	30	28	18	31
Sandia Base	53		28		42	
Mark Twain	59		20		30	
Wherry	27	23	9	0	16	8
Whittier	49		30		32	

Middle School Students. Terra Nova scores for students enrolled in the middle schools located within the Eastside site (Van Buren MS and Wilson MS) and in the school close to the site's northern border (Hayes MS) improved their scores from the

sixth to seventh grades¹⁷. Improved performance among Hayes MS students was greater than improvements achieved at any other middle school. However, their average scores were still below APS averages (see Figure III.16).



Standards based assessment scores for sixth-graders are shown in Table III.4. Recall that Sandia Base ES also includes a sixth-grade class. Scores from Sandia Base students taking the English version of the SBA test exceeded the district average in both reading and math, and were just slightly below the average in science. Sixth-graders from the area middle schools did not perform as well. Scores from all three schools were below the district average.

Among those taking the Spanish version, student scores from Wilson MS exceeded the district average in reading, but fell below the average in math and science. Van Buren MS student scores were above average in math, but below average in the other two subjects. Students from Hayes MS scored below the district average in all three subjects.

¹⁷ In addition to these middle schools, two elementary schools also have sixth grade classes. These are Bandelier and Sandia Base. Their 2003-2004 Composite Scores were 73 and 44, respectively.

Table III.4 NM Standard Based Assessment Results- Grade 6 2005-2006

	Reading		Math		Science	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
All Middle Schools	39	40	22	9	30	18
Sandia Base	52		28		28	
Hayes	14	29	11	7	10	11
Van Buren	16	32	7	16	13	13
Wilson	23	46	16	0	16	15

Scores of seventh-grade students are illustrated in Table III.5 below. Scores from Eastside Weed and Seed area schools did not meet the district average in any subject among those taking the English language version of the assessment. Among those taking the Spanish language version, scores were above district average in all areas at Van Buren, and reading scores were above average in reading at Hayes MS. Wilson MS did not have Spanish language scores to report.

Table III.5 NM Standard Based Assessment Results- Grade 7 2005-2006

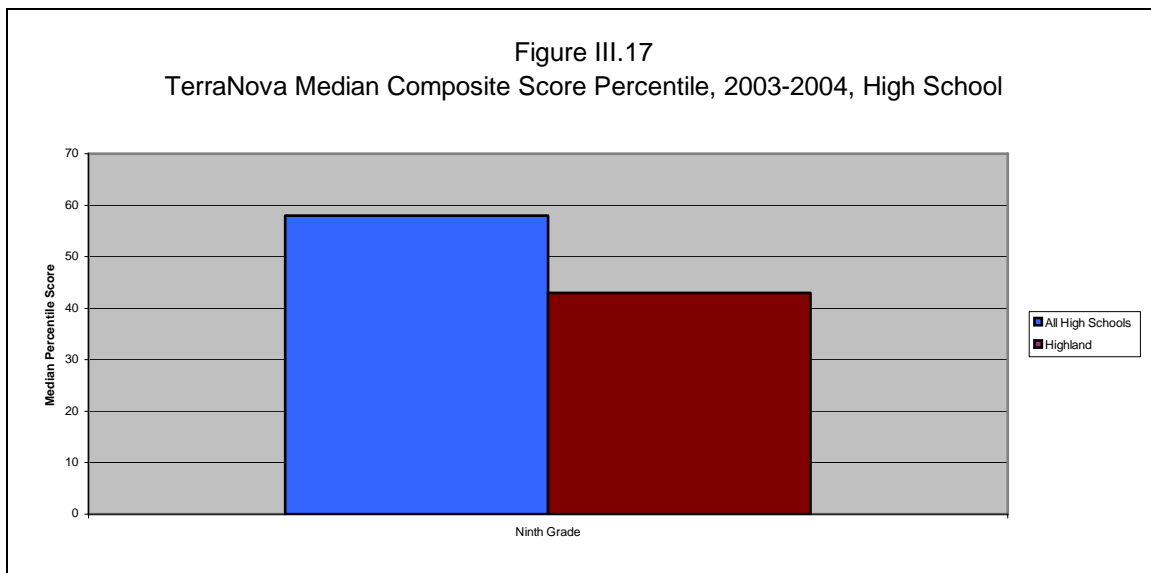
	Reading		Math		Science	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
All Middle Schools	49	68	24	8	25	14
Hayes	25	75	13	0	9	6
Van Buren	20	72	6	20	8	20
Wilson	38		13		16	

Finally, the scores of eighth-grade middle school students are shown below. Like those in sixth and seventh grades, scores were below the district average in all three subjects at all three middle schools. Spanish language version scores were better than average in reading, math and science at Van Buren MS and in reading at Hayes.

Table III.6 NM Standard Based Assessment Results- Grade 8 2005-2006

	Reading		Math		Science	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
All Middle Schools	52	68	30	8	27	14
Hayes	38	75	19	0	13	6
Van Buren	30	72	21	20	8	20
Wilson	43		21		21	

High School Students. Highland's graduation rate in 2002-2003 (the most recent year for which this data was available) was 87.3%. Comparable rates for the district were not available. The drop out rate in 2002-2003 was 2.5% for Highland; this was lower than the district-wide drop out rate of 3.3%. Scores on the Terra Nova test for ninth grade students are shown in Figure III.17. Students from Highland HS achieved lower scores than their counterparts from throughout the APS system.



Only ninth-grade students are required to take the SBA in high school. Table III.7 below depicts scores from Highland HS compared to the district average. As shown in the table, students taking the English version at Highland HS scored below average in all three subject areas. However, students taking Spanish language version at Highland HS scored above the district average in reading and math, but below average in science.

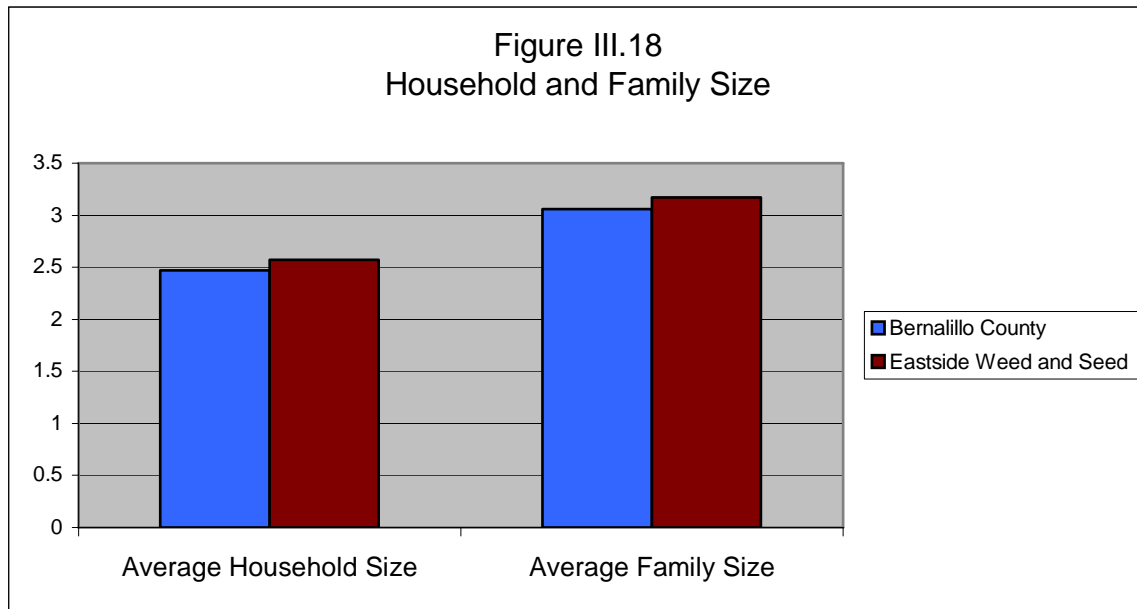
Table III.7 NM Standard Based Assessment Results- Grade 9 2005-2006

	Reading		Math		Science	
	English	Spanish	English	Spanish	English	Spanish
All High Schools	46	34	39	16	41	11
Highland High School	28	46	18	17	19	6

Household Composition

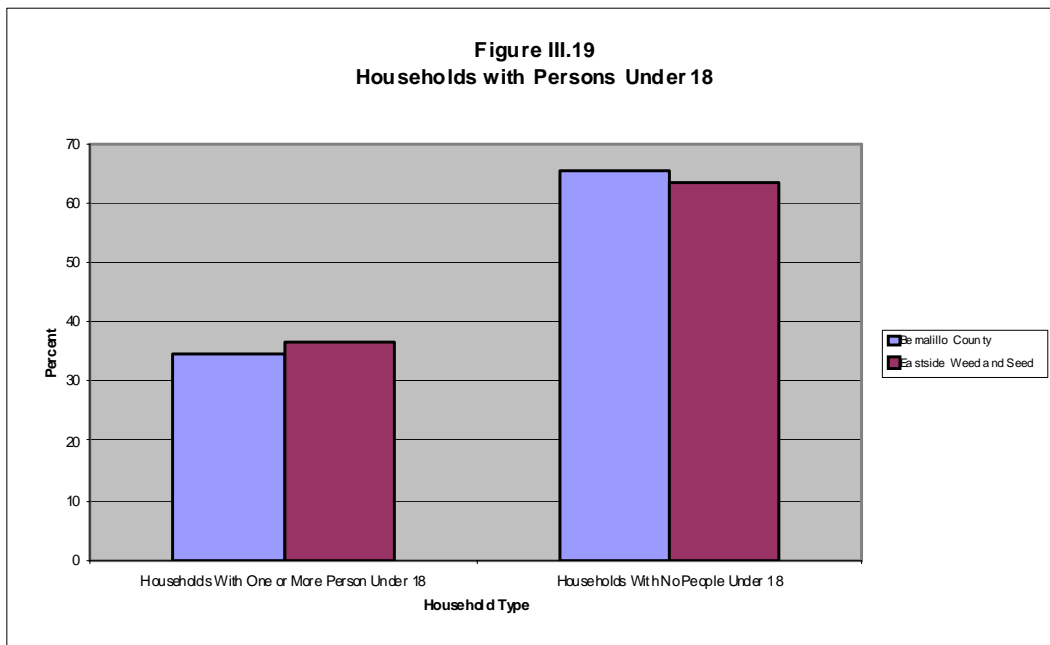
Household and family size

As shown in Figure III.18, the average number of people in an Eastside household was slightly higher than Bernalillo County households as a whole (2.6 compared to 2.47 residents). The average size of families in the Eastside site was also slightly greater than that for the County as a whole (3.2 compared to 3.06 family members).



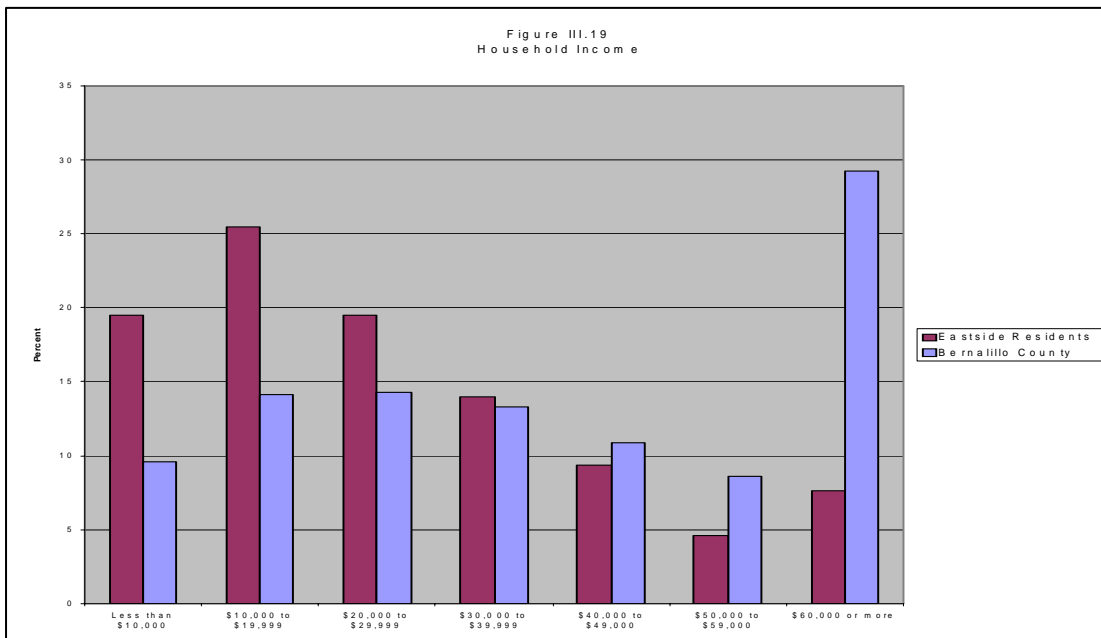
Children in the home

Fewer than 40% of the households in Bernalillo County, including those in the Eastside site, have children under the age of 18. There is, however, a greater percentage of households with children within the site when compared to the County (see Figure III.19).



Household Income

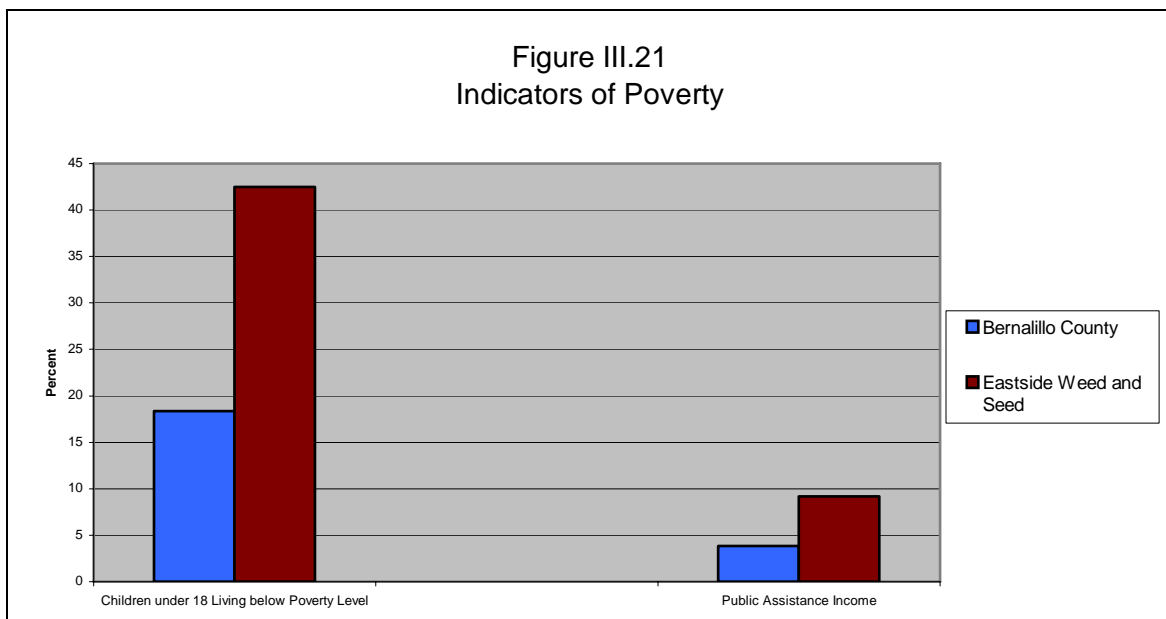
The average per capita income of W&S residents in the year 2000 was \$14,460; considerably lower than that for Bernalillo County as a whole, where the average per capita income was \$20,790. As illustrated in Figure III.20, households in the Eastside site most commonly earned between \$10,000 and \$19,999 annually. Indeed, almost twice as many households in the area earned incomes below \$20,000 when compared to



Bernalillo County households as a whole (45% compared to 24%).

Many of the households within the Eastside site fall below federal standards of economic deprivation. Of the six census tracts that fall within in the site's boundaries, four are designated as Metropolitan Qualified Census Tracts (MQCTs). This term indicates that the tract has a poverty rate of 25% or more, or that over one-half of the households in the tract have incomes that are below 60% of the national gross income median. In the entire County, there are only 24 tracts designated as MQCTs.

The proportion of children under 18 living in poverty was much higher in the area than in Bernalillo County. Over 42% of children under the age of 18 live in poverty in the Eastside Weed and Seed area, compared to just slightly over 18% of children in the County as a whole (see Figure III.21). Not surprisingly, reliance on public assistance income was significantly greater in this area. Slightly over 9% of households received public assistance, while just under 4% of households in the County as a whole received public assistance. Like unemployment rates, high rates of poverty are consistently linked to high crime rates at the community level.



Summary

The neighborhoods comprising the Eastside Weed and Seed exhibit a significant disadvantage compared to Bernalillo County as a whole. In particular, the census data

indicates that residents of this area are younger, have lower levels of educational attainment, higher rates of unemployment and higher rates of poverty relative to residents of Bernalillo County as a whole. Further, Albuquerque Public School data suggest that, on average, students within this area are less successful in meeting their educational goals as measured by standardized tests. Overall, these findings suggest that these neighborhoods will face higher than average crime rates as these measures of disadvantage are associated with crime. However, as noted in the prior chapter, much literature suggests that there are ways in which disadvantaged communities can offset the criminogenic forces of structural disadvantage, particularly by building community cohesion and collective efficacy, which is precisely what Weed and Seed aims to do.

CHAPTER IV

CRIME PATTERNS IN THE EASTSIDE SITE

For many years, the neighborhoods comprising the Eastside Weed and Seed site have been consistently portrayed by City residents, government officials, and in the local media as a relatively unsafe, depressed, and crime-ridden part of the metropolitan area. Despite the Weed and Seed program's successes in improving public safety and quality of life in the Eastside site, current and recent historical area crime rates¹⁸ tend to support this perception. The Eastside Weed and Seed site has experienced persistently high crime rates, relative to the City of Albuquerque and the County of Bernalillo.¹⁹

This chapter describes patterns of serious criminal offending, focusing on Uniform Crime Report Part One, or Index, crimes defined by the U.S. Department of Justice. Index Violent Crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In addition to these Part I Violent Crimes, we also examine burglary and motor vehicle offenses, which are two of the Part I Property Crimes. Given the Eastside site's crime prevention and intervention goals, special attention is also directed later in this chapter to narcotics and firearm-related crimes, and offenses committed by gang members known to law enforcement. We also examine the spatial distribution of crime in the Eastside Weed and Seed site throughout the chapter.

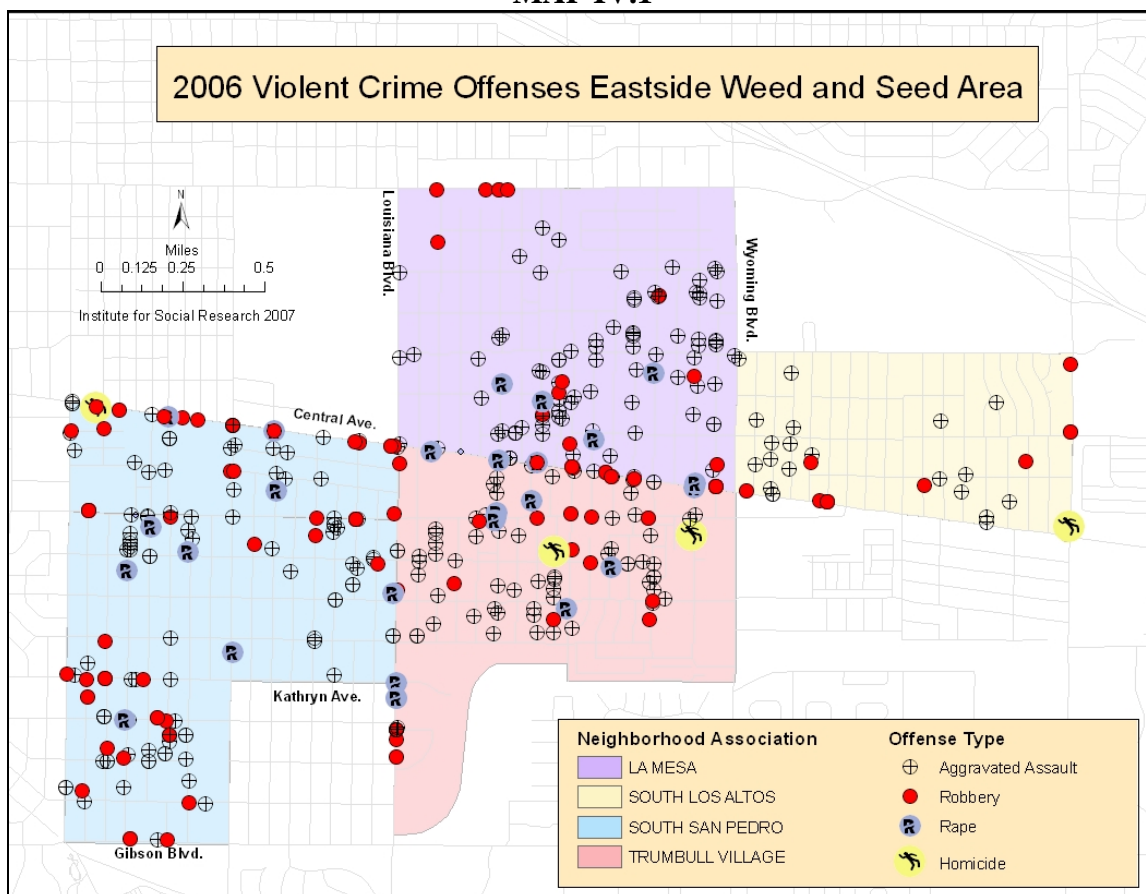
Violent Crime

Serious violent criminal offenses (aggravated assault, homicide, rape, and robbery) are widely dispersed throughout the Eastside site. As illustrated in Map IV.1, each neighborhood experienced a notable amount of violence 2006. Crime was less prevalent in the South Los Altos neighborhood as compared to the other neighborhoods. However, one homicide did occur in that neighborhood in 2006. La Mesa is the only neighborhood that did not have a homicide in 2006.

¹⁸ Following the federal standard, crime rates in this report are expressed as the number of crimes per 100,000 residents in an area, within one year's time.

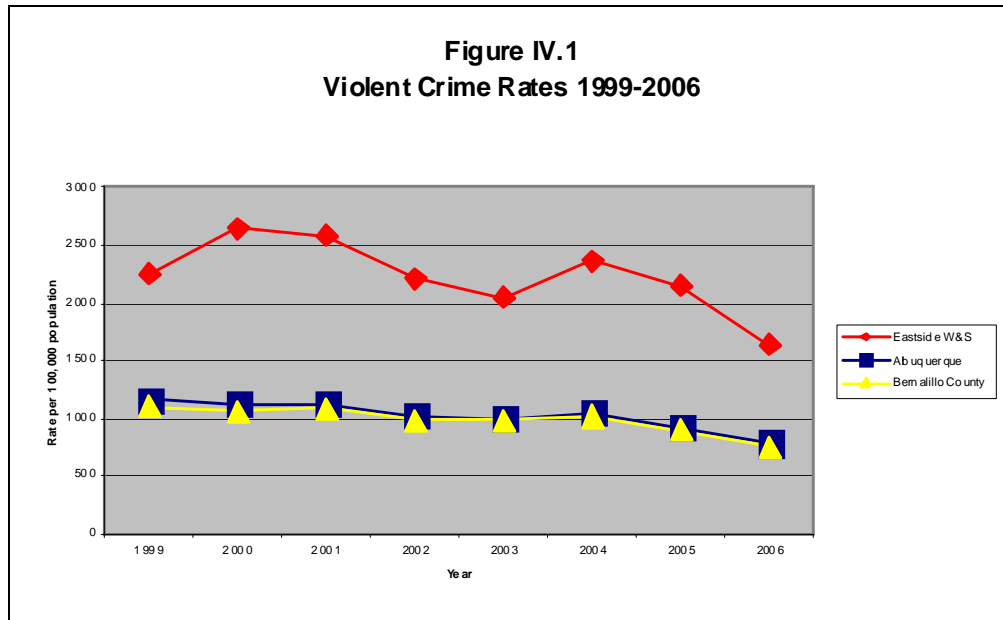
¹⁹ Previously, we compared the Eastside rates to those of the State and nation. Due to differences in reporting and definitions, we have decided only to make comparisons with Albuquerque and Bernalillo County to ensure an accurate representation of the differences between the Weed and Seed site with other geographic areas.

MAP IV.1



Violent Crime Rates: Eastside Weed and Seed versus Albuquerque and Bernalillo County

Serious violent crime rates in the Eastside Weed and Seed site are twice that of the metropolitan area (see Figure IV.1). Approximately 8% of all the serious violent crimes committed in Albuquerque from 1999 to 2006 occurred within the geographical boundaries of the Eastside site. Taking into account that the Eastside site makes up only 1.6% of the incorporated area of Albuquerque, the crime density of the area is more than eight times that of the city as a whole.



Violent Crime Trends by Neighborhood

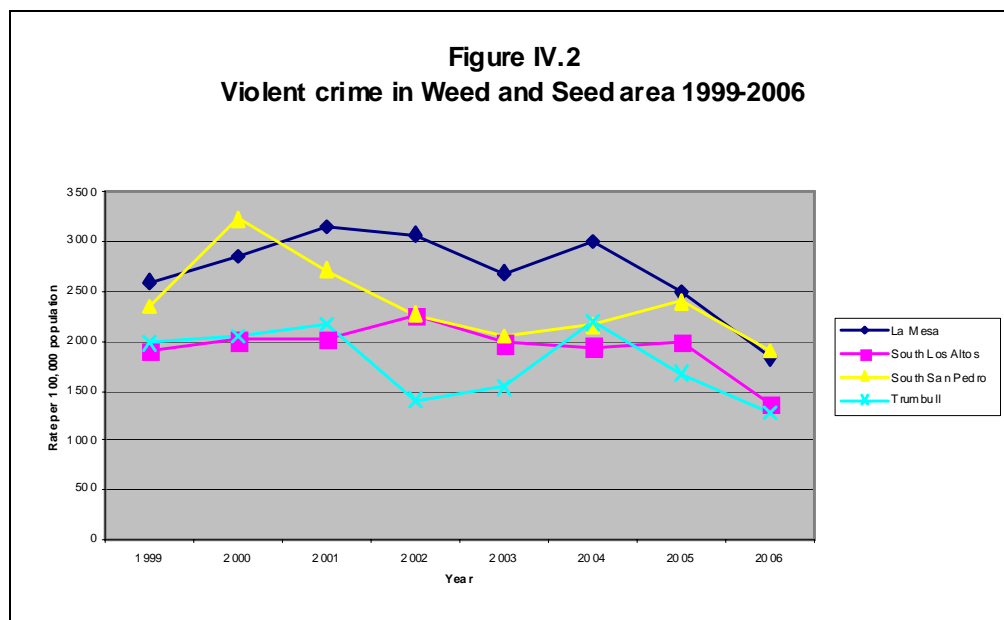
The number and rates of serious violent crimes vary between each of the neighborhoods comprising the Eastside Weed and Seed site, but both sheer numbers and rates have generally decreased over time. The number of violent crimes that occurred in each neighborhood by year is shown in Table IV.1. The South San Pedro and La Mesa neighborhoods have had the greatest number of violent crimes each year. The number of violent crimes has been lowest in the South Los Altos neighborhood each year. Comparing the sheer volume of crime across neighborhoods, however, can be misleading given variations in the number of people across neighborhoods and within neighborhoods over time.

Table IV.1
Number of Violent Crime Incidents by Neighborhood 1999-2006

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
La Mesa	188	207	228	222	194	217	179	132
South Los Altos	53	56	56	63	55	54	55	38
South San Pedro	217	298	250	209	189	198	220	175
Trumbull	174	180	190	123	134	191	146	111

Trends in violent crime rates for each neighborhood are shown in Figure IV.2. Rates take into account the underlying population in an area, and therefore may show trends that differ from the actual number of crimes in a location. The La Mesa

neighborhood has experienced violent crime rates that are higher than in most other areas in the majority of years presented below. The South San Pedro neighborhood has had the second highest rate of violent crime, but has also enjoyed a rate decline over time. Although some fluctuations have occurred, the Trumbull neighborhood has generally experienced a decrease in the violent crime rate. Despite the low number of offenses reported in the South Los Altos neighborhood, the rate of violent crime there is not significantly lower than that seen in other neighborhoods. Indeed, the rate in South Los Altos neighborhood exceeds Trumbull's rate in many years.

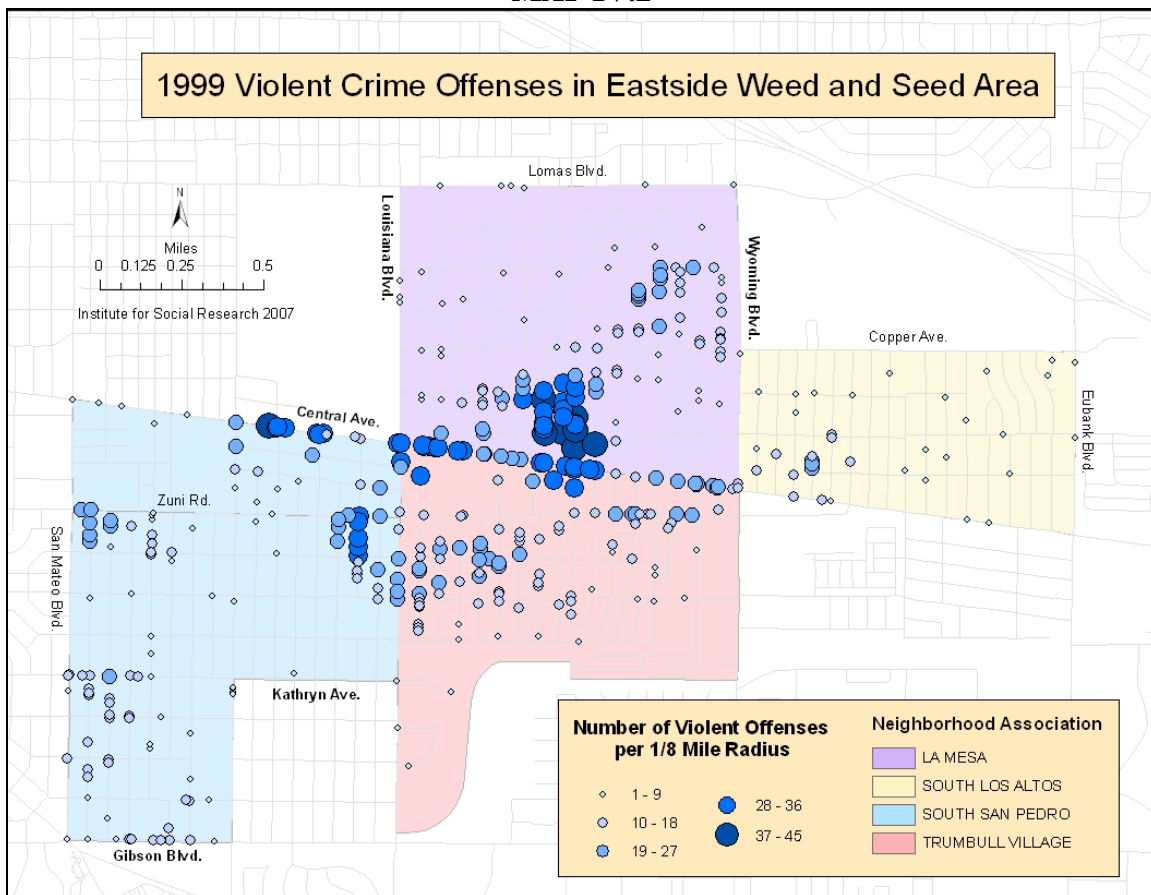


Spatial Density of Violent Crime over Time

The series of maps below illustrate the density of violent crime in the Weed and Seed area between 1999 and 2006. The maps indicate the number of violent crimes occurring within one-eighth of a mile radius. Larger circles represent a greater number of crimes within that eighth of a mile. The first map depicts violent crime in 1999 (Map IV.2). While violent crime occurs throughout the area, it is heavily concentrated along the Central Avenue corridor, and in the middle of the site. Violent crime was dense in the La Mesa neighborhood in 1999, especially in the south-central portion of the

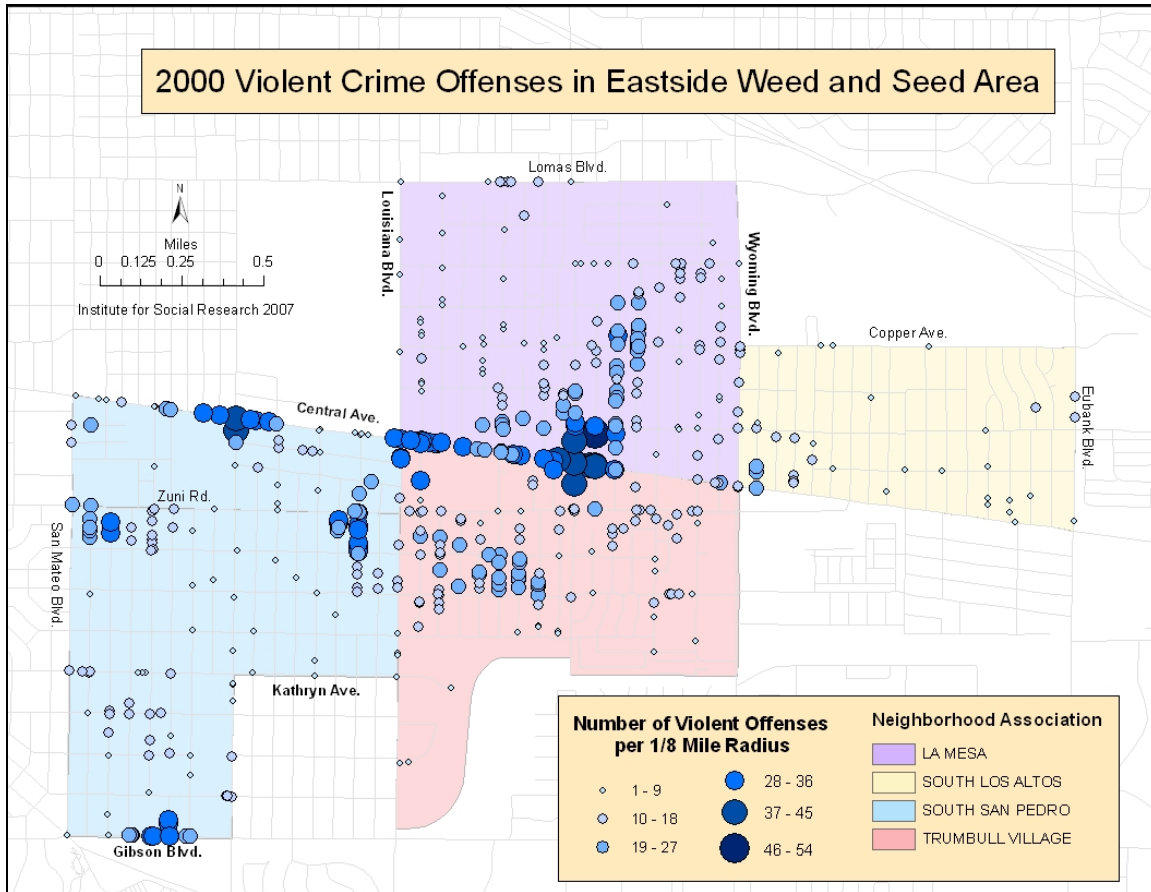
neighborhood. South San Pedro also had areas of relatively dense violent crime, particularly near Zuni Road and San Mateo Boulevard, along Central Avenue, and near Zuni Road and Louisiana Boulevard. The Trumbull neighborhood experienced dense areas of violent crime along Central Avenue and throughout the site south of Zuni Road. While violent crimes certainly occurred in the South Los Altos neighborhood, it was not as concentrated within small areas as seen in portions of the other neighborhoods.

MAP IV.2



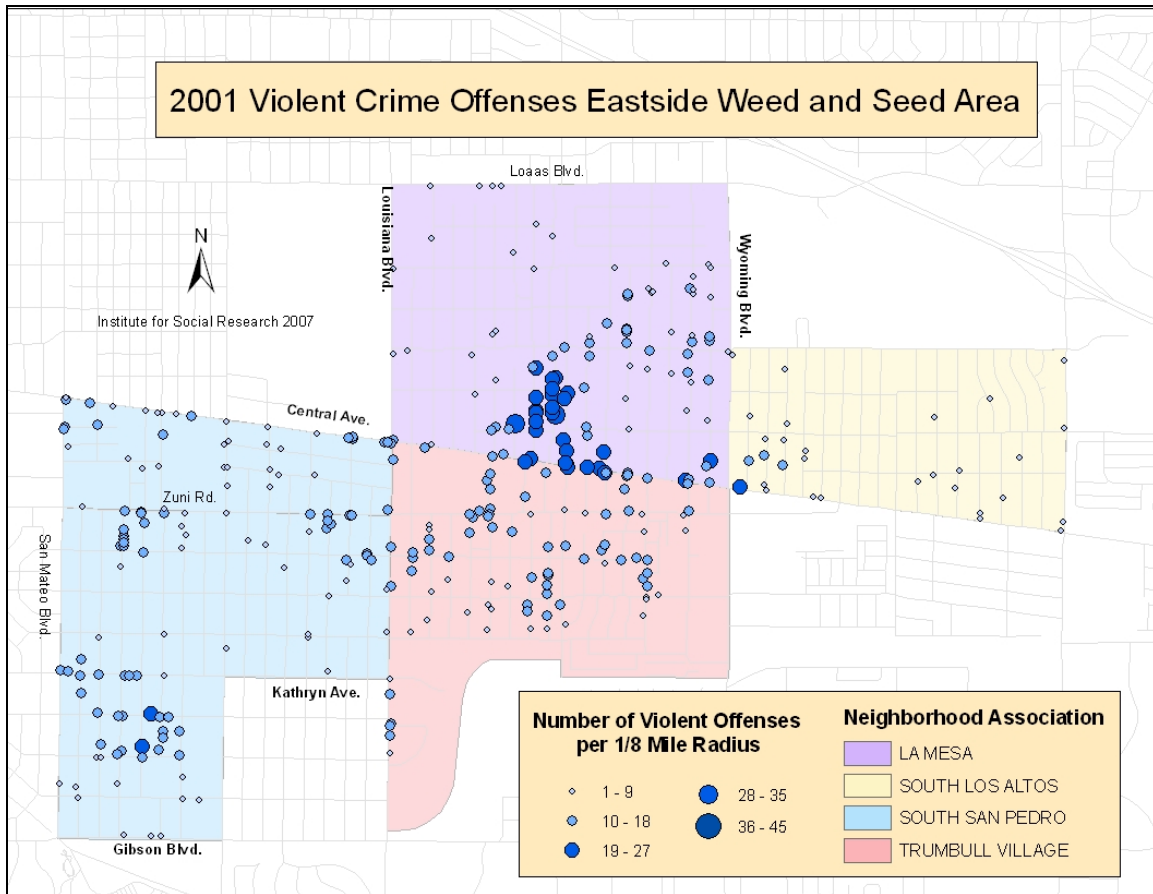
The density map for 2000, presented below, shows violent crimes are again concentrated along Central Avenue, spilling into the La Mesa neighborhood to the north. Violent crime along the western edge of Central in the South San Pedro neighborhood is denser than in 1999. Note that violent crime also becomes more concentrated along Gibson in 2000 relative to 1999. Again, the South Los Altos neighborhood experiences fewer areas of dense violent crime than the other three neighborhoods.

MAP IV.3



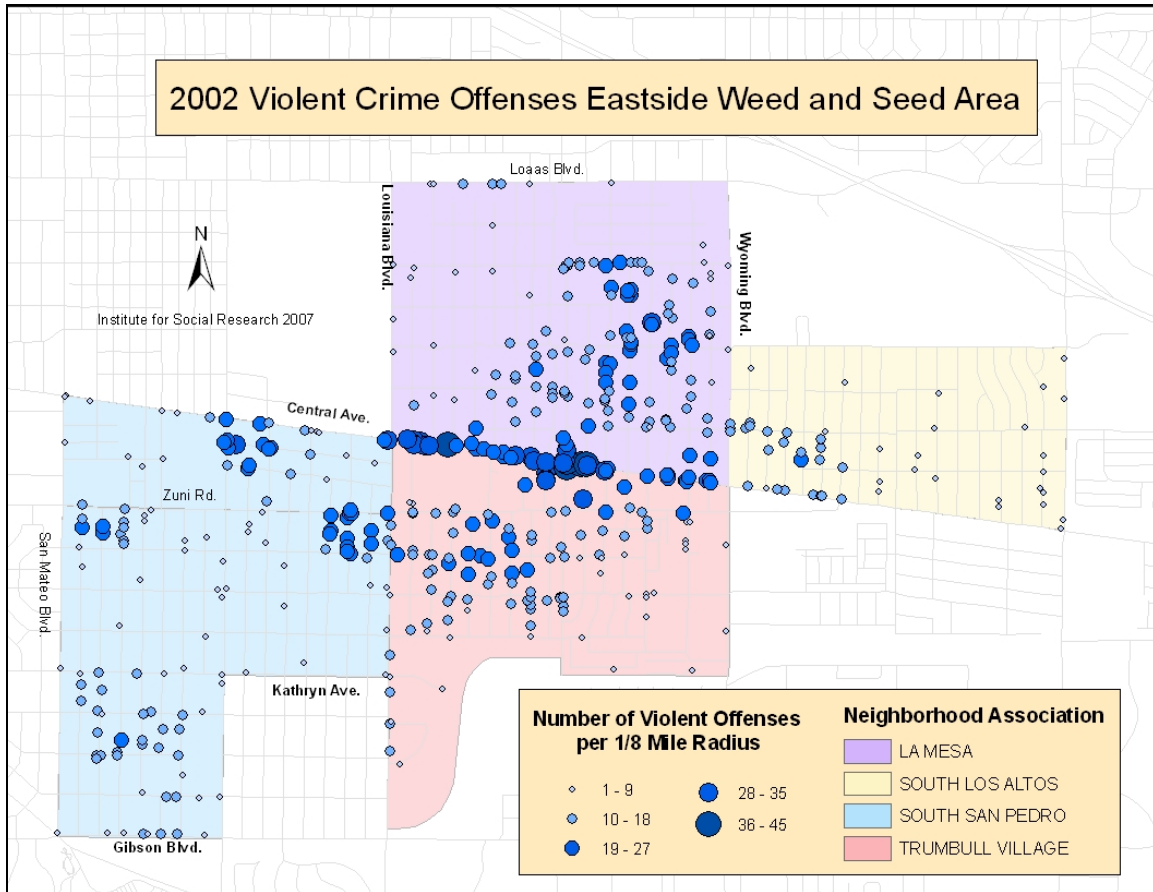
In 2001, much of the violent crime still clusters in the same areas; i.e., along Central Avenue, near Zuni Road and especially throughout La Mesa (see Map IV.4 below). The maximum number of offenses per one-eighth mile drops from 55 in 2000 to 45. Further, although 1999 also experienced a maximum of 45 incidents per one-eighth of a mile, the number of locales experiencing dense violent crime was greater in 1999 than in 2001. This can be visually deciphered simply by noticing the greater number of large dots in the 1999 map as compared to the 2001 map.

MAP IV.4



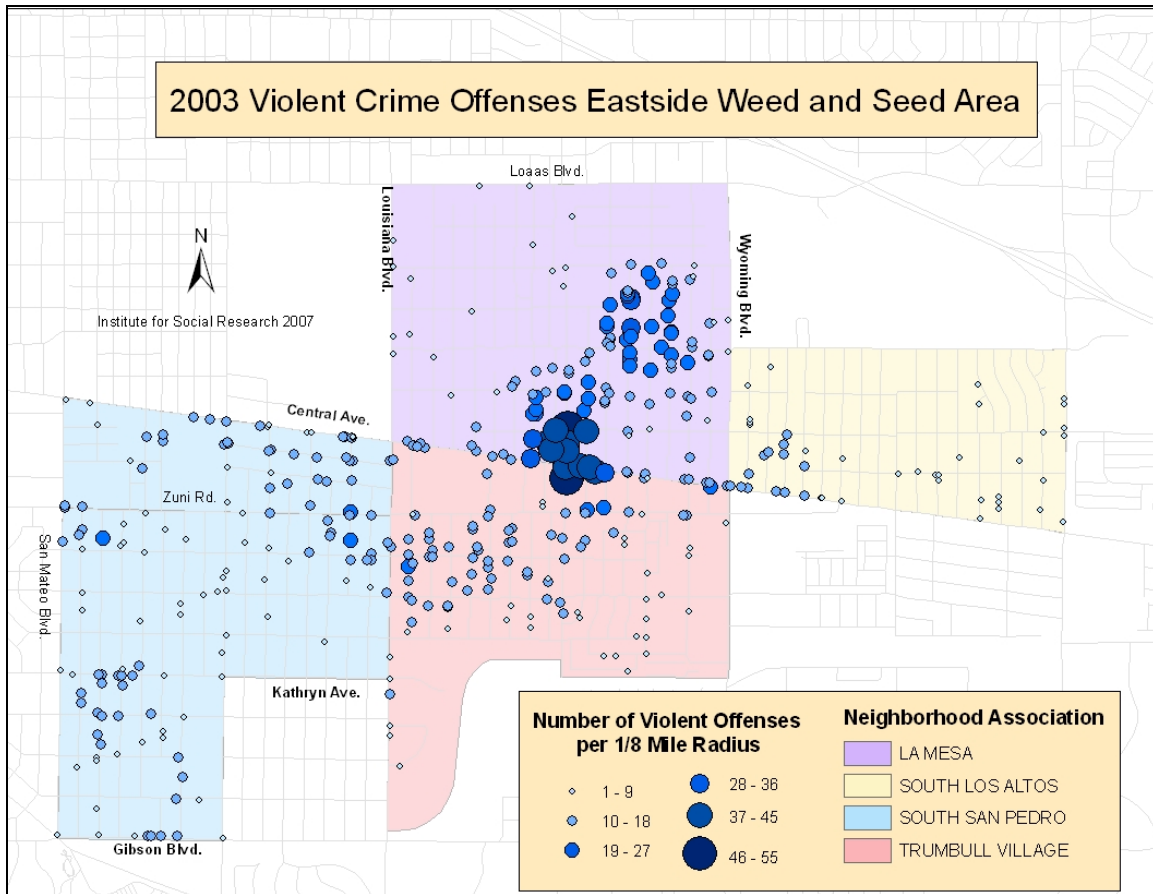
Map IV.5 below depicts the density of violent crime in 2002. Unlike some of the previous years and the years to follow, violent crime along Central Avenue is more spread out along the thoroughfare. Consistent with previous years, though, is that violent crimes occur in closer proximity to each other in the Trumbull, La Mesa and South San Pedro neighborhoods. The area furthest west in the Los Altos neighborhood experienced more dense violent crime than further east.

MAP IV.5



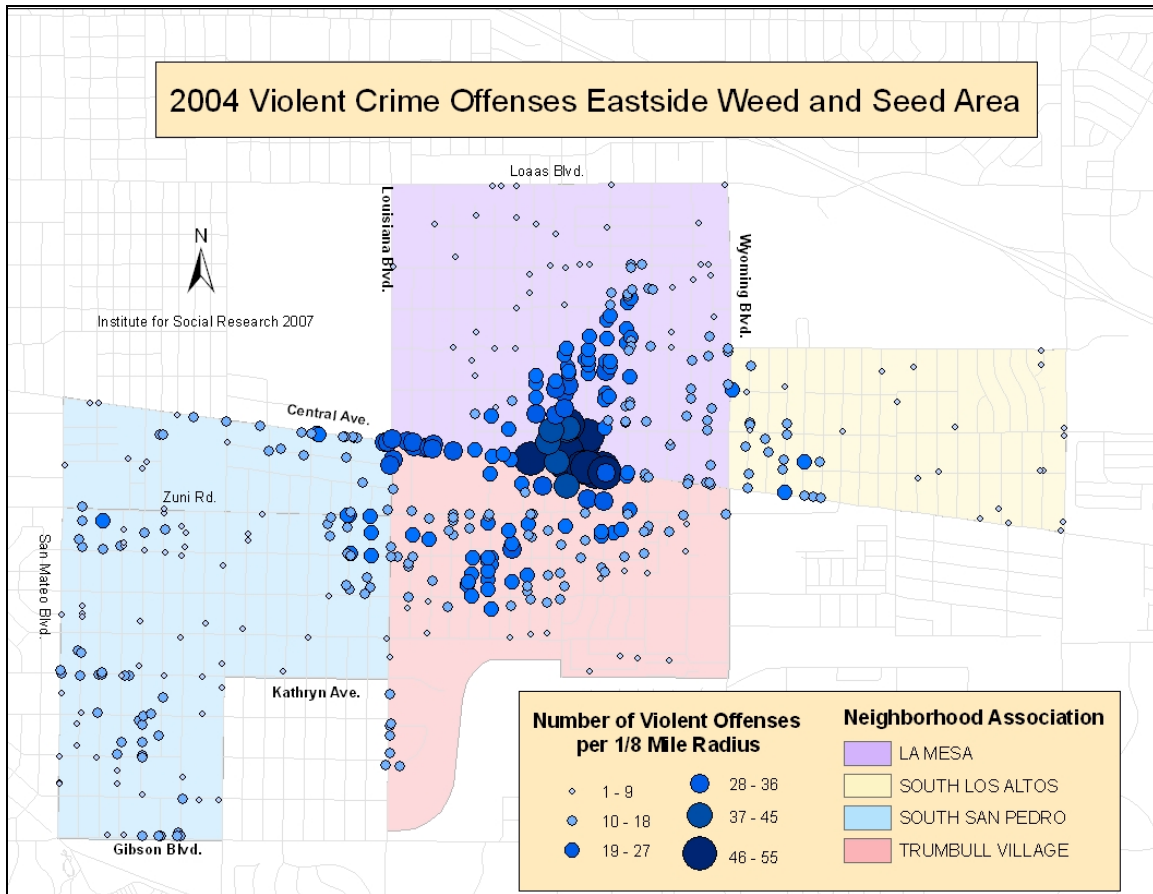
In 2003, violent crime is especially concentrated in the middle of the Weed and Seed area and further northeast in the La Mesa neighborhood. Some clustering of violent crimes occurs throughout the other Weed and Seed neighborhoods. While some of the clusters may not be as dense as prior years, the areas remain more or less the same (for example, Zuni and San Mateo).

MAP IV.6



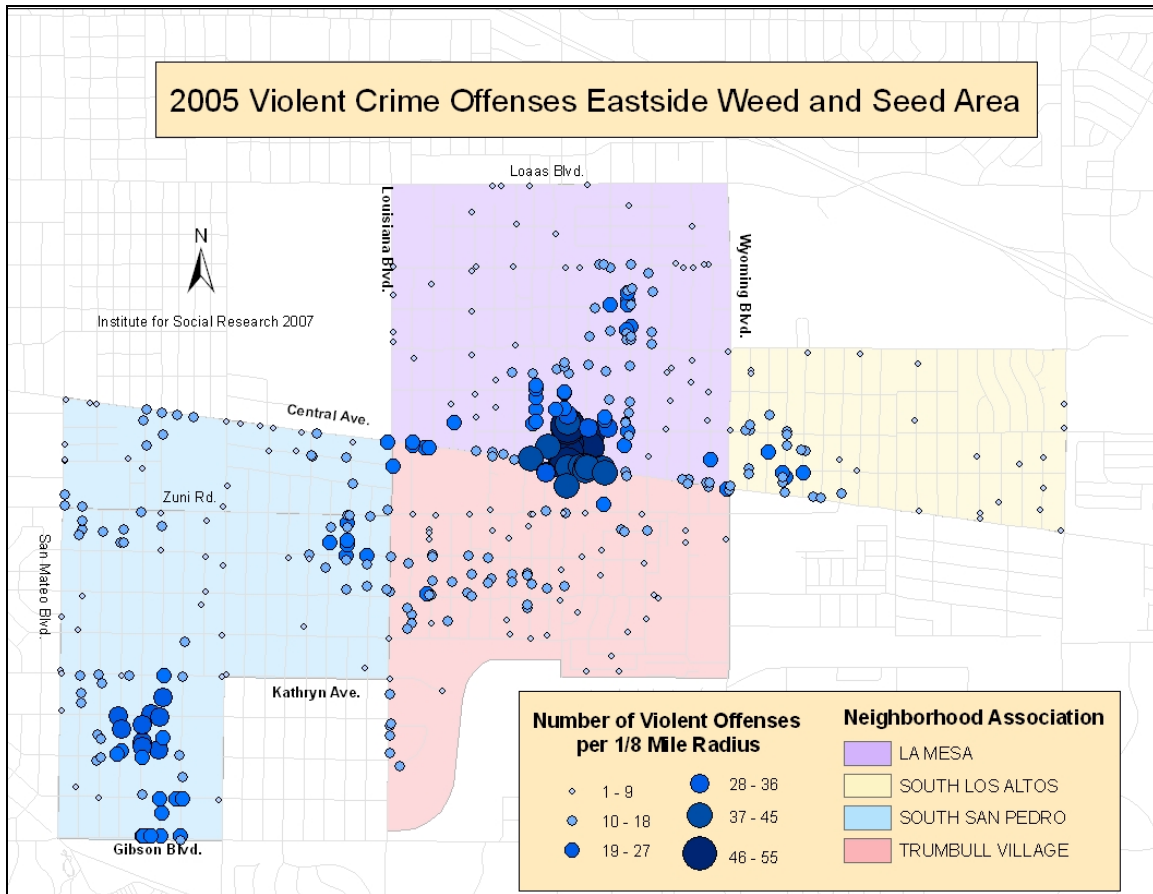
Depicted in Map IV.7 is 2004 violent crime. This year marked an increase in violent crime offending, as is reflected in the map. Violent crimes occurring in close proximity to one another again are centered in the middle of the Weed and Seed site, extending to the La Mesa and Trumbull neighborhoods especially. Note the same areas of the South San Pedro neighborhood show areas of relatively dense violent crime. This is especially true in the areas of Zuni and San Mateo, between Kathryn and Gibson, along Central Avenue and west of Louisiana Boulevard. Likewise, in the Trumbull neighborhood, the area south of Zuni and of course, along Central again are magnets for dense violent crime activities.

MAP IV.7



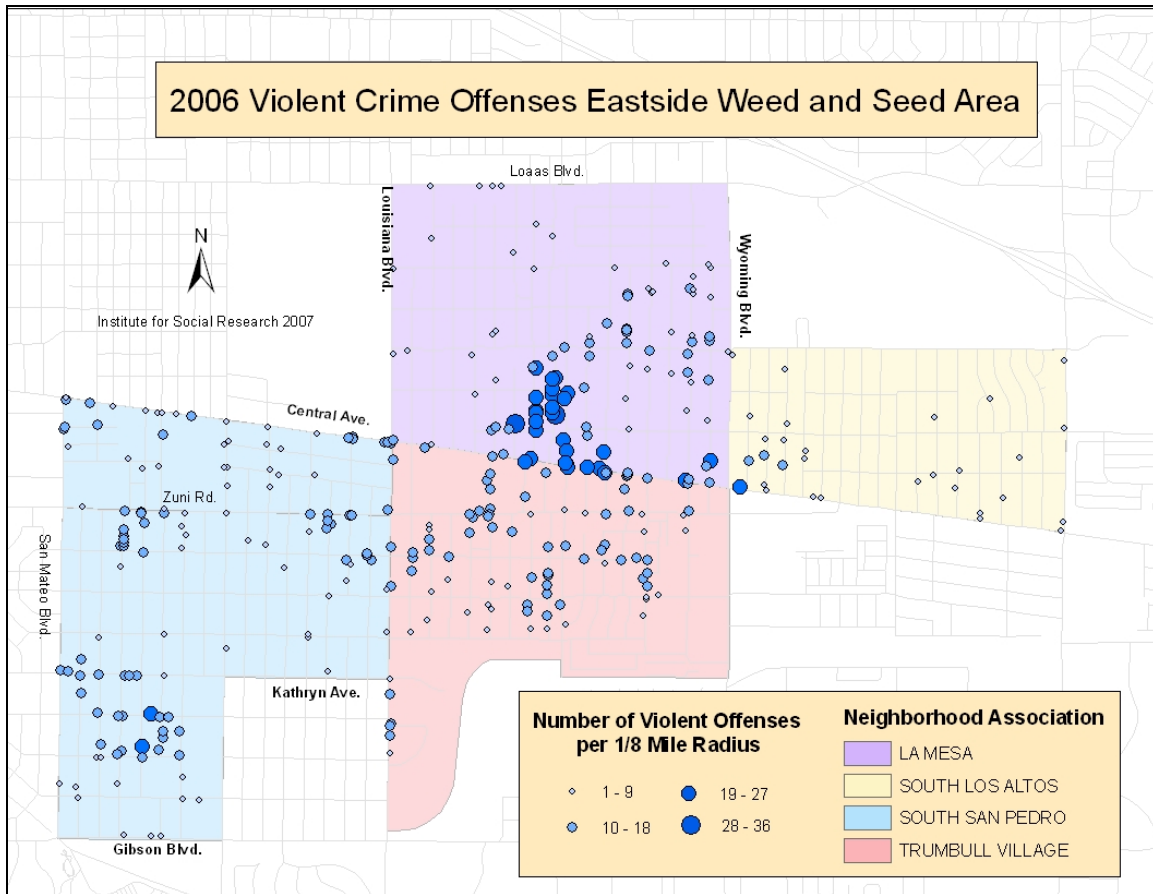
Map IV.8 below shows violent crime per 1/8 mile radius in 2005. The number of offenses is most concentrated in the middle of the site, with the areas between Kathryn and Gibson experiencing an increase relative to some of the previous years. Note that Los Altos has a greater number of locales with 19-27 offenses per 1/8 mile radius than in most prior years. This is concentrated in the Westside of that neighborhood.

MAP IV.8



Finally, 2006 violent crime density is presented in Map IV.9. While the number of offenses has clearly decreased and the density has decreased, there is still a clear concentration of violent offenses in and around Central, extending north into the La Mesa neighborhood. Note that the area between Kathryn and Gibson also experienced a relatively high volume of violent offenses.

MAP IV.9



By comparing violent crime density over time, we are able to see some patterns emerging. First, we found that violent crime in the La Mesa neighborhood tends to cluster more than in other neighborhoods. Further, Central Avenue is clearly an area where multiple violent crimes occur in a small locale. One reason we tend to see such large groupings of violent crime in the middle section of Central Avenue (where La Mesa and Trumbull neighborhoods meet) is because we include crime data on both sides of the street here. However, along the east and west side of Central Avenue (in the South Los Altos and South San Pedro neighborhoods), we include crimes that occur only on the side of the street that is within the neighborhood boundary. If we included crimes occurring on the opposite side of the street, it is likely that we would see similar density patterns along Central Avenue. However, as 2006 in particular illustrates, violent crime is not always most dense just along Central Avenue. Clearly, dense pockets of violent crime occur within other parts of the neighborhoods.

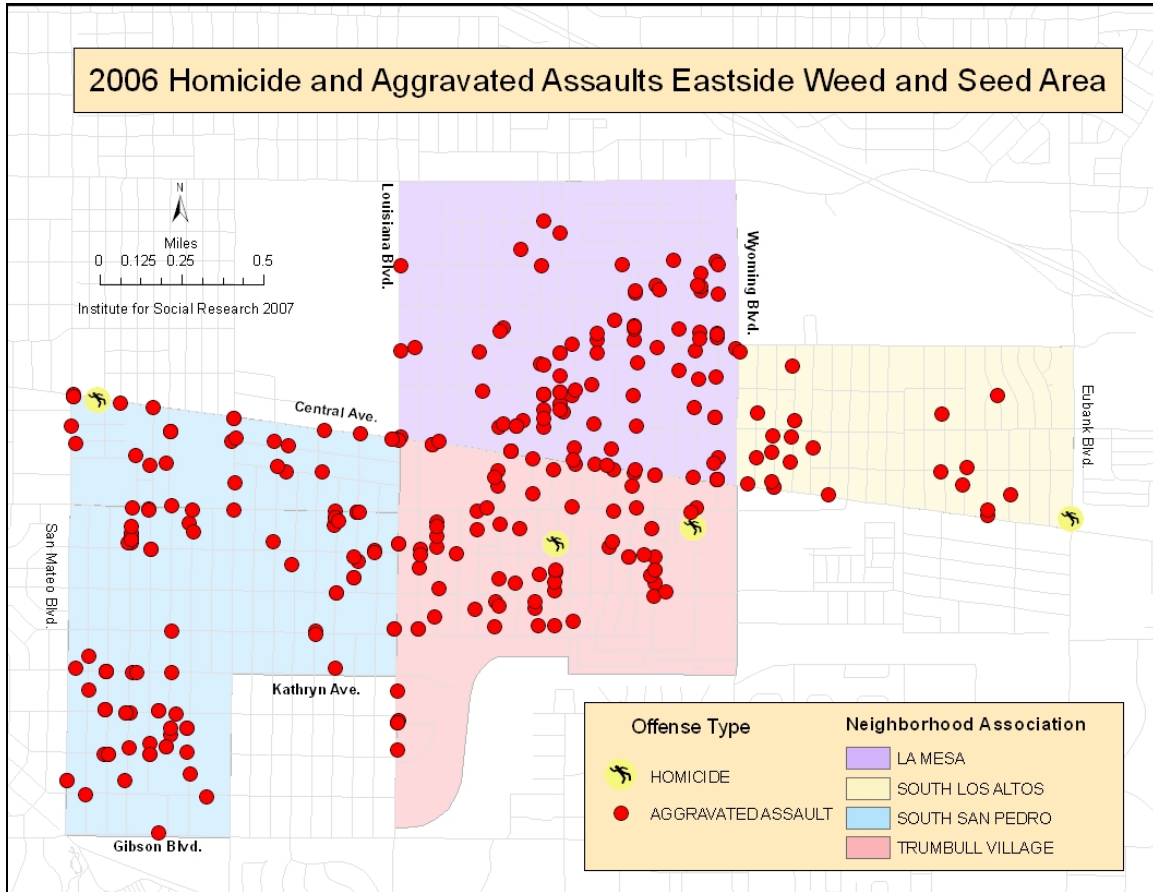
While La Mesa has clearly seen a lot of clustering of violent crimes, the South San Pedro and Trumbull areas have experienced these as well, but generally not to the extent seen in La Mesa. South San Pedro has some clear areas of violent crime concentration that repeatedly occur over time. These include the area between Kathryn Avenue and Gibson Boulevard, near Zuni Road and San Mateo Boulevard, along Central Avenue and near Louisiana and Zuni. Note that this area includes many multi-family housing units along with some commercial properties along Gibson Boulevard, which probably account for the crime trends we see here.

Trumbull likewise experiences greater violent crime density along Central Avenue, but also in various areas south of Zuni Road. Violent crime in the South Los Altos area is less concentrated than in the other three neighborhoods. One area of clustering, though, was seen in the westernmost section of the neighborhood, near Central Avenue.

Spatial Distribution of Violent Crimes in 2006 by Offense Category

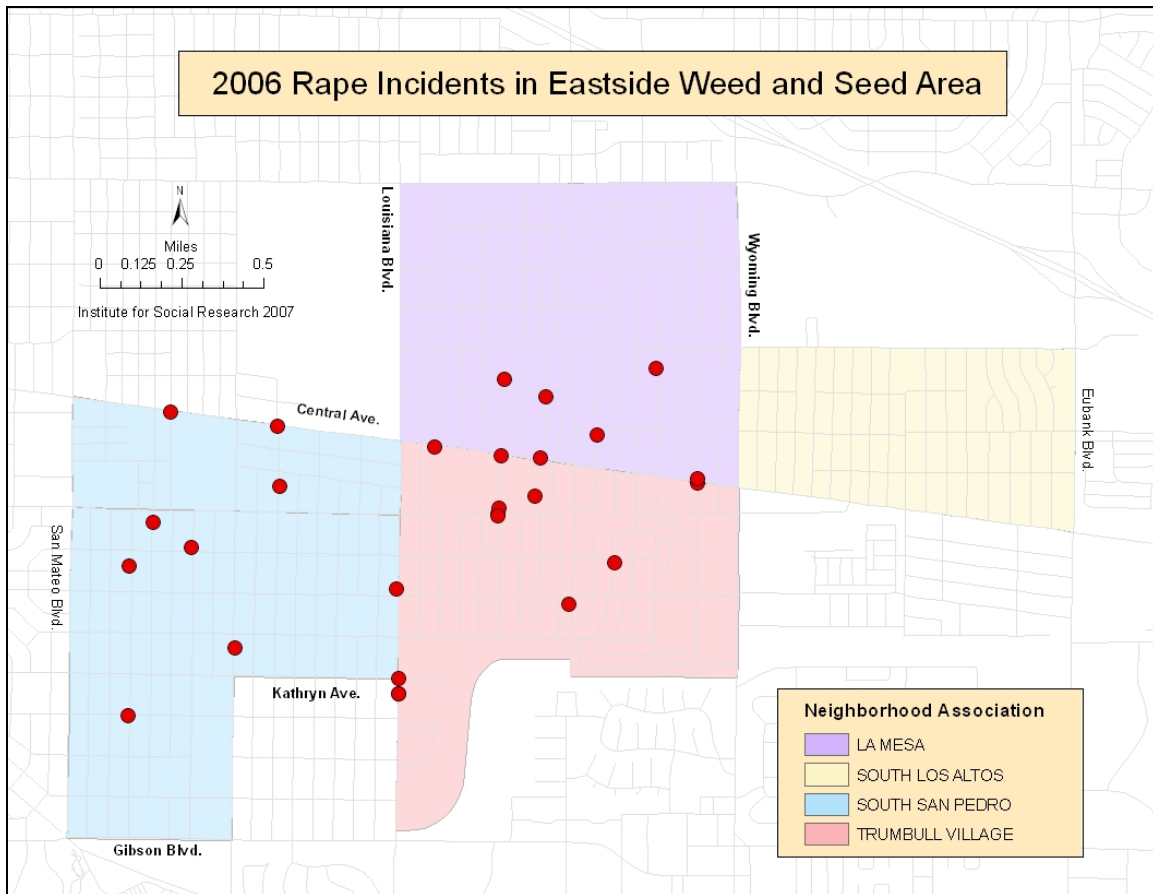
Map IV.10 shows the location of homicides and aggravated assaults in the Eastside site that occurred in 2006. Four homicides occurred in 2006; two were in the Trumbull neighborhood, one in South San Pedro and one in South Los Altos. This was the first homicide in the South Los Altos area since 2000. Aggravated assaults are broadly distributed throughout the site.

MAP IV.10



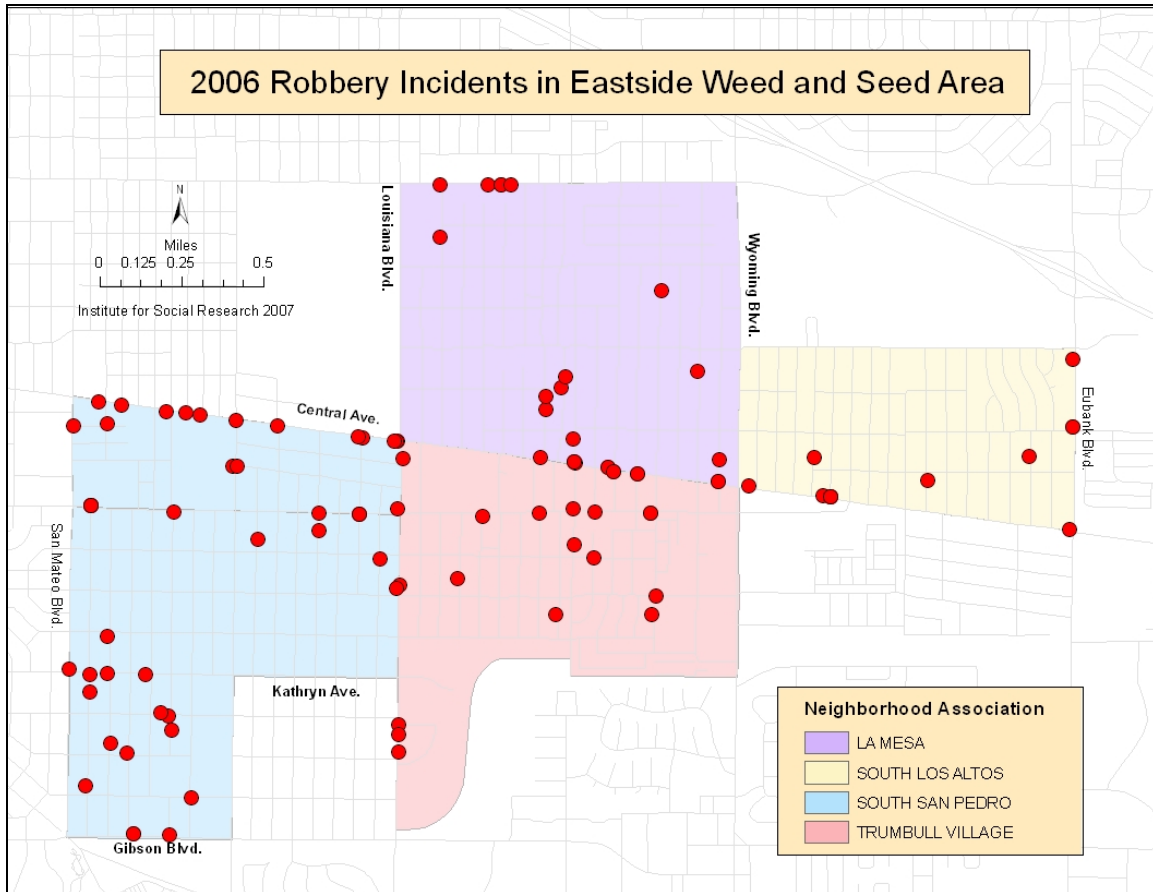
Incidents of reported rape are less prevalent than other violent crime types. Among those that were reported, they occurred especially on and around Central Avenue, and randomly throughout the site. The South Los Altos neighborhood did not have any reports of rape in 2006.

MAP IV.11



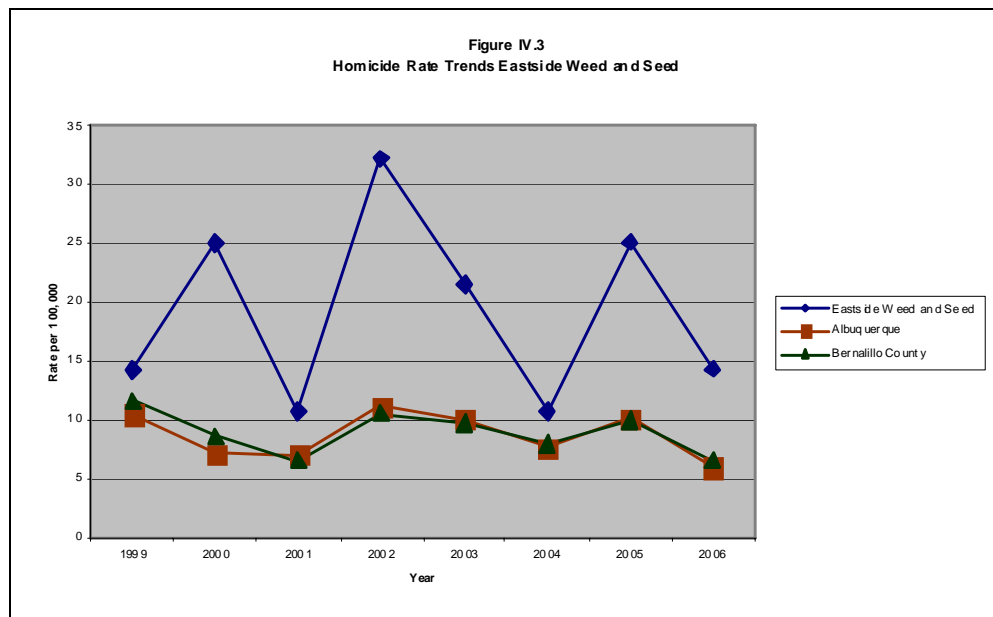
The location of robberies in 2006 is depicted in Map IV.12 below. These occurred primarily along major streets. However, robberies did occur throughout other portions of the neighborhoods as well.

MAP IV.12

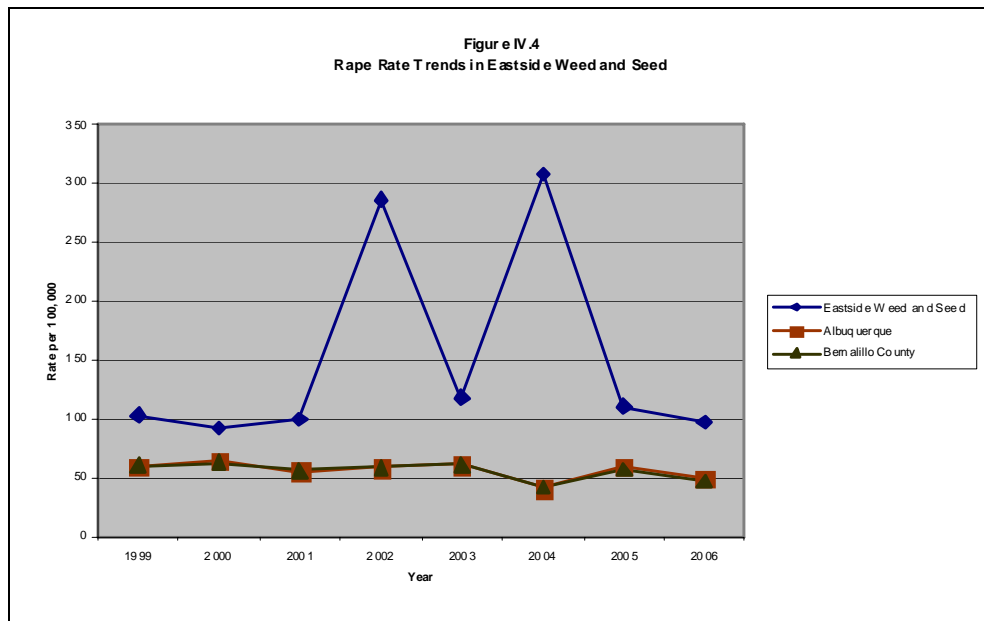


Violent crime trends by offense category

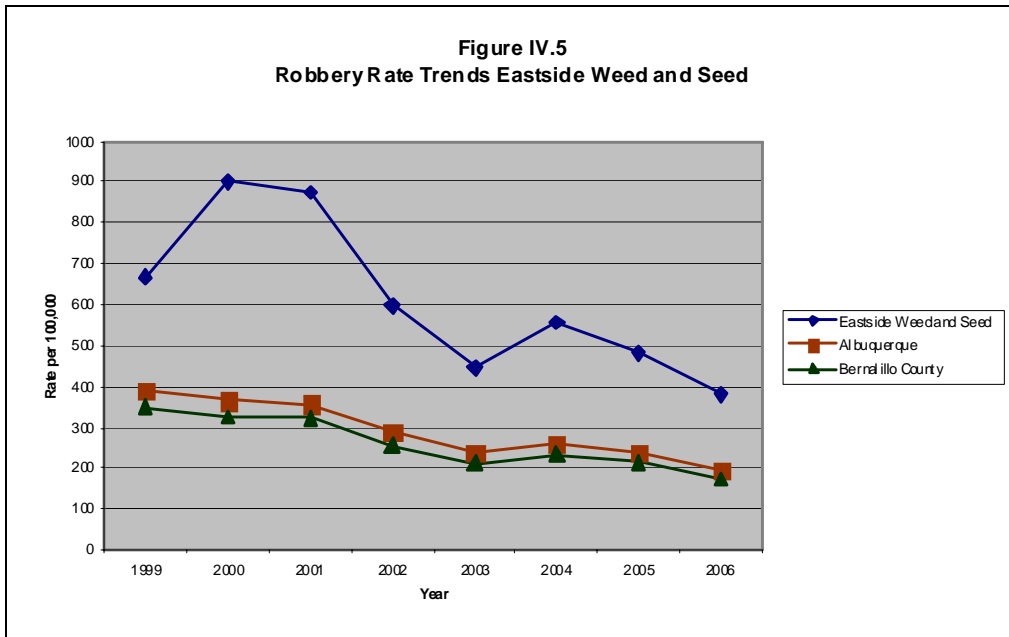
The series of charts below show the rate of each violent offense type in the Eastside Weed and Seed area compared to the City and County. Homicide, the most serious offense, is presented first. Since these offenses are relatively rare, small changes in numbers generate large changes in rates. This is reflected in the wide variation from year to year in the Eastside homicide rates. Nonetheless, the rate of homicide offenses in the Eastside Weed and Seed area is higher than that of the City or County. Some years—2000, 2002, and 2005—had very high rates of homicide in the Eastside Weed and Seed. In these years, the number of homicides accounted for 22%, 17%, and 14%, respectively, of all homicides in the City. Compared to all homicides in the County, these proportions dropped some to 15%, 15% and 12% respectively. Over the eight year period, homicides in the Eastside Weed and Seed accounted for 13% of those occurring within the City boundaries and 10% within the County.



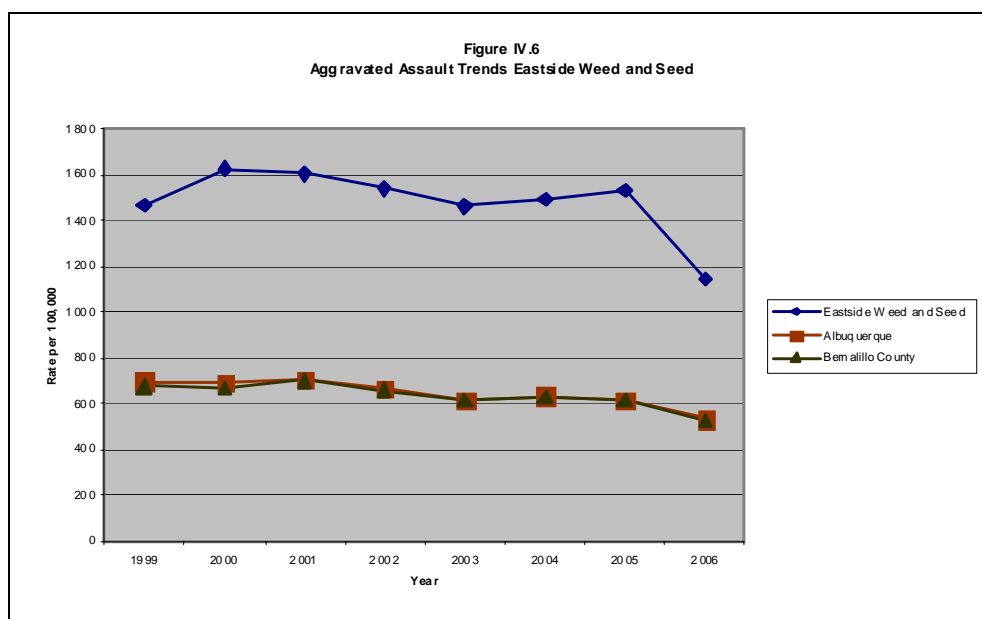
Rape rate trends within the Weed and Seed area compared to the City and County are presented in Figure IV.4 below. The rates are higher in the Weed and Seed area compared to the metropolitan area. A spike in rape rates occurred in two years: 2002 and 2004. Again though, this is a relatively uncommon event and small shift in volume generate large shifts in rates. Over the eight-year period, rapes in the Weed and Seed area accounted for 16% of the total in the city and 13% of the total in the county.



Illustrated in Figure IV.5 below are the robbery trends for the Eastside Weed and Seed compared to the City and County. Robbery rates are clearly much higher in the Weed and Seed area. However, a significant decrease in these rates can be seen beginning in 2002. Over the eight year period, robberies in the Eastside Weed and Seed accounted for 12.6% of the total in Albuquerque, and 11.4% of the total in Bernalillo County.

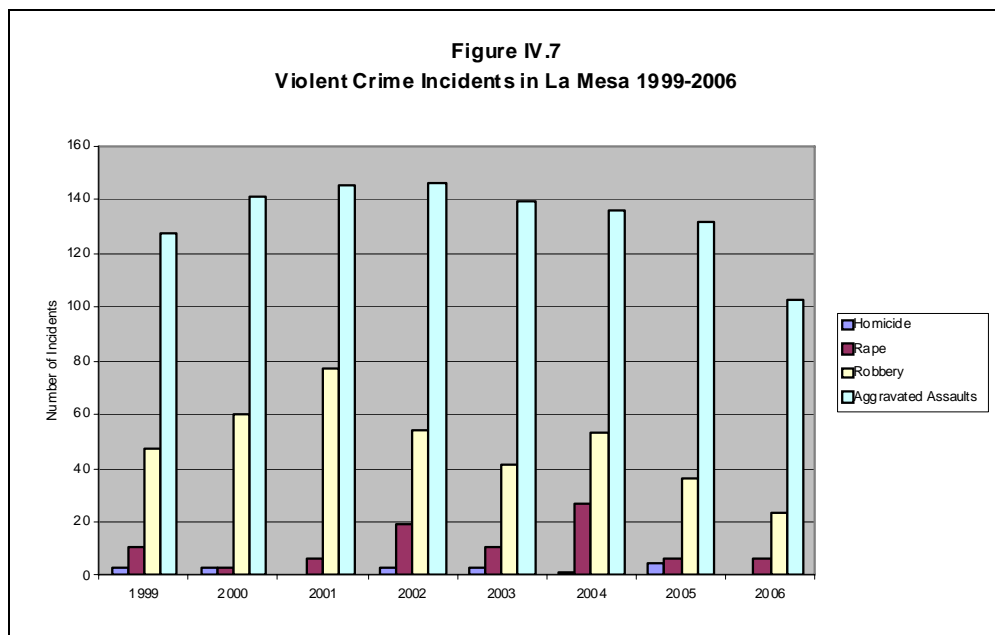


Not only are aggravated assaults the most common type of violent crime committed, the rates are much higher than those in Albuquerque or the County (see Figure IV.6 below). Rates varied from two to two and one-half times as high in the Weed and Seed area compared to Albuquerque rates over the eight-year period. Aggravated assaults in the Weed and Seed area accounted for 14% of the total in the City. These rates have shown a slight decline over time, with a large drop noted in 2006.

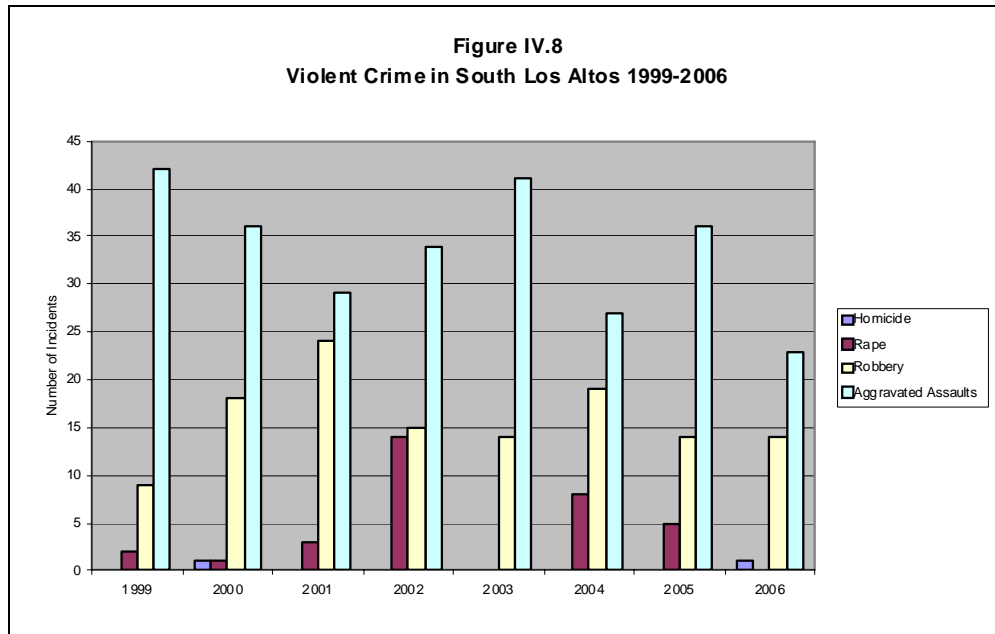


Violent crime in neighborhoods by category

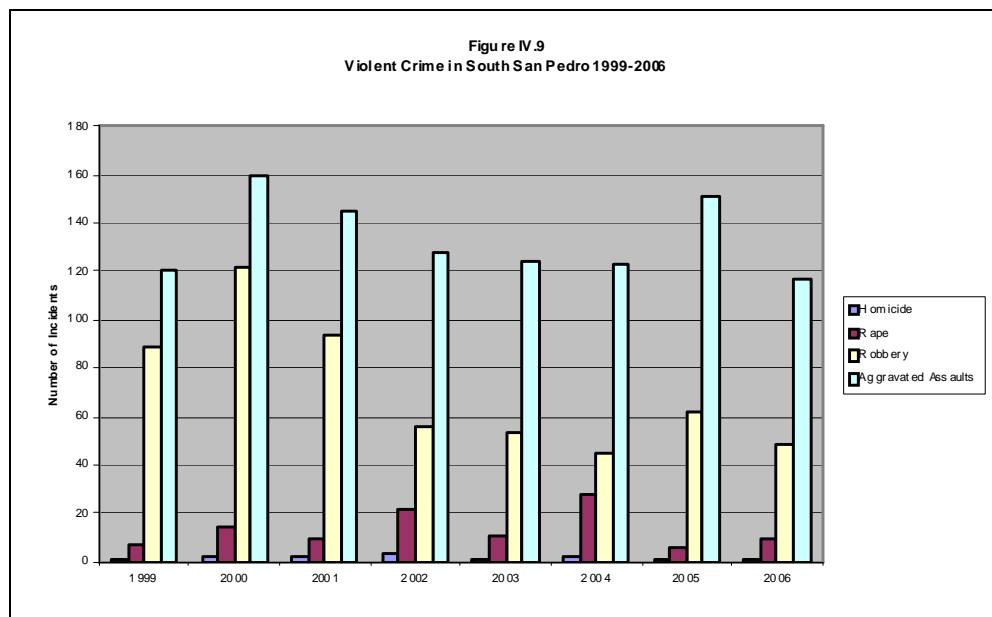
La Mesa. Figure IV.7 illustrates the number of violent crime within the La Mesa neighborhood from 1999 to 2006 by crime type. Since 2002, the number of aggravated assaults has decreased over time. Robberies have generally decreased since reaching a peak in 2001. Rapes actually began to increase in 2002 and 2004, but have since declined. Homicides in this area have varied from a low of zero to a high of five seen in 2005.



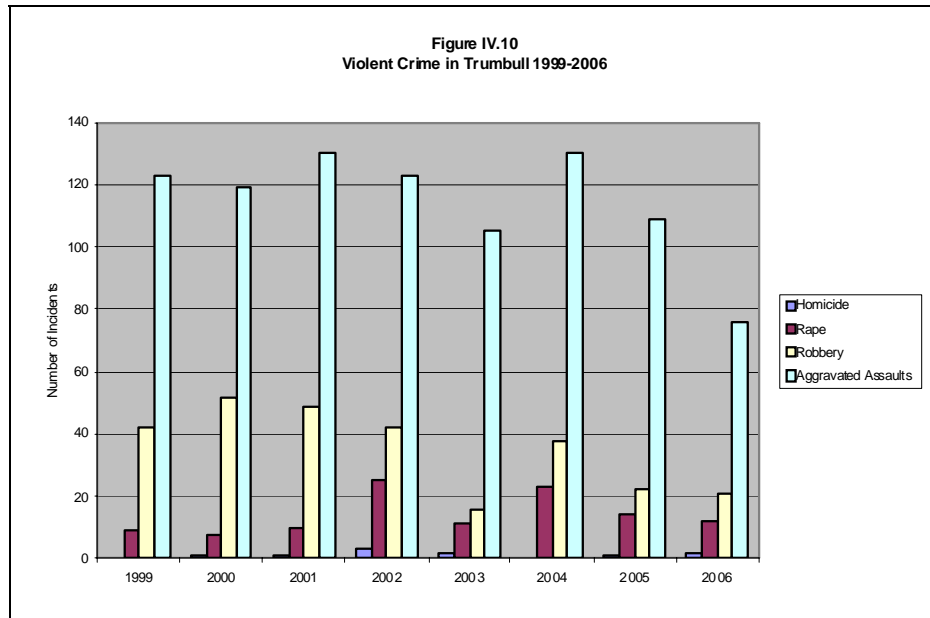
South Los Altos. In the South Los Altos neighborhood, the number of aggravated assault and robbery incidents is the lowest of the four neighborhood areas (Figure IV.8). The number of aggravated assault incidents varies annually. The number of robberies increased from 1999 to 2001, declined and then peaked again in 2004. A relatively large number of rapes were reported in this area in 2002. There were none the following year. Two homicides have occurred in this neighborhood between 1999 and 2006.



South San Pedro. As illustrated in Figure IV.9, the number of aggravated assaults and robberies reached a peak in 2000, followed by a decline. Despite an increase in 2005, there is generally a pattern of decline. The number of rapes have fluctuated from year to year, with the greatest number reported in 2004 followed by 2002. There have been thirteen homicides in this neighborhood between 1999 and 2006; 2002 had the greatest number of homicides in any one year, with three reported.



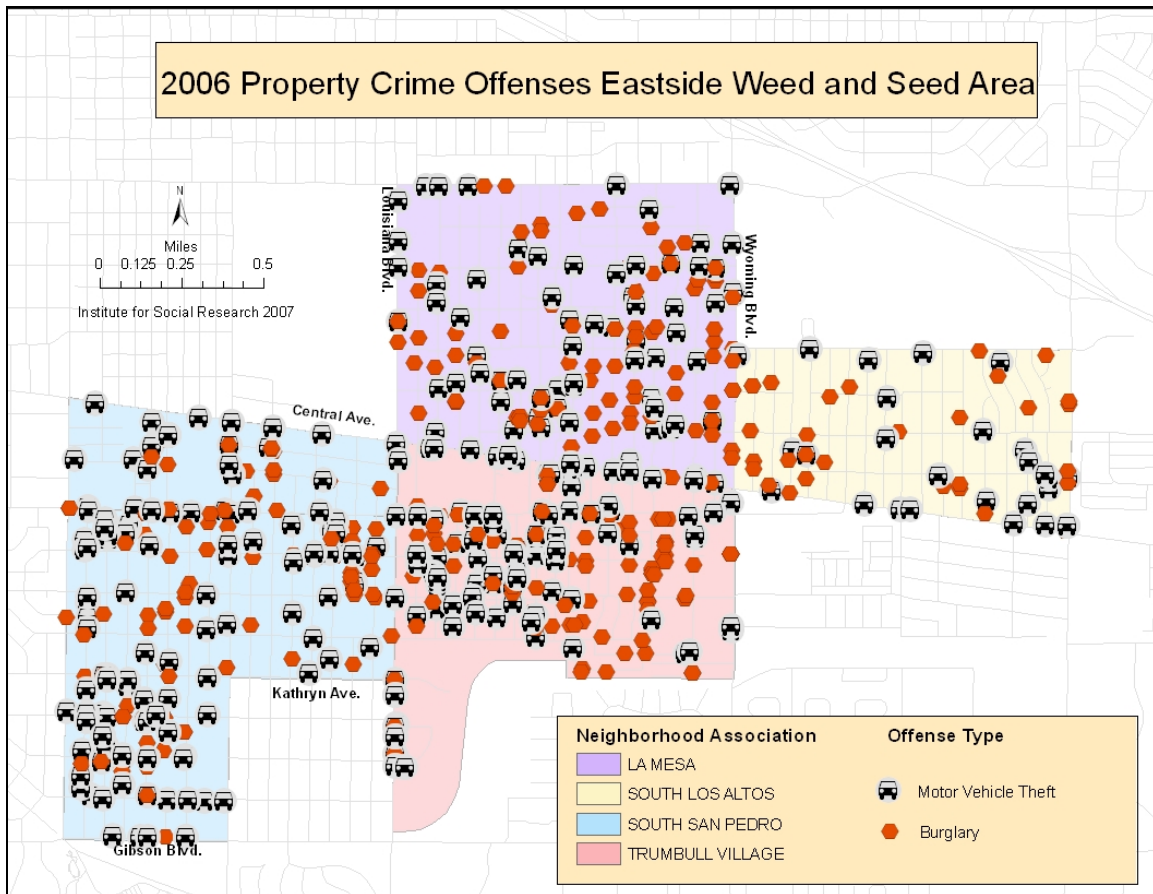
Trumbull. The number of aggravated assaults in the Trumbull neighborhood fluctuated between 1999 and 2006. The number of robbery incidents peaked in 2000, followed by a decline with an increase seen in 2005. There were ten homicides in the Trumbull neighborhood between 1999 and 2006; the greatest number was in 2002 with three homicides.



Property Crime

As shown in Map IV.13, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts in 2006 were widely dispersed throughout the Eastside site. The South Los Altos neighborhood experienced fewer of these events, but clearly was not immune to them. These crimes occur throughout all four neighborhoods.

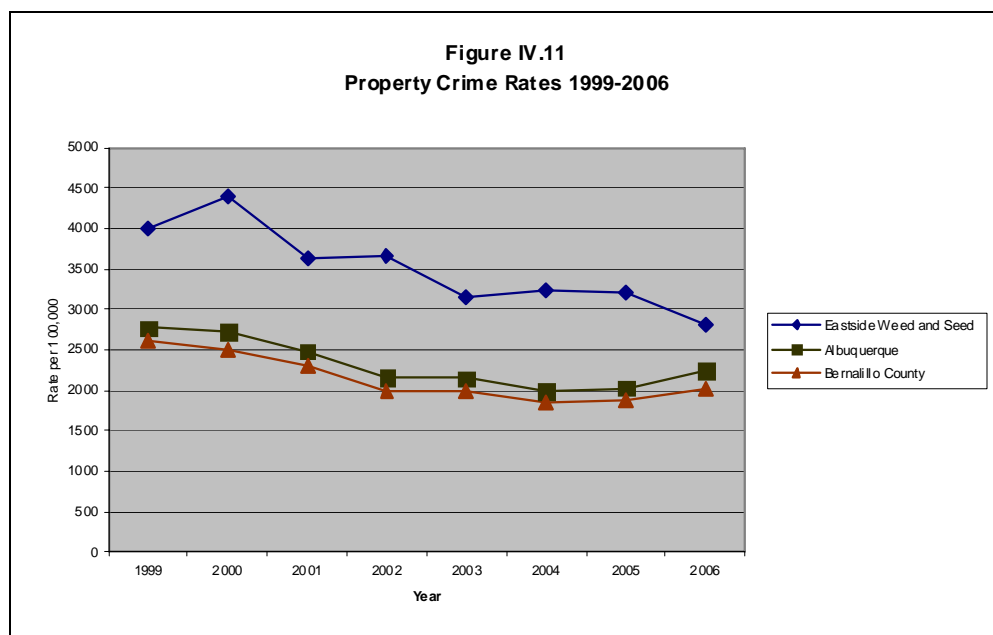
MAP IV.13



Property Crime Rates: Eastside Weed and Seed versus Albuquerque and Bernalillo County

Illustrated in Figure IV.11 are the property crime trends from 1999 to 2006 occurring in the Weed and Seed area compared to the City and County. This includes only burglary and motor vehicle thefts. While property crime rates are higher in the Eastside Weed and Seed area, these rates have significantly decreased over time.

Interestingly, they follow a different trend than that of the metropolitan area. Burglary and motor vehicle theft rates in the city and county have declined over time from a high experienced in 1999. Beginning in 2005, these rates began to rise again. Since its peak in 1999, the Weed and Seed site, however, has seen a decrease in property offending, even in the most recent years. Over the eight years, approximately 9% of the city's burglaries and motor vehicle thefts have occurred within Weed and Seed boundaries; when considering the county as a whole, this number drops to 8%.



Property crime trends by neighborhood

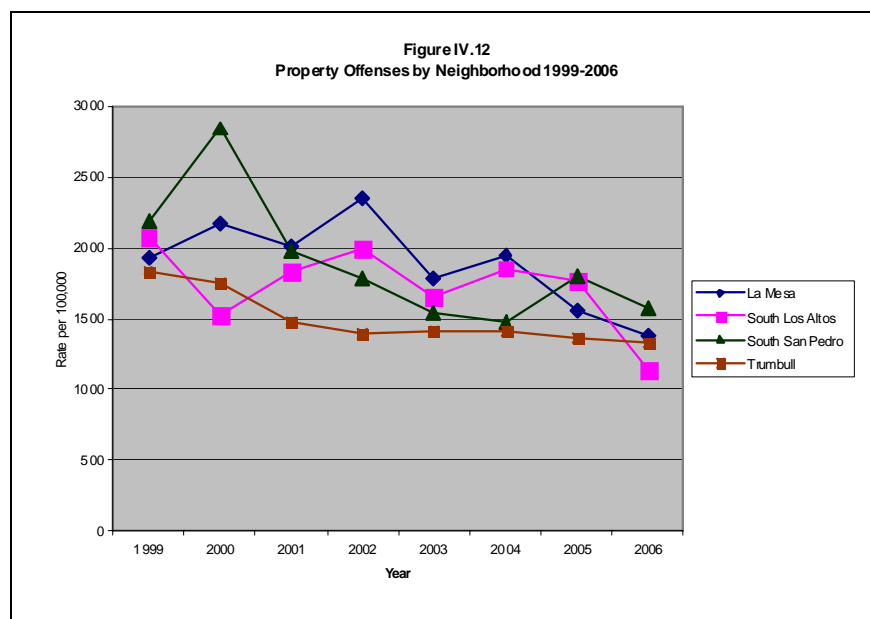
Table IV.2 indicates the number of property offenses within each neighborhood over time. The number of burglaries and motor vehicle offenses has fluctuated in the La Mesa neighborhood, but a peak in these crimes occurred in 2002. The number of offenses in South Los Altos has generally remained somewhat the same from year to year with the notable exception of 2006, when these crimes decreased by 35 incidents from the year before. South San Pedro has seen a decrease in the number of these offenses. In 2000, there were 524 of these property offenses; the peak for the timeframe examined. Three of the four past years have seen less than 300 of these offenses. A relatively large

decrease in the number of property offenses occurred in the Trumbull neighborhood in 2001. Since then, the number of offenses has slowly declined.

Table IV.2
Number of Burglary and Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents by Neighborhood

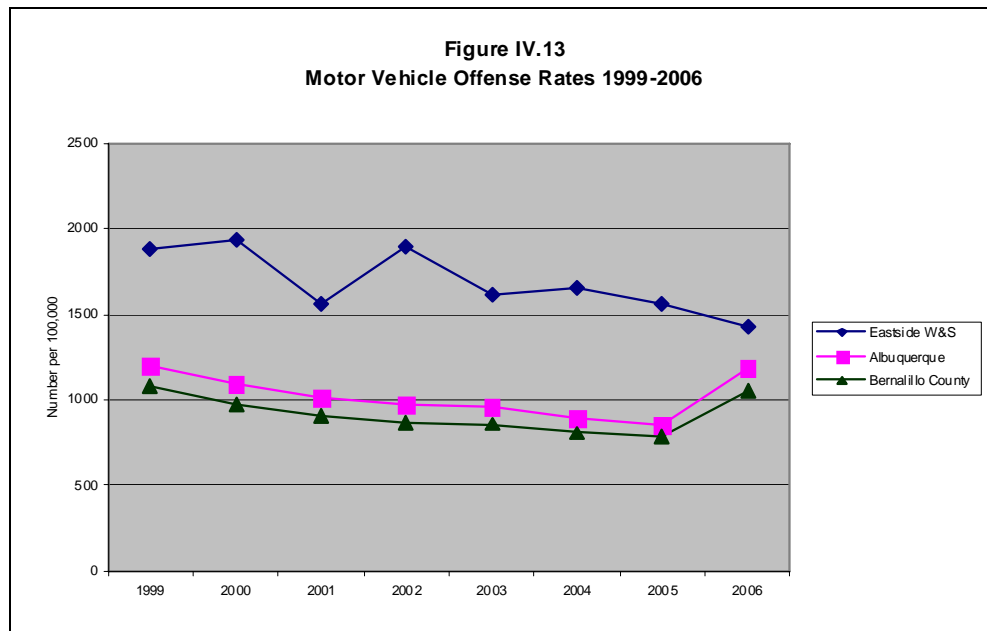
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
La Mesa	280	315	291	340	257	281	224	198
South Los Altos	116	85	102	111	92	103	98	63
South San Pedro	404	524	365	329	283	271	330	288
Trumbull	323	308	260	244	247	247	239	231

Figure IV.12 shows the rate of property offenses by neighborhood. By examining this chart, we can see that the Trumbull neighborhood has experienced one of the lowest rates over time for most years. While South San Pedro began with one of the highest rates, by 2003, the rates in that neighborhood were below those in La Mesa and South Los Altos. However, in recent years, the property offense rates have increased in the South San Pedro neighborhood. The La Mesa neighborhood has experienced fluctuating rates, with many years showing the highest rate of all the neighborhoods. Finally, South Los Altos property offending rates have been relatively high in many of the years examined; indeed, they experienced the second highest rates in 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005. Most recently, their rates were the lowest of the four neighborhoods.

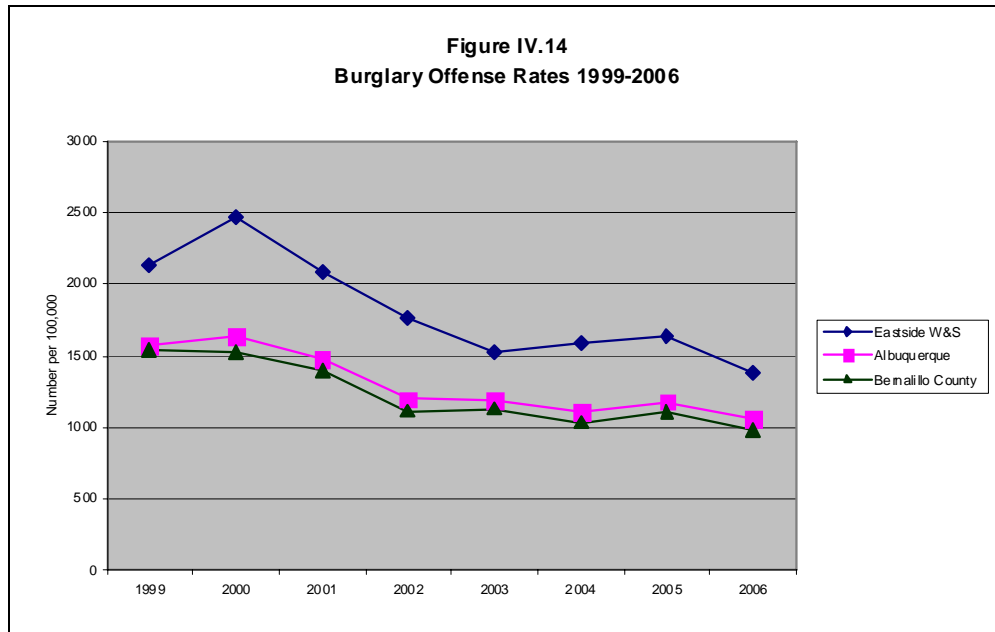


Property crimes by category of offense

Below are two charts illustrating property crimes by offense type. We found that about 9.9% of motor vehicle thefts in the city occurred within the Eastside Weed and Seed boundaries over this time frame. The proportion of the city's motor vehicle thefts occurring in the Eastside dropped from a high of 11.1% in 2000 to 6.7% in 2006. An interesting change occurred in 2006. As shown below, the rate of motor vehicle thefts increased throughout the city in 2006, but decreased in the Eastside Weed and Seed area.

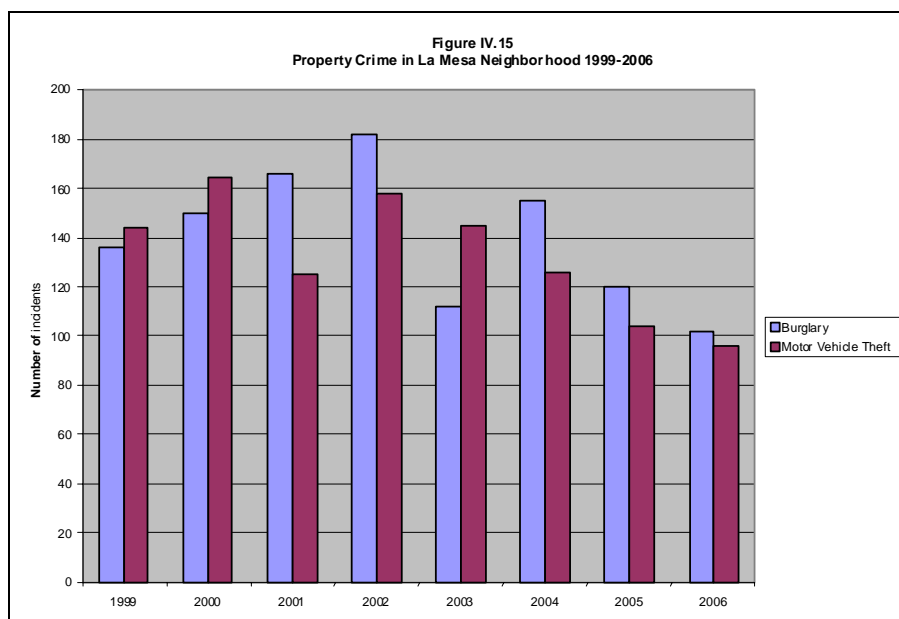


Burglary rates within the Eastside Weed and Seed site compared to the City and County are presented in Figure IV.14 below. There is clearly a decrease occurring over time, mimicking to some extent the decrease seen throughout the City and County. Over the eight years included here, 8.3% of Albuquerque's burglaries occurred in the Eastside Weed and Seed site. The greatest number of burglaries in the site occurred in 2000; these accounted for 9.4% of the city's total. In 2006, this number was down to 7.2%.

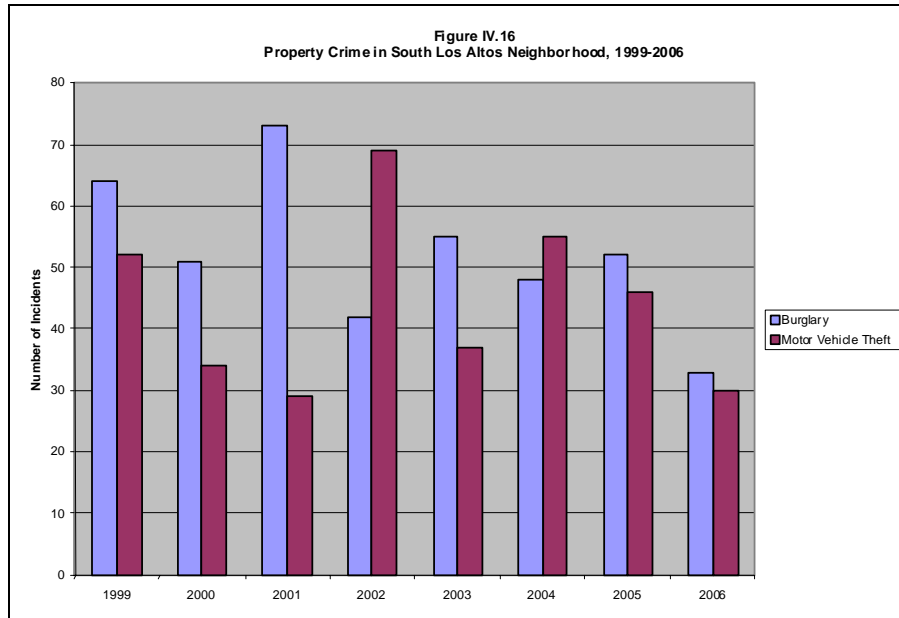


Property crimes in neighborhoods by category

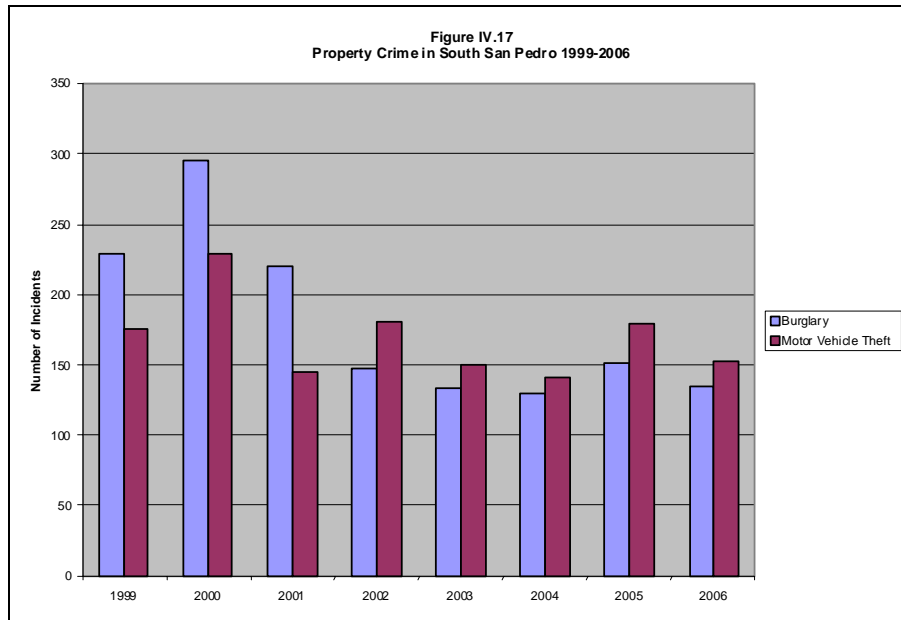
The La Mesa neighborhood experienced more burglaries than motor vehicle thefts in most years. The number of burglaries increased from 1999 to 2002; in 2003 they dropped off substantially. Despite the increase in 2004, there has been an overall decrease in the number of burglaries in this neighborhood. Motor vehicle thefts have also been declining in recent years.



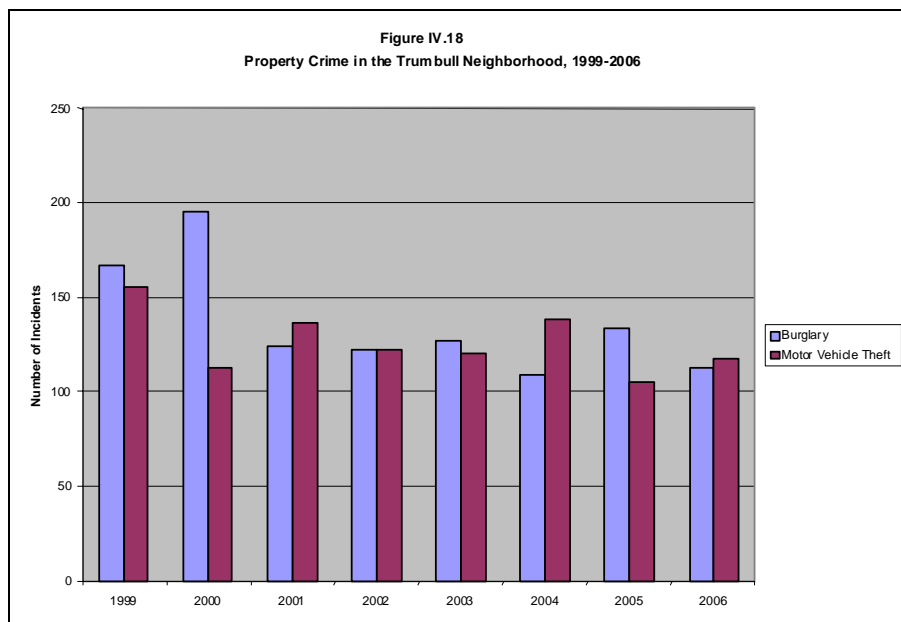
The South Los Altos neighborhood experienced a varying number of burglaries and motor vehicle thefts over time. There have been no clear trends regarding either burglaries or motor vehicle thefts in the neighborhood. This is shown in Figure IV.16 below.



Illustrated in Figure IV.17 are property crimes in the South San Pedro neighborhood between 1999 and 2006. Motor vehicle thefts have occurred more often than burglaries in this neighborhood since 2002. The number of burglaries has declined since 2001, with some annual fluctuations. Motor vehicle thefts peaked in 2000. While these numbers have been lower since then, some years have seen greater number of vehicle thefts than others.



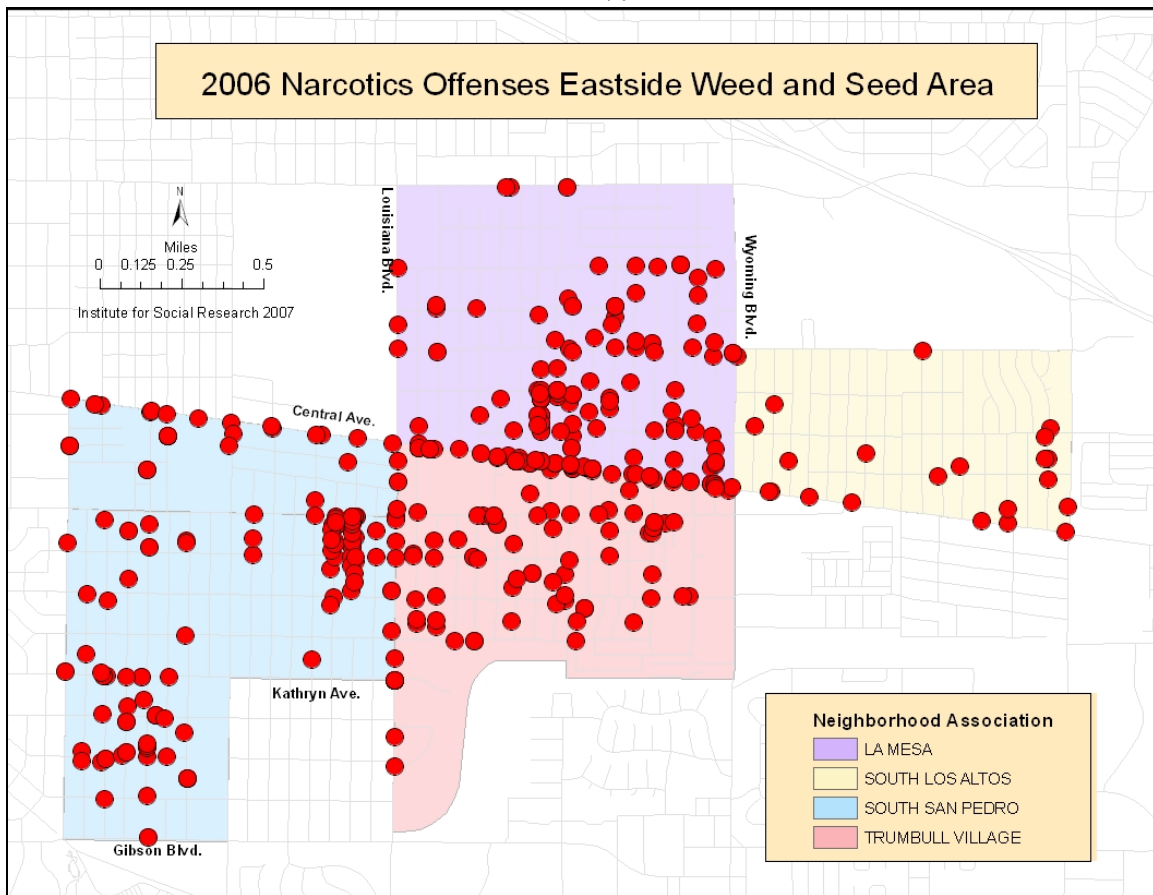
Burglaries and motor vehicle thefts from 1996 to 2006 originating in the Trumbull neighborhood are depicted in Figure IV.18 below. Burglaries were at a high in 1999 and 2000. These have since declined but have not seen any significant decreases since the initial one in 2001. Motor vehicle thefts were down in the area in 2000 from 1999. These numbers have varied annually since then, without showing any significantly decreasing trends.



Narcotics Offenses

Narcotics offenses (which include possession of both drug equipment as well as illegal substances and the distribution of drugs) were recorded throughout the Eastside weed and seed site in 2006. The spatial distribution of narcotics offenses that were reported in 2006 is shown in Map IV.14. There were especially dense areas of incidents noted along Central Avenue, in the middle of the La Mesa neighborhood just north of Central, and in the eastern and southern portions of the South San Pedro neighborhood. It could be that reports of narcotics offenses on Central Avenue were the result of attempts at open-air drug marketeering on this major thoroughfare, or a consequence of police stops for other suspicious behaviors demonstrated by offenders in which drugs were discovered.

MAP IV.14



As seen in Figure IV.19, the rate of narcotics criminal offending is three to four times greater in the Eastside site than in Albuquerque as a whole. Indeed, over this eight year period, the Eastside area narcotics offenses accounted for 14% of the County's narcotics incidents and almost 17% of narcotics offenses in the metropolitan area. In 2006, this proportion was even greater: Eastside Weed and Seed saw 19% of the City's narcotics incidents. This could represent greater detection and enforcement of narcotics violations or greater offending or both. Recall that the Eastside Weed and Seed area only comprises 1.6% of the total land space of the incorporated metropolitan area. Thus, there are a large number of narcotics offenses in a relatively small area.

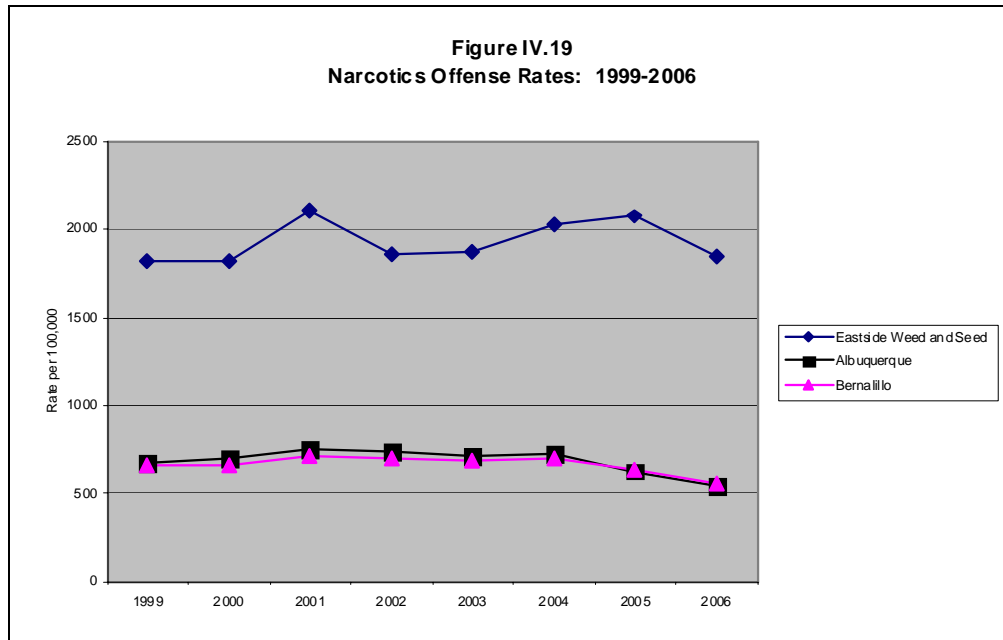
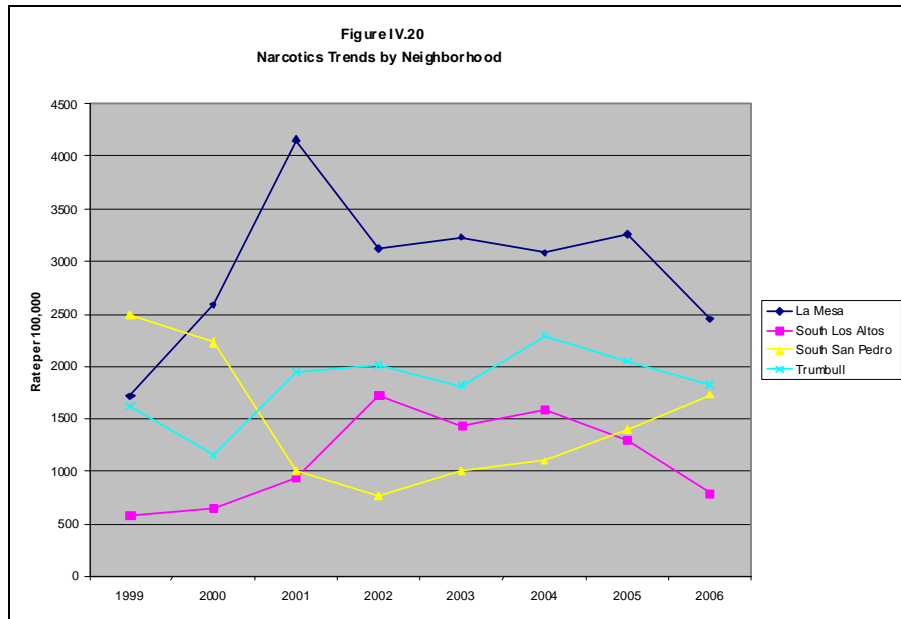


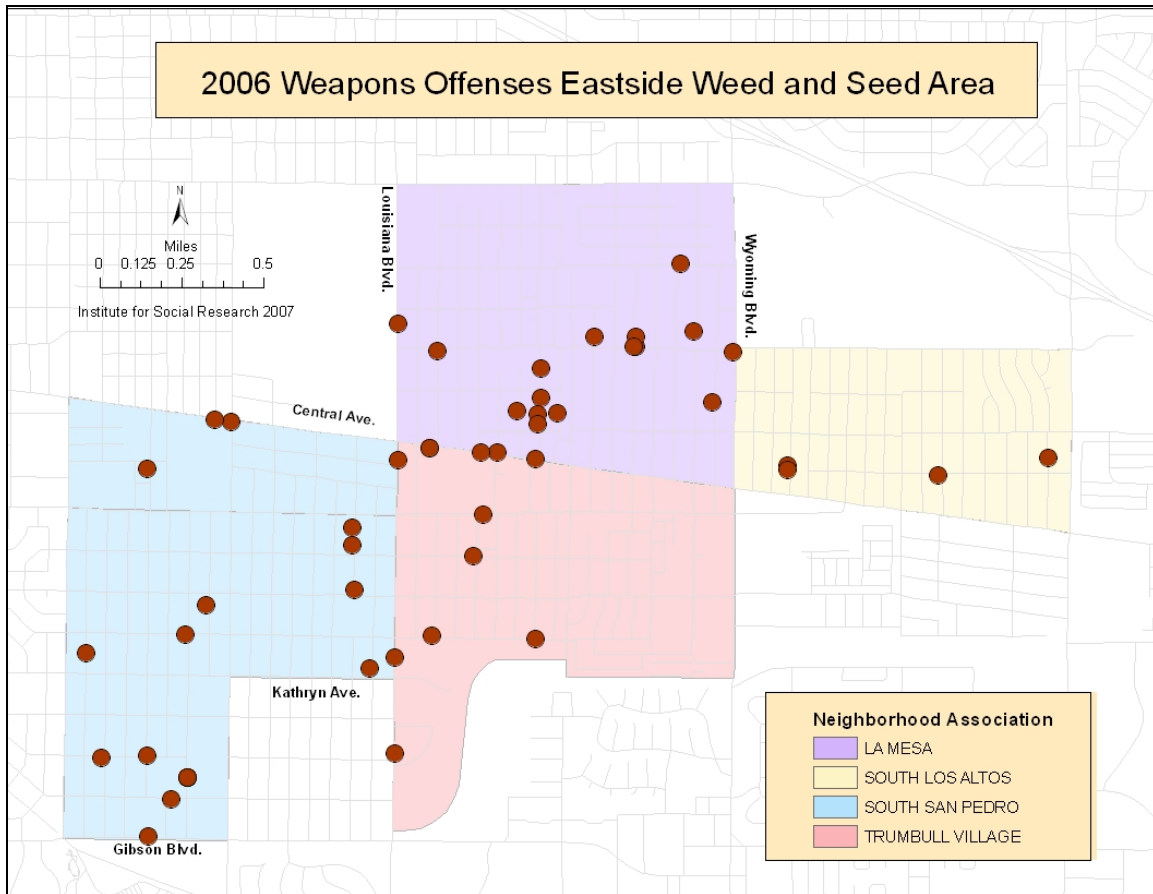
Figure IV.20 below portrays the narcotics offense trends for each of the four neighborhoods. The rate for the La Mesa neighborhood was highest in every year except 1999. The rate rose dramatically in 2001, followed by a decline. In 2006, their rate declined substantially compared to 2005. South San Pedro's rates decreased from 1999 to 2002, and have begun to inch upward since that time. Rates have mostly increased for the Trumbull neighborhood over the past eight years. Drug incident rates in the South Los Altos neighborhood steadily inclined from 1999 to 2002, after which a declining trend is noted.



Crimes Involving the Use of a Weapon

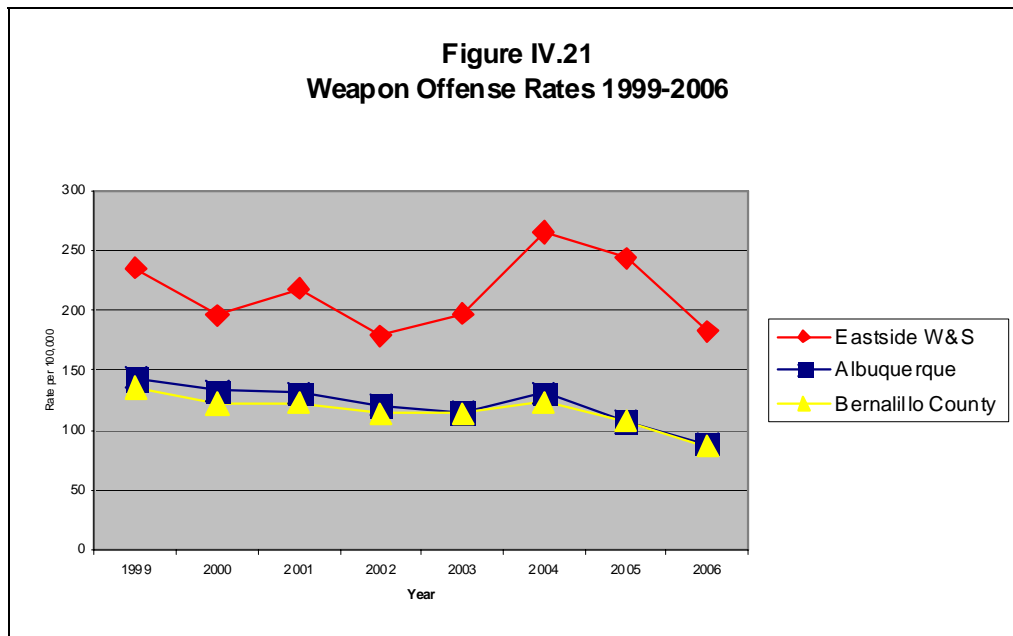
As shown in Map IV.15, weapons offenses (i.e., the negligent use of a deadly weapon and unlawful carrying or possession of a weapon) occur throughout the Eastside Weed and Seed site, but particularly in the La Mesa and Trumbull neighborhoods. These offenses are not as prevalent as other types of offending in this area, such as narcotics. Still, in 2006, 11.4% of Albuquerque's weapons incidents occurred in the Eastside Weed and Seed area. This area accounted for 9.6% of the County's weapons offenses.

MAP IV.15



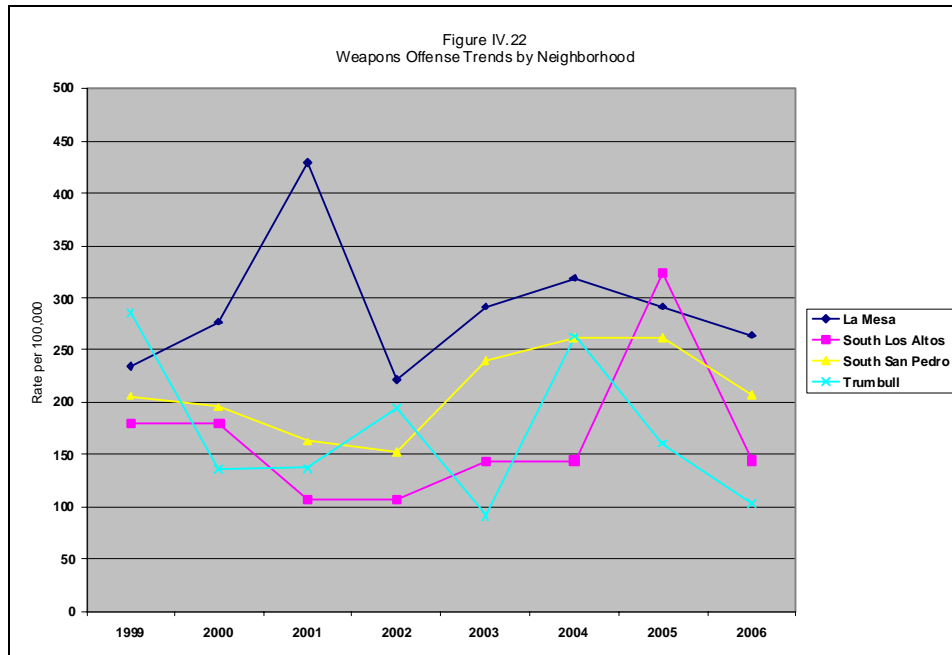
Weapons offense rates in Eastside Weed and Seed versus Albuquerque and Bernalillo County

The Weed and Seed site's weapon offense trends compared to those of the City and County are illustrated in Figure IV.21. These rates are considerably higher in the Eastside compared to the Albuquerque area. Additionally, rates in the Weed and Seed site are increasingly disparate and higher in recent years compared to the city and county.



Weapons offenses by neighborhood

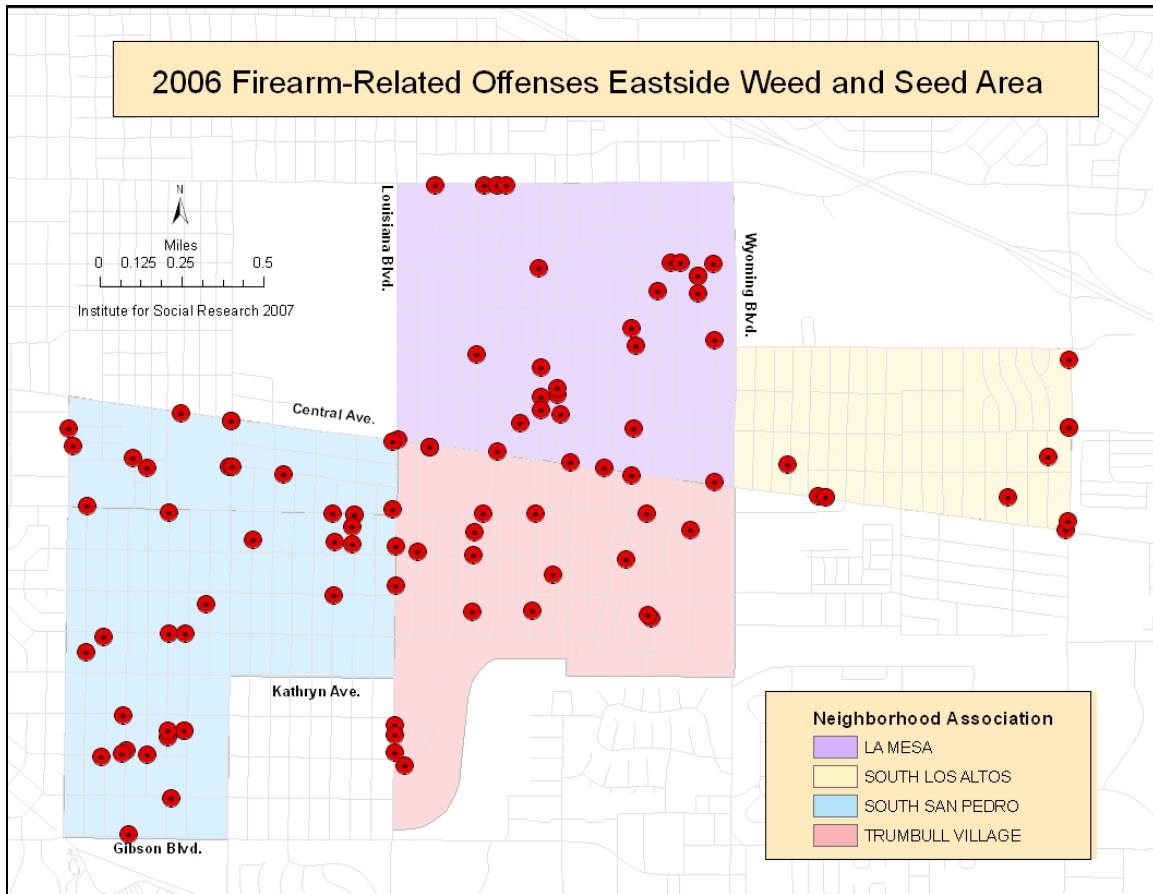
Trends of weapons offending differ significantly among the neighborhoods within the site. As shown in Figure IV.22, rates of weapons offending were more prevalent in the La Mesa neighborhood in most years. Weapons offending decreased between 1999 and 2002 in the South San Pedro neighborhood. These rates increased in 2003 and did not decrease until 2006. Weapons offending rates in the Trumbull neighborhood have fluctuated wildly over the past eight years, showing no real trend toward increasing or decreasing rates. Finally, the South Los Altos neighborhood has seen a recent increase in weapons offenses, with a spike seen in 2005.



Firearm-related Offending

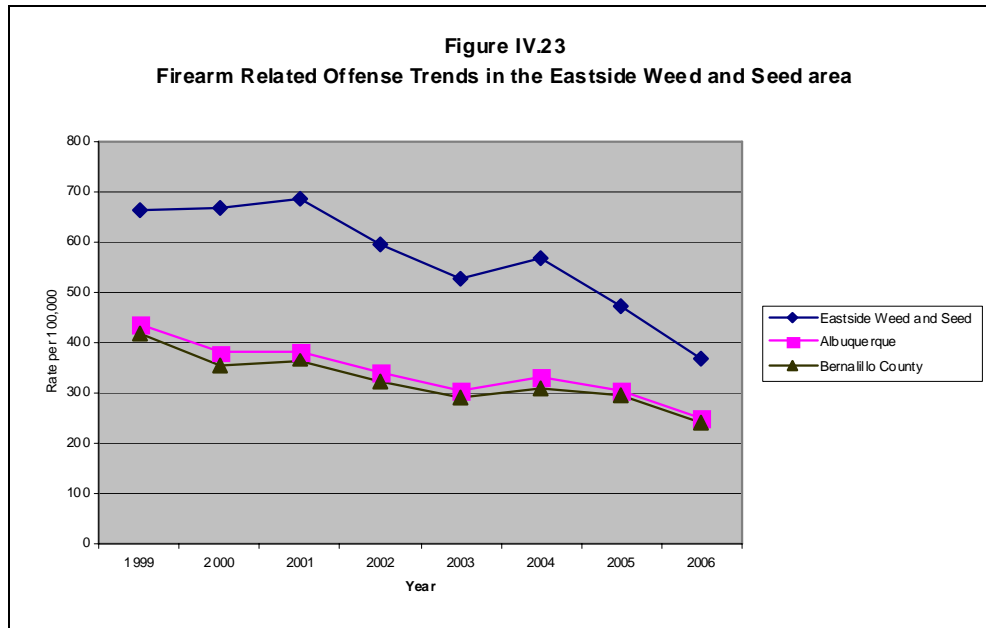
Of particular interest in the Eastside site are offenses that involve the use of a firearm. Firearm offenses usually involve the commission of a violent crime with a handgun, long-rifle or shotgun, but could also involve possession of an illegal weapon (such as a fully automatic firearm, one with an inappropriate barrel length, or with a silencing device), or possession by an inappropriate party such as a felon or a minor. The spatial distribution of firearm-related offenses in the Eastside site in 2006 is shown in Map IV.16. In 2006, firearm-related offenses often occurred along commercial streets such as Central Avenue, Gibson Boulevard, Eubank Boulevard and Louisiana Boulevard. However, there were quite a number of firearm-related incidents occurring off of these major thoroughfares. Clusters of these events can be seen especially in the La Mesa, Trumbull and South San Pedro neighborhoods.

MAP IV.16



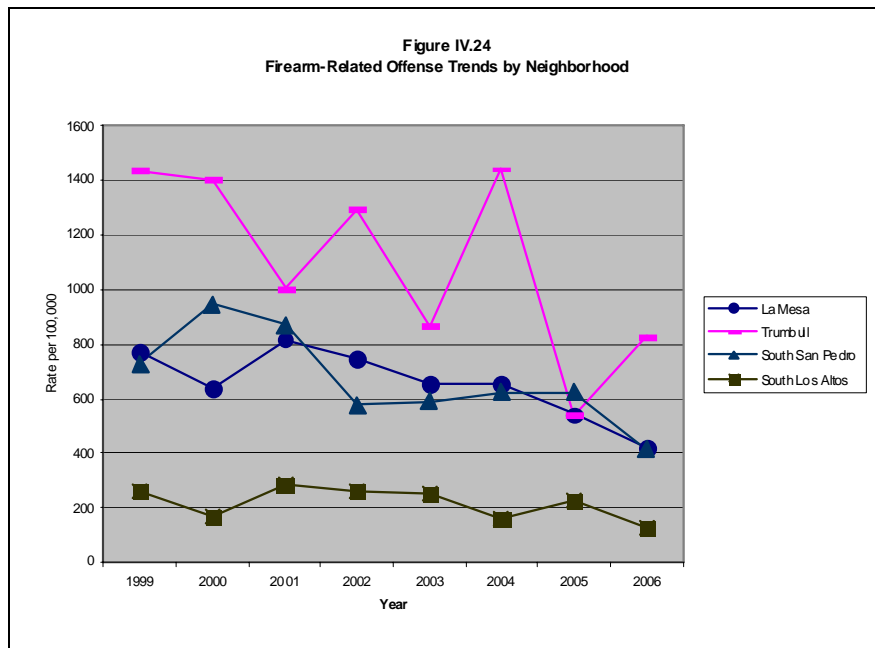
Firearm-related Offense Rates in Eastside Weed and Seed versus Albuquerque and Bernalillo County

Illustrated below in Figure IV.23 are the firearm related offenses in the Eastside Weed and Seed area compared to the City and County. While these rates are higher in the Weed and Seed area compared to the City and County. While these rates are higher in the Weed and Seed area, the differences have decreased over time. In particular, the first three years examined show rates substantially higher than those of the City. Firearm-related offense rates in the Eastside Weed and Seed reached a peak in 2001; this rate was 1.8 times higher than Albuquerque's that year. The lowest rates in the Eastside were in 2006; this was 1.5 times higher than the City's. Not only has the difference in offense rates become smaller between the City and the Weed and Seed area, the rate of firearm-related offending has decreased over time in the Weed and Seed site. This is also true of the City and County as a whole.



Firearm-related offenses by neighborhood

The Eastside neighborhoods varied in their rates of firearm-related offenses. While much fluctuation is seen annually, the Trumbull neighborhood clearly has the highest rate of firearm-related offenses in every year except 2005. While firearm-related incidents were relatively high in the South San Pedro neighborhood in the early years, these rates have subsequently declined. Likewise, the La Mesa neighborhood has witnessed a decrease in firearm-related incidents over time. Rates were lowest in the South Los Altos neighborhood, with fluctuations seen annually. However, there has been a tendency towards decreasing firearm-related incident rates in this neighborhood over time.



Prosecuted Offenses

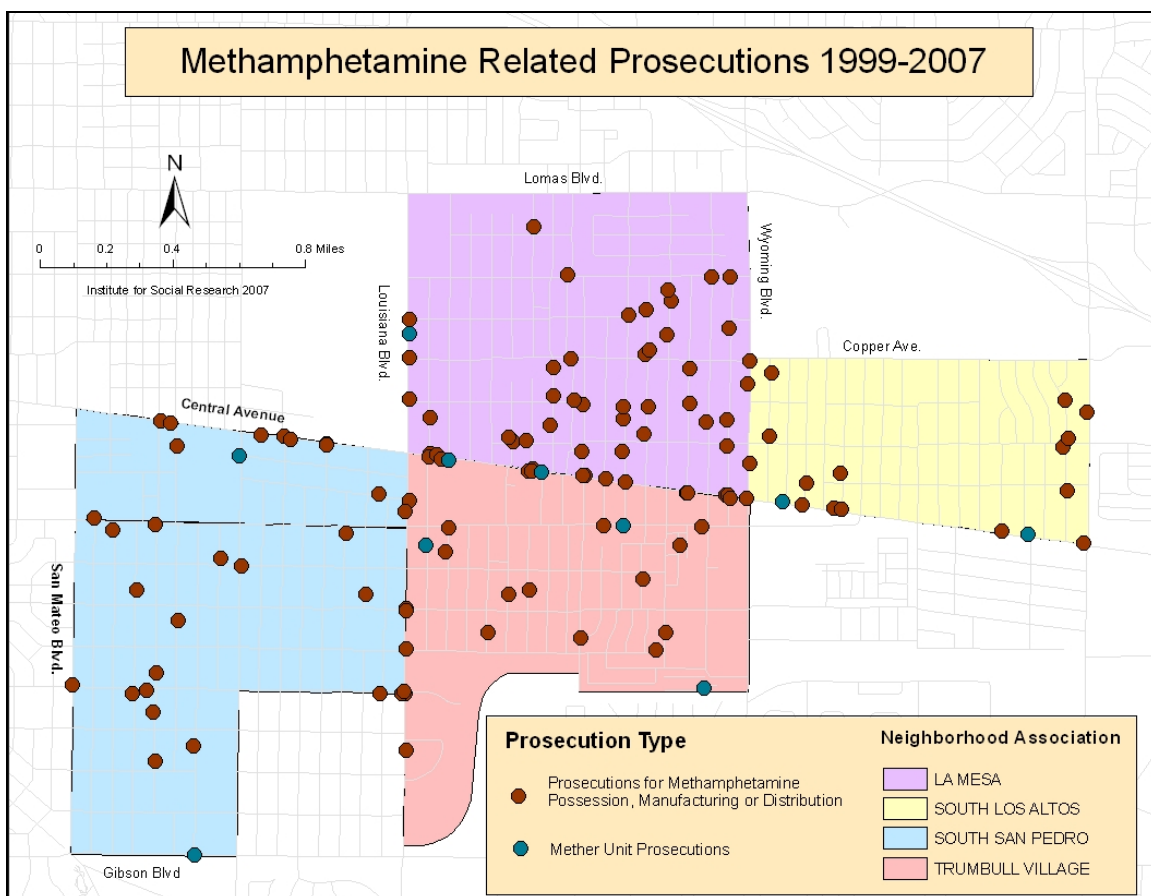
The Second Judicial District Attorney's Office has two specialized units that prosecute gang related offenses and methamphetamine related offenses. The gang unit specializes in prosecuting all offenses in which a gang member was involved, regardless of whether the offense was related specifically to gang activities such as drug distribution or conflict with other gangs. Likewise, the meth unit specializes in prosecuting offenses related to the manufacturing and distribution of methamphetamines. This includes actual possession of that illicit substance as well as related activities, such as shoplifting for ingredients to make the drug, forgery, etc. The meth unit is relatively new. Using data provided by the District Attorney's Office, we were able to map the location of these incidents and determine which offenses were committed within the Eastside site.

Methamphetamine related prosecutions

There were 1680 cases involving methamphetamines that resulted in prosecution between 1999 to 2007. Additionally, there were 169 cases prosecuted by the Meth unit in the District Attorney's Office. Only 36% of these cases included a primary charge of trafficking or possession, with the majority of these prosecutions involving other offenses

such as forgery, racketeering, etc. The map below illustrates the location of both methamphetamine related prosecutions (not prosecuted by the Methur Unit) and Methur Unit prosecutions. Many prosecutions originate from crimes detected in the La Mesa neighborhood in particular. During this time period, approximately 10% of prosecutions for methamphetamine originated in the Eastside Weed and Seed area, and 6% of all Methur Unit prosecutions originated within the site boundaries.

MAP IV.17

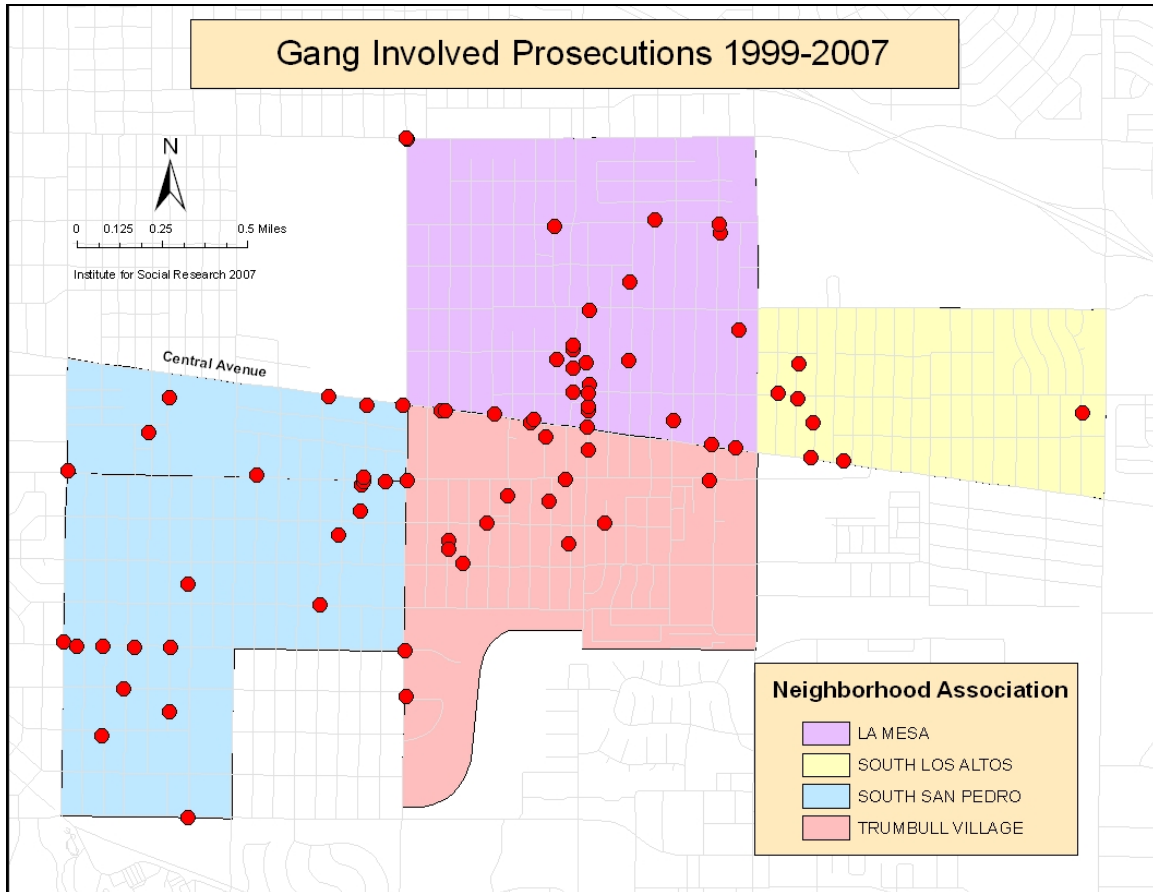


Gang related prosecutions

The District Attorney's Office prosecuted 957 crimes attributed to identified gang members between 1999 and 2007. More than 9% of all gang-involved cases stem from offenses occurring in the Eastside area. As can be seen in Map IV.18 below, many

follow major thoroughfares such as Central Avenue and Kathryn Avenue. However, a significant number of gang-involved offenses occur in the residential neighborhoods as well.

MAP IV.18



CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

The Albuquerque neighborhoods that comprise the Eastside Weed and Seed site have been known as a magnet for criminality and other socially unacceptable behavior for several decades. Residents of the La Mesa, South Los Altos, South San Pedro and Trumbull Village neighborhoods have joined with law enforcement professionals and local government agencies in the Weed and Seed program, to combat crime and improve public safety in the area.

Social conditions

Responses to crime are influenced by important social conditions in the area itself. The level of social organization within a community is closely associated with criminal behavior: the Eastside site experiences a higher degree of social disorganization than other portions of the metropolitan area. Several indications of social disorganization are apparent.

The population in the Eastside site is disproportionately mobile. Population mobility is associated with the demographic and housing aspects of the area. First, a high proportion of Eastside residents, estimated at 19%, are non-naturalized and foreign-born, roughly four times the rate for the City as a whole. These residents lack strong roots to the community, may not know their neighbors, and have lower than average rates of employment, educational attainment, legitimate income and civic engagement. Second, the population is relatively young, compared to Albuquerque as a whole. Younger people also tend to be more geographically mobile and are not socially connected to their neighbors. Third, there is a relatively high reliance on low-cost, multiple unit, rental housing in the area. Without the bonds of home ownership, residents are less committed to their community or to maintaining their residence and the immediate neighborhood. Low-income housing is often in poor repair and does not support as desirable a quality of life that people might desire. It could be all that the residents can afford at the time, but they will likely move whenever they are able.

The Eastside population is also relatively dense, due to the prevalence of multiple-unit housing. In Albuquerque, neighborhood crime rates are positively associated with the population density of an area, since single-unit homes take up more land space and experience fewer crime incidents. Given the relatively low cost and quality of apartment housing in the Eastside site, living conditions on several blocks is deteriorated. Along with commercial neighborhoods, blocks with a high proportion of low cost rental housing experience the highest rates of serious crimes within the Eastside site.

Other indicators of social disadvantage are also characteristic of disorganized neighborhoods. In the Eastside site, labor force participation (particularly for women) and educational attainment are lower than that for Albuquerque as a whole. The academic performance of children attending schools in the site is lower than that of children from throughout the school district. Finally indicators of poverty such as percentage of youth living below the poverty line, receiving public assistance, and participating in free lunch programs are more prevalent in the site.

Crime patterns

Criminal offenses are more prevalent in the Eastside site than in the Albuquerque metropolitan area. These patterns are consistent for both serious violent crime and serious property crime, and are also true for weapons offending, firearm-related offenses and crimes involving gang members. Crime trends indicate that the Eastside site enjoyed reductions in crime from 2000 through 2003, but that crime increased in 2004. Early indicators suggest that reported incidents of serious crime are decreasing in 2006. Some trends parallel those of the City of Albuquerque, although citywide trends are less pronounced.

The most prevalent category of serious violent crime in the area is aggravated assault, followed by robbery, rape and homicide, respectively. Over time, rates of violent offending are highest in the La Mesa neighborhood, although the rates are fairly similar and the relative safety of one neighborhood over another changes from year to year. Within the site, reported serious violent crimes concentrate along major commercial thoroughfares, particularly Central Avenue.

Property crime rates have declined between 1999 and 2006 in the Eastside site. While property crime rates have declined in the city as well, the last two years have actually seen an increase in burglary and motor vehicle theft rates. This trend was not seen in the Weed and Seed area. Property crime rates were often highest in the La Mesa neighborhood. However, for the last two years, this has not been true. The South Los Altos neighborhood has also experienced relatively high rates. The Trumbull neighborhood had the lowest burglary and motor vehicle theft rates compared to the other three neighborhoods in most years.

Narcotics law offenses were three to four times greater in the Eastside site than throughout the metropolitan area between 1999 and 2006. These rates were especially high in the La Mesa neighborhood, but have begun to decline. Rates in the Trumbull neighborhood were second highest. The narcotics rates in the South San Pedro neighborhood have begun to increase since about 2002.

Rates of the use of weapons in crimes in the Eastside site were well above city rates. The La Mesa neighborhood in particular experience relatively high weapons offense rates. Of particular interest for the Weed and Seed initiative is the use of firearms. In the Eastside site, these rates were approximately 1.5 times greater than those in the metropolitan area. The Trumbull neighborhood had especially high rates. Rates were lowest in the South Los Altos neighborhood.

Methamphetamine related offenses and gang-involved criminal offending was prevalent in the Eastside site. Based on data collected for prosecutions between 1997 and 2007, roughly 10% of all methamphetamine-involved and gang-involved prosecutions involved criminal activity that occurred within the boundaries of the Eastside site.

Conclusions and Future Directions

The relationship between social conditions and crime in the Eastside site is striking. While traditional law enforcement tactics are necessary to maintain public safety in the short-term, the neighborhoods comprising the site will likely continue to have above-average rates of serious crime until socioeconomic conditions improve, and/or the demographic profile of the area changes to one less strongly associated with criminal offending and victimization. Therefore, systematic community planning and

other efforts to improve the quality of life for adults and especially children in the area, including the Seeding activities of this initiative, are critical for the long-term reduction of crime in the area. Mounting evidence suggests that in disadvantaged neighborhoods, collective efficacy (or the degree to which residents communicate with one another and are invested in the community) can reduce crime. Activities that bring neighbors together and help to generate a sense of collective ownership and responsibility for the direction of the community are therefore important.

The current report provides information for an on-going assessment of Weed and Seed activities in the Eastside site in Albuquerque. Crime and social indicators should be monitored on an annual basis. In addition, efforts should be directed at understanding the impact of the initiative itself in producing these changes, within the scope of available resources.

The report is also intended to inform residents and agency professionals of conditions in the site. Our hope is that they will engage in thoughtful discussion of the findings and implement specific plans to reduce criminal behavior and improve the quality of life within the Eastside site.