



Northeast Community Survey 2008: Final Report

Report to
East Anchorage Weed and Seed

by

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Justice Center
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Northeast Community Survey 2008: Final Report

Executive Summary

Northeast Anchorage Weed and Seed Catchment Area

The *Northeast Community Survey* is the primary tool used by the East Anchorage Weed and Seed for evaluating the overall initiative. This report summarizes findings from a questionnaire mailed to residents within the catchment area of the East Anchorage Weed and Seed site. The findings are compared to those from an identical survey administered in the catchment area in 2002 to determine whether, and to what extent, measures of program effectiveness changed. The East Anchorage Weed and Seed (hereafter “Northeast”) site is located, appropriately, in the northeast section of the city, bordered by the Glenn Highway to the north and Fort Richardson military reservation to the east; the southern boundary of the East Anchorage Weed and Seed catchment area is Debarr Road, extending to Bragaw Street, the western boundary.

Population estimates for 2005 show a residential population for the area of more than 37,000 people living in about 14,000 households.¹ Residents of Northeast Anchorage display a wide variety of ethnic and racial backgrounds. Compared to Anchorage as a whole, Northeast is significantly more diverse in terms of ethnic composition. Whereas 2000 census figures show the city of Anchorage as a whole to have a self-reported “white” population of 72 percent, the four census tracts² that make-up the Northeast community consist of only 61 percent whites.³ 2005 estimates show a decline in the proportion of whites in the Northeast community to 59 percent.⁴ The minority ethnic groups with the largest representation in Northeast Anchorage are African-Americans (10 percent) and Alaska Natives/American Indians (8 percent), according to 2005 population estimates. Northeast Anchorage demonstrates a greater degree of ethnic diversity than the rest of Anchorage, but is similar with respect to age. The median age for the Northeast community is 32 years, which matches the median age for Anchorage as a whole. Females are in the majority in Northeast, constituting some 51 percent of the total population.⁵

The demographic composition of the area served by the Northeast Weed and Seed initiative is of significance here because the returned questionnaires did not result in a representative sample of the community. To summarize, the sample collected is disproportionately white, female, childless and retired in a community that has significant numbers of minority racial and/or ethnic groups, males, children and employed persons. Thus, the findings presented below must be *read with a great deal of caution*. Simply stated, the findings reported here cannot even be generalized to the Northeast Anchorage community, let alone Anchorage as a whole. The specific shortcomings of the present sample and their implications for interpretation of the data are discussed in more detail in the full report.

The Weed and Seed Initiative

Weed and Seed is intended to be a collaborative enterprise bringing together private and public agencies “to improve the quality of life in targeted high-crime areas of American cities.”⁶ Weed and Seed was begun as a nation-wide project of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1991 and consists of a two-part strategy for improving the quality of life in local communities. First, the program seeks to “weed out” problematic individuals and groups such as violent offenders and drug dealers who, through their behavior, serve to undermine the quality of life for community residents. Weeding is accomplished primarily through coordinated activities by criminal justice officials, for example geographically-targeted patrols by police and, coordinated efforts by local, state, and federal prosecutors. Once disruptive elements have been removed, and even during the weeding-out process, the initiative acts to “seed in” positive practices, programs and institutions that contribute to a better quality of life for neighborhoods, like human services and neighborhood revitalization efforts (e.g., neighborhood clean-up). Community policing strategies, whereby police officers work to develop contextualized, community specific solutions through strategic partnerships with community residents and institutions, are intended to stand as the bridge between “weeding” and “seeding” efforts, linking law enforcement with community-level initiatives.⁷

The analysis below is based on the results of a community survey designed to measure Northeast community residents' level of satisfaction with the Northeast neighborhood as a place to live. More specifically, residents were asked to indicate the following:

- How safe they felt in their neighborhood, both during the day and at night
- The degree to which violent, property, and drug crimes are a problem in their neighborhood
- Whether or not the respondents, or family members, had been criminally victimized in their neighborhood
- Their satisfaction with local police activity (crime control, responsiveness, community engagement)
- Their satisfaction with the availability of various social services

In addition, respondents to the survey were asked about their own participation in community organizations and/or institutions. Finally, the survey asked Northeast residents if they were aware of human service organizations such as their local Weed and Seed office.

Summary of Findings

In general, survey respondents were satisfied with the quality of life in Northeast Anchorage. When asked, "In general how satisfied are you with this neighborhood as a place to live?" 78 percent of those responding indicated that they were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied." Drug sales out of homes and drug use are seen as the most pressing concern among those returning the survey. Well over half of those responding stated that drug sales and drug use were at least somewhat problematic (56% and 54%, respectively). However, fewer than 1 in 3 respondents viewed either of these things as a "big problem," and more than 12 percent of respondents said that there was "no problem" at all with drug sales or drug use in Northeast Anchorage.

In parallel fashion, between 55 percent and 65 percent of respondents said that property and/or violent crime is problematic in the Northeast community. However, for property crimes (including burglary), nearly 4 in 10 respondents reported either that it was "no problem" or they "didn't know" if it was a problem. Further, 21 percent of respondents indicated that violent crime

was “no problem,” and another 23 percent told us that they “didn’t know” whether or not violent crime was a problem in the community. The pattern that emerges among the respondents with regard to crime is one of general concern, but one that is neither specific nor pressing.

When respondents were asked if they felt safe⁸ in Northeast Anchorage, only 12 percent of respondents reported that they felt at all unsafe walking alone through the neighborhood during the day; half reported that they felt at least “somewhat” unsafe walking alone through their neighborhood at night. While not meaning to minimize the fear felt by this group, it is important to note that this level of “fear of crime” is consistent with national statistics. Data from the 2006 General Social Survey show that when a representative sample of Americans were asked, “Is there any area right around here—that is, within a mile—where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?” 35 percent responded “yes.”⁹ Therefore, it can be reasonably inferred that those Northeast residents that responded to the survey are not significantly *more* fearful, in general, than other Americans about criminal victimization.

When asked about criminal victimization Northeast respondents who returned the survey duplicate yet another pattern in national crime statistics: they are rarely victimized, especially by violent crimes.¹⁰ When they were the victims of crime, respondents and/or their family members were most likely to be the victims of a property crime. Slightly fewer than 20 percent of respondents reported that a family member, or the respondent themselves, had suffered a property victimization within the past two years. In contrast, the percentage reporting victimization fell to around 3 percent for the violent crimes of robbery, assault and attacks with weapons.

Respondent evaluations of local police were less than clear. Respondents were asked to evaluate police performance in reference to: a) order maintenance activities, b) controlling drug markets, and c) responsiveness to community concerns. About a third of respondents reported that they “didn’t know” how police were doing with regard to the control of drug markets (38.3%) and responsiveness to community concerns (29.4%). Furthermore, when respondents *did* offer an opinion on these two items, their most frequent response was either that police did a “fair” job (18.9%) or were “somewhat responsive” (29.9%). Taken together, the data may

suggest somewhat of a “disconnect” between the activities of local police and the public at large. Given the focus of the Weed and Seed initiative on community policing to link “weeding” strategies with “seeding” programs, this finding may be worthy of consideration and more detailed analysis. It is important to note that respondents did not provide negative evaluations of the various police functions, but opted instead for what may be aptly described as non-committal responses.

Respondents to the survey were not active in such community activities as citizen patrols and anti-drug rallies. More people engaged in clean-up efforts. The lack of participation in community-level anti-drug efforts is curious, given that more than half of respondents perceived drug sales and use to be a problem.

More often than not, respondents said that they were satisfied with the availability of such things as recreational programs for children, public transportation, and drug treatment services. However, most striking was the large number of residents that reported no knowledge of these community programs. In general, respondents have very little knowledge of efforts to expand social services. Furthermore, those returning the survey not only had little knowledge about particular *programs* such as those just mentioned, but a large percentage had not even heard of community *organizations/institutions* such as Kids’ Kitchen or the Social Services Mall.

Conclusions

Because of the biased sample that was collected it is difficult, if not impossible, to reach any firm conclusions about the attitudes and perceptions of Northeast community residents. However, certain patterns did emerge among those that did respond to the survey, and so some conclusions can be reached *for the present sample*.

Perhaps the most significant finding is that these residents appear to be satisfied with the quality of life that the Northeast neighborhood provides them. Despite the acknowledgement of drug markets and other crime, residents on the whole feel safe in Northeast Anchorage. And, in spite of having less than full information about community services, programs and organizations,

respondents report a moderate level of satisfaction with community services. However, there is little doubt that this group of residents also perceives several problems in Northeast Anchorage explaining, in part, why they expended the energy to complete and return a four-page questionnaire.¹¹

As mentioned above, the data do indicate that respondents are lacking knowledge about a variety of community and social services, as well as the activities of the local police. The informational disconnect between police and the public, if it indeed exists, would constitute a serious problem for the East Anchorage Weed and Seed initiative. This community-building enterprise has been conceived as achieving its goals of community building through collaboration and partnership between community residents, local service agencies and government. The informational gaps identified suggest there is much to be done in this regard.

The next point is an extension of the second and deals with the apparent “break” between local police activities and community residents. That those community residents taking the time to return the survey appear to be “in the dark” with respect to local police activities is particularly troubling because it is the *police* that serve as the conduit between private and public agencies and community residents. Survey responses suggest that there is no significant effort on the part of police to form an active partnership with community residents. Both the quantitative data and marginal comments by respondents strongly suggest that while police are often seen in cars there is little, if any, personal interaction between the police and the public. To the extent that police are needed to help link community members with community institutions as well as larger city institutions such as the criminal justice system, the East Anchorage Weed and Seed should expect to see only limited success in its efforts to build a healthier Northeast community.¹²

Finally, the importance of caution in interpreting these preliminary findings must be reiterated, as they emerged out of a survey sample that did not achieve representativeness. Those people that completed and returned the *Northeast Community Survey* are different in significant ways than the underlying population of Northeast Anchorage, likely making responses patterns significantly different than those that would be rendered by the Northeast community as a whole.

There was little concrete evidence of change based on the findings of the previous *Northeast Community Survey* that was conducted in 2002. Although respondents in the current study were somewhat more likely to report feeling unsafe out alone in their neighborhoods after dark, it is not clear whether these differences are significant. When asked to indicate the extent to which certain things are problematic in the neighborhood, a larger percentage of 2002 respondents said drug use was a small problem than did the 2008 respondents. Conversely, the percentage of respondents who thought burglary was no problem increased from 2002 to 2008. Taken into context with the rest of the data on these items, it appears that overall, there was little significant change over six years in how respondents assessed the seriousness of crime-related problems. Though there were small drops from 2002 to 2008 in the percentage of respondents who reported being a victim of burglary, robbery, or attack with a weapon, and a negligible increase in the percentage of people who said they had been assaulted, these changes in percentages were found to be insignificant.

There were no significant differences between 2002 and 2008 on respondents' feelings about the quality of life in their community, or on measures of how people rated their satisfaction. Compared to 2002, there was generally little significant change in levels of satisfaction for various neighborhood services, with the exception of snow removal, where the percentage of people who were somewhat or very satisfied increased over ten percentage points from 47.8 percent in 2002 to 58.6 percent in 2008. There was no significant change over six years in the extent to which residents participate in neighborhood events or activities.

On measures of police effectiveness in dealing with drugs and keeping the streets safe, very little change in residents' views from 2002 to 2008 was apparent. However, respondents in 2008 were significantly less likely, compared to the 2002 respondents, to report that they thought the police were doing a very poor job controlling the street sale and use of illegal drugs in the neighborhood. Although in 2008, relative to 2002, a greater percentage of respondents reporting seeing a police officer walking around or standing on patrol in the neighborhood, and driving through the neighborhood in a police car, these differences were not statistically significant.

Northeast Community Survey 2008: Final Report Introduction

This report summarizes findings from a self-administered questionnaire mailed to residents within the catchment area of the East Anchorage Weed and Seed site. The *Northeast Community Survey* is the primary tool used by the East Anchorage Weed and Seed for evaluating the overall initiative. The survey is intended to serve two purposes: 1) allow East Anchorage Weed and Seed to assess *changes* in resident perceptions, attitudes, and experiences between 2002 and the present, and; 2) provide *baseline* data for future community surveys. Unfortunately, the present survey is not representative of the underlying population of the East Anchorage Weed and Seed service area, rendering comparisons to past studies of Northeast Anchorage residents' attitudes and/or perceptions dubious.

Background

In spring of 2008 the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage was approached by the staff of East Anchorage Weed and Seed to conduct a community survey to assess the effectiveness of the Weed and Seed intervention. Drawing on similar research conducted in 2002, also by the Justice Center, the purpose of the current study is to measure Northeast Anchorage residents' level of satisfaction with their neighborhood as a place to live now, and to compare this to findings from the 2002 community survey.

In both surveys, residents were asked to indicate the following:

- How safe they felt in their neighborhood, both during the day and at night
- The degree to which violent, property, and drug crimes are a problem in their neighborhood
- Whether or not the respondents, or family members, had been criminally victimized in their neighborhood
- Their satisfaction with local police activity in terms of crime control, responsiveness, and community engagement)
- Their satisfaction with the availability of various social services

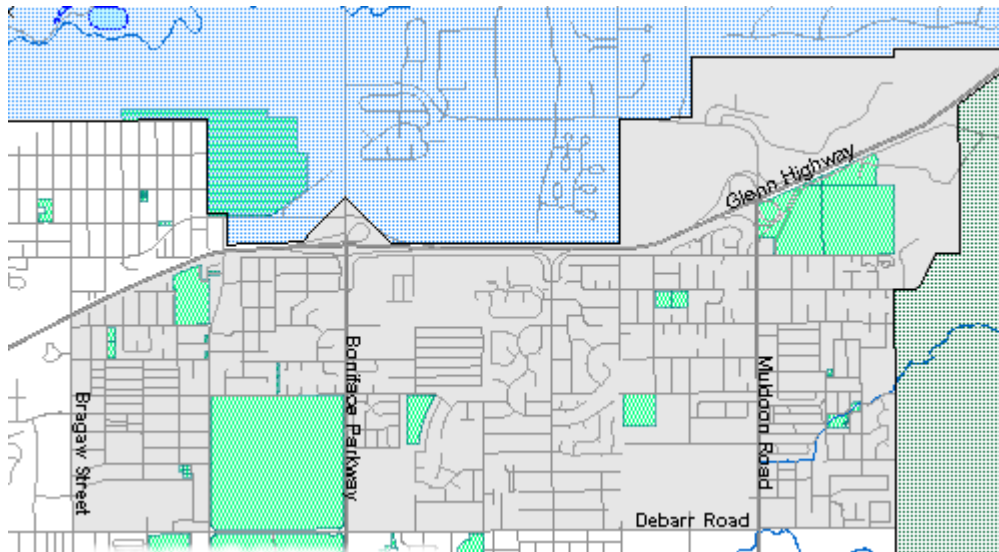
In addition, respondents to the survey were asked about their own participation in community organizations and/or institutions. Finally, the survey asked Northeast residents if they were aware of human service organizations such as their local Weed and Seed office.

Northeast Anchorage Weed and Seed Catchment Area

The East Anchorage Weed and Seed site (hereafter “Northeast”) is bordered by the Glenn Highway, a major east-west throughway, to the north and by Fort Richardson military reservation and Chugach Mountains to the east; the southern boundary of the Northeast community is Debarr Road, another major east-west traffic artery, extending to Bragaw Street to the west (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Northeast Anchorage Community Survey Study Area

Catchment area is shaded.



An up-to-date economic and demographic description of the Northeast community is not possible. The United States Census is carried out every ten years; the next census will occur in 2010. Eight years have elapsed since the last census, so any changes that have inevitably occurred in the constitution of the population are relatively unknown, although population estimates from 2005 are available. When possible, more current measures have been used. For

example, every year the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the American Community Survey (ACS). This is a survey of a sample of the population. It is not possible to make estimates about small areas (such as census tracts) using the ACS, but estimates about larger areas (such as the entire Anchorage municipality) are considered reliable.

The Northeast community is situated such that it is the first community area that visitors to the city encounter when entering from the west. Neighborhood zoning is predominantly residential but includes a number of dilapidated strip malls and other unsightly commercial buildings. Housing stock is dominated by multi-family structures; 45 percent of all housing units in the Northeast community are classified as such. Of the remaining stock that is classified as single-family housing, over one-quarter (26%) consists of mobile homes.¹³ The average housing price is lower than the rest of the Anchorage municipality: \$240,524 versus \$315,588.¹⁴

Population estimates for 2005 show a residential population for the area of more than 37,000 people living in about 14,000 households.¹⁵ Residents of Northeast Anchorage display a wide variety of ethnic and racial backgrounds. Compared to Anchorage as a whole, Northeast is significantly more diverse in terms of ethnic composition. Whereas 2000 census figures show the city of Anchorage as a whole to have a self-reported non-white population of 28 percent, the four census tracts that make up the Northeast community (tracts 7.01, 7.02, 7.03, and 8.01) consist of some 39 percent non-white residents.¹⁶ The minority ethnic groups with the largest representation in Northeast Anchorage are African-Americans (10 percent) and Alaska Natives/American Indians (8 percent), according to 2005 population estimates. The diversity of other minority groups is striking, even if not represented by large constituencies, and includes Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Filipino, Laotian, Cambodian, Russian, Samoan, Latino, and Eastern European populations.

There are indications that the municipality as a whole is becoming more diverse. The American Community Survey in 2007 found that 31 percent of respondents said they were something other than “white alone.”¹⁷ One way to gauge the current composition of the Northeast community is to look at school enrollment data to estimate changes in the population

under 65 between census administrations.¹⁸ Elementary schools are more reliable to use for this analysis, as their attendance boundaries are smaller and more closely approximate neighborhood boundaries. The Northeast community has five elementary schools—Creekside Park, Muldoon, Ptarmigan, Williwaw, and Wonder Park—whose combined attendance boundaries perfectly match the boundaries of the current study area. Seven years of data from the Anchorage School District were examined. From the 2001-2002 school year to the 2007-2008 school year, combined enrollments for the five schools declined 15.1 percent from 2,316 to 1,966 students. The number of ethnic minority¹⁹ students increased a negligible amount, from 1,504 to 1,521. But given the overall decline in student numbers, it is clear that while the elementary student population dropped over those seven years, the schools at the same time became significantly more diverse. In fact, the proportion of the student body that was ethnic minority increased from .65 to .77, a growth of 18.9 percent.²⁰ If this change in the composition of the student body at the Northeast community's five elementary schools is an accurate reflection of the entire population in the area, it would suggest that while the number of people living in the area has declined, the percentage of the population that is ethnic minority has increased.

Northeast Anchorage demonstrates a greater degree of ethnic diversity than the rest of Anchorage, but is similar with respect to age. The median age for the Northeast community is 32 years, which matches the median age for Anchorage as a whole. Slightly over one-quarter (27.5%) of Northeast's population is composed of people under the age of 18, according to 2005 estimates. Furthermore, fully 80 percent of those under 18 are children under the age of 13. Given the large number of children in Northeast Anchorage, it is not surprising to learn that two-thirds of all households in the catchment area are family households.²¹ In terms of gender, females are in the majority in Northeast, constituting some 51 percent of the total population.

The residents of Northeast Anchorage are at a distinct economic disadvantage compared to the rest of the city. In 2000, the median household income for the Northeast neighborhood was \$32,445 compared to that of Anchorage as a whole which had a median household income of \$43,946.

This detailed description of Northeast Anchorage's demographic composition is provided at the outset because, as mentioned, in many respects the returned questionnaires did not result in a representative sample of the community, rendering the survey sample sharply biased. To summarize, the sample collected is disproportionately white, female, childless and retired in a community that has significant numbers of minority racial and/or ethnic groups, males, children and employed persons. Thus, the findings presented below must be *read with a great deal of caution*. Simply stated, the findings reported here cannot even be generalized to the Northeast Anchorage community, let alone Anchorage as a whole. The specific shortcomings of the present sample and their implications for interpretation of the data are discussed in more detail below.

Method

Instrumentation

The first goal of the *Northeast Community Survey* was to assess changes in attitudes and/or perceptions of residents since the last survey in 2002. This earlier study (hereafter called the *2002 Survey*) surveyed 275 residents in the East Anchorage Weed and Seed catchment area, and with the exception of one new question (on housing tenure), was identical to the current survey instrument. This allows for ready comparisons of citizen attitudes and experiences at two points in time. The *Northeast Community Survey* incorporated several measures directly from the *COMPASS Survey* that was conducted in the Northeast Anchorage area in 1997. The bulk of items included in the *Northeast Community Survey*, however, were borrowed from the 1997 national evaluation survey instrument used by the National Institute of Justice.²² Inclusion of these items allows researchers to situate the Anchorage results in a larger national context by affording the opportunity for direct comparison across a large number of items. Finally, a number of questions were included in the survey that tapped community issues such as municipal services and community organizations unique to Anchorage and the Northeast community. Because so much of the instrument consisted of survey items that had already been pre-tested

and used in prior studies, the *Northeast Community Survey* did not undergo any pre-tests or trials prior to its fielding. The final product consisted of a four-page, forty-eight item self-administered survey.

Sampling and Administration

A random sample of 1,300 addresses was generated by an Anchorage mailing list company from addresses in the 7.01, 7.02, 7.03 and 8.01 census tracts. The 2002 *Survey* generated its mailing list from two years' worth of Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) lists. As of January 1, 2005, PFD applicants' addresses are no longer publically available, so this aspect of the project method could not be replicated.

The questionnaires were prepared and mailed to an initial sample of 1,300 Northeast community addresses by Justice Center staff in envelopes that had the UAA Justice Center address printed on them as the return address. Over the course of the data collection period, 91 questionnaires were returned because of insufficient or incorrect address, further reducing the pool of eligibles to 1,208. A total of 209 residents completed and returned the questionnaire within the specified data collection period (July 22—August 26, 2008). Due to resource constraints, follow-up procedures such as post card reminders and/or door-to-door interviews were not implemented. The final response rate for the survey, excluding questionnaires received outside the data collection period, is $((209 / 1,208) * 100) = 16.3\%$. There is no hard rule for determining “adequate” response rate, but survey researchers generally agree that the bottom threshold is 50 percent. A response rate of 75 percent is considered quite good and 90 percent is excellent (but *very* difficult to achieve). As a point of comparison, the decennial “census” conducted by the federal government achieves a response rate of about 95 percent.²³

A low response rate has several adverse effects, the most serious of which is that survey results can be very different from those that would be obtained if everyone in the community responded. When researchers fail to achieve an adequate response rate they must take great caution in generalizing the results. Because the response rate for the present survey is so low

(between 16% and 17%), the findings presented below cannot be generalized to the Northeast community, thus rendering comparisons between the *Northeast Community Survey* and prior studies suspect, as well as hindering the survey's utility as a baseline for future research. That noted, this report presents a description of respondents and results of the survey with appropriate cautions.

The Study Sample

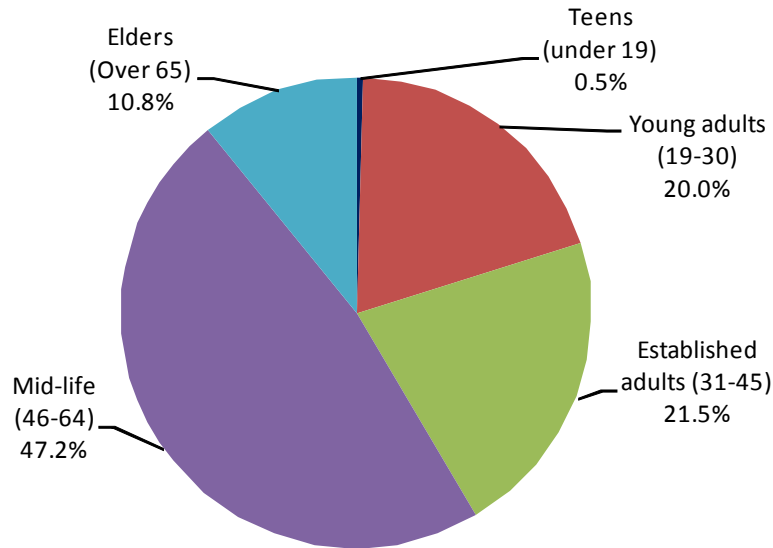
A number of questions in the *Northeast Community Survey* measured demographic variables: age, gender, and ethnic/racial identity. Information on household characteristics (the number of adults and children living in the household, and whether the home was owned or rented) was gathered. Respondents were also asked how long they had resided in the study area, and their current work status. A summary of the demographic composition of the sample is presented below, and when possible, compared with data from the 2000 United States Census, 2005 population estimates, or the 2007 American Community Survey.

Age

Respondents were asked "How old are you?" Ninety-seven percent of the 201²⁴ surveys included a response to the question. Respondents ranged from 17 to 79 years old, with a median age of 49. According to 2005 population estimates, the median age for Anchorage as a whole, and for the four census tracts included in the study, was 32 years old; the respondents in the *Northeast Community Survey* are considerably older in comparison (see Table 1).

Indeed, the present study oversampled senior adults. Of the respondents to the survey, 14.4 percent were aged 65 or older. In 2000, in the four census tracts in the target area, 8.8 percent of the population was 65 or older. Figure 2 shows the age categories for survey respondents. Nearly half (47%) were between the ages of 46 and 64. Approximately 20% fell into each of the categories of young adults (19-30 years old) and established adults (31-45 years old). About eleven percent were over the age of 65. Only one respondent was under the age of 19.

**Figure 2. Age Categories of Respondents
(n = 195)**



Ethnicity/Race

A large majority of people (77%) responding to the *Northeast Community Survey* classified themselves as “White” in response to the question “What is your ethnic identity? Do you consider yourself to be...” Respondents could choose more than one ethnic identity; only twenty did so. The categories of “Alaska Native” and “American Indian” are combined in Table 1; separately they comprise seven and five percent of the sample. Eight percent of the respondents classified themselves as either Asian or Pacific Islanders; six percent considered their ethnic identity to be Black or African-American. The category “Hispanic” was included in the list of possible answers to this question; it was not separated into another question as occurs in the U.S. Census. Four percent of respondents self-identified as Hispanic. About half of those people selected an additional ethnic identity.

Information gathered from the 2007 American Community Survey shows the race/ethnic distribution of Anchorage very similar to that gathered from the *Northeast Community Survey*.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Study Area and Anchorage *

	Northeast Community Survey, 2008 (n = 201)	Northeast Community Survey, 2002	COMPASS Survey, 1997	2000 Census for Northeast Community ¹	2007 American Community Survey for Anchorage, Alaska
Age					
Median age	49 years	45 years	31-40	39 years	33 years
Race/ethnicity					
White/Caucasian	77 %	75 %	77	63	76
Alaska Native/American	11	7	7	13	10
Asian/Pacific Islander	8	2	--	8	10
Black/African-American	6	5	7	13	9
Hispanic	4	5	3	8	8 ³
Gender					
Female	59	65	57	52 ²	49
Male	41	35	43	48	51
Household composition					
With person under 18 years	36	38	--	43	40
Single occupancy	26	20	7	26	23
Length of residence					
Less than 1 year	13	10	14	---	20
5 years or less	40	45	41	36	--
Home tenure					
Own	74	--	--	47	61
Rent	26	--	--	53	39
Work status					
Employed full time	62	54	--	61	--
Retired	16	20	10	--	--
Employed part time	8	6	--	--	--
Unemployed	3	4	9	6	5
Active duty military	2	3	7 ⁴	5	3

*Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

¹ Census tracts: 7.01, 7.02, 7.03 and 8.01.

² Household residents 18 years and older only.

³ In the Census, Hispanic origin is asked as a separate item, whereas both *Northeast Community* and the *COMPASS* Surveys included Hispanic origin *within* the one race/ethnicity item.

⁴ The survey asked if the respondent was "a member of the military," not if the respondent was on *active duty*. Therefore, those respondents who are also in the National Guard or Reserves are presumably included in this estimate.

Census data for the city of Anchorage as a whole indicate that of those reporting only one race/ethnicity, 76 percent reported themselves to be “white,” 10 percent stated they were “American Indian or Alaska Native,” 9 percent reported being “Black or African American” and 10 percent reported being of Asian descent. However, according to the 2000 census, the Northeast community has a higher concentration of minority residents than the remainder of Anchorage (see Table 1), with the exception of Asian/Pacific Islanders. Thus, when racial composition is examined within the specific context of the Northeast community the present sample was clearly not representative. The *Northeast Community Survey* contained an overabundance of “white” respondents and undersampled Black/African-Americans, Alaska Native/American Indians, and Hispanics.

Gender

In terms of the gender distribution of responses to the Northeast Community Survey, women clearly dominate. At nearly 60 percent of all respondents, the proportion of women respondents was significantly higher than that of males. Data gathered from the 2000 census shows a nearly equal proportion of men and women among Anchorage residents with 51 percent males and 49 percent females. When these data are examined for only the Northeast community, the percentage of females increases only slightly from 49 percent to 52 percent. Thus, even though the Northeast community has a slightly higher concentration of females than the city of Anchorage as a whole, the present sample contains a disproportionate amount of female responses. The end result of this oversampling of females is a substantial gender bias.

Housing Tenure

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of respondents said they owned their homes. This is grossly unrepresentative of the underlying population; according to the 2000 U.S. Census for the four census tracts in the study area, the percentage of home-owners was 47%. Even in the Anchorage Bowl, homeownership only reaches 61%.²⁵ This discrepancy has significant implications for the generalizability of this study’s findings. Homeowners, relative to renters, tend to be more

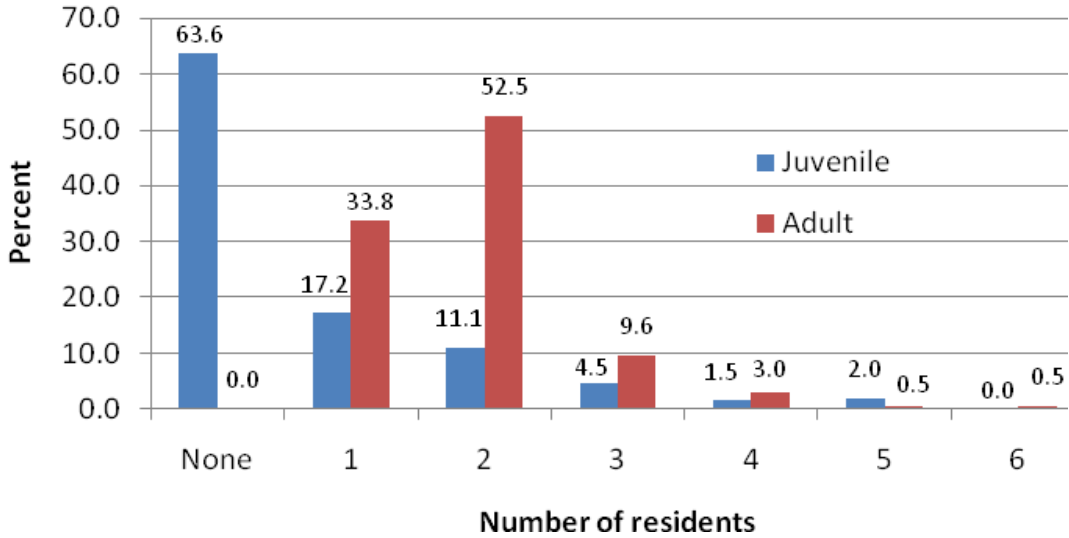
residentially stable, more involved in civic and community activities, and less likely to be victims of both property and violent crime.

Household Composition

A clear majority (64%) of respondents indicated that there were no juveniles living in their residence at the time of this study. Another 28 percent of respondents reported that one (17.2%) or two (11.1%) persons under the age of 18 years lived in the household. What these data show is that for those persons who responded to the *Northeast Community Survey*, over 90 percent were members of small families with few, if any, children. On the other hand, the number of persons above the age of 18 living in respondents' households was usually more than one and not infrequently more than two (see Figure 3). Children are more likely to live in households with at least two adults, though 20.8 percent of the households with children in the *Northeast Community Survey* were headed by a single parent. The most common type of household (30%) was two adults and no children, while the second most frequently-occurring household type was single adults (26%).

The most recent data with which to compare the present findings for this household composition indicator come from the 2007 American Community Survey for the entire city of Anchorage. In 2000, approximately 40 percent of Anchorage households contained residents under the age of 18, which is fairly close to the roughly 36 percent of survey respondents who reported minors in their household. It is possible that Anchorage as a whole may not be representative of the Northeast community in this regard. Slightly over one-quarter (27.5%) of Northeast's population is composed of people under the age of 18, according to 2005 estimates. Furthermore, fully 80 percent of those under 18 are children under the age of 13. Yet the data on elementary school enrollments show a decline of 15 percent from 2001-2008, which suggests a drop in the number of children in the area, and possibly a drop in the number of families with children as well. Despite the age and gender biases already discussed, it appears that the *Northeast Community Survey* somewhat adequately tapped the proportion of households with children.

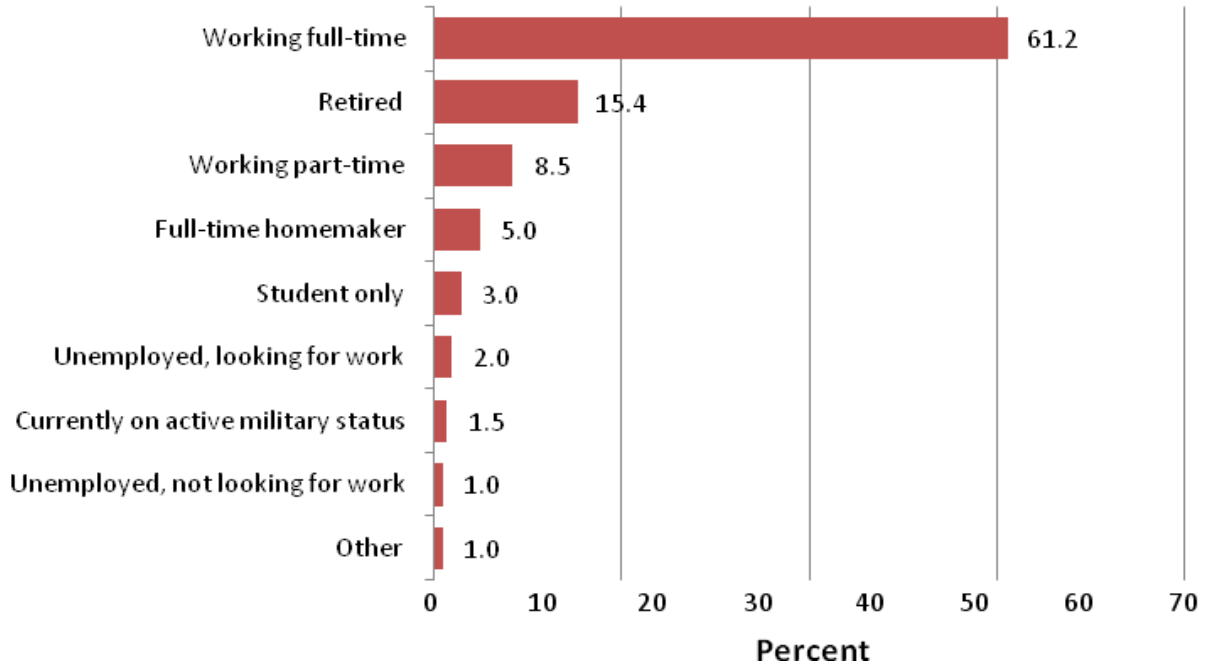
Figure 3. Number of Adult and Juvenile Residents in Respondents' Households (n = 198)



Current Work Status

Respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* predominately reported being employed full-time outside the home (63%, including active military status). Figure 4 below provides a graphic representation of the various work statuses reported by survey respondents. Male respondents were more likely to be employed full-time outside the home compared to female respondents (73% versus 54%), while the women that completed the survey were much more likely to report being full-time homemakers. In fact, none of the 79 male respondents selected that employment status. Nearly one-third of the *Northeast Community Survey* respondents do not regularly participate in the Anchorage workforce. A relatively large segment (15%) of survey respondents reported being “retired” and a combined 12 percent of survey respondents reported being “unemployed, looking for work,” “unemployed, not looking for work,” or “employed part-time.”

Figure 4. Current Employment Status of Respondents (n = 198)



The gender bias discussed above is informed by work status in that male respondents were significantly more likely to report being employed full-time, and female respondents were more likely to report being full-time homemakers. It is conceivable to interpret these findings to mean that the higher response rate of women is perhaps an artifact of *access*: assuming mail is delivered during the day to resident homes, female respondents stand a better chance of receiving the survey through the mail than their male counterparts and thus, all else equal, would be more likely to complete it.

To what extent does the present study adequately sample retirees? The population of Anchorage has aged slightly since 2000, when just over five percent (and 8.8 percent in the study area) of the population was aged 65 or older. In 2007, this group comprised 6.5 percent of Anchorage's population.²⁶ Age is often used as a proxy measure for work status, with an assumption that those over 65 years old are likely to be retired. In Anchorage in 2007, of those aged 65 or older, 78 percent were no longer in the labor force.²⁷ In the *Northeast Community*

Survey, 14.4 percent of the sample was 65 or older, and of that group, a larger percentage was retired (67.9%) than was working either full-time (21.4%) or part-time (10.7%). Yet relative to Anchorage as whole, senior citizens in the Northeast community are more likely to be employed. Overall, 15 percent of respondents reported being retired. Twenty percent of the sample in the 2002 *Survey* was retired, as were ten percent in the 1997 *COMPASS Survey*. There is no clear indication that the present survey over-sampled retirees within certain age groups, but because of the age bias of the sample discussed previously, it is apparent that retirees constituted a larger proportion of the sample than their distribution in the Northeast community.

As it did with gender, work status also provides context for understanding the higher median age of the sample as compared to 2000 Census and 2007 American Community Survey data. Over-sampling of retirees, much like the oversampling of women, is likely also a product of *access* to respondents. Retirees are not only more likely to be at home when mail arrives, and thus be more likely to receive the survey, but they are also more likely to have the *time* to complete it by virtue of no longer participating in the workforce.

Residential Stability

Respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* are, in general, new to the neighborhood, although the length of residence variable displayed a wide range of values. The least amount of time (in years) reported by respondents was zero; the maximum reported length of residency was 48 years. The most *frequent* response of those that answered the question asking how many YEARS they had lived in Northeast neighborhood was “0” (11%), followed closely by those answering that they had lived in the Northeast community for “2” years (10%). Of those that stated they had lived in the Northeast community for less than one year, almost three-quarters (73%) reported living there 6 months or less. Fully 45 percent of respondents indicated on the survey that they had lived in the neighborhood for 5 years or less. As a point of comparison, the 2002 *Survey* also found that 45 percent of resident respondents had lived in the Northeast community for 5 years or less. When these findings are viewed together, the relative lack of

residential stability among the Northeast community members appears to be a fairly consistent finding.

In fact, transience of the resident population seems to be a defining characteristic of Alaska in general and Anchorage in particular. The percent of Alaskan residents born outside the state is over 60 percent. According to the 2007 American Community Survey, 12 percent of all Anchorage residents were born outside the United States or in foreign countries, and another 54 percent were born in the U.S., but in a state other than Alaska.²⁸

Northeast Anchorage demonstrates a highly cyclical pattern of residential stability and has witnessed significant population surges and declines. According to census figures from 1960, Northeast Anchorage had a resident population of 17,837; by 1996 that figure had increased to 78,146. But, the population increase cannot be described as “steady.” The largest population increase came between the 1970 census and 1980 census, where there was a 50 percent increase in population.

From 1980 to 1985 the population continued to swell, peaking at 77,565 residents, only to see a 16 percent population decrease between 1985 and 1988. Since the late 1980s Northeast Anchorage’s population growth has been somewhat steady, demonstrating a consistent increase characterized by fits and starts.

Conclusion

Despite efforts to draw a sample representative of the community, the *Northeast Community Survey* was unable to achieve this goal. Respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* are in many ways different from both the underlying population of the community, as well as Anchorage as a whole.

Women are disproportionately represented in the *Northeast Community Survey*. Census data show females to comprise approximately half (49%) of the total population of Anchorage, and

51 percent of the Northeast community. However, both the *2002 Survey* and the *Northeast Community Survey* report greater proportions of females (65 and 59 percent, respectively). One explanation for what appears to be a systematic sampling bias in studies conducted in Northeast is that more women responded because they are more likely to be at home during the daytime, when the mail is delivered.²⁹

As shown in Table 1, survey respondents were significantly older than Anchorage as a whole, with a median age of 49 years. Even when the older median age of the Northeast community, as reported by the 2000 Census, is taken into account, the *Northeast Community Survey* sample still demonstrates a significant age bias. The higher median age for the Northeast community is not the result of a gender effect, as there is no appreciable difference in the median ages of men and women in the Northeast community. Data from the 2000 Census show that the median age for adult males in the Northeast community is 38 years, while that of females is 39 years. So while women were disproportionately represented in sample (59%) this did not affect the overall age distribution of the sample.

The answer to why the present sample is biased in terms of age is partially provided by an examination of respondent work status. The survey is biased not only in terms of age, but in terms of work status as well. Fifteen percent of respondents reported being “retired.” Comparative data on Northeast Anchorage resident work status are limited to one similar study conducted in the same community five years prior to the *Northeast Community Survey*. There is a high degree of disagreement between the two studies as the *COMPASS Survey* reported only 10 percent of their respondents’ work status was “retired.” When one considers data from the 2007 American Community Survey showing that only 6.5 percent of Anchorage residents are aged 65 or older, and the median age for the city is 33 years, the 15 percent of Northeast community residents responding to the survey stating that they are “retired” appears to be a clear indication of over-sampling of this group. Because retirement is directly related to age, a disproportionate number of retirees systematically inflates the age distribution of the sample.

In terms of racial and/or ethnic background, the *Northeast Community Survey*, again, is not very representative of the community. Minorities have been noticeably under-sampled.

Particularly troublesome is that the *Northeast Community Survey* was not successful in its sampling of Alaska Natives and African American residents, two significant minority populations in Northeast Anchorage.

Survey results show that respondent households were largely composed of single members, or small, childless families—a finding that is problematic. Twenty-six percent of respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* reported living alone and only one-third (36%) indicated that they lived in a household with at least one person under the age of 18. Yet, available data show the Northeast community to be bustling with children below the age of 18. According to data from the 2000 census, almost one-third of the entire population of the Northeast community is less than eighteen years old, with two out of every three minors under the age of ten. However, a reduction in the population of children is suggested by the Anchorage School District data that show a decline of 15% from 2001 to 2008 in students attending the five elementary schools in the Northeast community. Even if there are fewer children than there were in the early part of the decade, direct observation of the area and anecdotal evidence from conversations with those familiar with the community suggest that there is much higher proportion of households with children in them than what is reflected in the *Northeast Community Survey*.

Length-of-residence findings from the present study are highly consistent with those of the other available studies. Thirteen percent of respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* told us that they had resided in the community for less than one year; fully forty percent reported that they had not lived in the neighborhood five years or more. The *2002 Survey* and the *1997 COMPASS Survey* also found a significant proportion of residents (10% and 14% respectively) had lived in Northeast Anchorage for less than one year. Additionally, the 2000 Census finds quite a large percentage of respondents having lived in the community for 5 years or less (36%) and the 2007 American Community Survey concluded that fully 20% of Anchorage residents have lived in their current homes for less than one year. Thus, in a slight twist of irony, residential instability is one of the more stable characteristics of the Northeast community.

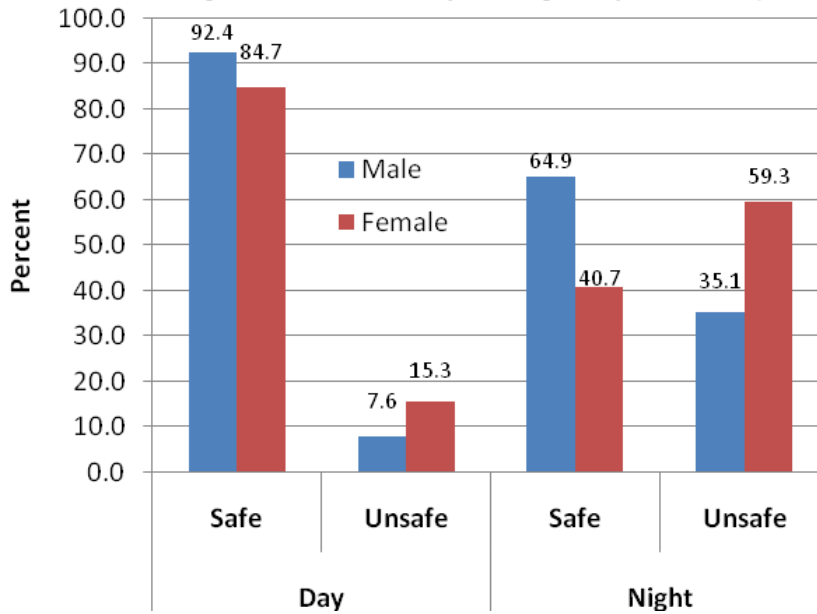
Perceptions of Public Safety

Respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* generally feel safe in their neighborhoods, although there is a difference between perceptions of safety in public areas in the day and after dark. These two dimensions of fear were measured using the questions: “In general, how safe do feel out alone in this neighborhood during the day?” and “In general, how safe do feel out alone in this neighborhood after dark?” Respondents were asked to rate their feelings of safety on a four-point scale from “very safe” to “very unsafe.”

Comparing the current survey to the *2002 Survey* shows that respondents feel less safe now than they did six years ago. On the question asking about feelings of safety during the day, just about the same percentage of people in the present survey answered that they felt “very safe” (43.3%) or “somewhat safe” (44.8%). Only 12 percent said they felt unsafe in some degree. This is a very slight increase from the *2002 Survey*, where fewer than ten percent of people reported feeling “unsafe” or “somewhat unsafe.” People were, not unexpectedly, more fearful in their neighborhoods after dark; in the current survey about 50% said they felt “very safe” and “somewhat safe,” while 50% felt “somewhat unsafe” and “very unsafe.” In the *2002 Survey*, around 57% felt “safe” or “somewhat safe” after dark. It is not possible to test whether the differences mentioned in this paragraph are statistically significant because percentages for each of the four categories of the variable were not given in the report on the *2002 Survey*.

Given the unrepresentative percentage of women in the survey, it is worthwhile to explore the issue of fear more. Each four-point scale was dichotomized such that “very safe” and “somewhat safe” were combined into a new category named “safe,” while “very unsafe” and “somewhat unsafe” were combined into the new category “unsafe.” Overall, women were slightly more likely than men to report feeling unsafe out alone in their neighborhoods, and the difference was particularly pronounced in the hours after dark, where nearly 60 percent of women said they felt unsafe relative to 35% of the male respondents. This is a very significant difference (*Chi-square* = 10.967, *p-value* = .001) (see Figure 5).

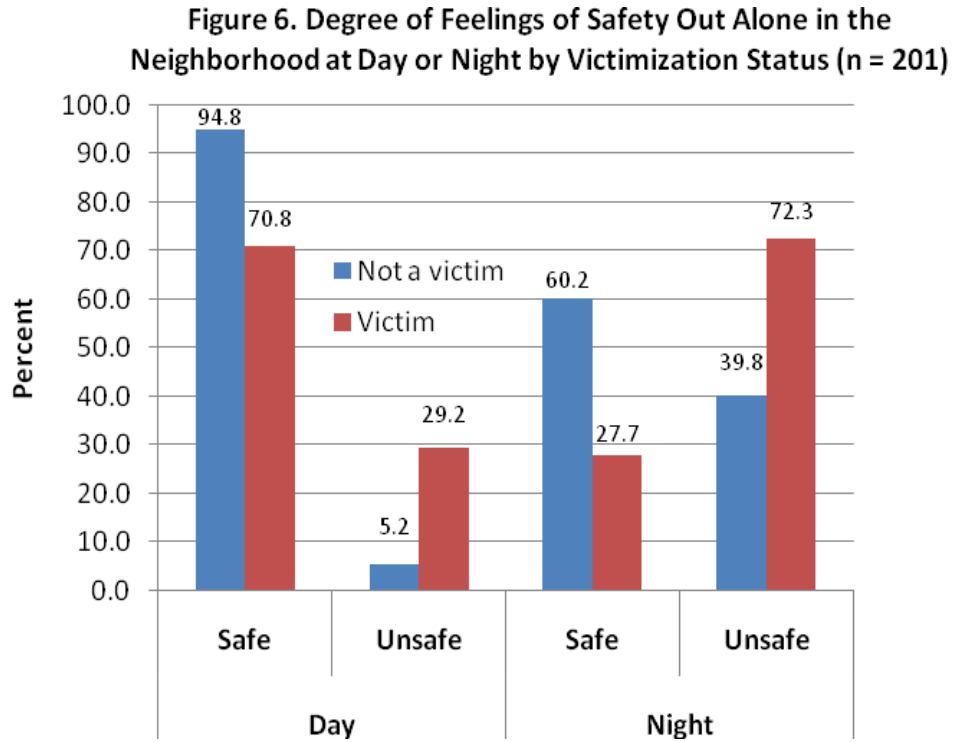
Figure 5. Degree of Feelings of Safety Out Alone in the Neighborhood at Day or Night by Gender (n = 201)



With respect to ages, there were no significant differences across age groups on the measures of feelings of safety during the day or after dark, yet there is a clear and somewhat surprising pattern given the literature in this area³⁰—the older the age group, the more likely people were to report feeling safe at night.

In the criminological literature, the discussion on the association between fear of crime and previous victimization experiences has not been resolved. Yet for the respondents in the *Northeast Community Survey*, having been a victim in the neighborhood in previous two years of burglary, robbery, assault, or attack with a weapon was strongly and significantly associated with feelings of being unsafe in the neighborhood, both during the day (*Chi-square* = 20.047, *p-value* < .001) and after dark (*Chi-square* = 14.680, *p-value* < .001). (See Figure 6). Controlling for gender had no effect on the relationship between victimization and fear. Regardless of whether respondents were male or female, those who reported they were victims of crime in the previous two years were more fearful, both during the day and after dark, than were non-victims. In addition, introducing the variable on victimization into the relationship between gender and fear reveals that females are still more fearful than males, regardless of victimization experience. The

only exception was the extent to which non-victims reported feeling safe out alone in their neighborhoods during the day. There was so significant relationship; the vast majority (about 95%) of both men and women reported feeling safe.



Generally, there was no relationship between ethnicity and feelings of safety in one’s neighborhood. However, Alaska Natives and American Indians were significantly more likely than respondents from other ethnic groups to report feeling unsafe during the day (*Chi-square* = 9.283, *p-value* < .01) and after dark (*Chi-square* = 7.640, *p-value* < .01).

Perceived Problems in the Northeast Community

An interesting pattern emerged in the responses to questions that asked respondents whether or not any of a series of potentially disruptive and/or criminal activities were a “small problem,” “a big problem,” or “no problem” at all (see Table 2).

The last column of Table 2 presents the percentage of respondents that answered “don’t know” to potential community problems listed in the first column of the table. Between a third and a quarter of respondents indicated that they “didn’t know” whether or not drug sales (29.4%), drug use (33.4%) or drug dealers in public (25.4%) were a “big problem,” a “small problem,” or “no problem at all.” Furthermore, this group of residents registered significant percentages of “don’t know” responses for burglary, violent crimes, robbery and/or street crime, gang activity and the number of alcohol-serving establishments in their neighborhood.

Table 2. Perceived Community Problems (n = 201)
Percent responding.

	Big problem	Small problem	No problem	Don't know
Drug sales out of homes	32.3 %	23.9 %	14.4 %	29.4 %
Drug use	30.8	23.4	12.4	33.4
Burglary/property crime	25.9	38.8	12.9	22.4
Gang activity	20.9	25.4	19.9	33.8
Violent crime	17.9	37.8	21.4	22.9
Drug dealers in public	15.4	30.3	28.9	25.4
Robbery/street crime	13.4	36.8	21.4	28.4
Number of alcohol-serving establishments	9.1	29.3	41.8	19.8

On the surface, this may suggest somewhat of a “disconnect” between respondents and the surrounding community for it is one thing to rate activities as problematic or not, but to indicate *no knowledge* of an activity is entirely different. The implication of such speculation is that this group of respondents may not be ideally suited as evaluators of community programs and institutions because of their lack of knowledge about community activity. When items tapping citizen satisfaction with community services and participation in community activities are examined (see discussion below) this initial interpretation finds more support.

An equally interesting finding involved respondents’ views of local alcohol-serving establishments. Bars and other business establishments that serve alcohol are seen as the *least* problematic of the eight potential community problems presented to respondents. Most striking

are the nearly 42 percent of respondents that indicate alcohol-serving establishments are no problem at all.

The activity most consistently perceived as problematic by respondents who *did* register an opinion was drug sales out of private residences, with actual drug *use* not far behind. This ranking, identical to that of the *2002 Survey* on these measures, is somewhat curious, given that happenings within the confines of a private residence are closed to prying eyes, and thus not directly observable by outsiders. If drug sales are not directly observed, how do drug sales come to be perceived by a preponderance of respondents as a “big problem?” The perceptual dynamics involved are not clear from the data. But, when the large percentage of respondents that reported they “didn’t know” whether or not drug offenses were a problem in their neighborhood is considered, the veracity of respondent perceptions of drug sales behind closed doors becomes somewhat dubious.

One explanation for widespread concern is one or more neighborhood “drug houses” which each respondent consciously or subconsciously referred to when they indicated that drug sales in homes were a problem. One Northeast neighbor (#152) commented, “Police know about drug dealer on Yellowleaf but have not busted her.” Yet, public drug sales by dealers which *can* be directly observed are seen as a “big problem” by only 15 percent of respondents and a “small problem” by another 30 percent. Drug use, another behavior that can be directly observed in public and semi-public spaces, is seen by 31 percent of those responding as a “big problem,” with another 23 percent reporting that it is a “small problem.” These findings stand on firmer ground as they are, at least in theory, directly observable by respondents. When viewed together, “drugs” are perceived to be a problem by survey respondents, but the specifics of this concern remain to be explored.

Violent crimes are seen as much less problematic by *Northeast Community Survey* respondents. Street crimes such as robbery are not perceived to be much of a problem, with only 13 percent reporting that they felt such crime was a “big problem” and another 37 percent indicating that such street crime is a “small problem.” In comparison, violent crimes such as

“shootings, assaults, and so forth” are seen as a big problem by less than a fifth of respondents and a small problem by another 38 percent.

A larger perceived problem in the Northeast community is property crime, including burglary. In terms of crime, property crimes are a much greater concern than drug or violent crime. Nearly two-thirds of respondents told us that they perceived property crimes in the neighborhood to be problematic, with some 26 percent stating that property crimes were a big problem.

Finally, slightly more respondents reported gangs to be a small problem (25.4%) than a big problem (20.9%). One respondent (#185) perceived a relationship between changing demographics and gang activity, noting “[gangs] are more prevalent as more ethnic groups move into the neighborhood.” Another (#147) commented that their fence had been tagged with the word “CRIPS.”

Those that provided written comments on the survey repeatedly noted traffic problems and noise. One respondent (#147) was quite distressed about loud car stereos: “More recently we have had people living on both sides with cars using the very loud ear-hurting bass speakers.” Several neighbors said they often hear gun shots: “Though not shot or shot at, I do occasionally hear volleys of gun shots” (Northeast Neighbor #9); “Midnight—guns go off often” (Northeast Neighbor #142); and “We hear gunshots fairly often” Northeast Neighbor #147).

A concerned respondent detailed an incipient traffic situation.

I want you to know about a dangerous situation in front of Ptarmigan elementary. I have seen a girl hit by a car and several near-misses because: 1) the street (Edward) is too narrow for safe traffic flow in a school zone, 2) there is no cross-guard, 3) parents park along the road and wait for children to cross (often running between cars). It's a serious injury waiting to happen! (Northeast Neighbor #91)

Another resident (#71) argued “our main problem is traffic, especially those speeders. We need “humps” to deter these dudes.”

Other problems cited by respondents included beggars, loose dogs, drunks and drunk drivers from a nearby bar, poor representation on the Anchorage Assembly, too many “traffic cops,” and high taxes. One respondent expressed a viewpoint to explain social conditions in the neighborhood:

The problem is that there are no real consequences for wrong-doers and there are too many hand-out programs so people have no incentive to work or take responsibility for their own actions. (Northeast Neighbor #103)

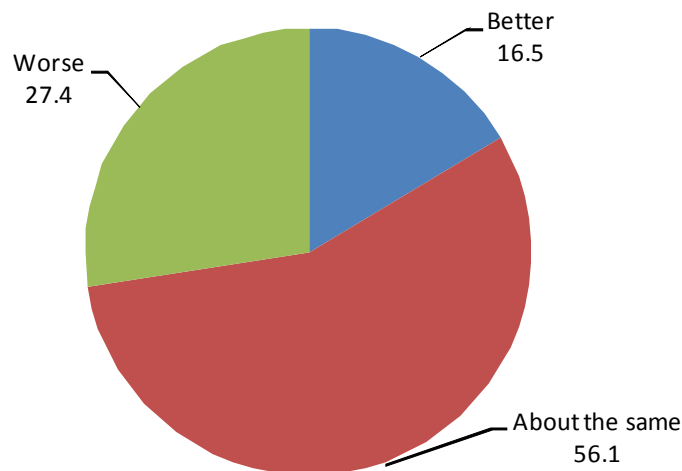
The same person also pointed to land use and planning as a source of neighborhood problems:

The other major contributor to problems is that the area has an overabundance of low-income housing. If developers would build higher-end housing, the dynamics would change. Multi-family and condo developments breed problems. People need space; they don't get much in this community. If you need low income housing, build it like Nunaka Valley... small homes but they have yards and a place to plant stuff. Make people pay for their property and they will have more respect for it. (Northeast Neighbor #103)

To determine whether residents’ assessments of these neighborhood problems as “big,” “small,” or “no” problem differed significantly from the findings of the 2002 Survey in this regard, 24 comparisons were made using the test of differences between proportions and an alpha level of .05. Specifically, each item’s percentage for each of the three levels of “problem” was compared to the percentage from the same item in 2002. For example, in 2002, 25.8% of respondents said “drug sales out of homes” was a big problem, and in 2008, 32.7% of respondents said it was a big problem. The test of differences between proportions allows one to determine whether this is a statistically significant change. Using an alpha level of .05 means there is a 5% chance that the conclusion from the statistical test (either that the change is significant or is not significant) is wrong.

There were only two findings of significant difference. The first concerned the item “drug use.” In 2002, 32.7% of respondents said this was a small problem, compared to 23.4% in 2008. Though it was not significant, there was an increase in the percentage of respondents who thought “drug use” was a big problem in 2008 (31.0%) relative to 2002 (25.1%). It seems quite reasonable to conclude that overall, there is a difference in the perception of “drug use” as a problem, and that this was an undesirable change, in that people are more likely to view it as a big problem in 2008. But it is worth noting that the percentages of those who saw “drug use” as a problem in some degree declined slightly from 2002 to 2008 (57.8% to 54.4%). The other significant change concerned the item “burglary/property crime.” In 2002, 13.9% said they thought this was no problem, but six years later this had increased to 21.8%. This seems to suggest a drop in the numbers of people who think burglary and property crime are problems.

Figure 7. Perception of Change in Quality of Life over Past Two Years (n = 164)



Respondents were also asked to rate the overall quality of life in the Northeast community over this same two-year time period (see Figure 7). Nearly three-quarters of the 164 respondents answering the question indicated that they did not think the quality of life had declined in the last two years. However, only 16 percent stated that they felt the quality of life had *improved* in the

last two years. One respondent (#11) who had lived in the area for 35 years commented “Our neighborhood has become more run down.” By and large though, respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* felt little had changed in the community in regard to general quality of life. These findings are similar to those of the *2002 Survey*, although there were slight increases (from 15.3% to 16.5%) in the percentages of those who thought the quality of life had improved *and* of those who thought it had declined (from 24.8% to 27.4%).³¹ These differences are small and not statistically significant.

Criminal Victimization

The *Northeast Community Survey* asked respondents global questions about their own personal victimization experiences as well as those for their family members.³² The following analysis is based on the 170 responses of those that both lived in the Northeast community at the time of the survey *and* lived there for at least the last two years.

Consistent with national data, the residents of the Northeast neighborhood that responded to the survey report very little personal experience with criminal victimization (see Table 3). In line with levels of perceived safety, respondents were more likely to suffer a property victimization (i.e., burglary) than a violent crime such as robbery, assault or aggravated assault. One respondent (#147) offered this description of their victimization: “We have had our mailbox vandalized multiple times, multiple trash cans stolen, many people trespassing and our fence tagged ‘CRIPS’.” There were no specific questions on the survey asking about property damage or vandalism, so it is unknown if respondent #147’s experience is typical. With respect to *serious* crime, there is little evidence that it occurs with any troubling frequency in the Northeast community. It seems that crime levels are low enough to be seen as relatively unproblematic by most residents.

**Table 3. Victimization Experiences in the Neighborhood in the Previous Two Years
(n = 170)**

Includes only those respondents who had lived in Northeast Anchorage for at least two years.

	Yes	No	Don't know
Break-in to home, garage, or other building on property to steal something	18.2 %	76.5 %	5.3 %
Something stolen by force or by threat	2.9	96.5	0.6
Beaten, attacked, or hit with something like a rock or bottle	4.7	95.3	0.0
Knifed, shot or shot at, or attacked with some other weapon	2.9	96.5	0.6

Several variables were examined in conjunction with victimization to find relationships. Larger-scale surveys typically find higher rates of victimization of minorities, young adults, men, and renters. Yet surprisingly, the *Northeast Community Survey* showed none of these relationships—it may be though that they were difficult to uncover given the small sample size of the present study and the rarity of victimization. There was no significant relationship between ethnicity and victimization. With respect to age, victimization was higher among those aged 31-45 (41.4%) than among other age groups. The next highest age category was 18-30, where 24 percent reported being a victim of burglary, robbery, assault, or attack with a weapon in their neighborhood in the previous two years. These were not statistically significant differences. Likewise, there was no difference between men and women on victimization. As well, there were no differences in victimization experiences between homeowners and renters.

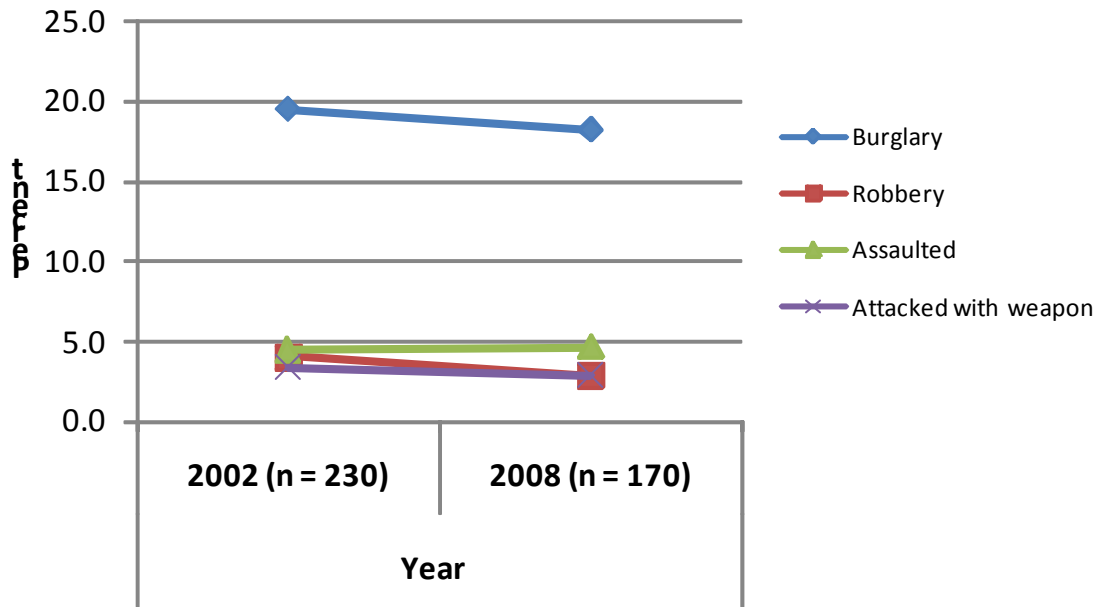
As was discussed in the previous section on *Perceptions of Public Safety*, having been a victim of crime in the previous two years was somewhat associated with levels of fear. Burglary victims were significantly more likely than non-victims to feel unsafe out alone in their neighborhoods during the day (*Chi-square* = 12.322, *p-value* < .01) and after dark (*Chi-square* = 5.577, *p-value* < .05), but unexpectedly, robbery victims were no different from non-victims of robbery to feel unsafe, either during the day or after dark. Victims of assault were more likely than non-victims to feel unsafe at night (*Chi-square* = 7.394, *p-value* < .01), but there was no difference in levels of fear during the day. Those who were victims of attack with a weapon were more fearful out alone in their neighborhoods during the day (*Chi-square* = 11.456, *p-value*

< .05) and at night (*Chi-square* = 5.281, *p-value* < .05) compared to those who not been attacked with a weapon.

Compared to six years ago, as measured by the 2002 Survey, there were small drops in the percentage of respondents who reported being a victim of burglary, robbery, or attack with a weapon. There was a negligible increase in the percentage of people who said they had been assaulted (see Figure 8). Using a test of differences between proportions and an alpha level of .05, these changes in percentages were found to be insignificant.

Figure 8. Respondents Reporting Criminal Victimization in 2002 and 2008

Includes only those respondents who had lived in Northeast Anchorage for at least two years.

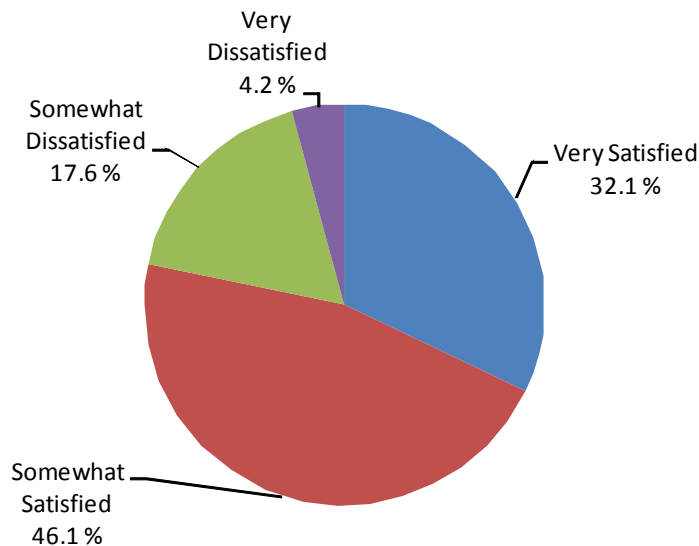


Neighborhood Satisfaction

Respondents were asked about how satisfied they were with the neighborhood as a place to live. The possible answers were “very satisfied,” “somewhat satisfied,” “somewhat dissatisfied,” and “very dissatisfied.” The majority of respondents reported being either “very satisfied” (32.1%) or “somewhat satisfied” (46.1%) with the Northeast community as a place to live. Less than a quarter said they were dissatisfied, be it “somewhat dissatisfied” (17.6%) or “very dissatisfied” (4.2%) (see Figure 9). Notably, the bulk of respondents, while expressing general satisfaction, were nevertheless ambivalent about the community as a place to live. Nearly half of all respondents stated that they were “somewhat satisfied” with the Northeast neighborhood as a place to live—certainly not glowing praise of the neighborhood, but not an indictment either. Northeast neighbor #147 typifies this uncertainty: “[We are] still contemplating whether to purchase [the] home we currently rent. Tough decision... love the home and property – not the neighborhood.”

Figure 9. Satisfaction with the Neighborhood as a Place to Live (n = 165)

Includes only those respondents who had lived in Northeast Anchorage for at least two years.



Relative to respondents in the 2002 Survey, these percentages are consistent, though they reflect a slight increase in those saying they were dissatisfied to some degree. In 2002, just over 19% felt that way, compared to close to 22% in the present survey. The percentage of those who were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied was higher in 2002 (79.4% versus 78.2% in 2008). But none of these differences were statistically significant.

In parallel fashion to results previously discussed concerning community problems, respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* demonstrated very little knowledge about several neighborhood programs, which are believed to contribute to the overall health of the community (see Table 4).

Table 4. Satisfaction with Neighborhood Services (n = 201)
Percent responding.

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Public transportation	33.5 %	32.5 %	10.7 %	9.1 %	14.2 %
Level of snow removal services	18.2	40.4	22.2	15.7	3.5
Job opportunities	5.6	19.4	12.8	8.7	53.6
Recreation programs for youth	5.5	34.7	14.8	7.7	37.2
Drug treatment services	2.1	6.7	8.2	11.9	71.1

When respondents were asked about their satisfaction with the “availability of sports, recreation, and other programs for youth” in the Northeast area more than a third (37.2%) responded “don’t know.” Additionally, more than half of the respondents (53.6%) answered “don’t know” when asked about their satisfaction with job opportunities in the Northeast community. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (71.1%) responded “don’t know” to an item asking them about their satisfaction with drug treatment services in the Northeast neighborhood. Because of the age and work status biases present in the sample, it makes sense that respondents do not report having knowledge of youth programs and job opportunities—this group of respondents is neither youthful nor do they regularly participate in the job market. It would be

much more surprising had more people registered an opinion on these two issues. It is less clear why respondents possessed so little knowledge of drug treatment services.

But what about those that did form an opinion on these three items? Generally speaking, respondents were satisfied with the availability of youth recreation programs (see Table 4). In contrast, there was general *dissatisfaction* with the availability of drug treatment services in the Northeast community amongst those that provided an opinion. More than twice as many respondents were at least “somewhat dissatisfied” with the availability of drug treatment services than were satisfied with such services. How someone would interpret this question seems somewhat ambiguous. For a person who sees a need for drug treatment in neighborhoods, a lack of such facilities would breed dissatisfaction, whereas those who do not want treatment facilities in the neighborhood would see this as a positive. Northeast Neighbor #6 said drug treatment services “do not belong in the neighborhood,” and respondent #50 thought there were “too much.” And finally, by a margin of about 3.5 percent, respondents were more satisfied than dissatisfied with the availability of jobs—again, of those that had an opinion.

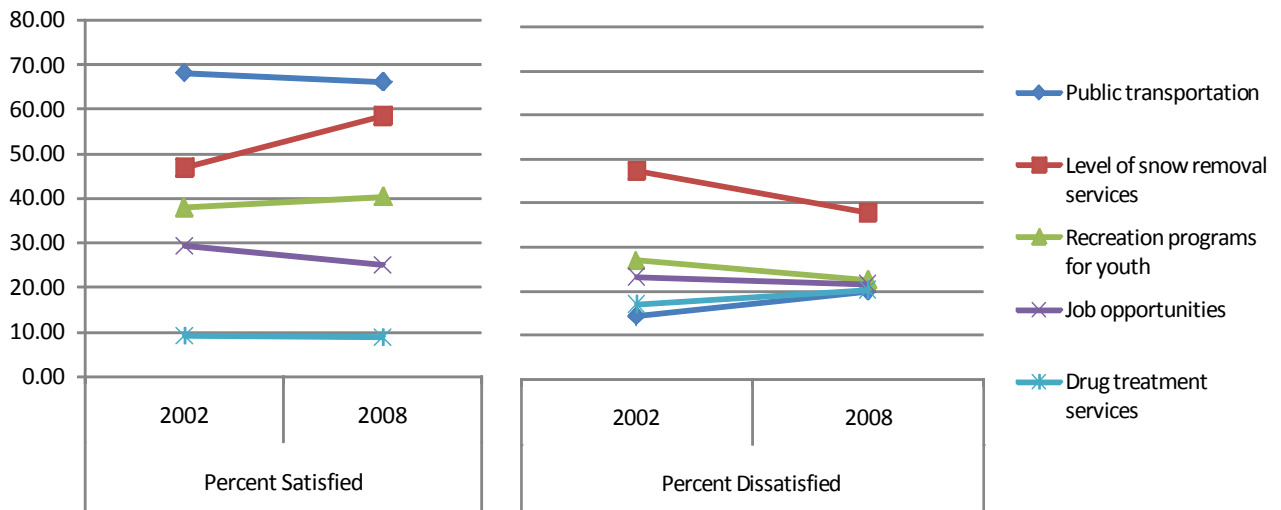
Supporters of the public transportation system in Anchorage can take heart in knowing that those that responded to the *Northeast Community Survey* demonstrated a high degree of approval for public transportation systems in the community. Two-thirds of respondents felt satisfied with the level of public transportation, as compared to only 20 percent who said they were dissatisfied with the public transportation system (the remainder had no opinion or did not respond). In one case, an individual took the effort to write on the survey that there were *too many* buses and that they should be removed unless they can be supported by ridership revenue.

Nearly 60 percent of respondents were at least somewhat satisfied with current levels of snow-removal services in the Northeast neighborhood, although 38% were somewhat or very dissatisfied. Importantly, only seven respondents failed to give an opinion on this issue. It seems that Northeast community residents are all intimately familiar with the issue of snow removal and willing to state that opinion when asked.

Compared to 2002, there was generally little significant change in levels of satisfaction for these five categories of services (see Figure 10). The exception is snow removal, where the percentage of people who were somewhat or very satisfied increased from 47.8 percent in 2002 to 58.6 percent in 2008. This increase, and the associated decrease in dissatisfied respondents from 47.2 percent to 37.9 percent, were both statistically significant at $p < .05$.

Figure 10. Change in Levels of Satisfaction from 2002-2008

(2002, n = 267; 2008, n = 201)



Evaluation/Perception of Local Police Activity

When it comes to the performance of the local police department, response patterns seem to indicate a “disconnect” between police activities and respondents. This is not to imply that there is a lack of effort to connect with citizens on the part of the police department, or vice versa. Rather, the findings from the present study suggest that survey respondents are not aware of the activities of local police, and therefore struggle to form an evaluative opinion as to the performance of police.

To illustrate, when asked what kind of job “the police [are] doing in controlling the street sale and use of drugs in this neighborhood,” nearly two-fifths (38.3%) of respondents replied that they did not know how good a job the police were doing (see Figure 11). Further, when asked to evaluate police performance with regard to police response to “community concerns,” fully 29 percent of respondents stated that they did not know how responsive local police were (see Figure 12).

Figure 11. Job Performance of Police: Drug Use and Sale

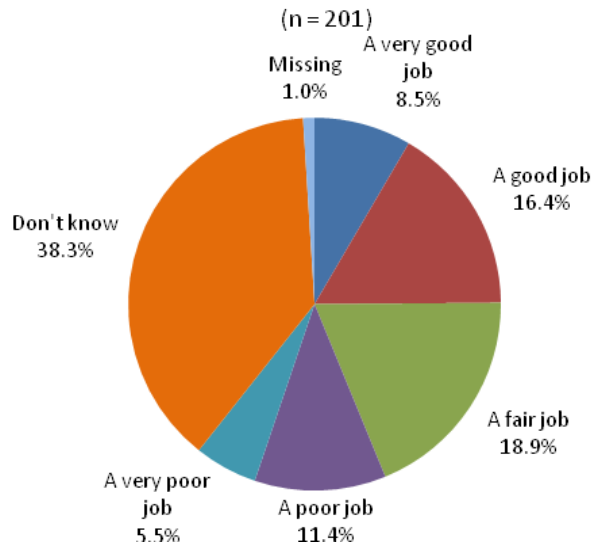
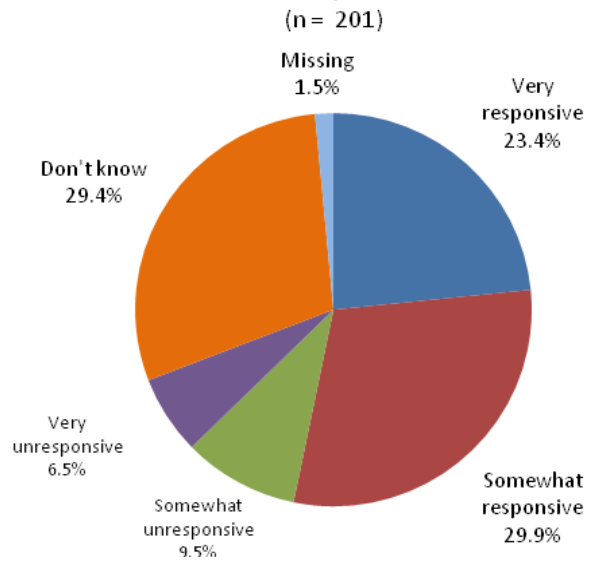


Figure 12. Police Responsiveness to Community Concerns

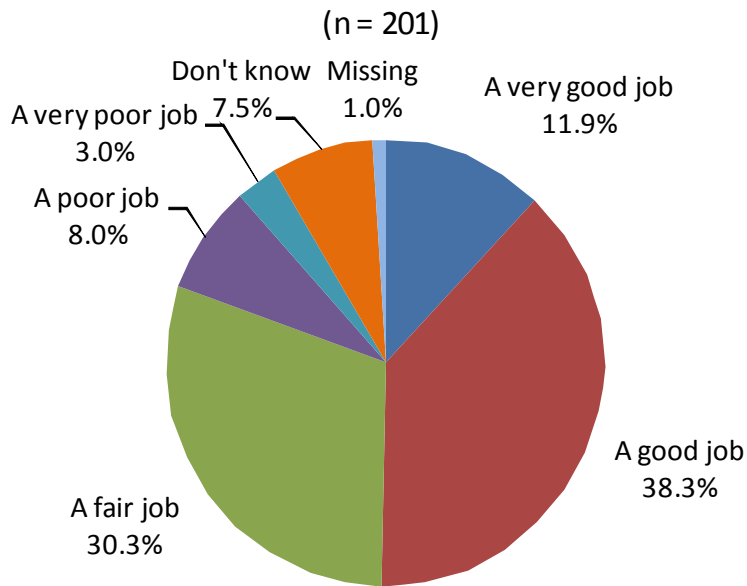


Both questions in combination suggest that, at least among the present sample of Northeast community residents, there is not a substantial awareness of police activity. One item asked about police operations in a law enforcement capacity (control of drug sales), and the other about police performance in a service role (general community concerns), which suggests that the lack of awareness of police activity on the part of respondents spans across a wide range of police services.

However, when a third item asked respondents how good a job local police were doing keeping order on neighborhood streets and pedestrian walkways, the pattern of responses

differed from the other two police evaluation items. Only 8 percent of respondents said that they “didn’t know” how good a job police were doing (see Figure 13). Moreover, more than half of the sample (50.2%) indicated that the police were doing a “good job” or a “very good” job of keeping order in the Northeast community. Two things come to the surface here.

Figure 13. Job Performance of Police: Keeping Order



First, when we see that only 8 percent of respondents indicated a lack of knowledge about police performance for order maintenance activities, as compared to 38 percent and 29 percent for law enforcement regarding drugs and responding to general community concerns respectively, it suggests citizen evaluations of police performance are based on tangible actions. That is, the public evaluates the police on things they can see, touch and feel. Street-level drug dealing is not viewed as a serious problem in the Northeast community (see above), and to the extent that drug markets are seen as problematic, respondents perceive sales to take place behind closed doors in private homes, and therefore respondents cannot evaluate police efforts to control this behavior. Vague conceptions of “community concerns” are even more intangible, making citizen evaluations of police responses even more difficult resulting in large numbers of “don’t know” responses.

Second, when the distribution of responses for all three police performance evaluation measures were examined, a pattern emerged in which respondents tended toward ambiguous responses when asked about subjects with which they had very little direct experience and thus were not likely to select a response category with a strong opinion, either positive or negative. For example, when we looked at the distribution of responses in evaluation of police response to community concerns the modal response was “somewhat responsive,” and when the measure of the type of job police are doing controlling the sale and use of drugs was examined the response category most frequently chosen was “fair job.” In contrast, for the measure of police performance most closely related to respondent personal experience, that is, “keeping order,” respondents were much more willing to offer an unambiguous opinion, even if they still chose the ambiguous response some 30 percent of the time. In summary, when asked about things about which they have very little direct knowledge, respondents willingly admitted that they “don’t know,” or select a “mushy” response category that does not require a firm opinion.

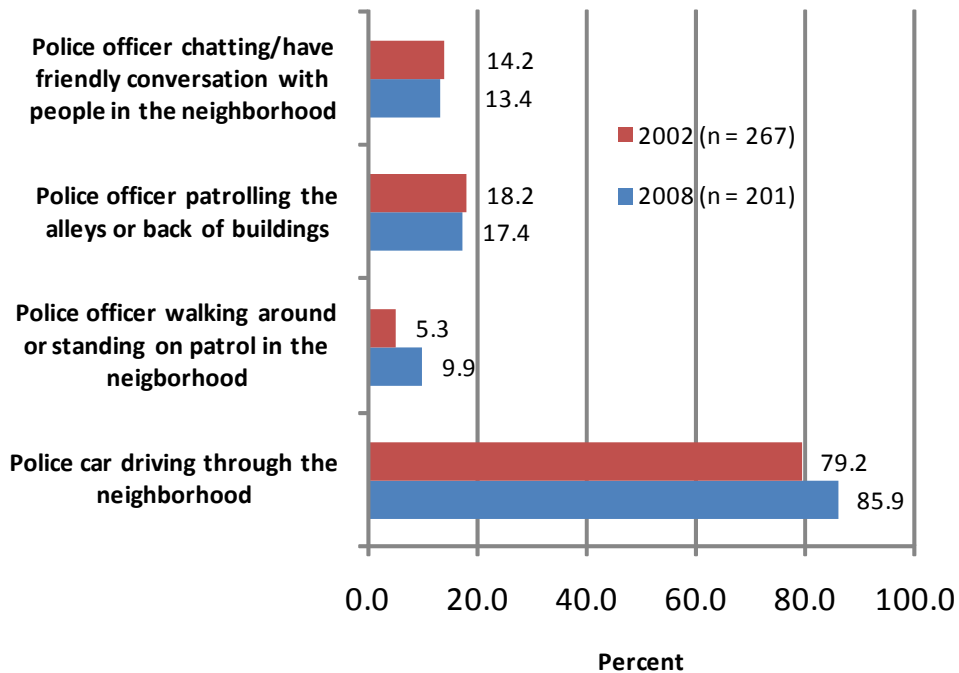
When the responses to these three questions in the *Northeast Community Survey* are compared to those for the same questions from the *2002 Survey*, very little change in residents’ views is apparent. Tests of differences between proportions revealed a significant decrease on one item from 2002 to 2008. In 2002, 28.5% of respondents said they thought the police were doing a very poor job controlling the street sale and use of illegal drugs in the neighborhood; in 2008, only 11.4% of respondents replied in this manner.

Police Patrol

The assertion that this sample of respondents suffered somewhat of a “disconnect” with reference to police activity is supported by survey items asked of them concerning whether or not they had witnessed police engaging in a variety of activities in the Northeast neighborhood. When asked if they had seen police walking through their neighborhood, 90 percent of respondents said that they had *not* seen any police walking in the neighborhood in the past month (see Figure 14). In addition, 87 percent of respondents stated that they had *not* seen police talking with residents in their neighborhood; 83 percent said that they had *not* seen any police patrolling

back alleys in the Northeast community. This pattern of police activity, where officers simply ride in cars and do not interact with community members, prompted Northeast neighbor #54 to comment when asked if they had seen a police officer walking around in their neighborhood in the past month, “Wish they could!” Another respondent (#116) described an experience wherein he or she “tried to stop a policeman on Muldoon because a woman was being assaulted. I honked my horn and flashed my lights but he was too busy on his cell phone to pay attention. They are always on cell phones. Who pays for them?” The picture portrayed in the data from the *Northeast Community Survey* is one in which the police and the public are very distinct and separate from one another. On the other hand, nearly 9 in 10 people responding to the survey (85.9%) indicated that they had seen police *driving* through their neighborhood in the last 30 days.

Figure 14. Respondent Witnessing of Police Activity in Past Month, 2002 and 2008



In 2008, relative to 2002, a greater percentage of respondents reporting seeing a police officer walking around or standing on patrol in the neighborhood (10% versus 5%), and driving

through the neighborhood in a police car (86% versus 79%). These differences are not statistically significant however.

Resident Participation in the Northeast Community

The hypothesized “disconnect” between respondents and police evidenced so far tends to point a finger at local police. However, when we examine respondents’ own participation in community institutions and activities, we see that community residents themselves are somewhat reluctant to get involved. In fact, the level of citizen non-participation is quite remarkable. When asked if they had attended or participated in an anti-drug rally or march, a citizen patrol, neighborhood watch or a neighborhood clean-up project in the past two years, the overwhelming response was a resounding “no” (see Figure 15).

No respondents said that they had participated in a drug rally, vigil, or march. A mere seven respondents stated that they had participated or attended a citizen patrol. Twenty-one residents said that they had participated in a neighborhood watch program. And finally, 61 people told us that they had participated or attended a neighborhood clean-up project in the past two years.

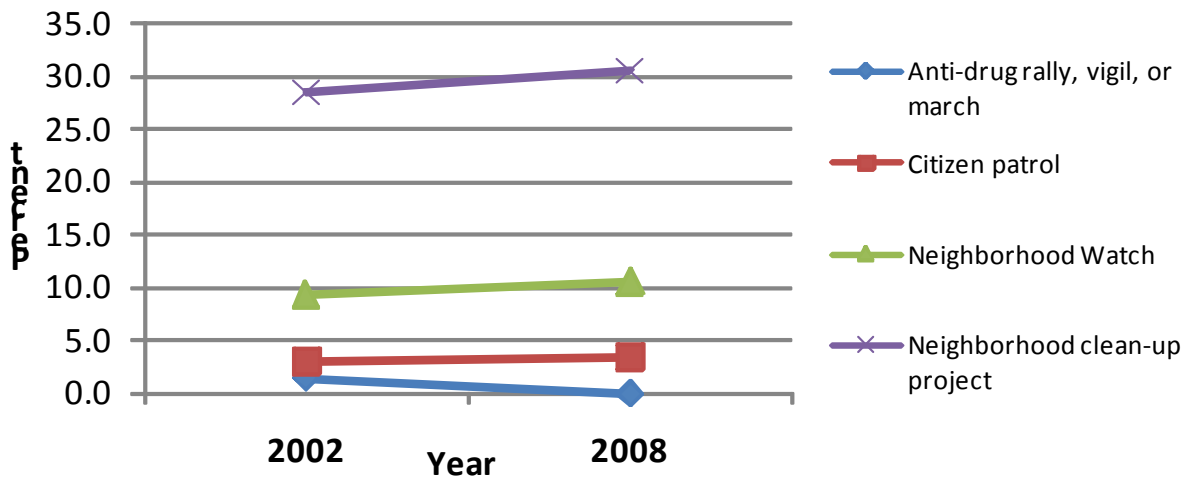
Certainly these four activities do not even begin to capture the range of volunteer activities present in the Northeast community. It would be hazardous indeed to attempt to reach any firm conclusions about citizen participation in community life by simply examining the distribution of responses provided by a very unrepresentative sample of Northeast neighborhood residents. That being said, it is nevertheless apparent that at least for *this sample* there is a high degree of nonparticipation in these four community activities—activities that are more than tangentially related to the perceived community problems discussed earlier. Readers will recall that respondents to the *Northeast Community Survey* did report that drug, property and violent crimes were perceived to be at least somewhat problematic in the Northeast community. Anti-drug rallies, citizen patrols and neighborhood watch efforts are attempts to directly impact these concerns at the grass-roots level. For whatever reason, and there are undoubtedly many reasons,

this sample of respondents has not actively pursued such efforts to address several behaviors perceived to be troublesome.

There is little change on these measures from the 2002 Survey. Although levels of participation have increased slightly since then, these increases are not statistically significant.

Figure 15. Change in Respondent Participation in Northeast Neighborhood Activities from 2002-2008

(2002, n = 267; 2008, n = 201)



Resident Awareness of Community Programs

Community respondents were asked about their awareness of five community programs available in the Northeast community: the Muldoon Family Center; the Northeast Community Center; Kids’ Kitchen, the Social Services Mall, and the Weed and Seed Office. The program with the most name recognition was the Social Services Mall, with 42 percent of respondents saying they were aware of it, followed by the Muldoon Family Center (41%), the Northeast Community Center (39%), and Kids’ Kitchen (32%). Only 11 percent of respondents indicated that they were aware of the Weed and Seed Office. This extent of awareness is higher than reported in the 2002 Survey (see Table 5).

This increase in resident awareness for all five community programs may reflect greater efforts on the part of those programs to publicize their services. Of particular note is the Social Services Mall, which experienced a statistically significant increase (from 26% to 42%) in the percentage of residents who reported awareness.

Table 5. Respondent Awareness of Community Programs
Percent of respondents who were aware of the program.

	Northeast Community Survey (n = 201)	2002 Survey (n = 267)
Social Services Mall	42 %	26 %
Muldoon Family Center	41	38
Northeast Community	39	39
Kids' Kitchen	32	29
Weed and Seed Office	11	7

The longer residents said they had lived in the Northeast community, the more aware they were of these programs. While this is a clear pattern for the five programs, the relationships were not always significant using a chi-square test and a standard alpha level of .05 (see Table 6).

Table 6. Respondent Awareness of Community Programs by Years of Residency in Neighborhood
Percent of respondents who were aware of the program.

	Under 2 years (n = 50)	2-5 years (n = 40)	5 years or more (n = 110)	Sig.
Social Services Mall	26.0 %	45.0 %	49.1 %	n.s.
Muldoon Family Center	30.0	37.5	46.4	n.s.
Northeast Community	24.0	35.0	48.2	.05
Kids' Kitchen	24.0	15.0	42.7	.01
Weed and Seed Office	0.0	12.5	16.4	n.s.

Households with children were compared to those without children. Childless households were more likely to report awareness of all the programs except for the Social Services Mall, but these differences were not significant.

Residents were also asked if they were aware of the Weed and Seed initiative. This generated a higher percentage of affirmative responses (18.4%) compared to the question asking if they were aware that a Weed and Seed office is available in their neighborhood (11%). Some respondents to the 2002 Survey thought Weed and Seed related to landscaping. There was no such misapprehension in the present survey; however, it is also clear that few people have a good idea of the purpose of the program. Four of the 26 respondents who added written remarks to the survey indicated they knew nothing about Weed and Seed. One individual (#208) said he “would like to have more info to learn about it.” Still, others seemed to have a somewhat sophisticated understanding of the Weed and Seed Initiative:

I guess my idea of the weed and seed program was to bring the community together to seed the idea of crime free neighborhoods and to weed out the bad element – unfortunately, the police have all but abandoned my neighborhood. When called, they don’t show up – so therefore none of my neighbors even bother to call 911. I guess we need more poison in the weeding. (#56)

One respondent (#6) , in response to the question asking “Have you heard of the Weed and Seed initiative?” said it is not needed, and added that it is a waste of government money. Another (#50), after admitting no knowledge of Weed and Seed, went on to condemn it:

*Means the tax money’s used for b*****t, do-gooders wasting time and funds. Probably one of the Mayor’s worthless things. If you want to do something, lower taxes, take away buses unless self-supported, and all other non-supporting activities other than basic police, fire, library and such!*

There is scanty indication that Northeast residents are aware of Weed and Seed, or have an idea about what the initiative is. If increased public knowledge is deemed important, more effort will need to be taken toward an explicit statement of the goals of the program.

Conclusion

Because of the biased sample, it is difficult, if not impossible, to reach any firm conclusions about the attitudes and perceptions of Northeast community residents. However, certain patterns did emerge among those that did respond to the survey, and so some conclusions can be reached *for the present sample*.

Perhaps the most significant finding is that these residents appear to be satisfied with the quality of life that the Northeast neighborhood provides them. Further, there were no significant differences between 2002 and 2008 on respondents' feelings about the quality of life in their community, or on measures of how people rated their satisfaction.

Despite the acknowledgment of drug markets and other crime, residents on the whole feel safe in Northeast Anchorage. There was little concrete evidence of change in this regard from the findings of the previous *Northeast Community Survey* that was conducted in 2002. Although respondents in the current study were somewhat more likely to report feeling unsafe out alone in their neighborhoods after dark, it is not clear whether these differences are significant. When asked to indicate the extent to which certain things are problematic in the neighborhood, a larger percentage of 2002 respondents said drug use was a small problem than did the 2008 respondents. Conversely, the percentage of respondents who thought burglary was no problem increased from 2002 to 2008. Taken into context with the rest of the data on these items, it appears that overall, there was little significant change over six years in how respondents assessed the seriousness of crime-related problems. Though there were small drops from 2002 to 2008 in the percentage of respondents who reported being a victim of burglary, robbery, or attack with a weapon, and a negligible increase in the percentage of people who said they had been assaulted, these changes in percentages were found to be insignificant.

In spite of having less than full information about community services, programs and organizations, respondents report a moderate level of satisfaction with community services.

However, there is little doubt that this group of residents also perceives several problems in Northeast Anchorage perhaps explaining, in part, why they expended the energy to complete and return a four-page questionnaire.³³ Compared to 2002, there was generally little significant change in levels of satisfaction for various neighborhood services, with the exception of snow removal, where the percentage of people who were somewhat or very satisfied increased over ten percentage points from 47.8 percent in 2002 to 58.6 percent in 2008. There was no significant change over six years in the extent to which residents participate in neighborhood events or activities.

On measures of police effectiveness in dealing with drugs and keeping the streets safe, very little change in residents' views from 2002 to 2008 was apparent. However, respondents in 2008 were significantly less likely, compared to the 2002 respondents, to report that they thought the police were doing a very poor job controlling the street sale and use of illegal drugs in the neighborhood. Although in 2008, relative to 2002, a greater percentage of respondents reporting seeing a police officer walking around or standing on patrol in the neighborhood, and driving through the neighborhood in a police car, these differences were not statistically significant.

As mentioned earlier, the data do indicate that respondents are lacking knowledge about a variety of community and social services, as well as the activities of the local police. The informational disconnect between police and the public, if it indeed exists, would constitute a serious problem for the East Anchorage Weed and Seed initiative. This community-building enterprise has been conceived as achieving its goals of community building through collaboration and partnership between community residents, local service agencies and government. The informational gaps identified suggest there is much to be done in this regard.

The next point is an extension of the previous one and deals with the apparent "break" between local police activities and community residents. That those community residents taking the time to return the survey appear to be "in the dark" with respect to local police activities is particularly troubling because it is the *police* that serve as the conduit between private and public agencies and community residents. Survey responses suggest that there is no significant effort on

the part of police to form an active partnership with community residents. Both the quantitative data and marginal comments by respondents strongly suggest that while police are often seen in cars there is little, if any, personal interaction between the police and the public. However, responsibility for connecting police with the community is shared, and as such the willingness of community members to participate in community institutions must also be examined.

Findings from this survey suggest that the residents of the Northeast community are equally culpable for the “disconnect” between the police and the public, if their participation in and knowledge of other community institutions are any indication. It is important not to place blame on either the local police force or community residents, as blame not only fails to solve the problem (in fact it might make the problem worse) but it creates a barrier to critical policy and planning implications.

The chief implication is that to the extent that police are needed to help link community members with institutions, both in the community and in the larger city, the East Anchorage Weed and Seed should expect to see only limited success in its efforts to build a healthier Northeast community.³⁴

Finally, the importance of caution in interpreting these preliminary findings must be reiterated, as they emerged out of a survey sample that did not achieve representativeness. Those people that completed and returned the *Northeast Community Survey* are different in significant ways than the underlying population of Northeast Anchorage, likely making responses patterns significantly different than those that would be rendered by the Northeast community as a whole.

Endnotes

¹ *Russian Jack/Muldoon Weed and Seed Demographic Trend Report*. (October, 2008).
<http://www.weedandseed.info/sitedetail.aspx?sitekey=0500S00&report=2>.

² Census tracts: 7.01, 7.02, 7.03, and 8.01.

³ 1990 census figures show a “white” population for census tracts 7.01, 7.02, 7.03 and 8.01 of 71 percent, indicating an influx of minority ethnic/racial groups between 1990 and 2000. This mirrors the trend in Anchorage as a whole, which had a 1990 “white” population of 81 percent, which was reduced to 72 percent in 2000.

⁴ *Russian Jack/Muldoon Weed and Seed Demographic Trend Report*. (October, 2008).
<http://www.weedandseed.info/sitedetail.aspx?sitekey=0500S00&report=2>.

⁵ *Russian Jack/Muldoon Weed and Seed Demographic Trend Report*. (October, 2008).
<http://www.weedandseed.info/sitedetail.aspx?sitekey=0500S00&report=2>.

⁶ Terence Dunworth, Gregory Mills, Gary Cordner and Jack Green (1999). *National Evaluation of Weed & Seed: Cross-site Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice (NCJ 176358), p. iii.

⁷ Terence Dunworth, Gregory Mills, Gary Cordner and Jack Green (1999). *National Evaluation of Weed & Seed: Cross-site Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice (NCJ 176358).

⁸ Question 4/5 text: “In general, how safe do you feel out alone in this neighborhood during [the day/after dark]?”

⁹ <http://www.norc.org/GSS+Website/>

¹⁰ It is significant to note the *Northeast Community Survey* did not ask respondents about violent victimization by intimates and/or family members.

¹¹ To the extent that people are more likely to report dissatisfaction than satisfaction, then, the present sample is likely skewed toward unfavorable evaluations of Northeast Anchorage. This may serve as encouragement to those concerned about the well-being of the Northeast community.

¹² It should also be noted that crime data were not analyzed for this report nor is there data on police organization and deployment. Therefore, the data provided here are very limited as a tool for evaluation of the local police.

¹³ *Russian Jack/Muldoon Weed and Seed Housing Units Comparison Report*. (October, 2008).
<http://www.weedandseed.info/sitedetail.aspx?sitekey=0500S00&report=4>

¹⁴ 2007 Housing and Construction Indicators, Anchorage Indicators Neighborhood Sourcebook.
<http://www.muni.org/iceimages/OECD/Housing%20-%20Construction%20Indicators%202007.pdf>.

¹⁵ *Russian Jack/Muldoon Weed and Seed Demographic Trend Report*. (October, 2008).
<http://www.weedandseed.info/sitedetail.aspx?sitekey=0500S00&report=2>.

¹⁶ 1990 census figures show a “white” population for census tracts 7.01, 7.02, 7.03 and 8.01 of 71 percent, indicating an influx of minority ethnic/racial groups between 1990 and 2000. This mirrors the trend in Anchorage as a whole, which had a 1990 “white” population of 81 percent, which was reduced to 72 percent in 2000.

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey, Table B02001.

¹⁸ Raymondo, JC. 1989. “How to estimate population,” *American Demographics*. 11(1):46, 49.

¹⁹ The Anchorage School District’s method of measuring race or ethnicity changed in 2007 to reflect new categories developed, and required, by the federal government. Students were asked to self-identify whether or not they were Hispanic, and then could select the categories that described their race or ethnicity. They could choose more than one category. The term “ethnic minority” excludes those students who self-identified as non-Hispanic and White.

²⁰ Anchorage School District Ethnicity Reports, published annually from 2001-2002 to 2007-2008.
<http://www.asd.k12.ak.us/depts/demographics/ethnicity/index.asp>

²¹ *Anchorage Indicators, 2000*. <http://www.muni.org/Planning/anciindcivr.cfm>. A “family household” is a household maintained by a householder who is in a family (as defined above), and includes any unrelated people (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there. The number of family households is equal to the number of families. The count of family household members differs from the count of family members, however, in that the family household members include all people living in the household, whereas family members include only the householder and his/her relatives. See the definition of family (<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cps/cpsdef.html>).

²² Terence Dunworth, Gregory Mills, Gary Cordner and Jack Green (1999). *National Evaluation of Weed & Seed: Cross-site Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice (NCJ 176358), pp. 81-84.

²³ Neuman, W. Lawrence (2000). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches* (4th ed.). Boston, Massachusetts: Allyn and Bacon.

²⁴ Of the original 209 surveys returned, 201 reported living within the East Anchorage Weed & Seed catchment area. Only those 201 surveys are analyzed.

²⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey.

²⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey.

²⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey.

²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey.

²⁹ The COMPASS Survey of 1997 was conducted using face-to-face interviews. While it is not clear what time of day these interviews were conducted, to the extent that they were conducted during the daytime, the “access” hypothesis still holds.

³⁰ Reid, Sue Titus. 2009. *Crime and Criminology*, 12th Ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

³¹ In the *2002 Survey*, eight of the 130 respondents to the question asking about changes in the quality of life in the neighborhood over the past two years said they did not know. Those eight cases were removed and the percentages recalculated using only those respondents who expressed an opinion. Thus, the percentages shown in the present report are larger than those in the *2002 Survey* report.

³² Question text: “In the past 2 years, has anyone [done X] to you or a member of your family?”

³³ To the extent that people are more likely to report dissatisfaction than satisfaction, then, the present sample is likely skewed toward *unfavorable* evaluations of Northeast Anchorage. This may serve as encouragement to those concerned about the well-being of the Northeast community.

³⁴ It should also be noted that crime data were not analyzed for this report nor is there data on police organization and deployment. Therefore, the data provided here are very limited as a tool for evaluation of the local police.

Appendix A

Survey Instrument

NORTHEAST ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Instructions: For each of the following questions, please fill in the bubble matching your chosen response. Please fill in only one bubble unless the question indicates otherwise.

1. Is your residence located within the area shaded in gray on the cover sheet?
- Yes
 - No

If YES, please go on to question 2. If NO, please skip to the last page, and complete the prize drawing information and return the survey.

In the questions below, whenever we refer to this neighborhood, we are talking about the area shaded in gray within the boundaries depicted in the cover letter.

2. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

- a. Enter the total number of years _____
- b. If less than 1 year, enter total number of months _____

3. In general, how satisfied are you with this neighborhood as a place to live? Are you...

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

<u>Very Safe</u>	<u>Somewhat Safe</u>	<u>Somewhat Unsafe</u>	<u>Very Unsafe</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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4. In general, how safe do you feel out alone in this neighborhood during the day? Do you feel...

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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5. In general, how safe do you feel out alone in this neighborhood after dark? Do you feel...

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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6. In general, in the past 2 years, would you say this neighborhood has become a better place to live, a worse place to live, or stayed the same?

- Better
- Worse
- About the same
- Did not live here 2 years ago
- Don't know

Here is a list of things that may be current problems in this neighborhood. Please indicate whether you think it is a big problem, small problem, or no problem.

	<u>Big Problem</u>	<u>Small Problem</u>	<u>No Problem</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
7. Drug dealers on the streets, street corners, or in other public places	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Drug sales out of homes or apartments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Burglary and other property crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Robbery and other street crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Violent crime such as shootings, assault, and so forth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Gang activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Drug use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The next several questions ask about some things that may have happened to you or your family in the past 2 years (since June 2006) in this neighborhood.

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 14. In the past 2 years, has anyone broken into your home(s), garage, or another building on your property, <u>in this neighborhood</u> , to steal something? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 15. In the past 2 years, has anyone stolen something from you or a member of your family by force or by threat <u>in this neighborhood</u> ? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 16. Other than incidents already mentioned, in the past 2 years, has anyone beaten you (or a member of your family), attacked you, or hit you with something such as a rock or bottle, <u>in this neighborhood</u> ? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 17. Other than incidents already mentioned, in the past 2 years, have you or anyone in your family been knifed, shot or shot at, or attacked with some other weapon <u>in this neighborhood</u> by anyone at all? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 18. In general, how good a job are the police doing to keep order on the streets and sidewalks in this neighborhood these days? Would you say they are doing... | | | |
| <input type="radio"/> A very good job
<input type="radio"/> A good job
<input type="radio"/> A fair job
<input type="radio"/> A poor job
<input type="radio"/> A very poor job
<input type="radio"/> Don't know | | | |
| 19. How good a job are the police doing in controlling the street sale and use of illegal drugs in this neighborhood? Would you say they are doing.... | | | |
| <input type="radio"/> A very good job
<input type="radio"/> A good job
<input type="radio"/> A fair job
<input type="radio"/> A poor job
<input type="radio"/> A very poor job
<input type="radio"/> Don't know | | | |

Here are a few specific situations in which you might have seen the police. During the **PAST MONTH**, have you seen...

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 20. A police car driving through your neighborhood? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 21. A police officer walking around or standing on patrol in the neighborhood? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 22. A police officer patrolling the alleys or back of buildings? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 23. A police officer chatting/having friendly conversation with people in the neighborhood? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 24. In general, how responsive are the police in this neighborhood to community concerns? Are they... | | |
| <input type="radio"/> Very responsive
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat responsive
<input type="radio"/> Somewhat unresponsive
<input type="radio"/> Very unresponsive
<input type="radio"/> Don't know | | |
| 25. In your opinion, is the number of alcohol-serving establishments in this neighborhood a big problem, small problem, or no problem at all? | | |
| <input type="radio"/> Big problem
<input type="radio"/> Small problem
<input type="radio"/> No problem at all
<input type="radio"/> Don't know | | |

During the past 2 years, have you attended or participated in any of the following events or activities in this neighborhood?

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 26. Anti-drug rally, vigil, or march? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 27. Citizen patrol? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 28. Neighborhood watch program? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 29. Neighborhood clean-up project? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

In general, how satisfied are you with the following in this neighborhood?

- | | <u>Very Satisfied</u> | <u>Somewhat Satisfied</u> | <u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u> | <u>Very Dissatisfied</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 30. The availability of sports, recreation, and other programs for youth? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 31. The availability of drug treatment services? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 32. The availability of public transportation? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 33. Job opportunities? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 34. The level of snow removal service? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

35. Have you heard of the Weed and Seed initiative?

- Yes
- No

36. Please provide a brief description of what the Weed and Seed initiative means to you. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

Are you aware that the following programs are available in this neighborhood?

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 37. Muldoon Family Center | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 38. Northeast Community Center | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 39. Kid's Kitchen | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 40. Social Services Mall | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 41. Weed and Seed Office | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

42. How old are you? _____

43. How many people under age 18 years old (including yourself) live in your household? _____

44. How many people aged 18 or older (including yourself) live in your household? _____

45. What is your gender? Female
 Male

46. Do you own or rent your home? Own
 Rent

47. What is your ethnic identity? Do you consider yourself to be...*(fill in bubbles for all that apply)*

- Black
- White
- Hispanic
- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Alaska Native
- American Indian
- Some other ethnicity
- Don't know

48. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? *(fill in only one bubble)*

- Working full-time
- Working part-time
- Currently on active military status
- Unemployed, looking for work
- Unemployed, not looking for work
- Retired
- Full-time homemaker
- Student only
- Other
- Don't know

The survey is complete. Thank you very much for your help.

Enter me in the prize drawing:

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Name (Optional) _____

IMPORTANT:

- All responses will remain completely confidential.
- Your address, phone number, and name will be used just for the prize drawing.
- Only your answers to questions in the survey will be tabulated.
- All surveys and identifying information will be destroyed after data entry.

Mail to:

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