

May 2016

Perceptions of Public Safety

Report on the 2015 DC Public Safety Survey



Community Preservation and Development Corporation

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Council for Court Excellence

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

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Perceptions of Public Safety:

*Report on the 2015 DC Public Safety Survey
Community Preservation and Development Corporation
Council for Court Excellence
Local Initiatives Support Corporation*

Executive Summary

In the summer of 2015, Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC), one of the District's premiere not-for-profit providers of affordable housing, partnered with the Council for Court Excellence, a policy-focused civic organization dedicated to improving justice for the DC community, to survey District residents about their perceptions of public safety. The survey is part of the larger "Collaborating for Prevention" initiative that CPDC is leading with support from Local Initiatives Support Corporation.

This initiative grew from the aftermath of violent crime close to home. On February 14, 2014, an eleven-year-old girl was shot in the chest while playing outside with other children at CPDC's Wheeler Terrace Apartment Community, located in Ward 8 in Southeast Washington, DC. Thankfully, the girl survived. Then, on July 13, 2014, a homicide was committed at a neighboring CPDC-owned property, Meadowbrook Run. The seven CPDC-owned properties in Ward 8 also saw an increase in visible drug activity and drive-by shootings in 2014. Shell casings were removed from resident homes in two instances, and a stabbing was reported by CPDC's private security company.

These incidents increased awareness of and concern about the safety and security of CPDC residents and the surrounding neighborhoods. It is within this context that CPDC designed a four-phase public safety initiative, "Collaborating for Prevention," to address crime in the neighborhoods in which property residents work, live, and play.

The first phase included administering the citywide Perceptions of Public Safety survey to create a population-level baseline of DC residents' perception of public safety. Because the survey is part of a larger effort to create community-driven public safety plans, a number of questions were asked related to community-police relations. Finally, respondents were asked for their ideas for improving public safety.

Over a thousand people were surveyed across the city, mostly in face-to-face interviews in parks and recreation centers, at public events, at Metro stations, and in business districts. In addition, the online survey was distributed via listservs of local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and the DC City Council. The survey was available in both English and Spanish language versions.

Key Findings in Perceptions of Public Safety:

- Most respondents feel safe in their neighborhoods during the day across DC, but most do not feel safe or only feel somewhat safe in non-enclosed spaces (that is, not at home or in a car) at night. Respondents in Ward 8 feel the least safe of all respondents.
- Few youth reported bullying, and while youth typically felt safe going to school, at school, and at school-related activities, two in five only felt somewhat safe going to school and at activities. Youth in Wards 7 and 8 reported feeling the least safe.

- More than half of all respondents indicated that during the past year they had observed or experienced some type of crime, although over two-thirds had never observed or experienced violent crime. Respondents from Wards 7 and 8 and African-American and Latino respondents observed violent crime at much higher rates. Of particular note, young respondents had the highest rates of exposure to violent crime.

Key Findings in Community-Police Relations:

- About one in every four respondents said they know at least one police officer in their neighborhood by name.
- About half of respondents were satisfied with a response to a 9-1-1 call they made to the police. This result was fairly consistent across all demographics, although somewhat higher for older respondents and those in Wards 1 and 3.
- Very few respondents who observed or experienced a crime called the police.
- When asked how to improve community-police relations, respondents across all Wards and demographic groups most frequently expressed a desire for better communication and relationships with police officers. Many also wanted more “community policing,” with officers walking or biking in their neighborhoods. Young men were least likely to recommend community policing.
- Most respondents said they trust the police. However, younger respondents, Latino and African-American respondents, and respondents in Wards 7 and 8 were least likely to say they trust the police.
- About two in three respondents indicated they had a positive interaction with the police, while about one in four indicated they had had a negative interaction with the police. Younger respondents and those in Wards 7 and 8 were most likely to report negative interactions, but positive interactions were seen across all groups.
- Respondents who mentioned negative interactions with the police were least likely to report trusting the police.
- Over two-thirds of respondents did not fear police would harm them or a loved one. Young adults and respondents in Wards 7 and 8 expressed the greatest fear.

Key Findings in Improving Public Safety:

- Only one-third of respondents indicated that the police focused on the “right” problems in their neighborhood, i.e., ones that really concerned them. Latinos and African-Americans and those in Wards 7 and 8 had the highest rates of saying that police do not focus on the right problems.
- No suggestion on how to improve public safety garnered the majority of responses. The three top responses were for more police and enforcement, more community policing, and more positive social investments in the community.
- Of those recommending more police and enforcement to improve public safety, almost none indicated this was a way to improve community-police relations. These respondents also wanted better communication and relationships with officers, and specifically mentioned a desire for more community policing.

Recommendations:

Based on the above findings, CPDC has developed several recommendations for improving public safety and community-police relations:

- The police department and community groups should create more opportunities for communication between neighborhood residents and law enforcement.
- Schools, residents, and law enforcement should work together to make sure all youth feel safe going to and being at school, and more trauma-informed services should be provided for young people exposed to violence.
- Law enforcement should meet with residents to discuss what type of policing they feel is appropriate and effective in their neighborhood.
- Environmental approaches to improving public safety should be more fully incorporated into public safety plans.
- Law enforcement training and practice should be improved and should include young people in planning so that young adults—particularly young adults of color—are part of the public safety strategy and do not feel targeted by police.
- Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) and other agencies should be part of neighborhood safety conversations.
- Law enforcement should share clear, comprehensible, and detailed public safety data with neighborhoods so residents can understand—and work to reduce—crime risks.

Introduction: Why This Report?

Public safety is a key component of a community's quality of life. Concern about becoming a victim of crime in one's home, neighborhood or city can become a pivotal social and personal issue. In a 2015 Washington Post poll, 34% of respondents identified crime as the top issue in the city.¹ While data from the DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) show that property crime is down and violent crime is level in the District as compared with a year ago, there has been a spike in homicides.² As the map on the following page shows, these homicides are concentrated in the Northeast and Southeast quadrants of the city.³ This increase—and the substantial media coverage around it—appear to be significant drivers of public sentiment.

The public safety survey that is the subject of this report was conceived prior to the 2015 homicide rate increase. In 2014, a school-aged girl was shot while playing on the playground at the Wheeler Terrace apartment complex in Southeast DC. This property is owned by the Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC), a not-for-profit which develops, owns, and operates affordable housing throughout Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Following the shooting, CPDC convened several meetings with residents to discuss the issue of violence and crime in the neighborhood. What came out of these meetings was the “Collaborating for Prevention” initiative, a coalition made up of diverse organizations and individuals with an interest in pursuing a holistic approach to improving safety. This survey is the first product of this initiative, and will be followed by listening sessions and community dialogues in the Congress Heights and Washington Highlands neighborhoods of Ward 8, where CPDC operates four apartment communities. The end goal is the development of a public safety improvement plan that incorporates statistical data with information and ideas from impacted community members.

Table 1: Crimes Reported to MPD, 2014 Compared to 2015

Crime Type	Number of Crimes Reported Between:		Percent Change
	1/1/14 to 12/31/14	1/1/15 to 12/31/15	
Homicide	100	159	59.0%
Sex Abuse	311	280	-10.0%
Robbery Excluding Gun	2172	2096	-3.5%
Robbery With Gun	1128	1207	7.0%
Assault Dangerous Weapon – NOT Gun	1814	1616	-10.9%
Assault Dangerous Weapon - Gun	644	728	13.0%
Total Violent Crime	6169	6086	-1.3%
Burglary	3211	2520	-21.5%
Theft	14523	13967	-3.8%
Theft /Auto	11501	10879	-5.4%
Stolen Auto	3080	2859	-7.2%
Arson	27	18	-33.3%
Total Property Crime	32342	30243	-6.5%
Total Crime	38511	36329	-5.7%

¹ D.C.'s new top problem: Crime. (2015, November 18). *The Washington Post*, Retrieved March 8, 2016, from <http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/page/local/dcs-new-top-problem-crime/1871/>

² Metropolitan Police Department. Crime Map Search. Retrieved March 8, 2016 from <http://crimemap.dc.gov/Report.aspx>

³ Map © The Washington Post. Used with permission. Tracking D.C.-area homicides. *The Washington Post*, Retrieved March 8, 2016, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/local/homicides/>

WHAT IS THE COLLABORATING FOR PREVENTION INITIATIVE?

The mission of Collaborating for Prevention is to engage youth and adult residents, law enforcement agencies, and other interested stakeholders in the process of creating 1) a platform for residents to be engaged in the safety and security of their communities and 2) a vehicle for ongoing safety strategy development, implementation, and evaluation. The overall objectives of the initiative are to strengthen partnerships between the community and law enforcement agencies, to deepen the impact of residents' roles as partners in crime reduction efforts, and to identify and address social issues that threaten public safety.

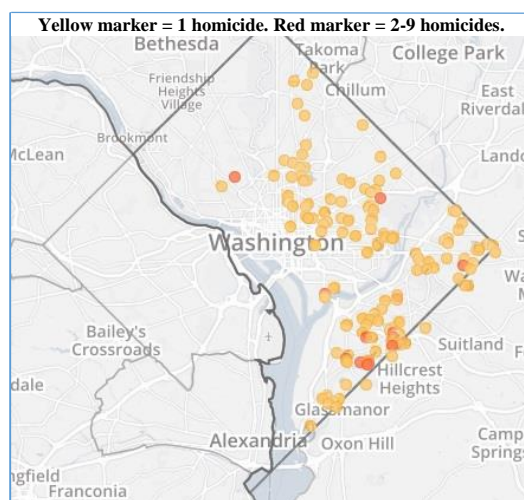
Phase I began with initiative partners administering the Perceptions of Public Safety survey throughout the city to acquire baseline data. Youth engagement around public safety was also initiated at five CPDC properties through art and trauma-informed community building. Over 150 youth participated in this phase. They were given the opportunity to create images and tell their stories of what a safe community means to them.

Phase II is an engagement phase that includes listening sessions and community dialogues. The listening sessions have been designed to dive deeper into the underlying meanings and beliefs behind the baseline data. The community dialogues are structured to foster higher trust levels among all stakeholders, break down silos while creating place-based community safety action plans, and encourage more cross-sector collaboration.

Phase III includes the implementation of the community safety action plan developed in Phase II while using population-level performance measurements and collecting relevant crime data. The design and implementation of a successful community safety action plan is dependent on fundraising to cover all expenses and the commitment of engaged stakeholders in this process.

Phase IV consists of the analysis of all data collected. A report with data scorecards for each initiative site will be released. At this phase, additional neighborhoods will be chosen for the initiative's expansion.

Figure 1: Homicides in Washington, DC, 2015



COLLABORATING FOR PREVENTION INITIATIVE PARTNERS

The following organizations partnered to create, administer, and analyze the DC Public Safety Survey portion of the Collaborating for Prevention initiative:

Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC)

CPDC is one of DC's premier not-for-profit real estate developers dedicated to providing safe, high-quality, and affordable housing to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Since 1989, CPDC has developed and maintained vibrant communities by adopting a community building model that includes comprehensive Community Impact Strategies aimed primarily at

youth and seniors. CPDC is committed to the long-term success of residents and communities. CPDC's community building model is built upon five areas of sustainable community development and serves as the basis for all Community Impact Strategies:

1. **Economic Development:** providing access to job placement and training, financial literacy workshops, transportation, and technology.
2. **Education:** focusing on early school readiness, youth development, parent engagement, and adult literacy.
3. **Environment:** promoting energy efficiency, recycling, and water conservation.
4. **Health and Wellness:** encouraging health education and awareness, providing nutrition and fitness classes, supporting access to social and human services.
5. **Resident Engagement:** supporting civic involvement, volunteerism, neighborhood leadership, community participation, and cultural exchange.

Council for Court Excellence (CCE)

Formed in Washington, DC in January 1982, CCE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic organization whose mission is to improve justice for the DC community. CCE is the research partner for the Collaboration. For over thirty years, CCE has been active in public safety issues; this has included surveying residents in the Trinidad neighborhood regarding public safety strategies being employed, developing policies to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for returning citizens, and working with lawmakers and administrators to ensure the justice systems DC relies on are fair and effective.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

For more than three decades, LISC has connected local organizations and community leaders with resources to revitalize neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for residents. LISC is dedicated to helping neighborhood residents create healthy and sustainable places of choice and opportunity – good places to live, work, raise children and conduct business. Since 1994, LISC's Community Safety Initiative has supported teams of community developers and law enforcement working to reduce crime and improve vitality in neighborhoods nationwide.

Washington DC Police Foundation (DCPF)

DCPF brings together business, professional, civic and nonprofit organizations and individual citizens to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the Chief of Police and the Metropolitan Police Department, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. DCPF's goal is to make Washington, DC a safer place to live, work and visit for everyone.

Other Partners

Other partners in the Collaboration include Artworks Now, Community of Hope, THEARC DC, Citywide Neighborhood Watch Trainer Samantha Nola, and Coalition for Non-Profit Housing & Economic Development (CNHED).

SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Methods

In the summer of 2015, CCE, CPDC, and LISC conducted a survey across DC to capture residents' perceptions of safety, perceptions about the relations between their community and the police, and opinions about how to improve public safety in their neighborhood. Over 1,000 people were

surveyed. However, in reviewing zip code responses, a number of surveys were disqualified as the respondents were from outside DC. In addition, some surveys had to be discarded due to problems in data collection. In the end, the research team gathered 909 quality surveys from DC residents. Of these surveys, 22 utilized a Spanish language version of the survey.

Residents were surveyed at different times of day, in varying locations and through different formats. Most were surveyed in person at community events, as well as in public places like Metro stations and parks. Depending on the venue, surveyors used paper surveys or tablets to record responses. CPDC also created a public service announcement, which aired on several radio stations. In addition, bilingual (English and Spanish) postcards were distributed with web and text message links directly to the online survey, which was hosted on the Survey Monkey platform. The survey was also distributed via listservs for the police service areas, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and DC Councilmembers. The survey was advertised via social media on the CPDC corporate page and across the Radio One Facebook page. Participants were entered into a raffle to add an incentive to respond. Surveyors included CCE and CPDC staff; college and law school interns based at the CCE office; students participating in civic education programs; Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program workers; and Howard University Day of Service participants.

Figure 2: Distribution of Survey Respondents by Ward

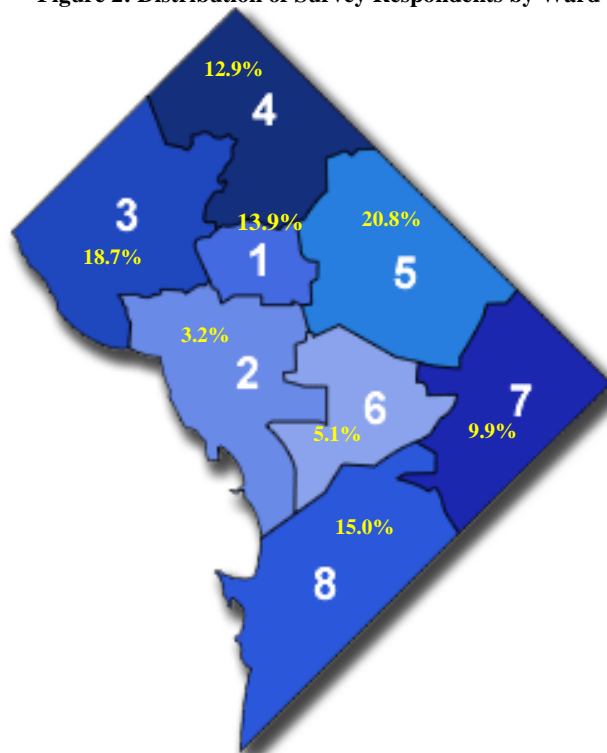


Figure 2 shows the distribution of survey respondents by ward.⁴ Of 909 respondents, 872 provided enough information to identify a Ward or State location, with a few key interpretive caveats in neighborhoods whose boundaries span multiple Wards. Respondents who identified Shaw were assumed to be in Ward 2, and those who identified Woodley Park were assumed to be in Ward 3 unless additional address information was provided that indicated otherwise.

Demographics of Survey Respondents

The following data represent the age, gender, racial and ethnic demographics of survey respondents. Not all respondents answered all demographic questions. About four in every ten respondents were male and six in ten were female.

⁴ Google Maps. DC Ward Map Overlay. Retrieved March 8, 2016, from <http://bit.ly/neighborhoodsmap>. "Neighborhoods in Washington DC." *Wikipedia*, Retrieved March 8, 2016 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neighborhoods_in_Washington,_D.C.

Table 2 shows the racial and ethnic composition of respondents. Throughout the rest of the report, these figures are categorized as White, African-American, Other, and Latino, and are defined as follows:

- **White:** Non-Latino White.
- **African-American:** Non-Latino Black or African-American.
- **Other:** Non-Latino American Indian/Alaskan Native, Mixed Race, Asian/Pacific Islander or Other. Because these were small percentages, graphs and charts with information by race/ethnicity do not include these responses.
- **Latino:** Those who answered “Yes” to the question, “Do you consider yourself Latino?” and those answering the Spanish language survey.

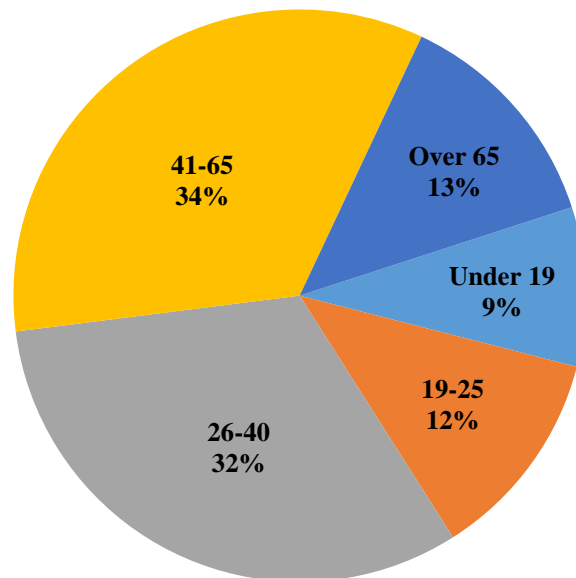
Table 2: Race/Ethnicity of Respondents

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents	% of Respondents	% of DC Population ⁵
Non-Latino		
African-American	49.3%	49%
White	41.1%	35.8%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	0.51%	0.6%
Mixed Race	2.9%	2.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4%	4.2%
Other	1.1%	2.6%
Latino	5.8%	10.4%

Approximately 13% of respondents left the question regarding race blank.

Figure 3 shows the age of respondents. Approximately 15% of respondents left the question regarding age blank.

Figure 3: Respondents by Age



⁵ United States Census Bureau. Quick Facts, District of Columbia. Retrieved March 8, 2016, from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/11000.html>

Survey Results

RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Perceptions of Public Safety survey included a number of questions related to when and where respondents felt safe, somewhat safe, and not safe.

Overall Perceptions of Safety

As shown in Table 3, while most respondents feel safe during the day and at night at home or in a car, most either do not feel safe or feel only somewhat safe in public places at night.

Table 3: Perception of Safety, Day and Night

How safe to do you feel in the following places:	During the Day			At Night		
	Not Safe	Somewhat Safe	Safe	Not Safe	Somewhat Safe	Safe
Inside Your House	1%	12%	87%	4%	21%	75%
Outside on the Streets in Neighborhood	5%	29%	66%	24%	48%	28%
On Public Transportation	7%	34%	59%	24%	46%	30%
In Public Places in Neighborhood like Stores and Restaurants	3%	21%	76%	14%	37%	50%
In Parks and Playgrounds in Neighborhood	6%	27%	67%	42%	35%	23%
While in a Car	2%	15%	83%	8%	32%	60%

Safety by Ward and Time of Day

As shown in Tables 4 and 5, the largest percent of respondents by Ward who reported they feel safe during the day were respondents in Ward 3. The smallest percent of respondents by Ward was for respondents in Ward 8. At night, the largest percent of respondents by Ward who reported feeling safe were in Ward 3 and 6, and the smallest percent was for respondents in Ward 8.

Table 4: Perception of Safety During the Day, by Ward

Ward	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Inside Your House	92%	93%	94%	91%	85%	90%	82%	77%
Outside on the Streets in Neighborhood	70%	67%	88%	71%	62%	73%	49%	44%
On Public Transportation	67%	57%	76%	65%	59%	61%	41%	43%
In Public Places in Neighborhood like Stores and Restaurants	85%	79%	96%	86%	71%	87%	58%	50%
In Parks and Playgrounds in Neighborhood	76%	54%	86%	78%	53%	76%	59%	47%
While in a Car	84%	85%	93%	88%	78%	86%	77%	72%

Table 5: Perception of Safety at Night, by Ward

Ward	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Inside Your House	80%	79%	87%	83%	68%	85%	72%	58%
Outside on the Streets in Neighborhood	33%	21%	40%	28%	20%	46%	28%	15%
On Public Transportation	46%	25%	35%	32%	29%	35%	23%	17%
In Public Places in Neighborhood like Stores and Restaurants	64%	46%	73%	58%	38%	68%	35%	20%
In Parks and Playgrounds in Neighborhood	32%	19%	22%	28%	14%	40%	23%	15%
While in a Car	69%	58%	66%	65%	52%	71%	61%	50%

Safety by Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Table 6, a greater percentage of White respondents than others reported feeling safe during the day in all places listed in this survey. However, a higher percentage of African-American and Latino respondents felt safe at night outside on streets or in parks and playgrounds. A third or less of all respondents indicated they felt safe on public transportation at night.

Table 6: Perception of Safety by Race/Ethnicity

Percent of Respondents Who Feel Safe in These Places						
	African-American		Latino		White	
	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night
Inside Your House	85%	72%	94%	83%	91%	80%
Outside on the Streets in Neighborhood	59%	30%	61%	34%	78%	26%
On Public Transportation	51%	29%	55%	33%	73%	32%
In Public Places in Neighborhood like Stores and Restaurants	64%	40%	78%	57%	89%	62%
In Parks and Playgrounds in Neighborhood	63%	28%	71%	37%	73%	16%
While in a Car	80%	62%	80%	71%	90%	60%

Safety by Age

There was no single age group that reported feeling the most or least safe during the day or night.

YOUTH SAFETY

The survey sought to gather information related to the safety of youth. Two separate questions were asked: one related to safety traveling to and from school, in school, and at school-related events, and one related to bullying. Respondents were asked to skip the questions if they were not in middle or high school. Responses from older respondents were not included, as it was assumed that information was second-hand.

School-Related Safety

To analyze school-related safety, the survey looked at the following question: “If you are a student in middle school or high school (otherwise skip this question), how safe do you feel at identified times/places?” Responses from people indicating they were older than school age were excluded; therefore, only 86 responses were analyzed.

As shown in Tables 7 and 8, most students indicated they felt safe while in school. However, less than six in ten indicated they felt safe getting to or from school or at school-related events. The vast majority indicated they felt at least “somewhat safe” in all locations. Youth in Ward 8 felt the least safe in all school-related settings. (There were no youth in Wards 2 or 3 who responded to this question.)

Table 7: School-Related Safety

Youth School-Related Safety by Location			
How Safe Do You feel:	Safe	Somewhat Safe	Not Safe
Walking To/From School or Bus Stop	55%	40%	6%
Riding on Bus to School	52%	40%	7%
In School	71%	28%	1%
At School-Related Events	58%	41%	1%

Table 8: Youth School Safety by Ward

Ward	Walking to School				If on Bus, Riding to School				While in School				School-Related Events		
	Safe	Some what Safe	Not Safe		Safe	Some what Safe	Not Safe		Safe	Some what Safe	Not Safe		Safe	Some what Safe	Not Safe
1	86%	14%	0%		83%	17%	0%		86%	14%	0%		86%	14%	0%
4	63%	38%	0%		29%	71%	0%		86%	14%	0%		71%	29%	0%
5	76%	18%	6%		76%	18%	6%		88%	12%	0%		76%	24%	0%
6	100%	0%	0%		100%	0%	0%		100%	0%	0%		100%	0%	0%
7	50%	44%	6%		56%	44%	0%		56%	44%	0%		44%	50%	6%
8	29%	58%	13%		35%	55%	10%		55%	42%	3%		35%	65%	0%

Bullying

There were 78 responses from youth under 25 to the question of whether they had been bullied in a variety of places. As shown in Table 9, while most respondents reported not being bullied at all, a small percentage were bullied frequently. There was not a significant difference in the numbers by Ward.

Table 9: Youth Bullying

Frequency of Youth Bullying by Location				
	Not At All	At Least Once	Once a Month or More	Once a Week or More
At School	77%	6%	8%	9%
In Neighborhood	81%	5%	10%	4%
On Social Media	81%	3%	6%	10%

EXPERIENCE WITH NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

As shown in Table 10, while some respondents had little experience with crime, particularly violent crime, others observed or experienced high levels of violent crime.

Table 10: Past Year Experience with Crime

First Hand Experience or Observation of Crime			
In the Past Year, How Often Have You Observed or Experienced the Following Crimes:	Never	Once or Twice	3 or More Times
Gun Crime	74%	16%	10%
Violent Crime Like an Assault that DID NOT Involve a Gun	68%	22%	11%
Property Crime like Shoplifting or Burglary	61%	28%	11%
People Selling/Dealing Drugs	51%	21%	28%
People Using Illegal Drugs (NOT marijuana)	62%	16%	21%
Public Order Crime like Trespassing or Disorderly Conduct	45%	29%	26%

Experience with Crime by Ward

As shown in Table 11, respondents in Wards 7 and 8 were most likely to have observed or experienced a violent crime, while those in Ward 3 were least likely to have seen or experienced a violent crime.

Table 11: Respondents Who Never Observed/Experienced Violent Crime, by Ward

In Past Year, Respondents Who Have Never Observed or Experienced the Following:								
Ward	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gun Crime	78%	82%	97%	73%	71%	72%	64%	56%
Violent Crime Like an Assault that DID NOT Involve a Gun	60%	71%	89%	76%	73%	71%	46%	46%
Property Crime like Shoplifting or Burglary	68%	68%	73%	56%	61%	64%	49%	52%
People Selling/Dealing Drugs	46%	37%	82%	49%	39%	58%	39%	45%
People Using Illegal Drugs (NOT marijuana)	60%	56%	89%	66%	47%	63%	48%	57%
Public Order Crime like Trespassing or Disorderly Conduct	44%	33%	51%	39%	38%	44%	52%	48%

In terms of those who have experienced significant levels of crime (three or more times in the past year), Table 12 reveals that about one in four respondents from Ward 8 indicated they had observed or experienced gun or other violent crime, followed by Ward 7 at 19%. No respondents in Ward 3 indicated they had experienced or seen violent crime three or more times in the past year.

Table 12: Frequent Observers/Experiencers of Crime, By Ward

In Past Year, Respondents Who have Observed or Experienced the Following Three or More Times								
In the Past Year, How Often Have You Observed or Experienced the Following Crimes:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gun Crime	7%	7%	0%	9%	7%	11%	19%	24%
Violent Crime Like an Assault that DID NOT Involve a Gun	11%	0%	0%	6%	9%	14%	19%	24%
Property Crime like Shoplifting or Burglary	4%	7%	3%	11%	12%	11%	20%	19%
People Selling/Dealing Drugs	31%	33%	5%	32%	36%	23%	41%	34%
People Using Illegal Drugs (NOT marijuana)	20%	30%	3%	20%	30%	22%	34%	27%
Public Order Crime like Trespassing or Disorderly Conduct	25%	37%	16%	31%	29%	30%	33%	26%

Experience with Crime by Race/Ethnicity

In terms of racial and ethnic differences, while there are some differences at the low end of the crime observation spectrum, these differences are even more significant at the high end. As shown in Figures 4 and 5, the percentage of African-Americans experiencing or witnessing gun crime multiple times is four times that of White respondents. Both African-Americans and Latinos experienced frequent violent crime at much higher rates than Whites.

Figure 4: Frequent Observers/Experiencers of Crime, By Race/Ethnicity

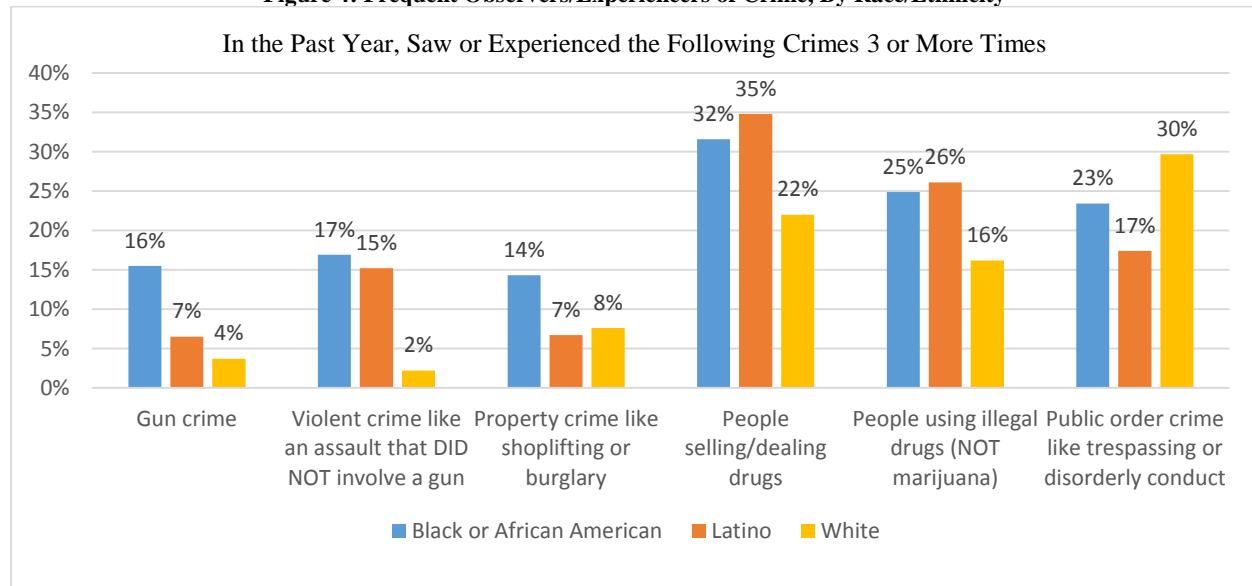
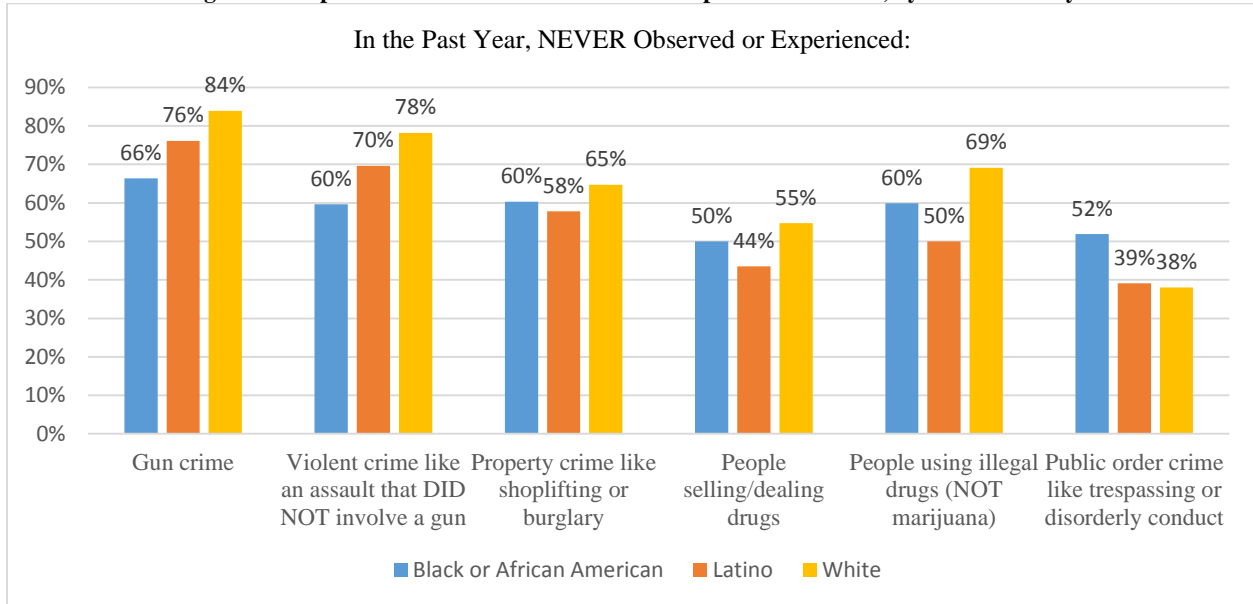


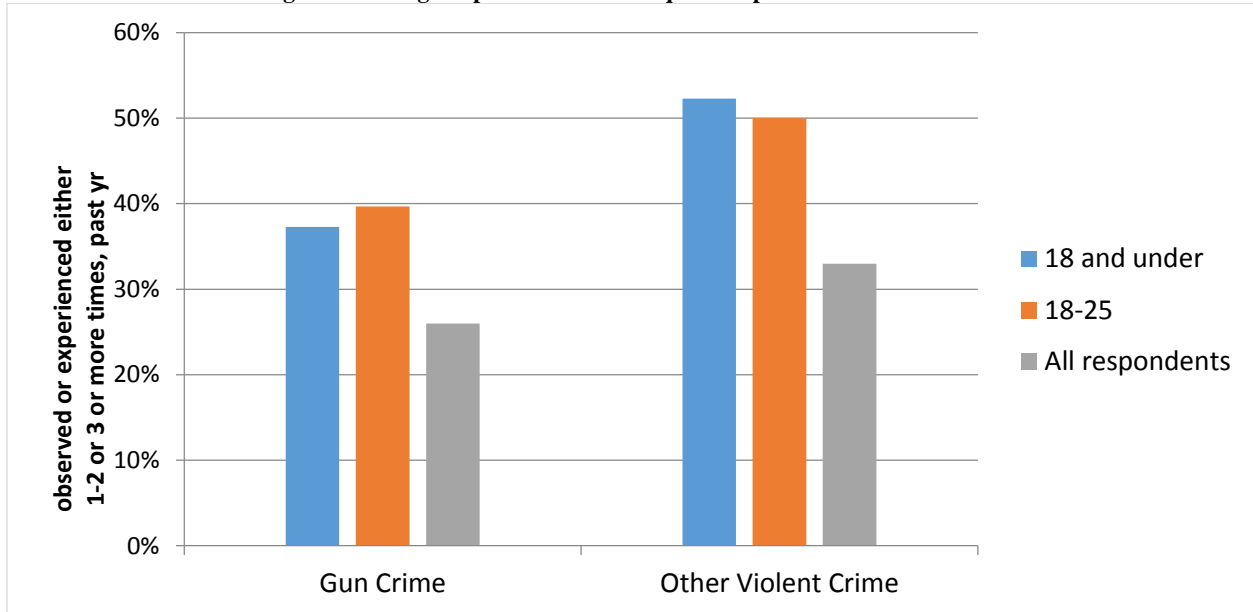
Figure 5: Respondents Who Never Observed or Experienced Crimes, by Race/Ethnicity



Experience with Crime by Age

As shown in Figure 6, respondents at or below the age of 25 reported seeing or experiencing both gun crime and other violent crime at significantly higher rates than the general population. This is of particular concern, given that exposure to violence is often associated with a number of negative outcomes.

Figure 6: Young Respondents with Frequent Exposure to Violent Crime



COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONS

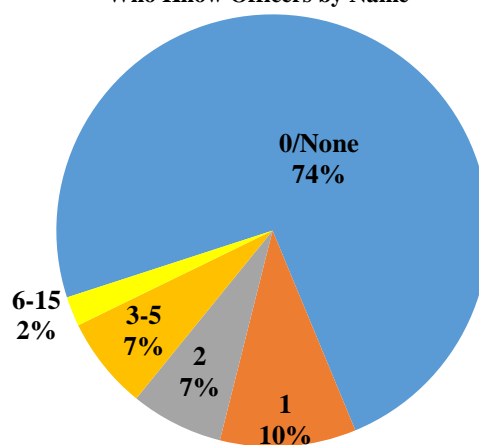
The issue of community-police relations has been a matter of significant attention, both here in DC and across the country. In addition, experts agree that communities where residents and the police are working together effectively are more successful in reducing crime.

The survey looked at this issue from a number of angles, including: how many respondents know one or more police officers in their neighborhood by name; how police communicate with residents; response by police in emergency situations; willingness to contact the police; positive and negative interactions with law enforcement; and whether people trust the police or feel the police may target or hurt them.

Knowing Neighborhood Police Officers by Name

Respondents were asked, “How many police in your neighborhood do you know by name?” There were 679 codable responses. Figure 7 shows that about one in four respondents knew at least one police officer in their neighborhood by name. Many of those who knew only one police officer indicated it was the lieutenant or commander.

Figure 7: Percent of Respondents Who Know Officers by Name



Getting Information from the Police

The most common way people get information from the police is from neighborhood listservs. Table 13 shows that people who responded that they did get information from the police often used multiple sources. Almost a fourth (24%) of the 788 respondents answered “None” and an additional 13% did not answer the question.

Table 13: How Respondents Get Information from Police

How Do You Get Information from the Police? Check All That Apply:		
	Frequency	%
Directly from Police Officers	197	25%
Police Service Area (PSA) Meetings	114	14%
Police Department Social Media	222	28%
Email	223	28%
Neighborhood Listserv	434	55%
Other Community Meetings	239	30%
None	186	24%
No Answer/Left Blank	121	13%

Getting Information from the Police by Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Table 14, both African-American and Latino respondents indicated more frequently that they received no information from the police. White and Latino respondents were more likely to use electronic forms of communication.

Because the respondents could provide more than one answer, percentages are not calculated.

Table 14: How Respondents Get Information from Police, by Race/Ethnicity

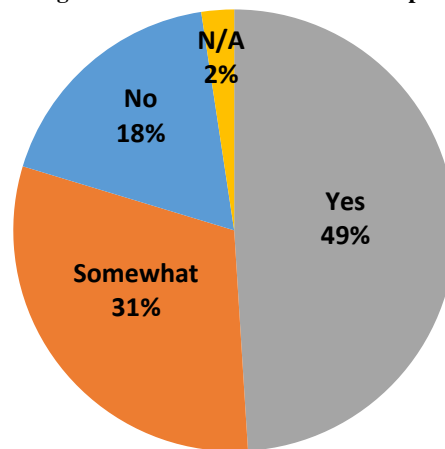
How Do You Get Information from the Police? (Frequency of Responses)			
	African-American	White	Latino
Directly from Police Officers	82	89	8
Police Service Area (PSA) Meetings	58	39	9
Police Department Social Media	84	110	17
Email	65	126	22
Neighborhood Listserv	106	275	19
Other Community Meetings	111	99	14
None	134	35	17

Calling 9-1-1

A vital piece of community-police relations is the degree to which the community provides information to the police. To examine this factor, two related questions were asked: if respondents called the police after observing or experiencing crime, and if they had called 9-1-1 this year to reach the police. In both cases, there were open-ended follow-up questions.

As shown in Figure 8, about one-third of the 820 respondents who answered the question, “Have you called 9-1-1 this year to reach the police?” responded “Yes.” Most of those who responded “Yes” answered the follow-up question, “Were you satisfied with the response?” Overall, slightly less than half of respondents said “Yes”, they were satisfied, with another 31% indicating they were “somewhat satisfied.”

Figure 8: Satisfaction with 9-1-1 Response



Asked why they were or were not satisfied after calling 9-1-1 and requesting the police, over a third of respondents said they had a positive experience (police arrived quickly and/or helped). About a fourth of respondents said the police did not respond quickly enough or did not show up at all. About 22% of respondents were unhappy with police action taken when they arrived.

9-1-1 Satisfaction by Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Table 15, over half of all ethnic/racial demographic groups except Whites were satisfied with the 9-1-1 response, while less than one half of Whites were satisfied. The highest percentage of unsatisfied respondents were African-Americans.

Table 15: Satisfaction with 9-1-1 Response, by Race/Ethnicity

Were You Satisfied with the 9-1-1 Response?			
	Yes	Somewhat	No
African-American	51%	22%	24%
White	46%	37%	15%
Latino	63%	38%	0%

9-1-1 Satisfaction by Ward

Significant differences in 9-1-1 satisfaction were also identified when looking at responses by Ward. In Table 16, almost two in three respondents in Wards 1 and 3 were satisfied, while about a fourth of those in Wards 5, 7, and 8 were not satisfied.

Table 16: Satisfaction with 9-1-1 Response, by Ward

Were You Satisfied with the 9-1-1 Response?			
Ward	Yes	Somewhat	No
1	63%	23%	13%
2	38%	50%	13%
3	64%	32%	0%
4	42%	38%	16%
5	46%	28%	24%
6	45%	45%	9%
7	48%	24%	29%
8	47%	26%	24%

9-1-1 Satisfaction by Age

The starkest difference in satisfaction when calling 9-1-1 was between youth and seniors. In Table 17, only a third of people age 18 and under were satisfied, as compared with just over two-thirds of seniors.

Table 17: Satisfaction with 9-1-1 Response, by Age

Were You Satisfied with the 9-1-1 Response?			
	Yes	Somewhat	No
18 and Under	33%	33%	33%
19-25	50%	31%	19%
26-40	47%	32%	19%
41-65	48%	30%	18%
Over 65	67%	21%	13%

Calling the Police when Observing or Experiencing a Crime

As shown in Table 18, the percentage of respondents who indicated that they called the police when observing or experiencing a crime was low. When asked what their reasons were for not reporting a crime they had witnessed or experienced, survey respondents had several answers. More than one in five (22%) said that they did not have confidence that there would be a positive response. About 19% indicated that it was not a serious crime or they were not sure whether it was a crime; 17% of respondents indicated that they did not report the crime because they were not involved or it was not their business; and 12% said they believed that reporting the crime would jeopardize their own safety. A small number of respondents (5%) said that they or another community member was able to stop the crime in progress. Some respondents indicated that they did not contact police because law enforcement was already present (8%) or another person had already called the police (14%).

Table 18: Respondents Who Called the Police

In Past Year, Respondents Who Observed or Experienced Crime that Called the Police	
Gun Crime	6%
Violent Crime like an Assault that DID NOT Involve a Gun	7%
Property Crime like Shoplifting or Burglary	7%
People Selling/Dealing Drugs	5%
People Using Illegal Drugs (NOT Marijuana)	2%
Public Order Crime like Trespassing or Disorderly Conduct	8%

Calling the Police by Ward and Race/Ethnicity

There was variance in terms of what crimes respondents were more likely to call the police about in each Ward. As shown in Table 19, Ward 8 had the highest percentage of people indicating they called the police in response to a gun crime or other violent crime, while Ward 2 had the greatest percentage of respondents indicating they called the police for selling illegal drugs and public order crimes. Regarding race/ethnicity of respondents, there was not a significant difference in terms of how likely respondents of different races were to call police.

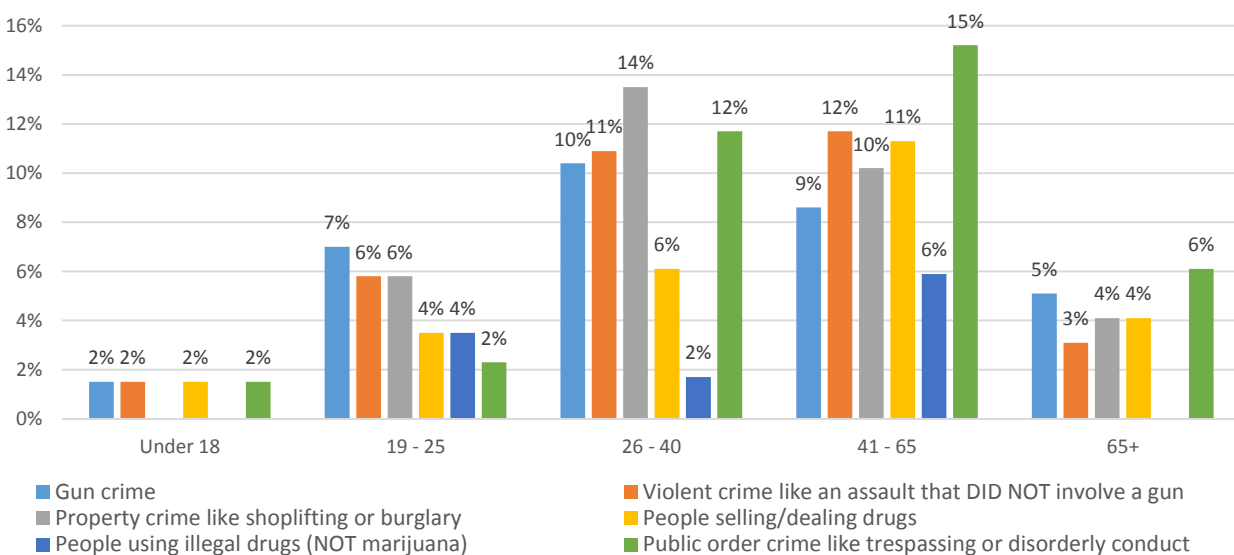
Table 19: Respondents Who Called the Police, by Ward

In Past Year, Respondents Who Observed or Experienced Crime that Called the Police								
Ward	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gun Crime	3%	7%	1%	11%	8%	11%	7%	12%
Violent Crime like an Assault that DID NOT Involve a Gun	11%	11%	4%	7%	5%	9%	8%	14%
Property Crime like Shoplifting or Burglary	10%	11%	6%	11%	9%	4%	5%	11%
People Selling/Dealing Drugs	5%	19%	1%	8%	8%	4%	8%	8%
People Using Illegal Drugs (NOT Marijuana)	4%	7%	0%	3%	4%	2%	1%	4%
Public Order Crime like Trespassing or Disorderly Conduct	5%	19%	7%	14%	12%	6%	7%	10%

Calling the Police by Age

Of respondents who have observed or experienced a crime, Figure 9 shows respondents under age 26 and over age 65 were generally less likely to call the police.

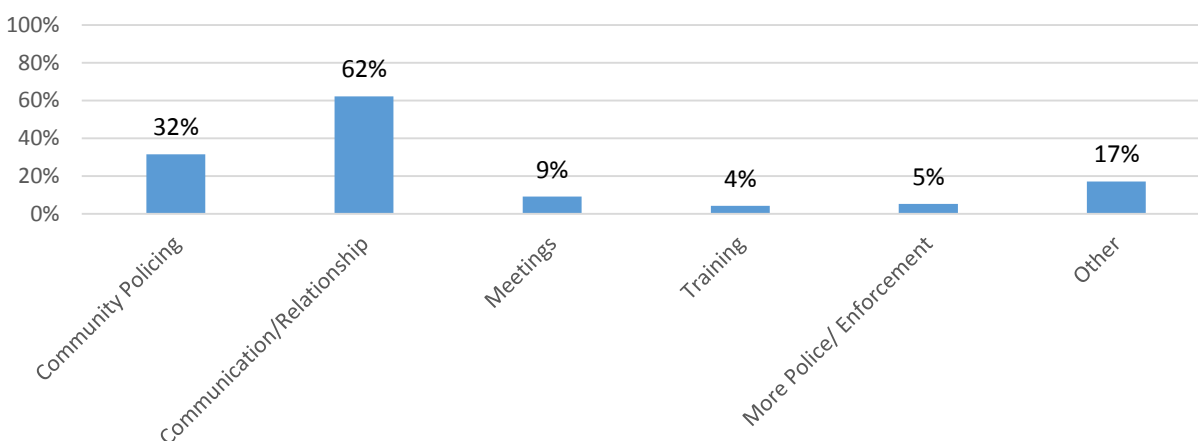
Figure 9: Respondents Who Observed Crime and Called the Police, by Age



Suggestions for Improving Community-Police Relations

Respondents were asked for ways to improve community-police relations and over a third of respondents (340) provided suggestions. Open-ended responses were clustered by common themes (see Appendix A for more information on coding). As shown in Figure 10, the majority of responses (62%) fell into the Communication/Relationship category (“talk to us and get to know us”). The second most popular category was Community Policing (32%), with many responses including a desire for police to walk around the neighborhoods. These rankings held for all Wards, as well as all racial and ethnic groups. However, there were variations across different demographic groups in terms of their likelihood to suggest community policing. (See Appendix A for definitions.)

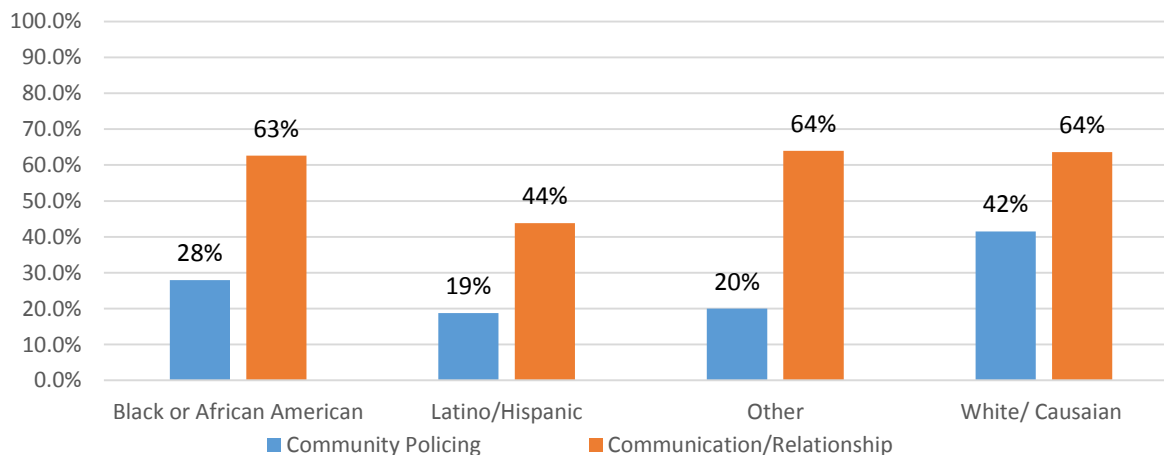
Figure 10: Recommendations on Improving Community-Police Relations



Improving Community-Police Relations by Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Figure 11, Communication/Relationship was suggested as a method of improving community-police relations by nearly two thirds of all racial/ethnic groups, except for Latinos, who made this suggestion 44% of the time.

Figure 11: Recommendations on Improving Community-Police Relations, by Race/Ethnicity



Improving Community-Police Relations by Age

The difference in recommendations of community policing as a way to improve community-police relations is most striking when looking at age combined with gender. As shown in Figures 12 and 13, young adult men 19-25 years of age were least likely to recommend community policing of any demographic group. (Some respondents may have given multiple recommendations. See Appendix A for definitions.)

Figure 12: Recommendations on Improving Community-Police Relations, by Age

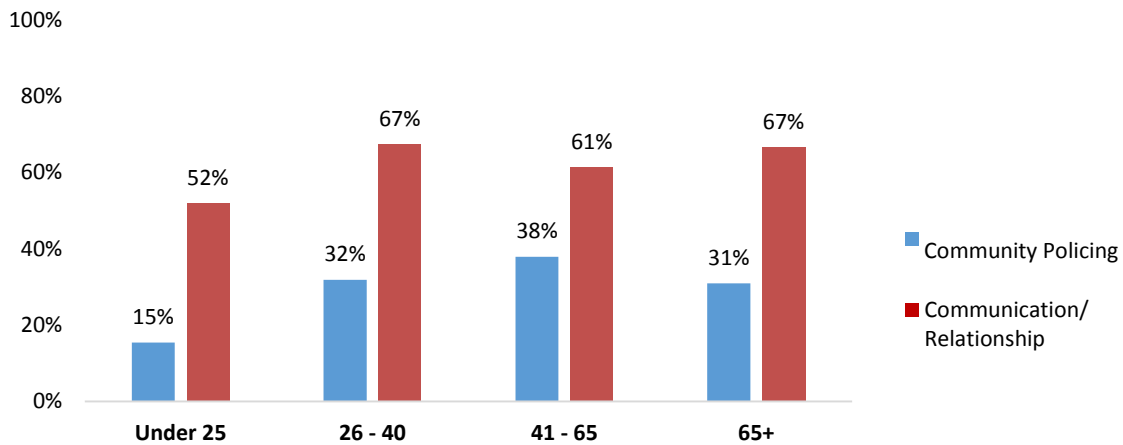
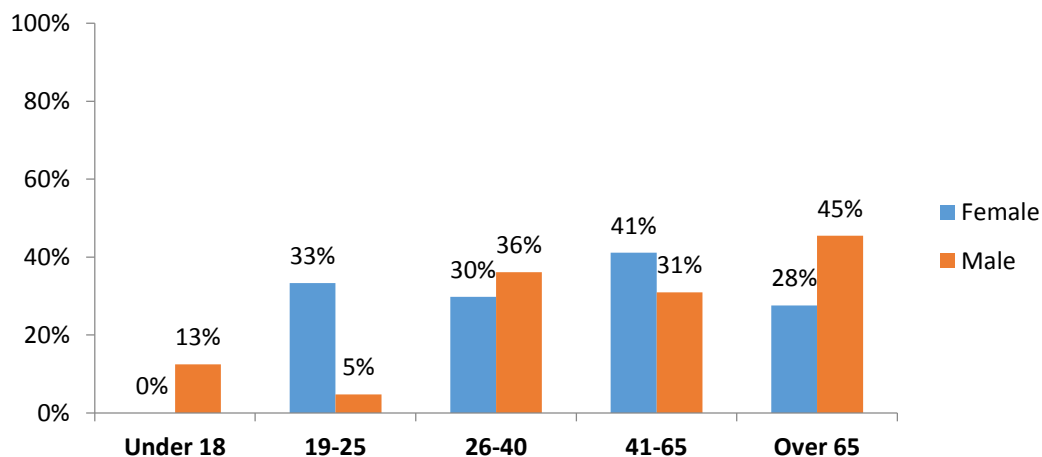


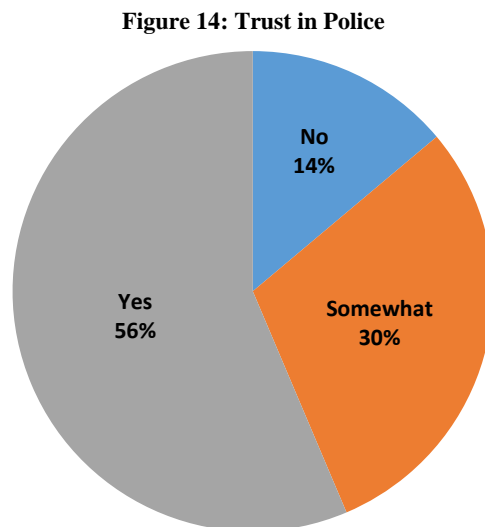
Figure 13: Recommendation on Community Policing by Age, Gender



Trust in Police

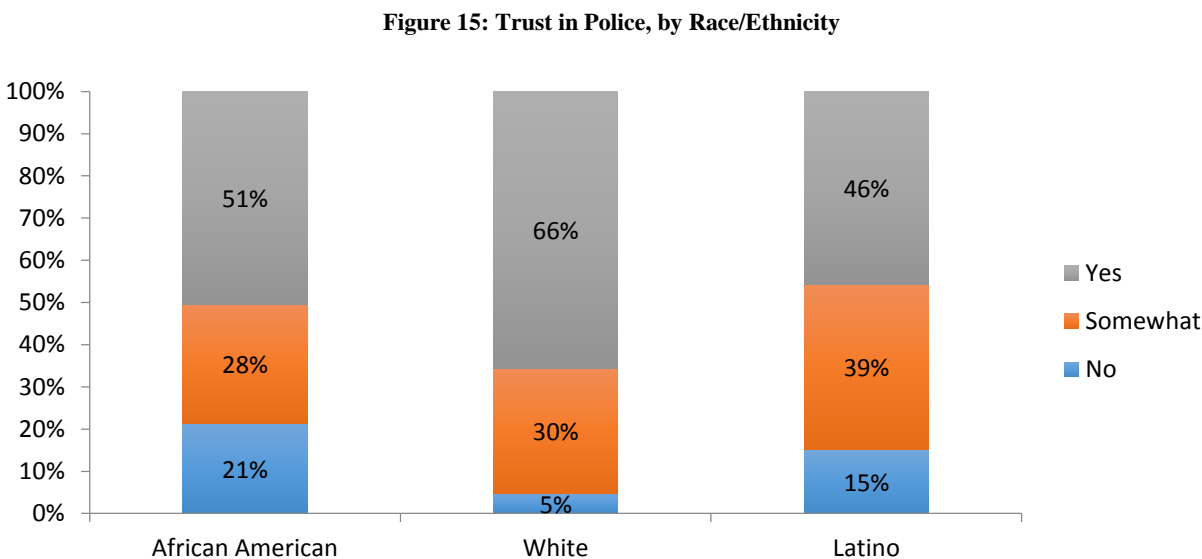
Respondents were asked: “Do you trust the police in your neighborhood?” In Figure 14, of the 807 individuals who answered this question, approximately 56% said they trust the police. Another 30% indicated they trust the police “somewhat.”

An open-ended comment box allowed respondents to expand or explain their answers, and 129 people provided comments. About a third of all comments mentioned improved communications and relationships: that police should talk to and get to know the people in the neighborhood (and vice versa). Another 12% mentioned positive interactions with the police. Many commented on policing tactics: about 9% mentioned police should use more foot and bike patrols, while about 13% mentioned disapproval for current tactics, including aggressive police officers, overly ‘militarized’ police, jump-out squads, not getting out of cars, and profiling. Several related personal negative experiences.



Trust in Police by Race/Ethnicity

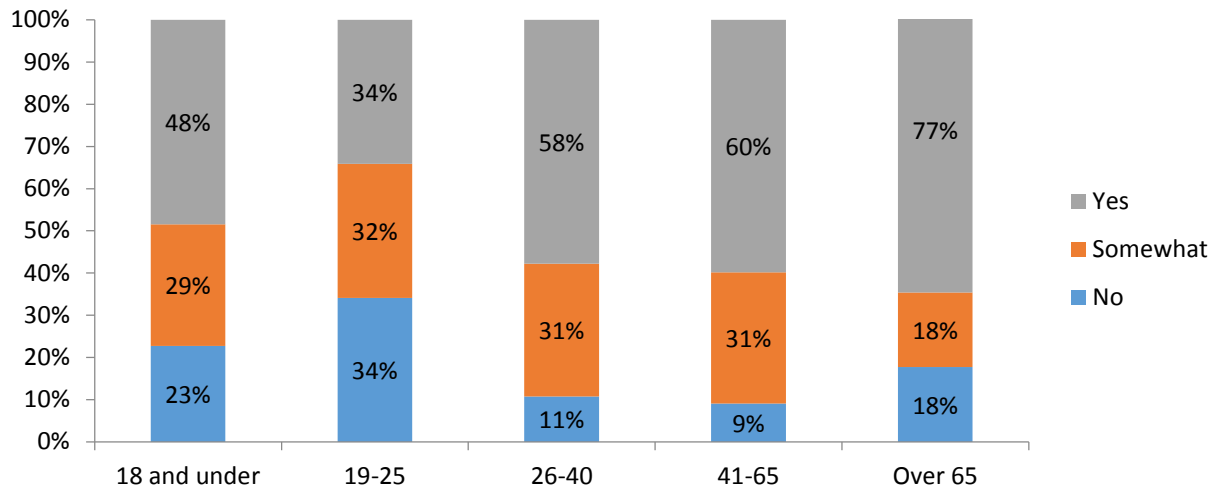
As shown in Figure 15, African American and Latino respondents are at least 3 times as likely to distrust the police as compared to White respondents. Fifteen percent of Latino and 21% of African American respondents distrust the police, compared to 5% of White respondents. White respondents’ trust in the police is also 14 to 20 percentage points higher than other racial and ethnic groups.



Trust in Police by Age

As shown in Figure 16, respondents between the ages of 19 and 25 reported the least trust in the police with one in three answering “No.” This relationship changes across the older groups. Among the eldest category of respondents (over 65), 77 % reported that they did trust the police.

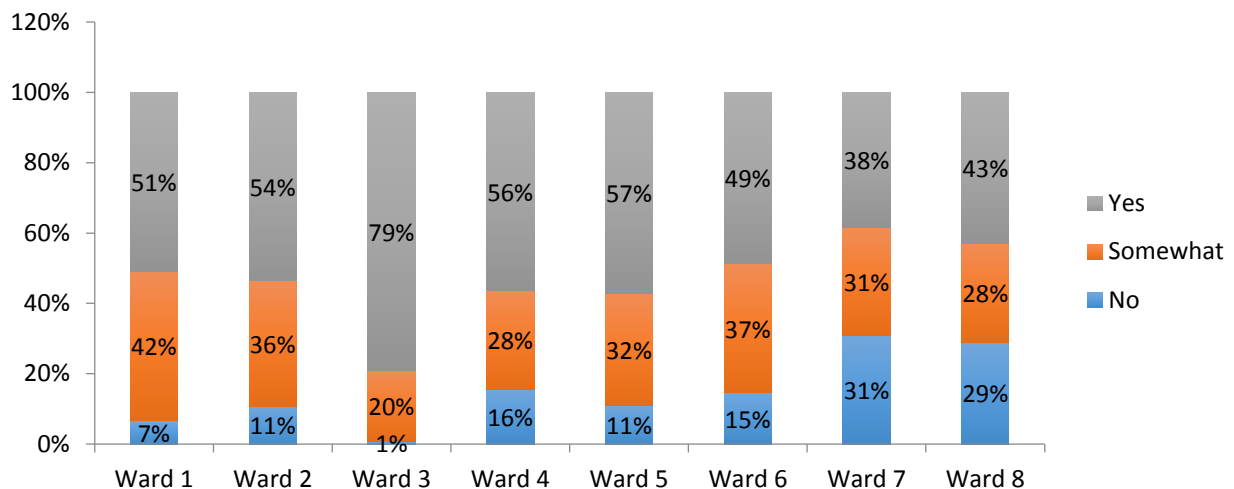
Figure 16: Trust in Police, by Age



Trust in Police by Ward

As shown in Figure 17, when asked, “Do you trust the police in your neighborhood?” Ward 3 not only had the highest proportion of respondents who trust the police (79%), but also had barely any respondents report distrusting the police (less than 1%). Five of DC’s eight Wards had over half of respondents indicate they trust the police. Wards 7 and 8 had the highest proportions of people who reported distrusting the police, at around twice the proportion of other Wards.

Figure 17: Trust in Police, by Ward



Trust in Police by Gender

About 56% of both male and female respondents reported that they do trust the police. Of those who do not report trusting the police, slightly more males distrust the police (12% female vs. 16% male) while slightly more females “somewhat” trust the police.

Personal Interactions with Police

Respondents were asked about their personal interactions with the police. As shown in Table 20, about 85% of those surveyed provided one or more responses. The percentages indicate the number of respondents for each question answering “Yes” or “No.” While there is no category of positive interaction that garnered a majority of “Yes” responses, overall 65% of respondents indicated the police had interacted positively with them or their neighborhood. Less than one in four answered that they had had a negative interaction.

Table 20: Interactions with the Police

Past Year Personal Interactions With Police		
In the Past Year, Have Police:	Yes	No
Provided Help to You Regarding a Crime	28%	72%
Told You to Leave an Area such as a Park or Street Corner	16%	84%
Addressed Problems in Your Neighborhood that Concerned You	41%	59%
Stopped and Frisked or Searched You	8%	92%
Provided Positive Activities and Opportunities for Your Neighborhood	36%	64%
Threatened You with Arrest	10%	90%
Gave You Information that Helped Improve your Safety	38%	62%
Physically Harmed You	4%	96%
Verbally Harassed You	9%	91%
% of Respondents that Answered Yes to One or More of the POSITIVE Interactions:		65%
% of Respondents that Answered Yes to One or More of the NEGATIVE Interactions:		23%

Personal Interactions with Police by Race/Ethnicity

Table 21 shows rates of positive interactions were fairly consistent across racial and ethnic groups. However, African American and Latino respondents reported higher rates of negative police interactions.

Table 21: Interactions with the Police, by Race/Ethnicity

Percentage that Responded Yes for Each Activity by Race/Ethnicity:			
In the Past Year, Have Police:	African-American	White	Latino
Provided Help to You Regarding a Crime	29%	25%	29%
Told You to Leave an Area such as a Park or Street Corner	24%	7%	23%
Addressed Problems in Your Neighborhood that Concerned You	34%	49%	32%
Stopped and Frisked or Searched You	12%	0%	14%
Provided Positive Activities and Opportunities for Your Neighborhood	40%	33%	24%
Threatened You with Arrest	16%	3%	11%
Gave You Information that Helped Improve your Safety	39%	36%	35%
Physically Harmed You	6%	0%	7%
Verbally Harassed You	13%	3%	14%

Personal Interactions with Police by Ward

As shown in Table 22, the greatest disparities in terms of personal interactions with the police by Ward were in negative police interactions, with respondents in Wards 7 and 8 answering “Yes” more frequently.

Table 22: Interactions with the Police, by Ward

Percentage that Responded Yes to Each Activity by Ward								
Ward	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Provided Help to You Regarding a Crime	30%	29%	15%	33%	33%	26%	30%	28%
Told You to Leave an Area such as a Park or Street Corner	18%	0%	2%	13%	11%	19%	32%	34%
Addressed Problems in Your Neighborhood that Concerned You	39%	42%	46%	44%	49%	42%	32%	29%
Stopped and Frisked or Searched You	4%	4%	0%	4%	6%	9%	24%	17%
Provided Positive Activities and Opportunities for Your Neighborhood	35%	33%	45%	33%	32%	29%	43%	34%
Threatened You with Arrest	7%	4%	2%	13%	8%	12%	26%	13%
Gave You Information that Helped Improve your Safety	37%	39%	45%	38%	36%	40%	35%	33%
Physically Harmed You	2%	4%	0%	3%	4%	2%	15%	6%
Verbally Harassed You	6%	11%	2%	9%	7%	14%	27%	8%

Personal Interactions with Police by Age

Table 23 shows that a majority of respondents over 65 reported that the police had provided positive activities and opportunities for their neighborhood, addressed problems in their neighborhood that concerned them, or gave information that helped improve their safety. Younger respondents reported the highest rates of negative police interactions. However, over one in three respondents 18 and under also reported that police provided positive activities and helpful information.

Table 23: Interactions with the Police, by Age

Percentage that Responded Yes to Each Activity by Age					
	18 and Under	19-25	26-40	41-65	Over 65
Provided Help to You Regarding a Crime	19%	16%	32%	29%	16%
Told You to Leave an Area such as a Park or Street Corner	47%	29%	16%	8%	4%
Addressed Problems in Your Neighborhood that Concerned You	23%	19%	42%	48%	59%
Stopped and Frisked or Searched You	18%	22%	5%	5%	0%
Provided Positive Activities and Opportunities for Your Neighborhood	35%	18%	32%	43%	55%
Threatened You with Arrest	20%	26%	7%	6%	3%
Gave You Information that Helped Improve your Safety	38%	17%	35%	42%	53%
Physically Harmed You	6%	11%	3%	3%	0%
Verbally Harassed You	17%	21%	8%	6%	2%

Trust in Police by Police Interaction

In Table 24, of respondents who said they trust the police, the largest portions had positive interactions with the police, specifically noting that the police addressed problems in their neighborhood of concern (48%), provided positive activities and opportunities for their neighborhood (44%), and gave them information that helped improve their safety (45%). Of respondents who do not trust the police, the largest portions had negative interactions with the police, specifically that the police told them to leave an area such a park or street corner (38%), threatened them with arrest (35%), and verbally harassed them (32%). While this trend may be intuitive, it helps address concerns that levels of trust in police may be related to national news or hearsay than personal experience.

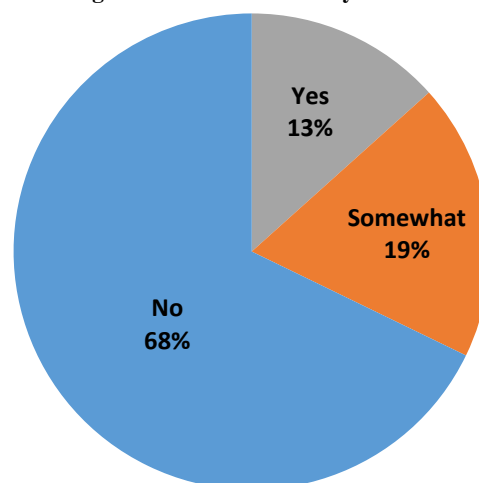
Table 24: Trust and Police Interaction

How Police Interaction Affects Trust in Police						
Police Interaction	Trust Police		Somewhat Trust Police		Do Not Trust Police	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Provided Help to You Regarding a Crime	30%	66%	23%	74%	15%	82%
Told You to Leave an Area such as a Park or Street Corner	11%	85%	15%	83%	38%	61%
Addressed Problems in Your Neighborhood that Concerned You	48%	47%	33%	65%	14%	84%
Stopped and Frisked or Searched You	4%	92%	6%	91%	27%	74%
Provided Positive Activities and Opportunities for Your Neighborhood	44%	48%	21%	70%	12%	85%
Threatened You with Arrest	4%	48%	9%	87%	35%	64%
Gave You Information that Helped Improve your Safety	45%	51%	27%	69%	13%	84%
Physically Harmed You	1%	95%	3%	93%	14%	85%
Verbally Harassed You	2%	93%	9%	86%	32%	66%

Do Respondents Fear the Police Will Harm Themselves or Loved Ones?

There were 803 respondents to the question, “Do you fear the police will harm you or a loved one?” As shown in Figure 18, over two-thirds of all respondents indicated they did not fear the police.

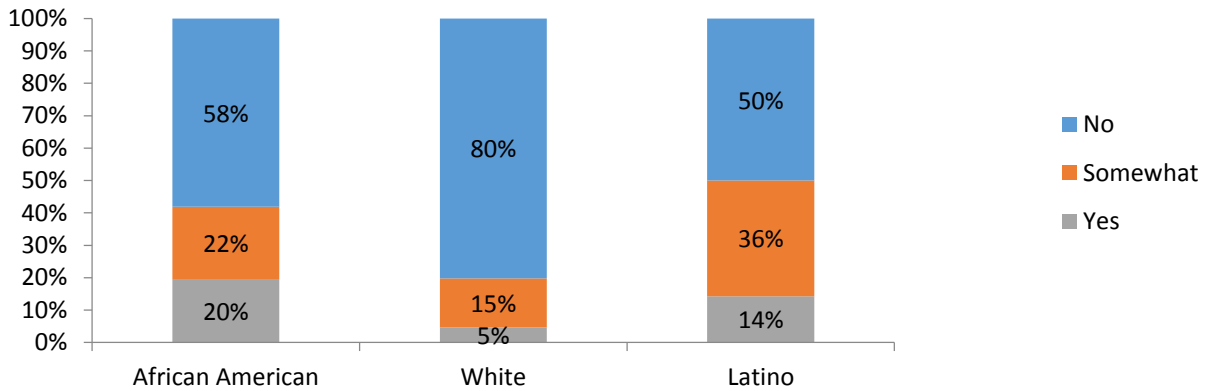
Figure 18: Fear of Harm by Police



Fear of Police by Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Figure 19, while no racial or ethnic demographic contained a majority of respondents who feared harm from the police, African-American respondents were five times as likely to report that they feared the police will harm them or a loved one as White respondents (20% of African-American respondents as compared to 5% for White respondents). Latino respondents were around three times more likely to report that they did fear the police will harm them or a loved one than White respondents.

Figure 19: Fear of Harm by Police, by Race/Ethnicity



Fear of Police by Ward

In Wards 2 and 3, almost no one expressed fear that the police would harm them or a loved one. Table 25 shows the highest rates of fear were found in Wards 7 and 8, where a respective 25% and 22% of respondents said they feared the police would harm them or a loved one.

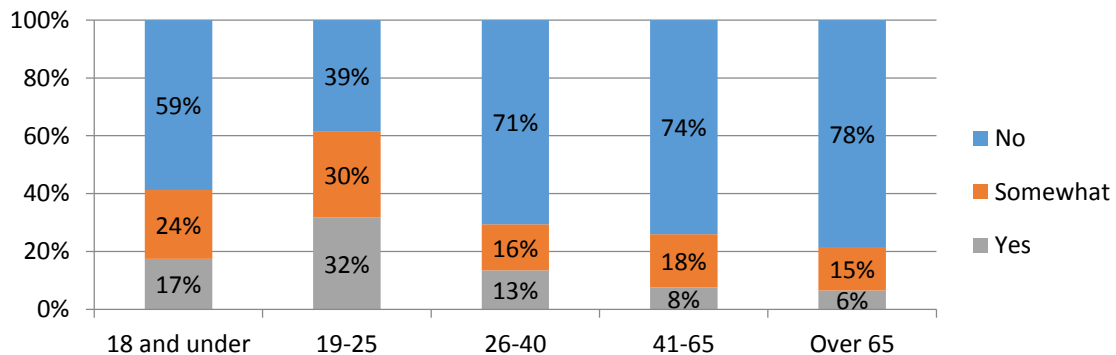
Table 25: Fear of Harm by Police, by Ward

Do You Fear the Police will Harm You or a Loved One?			
Ward	Yes	Somewhat	No
1	16%	20%	64%
2	4%	18%	79%
3	1%	13%	86%
4	13%	23%	65%
5	13%	17%	69%
6	10%	19%	71%
7	25%	19%	56%
8	22%	28%	50%

Fear of Police by Age

As shown in Figure 20, there is a significant relationship between age and fear of harm by police, with respondents 25 and younger having significantly greater levels of fear of harm done to them or a loved one than their older counterparts.

Figure 20: Fear of Harm by Police, by Age



Drawing Negative Police Attention

As shown in Table 26, of the 668 survey respondents who responded to the question, “In your everyday life is there anything you fear would draw negative police attention to you?” the largest percentage of respondents said that there was nothing they feared would draw negative attention from the police (62%). The next largest percentage of respondents said that they feared that their skin color would draw negative attention from the police (32%).

Table 26: Drawing Negative Police Attention

Respondents Fear The Following Would Draw Negative Police Attention to Them	
How I Dress	12%
Hair Style	9%
Skin Color	32%
Gathering at Particular Corner/Park/Other Place	16%
Nothing	62%

In terms of different populations, the largest percentage of respondents who said there was nothing they feared would draw negative attention from the police were in Wards 2 and 3 (64% and 70%). The largest percentage of respondents who said that they feared their skin color would draw negative attention from the police were in Wards 7 and 8 (44% and 44%).

White respondents were most likely to say there was nothing they feared that would draw negative attention from the police (73%). Forty-five percent of African-American respondents said that they feared their skin color would draw negative attention from the police. The age group with the largest percentage of respondents who said there was nothing they feared would draw negative attention from the police were those aged 65 or older (71%). The largest percentage of respondents by age group who said that they feared their skin color would draw negative attention from the police were respondents 18 and under (61%).

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

The survey asked respondents whether police were focusing on the right problems in their neighborhood, and respondents were also given the opportunity to provide open-ended responses regarding how to improve neighborhood safety.

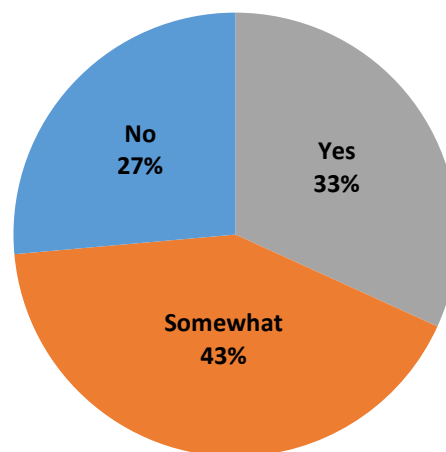
Do Police Focus on Right Problems?

People being surveyed were asked, “Do police focus on the right problems in your neighborhood – ones that really concern you?” Figure 21 shows that the most frequent answer to this was, “Somewhat.” About a third answered “Yes,” and 27% responded “No.”

In answering the open-ended follow-up question “What problems in your neighborhood should police be focusing on?” there were 420 responses, which varied widely. The problems most often mentioned included the following:

- Property crime (car and house break-ins, burglaries, robberies, thefts): 104
- Selling/using of drugs: 97
- Violence, gang activity, and shootings: 82
- Loitering/trespassing/homeless: 63
- Police presence/on-foot patrolling/communication: 63
- Traffic violations/pedestrian safety: 48
- “Quality of life” offenses (curfew, littering, excessive noise): 28
- Assault, including sexual assault: 15

Figure 21: Police Focusing on Right Problems



Police Focusing on Right Problems by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 22 shows that African American and Latino respondents were more likely to report that police were not focusing on the problems in their neighborhood that most concerned them.

Police Focusing on Right Problems by Ward

As shown in Figure 23, Ward 7 and 8 respondents were more likely to say that police were not focusing on the problems in their neighborhood that most concerned them, while those in Wards 1 and 3 were more likely to say that the police were focusing on the problems in their neighborhood that most concerned them.

Figure 22: Police Focusing on Right Problems, by Race/Ethnicity

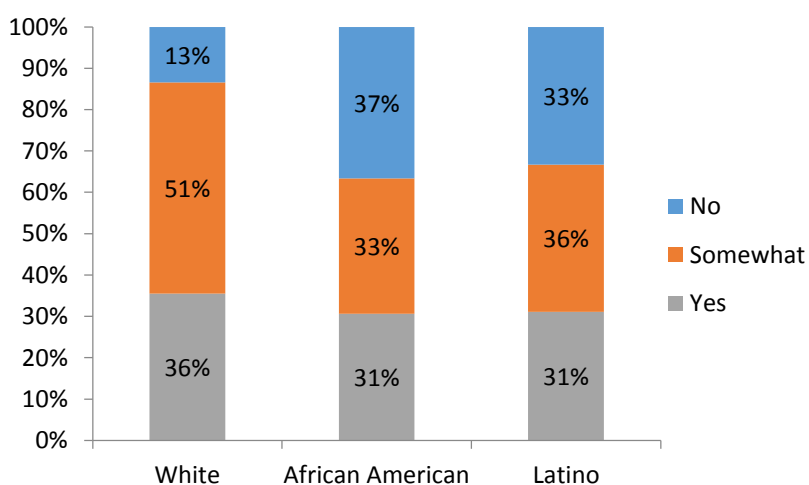
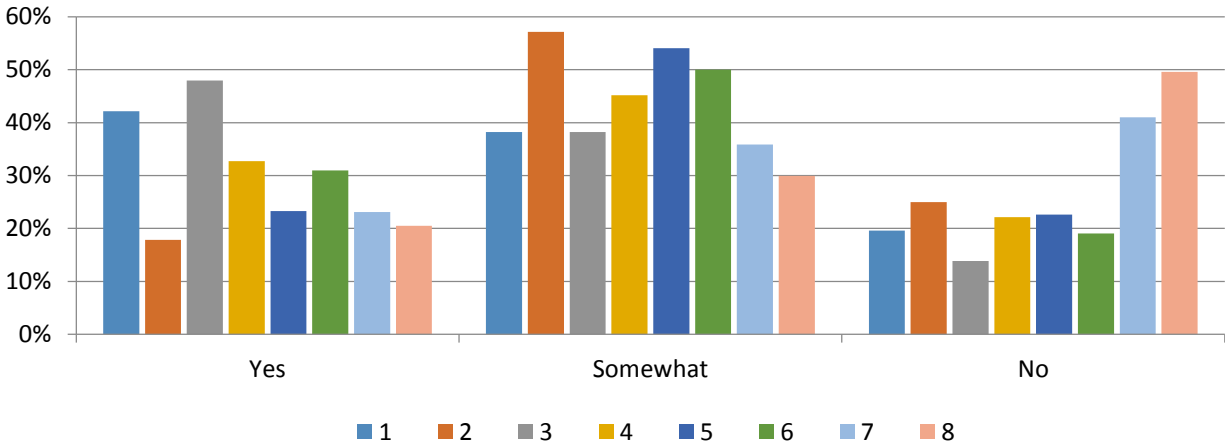


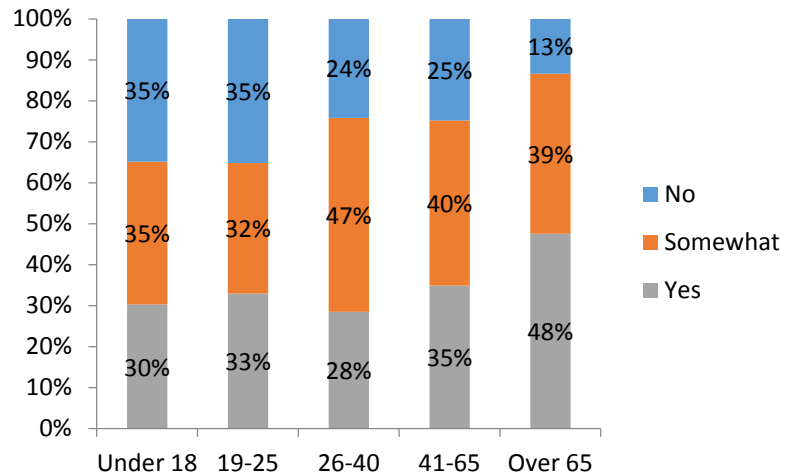
Figure 23: Police Focusing on Right Problems, by Ward



Police Focusing on Right Problems by Age

Figure 24 shows that while the number of respondents answering “Yes” to the question of whether police were focusing on the right problems had some variation (with seniors having the highest percentage), the larger variation came in terms of respondents who answered, “No,” with respondents age 25 and younger saying more often that police were not focusing on issues that really concerned them.

Figure 24: Police Focusing on Right Problems, by Age



While the open-ended responses were not coded by Ward or demographic information, this data might provide a greater sense of what issues are of most concern to various populations.

Suggestions on How to Improve Public Safety

The survey included the open-ended question, “What suggestions do you have on ways to reduce crime and improve safety in your neighborhood?” In Table 27 over half of respondents (478) answered this question. Detailed definitions of the categories are in Appendix B. The most frequent response was “More Police/Enforcement,” then “Community Policing” (e.g., walking a beat, improved community/police communication and relations) and positive social investments (e.g., economic development, education, social services, etc.) Less than half of all respondents identified “More Police/Enforcement” as their recommendation for how to improve public safety.

Table 27: Recommendations on Improving Safety

Public Safety Improvement Recommendations	
More Police/Enforcement	46%
Community Policing	19%
Positive Social Investments	13%
Community Engagement	13%
Environmental Improvements	10%
Local Development/ Business Responsibility	4%
Police Quality/Training	4%
Personal/Family	4%
Other	3%

Note: Respondents could have reported answers that were coded into more than one category. Percentages are out of the total number of respondents.

Public Safety Improvement Recommendations by Race/Ethnicity

While all racial and ethnic groups gave “More Police/Enforcement” as their most frequent response, less than half of African-American respondents provided this recommendation. Table 28 below shows the most frequent responses by race/ethnicity.

Table 28: Recommendations on Improving Safety, by Race/Ethnicity

Top Public Safety Improvement Recommendations by Race/Ethnicity			
	African-American	White	Latino
Community Engagement	15%	10%	5%
Positive Social Investments	11%	15%	14%
Environmental Improvements	6%	14%	5%
Community Policing	17%	21%	18%
More Police/Enforcement	39%	56%	50%

Public Safety Improvement Recommendations by Ward

Table 29 below shows the top three answers for improving public safety by Ward. The greatest variance is in the second most frequent answer given in each Ward.

Table 29: Recommendations on Improving Safety, by Ward

Top 3 Public Safety Improvement Recommendations by Geographic Location			
Ward	Answer 1	Answer 2	Answer 3
1	More Police/Enforcement	Community Policing	Community Engagement and Positive Social Investments (tied)
2	More Police/Enforcement	Local Development/ Business Responsibility	Environmental Improvements and Community Policing (tied)
3	More Police/Enforcement	Community Policing	Environmental Improvements
4	Community Policing	More Police/Enforcement	Community Engagement
5	More Police/Enforcement	Community Policing	Community Engagement
6	More Police/Enforcement	Police Quality/Training	Environmental Improvements
7	More Police/Enforcement	Positive Social Investments	Community Policing
8	More Police/Enforcement	Positive Social Investments	Community Policing

Public Safety Improvement Recommendations by Age

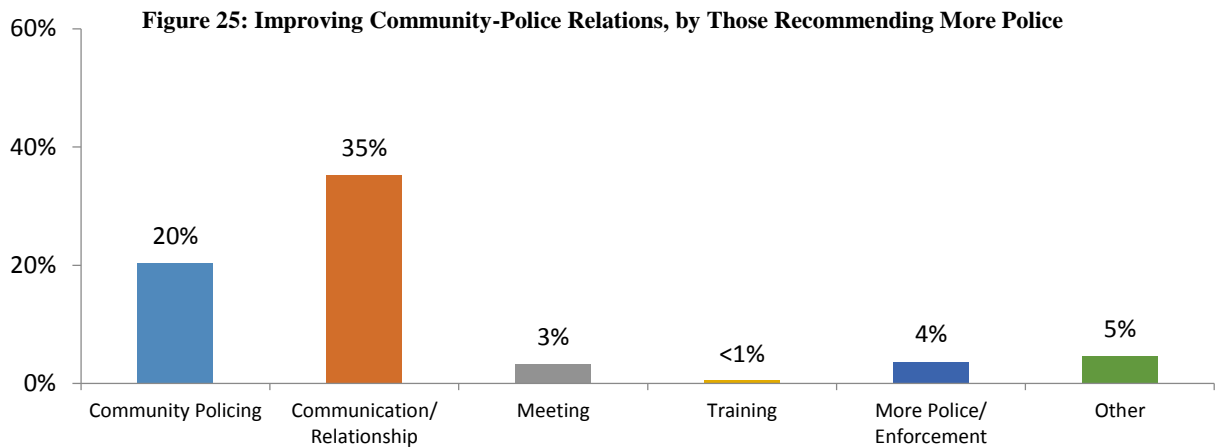
As shown in Table 30, respondents aged 25 and under had the smallest percentages of respondents who identified “More Police/Enforcement” as their recommended way to improve public safety.

Table 30: Recommendations on Improving Safety, by Age

Public Safety Improvement Recommendations by Age					
	18 and Under	19-25	26-40	41-65	65+
Community Engagement	14%	13%	14%	10%	19%
Positive Social Investments	7%	20%	16%	13%	4%
Environmental Improvements	3%	8%	11%	9%	15%
Community Policing	3%	3%	21%	22%	19%
More Police/Enforcement	41%	28%	53%	44%	48%

What Kind of “More Policing” do People Want?

Figure 25 below shows respondents who recommended “More Police/Enforcement” in their recommendations for improving community-police relations. The greatest number of respondents (35%) reported wanting improved “Communications/Relationship,” followed by “Community Policing” (20%). One in five of those who said they wanted more police specifically indicated that the type of policing they wanted was community policing.



Recommendations

Based on the survey findings, CPDC has developed several recommendations for improving public safety and community-police relations:

- 1. Create more opportunities for communication between neighborhood residents and law enforcement.** Residents want to be meaningfully involved in discussions with the police. Police should get to know the people they are protecting and serving, and this communication should include both police leadership and those assigned to patrol neighborhoods.
- 2. Reduce and address youth exposure to violence.** More trauma-informed services should be provided for young people exposed to violence. Research has shown that untreated trauma—including exposure to community violence—has a negative impact on youth, including an increased risk of engaging in violence. Also, schools, residents, and law enforcement should work together to ensure youth feel safe going to and being at school, focusing on those areas where youth feel least safe.
- 3. Engage in dialogues about policing tactics and strategies.** Law enforcement should meet with residents to discuss what type of policing they feel is appropriate and effective in their neighborhoods. Respondents across the board would like to see more community policing, with police walking beats, on bicycles, and being pro-active in preventing crime.
- 4. Environmental approaches to improving public safety should be more fully incorporated into public safety plans.** Respondents often mentioned non-policing methods to reduce crime, such as improving lighting in parks and on streets, utilizing cameras to deter crime, and addressing other neighborhood features that contribute to crime.
- 5. Address the public safety age gap.** Survey responses indicate that young people have the poorest relationship with law enforcement, yet are most likely to be impacted by violence. Law enforcement training and practices should be age-sensitive, and young people should be involved in community safety planning.
- 6. Reducing crime and violence will require a comprehensive approach.** People reported not feeling safe on public transportation, as well as in parks that may be controlled by Federal agencies. WMATA and other agencies, as well as businesses and other members of the community, must be part of safety conversations.
- 7. Empower neighborhoods with data.** Law enforcement should share clear, comprehensible, and detailed data with the community so residents can understand and work to reduce crime.

APPENDIX A: CODING OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES: IMPROVING COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONS

To analyze community-police relations, the survey looked at the following open-ended question: “What suggestions did residents have on ways to improve community-police relations in their neighborhood?” To analyze respondents’ suggestions, the open-ended responses were categorized into six major categories, outlined below:

- **Community Policing:** This category includes any response related to patrols, police presence, or walking the neighborhood (also known as “walking the beat”). All responses in this category shared a theme of community policing and increased police presence by patrolling communities on foot, on bicycle, or on Segways.
- **Communication/Relationship:** This category includes any response that mentions any form of communication (e.g., talking, engaging, etc.) or relationship-building (e.g., getting to know, getting involved, building trust, networking, etc.) with the community. These two themes, while different, are correlated in that many respondents expressed them together in phrases such as “come talk and get to know us.”
- **Meetings:** This category includes any response that specifically says “meeting.” While these responses were often tied to suggestions for more community engagement by police and more relationship-building activities, the frequency with which respondents specifically mentioned more community meetings with police was worth noting separately.
- **Trainings:** This category includes any response that specifically says “training”, or includes words such as class, learn, or teach. Respondents often suggested that law enforcement officers should undergo training on better community engagement, conflict resolution, and non-violent de-escalation.
- **More Police/Enforcement:** This category includes any response that mentions greater enforcement of any laws or the employment of greater numbers of law enforcement officers. This category differs from Community Policing in that these responses call for a greater number of police officers, without specifying how the police should patrol communities or if there should be more police presence within the respondent’s community.
- **Other:** This category includes any suggestion not listed above, and that less than five respondents proposed. These suggestions included the use of body cameras, increased security cameras, less police brutality, and greater transparency.

APPENDIX B: CODING OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES: “WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE ON WAYS TO REDUCE CRIME AND IMPROVE SAFETY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?”

To examine these suggestions on improving safety and reducing crime, the survey categorized the open-ended responses into nine major categories, outlined below:

- **Community Engagement:** This category includes any response that mentioned any form of community building, neighborhood engagement, neighborhood watch, community leadership, and advocacy that generally suggested that the responsibility lies within the community to strengthen relationships and neighborhood organizations to improve safety.
- **Positive Social Investments:** This category includes any response that mentioned the need to enhance or improve access to social services, youth programs and activities, education, economic opportunities, employment, and other government programs as means to improve neighborhood safety.
- **Personal/Family:** This category includes any response that mentioned the need to improve or strengthen parenting, improve family structures, or promote more personal responsibility for safety and crime outcomes.
- **Environmental Improvements:** This category includes any response that specifically mentioned the need for improved safety equipment in the neighborhood, including better lighting, street or building cameras, and call boxes.
- **Local Development/Business Responsibility:** This category includes any response that suggested business engagement, local development to reduce vacant lots or promote economic growth, or actions taken by businesses or property managers to improve conditions in residential or commercial areas.
- **Community Policing:** This category includes any response that suggested community police tactics and strategies, such as improving outreach, communications, and relationships between law enforcement and residents, as well as mentioning a desire for patrols to be done on foot or bicycle.
- **More Police/Enforcement:** This category includes any response which mentioned greater enforcement of any laws (i.e., drug, traffic, or loitering laws) or greater number of police officers. This differs from Community Policing, in that these responses call solely for greater amount of patrols or law enforcement officers without specifying how the police should patrol communities.
- **Police Quality/Training:** This category includes any response that mentioned a need to improve training for police or the quality of interaction with—or service provided by—police.
- **Other:** This category includes any suggestion not listed above and that less than five respondents proposed.

APPENDIX C: SURVEY INSTRUMENT

This survey is a collaborative effort between the Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC) and the Council for Court Excellence (CCE). CPDC is a nonprofit real estate and community development company focusing on both the long-term sustainability of properties and the quality of life of residents. CCE is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve justice for the DC community. We are asking questions of residents all across the District regarding their perceptions of safety, their opinions about how to improve public safety in their neighborhood, and about the relations between their community and the police.

Please feel free to skip any questions you don't wish to answer. Your answers are confidential, and cannot be traced back to you. A report of our findings will be produced this fall and will be made available on both the CPDC and CCE websites: www.cpdcc.org and www.courtexcellence.org.

1. In what ZIP code is your home located? (enter 5-digit ZIP code; for example, 00544 or 94305)

2. What neighborhood do you live in? If unsure, what intersection is closest to your home (for example, "16th & Pennsylvania NW")?

3. About how long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Years

Months

4. How safe do you feel in these places during the day and at night?

	Not safe	Somewhat safe	Safe
Inside your home DURING THE DAY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inside your home AT NIGHT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outside on the streets in your neighborhood DURING THE DAY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outside on the streets in your neighborhood AT NIGHT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On public transportation DURING THE DAY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On public transportation AT NIGHT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In public places in your neighborhood like stores and restaurants DURING THE DAY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In public places in your neighborhood like stores and restaurants AT NIGHT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In parks and playgrounds in your neighborhood DURING THE DAY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In parks and playgrounds in your neighborhood AT NIGHT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
While in a car DURING THE DAY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
While in a car AT NIGHT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are there places not listed here where you don't feel safe? Other Comments?

5. IF you are a student in middle school or high school (otherwise skip this question), how safe do you feel:

	Not safe	Somewhat safe	Safe
Walking to/from school or the bus stop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If you take a bus, while riding to/from school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
While in school during the school day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At school-related events such as football games or dances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

6. How often in the past year have you observed or experienced:

	Never	Once or twice	3 or more times	If so, did you call the police? Check if YES.
A gun crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A violent crime like an assault that DID NOT involve a gun	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Property crime like shoplifting or burglary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People selling/dealing drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People using illegal drugs (NOT marijuana)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A public order crime, like trespassing or disorderly conduct	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you saw or experienced a crime but did not call the police, why not? Did you do something else instead?

7. IF you are a student in middle school or high school (otherwise skip question), have you been bullied this year:

	Once a week or more	Once a month or more	At least once during the past school year	Not at all during the past school year
At school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In the neighborhood outside of school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On social media like Instagram, Facebook or Snapchat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have experienced bullying, how would you describe the person or people who bullied you? For example, classmate, someone in the neighborhood, a relative, etc.

8. What suggestions do you have on ways to reduce crime and improve safety in your neighborhood?

Police and Community Relations

9. Do police focus on the right problems in your neighborhood - ones that really concern you?

Yes	No	Somewhat
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What problems in your neighborhood should they be focusing on?

10. How do you get information from the police? Check all that apply:

Directly from police officers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Service Area (PSA) meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Department social media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhood listserv	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other community meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are there other ways you get or share information with the police not listed here?

11. Have you called 9-1-1 this year to reach the police?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12. If you called 9-1-1 during the past year to reach the police, were you satisfied with the response?

Yes	No	Somewhat satisfied	N/A
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why or why not?

13. Do you trust the police in your neighborhood?

Yes	No	Somewhat
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

14. How many police in your neighborhood do you know by name?

15. Please check all that apply. In the past year, have police:

	Yes	No
Provided help to you regarding a crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Told you leave an area such as a park or street corner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addressed problems in your neighborhood that concerned you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stopped and frisked or searched you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provided positive activities and opportunities for your neighborhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Threatened you with arrest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gave you information that helped improve your safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physically harmed you (Tasered, bruised, slammed into a car or on the ground)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Verbally harassed you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments on your interaction with the police:

16. Do you fear the police will harm you or a loved one?

Yes	No	Somewhat
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If so, is there anyone in particular you are afraid for?

17. In your everyday life is there anything you fear would draw negative police attention to you?

- ☐ How I dress
- ☐ Hair style
- ☐ Skin color
- ☐ Gathering at a particular corner/park/other place

Other (please specify)

18. How would you rate police oversight in DC?

Very good	Good	Bad	Very bad
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

19. What suggestions do you have on ways to improve community-police relations in your neighborhood?

20. Do you consider yourself Latino/Hispanic?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

21. Which race best describes you?

- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ White / Caucasian
- ☐ Asian / Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Mixed Race

22. How old are you?

23. Gender Identity:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Other

Thank you!

A report of our findings will be produced this fall and will be made available on both the CPDC and CCE websites: www.cpd.org and www.courtexcellence.org.

24. Thank you for completing the survey! If you filled out this survey online, please provide your email so we can contact you if you win the \$50 gift certificate:

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