

# Community Perceptions of Newark

Neighborhood Quality of Life, Safety, and the Justice  
System

BY JOSEPHINE WONSUN HAHN

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For correspondence, please contact Josy Hahn: Center for Court Innovation, 520 8th Avenue, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10018 (hahnj@courtinnovation.org).

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	i
Executive Summary .....	iv
1. Introduction.....	1
Background on Newark.....	1
2. Methods.....	2
Analysis.....	5
3. Results.....	6
About Survey Respondents .....	6
Views on the Criminal Justice System.....	8
Community Issues .....	15
Quality of Life, Safety, and Disputes in Newark Neighborhoods .....	19
Strengths and Recommendations for Newark Neighborhoods .....	21
4. Discussion.....	25
Surveyor Feedback .....	25
Limitations .....	25
Strengths.....	26
References.....	27
Appendix A: Newark Community Survey Instrument .....	28
Appendix B: Newark Zip Code Maps .....	34
Appendix C: Problems Among Newark Youth by Age Group .....	36

## Executive Summary

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In June 2013, researchers from the Center for Court Innovation implemented a community survey throughout the greater Newark area, in partnership with the Center for Collaborative Change, a Newark-based nonprofit. The survey was part of a larger initiative launched by the Center for Court Innovation. Located in New York, the Center for Court Innovation operates Newark Community Solutions, a community justice initiative in the Newark Municipal Court. Newark Community Solutions seeks to promote the use of alternative sentencing, such as community service and social services, to reduce the court's reliance on fines and short-term jail sentences, and to build public confidence in justice. The goal of the community survey was to learn perceptions of the justice system, public safety, and community life in Newark.

Seventeen Newark community members were trained alongside Center for Court Innovation researchers and staff to implement the survey, including planning survey locations and helping researchers interpret responses. Surveys were conducted in public areas, local businesses, colleges, and public housing complexes. The survey results highlight views of 577 Newark community respondents on a range of key issues. The majority of respondents were Newark residents (77 percent) and were black or Latino (84 percent). Approximately half of respondents were female, and the average age of respondents was 37 years old.

- **Top Problems:** The top issues in Newark ranged from unemployment to public safety to housing to health-related issues. Specific issues commonly cited as a “big problem” were unemployment, drug selling, guns, gang activity, homelessness, drug use, physical health issues like obesity and asthma, abandoned homes and foreclosures, muggings, thefts and robberies, and mental health issues like depression and trauma.
- **Youth Issues:** The top issues among youth (17 years and younger) were similar to those identified above. Respondents also identified youth-specific issues as big problems, including the lack of adult role models, teenage pregnancy, bullying, and “nothing to do after school.”
- **Courts:** About half of respondents were “neutral” with regard to the effectiveness of the courts, including the Newark Municipal Court (48 percent), the Superior Court of Essex County – Criminal Division (52 percent), and the Superior Court of Essex County – Family Division (56 percent).
- **Alternative sentencing:** Though 70 percent of respondents had not heard of Newark Community Solutions prior to the survey, 75 percent of all respondents viewed alternative sentencing for low-level offenses as positive, in principle. Alternative sentencing was perceived far more positively than fines (37 percent) or jail (19 percent).
- **Police:** Over 47 percent of respondents reported that police would treat them individually with respect, but only 25 percent agreed or strongly agreed that the police treat “everyone” fairly. More black respondents and fewer Latino respondents reported being

treated unfairly by the police, compared to all other groups. Thirty percent of respondents reported having been stopped by the police in the past year, of which nearly two-thirds (65 percent) reported negative feelings about the stop.

- Quality of Life: Thirty percent of respondents rated the quality of life in Newark as positive, compared to about 29 percent who rated the quality of life as negative. More respondents 30 years and under, as well as more white and Latino respondents, were likely to rate the local quality of life as positive.
- Safety: Over three-quarters of Newark residents reported feeling safe in their homes, but less than half reported feeling safe in public spaces, including on the street and in local parks. More white respondents and fewer black respondents reported feeling safe in public spaces, compared to all other groups.
- School-related Issues: Though over 60 percent of respondents reported that “nothing to do after school” and truancy were big problems among youth in Newark, different responses were seen among community members living with school-aged children. The majority reported that school-related issues like safe travel, absences from school, few after-school activities, and getting homework help were a “minor problem” or “not a problem” for their families.
- Key strengths: Nearly a third (31 percent) of respondents cited “the people of Newark” as the greatest strength of the city. Over a quarter (26 percent) of respondents cited a wide range of different resources as the greatest strengths of Newark including community programs, access to parks, hospitals and public transportation, and improved sanitation.
- Recommendations: Over half of respondents (54 percent) called for more community resources, especially high-quality mentoring and after-school programs for youth. Nearly half of the recommendations (44 percent) were about the need for greater leadership, including the need for more role models to increased family involvement and better political leaders. Respondents also sought more support for youth and community-building efforts.

The Center for Court Innovation will continue to conduct community surveys in Newark to measure changes in perceptions over time.

# 1. Introduction

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In June 2013, the Center for Court Innovation (the Center) implemented a community survey throughout the greater Newark area about perceptions of crime, public safety, and the justice system, in partnership with the Center for Collaborative Change (CCC). Results, while valuable in themselves, were also used to inform Newark Community Solutions on how to engage the community and to guide programming and services. Newark Community Solutions is a community justice initiative that applies a problem-solving approach to low-level misdemeanor cases in the Newark Municipal Court. Specifically, the program offers eligible defendants the chance to complete community service and attend social services (*e.g.*, individual or group counseling) as an alternative to jail or paying fines. Newark Community Solutions began operations in April 2011.

The goal of this study was to learn more about community views on the criminal justice system, public safety, and community assets and needs. Seventeen Newark community members were trained, alongside Center researchers and Newark Community Solutions program staff, to implement the survey and to provide expert local knowledge throughout the survey process, from planning survey locations to informing analysis to disseminating results. Surveyors asked 577 community members what they thought about their neighborhood, the city of Newark, and key issues, including public safety and crime. Respondents' views on quality of life, crime, and the justice system are presented in this report.

## Background on Newark

The city of Newark is the largest city in New Jersey by population with 277,140 residents. The majority of residents are black (50 percent) or Latino (34 percent), and approximately half are female. The median household income is \$35,696 with 26.1 percent of residents living below the poverty line (U.S. Census Bureau 2011). As of April 2013, the unemployment rate for Newark was over 13 percent, nearly twice the national average of 7.5 percent (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2013).

Crime is a serious concern in Newark. As of December 2013, the murder rate was 37 per 100,000 residents, among the highest in the country (Newark Police Department 2013). In 2012, Newark's violent crime<sup>1</sup> rate was 1,154 per 100,000 residents, nearly three times the national average rate of 386.9 offenses per 100,000 (U.S. Department of Justice 2013).

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<sup>1</sup> Violent crimes include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, followed by the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

## 2. Methods

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The 2013 Newark community survey was conducted with 17 Newark community members along with staff volunteers from the Center for Court Innovation (the Center), Newark Community Solutions, and partners from the Center for Collaborative Change (CCC). Prior to the study launch, planning meetings were held with CCC and other key stakeholders, including representatives from Stop Shootin' Music, a local anti-violence and arts organization, to review survey content and potential survey locations, and to conduct outreach for potential surveyors. CCC played an integral part in the hiring process. In addition, during training and survey days, the community surveyors also established final survey locations. On the first day of surveying, the survey team met with the Newark Police Department to introduce the study and to outline survey locations.

All community surveyors (ages 18 and over 50) were long-time residents of the greater Newark area, with the vast majority from Newark itself. Most surveyors were female (71 percent) and black (82 percent). Two surveyors also spoke Spanish and Portuguese.

The community surveyors worked from Monday through Saturday for one week in late June 2013 between 10AM and 5PM. Assigned to three teams of four to six individuals, surveyors approached individuals in public spaces and, with permission, in businesses, public universities, and public housing complexes. They asked potential respondents (18 years and over) if they were interested in participating in the survey (no incentives were offered).

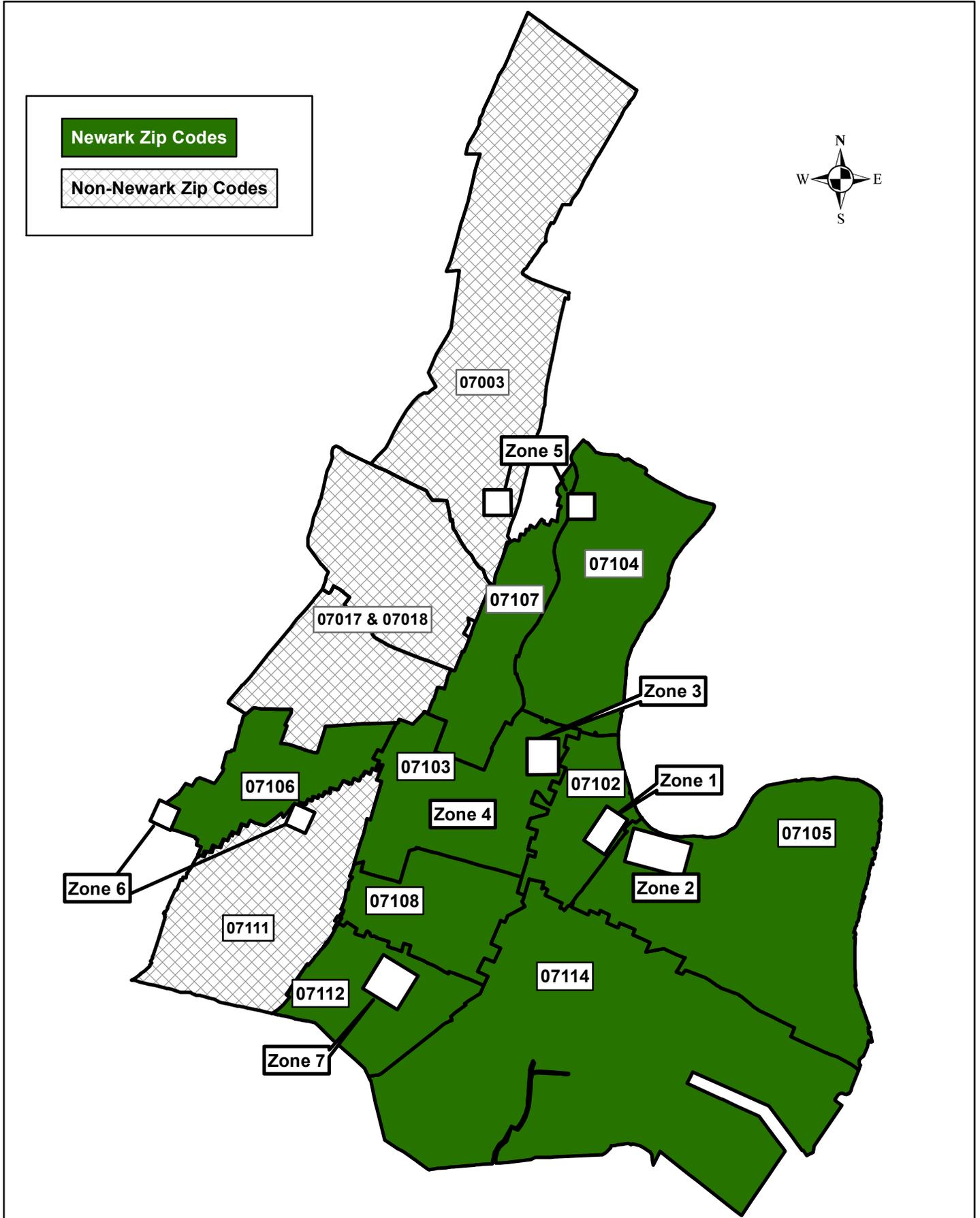
The survey consisted of approximately 100 questions asking respondents about their views about quality of life, the justice system and safety, and their recommendations to improve key problems (see Appendix A). The Center has used a similar survey in other jurisdictions, including New York City neighborhoods in Brownsville and Red Hook (Hynynen 2011; Swaner 2010). Survey questions were revised and adapted to the Newark setting. The survey took about 25 to 30 minutes to complete and was also translated into Spanish and Portuguese. A total of 577 surveys were conducted, though for some close-ended questions, responses were as low as 444.

The community surveyors conducted surveys in seven specific zones throughout the city of Newark and the bordering towns of Bloomfield and Irvington (see Figure 2.1 for survey locations). Newark is divided into five wards, North, South, East, West and Central, so the zones included all five wards, concentrating on small areas with stores, shopping centers, hospitals, public housing complexes and bus stops. The following areas were surveyed:

- Central Ward: Zone 1 covered the downtown business district, including Newark Penn Station; Zone 3 covered University Heights (*i.e.*, Essex Community College and Rutgers University in Newark); and Zone 4 covered the University Hospital area, a reading event held in Nat Turner Park, a local recreation center, as well as locations along Springfield Avenue near local businesses.
- East Ward: Zone 2 covered the Ironbound neighborhood, known for a concentration of Spanish and Portuguese-speaking populations.

- North Ward: Zone 5 covered a public housing complex on Grafton Avenue, as well as a shopping center in the neighboring town of Bloomfield, New Jersey.
- West Ward: Zone 6 covered a shopping center in the Ivy Hill neighborhood and local businesses in Irvington, New Jersey, along 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- South Ward: Zone 7 covered the area around Beth Israel Hospital, as well as a neighborhood cookout event on Bergen Street.

Figure 2.1. Newark Community Survey Locations by Zone\*



\*Note: Survey area boxes (organized by zone) are not drawn to scale.

## Analysis

For close-ended questions (*i.e.*, questions with set answers, such as “Yes” or “No”), quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 19.0.

Analysis was conducted to examine descriptive statistics, and bivariate analysis was used to explore associations between background characteristics and views on public safety and the criminal justice system.

For open-ended questions (*e.g.*, questions allowing for free responses), qualitative data was analyzed using NVivo 10 software. Common themes from responses were defined first by the research team (comprised of the senior researcher, a research assistant, and research intern), based on reviewing the data and developing common codes. Then the themes and codes were reviewed with community surveyors, project partners, and Newark Community Solutions staff<sup>1</sup> to understand the common language and concerns of Newark community members. Based on these final codes, the senior researcher used NVivo to detect recurring themes in responses.

The following sections present the final results of the 2013 Newark community survey. Key descriptive results and statistically significant results from bivariate analysis are reported, as well as feedback from community surveyors.

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<sup>1</sup> Because the community surveys did not directly evaluate the Newark Community Solutions program or staff, and because program staff are community experts as Newark residents and/or those who work in the Newark community, program staff were invited to attend surveyor meetings.

## 3. Results

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### About Survey Respondents

After correcting for sampling biases,<sup>2</sup> about half of survey respondents were black (49.8 percent), about one-third of respondents (33.8 percent) were Latino, about one-tenth of respondents (11.6 percent) were white, and nearly five percent were classified as additional race/ethnicities, including multiracial, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Native American, or Alaska Native. Approximately 51 percent of respondents were female, 48 percent were male, and less than one percent self-identified as an additional gender identity but did not disclose further information. The average age of respondents was 37 years old.

Most respondents were Newark residents (76.9 percent) and employed (60.4 percent). Among those unemployed (39.6 percent), about 12 percent were unemployed, while the rest were in school or in a job training program, retired, or on disability. Over half of respondents lived in a rental property, and nearly 40 percent lived in a private home, compared to about 9 percent living in public housing. The average length of respondents' relationship (*e.g.*, living or working) to Newark was over 26 years. See Table 3.1 for complete results.

Community members resided in a range of zip codes<sup>3</sup> throughout the greater Newark area (see Appendix B, Figure B.1), and most respondents chose to discuss the zip code where they lived (see Appendix B, Figure B.2).

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<sup>2</sup> Because the sample differed from census data significantly on race/ethnicity, post-stratification weights were applied to survey data to correct for sampling bias (*i.e.*, oversampling of black respondents and undersampling of all other groups) for all data. Post-stratification sampling weights were created based on 2010 Census data for race/ethnicity. Weights were used correct for sampling biases and to make sure the racial/ethnic distribution was similar to the 2010 Census data for Newark residents, where 49.8 percent were black, non-Latino, 33.8 percent were Latino (of any race), 11.6 percent were white, non-Latino, and 4.8 percent self-identified as additional race/ethnicities, including multiracial, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Native American, or Alaska Native. By comparison, in the initial pre-weighted survey data, 75.6 percent were black, 14.1 percent were Latino, 6 percent were white, and 4.3 percent self-identified as additional racial/ethnic categories (*e.g.*, multiracial, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Native American, or Alaska Native).

<sup>3</sup> Based on feedback from project partners and stakeholders during planning, zip codes (as opposed to wards or neighborhoods) were defined as the clearest way for respondents to identify where they lived and where they wanted to talk about during the survey.

**Table 3.1. Basic Demographics of Newark Respondents**

<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	51.5%
Male	48.2%
Undisclosed ( <i>i.e.</i> , selected additional gender identity but did not specify)	0.2%
<b>Age in Four categories</b>	
18-24 years	27.4%
25-40 years	35.2%
41-55 years	22.1%
56 years and over	15.1%
<b>Age in Two Categories<sup>a</sup></b>	
18-30 years	44.0%
31 years and over	56.0%
<b>Mean Age</b>	37 years
<b>Mean Length of Relationship with Newark</b>	26.1 years
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>b</sup></b>	
Black	49.8%
Latino	33.8%
White	11.6%
Additional race/ethnicities ( <i>e.g.</i> , multi-racial, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Native American, or Alaska Native)	4.7%
<b>Residence Type</b>	
Private home	39.1%
Rental	50.9%
Public housing	8.8%
Shelter/temporary housing	0.9%
Homeless	0.4%
<b>Relationship to Newark (Choose all that apply)</b>	
Newark Residents	76.9%
Works in Newark	15.7%
Newark business owner	4.0%
Student in Newark	10.2%
<b>Currently Employed</b>	60.4%
<b>Currently Unemployed</b>	39.6%
<b>Unemployment Type</b>	
Unemployed	11.5%
At school	13.0%
Retired	5.5%
Disability	2.7%
Job training program	2.4%
<p><i>Note.</i> N=577 but can be as low as 485 for some elements due to missing data. <sup>a</sup>In some cases, analyses compared younger and older respondents, where age groups were constructed based on surveyor feedback. Surveyors identified community members struggling with youth-specific issues as 18- to 30-year olds, also known the Millennial generation (Pew Research Center 2010). <sup>b</sup> Respondents chose what race/ethnic group of which they considered themselves a part.</p>	

## Views on the Criminal Justice System

### *The Courts*

Table 3.2 demonstrates that most community members were neutral with regard to the effectiveness of the Newark Municipal Court, the Superior Court of Essex County – Criminal Division (also known as the Superior Court in Newark), and the Essex County – Family Division (also known as the Family Court in Newark). No differences were seen by age, gender, or race/ethnicity.

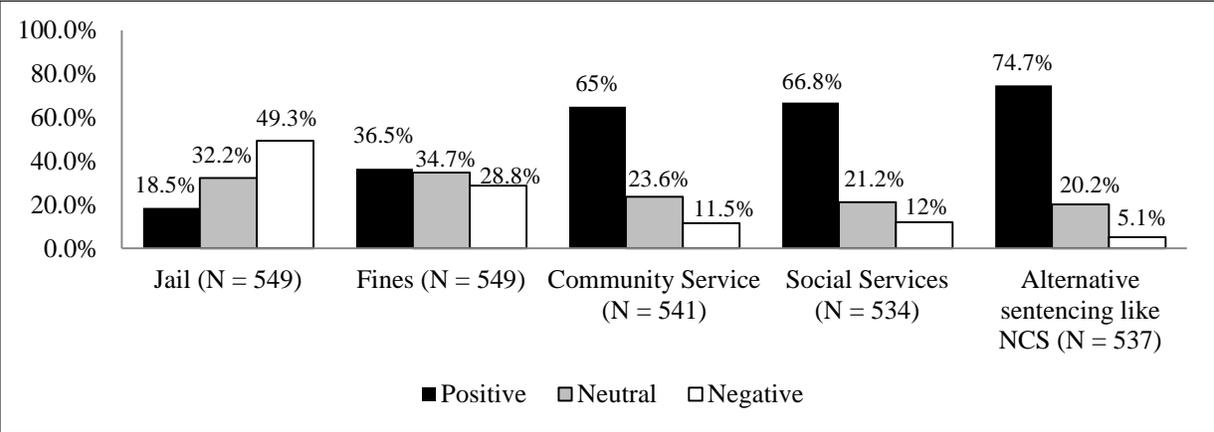
**Table 3.2. Views on the Courts**

<b>Effectiveness of the Courts</b>	<b>Very Effective</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Very Ineffective</b>
Newark Municipal Court	7.4%	22.0%	48.4%	14.8%	7.9%
Superior Court in Newark	6.5%	20.5%	52.0%	13.2%	7.8%
Family Court in Newark	6.1%	18.7%	55.8%	11.7%	7.6%
<i>Note.</i> N=577 but can be as low as 540 for some elements due to missing data.					

In the survey, Newark Community Solutions was defined as a community court program “designed to handle cases involving arrests for low-level non-violent crimes, where the goal is to offer those arrested the chance to do community service and attend programs, instead of jail.” While most community members (70 percent) had not heard of the program prior to the survey, nearly three-quarters of respondents (74.7 percent) said that a program like Newark Community Solutions that provided alternative sentencing was good or very good. In contrast, nearly half (49.3 percent) expressed that jail was bad or very bad as a sentencing option. Figure 3.1 shows community views on sentencing for low-level offenses.

There were no differences seen in views on sentencing by age or gender. In addition, views on sentencing were consistent regardless of whether or not respondents knew about Newark Community Solutions. In terms of race/ethnicity, fines were viewed more positively by white respondents (48.3 percent) compared to all other groups (34.6 percent among black respondents, 34.9 percent among Latino respondents, and 29.2 percent among additional race/ethnicities;  $p < .05$ ).

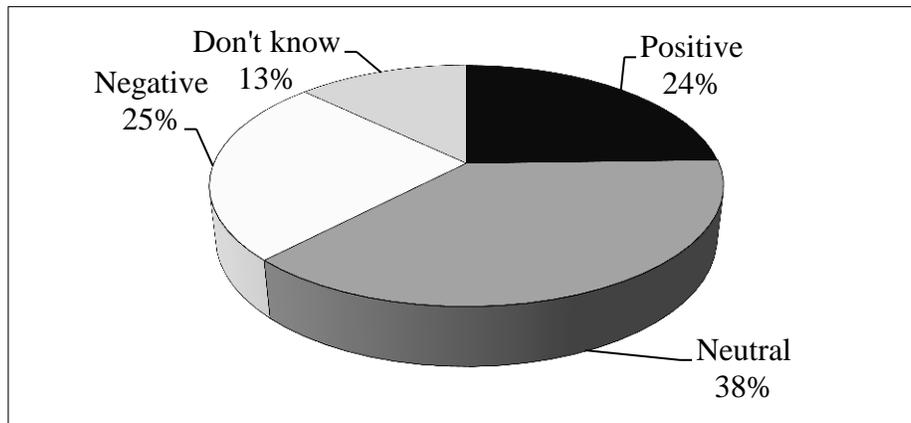
**Figure 3.1. Views on Sentencing for Low-level Non-violent Offenses**



**Police**

Figure 3.2 demonstrates how community members (N = 485) view their relationship with the Newark police in the past year. One-quarter of respondents (25 percent) characterized this relationship as negative, compared to about one-quarter (24 percent) who characterized this relationship as positive. Most respondents (38 percent) were neutral.

**Figure 3.2. Views on the Police-Community Relationship**



As seen in Table 3.3, there were statistically significant differences in responses by age and race/ethnicity. Those who were over 55 years viewed the community’s relationship with the police as more positive (39.3 percent), while respondents 18 to 24 years were less likely to view this relationship as positive (16.8 percent), compared to all other age groups. White respondents were significantly more likely to view the relationship as positive (46 percent), and black respondents were less likely to view the relationship as positive (18.5 percent).

**Table 3.3. Views on the Police-Community Relationship by Age Group and Race/ethnicity**

Relationship between the Police and Community	Age Groups <sup>a</sup>			
	18-24 years	25-40 years	41-55 years	56 years and over
Positive	16.8% <sup>*</sup>	23.5%	24.2%	39.3% <sup>**</sup>
Race/ethnicity <sup>b</sup>				
	Black	Latino	White	Additional race/ethnicities
Positive	18.5% <sup>**</sup>	25.7%	46.0% <sup>***</sup>	19.0%

<sup>\*</sup>  $p < .05$ , <sup>\*\*</sup>  $p < .01$ , <sup>\*\*\*</sup>  $p < .001$ . Note. <sup>a</sup> N = 430. <sup>b</sup> N = 446.

Table 3.4 presents how community members responded to different aspects of their relationship with the police. Though nearly half of respondents (47.7 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that police would treat them individually with respect, only one-quarter (25.2 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that the police would treat everyone fairly. More respondents in Newark reported positive views of the police compared to Brownsville survey respondents, where 38 percent agreed or strongly agreed that police would treat them individually with respect, and 19 percent agreed or strongly agreed that police would treat everyone fairly (Hynynen 2011).

Generally, views among Newark respondents were mixed on whether the police were helpful (38.4 percent agreed or strongly agreed) or friendly (36.8 percent agreed or strongly agreed). In Brownsville, 33 percent agreed or strongly agreed that police were helpful, 23 percent agreed or strongly agreed that police were friendly. In Newark, more respondents disagreed than agreed that the police “can be relied on to be there when you need them” (*e.g.*, come when you call, are responsive to emergencies); only 26 percent agreed or strongly agreed compared to 32 percent in Brownsville. And 25.7 percent agreed or strongly agreed that police in Newark “deal positively with young people” compared to 19 percent in Brownsville.

Only one-fourth of Newark respondents (25.7 percent) reported unfair treatment by the police in the past year. The majority of community members (67.4 percent) did not call the police for help in the past year, and most (69.7 percent) were not stopped by the police in the past year. Among Newark respondents who were stopped by police in the past year (30.3 percent; 93 males and 50 females), the average number of stops was nearly five (4.7 stops), comparable to the average of five stops among Brownsville respondents.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 3.4. Community Views of the Newark Police**

<b>Views of the Police</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
Would treat you with respect, if you had contact with them	19.9%	27.8%	29.8%	11.7%	10.9%
Treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are	9.5%	15.7%	24.3%	31.8%	18.6%
Are helpful	14.0%	24.4%	37.8%	14.1%	9.7%
Are friendly & approachable	14.0%	22.8%	36.3%	15.9%	10.9%
Can be relied on to be there when you need them	12.0%	14.0%	29.7%	22.7%	21.5%
Deal positively with young people	9.5%	16.2%	29.9%	24.5%	19.9%
<b>“In the past year, were you...”</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
Treated unfairly by police?	25.7%	74.3%			
Called the police for help?	32.6%	67.4%			
Stopped by the police?	30.3%	69.7%			
<i>Note.</i> N=577 but can be as low as 485 for some elements due to missing data.					

<sup>4</sup> Brownsville is a Brooklyn neighborhood, known for high crime rates and high policing, especially in the context of the controversial “stop and frisk” policy (Hynynen 2011).

Table 3.5 shows that respondents over 40 years were more likely to view the police positively than younger respondents. Respondents under 25 years were significantly less likely to report that the police were helpful (29.3 percent) and to call the police for help in the past year (22.2 percent), compared to all other age groups. Respondents between 41 and 55 years were significantly more likely to respond positively (*i.e.*, agree or strongly agree) that the police treated everyone fairly and that the police were helpful. In the past year, respondents over 55 years were significantly less likely to report being treated unfairly by the police (14.9 percent) and more likely to report calling the police for help (45.9 percent) than all other groups.

**Table 3.5. Views of the Newark Police by Age Group**

Agree or Strongly Agree Responses	Age groups			
	18-24 years	25-40 years	41-55 years	56 years & over
Would treat you with respect	46.0%	42.9%	51.9%	55.8%
Treat everyone fairly	19.7% <sup>+</sup>	21.7%	35.2% <sup>*</sup>	33.8% <sup>+</sup>
Are helpful	29.3% <sup>**</sup>	40.0%	47.7% <sup>*</sup>	43.4%
Are friendly and approachable	30.6% <sup>+</sup>	34.9%	43.2%	42.5%
Can be relied on	20.6% <sup>+</sup>	26.3%	32.1%	30.3%
Deal positively with young people	21.2% <sup>+</sup>	30.2%	25.0%	34.7%
<b>“In the past year, were you...”</b>	<b>18-24 years</b>	<b>25-40 years</b>	<b>41-55 years</b>	<b>56 years &amp; over</b>
Treated unfairly by police?	26.0%	28.8%	24.7%	14.9% <sup>*</sup>
Called the police for help?	22.2% <sup>**</sup>	34.1%	34.3%	45.9% <sup>**</sup>
Stopped by the police?	28.6%	33.3%	33.0%	29.4%

<sup>+</sup>*p* < .10, <sup>\*</sup>*p* < .05, <sup>\*\*</sup>*p* < .01. Note. N=499 but can be as low as 444 for some elements due to missing data.

As seen in Table 3.6, black respondents were significantly less likely to report that the police would treat them individually with respect (41.3 percent), would treat everyone fairly (20.2 percent), were helpful (33.2 percent), were friendly and approachable (30.8 percent), and were reliable (20.3 percent) compared to all other groups. Black respondents were also significantly more likely to report being treated unfairly by the police in the past year (30.2 percent), compared to all other groups. In contrast, white respondents were significantly more likely to report that the police would treat them individually with respect (65 percent), would treat everyone fairly (46.6 percent), were friendly and approachable (63.8 percent), and dealt positively with young people (38.3 percent). Finally, Latino respondents were significantly more likely to report that the police would treat them individually with respect (54.1 percent) and were reliable (32.4 percent), and less likely to report being treated unfairly by the police (17.6 percent) than all other groups.

**Table 3.6. Views of the Newark Police by Race/ethnicity**

Agree or Strongly Agree Responses	Race/ethnicity			
	Black	Latino	White	Additional race/ethnicities
Would treat you with respect	41.3% **	54.1% *	65.0% **	32.0%
Treat everyone fairly	20.2% **	27.7%	46.6% ***	12.5%
Are helpful	33.2% *	42.4%	45.0%	32.0%
Are friendly and approachable	30.8% **	37.1%	63.8% ***	25.0%
Can be relied on	20.3% *	32.4% *	28.3%	24.0%
Deal positively with young people	22.7%	27.4%	38.3% *	12.5%
<b>“In the past year, were you...”</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Additional race/ethnicities</b>
Treated unfairly by police?	30.2% *	17.6% **	21.4%	33.3%
Called the police for help?	33.9%	28.2%	41.7%	29.2%
Stopped by the police?	33.3%	29.1%	21.8%	30.4%

<sup>+</sup>*p* < .10, \**p* < .05, \*\**p* < .01, \*\*\**p* < .001. Note. N=511 but can be as low as 454 for some elements due to missing data.

As shown in Table 3.7, when asked how these respondents felt when they were stopped, nearly two-thirds of the sample (64.6 percent) reported negative feelings. The most common themes included the following: feeling disrespected or violated, including being “harassed” (19.6 percent); feeling angry or upset (14.6 percent); feeling that the stop was unwarranted (13.3 percent; e.g., “unnecessary,” “no probable cause,” or “unconstitutional”); being racially profiled, including being “stereotyped,” “because of how we dressed and look” (8.9 percent); or feeling “humiliated,” “degraded,” or “less of a human” (7.6 percent). About 10 percent said that they felt the stop was “fair,” that the police were “doing their job,” or that the police were “friendly.” Another eight percent reported neutral feelings about the stop (e.g., “don’t know” or “okay”).

**Table 3.7. How Respondents Felt about Police Stops**

<b>General Themes</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Key Categories/Sample Responses</b>
Negative Feelings	64.6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disrespected/Violated/Harassed (19.6%)</li> <li>• Angry/Upset/Unhappy (14.6%)</li> <li>• Unwarranted (13.3%)</li> <li>• Profiled (8.9%)</li> <li>• Humiliated/Powerless (7.6%)</li> </ul>
Positive Feelings	9.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair treatment</li> <li>• “Friendly” or “nice” police</li> </ul>
Neutral	8.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Don’t know” or “okay”</li> </ul>
<i>Note.</i> N = 158. Percentages do not add up to 100%, as some responses did not answer the correct question.		

## Community Issues

### *General Issues*

Community members were asked to rate 21 quality-of-life issues in their neighborhood (see Table 3.8). Every issue was rated as a “big problem” by over half of respondents. The issues in Newark that were rated most often as big problems included: unemployment, drug selling, guns, gang activity, homelessness, drug use, health issues (*e.g.*, obesity and asthma), abandoned homes and foreclosures, muggings, thefts and robberies, and mental health issues (*e.g.*, depression and trauma).

**Table 3.8. Problems in the Newark Community**

<b>Community Problems</b>	<b>Big Problem</b>	<b>Minor Problem</b>	<b>Not a Problem</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
1. Unemployment	81.2%	9.7%	4.1%	5.0%
2. Drug selling	75.7%	10.1%	8.8%	5.4%
3. Guns	74.5%	10.8%	7.4%	7.3%
4. Gang activity	74.0%	9.7%	8.8%	7.6%
5. Homelessness	74.0%	15.2%	5.1%	5.7%
6. Drug use	73.7%	12.2%	8.6%	5.6%
7. Obesity, asthma, or other health problems	72.6%	14.4%	6.8%	6.2%
8. Abandoned buildings/foreclosures and evictions	72.5%	13.4%	9.5%	4.7%
9. Mugging/theft/robbery	71.9%	14.6%	7.7%	5.8%
10. Depression, trauma and other mental health problems	70.5%	15.5%	6.3%	7.6%
11. Run down public spaces	70.5%	14.5%	9.7%	5.2%
12. HIV/AIDS, or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)	67.3%	8.2%	5.6%	19.0%
13. Garbage removal/littering	67.9%	18.5%	10.4%	3.1%
14. Assault	67.0%	17.7%	8.0%	7.4%
15. Other weapons	66.6%	14.9%	10.6%	8.0%
16. Vandalism or graffiti	64.0%	18.6%	12.6%	4.9%
17. Disorderly conduct	62.7%	21.5%	11.8%	4.1%
18. Prostitution	59.7%	15.3%	9.5%	15.5%
19. Public drinking	58.8%	19.3%	16.0%	5.9%
20. Sexual assault/rape	55.1%	17.7%	13.1%	14.1%
21. Not enough signage	54.8%	15.0%	23.7%	6.6%

*Note.* N=577 but can be as low as 530 for some questions due to missing data.

### ***Youth Issues***

The survey also asked community members what they thought about 24 issues among youth, who were defined as 17 years and younger (see Table 3.9). Every issue was considered a “big problem” among youth by over half the sample (55 percent and above). For the entire sample, the top issues were: unemployment, few adult role models, drug selling, guns, gang activity, bullying, teenage pregnancy, physical health issues, mugging/theft/robbery, and drug use. With the addition of several youth-specific issues (*e.g.*, few role models, bullying, and teenage pregnancy), top issues for youth were similar to the top issues in Newark overall, as seen in Table 3.8.

Analysis was also conducted to see how younger respondents (18 to 30 years old) rated youth-specific issues compared to older respondents (31 years and over; see Appendix C). Among 18- to 30-year-olds, the top issues were: teenage pregnancy, bullying, unemployment, few adult role models, drug selling, guns, mugging/theft/robbery, drug use, gang activity, and mental health issues (*e.g.*, depression and trauma). Among those over 30 years, top issues for youth were: unemployment, gang activity, few adult role models, drug selling, guns, physical health problems (*e.g.*, obesity and asthma), teenage pregnancy, bullying, nothing to do after school, and muggings, thefts and robberies.

Statistically significant differences between younger and older respondents were seen in ratings of unemployment (73.8 vs. 81.9 percent,  $p < .05$ ), gang activity (67 vs. 79 percent,  $p < .01$ ), physical health problems (66.7 vs. 77.4 percent,  $p < .01$ ), “nothing to do after school” (65.3 vs. 75.4 percent,  $p < .01$ ), disorderly conduct (63.4 vs. 72.7 percent,  $p < .05$ ), and few parks, recreational facilities or sports-related activities (54.7 vs. 67.3 percent,  $p < .01$ ). More respondents over 30 years old ranked the above issues for youth as big problems compared to younger respondents.

**Table 3.9. Problems Among Newark Youth**

<b>Youth Problems</b>	<b>Big Problem</b>	<b>Minor Problem</b>	<b>Not a Problem</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
1. Unemployment	78.1%	9.7%	5.4%	6.8%
2. Few adult role models	76.0%	10.3%	7.7%	6.0%
3. Drug selling	75.8%	9.2%	8.2%	6.8%
4. Guns	74.4%	9.7%	7.5%	8.3%
5. Gang activity	74.0%	10.9%	7.6%	7.6%
6. Bullying	73.9%	12.4%	7.6%	6.1%
7. Teenage pregnancy	73.0%	14.4%	6.6%	6.1%
8. Obesity, asthma, or other health problems	72.4%	14.1%	6.7%	6.8%
9. Mugging/theft/robbery	72.0%	13.6%	7.1%	7.3%
10. Drug use	71.9%	13.0%	8.2%	7.0%
11. Nothing to do after school	71.3%	11.3%	11.4%	6.0%
12. Depression, trauma and other mental health problems	68.5%	16.1%	7.9%	7.6%
13. Disorderly conduct	68.3%	16.8%	11.0%	4.0%
14. Other weapons	67.5%	14.4%	9.2%	8.9%
15. Homelessness	67.3%	16.7%	7.9%	8.1%
16. Lack of other educational/training opportunities	66.5%	13.3%	12.5%	7.7%
17. Assault	66.3%	16.2%	9.1%	8.4%
18. HIV/AIDS, or other STDs	65.0%	9.4%	7.0%	18.6%
19. Lack of GED programs	62.1%	15.0%	13.0%	9.9%
20. Public drinking	61.6%	17.4%	14.2%	6.8%
21. Few parks, recreational facilities or sports teams	60.5%	17.4%	15.6%	6.4%
22. Truancy	60.6%	16.4%	14.1%	8.9%
23. Prostitution	59.1%	13.8%	10.2%	16.9%
24. Sexual assault/rape	55.1%	16.0%	14.2%	15.0%
<i>Note.</i> N=577 but can be as low as 525 for some questions due to missing data.				

### ***School-Aged Children***

In the total sample (N = 577), over 60 percent of respondents reported that “nothing to do after school” and truancy were big problems (see Table 3.9). Additional analysis was conducted only among respondents living with school-aged children (N = 277; 48 percent of the total sample). As seen in Table 3.10, among those living with children in school, most school-related issues were rated as minor problems or not problems for their families. Over 60 percent reported that safe travel between school and home was not a problem. Over half reported that absences from school were not a problem. One-third of respondents with school-aged children (34.2 percent) reported that a lack of afterschool activities was a big problem, but nearly half (45.9 percent) reported that this was not a problem. There were no significant differences by age, gender, or race/ethnicity.

**Table 3.10. Community Views on Issues for School-aged Children**

<b>School-related issues</b>	<b>Big Problem</b>	<b>Minor Problem</b>	<b>Not a Problem</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Having after school activities	34.2%	15.1%	45.9%	4.8%
Getting homework help	21.9%	17.3%	55.9%	5.0%
Absences from school	20.2%	18.4%	56.3%	5.1%
Distance from school to home	18.7%	23.7%	54.7%	2.9%
Safe travel to and from home	16.0%	20.0%	60.6%	3.4%

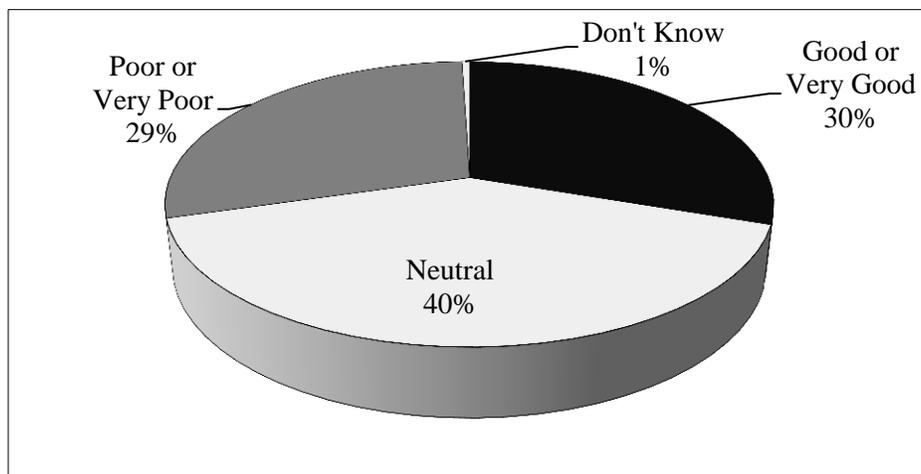
*Note.* N=277 but can be as low as 263 for some questions due to missing data.

## Quality of Life, Safety, and Disputes in Newark Neighborhoods

### *Quality of Life in Newark neighborhoods*

Figure 3.4 demonstrates how community members rate the quality of life in their neighborhood (N = 559). About one-third of respondents (30 percent) characterized their quality of life as good or very good, compared to about one-third (29 percent) that responded that the quality of life was poor or very poor. More respondents (40 percent) were neutral. As seen in Table 3.11, there were statistically significant differences between responses by age<sup>5</sup> and race/ethnicity, where younger respondents (30 years and younger) as well as white and Latino respondents tended to report more positive views on local quality of life. In contrast, black respondents tended to have less positive ratings than other groups.

**Figure 3.4. Community Views on Quality of Life in Newark**



**Table 3.11. Views on Quality of Life by Age Group and Race/ethnicity**

Quality of Life	Age categories		Race/ethnicity			
	18-30 years	31+ years	Black	Latino	White	Additional race/ethnicities
Positive	35.7%*	27.3%	24.3%**	36.5%*	41.7%*	28.0%
Neutral	41.4%	38.3%	39.4%	41.2%	45.0%	40.0%
Negative	22.7%	34.3%	36.1%	22.4%	13.3%	32.0%

\*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ . Note. N=504 but can be as low as 497 for some questions due to missing data. In addition, due to few responses (1%) in the “Don’t Know” category, these cases were omitted from the bivariate analysis.

<sup>5</sup> Differences were not seen between the four age categories, so analysis was conducted among younger and older respondents instead.

### ***Safety in Newark neighborhoods***

For community views on safety, analysis was conducted among Newark residents only (N = 431). As seen in Table 3.12, most residents reported feeling safe in their homes (over 75 percent), but not in public spaces. Less than half reported feeling safe traveling to and from public transportation stops (44 percent), on the street (39 percent), or in local parks (39.6 percent). In terms of differences by race/ethnicity, white and Latino residents tended to share more positive safety ratings at home and in public spaces than other groups. Of note, gender differences were not seen in most responses to safety, except that males were significantly more likely to report feeling safe in their homes than females (79.5 vs. 70.4 percent,  $p < .05$ ).

**Table 3.12. Resident Views on Safety in the Total Sample and by Race/ethnicity**

Safety Ratings by Location/area	Total	Race/ethnicity			
		Black	Latino	White	Additional race/ethnicities
At home	75.6%	70.7% *	82.7% **	75.9%	70.8%
On the way to and from the bus or Light Rail stop	44.0%	38.6% *	47.6%	63.8% **	29.2%
On the street	39.0%	34.8% *	45.3% +	55.0% *	24.0% +
In the local parks	39.6%	36.8% *	42.2%	50.0% +	13.0% **

+  $p < .10$ , \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ . Note. N = 431 but can be as low as 416 for some questions due to missing data.

### ***Disputes in Newark neighborhoods***

As seen in Table 3.13, the most common disputes among all respondents were conflicts within families, and between neighbors. More black respondents tended to report disputes, especially between landlords and tenants, and between different buildings than all other groups. In contrast, fewer Latino respondents tended to report disputes, especially between landlord and tenants, between neighbors, and between different buildings.

**Table 3.13. Community Views on Disputes in the Total Sample and by Race/ethnicity**

Dispute Types	Total	Race/ethnicity			
		Black	Latino	White	Additional race/ethnicities
Landlord/Tenant disputes	35.5%	39.2% *	28.6% *	38.3%	25.0%
Business owner/Resident disputes	26.4%	28.3%	20.9% +	29.3%	29.2%
Neighbor/Neighbor disputes	41.6%	45.4% +	34.9% *	43.1%	43.5%
Family disputes	41.8%	44.0%	38.0%	44.6%	47.8%
Disputes between different apartment buildings	34.0%	41.3% **	24.5% **	35.2%	31.8%
Disputes over use of parks	29.7%	31.8%	23.6% +	31.5%	33.3%

+  $p < .10$ , \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ . Note. N = 577 but can be as low as 505 for some questions due to missing data.

## **Strengths and Recommendations for Newark Neighborhoods**

### ***Strengths of Newark Neighborhoods***

When asked about the greatest strengths of their specific neighborhoods (see Table 3.14), respondents (N = 408) most often referred to their “community” (37 percent), which ranged from the neighborhood they lived in to various community groups to the city as a whole. The most common references were to the “people of Newark” (18 percent), often citing “close-knit community.” Several references were made about the “strength of the people,” as well as their “tenacity and perseverance.” A few respondents also cited people looking out for one another, being like family, and being able to talk to one another to solve problems. A range of specific groups were also cited as strengths, including a few references to neighbors, residents, families, local leaders (specifically educators and political leaders), seniors, positive adult role models, business or working people, and youth. Respondents also cited the diverse cultures and communities, as well as a few references to “unity” and “love,” as neighborhood strengths.

Over a quarter (26 percent) of respondents cited a range of resources as strengths, including the following: community programs and activities (with a few references to senior, arts and youth programs, including references to the International Youth Organization, a local youth center); jobs and business development (with references to new stores and restaurants); and strong infrastructure (*e.g.*, accessibility to resources like hospitals, parks and schools, having public transportation, and better sanitation). A few respondents also cited schools and colleges, including references to Essex County College, a local community college. Just over five percent cited the police as a strength, usually in terms of a “strong police presence” in their neighborhood. About 16 percent responded that there was no strength in their neighborhood or highlighted specific issues, including dissatisfaction with the police, high levels of violence and crime, or lack of community resources.

**Table 3.14. Strengths of Newark Neighborhoods**

General Themes	Percent	Key Categories
Community	37.0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People of Newark (31%)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People in general (18%)</li> <li>○ Groups: Neighbors (3%), residents &amp; homeowners (2%), families (2%), youth (2%), positive role models and adults (1%), seniors (1%), business owners (1%), and working people (1%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community-Building: Diversity (5%), unity and love (2%).</li> </ul>
Resources	26.0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community programs (7.6%)</li> <li>• Jobs/Development/Business (6.9%)</li> <li>• Infrastructure (5.6%)</li> <li>• Education (3.9%)</li> <li>• Healthcare (2.5%)</li> <li>• Housing (1.7%)</li> <li>• Religion (1%)</li> </ul>
Public Safety	10.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public safety issues (9.6%)</li> <li>• Police presence (5.1%)</li> </ul>
Negative	16.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No strengths (8.3%)</li> <li>• Specific issues that need improvement (6.6%)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Note.</i> N = 408. Percentages do not add up to 100%, as some responses did not answer the correct question, and some responses can be applied to multiple categories.</p>		

### ***Recommendations for Newark Neighborhoods***

Respondents (N = 287) were asked what they recommended for their own neighborhoods (see Table 3.15). Over half of respondents (53.5 percent) made the following recommendations: more quality community resources, especially mentoring and after school programs for youth, as well as a few references to more community centers, recreational facilities and summer activities, better funded museums and libraries, and more mental health programs; better schools, and more educational and GED programs; more jobs, including more training programs, and specifically, job training that leads to certificates and jobs; better housing, including a few references to improved housing for the elderly and a recommendation for shelters that work with kids; and improved infrastructure, including expanding public transportation, more parks, and more garbage cans.

Nearly half of the recommendations (44.2 percent) were about the need for greater leadership, including role models (*e.g.*, strong adults and mentors as examples for youth), the involvement of families, better political leaders and offering more support to youth. In general, respondents cited the need for more community involvement (*e.g.*, “do something, don’t just talk about it”), to improve communication and awareness, especially to get more community input, and to build “unity” and “love” within their neighborhood (*e.g.*, “find a way to unite and help one another” and to “come together as one to change these issues”).

Though over half of respondents reported not feeling safe in public spaces (see Table 3.12), only one-tenth of respondents (10.1 percent) called for improvements in public safety and law enforcement in open-ended responses. In terms of public safety, community members wanted “to make a safer community” and “to get crime off the streets” with a few references to guns, gangs, drugs, and violent crime (*e.g.*, robbery and murder), as top issues. In terms of police presence, several respondents recommended “more police presence,” while a few others called for “better standards” for police.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Respondents were also asked about what was missing from Newark and what they recommended for Newark overall. Responses from these questions were similar to responses from the neighborhood-specific questions. Results from these analyses are not shown but are available upon request.

**Table 3.15. Recommendations for Newark Neighborhoods**

General Themes	Percent	Key Categories
Community	44.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership (27.4%):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Role models (15.2%), family (6.7%), political leaders (6.2%), and youth (3.9%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community-Building (18.9%):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community involvement and support (9.6%), communication and more outreach (4.9%), and unity and love (4.7%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Resources	53.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community programs (38.5%)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth programs (19.6%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jobs/development (11.1%)</li> <li>• Education (8.5%)</li> <li>• Housing (2.1%)</li> <li>• Infrastructure (1.8%)</li> <li>• Religion (0.3%)</li> </ul>
Public Safety	10.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public safety issues (4.7%)</li> <li>• Police presence (5.9%)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Note.</i> N = 387. Percentages do not add up to 100%, as some responses did not answer the correct question, and some responses can be applied to multiple categories.</p>		

## 4. Discussion

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### Surveyor Feedback

As a standard practice during surveying, debriefings were held at the end of each day, to share experiences, thoughts, and opinions of the surveyors. During debriefings, surveyors often expressed that community members were passionate and proud of the city of Newark. Though respondents were honest about Newark and its problems, surveyors said that respondents often shared how much they loved Newark, strongly believed that Newark could be better, wanted to see change, and wanted to be a part of that change. (These views were also recorded under the “Notes and Observations” section at the end of the survey.)

Surveyors were asked to provide feedback about the analysis and results in ongoing meetings. When asked for their reactions to the results, surveyors highlighted that many respondents did not have regular contact with the police or the courts, which may have contributed to neutral responses on the police and court questions. As seen in survey demographics, most respondents were employed and had housing. When asked why terms like “love” and “unity” were used consistently and often together, surveyors said that these were responses to the violence that was frequently occurring in Newark. When asked why so few responses were related to public safety, despite respondents reporting so many problems around violence, several surveyors said that there was a serious distrust of the police. Surveyors also noted that the serious need to build relationships between the police and the community, as well as strengthening local leadership, in order to address public safety and community issues effectively.

### Limitations

This study had several limitations. First, the community sample was not a random, truly representative sample, so results cannot be generalized to all of Newark or the surrounding area. Small percentages of whites, Latinos, and additional race/ethnicities (*e.g.*, multiracial, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American) were represented, though weighting techniques were applied to correct these underrepresented groups, based on Census data. In addition, a small population of homeless and shelter populations were represented among respondents. In the future, more outreach should be conducted with organizations and community representatives, to improve sampling and survey responses by neighborhood or ward, from various communities of color, as well as community members who are homeless or in shelters.

Next, although this study incorporated meaningful collaboration with community stakeholders (see below), it was not a community-based participatory research study, where researchers, practitioners, and community members are actively engaged in collaboration in all aspects of the study design and analysis (Israel, Schulz, Parker, and Becker 1998). For example, surveyors and respondents said that the length of the survey was burdensome, especially for a street-intercept survey. Responses to the open-ended questions tended to be restricted to brief words or phrases, which limited interpretation of these findings. In future community surveys, community feedback on instrument development should be incorporated. Further, the use of multiple modes

like focus groups or interviews should be used to explore community views in-depth and to examine potential solutions to key community concerns, such as unemployment, public safety, housing, and health issues.

## **Strengths**

This study had several strengths. First, the Center has conducted similar community surveys, so researchers were able to build on prior surveys and methods that were adapted for Newark. Next, researchers incorporated key components of community-based participatory research. This included working with several local Newark nonprofits, including the Center for Collaborative Change and Stop Shootin' Music. Both organizations provided great insights for implementing the study in the local area.

In addition, surveyors were community residents with expert local knowledge who could overcome challenges in conducting surveys. One major challenge was for the community survey to be conducted all over the city of Newark. By selecting locations informed by community experts, surveys were conducted in zones that covered all five wards and several neighborhoods in a short time (Figure 2.1). This coverage is also reflected in the range of zip codes where respondents lived (Appendix B, Figure B.1). In addition, despite the length of the survey instrument, surveyors expressed that respondents received them positively. According to the surveyors, Newark community members answered the surveys because the respondents identified with the surveyors as community members. As a result, the data quality was high, especially for close-ended questions. Finally, where interpretation was limited or difficult, surveyor feedback about community views during the analysis phase was invaluable. The Newark experience highlights the real value gained from working with community members and local stakeholders throughout the study.

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**Appendix A: 2013 Newark Community Survey**

Opening Remarks

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm a volunteer with \_\_\_\_\_. We're conducting a survey to learn about the strengths and problems of **neighborhoods in or near Newark. We want to know what you think.** Participation in this survey is completely voluntary. If you do participate, your responses will be kept confidential; I don't even need to know your name. This information is for research purposes only. **The survey will be about 15 minutes, and it is only for adults over 18 years old, who are residents, business owners and/or who work or go to school in or near Newark.**

#	Screening questions					
i.		Can I ask how old you are? <i>(If respondent is 18 YEARS OR OVER proceed with questions; If respondent does not want to respond OR is 17 YEARS OR YOUNGER, thank them and move on.)</i>				
ii.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td align="center"><u>Yes</u></td> <td align="center"><u>No</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">1</td> <td align="center">2</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	1	2	Do you live, work, go to school, or own a business <u>in or near Newark</u> ? <i>(If respondent says YES proceed with questions; if respondent says NO, thank them and move on.)</i>
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>					
1	2					
iii.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td align="center"><u>Yes</u></td> <td align="center"><u>No</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">1</td> <td align="center">2</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	1	2	How many years have you lived/worked/etc. in or near Newark?  Are you willing to participate? <i>(If respondent says YES proceed with questions; if respondent says NO, thank them and move on.)</i>
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>					
1	2					

**Answers**

**Questions for the respondents:**

**THE COMMUNITY**

1		<p>First, I have a few basic questions for you.</p> <p>Of the following zip codes (or neighborhoods) <b>in or near Newark</b>, where do you live? Please choose <b>one</b>.</p> <p align="center"><u>In Newark:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1</td><td>07102 (ex: Downtown/Central Business District; Lincoln Park; University Heights)</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>07103 (ex: University Heights; Fairmont; Springfield; Belmont; West Side Park)</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>07104 (ex: Forest Hill; Mt. Pleasant; Upper or Lower Broadway; Seventh Ave)</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>07105 (ex: North Ironbound)</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>07106 (ex: Ivy Hill; Vailsburg)</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>07107 (ex: University Heights; Fairmont; Seventh Ave; Upper or Lower Roseville)</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>07108 (ex: Springfield; Belmont; Homestead Park; Clinton Hill)</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>07112 (ex: Weequahic Park; Dayton)</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>07114 (ex: South Ironbound)</td></tr> </table> <p align="center"><u>Near Newark:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>10</td><td>07003 (ex: Bloomfield)</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>07111 (ex: Irvington)</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>07017 or 07018 (ex: East Orange)</td></tr> </table> <p>Other: If none of these apply, where do you live?</p> <p>_____</p>	1	07102 (ex: Downtown/Central Business District; Lincoln Park; University Heights)	2	07103 (ex: University Heights; Fairmont; Springfield; Belmont; West Side Park)	3	07104 (ex: Forest Hill; Mt. Pleasant; Upper or Lower Broadway; Seventh Ave)	4	07105 (ex: North Ironbound)	5	07106 (ex: Ivy Hill; Vailsburg)	6	07107 (ex: University Heights; Fairmont; Seventh Ave; Upper or Lower Roseville)	7	07108 (ex: Springfield; Belmont; Homestead Park; Clinton Hill)	8	07112 (ex: Weequahic Park; Dayton)	9	07114 (ex: South Ironbound)	10	07003 (ex: Bloomfield)	11	07111 (ex: Irvington)	12	07017 or 07018 (ex: East Orange)
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2	_____	<p>What is the closest street intersection to where you live?</p> <p>Street 1:</p> <p>Street 2:</p>																								
3	_____	<p>And where do you currently live?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1</td><td>Privately owned house / condo</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>Rental unit / apartment</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>Public housing (Newark Housing Authority, Section 8, or other subsidized housing)</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>Shelter/temporary housing</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>Homeless</td></tr> </table>	1	Privately owned house / condo	2	Rental unit / apartment	3	Public housing (Newark Housing Authority, Section 8, or other subsidized housing)	4	Shelter/temporary housing	5	Homeless														
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4		<p>Of the following zip codes (or neighborhoods) <b>in or near Newark</b>, which one do you want to talk about today? Please choose <b>one</b>.</p> <p align="center"><u>In Newark:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1</td><td>07102 (ex: Downtown/Central Business District; Lincoln Park; University Heights)</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>07103 (ex: University Heights; Fairmont; Springfield; Belmont; West Side Park)</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>07104 (ex: Forest Hill; Mt. Pleasant; Upper or Lower Broadway; Seventh Ave)</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>07105 (ex: North Ironbound)</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>07106 (ex: Ivy Hill; Vailsburg)</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>07107 (ex: University Heights; Fairmont; Seventh Ave; Upper or Lower Roseville)</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>07108 (ex: Springfield; Belmont; Homestead Park; Clinton Hill)</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>07112 (ex: Weequahic Park; Dayton)</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>07114 (ex: South Ironbound)</td></tr> </table> <p align="center"><u>Near Newark:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>10</td><td>07003 (ex: Bloomfield)</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>07111 (ex: Irvington)</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>07017 or 07018 (ex: East Orange)</td></tr> </table> <p>Other: If none of these apply, where <b>in or near Newark</b> do you want to talk about?:</p> <p>Neighborhood: _____</p>	1	07102 (ex: Downtown/Central Business District; Lincoln Park; University Heights)	2	07103 (ex: University Heights; Fairmont; Springfield; Belmont; West Side Park)	3	07104 (ex: Forest Hill; Mt. Pleasant; Upper or Lower Broadway; Seventh Ave)	4	07105 (ex: North Ironbound)	5	07106 (ex: Ivy Hill; Vailsburg)	6	07107 (ex: University Heights; Fairmont; Seventh Ave; Upper or Lower Roseville)	7	07108 (ex: Springfield; Belmont; Homestead Park; Clinton Hill)	8	07112 (ex: Weequahic Park; Dayton)	9	07114 (ex: South Ironbound)	10	07003 (ex: Bloomfield)	11	07111 (ex: Irvington)	12	07017 or 07018 (ex: East Orange)
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5					<p>What is your relationship to <u>this</u> neighborhood [from question 4]? Choose all that apply.</p> <p>1 Resident  2 Business owner  3 Work in the neighborhood  4 Attend school in the neighborhood  5 Other (ex: someone who spends a lot of time in or near Newark): Please explain:</p>																																								
6					<p>How would you rate the quality of life in this neighborhood? Is the quality of life:</p> <p>1 Very Good  2 Good  3 OK  4 Poor  5 Very Poor  6 Don't Know</p>																																								
7					<p>In just a few words, what would you identify as the greatest strengths of this neighborhood [from question 4]? For example, good community programs, close-knit community, strong police presence, etc.</p>																																								
8					<p>Please tell me if you feel safe, unsafe, or have no opinion about safety in the following parts of the neighborhood [from question 4]:</p> <p>1- safe  2- neutral/no opinion  3- unsafe</p>																																								
9					<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Safe</u></td> <td><u>Neutral</u></td> <td><u>Unsafe</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>In your home</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>On the street</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>On the way to and from the bus or Light Rail stop</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>In the local parks</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Safe</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unsafe</u>		8	1	2	3	In your home	9	1	2	3	On the street	10	1	2	3	On the way to and from the bus or Light Rail stop	11	1	2	3	In the local parks															
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12					<p>Do you find the following disputes occur a lot in this neighborhood?</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Yes</u></td> <td><u>No</u></td> <td><u>Don't know</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>Landlord/Tenant disputes (ex: apartment repairs)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>Business owner/Resident disputes (ex: not wanting kids into their store)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>Neighbor/Neighbor disputes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>Family disputes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>Conflict between residents of different apartment buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>Conflict over use of parks or common spaces</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>Other: Please specify: _____</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>		12	1	2	3	Landlord/Tenant disputes (ex: apartment repairs)	13	1	2	3	Business owner/Resident disputes (ex: not wanting kids into their store)	14	1	2	3	Neighbor/Neighbor disputes	15	1	2	3	Family disputes	16	1	2	3	Conflict between residents of different apartment buildings	17	1	2	3	Conflict over use of parks or common spaces	18	1	2	3	Other: Please specify: _____
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18	1	2	3	Other: Please specify: _____																																									
19					<p>What is one thing missing from the Newark community that could make it better?</p>																																								

**THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

		<p>Now, I'm going to ask you about police in your area <u>in the past year</u>. Remember, your answers will remain anonymous. For each statement below, please tell me if you...</p> <p>1- Strongly agree  2- Agree  3- Neutral  4- Disagree  5- Strongly disagree</p>
--	--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	
20	1	2	3	4	5	<i>The police....</i>
21	1	2	3	4	5	Would treat you with respect if you had contact with them
22	1	2	3	4	5	Treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are
23	1	2	3	4	5	Are helpful
24	1	2	3	4	5	Are friendly and approachable
25	1	2	3	4	5	Can be relied on to be there when you need them ( <i>ex: come quickly when you call 911; are responsive to your emergencies</i> )
26	1	2	3	4	5	Have positive relationships with the community ( <i>ex: conduct community outreach, attend neighborhood events</i> )
27						Deal positively with young people
						Would you characterize the relationship between the police and your community <u>in the past year</u> as...
					1	Positive
					2	Neutral
					3	Negative
					4	Don't Know
28				<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
29				1	2	Have you called the police for help <u>in the past year</u> ?
30				1	2	Have you been unfairly treated by the police <u>in the past year</u> ?
31				<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Have you been stopped by the police <u>in the past year</u> ( <i>ex: been patted down or frisked by the cops, or had your identification or record checked</i> )?
32				1	2	
						If YES, Number of Stops?
						If YES, when you were stopped by the police, how did you feel about it?
33						How effective do you think the following courts are at dealing with crime in your community?
	<u>Very effective</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Ineffective</u>	<u>Very Ineffective</u>	
	1	2	3	4	5	Newark Municipal Court
	1	2	3	4	5	Newark Superior Court
	1	2	3	4	5	Family Court in Newark
	1	2	3	4	5	Other: Please specify: _____

**NEWARK COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS**

34				<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Next, I will ask you questions about Newark Community Solutions (NCS). It is a community court program in the Newark Municipal Court. It is designed to handle cases involving arrests for non-violent crimes, where the goal is offer those arrested the chance to do community service and attend programs, instead of jail.
				1	2	Have you heard of NCS or the community court <u>before</u> today? (If NO, skip to #35)
35		<u>Don't know</u>	<u>2 years ago</u>	<u>1 year ago</u>	<u>&lt;6 mos. ago</u>	
		0	1	2	3	If YES, how long ago did you <u>first</u> hear about NCS / the community court?
36						How do you feel about the following sentencing options for low-level, nonviolent offenses?
	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Very Bad</u>	
	1	2	3	4	5	a. Jail
	1	2	3	4	5	b. Fines
	1	2	3	4	5	c. Community service
	1	2	3	4	5	d. Social services ( <i>ex: mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, job or education services</i> )
	1	2	3	4	5	e. Other, please specify: _____
37	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Very Bad</u>	How do you feel about having NCS / the community court, that provides alternatives like community service and social services for low-level, nonviolent offenses in Newark?
	1	2	3	4	5	

**COMMUNITY PROBLEMS/SAFETY (in General and among Youth):**

Now, I am going to ask you some questions about problems and safety in this neighborhood [from question 4]. In some cases, I will also ask if these are issues, specifically for youth (i.e., people who are 17 years or younger) in this neighborhood. After each issue that I state, tell me whether it is a:

- 1 - big problem
- 2 - minor problem
- 3 - not a problem or
- 4 - don't know

	<u>Big Problem</u>	<u>Minor Problem</u>	<u>Not a Problem</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	
38	1	2	3	4	Public drinking in general
39	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
40	1	2	3	4	Disorderly conduct in general (ex: yelling, throwing things)
41	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
42	1	2	3	4	Drug selling in general
43	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
44	1	2	3	4	Drug use in general
45	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
46	1	2	3	4	Gang activity in general
47	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
48	1	2	3	4	Mugging/Theft/Robbery in general
49	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
50	1	2	3	4	Assault in general
51	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
52	1	2	3	4	Sexual assault/rape in general
53	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
54	1	2	3	4	Guns in general
55	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
56	1	2	3	4	Other weapons in general
57	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
58	1	2	3	4	Unemployment in general
59	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
60	1	2	3	4	Homelessness in general
61	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
62	1	2	3	4	Prostitution in general
63	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
64	1	2	3	4	HIV/AIDS, or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in general
65	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
66	1	2	3	4	Obesity, asthma, or other health problems in general
67	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
68	1	2	3	4	Depression, trauma and other mental issues (ex: people being really low, not being able to get out of bed, having lots of flashbacks of bad events)
69	1	2	3	4	-Is this a problem among youth?
70	1	2	3	4	Vandalism or graffiti
71	1	2	3	4	Garbage removal/littering
72	1	2	3	4	Run down public spaces
73	1	2	3	4	Abandoned buildings/foreclosures and evictions
74	1	2	3	4	Not enough signage (ex: traffic signs, school zone signs)

What about the following issues among youth that may exist in this neighborhood. Please tell me if the following is a...

- 1 - big problem
- 2 - minor problem
- 3 - not a problem or
- 4 - don't know

	<u>Big Problem</u>	<u>Minor Problem</u>	<u>Not a Problem</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	
75	1	2	3	4	Truancy (ex: kids not in school when they should be)
76	1	2	3	4	Teenage pregnancy
77	1	2	3	4	Bullying
78	1	2	3	4	Lack of GED programs
79	1	2	3	4	Lack of other educational/training opportunities
80	1	2	3	4	Few parks, recreational facilities or sports teams
81	1	2	3	4	Nothing to do after school
82	1	2	3	4	Few adult role models

83 What can be done to improve these community issues in this neighborhood [from question 4]? (Please specify 1-2 issues that you are talking about)

84

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85					What can be done to improve Newark in general, in terms of these community issues from the list above? (Please specify 1-2 issues that you are talking about: _____)
86			<u>Yes</u> 1	<u>No</u> 2	Do you live with one or more school aged children? (If NO, skip to #91)
					If YES, please tell me if the following is a... 1 - big problem 2 - minor problem 3 - not a problem or 4 - don't know
87	<u>Big Problem</u>	<u>Minor Problem</u>	<u>Not a Problem</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	
88	1	2	3	4	Distance from school to home.
89	1	2	3	4	Safe travel to and from school
90	1	2	3	4	Absences from school.
91	1	2	3	4	Getting homework help. Having after-school activities.
92					Where does the child/children go to school?
93		<u>Yes</u> 1	<u>Maybe</u> 2	<u>No</u> 3	Would you be interested in the results of this survey?
94		<u>Yes</u> 1	<u>Maybe</u> 2	<u>No</u> 3	If YES, would you be interested in attending a community board hosted by NCS/the community court in the fall or winter?
95					Is there anything else you would like say about this neighborhood and/or Newark ?

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

96				1 2 3	<b>We are almost done!</b> I am just going to ask a few questions about yourself.  You identify as: <i>[optional]</i> Male Female _____ (Fill in the blank)
97				1 2 3 4 5 6	What racial/ethnic group do you consider yourself a part of? <i>[optional]</i> 1 Black or African American 2 White 3 Latino 4 Native American or Alaska Native 5 Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 6 Other: Please Specify: _____
98			<u>Yes</u> 1	<u>No</u> 2	Are you currently employed?
99			<u>Yes</u> 1 1	<u>No</u> 2 2	If YES, are you: Full-time Part-time
100			<u>Yes</u> 1 1 1 1	<u>No</u> 2 2 2 2	If NO, are you: At school At an education or job training program Retired Unemployed Other: Please Specify: _____

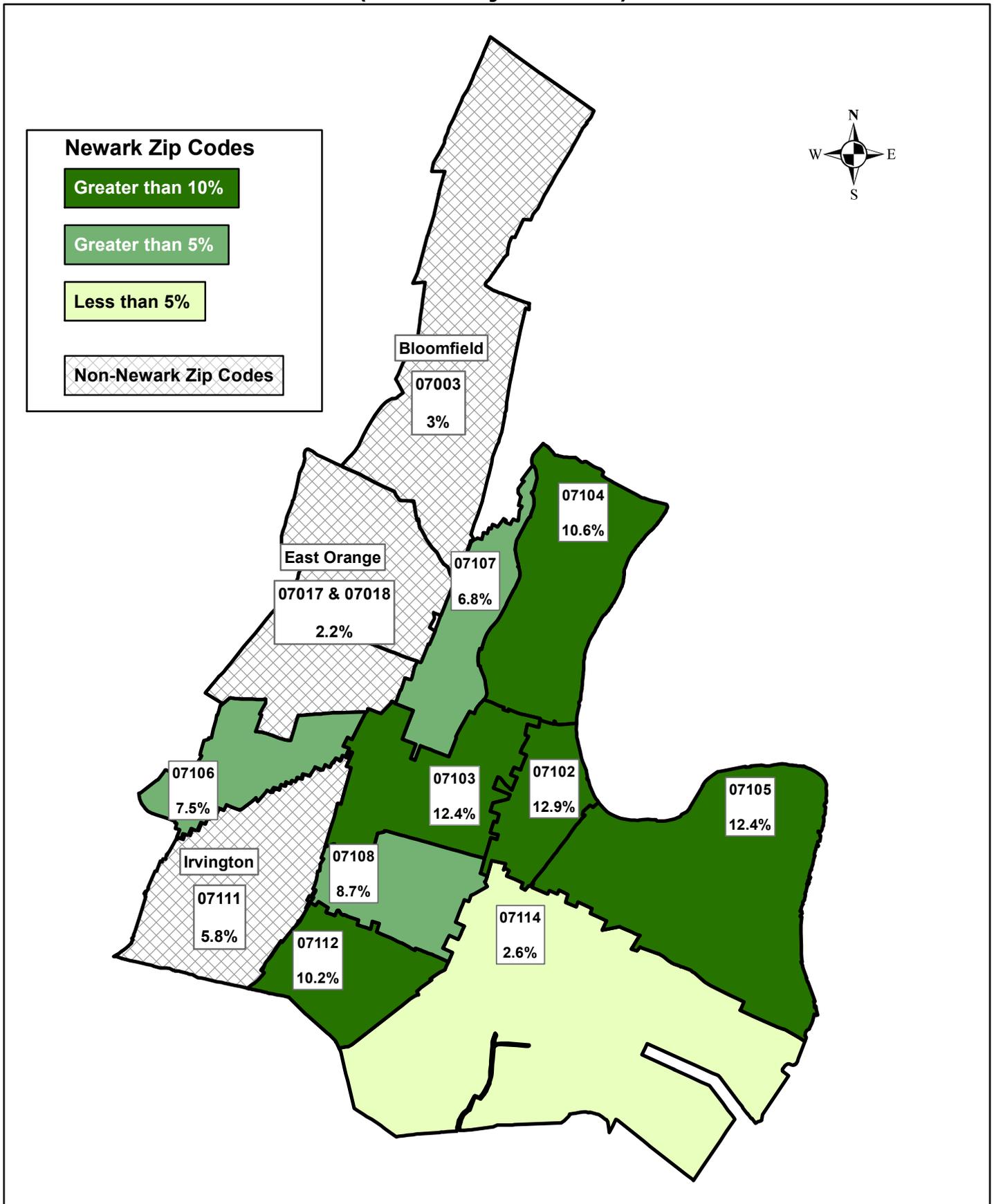
**\*\*\*END OF SURVEY. Please thank the respondent for their time. Answer any questions they might have for you.\*\*\***

**FOR THE COMMUNITY SURVEYOR:**

<b>Answers</b>		<b>Questions for surveyor:</b>
		<i>After the survey is completed, please record the following.</i>
A	<u>Month</u> <u>Day</u> <u>Year</u> _____	Date of the survey
B	_____ _____	What is the closest intersection to where you are conducting the survey? Street 1: Street 2:
C	<u>Zone</u> <u>Number</u> _____	What is the zone where you are conducting the survey? Zone
D		<b>Any notes or observations:</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

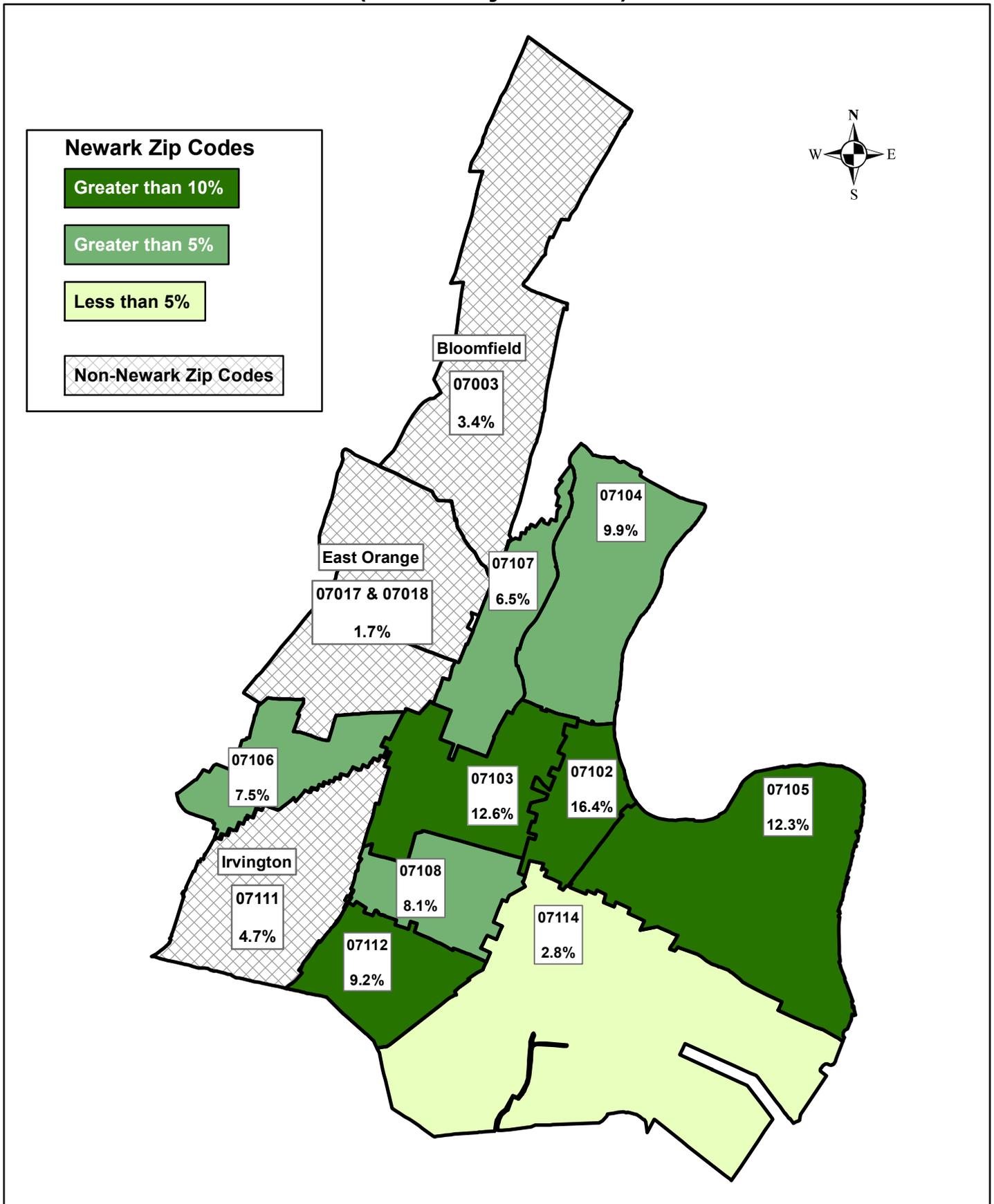
# Appendix B. NCS Community Survey

## Figure B.1 Greater Newark Zip Codes where Respondents Live (Shown by Percent)



## Appendix B. NCS Community Survey

### Figure B.2 Greater Newark Zip Codes that Respondents Discussed (Shown by Percent)



## Appendix C: Problems Among Newark Youth by Age Group

**Table C.1. Problems in the Newark Community Among Youth**

Youth Problems	Big Problem		Minor Problem		Not a Problem		Don't Know	
	18-30	31+	18-30	31+	18-30	31+	18-30	31+
1. Teenage pregnancy	74.9%	70.7%	15.3%	14.0%	4.7%	9.5%	5.1%	5.9%
2. Bullying	74.8%	75.4%	14.3%	9.6%	6.2%	9.9%	4.8%	5.1%
3. Unemployment	73.8%*	81.9%	13.3%	8.5%	3.8%	6.6%	9.0%	3.0%
4. Few adult role models	72.3% <sup>+</sup>	78.9%	12.2%	9.3%	8.0%	8.5%	7.5%	3.3%
5. Drug selling	72.8%	78.2%	14.6%	5.9%	5.6%	10.7%	7.0%	5.2%
6. Guns	72.0%	77.9%	14.7%	7.0%	1.9%	10.7%	11.4%	4.4%
7. Mugging/Theft/Robbery	69.2%	75.6%	18.7%	9.6%	6.5%	8.1%	5.6%	6.7%
8. Drug use	68.9%	74.7%	17.0%	9.7%	5.7%	11.2%	8.5%	4.5%
9. Gang activity	67.0%**	79.0%	18.4%	6.6%	7.1%	8.8%	7.5%	5.5%
10. Depression, trauma, or other mental health issues	66.8%	71.0%	20.9%	13.0%	3.8%	12.2%	8.5%	3.8%
11. Obesity, asthma, or other health problems	66.7%**	77.4%	22.4%	8.9%	3.8%	10.0%	7.1%	3.7%
12. HIV/AIDS, or other STDs	66.5%	66.3%	13.3%	7.4%	5.4%	8.9%	14.8%	17.4%
13. Other weapons	65.4%	70.8%	19.2%	10.2%	4.3%	13.3%	11.1%	5.7%
14. Nothing to do after school	65.3%*	75.4%	16.4%	8.6%	10.3%	13.1%	8.0%	3.0%
15. Assault	63.7%	69.7%	21.2%	11.1%	6.6%	12.2%	8.5%	7.0%
16. Lack of other educational or training opportunities	63.8%	70.7%	13.6%	11.9%	13.1%	13.7%	9.4%	3.7%
17. Disorderly conduct	63.4%*	72.7%	19.9%	14.6%	11.1%	11.6%	5.6%	1.1%
18. Homelessness	63.3% <sup>+</sup>	70.4%	19.5%	14.8%	7.1%	9.6%	10.0%	5.2%
19. Few parks, recreational facilities or sports teams	54.7%**	67.3%	23.8%	12.8%	13.6%	16.9%	7.9%	3.0%
20. Lack of GED programs	59.3%	65.8%	17.6%	13.8%	13.9%	13.4%	9.3%	7.0%
21. Public drinking	64.4%	61.0%	18.5%	15.4%	9.7%	18.0%	7.4%	5.5%
22. Truancy	60.1%	61.0%	17.4%	15.1%	14.1%	16.9%	8.5%	7.0%
23. Prostitution	59.0%	61.1%	14.3%	14.1%	9.0%	11.5%	17.6%	13.3%
24. Sexual assault/rape	57.0%	56.0%	20.3%	13.5%	10.1%	18.0%	12.6%	12.0%

*Note.* <sup>+</sup>  $p < .10$ , \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ .  
N=577 but can be as low as 525 for some questions due to missing data.