

THE MUNCIE NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

FINAL REPORT, PART 1

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This project was made possible through funding provided by Muncie Weed and Seed and the Building Better Communities Fellows program at Ball State University. Kelli Huth is the Project Manager for the program and gave us all possible assistance. Greg Maynard serves as Site Coordinator for Muncie Weed and Seed and June Kramer chairs the Reentry/Restoration Committee. Both Mr. Maynard and Mrs. Kramer were essential to the success of the survey. Many other committee members contributed by suggesting valuable modifications to the questionnaire and distributing questionnaires at community events.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This survey was designed in consultation with the Offender Reentry/Neighborhood Restoration Committee of the Muncie Weed and Seed Initiative. The committee is chaired by June Kramer and Greg Maynard, the Weed and Seed site coordinator, serves as an ad hoc member.

A survey of Weed and Seed neighborhoods was conducted in 2007 as part of the research for the initial Weed and Seed grant application. Although results for each variable in the original survey are available, the dataset for the survey is not. The Reentry/Restoration Committee wanted to update the findings and provide a baseline for further research. In early 2010, they consulted with Dr. Jerry McKean, an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Ball State University, who was also mentoring a Building Better Communities (BBC) project to assist the Weed and Seed program in identifying goals and objectives for evaluation.

Dr. McKean met with the committee members several times. In these meetings, the committee weighed the various pros and cons of different sampling designs. In the end, the committee decided to use purposive/convenience sampling instead of probability sampling for this project. Purposive sampling has the advantage of being relatively inexpensive, since copies of the questionnaires can be distributed to respondents at community events. On the other hand, the lack of probability sampling means that the results of the survey cannot safely be generalized beyond the actual respondents to the survey. With a purposive design, there is no way to estimate a margin of error for any of the sample statistics in order to determine that the statistics are accurate within some margin (such as plus or minus three percent) at a specified level of confidence (such as 95 percent).

The survey was designed by Dr. McKean and his BBC students.¹ In designing the survey, they reviewed the literature on similar surveys to design items that had been tested in earlier research and found to be valid indicators of such concepts as perceptions of neighborhood disorder and attitudes toward the police.

¹ A copy of the survey is presented as an appendix to this report.

The survey was distributed to respondents at a variety of community events during the summer and fall of 2010. The events included Muncie Black Expo, Second Harvest Food Pantries, Blood and Fire community meals, neighborhood street fairs, the Delaware County Fair and other events. The Center Township Trustee, Marilyn Kay Walker, also distributed the questionnaire to residents who had business at the Trustee's Office.

A total of 563 surveys were completed or partially completed. As is common with questionnaires that are completed by respondents instead of through interviews, data was missing for items on many completed questionnaires. Nevertheless, between 440 and 490 respondents provided information for most of the items, enabling the researchers to conduct their analysis.

The analysis was completed in collaboration between Dr. McKean and another group of BBC students in the early months of 2011. These students, as well as students in other classes taught by Dr. McKean, assisted with coding the questionnaires and entering data. The BBC students conducted a preliminary analysis of the findings and presented it at a Council of Neighborhoods meeting in February, 2011.

This report is the first part of the final report on the survey results. In this report, we provide a detailed description of the data on respondent characteristics, perceptions of their neighborhoods, and attitudes toward the police. The second part will provide a detailed analysis of respondents' answers to open-ended questions about their neighborhoods which appear at the end of the questionnaire. Finally, a third part of the report will describe an analysis using more advanced statistical methods such as factor analysis and multiple regression.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

In the section, we describe the basic characteristics of the respondents, comparing residents of Weed and Seed target neighborhoods to the residents of other neighborhoods. We must reiterate the caution that the results of this survey apply only to the respondents. It would *not* be correct to say that "Weed and Seed Neighborhoods have a population that is 45 percent male." Instead, one may say that 45 percent of the respondents from Weed and Seed neighborhoods are male.

The wording for questions in this section was adopted from the wording used in surveys from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Here is how the characteristics of the respondents break down.

Neighborhood

Respondents to the survey came from all parts of the City of Muncie, as shown in Table 1 below. Southside had 82 respondents or nearly 15 percent of the entire sample. The other neighborhoods with a large number of respondents were Whitely (49 respondents), Morningside (26 respondents), Old West End (21 respondents), Industry (25 respondents), Thomas Park/Avondale (29 respondents), and Southeast (29 respondents). The table also shows that data on neighborhood of residence is missing for 74 respondents, reducing the usable number of cases from 563 to 489.

Many of the comparisons made in this report contrast residents of Weed and Seed Target neighborhoods with residents of other neighborhoods. Of the 489 respondents who identified a neighborhood, 125 or 26 percent came from one of the Weed and Seed neighborhoods and the remaining 364 (74 percent) came from other neighborhoods. The Weed and Seed target neighborhoods and the number of respondents from each are as follows:

- McKinley (4)
- Gilbert (19)
- East Central (15)
- Industry (25)
- South Central (8)
- Thomas Park/Avondale (29)
- Old West End (21)
- Central Business District (4)

Cost issues prohibited the use of probability sampling techniques for this survey. In the future, the Steering Committee may wish to consider using a stratified design that assures that each neighborhood is represented in the sample with a number of cases proportionate to the number of residents. A similar goal can be reached through quota sampling, in which researchers have a target number of cases for each neighborhood that would provide enough cases so that finding can be more reliably applied to the neighborhood level.

Table 1: Frequency of Cases from Muncie Neighborhoods

NEIGHBORHOOD	Frequency	Valid Percent
Northview	11	2.2
Norwood	8	1.6
Skyway	4	.8
Anthony	7	1.4
Orchard Lawn	2	.4
Westridge	4	.8
Storer Community	12	2.5
Riverside	8	1.6
Normal City	8	1.6
Westview	12	2.5
Westside	18	3.7
Morningside	26	5.3
Minnetrista	6	1.2
Whitely	49	10.0
Eastside	18	3.7
Aultshire	4	.8
Old West End	21	4.3
McKinley	4	.8
Gilbert	19	3.9
East Central	15	3.1
Central Business District	4	.8
South Central	8	1.6
Industry	25	5.1
Forest Park	8	1.6
Thomas Park/Avondale	29	5.9
Southeast	29	5.9
Southside	82	16.8
None listed	35	7.2
Don't Know	13	2.7
Total	489	100.0
Missing		
99	58	
System	16	
Total	74	
Total	563	

Gender

Forty-five percent of the respondents from Weed and Seed neighborhoods were male and 55 percent were female. For other neighborhoods, 33 percent of the respondents were male and 67 percent were female.

Marital Status

The distribution of respondents on marital status is shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Marital Status, by Type of Neighborhood

	Type of Neighborhood		Total
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed Neighborhood	
Now married	36.3%	31.4%	35.1%
Widowed	11.3%	4.1%	9.5%
Divorced	23.9%	24.0%	23.9%
Separated	5.1%	6.6%	5.5%
Never married	23.4%	33.9%	26.1%
Total	100.0% (358)	100.0% (122)	100.0% (480)

In all tables, the numbers in parentheses show that actual frequency of respondents in each column. For example, in Table 2 there were 358 respondents from neighborhoods outside the Weed and Seed area, 122 respondents from Weed and Seed neighborhoods, and 480 respondents total.

Table 2 shows that a higher percentage of Weed and Seed respondents had never been married compared to respondents from other neighborhoods. Nearly three times as many of the respondents from non-Weed and Seed neighborhoods were widowed (11 percent) compared to those from Weed and Seed neighborhoods (4 percent).

Education Level

Respondents were asked to describe their education level in terms of the number of grades of school they have completed. The distribution of respondents by education level is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Education Level, by Type of Neighborhood

	Type of Neighborhood		Total
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed Neighborhood	
No schooling	2.6%	1.7%	2.3%
Grade 11 or less	6.8%	15.3%	9.0%
Grade 12	9.7%	7.6%	9.2%
High School or GED	26.5%	34.7%	28.6%
Some College	30.5%	25.4%	29.2%
Other	23.9%	15.3%	21.7%
Total	100.0% (351)	100.0% (118)	100.0% (469)

Table 3 indicates that education levels were lower for Weed and Seed respondents than for respondents from other neighborhoods. Seventeen percent of the Weed and Seed respondents reported less than a high school education, compared to nine percent of the other respondents. Many respondents who marked “other” on the questionnaire indicated that they had graduated from college. If we include them in the group who said they had some college, about 41 percent of the Weed and Seed respondents and 54 percent of the other respondents reported that they had attended or completed college.

Employment

Respondents were asked about their employment status, and several different responses were possible. The results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Employment, by Type of Neighborhood

	Type of Neighborhood		Total
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed Neighborhood	
Employed for wages	33.3%	26.3%	31.6%
Self-employed	2.8%	8.5%	4.3%
Out of work & looking for work	19.4%	23.7%	20.5%
Out of work, not looking	1.7%	4.2%	2.3%
Homemaker	5.4%	8.5%	6.2%
Student	2.0%	0.0 %	1.5%
Retired	18.8%	7.6%	16.0%
Unable to work	16.5%	21.2%	17.7%
Total	100.0% (351)	100.0% (118)	100.0% (489)

Weed and Seed respondents were less likely to be employed for wages and more likely to be out of work and looking for work than other respondents. They were also more likely to report being self-employed, homemakers, and unable to work.

Home Ownership

Respondents were asked if they owned their homes (either with a mortgage or free clear), rent their dwelling places, or occupy a dwelling place without paying rent. Home ownership was lower among Weed and Seed respondents than other respondents (41 percent versus 55 percent) and the percentage of Weed and Seed respondents who rented was correspondingly higher (56 percent versus 42 percent).

Household Income

Respondents were asked to report their “total household income,” and include everyone who is a member of their households. The results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Household Income, by Type of Neighborhood

	Type of Neighborhood		Total
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed Neighborhood	
Under \$10,000	40.4%	52.9%	43.7%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	20.5%	21.5%	20.7%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	14.5%	6.6%	12.4%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	7.4%	6.6%	7.2%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	6.2%	4.1%	5.7%
\$50,000 or more	11.0%	8.3%	10.3%
Total	100.0% (337)	100.0% (121)	100.0% (458)

The large percentage of respondents reporting incomes of less than \$10,000 leads us to suspect that some respondents were not including income from public sources (unemployment benefits, social security) or from some private sources, such as pensions. Another consideration is that many of the respondents undoubtedly impoverished, as they were clients at food pantry distributions and soup kitchens, or seeking financial aid from the Center Township Trustee.

Even so, it should be noted that official poverty rates in Muncie are alarmingly high. Based on the American Community Survey (a probability sample survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census), the five-year average poverty rate for 2005-2009 was 29.5 percent for all individuals, including children, and 19.2 percent for families. City-Data.com (<http://www.city-data.com/poverty/poverty-Muncie-Indiana.html>) estimates that the poverty rate for Muncie was 34 percent in 2009, with 16.7 percent of residents having incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level income for their reference group.

According to the American Community Survey, the 2005-2009 poverty rate for African-Americans was 37.7 percent, for American Indians it was 37.7 percent and for unemployed persons it was nearly 45 percent.

In any case, a higher proportion of Weed and Seed respondents reported very low incomes than respondents from other neighborhoods. Over half the Weed and Seed respondents reported incomes of under \$10,000, and nearly 75 percent reported incomes under \$20,000. Under the 2009-2010 poverty guidelines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the poverty income level for one person is \$10,830. For a household of two persons, such as a married couple, it is \$14,570.

To provide further insight into the income distribution, we examined the effects of gender and marital status on income. Focusing on those reporting incomes of less than \$10,000, we found that marriage had a strong insulating effect against extreme low income:

- Sixty percent of unmarried males had incomes below \$10,000 compared to 17 percent of married males.
- Forty-nine percent of unmarried females had incomes below \$10,000 compared to 26 percent of married females.

Race and Ethnicity

Only 4.5 percent of the total sample reported that they were of Hispanic ethnicity, and there was not much difference between Weed and Seed respondents and other respondents. Most of the respondents were white (72 percent) or African American (18 percent). Five percent of the respondents preferred not to answer the question, three percent were American Indian, and just over one percent were Asian.

The percentage of respondents who were African American was lower in Weed and Seed neighborhoods (14 percent) than in respondents in other neighborhoods (19 percent). Sixty-nine percent of the Weed and Seed respondents were white compared to 73% of the respondents from other neighborhoods.

Age

The age of respondents was estimated by simply subtracting 2010 from the year that the respondent reported being born. Age was then divided into the six categories shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Age, by Type of Neighborhood

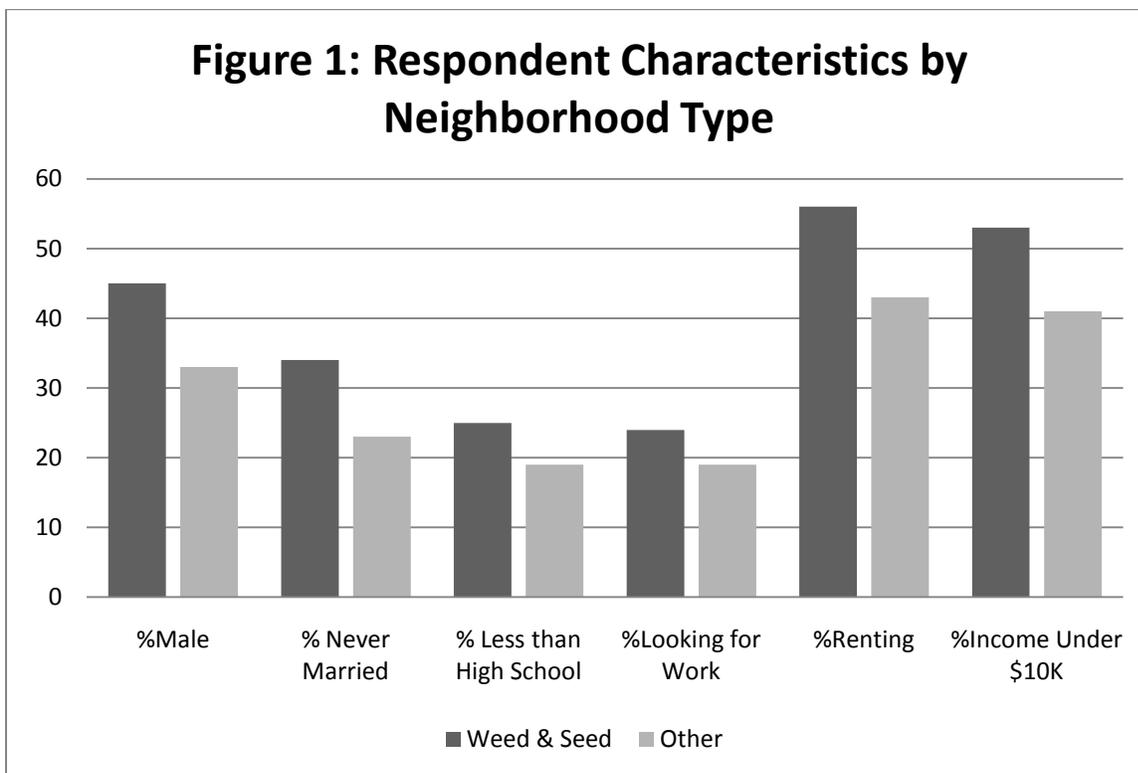
	Type of Neighborhood		Total
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed Neighborhood	
25 and Lower	7.1%	14.3%	8.9%
26-35	16.7%	15.2%	16.3%
36-45	16.1%	20.5%	17.2%
46-55	22.6%	25.9%	23.4%
56 -65	18.2%	20.5%	18.8%
65 and Higher	19.3%	3.6%	15.4%
Total	100.0% (336)	100.0% (112)	100.0% (448)

Respondents in Weed and Seed Neighborhoods were younger than other respondents. Twice the percentage of Weed and respondents were 25 or less than other respondents. While nearly 20 percent of the other respondents were 65 or older, only 3.6 percent of the Weed and Seed respondents were in this age group.

Summary and Conclusions

Some of the results described in this section are summarized in Figure 1. Compared to respondents from other neighborhoods, respondents from Weed and Seed neighborhoods were younger, more likely to be male, less likely to be married, less likely to have finished high school, less likely to be employed, and more likely to rent their dwelling place. Poverty was prevalent in among all respondents, but a majority of Weed and Seed respondents had incomes under \$10,000.

All these variables have implications for crime, attitudes toward the police, and the sense of involvement in neighborhoods. Broadly speaking, Weed and Seed respondents are more likely to have characteristics that are predictive of greater involvement in criminal behavior, greater risk of criminal victimization, more negative attitudes toward the police, and weaker bonds to their neighbors and to their neighborhoods as a whole. These implications are examined in greater detail in the sections that follow.



CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION

In this survey, we used some simple measures of criminal victimization. The wording of the questions is based on the wording of items in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which is an annual survey of households in the United States by the Bureau of the Census and the Department of Justice. Compared to the NCVS, this survey is unsophisticated, but it did reveal both a high prevalence of victimization and differences between Weed and Seed Neighborhood respondents and other respondents.

Theft

Respondents were asked, “In the past year, was something belonging to you stolen?” Just over half of the Weed and Seed respondents said yes, compared to 34 percent of the other respondents.

For each question, we also asked respondents where the event occurred. The response categories were “In my home;” “In my neighborhood;” “Somewhere else in Muncie”, or “Outside Muncie.” Our analysis showed that:

- Fifty-five percent of the respondents from Weed and Seed Neighborhoods said that the theft occurred in their homes, versus 46 percent of other respondents.
- Thirty-two percent of Weed and Seed respondents said that the theft occurred in their neighborhoods, versus 41 percent of the other respondents.

Attacks

Respondents were asked, “In the past year, has anyone attacked you or threatened you in any way?” This broadly worded question was intended to capture as much threatening or assaultive behavior as possible, so the results should be interpreted with caution. A more extensive survey of victimization is needed to unearth the details of incidents involving attacks or threats. Nonetheless, the results are consistent with those for theft. About one-fourth of the Weed and Seed respondents reported an attack compared to twelve percent of the other respondents. In other words, Weed and Seed neighborhood residents were twice as likely as other residents to report an attack.

Attacks and threats were less concentrated in the home than were thefts. Table 7 provides a breakdown of the data.

Table 7: Location of Attack, by Type of Neighborhood

	Type of Neighborhood		Total
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed Neighborhood	
In Home	27.3%	13.8%	21.9%
In Neighborhood	38.6%	55.2%	45.2%
Somewhere else in Muncie	31.8%	27.6%	30.1%
Outside Muncie	2.3%	3.4%	2.7%
Total	100.0% (44)	100.0% (29)	100.0% (73)

The majority of attacks reported by Weed and Seed respondents occurred in their neighborhoods, and 28 percent occurred somewhere outside their neighborhoods. Residents of other neighborhoods were more likely to report attacks occurring in their homes.

Break-ins

Respondents were also asked, “In the past year, has anyone broken into or attempted to break into your home?” The percentages reporting break-ins were similar for Weed and Seed residents (12.5 percent) and other respondents (10.7 percent). As one would expect, most of the break-ins were reported as occurring at home.

Calling the Police

Respondents were asked, “In the past year, did you call the police to report something that happened to YOU which you thought was a crime?” Thirty-five percent of Weed and Seed respondents said that they had called the police, compared to 24 percent of other respondents. There were differences between the two groups regarding the location of the respondents when the police were called, as shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Location when police called, by Type of Neighborhood

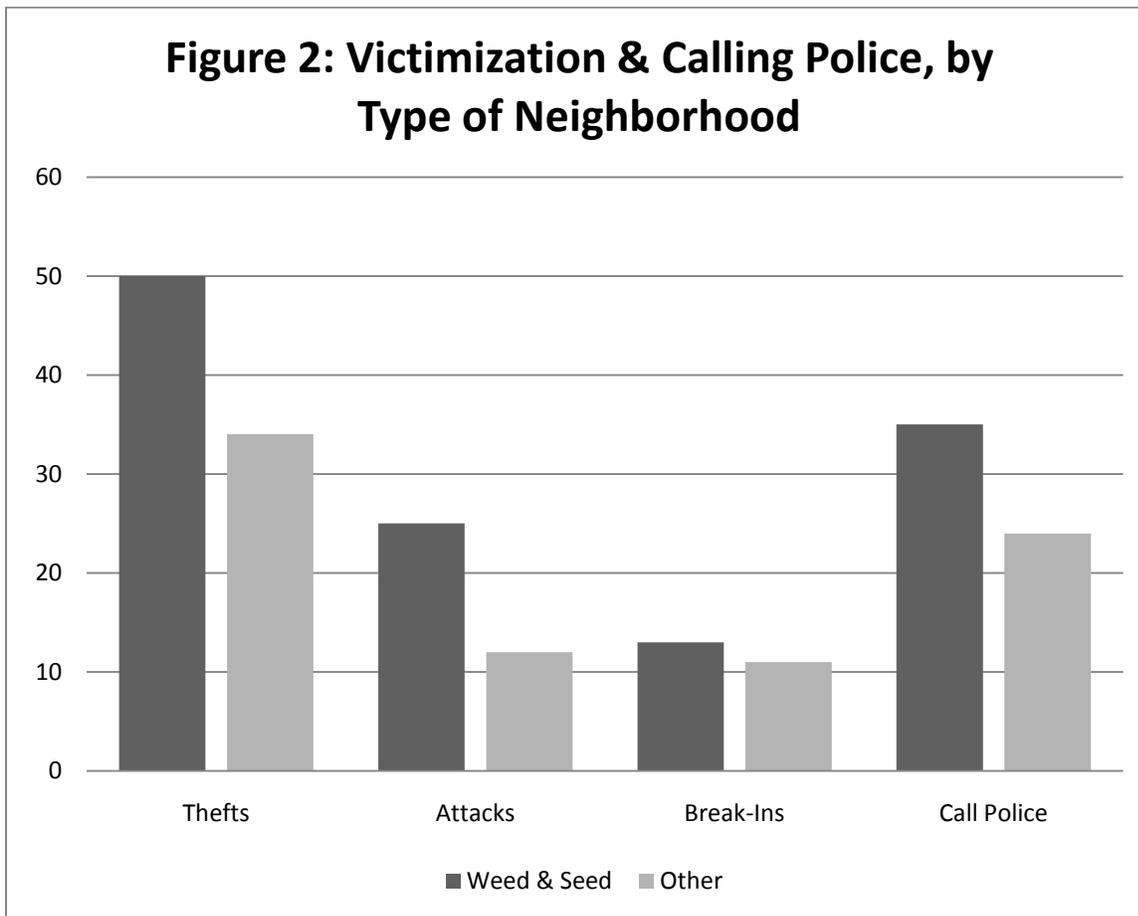
	Type of Neighborhood		Total
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed Neighborhood	
In Home	46.9%	38.5%	44.2%
In Neighborhood	38.3%	48.7%	41.7%
Somewhere else in Muncie	14.8%	7.7%	12.5%
Outside Muncie	0.0%	5.1%	1.7%
Total	100.0% (81)	100.0% (39)	100.0% (120)

Weed and Seed respondents were more likely to indicate that they were somewhere other than their homes when they called the police, although a large majority of both Weed and Seed and other respondents were either at home or in their neighborhoods.

Summary and Conclusions

As one would predict from the differences between Weed and Seed residents and other residents in their demographic characteristics, the respondents from Weed and Seed neighborhoods were more likely to experience criminal victimization and were those from other neighborhoods. Given the greater likelihood of victimization, it is not surprising that Weed and Seed residents were also more likely to call the police.

A summary of the findings from this section is presented in Figure 2, below. The findings illustrate the need for more detailed analysis of calls for service to the police and reports of crime incidents recorded by the police in Weed and Seed neighborhoods.



PERCEPTIONS OF NEIGHBORHOODS

In this section, we examine respondents’ perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of their neighborhoods. Respondents were presented with statements about their neighborhoods and asked if they “strongly agreed,” “agreed,” “disagreed,” or “strongly disagreed” with each statement. To simplify the presentation of this data, we have collapsed the four categories into an “agree” and a “disagree” category. We will use the complete data for a more statistically sophisticated analysis at a later date. Once again, our analysis will contrast Weed and Seed neighborhood respondents with respondents from other neighborhoods.

The results from this analysis are presented in Table 9. In this Table, we show the percentage of respondents who agree with each statement, comparing Weed and Seed respondents to other respondents. The column on the right shows the absolute percentage difference between the percentages agreeing with each statement. The bigger the number, the bigger the difference between Weed and Seed residents and residents of other neighborhoods.

Table 9: Percentage of Respondents Agreeing with Statements, by Type of Neighborhood

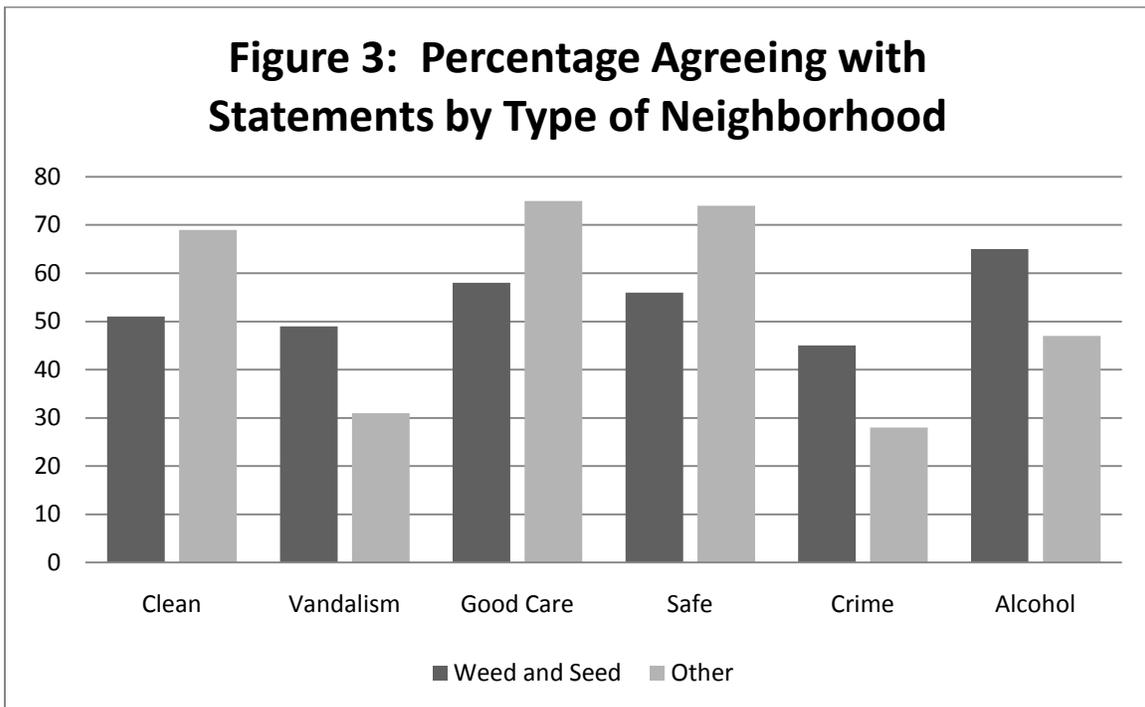
	Type of Neighborhood			
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed	Total (Total # Cases)	Difference in % Agreeing
There is a lot of graffiti in my neighborhood.	18.7%	30.4%	21.7% (446)	11.7
My neighborhood is clean.	69.2%	51.3%	64.7% (453)	17.9
Vandalism is common in my neighborhood.	31.3%	48.6%	35.7% (434)	17.3
The city is active in tearing down abandoned buildings in my neighborhood.	32.0%	35.7%	33.0% (437)	3.7
People in my neighborhood take good care of their houses and apartments.	75.3%	58.1%	70.9% (457)	17.2
My neighborhood is noisy.	39.1%	41.9%	39.8% (455)	2.8
My neighborhood is safe.	74.3%	56.4%	69.9% (445)	18.1
There is a lot of crime in my neighborhood.	28.1%	44.9%	32.3% (431)	16.8
I feel safe walking in my neighborhood at night.	63.2%	52.8%	60.8% (446)	10.4
There is a lot of drug use in my neighborhood.	44.9%	59.8%	48.7% (423)	14.9
There is a lot of alcohol abuse in my neighborhood.	46.9%	64.9%	51.6% (438)	18.0
I always have trouble with my neighbors.	16.0%	21.6%	17.4% (448)	5.6
In my neighborhood, people watch out for each other.	69.6%	59.0%	66.8% (449)	10.6
There are too many people hanging around on the streets near my home.	26.3%	39.6%	29.7% (445)	13.3

The largest difference between Weed and Seed respondents and other respondents was on the statement, “My neighborhood is safe.” Nearly three-fourths of the residents of other neighborhoods agreed with this statement, compared to 56 percent of Weed and Seed residents. The difference was nearly as large on the statement, “There is a lot of alcohol abuse in my neighborhood.” In this case, 65 percent of Weed and Seed residents agreed versus 47 percent of other respondents.

There were similarly large differences between Weed and Seed residents on the statements, “My neighborhood is clean,” “Vandalism is common in my neighborhood,” “People in my neighborhood take good care of their houses and apartments,” and “There is a lot of crime in my neighborhood.”

The results suggest that for Weed and Seed residents, perceptions of crime are strongly linked to their perceptions of *physical and social disorder* in their neighborhoods. The statements about alcohol abuse and vandalism are examples of indicators of social disorder, while the statements about cleanliness and taking care of homes are indicators of physical order (or disorder). As one would expect, statistical analysis shows that all these variables are strongly related to each other.

The results for the variables showing the greatest differences between Weed and Seed respondents and other respondents are presented graphically in Figure 3.



Neighborhood Organization

We also asked respondents three questions about the relationship with their neighbors. Respondents were asked:

- “How often do you visit or receive visits from residents of this neighborhood?”
- “How often do you speak personally or by telephone with residents of this neighborhood?”
- “How often do you and your neighbors exchange favors such as taking care of or playing with your children, lending stuff or groceries, looking after the house or care, etc.?”

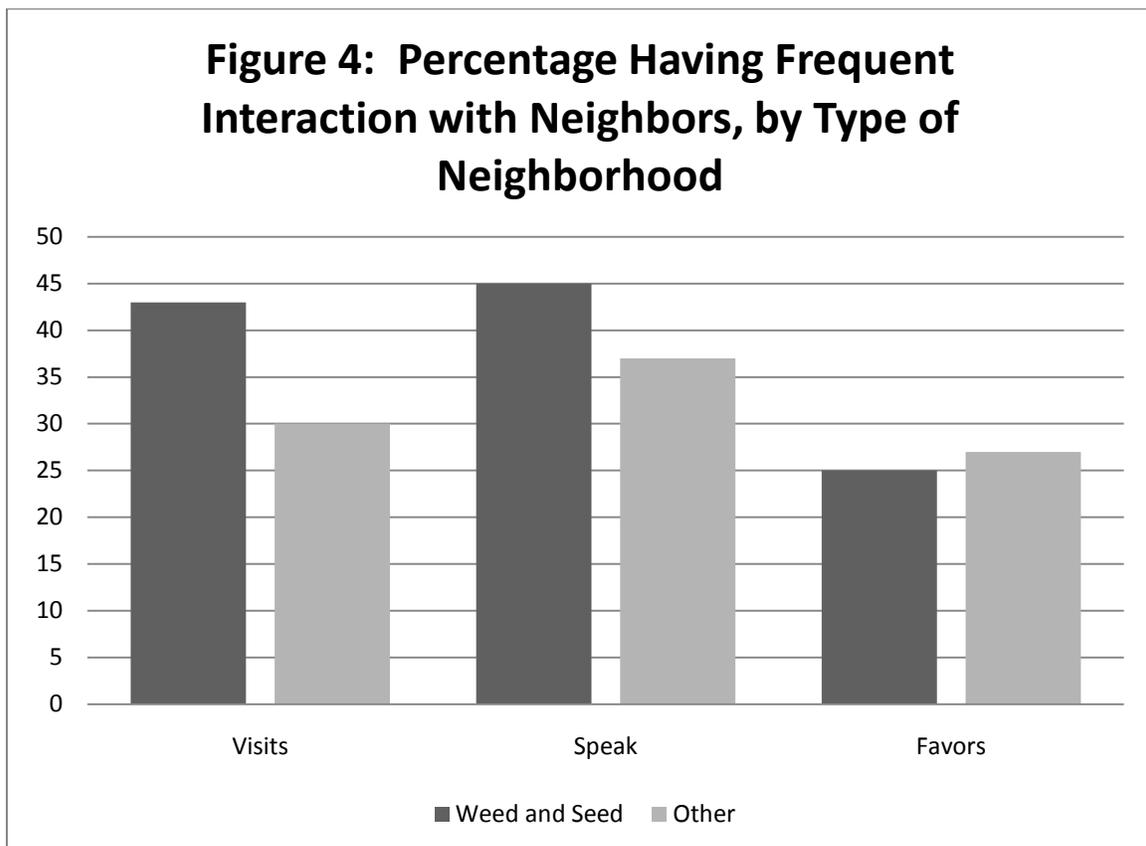
For each question respondents indicated a frequency of “never,” “less than once a month,” “1-3 times a month,” “every week,” or “more than once a week.”

Respondents from Weed and Seed neighborhoods reported results that were quite similar, if not more favorable, compared to respondents from other neighborhoods. For the sake of comparison we have collapsed the categories for this variable to “Less than Weekly” and “Weekly or More.” The findings show that:

- Forty-three percent of Weed and Seed respondents had visits with neighbors weekly or more often, compared to 30 percent of other respondents.
- Forty-five percent of Weed and Seed respondents spoke to their neighbors weekly or more often, compared to 37% of other respondents.
- Twenty-five percent of Weed and Seed respondents did favors for their neighbors weekly or more often, compared to 27 percent of the other respondents.

These results are encouraging because they suggest that there is some potential for creating viable neighborhood associations in the Weed and Seed neighborhoods. Informal networking among neighbors is a strong foundation for more formal efforts to achieve common goals. Of course, the questions do not tap the quality of the interactions (positive or negative), and it should be remembered that Weed and Seed respondents were more likely than other respondents to agree with the statement that they always have trouble with their neighbors. Regardless of whether the interactions are positive or negative, the fact that neighbors are interacting suggests that they are attempting to exercise *informal social control* of their neighborhoods and the occupants.

The results for this section are presented in Figure 4, below.



ATTITUDES TOWARD THE POLICE

The Neighborhood Survey also presents statements about the Muncie Police Department and respondents may indicate whether they “Strongly Agree,” “Agree,” “Disagree,” or “Strongly Disagree.” We have collapsed the four categories into two categories of “Agree” and “Disagree” to present the data in this report.

Weed and Seed Respondents versus Other Respondents

The findings on these statements are presented in Table 10. The format of this table is similar to that used for Table 9, with columns for Other Neighborhoods, Weed and Seed Neighborhoods, Total and the absolute percentage difference between other neighborhoods and Weed and Seed Neighborhoods.

Table 10: Percentage of Residents Agreeing with Statement, by Type of Neighborhood

	Type of Neighborhood			Difference in % Agreeing
	Not Weed and Seed	Weed and Seed	Total (Total # Cases)	
Muncie police are effective at fighting crime.	62.7%	52.1%	59.9% (441)	10.6
Muncie police stop people without a good reason.	48.4%	59.6%	51.4% (428)	11.2
Muncie police respond promptly to calls for assistance.	65.0%	55.3%	62.4% (434)	9.7
Muncie police use excessive force.	41.3%	46.7%	42.7% (412)	5.4
Muncie police work with residents to solve local problems.	61.5%	51.3%	58.7% (424)	10.2
Muncie police break the law or police rules.	56.9%	63.2%	58.6% (425)	6.3
Muncie police deal with residents in a fair and courteous manner.	62.7%	70.3%	64.7% (425)	7.6
Muncie police use offensive language when they talk to residents.	33.7%	34.2%	33.8% (420)	0.5
Muncie police deal with problems that concern people in this neighborhood.	63.1%	56.3%	61.3% (426)	6.8
Muncie police help people who have been victims of crime.	69.1%	63.8%	67.7% (412)	5.3

Overall, Muncie residents had positive attitudes toward the police. Sixty percent of residents or more agreed that the police are effective at fighting crime, respond promptly to calls, deal with residents in a fair and courteous manner, deal with problems that concern people in their neighborhoods, and help people who have been victims of crime.

Responses to a few items indicate more negative attitudes. Fifty percent or more of the respondents agreed that the police stop people without a good reason and break the law or police rules. In their efforts to prevent or suppress crime, the Muncie Police Department should be sure to gain public support before using aggressive traffic stop techniques or methods that give the appearance of violating the law. Some of the comments on the questionnaires indicate that respondents may be referring to aggressive driving by Muncie police officers in situations in which no emergency is apparent to an onlooker.

A large percentage (34 percent) of residents also agreed that Muncie Police use excessive force. There was almost no difference between Weed and Seed residents and other residents on this item.

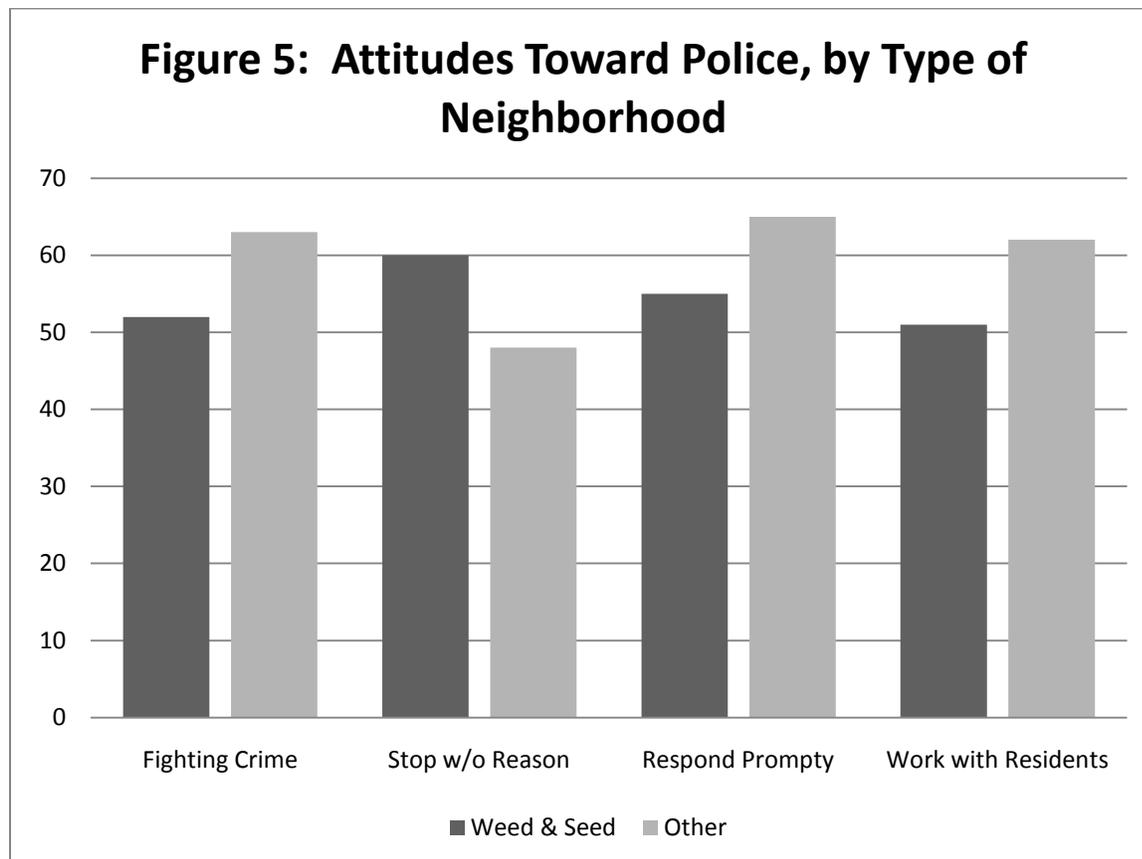
The differences between Weed and Seed respondents and other respondents were much smaller for these items than for the items measuring perceptions of neighborhoods. Generally, Weed and Seed residents had less positive attitudes toward the police.

On four items, the percentage of Weed and Seed respondents agreeing with the statement differed from other respondents by ten percent or more. Weed and Seed residents were:

- Less likely to agree that Muncie police are effective at fighting crime.
- More likely to agree that Muncie police stop people without a good reason.
- Less likely to agree that Muncie police respond promptly to calls for assistance.
- Less likely to agree that Muncie police work with residents to solve local problems.

On the other hand, Weed and Seed respondents were more likely than other respondents to agree that Muncie police deal with residents in a fair and courteous manner.

The results of our comparison between Weed and Seed residents and residents of other neighborhoods are summarized in Figure 5.



Crime Victims versus Nonvictims

Another variable that is predictive of attitudes toward the police is experience as a crime victim. Earlier research has shown that crime victims often have more negative attitudes toward the police than persons who have not been victimized. To test this, we created a variable that classified any person who experienced a theft, attack, or break-in in the past year (as described in a preceding section of this report) as a crime victim and anyone who did not experience one of these events as a nonvictim. Forty-two percent of the respondents reported that they were victims of one of these forms of crime. We then compared attitudes toward the police for the two groups. The results are shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Percentage Agreeing with Statements, by Criminal Victimization

	Criminal Victimization			
	Not Victimized	Victimized	Total (Total # Cases)	Difference in % Agreeing
Muncie police are effective at fighting crime.	67.6%	50.5%	60.5% (473)	17.1
Muncie police stop people without a good reason.	46.4%	59.7%	52.1% (457)	13.3
Muncie police respond promptly to calls for assistance.	67.5%	58.1%	63.5% (466)	9.4
Muncie police use excessive force.	37.9%	47.6%	42.1% (442)	9.7
Muncie police work with residents to solve local problems.	64.7%	50.8%	58.7% (453)	13.9
Muncie police break the law or police rules.	55.0%	62.7%	58.2% (455)	7.7
Muncie police deal with residents in a fair and courteous manner.	69.8%	58.1%	64.8% (454)	11.7
Muncie police use offensive language when they talk to residents.	29.7%	37.8%	33.2% (449)	8.1
Muncie police deal with problems that concern people in this neighborhood.	68.3%	48.5%	59.8% (459)	19.8
Muncie police help people who have been victims of crime.	73.9%	58.5%	67.2% (442)	15.4

Table 11 shows that crime victims differ from nonvictims in their attitudes toward the police, and tend to view the police more negatively. The magnitude of the differences between victims and nonvictims is greater than the magnitude of the differences between Weed and Seed residents and residents of other neighborhoods. In particular, crime victims are much *less* likely than nonvictims to agree the police are effective in fighting crime, that they deal with problems that concern people in the this neighborhood, or that they help people who have been victims of crime.

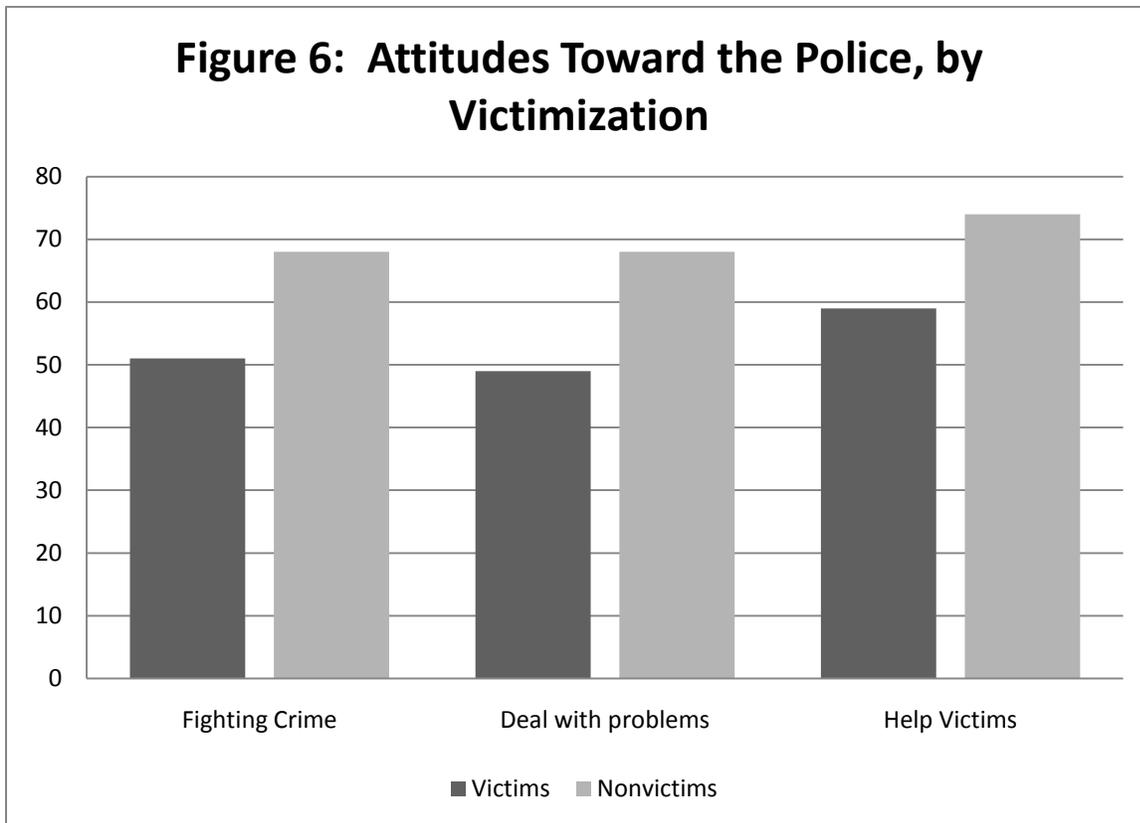
Caution is needed in interpreting these results. First, it cannot be assumed that the negative attitudes toward police expressed by victims are due to their experience with the police resulting from their victimization. Less than half of those who reported being victimized in the past year also reported calling the police in the past year. Of course, persons who had been victimized in previous years may not have called the police due to their earlier experiences, but we cannot determine whether this occurred without additional data.

More generally, a cardinal rule of interpreting cause and effect relationships is that *correlation does not prove causation*. Just because two variables are correlated does not prove that one causes the

other. One must test to see if there are alternative explanations for the relationship between two variables before jumping to the conclusion that police behavior causes victims to have negative attitudes.

To place the findings in context, it is important to note that the victims of crime often have the same characteristics (and in some cases are the same people) as offenders. In this study, crime victims were more likely to be male, unmarried, and unemployed than nonvictims. Crime victims had fewer years of education, were less likely to own their homes, and had lower incomes than nonvictims. All these characteristics typify offenders as well as victims, and may contribute to the chances that victims, like offenders, choose lifestyles that expose them to greater risk of victimization. These characteristics are also associated with more negative attitudes toward the police.² Persons with these characteristics are more likely to be exposed to negative attitudes from their peers and to have had negative encounters (traffic stops, for example) themselves.

The results of our comparison of crime victims and nonvictims are summarized in Figure 6.



² Contrary to findings from the National Crime Victim Survey, most of the victims of crime (and a higher percentage of crime victims) in this survey were white. The effects of race on attitudes toward the police are examined below.

Race and Attitudes Toward the Police

Earlier research indicates that one of the best predictors of attitudes toward the police is race, with white respondents expressing more favorable attitudes than people of color. To see if this is the case in this survey, we created a new variable that classifies respondents as African-American or “other.” After eliminating cases for which data was missing, African-Americans were twenty percent of the sample (103 out of 513 cases). Differences between African-American respondents and other respondents are shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Percentage Agreeing with Statements, by Race

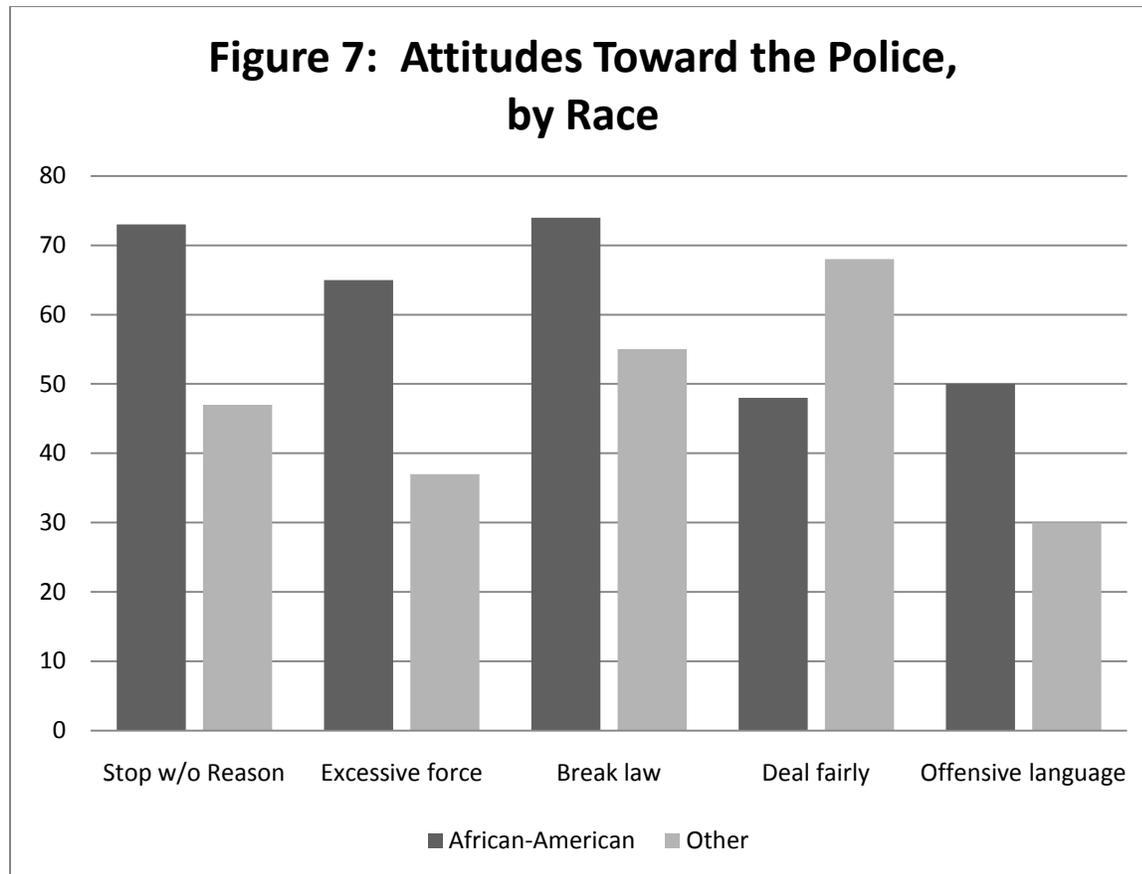
	Race			
	Other	African-American	Total (Total # Cases)	Difference in % Agreeing
Muncie police are effective at fighting crime.	60.9%	55.2%	59.9% (466)	5.7
Muncie police stop people without a good reason.	47.2%	73.2%	51.9% (451)	26.0
Muncie police respond promptly to calls for assistance.	62.7%	62.4%	62.7% (458)	0.3
Muncie police use excessive force.	36.5%	65.1%	42.0% (436)	28.6
Muncie police work with residents to solve local problems.	57.9%	60.7%	58.4% (445)	2.8
Muncie police break the law or police rules.	54.9%	73.8%	58.5% (448)	18.9
Muncie police deal with residents in a fair and courteous manner.	67.7%	48.1%	64.1% (446)	19.6
Muncie police use offensive language when they talk to residents.	29.8%	50.0%	33.6% (441)	20.2
Muncie police deal with problems that concern people in this neighborhood.	61.9%	49.4%	59.6% (448)	12.5
Muncie police help people who have been victims of crime.	70.3%	56.4%	67.8% (435)	13.9

Table 12 presents a mixed pattern of consensus and disagreement between African-American respondents and other respondents. Black respondents agree with other respondents in their positive attitudes regarding the effectiveness of the police in fighting crime, responding to calls for assistance, and working with residents to solve local problems.

There are large differences between African-American respondents and other respondents on other items. Black respondents are far more likely than other respondents to agree that the police stop people without a good reason, use excessive force, break the law or police rules, and use offensive language. Black respondents are much less likely to think that the police deal with residents in a fair and courteous manner.

The differences between Black and other respondents cannot be attributed to characteristics that predict risky lifestyles, as was the case for crime victims. African-American respondents to this survey were more likely to be married, employed, and college educated than other respondents. They were more likely to own their own homes, less likely to have incomes under \$20,000, and less likely to be under 35 years old.

The results of our examination of the relationship between race and attitudes toward the police are summarized in Figure 7.



Summary and Conclusion

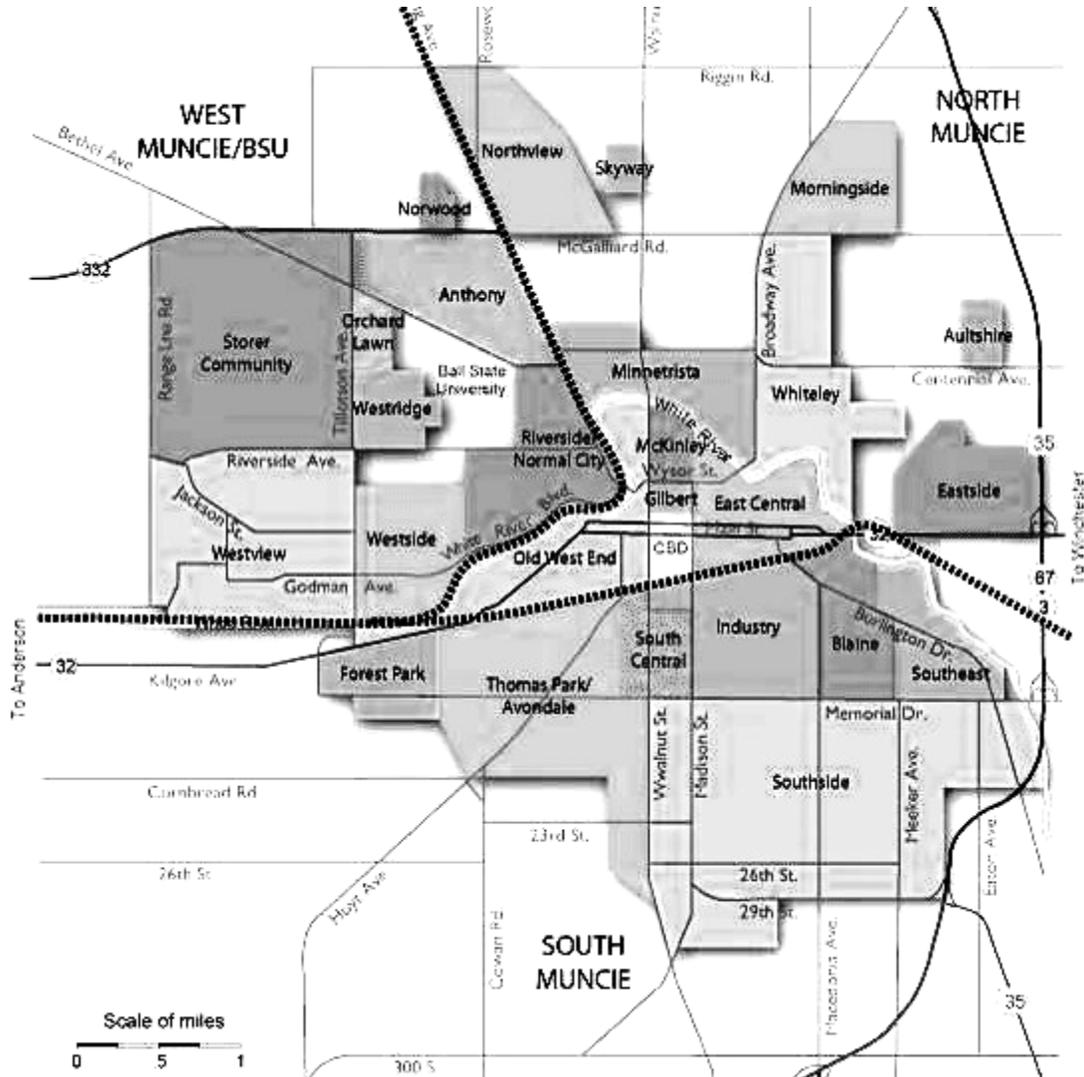
Our extensive analysis of attitudes toward the police presents both good and bad news. In general, Muncie residents express positive attitudes toward the police, and this is the case for both residents of Weed and Seed neighborhoods and other neighborhoods. Larger differences in the percentage expressing negative attitudes are found for victims of crime compared to nonvictims, but this may be explicable due to attributes that put victims at greater risk of negative encounters with the police and exposure to negative peer attitudes toward the police.

Of greatest concern are the negative attitudes expressed by African-American respondents to the survey. The Black respondents to the survey could be characterized as solidly middle class. Most of these respondents were not themselves at high risk of negative encounters with the police, and this may be reflected in their expression of positive attitudes toward police efforts in fighting crime, responding to calls, and working with residents. There are several other possible explanations for the differences in attitudes toward the police between African-Americans and other residents. The results of this survey cannot speak to most of the alternative explanations, so further research would be desirable.

For purposes of the Weed and Seed mission, the primary concern is that negative attitudes toward the police by any substantial group of residents present an obstacle to effective police-citizen relationships and can impede efforts at crime prevention. For this reason, the importance of an effective police-community relations strategy cannot be overemphasized.

APPENDIX 1: MUNCIE NEIGHBORHOODS SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

MUNCIE NEIGHBORHOODS SURVEY



1. What Muncie neighborhood do you live in (use the map to help find your neighborhood):

West Muncie/BSU Area

- Northview
- Norwood
- Skyway
- Anthony
- Orchard Lawn
- Westridge
- Storer Community
- Riverside
- Normal City (The Village)
- Westview
- Westside

Northeast Muncie

- Morningside
- Minnestrista
- Whitely
- None of the neighborhoods listed.

Eastside

Aultshire

Central Muncie

- Old West End
- McKinley
- Gilbert
- East Central
- Central Business District
- South Central
- Industry

Southwest Muncie

- Forest Park
- Thomas Park/Avondale

Southeast Muncie

- Southeast
- Southside

Don't know/not sure.

MUNCIE NEIGHBORHOODS SURVEY

Thank you for taking a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire. The purpose of this survey is to ask Muncie residents about the strengths and problems of their neighborhoods. Your participation will help local agencies in their efforts to prevent crime and to make our neighborhoods stronger.

Please do not put your name on this questionnaire. No one will know how you answered the questions because they will not be able to determine the name of the person who filled out the survey. Your responses, plus those of other Muncie residents, will help us get a clearer idea of your concerns.

Here are some basic questions:

What is your sex?

- Male
- Female

In what year were you born? _____

What is your marital status?

- Now married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never married

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- No schooling completed
- Nursery school to 11th grade
- 12th grade, no diploma
- High school graduate - high school diploma or the equivalent (for example: GED)
- Some college credit
- Other (please specify): _____

Are you currently...?

- Employed for wages
- Self-employed
- Out of work and looking for work
- Out of work but not currently looking for work
- A homemaker
- A student
- Retired
- Unable to work

Is your house, apartment, or mobile home -

- Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?
- Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?
- Rented for cash rent?
- Occupied without payment of cash rent?

What is your total household income (from everyone who is a member of your household)?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 or more

Please specify your ethnicity.

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Prefer not to answer

Please specify your race.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Prefer not to answer

In the past year, was something belonging to you stolen?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to Question 10, where did this happen?

- In my home
- In my neighborhood
- Somewhere else in Muncie
- Outside Muncie

In the past year, has anyone attacked you or threatened you in any way?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to Question 11, where did this happen?

- In my home
- In my neighborhood
- Somewhere else in Muncie
- Outside Muncie

In the past year, has anyone broken into or attempted to break into your home?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to Question 12, where did this happen?

- In my home
- In my neighborhood
- Somewhere else in Muncie
- Outside Muncie

In the past year, did you call the police to report something that happened to YOU which you thought was a crime?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to Question 12, where did this happen?

- In my home
- In my neighborhood
- Somewhere else in Muncie
- Outside Muncie

Please indicate whether you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, or strongly agree with the statements below.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
There is a lot of graffiti in my neighborhood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My neighborhood is clean.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vandalism is common in my neighborhood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The city is active in tearing down abandoned buildings in my neighborhood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
People in my neighborhood take good care of their houses and apartments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My neighborhood is noisy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My neighborhood is safe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a lot of crime in my neighborhood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel safe walking in my neighborhood at night.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a lot of drug use in my neighborhood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
There is a lot of alcohol abuse in my neighborhood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I always have trouble with my neighbors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In my neighborhood, people watch out for each other.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are too many people hanging around on the streets near my home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate how often these things happen in this neighborhood—never, less than once a month, 1-3 times a month, every week or more than once a week.

	Never	Less than once a month	1-3 times a Month	Every Week	More than once a week.
How often do you visit or receive visits from residents of this neighborhood?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
How often do you speak personally or by telephone with residents of this neighborhood?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
How often do you and your neighbors exchange favors such as taking care or playing with your children, lending stuff or groceries, looking after the house or car, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the statements below.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Muncie police are effective at fighting crime.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muncie police stop people without a good reason.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muncie police respond promptly to calls for assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muncie police use excessive force.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muncie police work with residents to solve local problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Muncie police break the law or police rules.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muncie police deal with residents in a fair and courteous manner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muncie police use offensive language when they talk to residents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muncie police deal with the problems that concern people in this neighborhood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muncie police help people who have been victims of crime.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the space below, please list **the things you like most** about this neighborhood.

In the space below, please list **the biggest problems** in this neighborhood.

To be completed by survey administrator:

Date Survey was administered: _____

Location or event where survey was administered:

APPENDIX 2: MUNCIE WEED AND SEED 2007 NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

The survey results below were from a survey of residents of the Weed and Seed target area. This survey of 961 respondents was conducted in face-to-face interviews neighborhood volunteers who went to the dwelling places of local residents.

The 2007 survey differs a great deal from the 2010 survey. The differences include:

- The 2007 survey has 961 respondents compared to 563 respondents in the 2010 survey.
- All the respondents to the 2007 survey lived in Weed and Seed neighborhoods. For the 2010 survey, respondents lived all over Muncie. The goal of the 2010 survey was to compare Weed and Seed residents to residents of other neighborhoods.
- The wording of the items in the 2007 and 2010 surveys is not the same, although many of the items are similar. Caution should be used in comparing similar items since the wording of an item can dramatically affect the responses. The 2010 survey was based on a review of the literature to find wording that had shown some validity in earlier surveys.
- The purpose of the two surveys also differed. The 2007 survey was conducted to find evidence that would justify awarding a Weed and Seed grant to Muncie. Therefore, it tended focus more on neighborhood problems than on neighborhood strengths. Members of the Reentry/Restoration Committee felt that the 2007 survey was too negative in tone. For 2010, the committee wanted a survey that dealt with the both the negative and positive aspects of neighborhood life and attitudes toward the police.

The results of the 2007 survey are presented below: