
NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

An Examination of Resident Perceptions in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood

2014

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, is the Promise Neighborhood grantee and administers funding as the lead entity on behalf of the Eastside Promise Neighborhood (EPN) Advisory Board. Part of the grantee's charge is to implement a continuum of solutions selected to improve specific educational and developmental outcomes in children and youth and their families from San Antonio's historic Eastside. The solutions entail cradle-to-career educational pipeline initiatives that will yield micro-level change (individual children and families) and macro-level change (school system and neighborhood revitalization). This will provide a model for implementing multi-district, county-wide school system change through the local P-16PLUS Council. The City of San Antonio launched an initiative called SA 2020 which focuses on city-wide kinder-readiness and post-secondary opportunities. The EPN Advisory Board consisting of residents, parents and representatives from neighborhood associations, churches, area businesses and key organizations (the City of San Antonio, United Way, San Antonio Housing Authority, San Antonio Independent School District) analyzed findings from a needs assessment, asset inventory and segmentation analysis and built a framework for implementing responsive solutions to the educational challenges and environmental barriers that are inhibiting the academic achievement of neighborhood children.

Eastside Promise Neighborhood Description. The target neighborhood covers approximately 3.5 square miles and five census tracts (1110, 1305, 1306, 1307, and 1919) just east of downtown San Antonio. The majority of the area is encompassed within zip codes 78202 and 78208, with a small share included in 78203. The community is bounded by IH-37 to the west; a major military installation, Fort Sam Houston to the north; AT&T Center Parkway to the east and East Commerce Street to the south. A target area map is available as Attachment A

The San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) serves this area and includes six Title I public schools: Tynan Early Childhood Education Center, Bowden Elementary School, Pershing Elementary School, Washington Elementary School, and Wheatley Middle School. Sam Houston High School is the major receiver of students graduating from Wheatley Middle School. Both Wheatley Middle School and Sam Houston High School were found to be Academically Unacceptable in the 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress assessment by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE).

The target neighborhood is one of two traditional bases for San Antonio's African American community. The community infrastructure has been in decline for several decades (street disrepair, lighting issues, lack of sidewalks, etc.). In recent years, an area that had an African American majority relative to population composition has become more ethnically diverse. Today, Hispanic Americans represent the majority population in the target area. Over a ten-year period, the population in this area declined by 3 % (see Table 1). Yet the overall population growth in San Antonio expanded by 16%. The families that remained in the target community tend to be younger, poorer, and less educated in comparison to the Greater San Antonio area (see Table 1).

Table 1. Overall Profile of the Eastside Promise Neighborhood, 2000 and 2010.

<u>EPN Census Tract Information</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
African-American	6,286 (34.0 %)	4,188 (23.9%)
Hispanic	10,351 (56.2%)	11,926 (68.1%)
White (Non-Hispanic)	821 (4.5%)	1,120 (6.4%)
Other (Racial and Ethnic groups)	973 (5.3 %)	282 (1.6 %)
Total Population	18,431	17,516
<u>American Communities Survey 2006 -2010</u> (5 year estimates)	<u>EPN</u>	<u>San Antonio</u>
Foreign born	19%	14%
Employed (>16 years old)	51%	59%
Owner-occupied housing	46%	59%
Children in poverty	56%	27%
Median household income	21,491	43,152
Adults without a high school diploma	39%	21%
Children 0-19 years old	32%	30%
Average family size	3.478	3.43
Males	49%	49%
Females	51%	51%

PURPOSE

The purpose of the EPN Neighborhood Survey is to establish a benchmark regarding resident perceptions of their community and provide the foundation for future surveys. It assesses resident perceptions of availability of services, childcare concerns, educational opportunities, community consciousness, and important quality of life issues within the target area. Collection of information is accomplished by interviewing adult residents through a systematic random sample design.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Eastside Promise Neighborhood consists of approximately 12,200 residents 18 years of age and older who live in approximately 4,631 households. These individuals reside in single house (home) units as well as multi-family housing units (apartments). This population is quite heterogeneous with respect to age, ethnicity/race, and socioeconomic status.

For the purpose of this study, a stratified (proportionate) random sampling design was employed to obtain a sample for analysis. The households were divided (stratified into a single residence unit sampling frame and a multi-housing unit sampling frame). Each household was assigned a unique number. Sample elements were selected with the use of a random number generator. Proportionate weights relative to sample selection were given to single resident household and multi-family households. Therefore, each element had a statistically known chance of being selected as part of the sample. The advantages associated with this sampling design were that it required minimum knowledge of population and it is free of possible classification errors. The major disadvantage related to this type of sampling design was that larger sampling errors may occur due to controlling for type of household (Babbie, 2012; Dishi, 2003).

The sampling unit was composed of households. These households were divided into two sub-sampling groups; a single-family household group and a multi-family household group. A list was generated for both groupings. Census Tracts, from the United States Bureau of the Census which comprise the EPN target area, was used to generate a comprehensive household address listing. The stratified random sampling design should ensure that heterogeneous neighborhood factors will not be minimized. Additionally, low population density areas were not over-sampled. Prior to finalizing the sample, researchers verified the validity of each address.

By utilizing household as a sampling unit, getting a generalizable microcosm of the neighborhood was ensured. For each household chosen, an individual, who was at least 18 years of age, was chosen randomly for interview.

A comprehensive listing of approximately 4,631 addresses was used to generate a sample of 1200 household units. A final survey sample of 429 respondents was obtained. The completion [response] rate was 36 %. The sampling error associated with these numbers is approximately +/- 5 % at a confidence level of 95 % (Fink, 1995).

SURVEY RESULTS

Demographic Overview

The overall information obtained from the EPN resident sample provides a snapshot of a very diverse community on a variety of key demographic variables. Table 2 shows that 58 % of the residents were female. Additionally, 47 % of the respondents were African American with another approximately 38 % were Hispanic. White respondents comprised about 8 % of the sample.

Table 2. Resident Gender and Racial Background Profile, September 2014

Response	Number	Percentage
Gender		
Male	180	42.0
Female	249	58.0
Total	429	100.0
Race		
Black	191	47.0
Hispanic	155	38.2
White	31	7.6
Bi-racial	21	5.2
Asian American	4	1.0
Other	4	1.0
Total	429	100.0

Regarding the household variables, nearly 41 % of respondents reported living in owner-occupied dwellings (see Table 3). Also, the majority of households were without children. Approximately 63 % of the respondents indicated they had no children under the age of 18 living

in the household. About 37 % said they were currently married and about 31 % stated they were single.

Table 3. Resident Marital Status and Children in the Household, September 2014

Response	Number	Percentage
Marital Status		
Currently married/partnered	141	36.8
Single	117	30.5
Divorced/separated	67	17.5
Widowed	58	15.1
Total	383	100.0
Household With Children		
Yes	148	37.3
No	249	62.7
Total	397	100.0
Home Ownership		
Yes	166	40.7
No	226	55.4
Total	408	100.0

Educational attainment and employment status appeared to be somewhat problematic. Table 4 illustrates that nearly 16 % of the respondents did not have a high school diploma or GED certificate. Approximately 40 % indicated their highest educational attainment was a high school diploma or a GED certificate. Slightly less than 11 % had a bachelor's or professional level degree. Regarding employment, roughly 31 % were employed full-time and about 19 % were employed part-time. Nearly one-third indicated they were unemployed.

Table 4. Resident Educational Attainment and Employment Status, September 2014

Response	Number	Percentage
Educational Attainment		
Grade school	14	3.7
Some high school	45	12.0
High school diploma	86	22.9
GED certificate	65	17.3
Some college/trade school	76	20.3
Trade school graduate	27	7.2
Community college graduate	21	5.6
College graduate	29	7.7
Professional/graduate degree	12	3.2
Total	375	100.0
Employment Status		
Employed, full-time	120	31.4
Employed, part-time	73	19.1
Retired	54	14.1
Unemployed	60	15.7
Unable to work	57	14.9
Total	382	100.0

Age, neighborhood, and household information are summarized in Table 5. The average age of the respondent was about 46 years. About 59 % of the respondents were between 30 years of age and 63 years of age. Additionally, the average length of time a resident lived in the EPN community was approximately 11 years. Approximately 51 % of respondents reported living in the neighborhood for five years or less. About 65 % of households had one adult living in the household. The average number of children living in the household was 2.76 (only households who reported that children lived in the household full time). Most households (68%) reported that no children lived in the home.

Table 5. Averages for Selected Resident Demographic Variables, September 2014

	Average	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Number of Responses
Age of respondent (years)	46.2	16.7	19	91	361
Number of adults living in the household	1.55	.88	1	5	398
Number of children under 18 years living in the household	2.76	1.94	1	10	136
Number of individuals living the household	2.48	2.13	1	15	396
Years lived in the neighborhood (years)	10.9	13.5	0	89	395

EPN Program Awareness

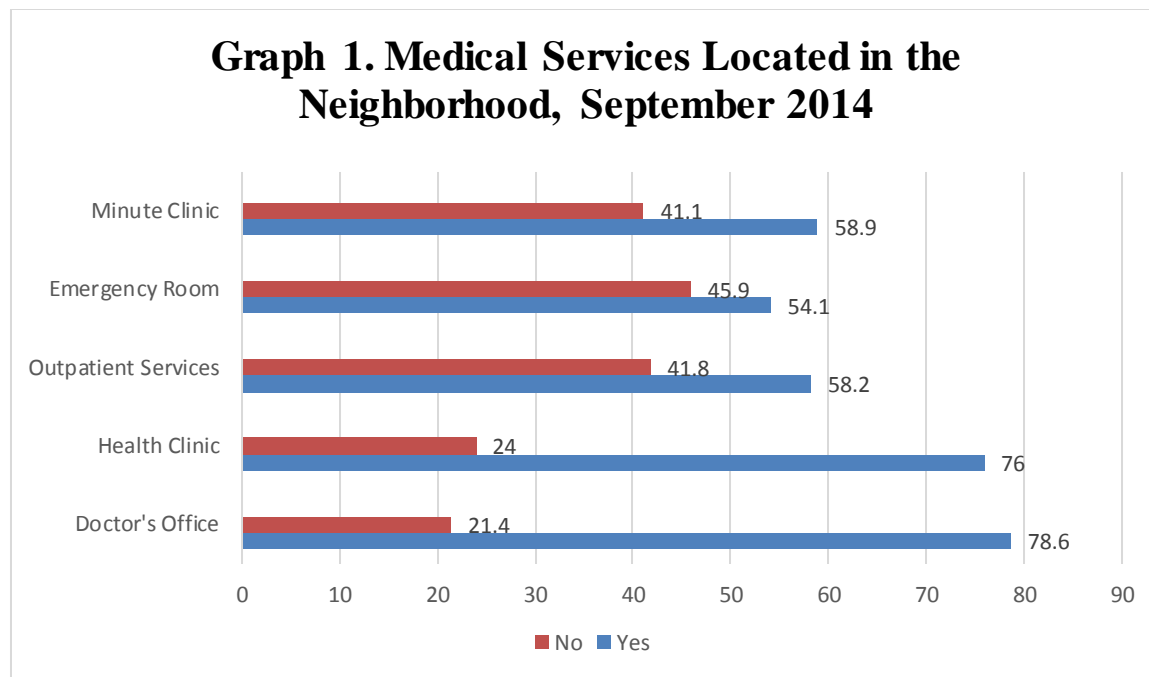
The awareness level of the EPN program was assessed through survey participant responses. Participants were queried as to whether or not they were familiar with the project. Table 6 illustrates that about 63 % indicated they were at least somewhat familiar with the Eastside Promise Neighborhood effort within the target area. For those familiar, roughly 76 % said the program is effective at improving the neighborhood.

Table 6. Participant Familiarity with the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Program, September 2014.

Response	Number	Percentage
Familiar with the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Program		
Very familiar	66	17.4
Familiar	57	15.0
Somewhat familiar	117	30.9
Not familiar or aware of the project	139	36.7
Total	379	100.0
Effectiveness of the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Program		
Very effective	44	40.0
Effective	40	36.4
Not very effective	23	20.9
No effect	3	2.7
Total	110	100.0

Access to Medical and Personal Services in the Neighborhood

Participants provided very positive responses to queries regarding medical services available in the EPN target area. Approximately 79 % said that doctors' offices and 76 % stated that health clinics were available in the target neighborhood. Over half of respondents indicated that minute clinics, emergency services and outpatient services were available in the community (see Graph 1).



Regarding the quality of medical services, about 42 % described them as average. Another 43 % rated the services as good to excellent. Only 15 % felt as though the medical service in the EPN target area were poor or very poor (see Table 7).

Table 7. Perceptions of Quality of Medical Services in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Target Area, September 2014

Response	Number	Percentage
Excellent	34	9.1
Good	125	33.6
Average	157	42.2
Poor	38	10.2
Very Poor	18	4.8
Total	372	100.0

Residents were asked to describe how they saw their general health. Table 8 provides a summary of resident responses. Around 32 % of residents surveyed felt that they were in good general health. Another 43 % characterized their health as very good or excellent. Around 24% described their general health as fair to poor.

Table 8. Self- Characterization of Health, September 2014

Response	Number	Percentage
Excellent	64	16.1
Very Good	108	27.1
Good	129	32.4
Fair	76	19.1
Poor	21	5.3
Total	398	100.0

The quality of food available to neighborhood residents has been a historical issue on San Antonio’s Eastside. This is particularly the case as it related to fresh fruits and vegetables. When asked, the majority of the respondents stated that quality of available fresh fruits and vegetables was good. Table 9 shows that about 46 % felt the fruits and vegetables were always fresh and another 41% stated that the fruits and vegetables were sometimes fresh.

Table 9. Perceptions of Quality of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Available in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Target Area, September 2014

Response	Number	Percentage
Always fresh	135	46.4
Sometimes fresh	118	40.5
Most of the time not fresh	23	7.9
Rarely fresh	15	5.2
Total	291	100.0

In addition to the perception of quality of fresh foods available in the community, respondents overwhelmingly (77 %) stated there were places in the neighborhood that they could easily obtain fresh fruits and vegetables (see Table 10). Residents indicated that there was a variety of fresh fruits and available to them at these establishments.

Table 10. Availability of Fresh Fruits in the Neighborhood, September 2014

Items	Yes %	No %	Total %
Fresh vegetables/fruits in Neighborhood	76.8	23.2	100.0 (392)
Green leafy vegetables	97.6	2.4	100.0 (292)
Lettuce	97.9	2.1	100.0 (292)
Onions	94.9	5.1	100.0 (293)
Tomatoes	96.2	3.8	100.0 (294)
Potatoes	95.2	4.8	100.0 (292)
Corn	95.9	4.1	100.0 (290)
Oranges	96.2	3.8	100.0 (288)
Melons	93.4	6.6	100.0 (289)
Bananas	95.9	4.1	100.0 (291)
Apples	95.5	4.5	100.0 (287)
Peaches, plums, pears	94.8	5.2	100.0 (289)

Community Consciousness

A community is more than a physical, geographic location where people reside. More than an impersonal arrangement of individuals, a community often encompasses a sense of belonging. Individuals establish relationships and kinship patterns with those in which they have frequent contact. Survey respondents were queried with respect to their sense of community within the EPN target area.

Respondents reflected on their experiences as residents in the EPN target area. There were a number of positive aspects to living experiences. Generally, residents felt like they were members of the community and were connected to the neighborhood. For example, over 42 % said they feel connected to the neighborhood while 53 % reported having a good relationship with other residents (see Table 11). Additionally, respondents overwhelmingly felt that they belonged in their neighborhood (47 %).

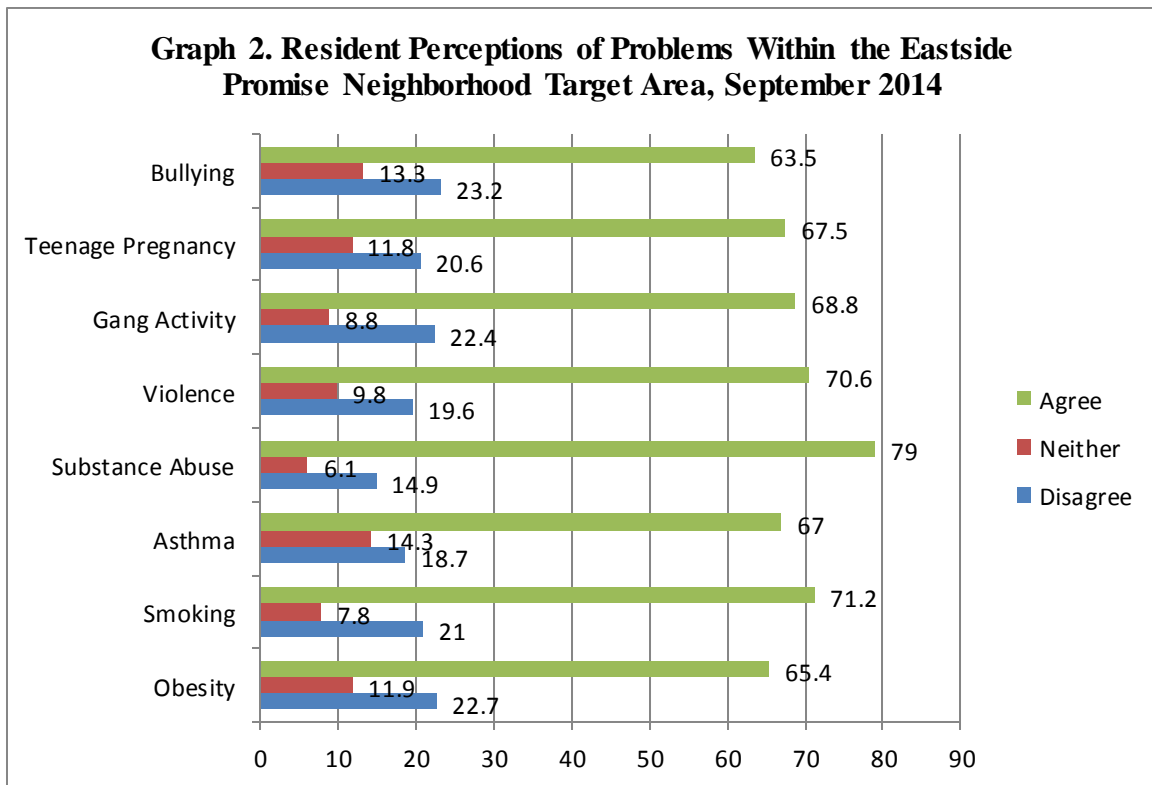
Respondents identified negative factors associated with living in the EPN target area. These are reflected through a feeling of not having their needs met within the neighborhood or not having a voice in what occurs in the neighborhood. Nearly 50 % of respondents did not feel that the neighborhood helps them fulfill their needs. Additionally, about 48 % of residents stated they rarely had a say in what happens in the neighborhood (see Table 11).

Table 11. Resident Experience of Living in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Target Area, September 2014

Item	Rarely %	Sometimes %	Often %	Total
My neighborhood helps me fulfill my needs.	49.5	21.6	28.9	100.0 (394)
I feel like a member of my community.	33.2	25.2	41.6	100.0 (389)
I belong in this neighborhood.	28.2	24.7	47.1	100.0 (380)
I feel I have some say so about what goes on in my neighborhood.	47.8	14.9	37.3	100.0 (389)
People in my neighborhood influence each other.	31.4	19.1	49.4	100.0 (376)
I have a good relationship with others in my neighborhood.	21.2	25.7	53.2	100.0 (374)
I feel connected to my neighborhood.	27.1	30.6	42.3	100.0 (369)

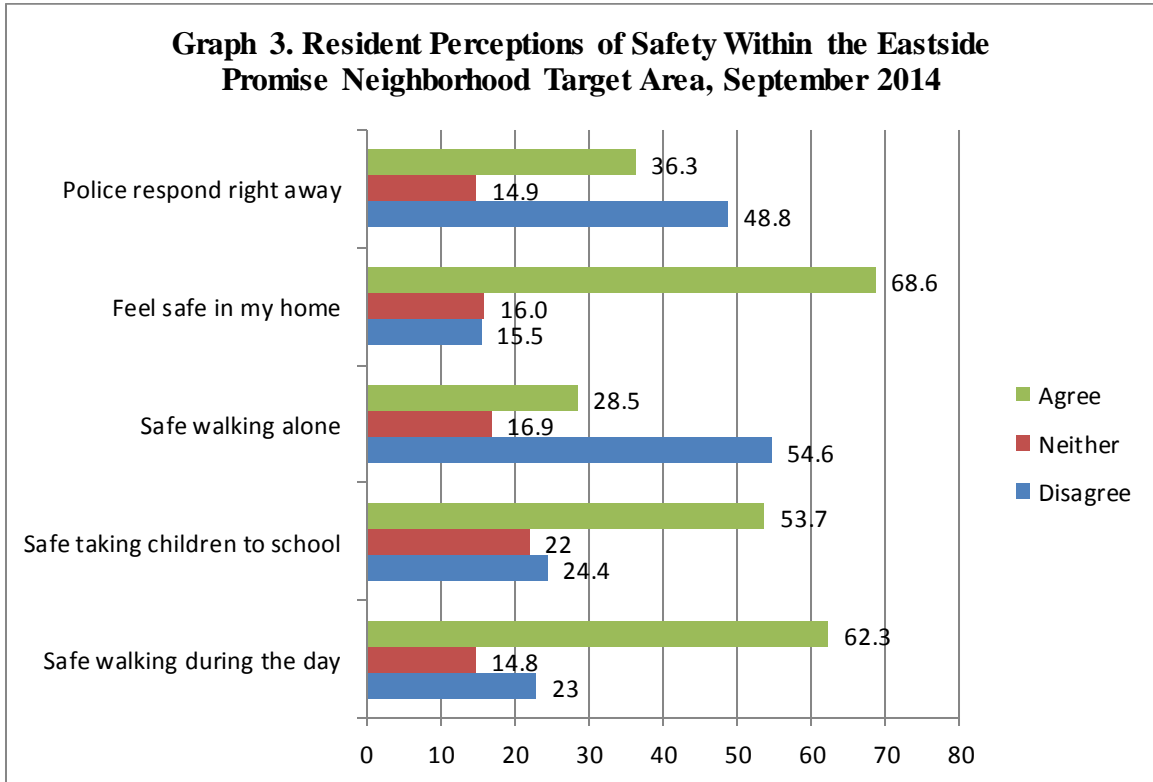
Perceptions of Problems and Safety within the Neighborhood

When asked about problems within the EPN target area, all eight items were identified by respondents. Graph 2 illustrates that nearly 80 % of participants felt substance abuse is a problem in the neighborhood. Over two-thirds of respondents felt that violence, cigarette smoking, gang activity, teen pregnancy, and asthma are problems in the neighborhood. These were followed by obesity with about 65 % and bullying with approximately 64 % of residents agreeing that these are issues in the community.



Residents suggested the EPN community is relatively safe. When queried about safety, nearly 69 % agreed they feel safe in their home. About 62 % said they feel safe walking in the neighborhood during the day. Lastly, about 54 % agreed they feel safe taking their children back-and-forth to school. Conversely, only 29 % indicated they feel safe walking alone in the neighborhood (see Graph 3).

Regarding how law enforcement officials respond to emergency calls, roughly 36 % agreed that police respond quickly. However, approximately 49 % disagreed with that statement (see Graph 3).



Residents participating in the survey were queried regarding the most prevalent type of crime within the community as well as if they have been an actual victim of crime. Respondents stated that vice crime was the most prevalent within the EPN target area (49 %). Additionally, 24 % indicated that property crime occurs most often in the community. Nearly one-quarter (24 %) of the participants said they had been victims of a crime within the neighborhood. Conversely, about 76 % stated they have not been a victim of crime.

Esthetic Conditions and Personal Communication Issues in the Neighborhood

Residents provided a rather poor perception of conditions within the EPN. The vast majority (62%) did not feel the homes and buildings in the neighborhood were in good shape (see Table 12). Another 46 % disagreed with the statement that parks and playgrounds were in good condition. Almost 47 % of respondents felt that the community had facilities that provided opportunities for physical activity and play. When residents were queried about taking children to parks and playgrounds, only 39% felt comfortable taking them to these types of facilities within the target neighborhood.

Table 12. Resident Perceptions of Housing and Parks Conditions in the EPN, September 2014

Item	Agree %	Neither Disagree or Agree %	Disagree %	Total
Homes and buildings are in good shape.	25.2	13.4	61.5	100.0 (402)
Parks and playgrounds are in good shape.	39.3	15.0	45.7	100.0 (387)
I feel comfortable taking my child (children) or children I know to parks or playgrounds in my neighborhood	39.1	28.0	32.9.	100.0 (343)
Neighborhood parks, sports clubs, and other facilities offer many opportunities to play and be physically active.	46.8	19.0	34.2	100.0 (357)

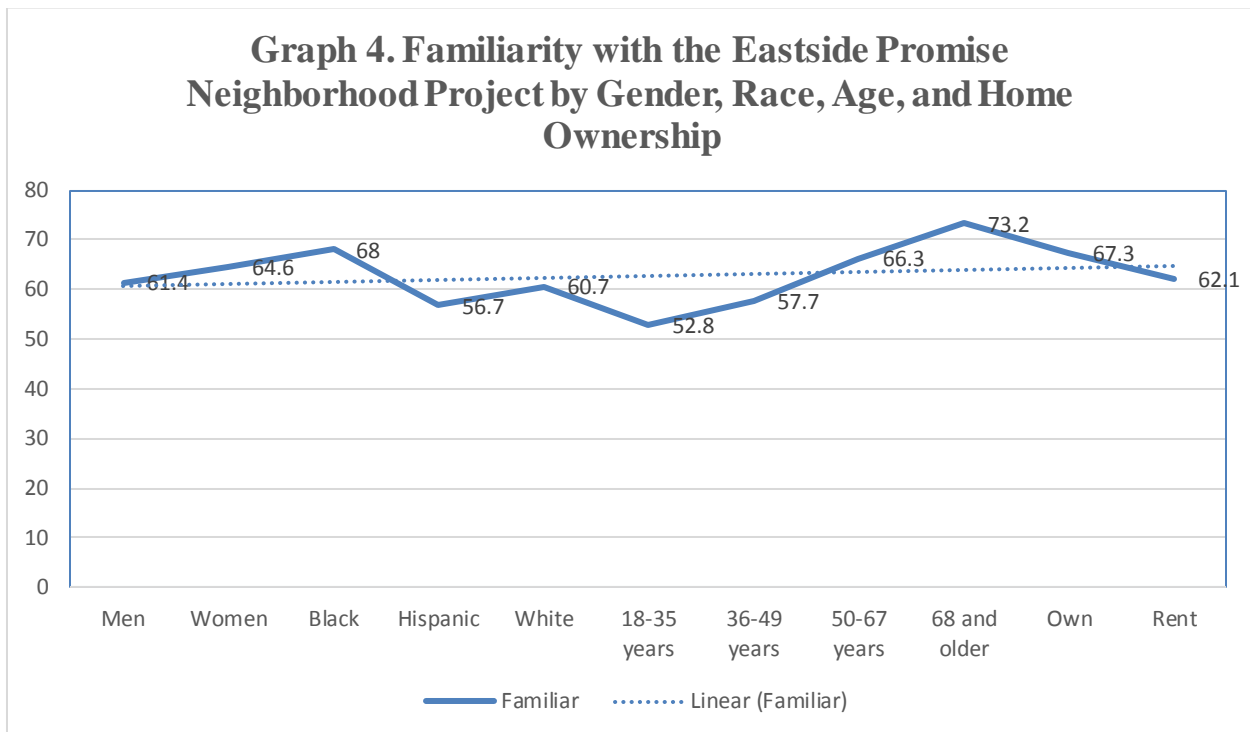
With respect to computers and Internet connections within the home, almost 60 % of the respondents indicated they have personal computer in their households (see Table 13). Additionally, about 58 % said they have Internet service in their homes.

Table 13. Availability of Computers and Internet in the Household in the Neighborhood Target Area, September 2014

Item	Yes %	No %	Total
Do you have a computer or iPad, not including a cell phone, in your household?	59.6	40.4	100.0 (381)
Do you have access to the Internet in your home other than through your cell phone?	58.3	41.7	100.0 (384)

Analysis of Demographic Variable Influence on Neighborhood Issues

Familiarity with the EPN project was an important item for determining the success of reaching community members within the target area. The higher the level of familiarity, the more successful the project is in positively influencing the neighborhood. As discussed earlier, about two-thirds of the respondents indicated they were familiar the EPN project. When controlling for a number of demographic variables, race and age were found to influence project familiarity. Graph 4 shows that black and white residents are more familiar with the EPN project in comparison to Hispanics. Older residents are more familiar than younger residents. Those 50 years of age and older tended to be more familiar than those less than 50 years of age. Gender and home ownership have virtually no influence on resident familiarity.



Correlations were employed to provide additional analysis of potential relationships between two variables. In order to better understand resident perspectives about the EPN neighborhood, three composite variables were created for different community issues. An index associated with community membership was created from several variables and it encompasses the overall scores of respondent feelings of belonging to and involvement in the neighborhood.

The specific questions used to create this variable were discussed earlier in Table 10. An index for neighborhood problems was developed and entails the overall scores related to respondent perceptions of various health, interpersonal, and criminal activity within the community. The perceptions of these community problems were previously discussed in Graph 2. Additionally, a safety index was created from the questions related to resident perceptions of safety issues within the neighborhood. These specific safety issues were illustrated in Graph 3. The medical services and food quality items were used as well in the correlation analysis that follows. A complete summary of the correlational analysis is provided in Table 14.

As highlighted in the previous section, race and age influence program familiarity. Non-Hispanics and older residents are more familiar with the EPN program (see Table 14). Marital status, gender, household size, home ownership, length of residence, employment status and education are not related to program familiarity.

Perceptions of personal health were explored. Table 14 shows that employment status, age, and the number of years lived in the neighborhood were statistically related to the respondents' perceived health status. Younger respondents tended to see their health as better in comparison to older respondents. Those respondents who have lived in the neighborhood for a shorter period of time see their health better than those that have lived in the neighborhood longer. Employed respondents tended to see their health as better. Education and race of the respondent were significant predictors of perceived health. For these specific variables, respondents that reported higher educational attainment levels and self-identified as White had higher ratings of personal health, while respondents who self-identified as Black were more likely to report lower ratings of personal health. The remaining demographic variables were not significantly related to perceived health.

Perceptions of problems within the neighborhood were examined. Table 14 illustrates that respondents who were married were likely to perceive problems in the neighborhood as more severe than those who were unmarried. Additionally, non-white respondents were more likely to perceive problems in neighborhood than Whites. The remaining demographic variables were not significantly related to residents' perceptions of community problems.

Perceptions related to being a member of the community was another important study variable. Age, years lived in the neighborhood, and employment status were all significantly related to feelings of being a community member (see Table 14). Those who were older and

lived in the neighborhood longer provided higher scores with respect to being connected to the neighborhood than did those who were younger or have lived in the neighborhood for a shorter amount time. In addition, respondents who were unemployed were more likely to report higher feelings of being a community member than those who were employed. The remaining demographic variables were not related to perceptions of belonging to the community.

Perceptions of food quality were impacted by a number of demographic variables. Respondents that were older tended to view food quality as better. Hispanics and non-blacks were more likely to state that the quality of the food available within the neighborhood was better. None of the remaining demographic variables were significantly related to perceived food quality.

Perceptions with respect to the quality of medical services were examined as well. Black, Hispanic, and age of the respondent were significantly related to perceptions of medical services quality. Table 14 illustrates that as age increased, there was a tendency to perceive the quality of medical services better. Additionally, Hispanics and non-blacks perceive medical services more positively.

It should be noted that none of the demographic variables were significantly related to respondent perception of safety. This suggests that people perceive safety issues within the neighborhood similarly regardless of demographic differences.

Table 14. Summary of Correlations between Selected EPN Program Variables and Gender, Race, Marital Status, Residential Information, Employment Status, Age, and Educational Attainment, September 2014#

Variables	Gender	White	Hispanic	Black	Marital Status	Home Owner	Household Size	Employ Status	Education	Age	Lived
Program Familiarity	.019	-.042	.126*	-.074	.070	-.079	.090	.000	.009	.135*	-.013
Medical Services	.070	-.086	-.113*	.134*	-.034	-.071	.022	-.032	.006	.111*	-.012
Health	.014	-.126**	-.020	.144*	-.016	.014	.028	-.290**	.104*	-.262**	-.206**
Food Quality	.054	-.059	-.155*	.149*	-.038	-.012	-.090	.102	-.026	.155*	-.064
Community Member	.069	-.066	-.028	-.022	.009	-.075	.085	.144*	.085	.157*	.174*
Problems	-.002	.125*	-.039	-.068	-.199*	.009	.012	-.106	.107	-.085	-.006
Safety	-.004	-.090	.005	.027	-.040	.094	-.075	-.063	.038	.022	-.074

Pearson's Correlation Coefficients are used for analyzing the problems, safety, and community member variables. Spearman Correlation Coefficients are used for analyzing perceptions of health, medical quality, and food quality variables.

Analysis of Multiple Demographic Variable Influences on Neighborhood Issues

Regression analysis was employed to determine the possible multiple effects of selected demographic variables on perceptions of medical services, food quality, community membership, safety, and community problems. Using this type of analytical approach assumes that any relationship between variables is linear. It should be noted that perceptions of medical services and food quality are not numerically-based even though they are treated as if they were in the regression modeling procedure.

A regression model was used to examine the respondent familiarity of the program. As shown in Table 15, age and ethnicity were the only demographic variables that influenced familiarity with the program. Hispanic residents and older residents tended to be more informed about the EPN project.

A second regression model was used to examine respondent perceptions of the quality of medical services. It was found that these perceptions were not influenced by any of the demographic variables. Table 15 shows that gender, race, marital status, employment status, educational attainment, age, and the number of years as a resident in the neighborhood did not impact variation in medical services perceptions. This indicates that resident perceptions were fairly consistent across these nine predictor variables.

Another regression model was used to examine respondent perceptions of food quality. Food quality perceptions were impacted by three predictor variables. It was determined that employment, age of respondent, and number of years as a resident influence perceptions of food quality. Table 15 illustrates that older residents tended to rate food quality higher than younger residents. Residents who lived in the neighborhood longer tended to rate food quality lower in comparison to those who resided in the neighborhood for a shorter period of time. Unemployed individuals were more likely to rate food quality higher than those who were employed. Gender, race, marital status, educational attainment, had no influence on food quality. This model explains about 13 % of the change in food quality perceptions.

Table 15. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis of the Impact of Selected Demographic Variables on Perceptions of Medical Services and Food Quality, September 2014.

Variables in Model	Medical Services		Food Quality	
	b	Beta	B	Beta
Y-intercept (a)	2.475		3.276	
Gender	.172	.101	.030	.018
White	-.310	-.097	-2.72	-.089
Hispanic	-.235	-.139	-3.42	-.210
Black	.039	.024	-.056	-.035
Married	.000	.000	-.039	-.056
Employed	-.080	-.048	.210	.130*
Education	.013	.031	.024	.063
Age	.006	.121	.012	.245*
Lived in neighborhood	-.006	-.100	-.015	-.242*
ANOVA	1.91 ^{ns}		3.73*	
R ²	.060		.134	

* p < .05; ns, p > .05

A regression model was created to explore respondent perceptions of community membership. The analysis discovered that these perceptions were not influenced by any of the demographic variables. Table 16 shows that gender, race, marital status, employment status, educational attainment, age, and the number of years as a resident in the neighborhood did not impact variation in community membership perceptions. This indicates that resident perceptions were fairly consistent across these nine predictor variables.

Another regression model was used to examine respondent perceptions of safety. The analysis revealed that safety perceptions were not impacted by any of the demographic variables. Table 16 shows that gender, race, marital status, employment status, educational attainment, age, and the number of years as a resident in the neighborhood did not affect safety perception variation.

A final regression model was used to examine respondent perceptions of problems within the community. These perceptions were influenced by only one variable in the model. It was found that married individuals were more likely to perceive problems in the neighborhood in comparison to those who were not married (see Table 16). Gender, race, employment status, educational attainment, age, and years lived in the neighborhood had no direct influence on perceptions of problems within the community. This model explains about 10 % of the change in community problem perceptions.

Table 16. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis of the Impact of Selected Demographic Variables on Perceptions of Community Membership, Safety, and Community Problems, September 2014.

Variables in Model	Community Member		Safety		Community Problems	
	b	beta	b	beta	b	Beta
Y-intercept (a)	12.775		13.347		22.008	
Gender	.205	.022	.053	.008	-.628	-.061
White	-1.438	-.082	-.237	-.017	1.328	.068
Hispanic	-.971	-.104	.478	.070	-1.081	-.104
Black	-.353	-.039	.912	.138	-1.669	-.165
Married	-.010	-.001	-.045	-.007	-1.831	-.177*
Employed	1.250	.137*	-.341	-.051	-.697	-.069
Education	.313	.131*	.080	.047	.210	.082
Age	.022	.082	.007	.036	-.027	-.087
Lived in neighborhood	.028	.078	-.025	-.096	-.010	-.024
ANOVA	1.73 ^{ns}		0.83 ^{ns}		2.89*	
R ²	.059		.030		.098	

* p < .05; ns, p > .05

Longitudinal Analysis of Selected Project Variables

It is important to determine if aspects of resident perceptions of the target community have changed since the initial Neighborhood Survey was conducted in June 2013.¹ To address these longitudinal concerns, a number of selected variables were used as a basis of analyzing potential change.

Regarding the quality of medical services in the neighborhood, there was an increase in residents' positive perceptions of the services available to them from June 2013 through September 2014. Table 17 shows that about 76 % of participants in 2013 said the quality of medical services to be of average or better. This increased to around 85 % in 2014.

¹ A non-random sampling design as outlined in Babbie (2012) was employed to conduct the Neighborhood Survey conducted in June 2013. A final sample of 1,010 residents participated in the survey process.

Table 17. Perceptions of Quality of Medical Services in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Target Area by Percentage, September 2014

Response	June 2013	September 2014
Excellent	8.8	9.1
Good	28.7	33.6
Average	38.2	42.2
Poor	13.8	10.2
Very Poor	10.5	4.8
Total	100.0 (1010)	100.0 (372)

Food quality has been a long standing issue within the Neighborhood. There was a substantial increase in the perceived quality of produce from 2013 to 2014 (see Table 18). In June 2013 only about 33% of respondents rated produce as always fresh. This increased to over 46% of respondents in September 2014, a change of over 13 percentage points in one year. However, it should be noted that for both survey time periods, the majority of respondents felt that produce available was not always fresh.

Table 18. Perceptions of Quality of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Available in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Target Area by Percentage, September 2014

Response	June 2013	September 2014
Always fresh	33.1	46.4
Sometimes fresh	43.6	40.5
Most of the time not fresh	11.7	7.9
Rarely fresh	11.6	5.2
Total	100.0 (1078)	100.0 (291)

Childcare, education and community change issues are all extremely relevant to the EPN project's goals. The majority of respondents in 2013 reported that their children were cared for by themselves in their own homes. Only about 41 % said their children had other caregivers and about 37 % said their children went to a child care center (see Table 19). Regarding education issues, most respondents said that they read to their children or their children read to themselves outside of school at least 1-2 times a week. Additionally, the majority of respondents reported that they actively helped their children in high school prepare for college. About 61 % said they assisted their children "sometimes" or "often" in preparing for college entrance exams. Another 67 % said they helped "sometimes" or "often" with respect to applying for college entrance.

Finally, resident perceptions of change within the community showed that about 40 % felt that the community had not changed much since 2010 and another 40 % said it had improved. When queried about the future, respondents appeared to be more hopeful regarding community change in the future. The majority (51 %) felt there would be at least some improvement to the community by 2016.

Table 19. Summary of Childcare, Education, and Community Change Issues, June 2013.

Childcare Issues	Yes %				
Does anyone else take care of your children?	40.5				
Do the children attend a child care center?	36.7				
Reading Issues	Everyday %	3-5 times a week %	1-2 times a week %	Not at all %	
In a week, how often do you or any other family member read books to your child (children)	10.8	19.3	38.5	20.2	
In a week, how often does your child read to himself/herself?	13.8	15.8	33.3	25.1	
Post High School Issues	Often %	Sometimes %	Never %		
Plans for college entrance exams	29.1	31.9	39.1		
Applying for college or other schools after high school	37.0	29.6	33.4		
Community Change	Improved a lot %	Improved some %	Stayed about the same %	Declined some %	Declined a lot %
Compared to 3 years ago, how has the community changed?	11.2	28.4	40.1	9.3	11.0
	Improve a lot %	Improve some %	Stay about the same %	Decline some %	Decline a lot %
Three years from now, how will the community likely change?	15.5	35.3	32.4	8.9	7.9

Residents were queried in 2014 about child care, reading activity, educational plans, and community issues. The findings suggest that 61 % have others assist in caring for their children. Another 70 % stated that their children attend a child care facility (see Table 20).

Reading activities related to the child’s education level provided interesting results. Regarding reading activities, Table 20 shows that the majority of parents reported reading to

their pre-kindergarten children “1-2 times a week” or more. For children who were in kindergarten to 8th grade, nearly two-thirds of the parent indicated they read to them less than a couple of times a weeks. Most importantly, respondents noted that the vast majority of parents of children in this age range reported that their children were reading to themselves every day.

Regarding educational plans, most of the parents with high school aged children assisted their children in preparing to apply or applying to college. About 86 % helped their children with plans for taking college entrance exams, while almost 81% said their high school-aged children planned to apply to college after high school (see Table 20). Overall, the 2014 survey shows an increase in the use of day care centers and an increase in the involvement of parents in their children’s education when compared with the 2013 survey.

Attitudes toward community issues demonstrated that residents were hopeful about their neighborhood’s future. The majority of respondents, about 37 %, felt that the community was about the same as it was in 2011. However, about as many respondents, just over 32 %, felt the community had “improved some”. Respondents were more hopeful about future changes in the community. The majority, almost 41 %, said the community would “improve some” by 2017 (see Table 20). Taken as a whole, residents’ 2014 perceptions of community change are very similar to their 2013 perceptions.

Table 20. Summary of Childcare, Education, and Community Change Issues, September 2014.

Childcare Issues	Yes %				
Does anyone else take care of your children?	61.0				
Do the children attend a child care center?	70.2				
Reading Issues	Everyday %	3-6 times a week %	1-2 times a week %	Not at all %	
In a week, how often do you read books to your prekindergarten child?	20.5	26.5	38.6	14.5	
In a week, how often do you read books to your kindergarten to 8 th grade child?	18.2	18.2	31.2	32.5	
In a week, how often does your kindergarten to 8 th grade child read to himself/herself?	44.2	26.0	22.1	7.8	
Post High School Issues	Often %	Sometimes %	Never %		
Plans for college entrance exams	38.9	47.2	13.9		
Applying for college or other schools after high school	41.7	38.9	19.4		
Community Change	Improved a lot %	Improved some %	Stayed about the same %	Declined some %	Declined a lot %
Compared to 3 years ago, how has the community changed?	13.0	32.2	37.1	13.6	4.1
	Improve a lot %	Improve some %	Stay about the same %	Decline some %	Decline a lot %
Three years from now, how will the community likely change?	16.4	40.9	31.2	6.7	4.8

Internet accessibility has gone up from 2013 to 2014, but only slightly. As shown in Table 21, almost 60 % of respondents reported owning devices with the capable of connecting to the internet. This is about a 7 percentage point increase from 2013. Also the majority of respondents in 2014, about 58 %, stated they can access to internet service in their homes. This is, also, a marginal increase from the almost 52 % that reported having internet access in 2013.

Table 21. Availability of Computers and Internet in the Household in the Neighborhood Target Area, June 2013 and September 2014

Item	June 2013 %	September 2014 %
Do you have a computer or iPad, not including a cell phone, in your household?		
Yes	53.0	59.6
No	47.0	40.4
Total	100.0 (1083)	100.0 (381)
Do you have access to the Internet in your home other than through your cell phone?		
Yes	51.9	58.3
No	48.1	41.7
Total	100.0 (1081)	100.0 (384)

CONCLUSIONS

The Neighborhood Survey findings provide a comprehensive view of the EPN target area. The information with respect to resident perceptions is very similar to the survey conducted in 2013. These resident perception findings should be taken into consideration as programmatic adjustments are made for enhancing initiatives related to the Eastside Promise Neighborhood.

Regarding medical services, most respondents felt they had access to doctors and minute clinics in the neighborhood. Similarly, the majority indicated they had access to emergency rooms and hospital service within the neighborhood as well. Most residents queried said the medical services available were adequate. Residents reporting in 2014 had more positive perceptions about the quality of the medical services in the neighbor than they did in 2013. In addition, most respondents assessed their personal health as *good*.

When considering the food available in the neighborhood, particularly the fresh produce available, most respondents reported that there was a variety of quality fresh fruits and vegetables available for them to purchase. Residents had higher perceptions of the quality of produce in 2014 when compared to 2013. It should be note that respondents tended to believe that quality and variety were not problematic issues with respect to food availability.

Respondents reported differing opinions concerning relationships between community residents. Overall, most residents reported feeling connected to the neighborhood and their neighbors. It is important to detail that most survey participants indicated that the neighborhood does not help fulfill their needs and they have little to no impact on what occurs in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood problems and safety issues were explored through interviewing participants. Most residents agreed that substance abuse, smoking, violence, and criminal activity were issues within the neighborhood. The perceptions of problems within the target community are not necessarily related to perceptions of safety. Residents reported feeling safe within their own homes and the neighborhood. The exceptions to this were walking alone in the neighborhood and the response time for emergency services.

There were some interesting relationships found when comparing various community issues across selected demographic factors. Correlations showed that a limited number of demographic factors impacted perceptions of the community. Younger people who have lived in the neighborhood for shorter periods of time reported having better health. Older people who lived in the neighborhood longer reported feeling more connected to the community. Respondents who were married and non-white perceived more problems in the neighborhood. Hispanics and non-Black residents perceived the food available within the neighborhood to have more quality. Additionally, older residents and Hispanics and non-Black residents had more positive perceptions of medical services available within the community. Finally, there were no demographic variables that were related to perceptions of safety issues within the community suggesting that most residents perceive the issues the same regardless of demographic differences.

Multiple linear regression models were created to further explore the relationships between the selected demographic variables and resident perspectives of services and issues within the community. When considering medical services, there were no significant demographic variable predictors found. This suggests that resident perceptions of medical services are fairly consistent across all of the predictor factors. Regarding food quality, residents who were older, lived in the neighborhood for shorter periods of time, and who were unemployed were more likely to rate food quality higher. Models related to community membership and safety issues within the neighborhood had no significant predictor variables.

This suggests that resident perceptions of both community membership and safety issues are fairly consistent among residents regardless of the individual demographic differences considered. Finally, community problems were more likely to be found by married respondents than non-married respondents, no other demographic variables had a significant impact on the perceptions of community problems.

The Eastside Promise Neighborhood initiative appears to be proceeding in a very successful manner. When queried, most residents said they were aware of the EPN program. A regression model showed that older and Hispanic residents were more likely to be aware of the program than their counterparts. In addition, those that were aware of the program gave it high marks in terms of success. These responses provide the United Way and the EPN with evidence that the program is succeeding. The overall Neighborhood Survey findings should be used for focusing more clearly on programmatic outcomes.

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