

Community Survey Examples

1. Portland Police Bureau – Neighborhood Involvement Locations (NI-Loc)

Henning, K., Stewart, G., Kahn, K., Peterson, C. Renauer, B., Mitchell, R., Labissiere, Y., & Sothern, S. (2017). Portland's Neighborhood Involvement Locations Project (final report). Portland, Oregon: Criminal Justice Policy & Research Institute, Portland State University.

This project was supported by Grant NO. 2014-WY-BX-0004; awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The purpose of the surveys were to collect data on residents' attitudes toward the police, contact with the police, and the residents perceived safety after the completion of a randomized hot-spot policing intervention; which was conducted in 90 Neighborhood Involvement Locations (500' hotspots) and buffer areas throughout Portland, Oregon. These 90 location are divided into three groups: control (no additional treatment), two additional community engagement patrols, or four additional engagement patrols. The Survey elicited responses from residents on their perceptions and experiences over the previous three months, while the intervention was occurring.

The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) identified all of the household addresses in the 90 NI-Locs and each location's 500' buffer. These areas differed considerably in size, ranging from zero households (2 NI-Locs) up to 877 households. For more populated areas, a random sample of addresses from the mailing list were included. For the smaller areas, all households in and around the NI-Locs were included. A total of 11,760 paper surveys were mailed out with a cover letter, a paper survey, and a pre-paid business reply envelope. One thousand five hundred and thirty-seven were returned for a response rate of 13.1%. The number of surveys distributed and the response rates were fairly consistent across the three study conditions: control (3,420 mailed, 466 returned or 13.6%), 2 CEPs/day (3,458 mailed, 448 returned or 13.0%), and 4 CEPs/day (4,882 mailed and 623 returned or 12.8%). The final usable sample for the analyses consisted of 1,423 surveys. One hundred fourteen surveys were excluded because respondents indicated that they did not spend any time in the designated NI-Loc area during the area's active phase.

Supporting Files:

- Cover letter ([PDF](#))
- Survey form ([PDF](#))
- Final Report ([PDF](#))

2. Portland Police Bureau – Parkrose POP project

Kris Henning, Ph.D., Portland State University

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Christian Peterson, MS., Portland Police Bureau

The purpose of the survey was to provide residents with a greater voice in where police work is taking place in their neighborhood, what problems are addressed, and what interventions are introduced. The survey also provides the residents, businesses, and community organization(s) with data they can use to leverage additional resources to improve public safety. The survey elicits resident's responses on five themes: resident's public safety concerns, perceived safety, strategies to address public safety, perceptions of the police, and collective efficacy.

The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) identified 3,163 households in the Parkrose Neighborhood. Each household was mailed a letter from the Commander of North Precinct with a link to an online survey as well as a paper survey. The PPB also posted links to the neighborhood survey on a community forum, and handed out 3X5 cards to community members at local events and while on patrol. A total of 349 useable surveys were submitted. Unfortunately it is impossible to accurately determine the response rate for the survey, when the true number of people exposed to survey is unknown.

Supporting Files:

- Cover letter ([PDF](#))
- Survey form ([PDF](#))
- Final Report ([PDF](#))

3. Bend Police Department – Community Assessment

Greg Stewart, MS., Portland State University

Kris Henning, Ph.D., Portland State University

The purpose of the survey was to provide feedback on the agency's recent performance in achieving the community oriented goals of the strategic plan and to provide direction for the coming years. The survey examined seven themes: residents feeling safe, trust in police, individuals contacted perception of treatment, have the police been successful managing public safety, have the police been successful at engaging the community, how can the police increase public trust and cooperation, and finally, what the residents primary public safety concern were and how should the police address the issue (s) moving forward.

The police department identified all of the residential addresses in Bend, Oregon. A random sample of 4,000 households, representing all of the zip codes in Bend, were then selected; each receiving a letter from the chief and a link to a short web survey. Fourteen days later a follow-up postcard was sent as a reminder to increase response rate. A total of 523 usable surveys were submitted from the sample. Resulting in a final response rate of 13.1%.

Supporting Files:

- Cover letter ([PDF](#))
- Survey form ([PDF](#))
- Final Report ([PDF](#))

4. Fairfax County Police Department – Community Survey

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Criminology, Law and Society.*

This research is part of a broader program within the CEBCP, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, called the [Matrix Demonstration Projects](#).

The goal of the survey was to provide the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) with a scientifically sound assessment of community views of the police. Specific areas of information gathered were on resident's opinions about FCPD treatment of residence by police, procedural justice, residents' fear of crime, and other community concerns.

George Mason University procured 4,250 residential households from a commercial entity because the county did not have an available database of apartment level addresses. Each of these locations were mailed a cover letter, a paper survey, and a pre-paid business reply envelope. Two subsequent post cards were mailed to each location to increase the response rate. In all, 626 surveys were returned for a 15% response rate.

Supporting Files:

- Cover letter ([PDF](#))
- Survey form ([PDF](#))
- Final Report ([PDF](#))

5. Brooklyn Park Police Department – Increasing Collective Efficacy at Crime Hot Spots: A Patrol Force Approach

*David Weisburd (PI), Charlotte Gill (co-PI), Alese Wooditch, and Tori Goldberg
Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Policing Initiative (with Brooklyn Park Police
Department), 2013-DB-BX-0030, \$700,000*

The Center of Evidence-Based Crime Policy (CEBCP) and the Brooklyn Park Police Department collaborated to develop a problem-solving approach BP-ACT (Brooklyn Park-Assets Coming Together to Take Action). The purpose of these surveys were to examine collective efficacy and indicators of social control at the city block level prior to the introduction of BP-ACT and after the implementation to gain further understanding social context of crime at places, or the role of the community in crime prevention.

Supporting Files:

- Baseline survey form ([PDF](#))
- Follow-up survey form ([PDF](#))