

# Martindale-Brightwood



# Weed and Seed 2009 Evaluation Report

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## INTRODUCTION



The U.S. Department of Justice defines Weed and Seed as a strategy rather than a grant program that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods across the country. The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area; and "seeding" brings human services to the area, encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization. (Source: Weed and Seed Data Center)

In its 2006 application to the U.S. Department of Justice for official recognition as a Weed & Seed site, Martindale-Brightwood identified drug and gun crime as its top priorities for action in the 2.65 square miles that it covers. The frequency of drug crime is also seen as the basis for other criminal activity. Additional problems need to be addressed in order to lessen crime and improve the quality of life for Martindale-Brightwood residents. The following goals have been identified:

- **Law Enforcement:** Reduce violent crime and drug activity by 10.0% in five (5) years.
- **Community Policing:** Increase reporting of crime by 10.0% in five (5) years.
- **Prevention, Intervention and Treatment:** Expand training/education programs for target youth and their parents/families.
- **Prevention, Intervention and Treatment:** Get more families involved in community meetings and activities that link them to needed resources and services via Safe Havens.
- **Neighborhood Restoration:** Reduce drug and other illegal activity by 10.0% in five (5) years by improving the condition of property.
- **Neighborhood Restoration:** Reduce illegal businesses and increase the number of businesses with services and jobs benefiting residents.
- **Special Emphasis (Re-Entry):** Reduce recidivism by released offenders returning to the Martindale-Brightwood community.

## EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The evaluation process began on July 28, 2009, and ended on December 7, 2009:



**Figure 1 – Process Flow Diagram**

Two instruments were designed to aid in the evaluation of the Weed and Seed strategy. The goal was to capture the four basic Weed and Seed components: law enforcement, community policing, prevention, intervention, and treatment (PIT), and neighborhood revitalization.

The first instrument was the “Video Documentary” which was created as a visual expression to document reality. The compilation includes a brief history and the current state of Martindale-Brightwood, in narrative and pictographic form, as well as the video interviews of several community leaders, business owners, and residents.

The second instrument was the “Community Perception Survey” which was distributed to Martindale-Brightwood residents and other stakeholders at several public locations and at the following community meetings:

✓ Martindale-Brightwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee	✓ Oakhill Civic Association
✓ Ralston Hovey Arsenal Association	✓ Hillside Neighborhood
✓ Greater Citizens Coalition of Martindale-Brightwood (GCCMB)	✓ Brightwood Concerned Citizens Neighborhood Association
✓ Martindale-Brightwood Neighborhood Association	

The purpose of the survey, which consists of five (5) demographic questions and 14 perception questions, is to capture the current opinion of the community, and to compare this year’s results with last year’s results.

Two surveyors were recruited and trained to distribute perception surveys. Two evaluators participated in the overall process. One primarily focused on community relations, while the other focused on the technical aspects of the project, such as the design of the evaluation instruments, the website and the database; and also data analyses.

# FINDINGS

## Terminology

When analyzing data, it is important to understand the terminology used for reporting purposes. The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects arrest data on 29 offenses. These offenses are divided into two groups, Part I and Part II crimes. Each month, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) submits to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), information on the number of Part I offenses that become known to them; the offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means; and the age, sex, and race of persons arrested for each of the offenses. IMPD provides only arrest data for Part II offenses.

The UCR Program collects data about Part I offenses in order to measure the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the United States. The program's founders chose these offenses because they are serious crimes, they occur with regularity in all areas of the country, and they are likely to be reported to police.

Within the FBI's UCR Program, IMPD can clear, or "close," offenses in one of two ways: by arrest or by exceptional means. To clear an offense within the Program's guidelines, IMPD must adhere to certain criteria:

In the UCR Program, IMPD reports that an offense is cleared by arrest, or solved for crime reporting purposes, when all of the following three conditions have been met for at least one person:

- Arrested.
- Charged with the commission of the offense.
- Turned over to the court for prosecution (whether following arrest, court summons, or police notice).

In certain situations, elements beyond IMPD's control prevent the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender. When this occurs, IMPD can clear the offense exceptionally. IMPD must meet the following four conditions in order to clear an offense by exceptional means. IMPD must have:

- Identified the offender.
- Gathered enough evidence to support an arrest, make a charge, and turn over the offender to the court for prosecution.
- Identified the offender's exact location so that the suspect could be taken into custody immediately.
- Encountered a circumstance outside the control of law enforcement that prohibits the agency from arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender.

(Source: Federal Bureau of Investigations)

## Crime Statistics

A total of **1290** crimes were reported in the Martindale-Brightwood community between the months of July 2006 and June 2007. There was an 11.8% (n=152) decrease in reported crimes during the same time period of the following year (2007-2008); a total of **1138**. During the months of July 2008 through June 2009 there was less than a 1.0% (n=7) drop in reported crimes from the previous year; a total of **1131**. Figures 2 and 3 below illustrate the breakdown of reported crimes during the three (3) year period. (Source: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department)

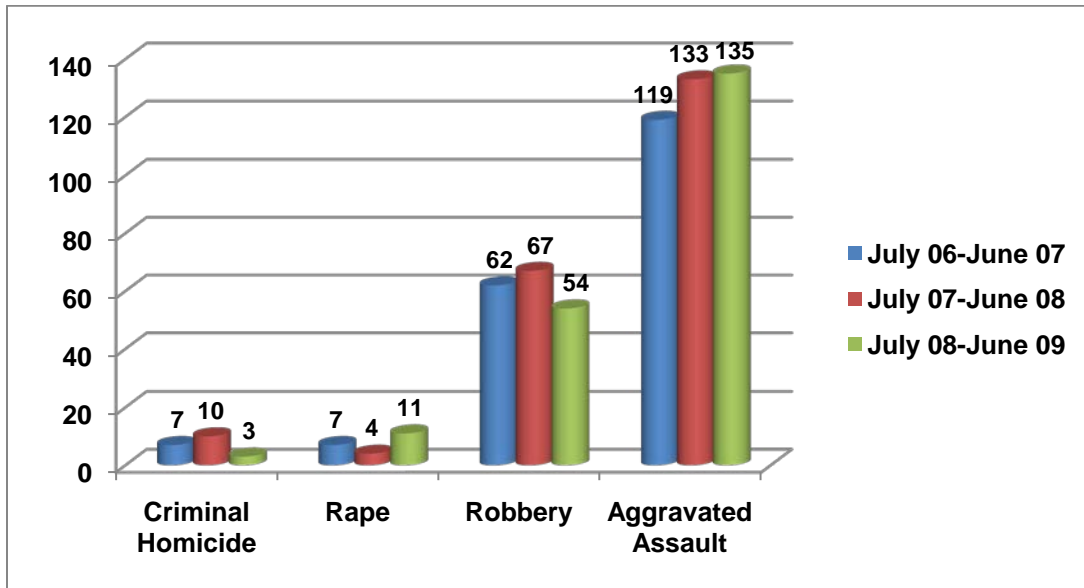


Figure 2 – Total Number of Crimes Reported

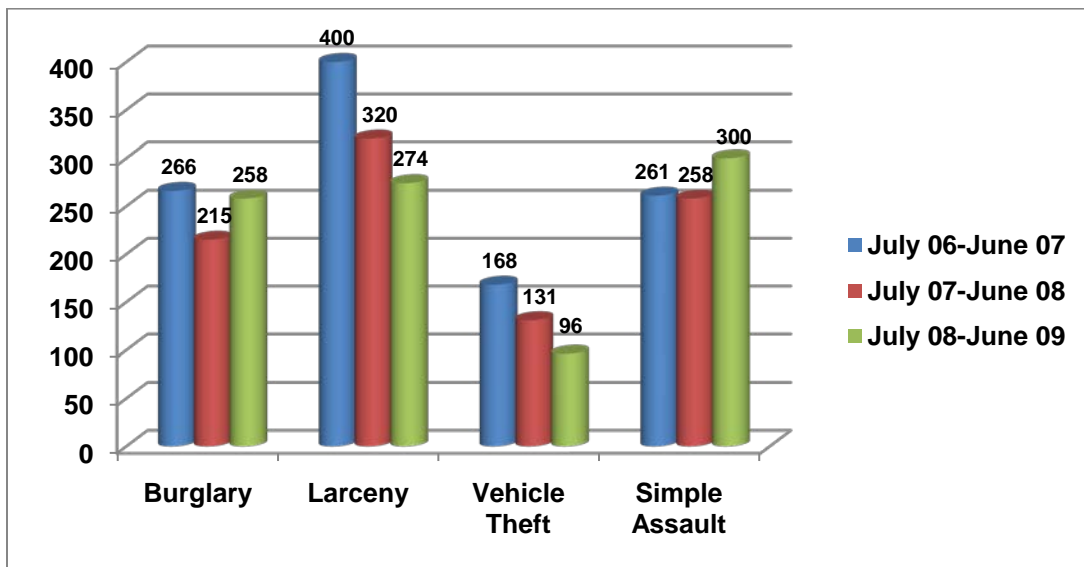


Figure 3 – Total Number of Crimes Reported

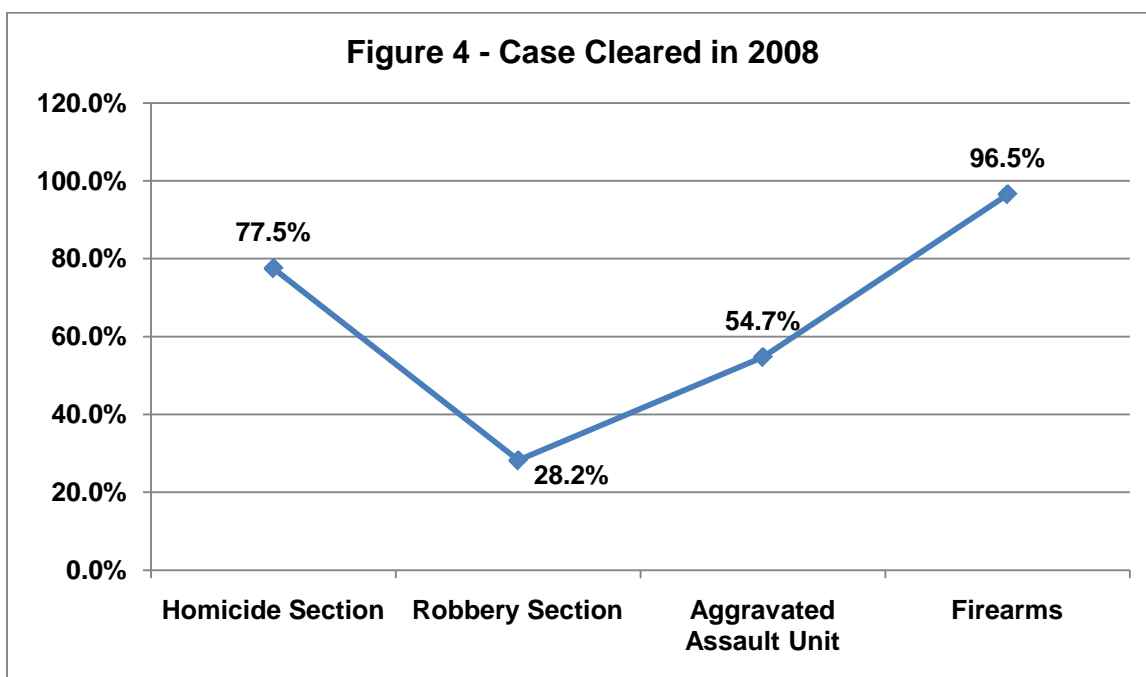
The Criminal Investigations Division of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) reported the following for the year 2008:

<b>Narcotics Branch Activity</b>	<b>Total Number/Amount</b>
Total Arrests	1,445
Search Warrants	201
Firearms Seized	160
Money Seized	\$14,823,727
Cocaine Seized (pounds)	231.84
Methamphetamine Seized (pounds)	55.07
Heroin Seized (grams)	20,476.94
Marijuana Seized (pounds)	3,061.48

**Table 1 – Narcotics Branch Activity**

Statistics specifically related to Martindale-Brightwood could not be located on the IMPD website.

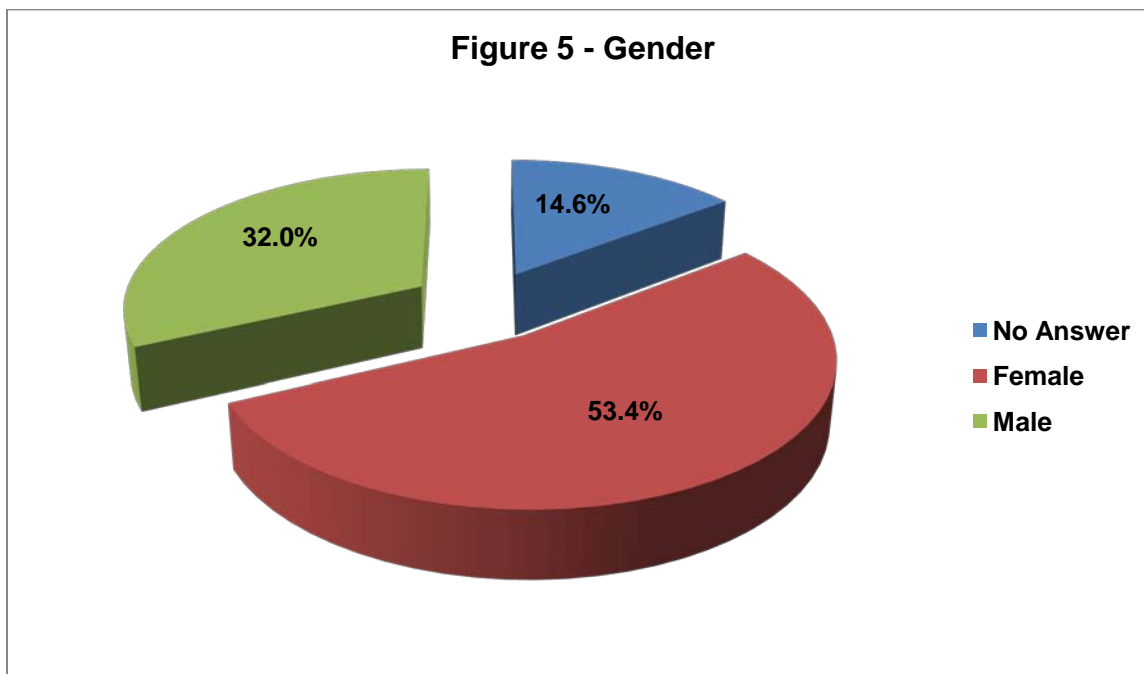
Figure 4 below illustrates the total percentage of IMPD cases cleared in 2008:



## Community Perception Survey Results

### Demographic Information

There were 103 respondents of the “Community Perception Survey”. Of the 103 respondents, 85.4% (n=88) answered the question related to gender; 53.4% (n=55) are female, and 32.0% (n=33) are male. Reference Figure 5 below:

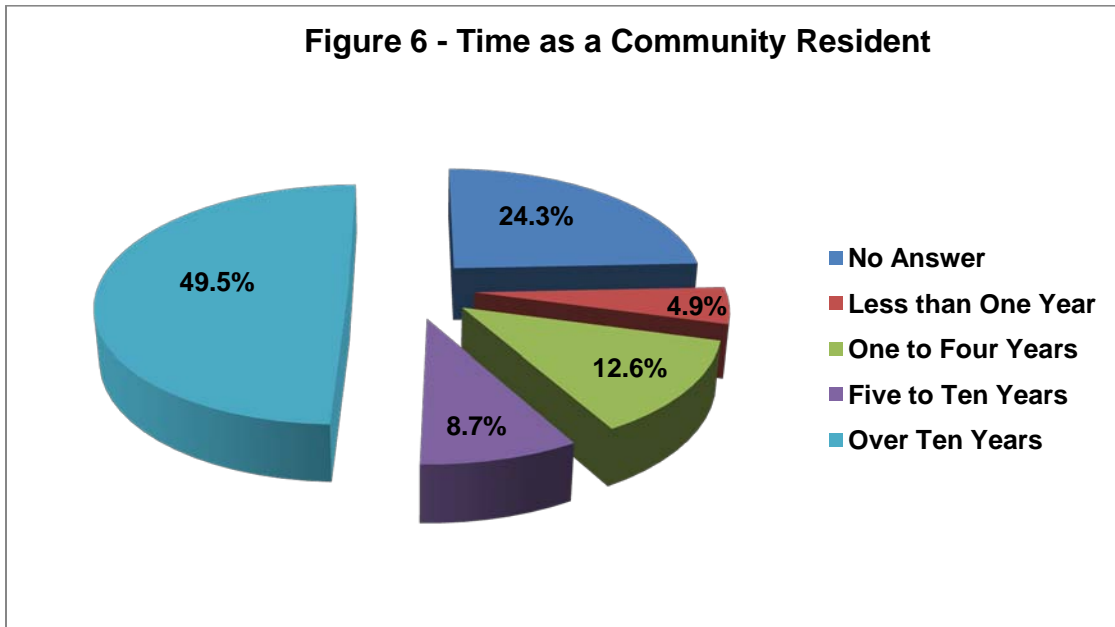


The majority of the respondents (64.1%) are age 45 and over. Over 31.0% of the respondents are under 45 years of age; a 6.1% increase from last year (2008).

Age Groups	Number	Percent
No Answer	5	4.9%
18-24	5	4.9%
25-34	13	12.6%
35-44	14	13.6%
45-54	16	15.5%
55-64	16	15.5%
65 Plus	34	33.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 2 – Age Groups**

Of the 103 respondents, 24.3% (n=25) did not answer the question regarding how long they have lived in Martindale-Brightwood. Over 49.0% (n=51) of the respondents have lived in the community for over ten (10) years. Fewer than 5.0% (n=5) of the respondents have lived in the community less than one year.



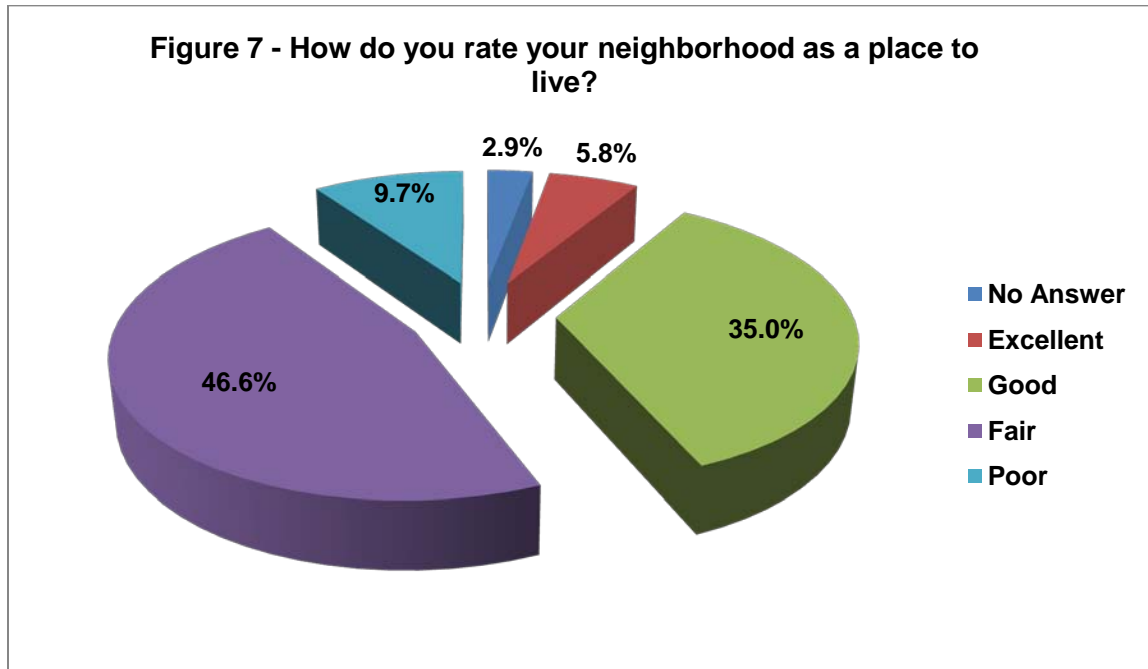
Respondents were also asked where they live (street name and block number). More than 86.0% (n=89) of the respondents answered both parts of the question, 2.9% (n=3) gave a partial answer (street name or block number), while 10.7% (n=11) did not answer the question at all. Table 3 below details the names of the streets where survey respondents live:

East 19th Street	Langley
East 25th Street	Manlove
East 30th Street	Olney
East 31st Street	Oxford
East 34th Street	Parker
Adams	Ralston
Arsenal	Rev. Dr. A.J. Brown
Baltimore	Rural
Brouse	Sangster
Caroline	Sheldon
Columbia	Sherman
Dearborn	Station
Gale	Stuart
Hillside	Tacoma
Horizon Lane	Temple
Hovey	Wheeler
Keystone	Yandes

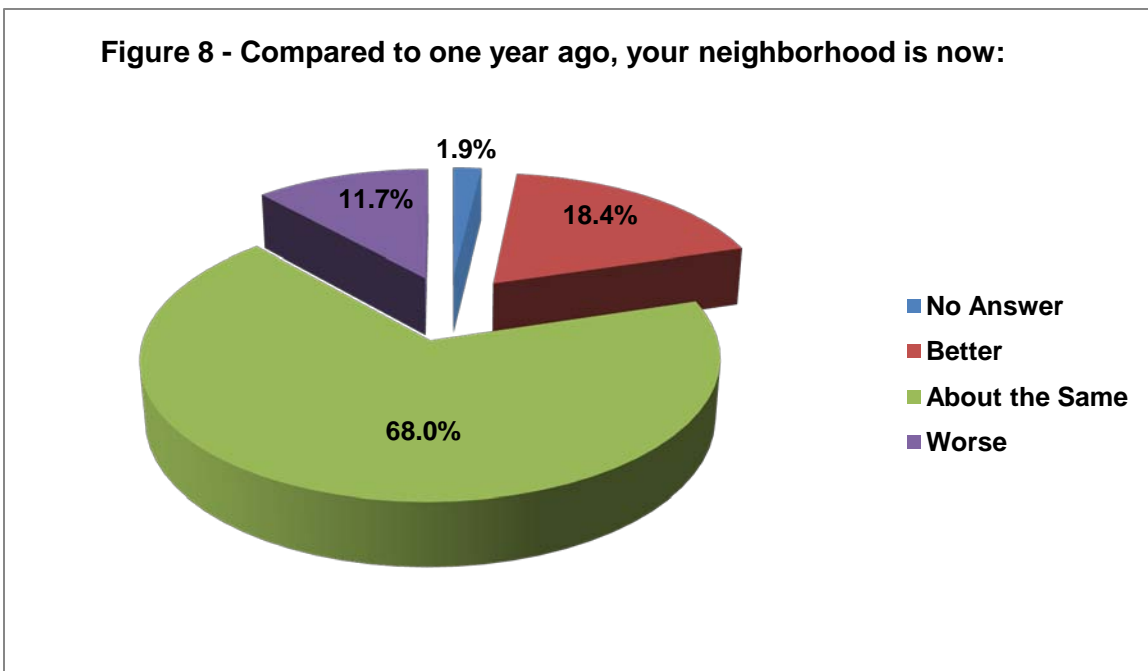
**Table 3 – Street Names**

## Perception Questions

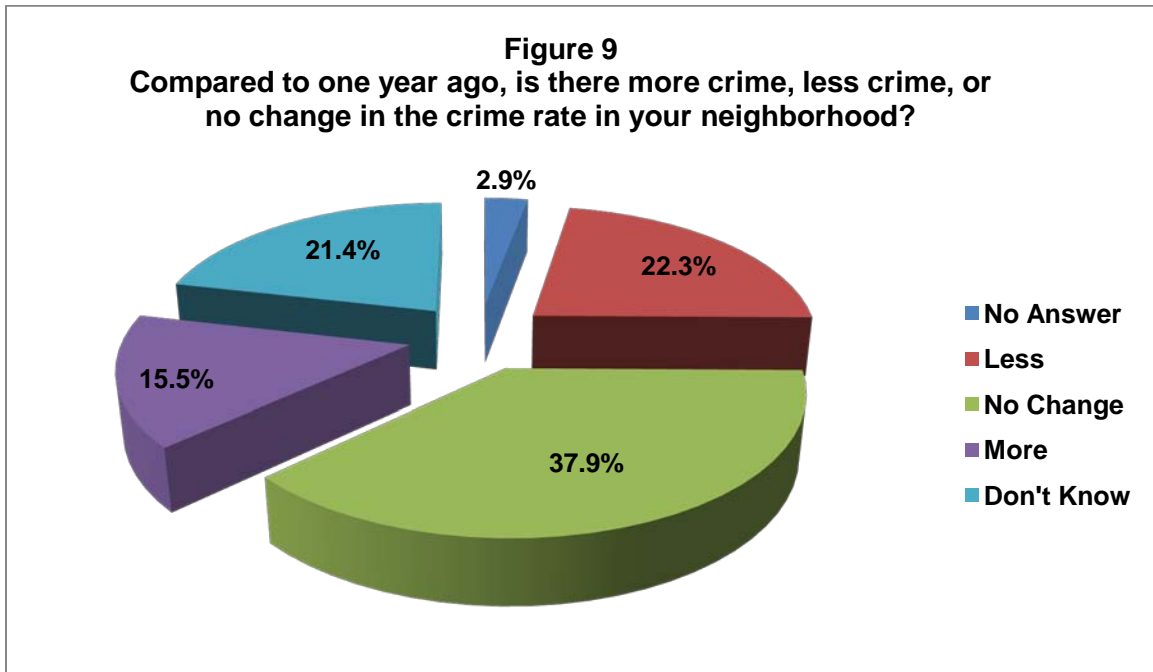
When asked to rate the neighborhood as a place to live, over 46.0% (n=48) of the respondents stated that their neighborhood is a fair place to live. Nearly 41.0% (n=42) of the respondents rate their neighborhood as good or better, compared to 33.0% in 2008, and 43.0% in 2007.



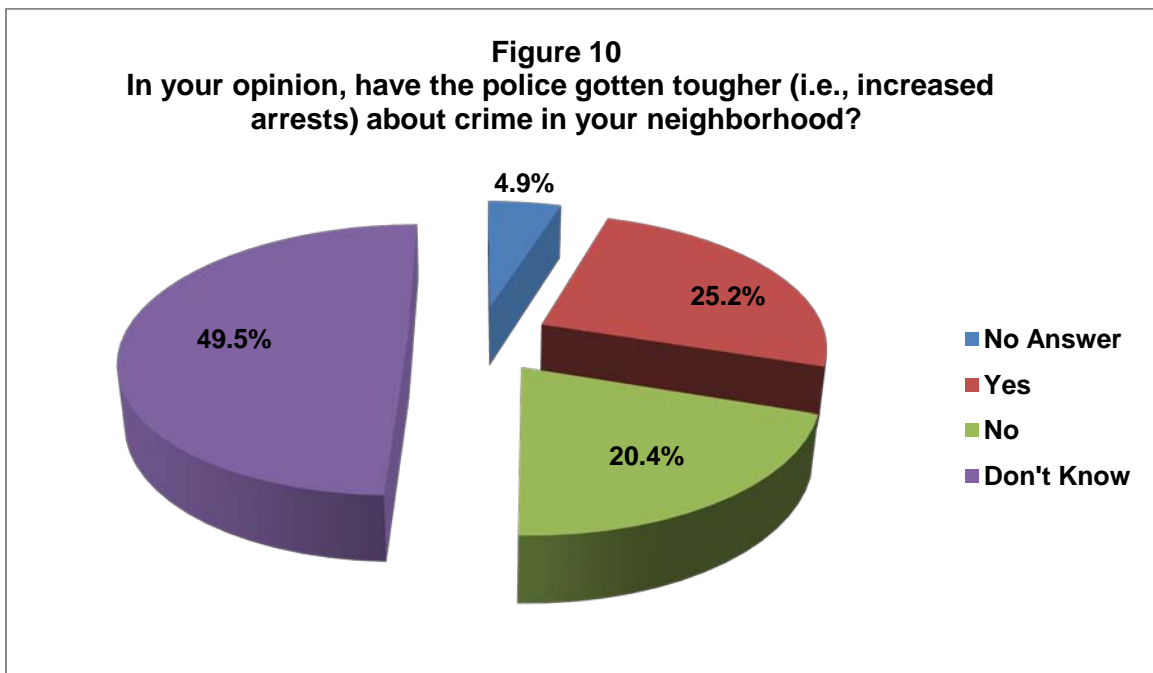
Over 11.0% (n=12) of the respondents feel that their neighborhood has gotten worse over the last year, compared to 17.0% in 2008, and 22.0% in 2007.



More than 15.0% (n=16) of the respondents feel as if crime has increased in their neighborhood, while approximately 38.0% (n=39) feel that there has been no change in the rate of crime.



Crime is always a big concern; and changing the perception of nothing is being done to decrease it, can be challenging. When asked the question if police have gotten tougher about crime in their neighborhood, nearly 50.0% (n=51) of the respondents do not know. Approximately 20.0% (n=21) feel that the police have not gotten tougher, and there has not been an increase in arrests.



Neighborhoods Rated as a "Poor" Place to Live	
Block Number	Street Name
1500	34th Street
2200	Langley
2300	Rural
2400	Olney
2800	Adams
3000	Hovey
3300	Arsenal
3800	30th Street

Neighborhoods Considered to be "Worse" Now than One Year Ago	
Block Number	Street Name
1500	34th Street
1600	Yandes
1900	Hillside
2200	Langley
2300	Gale
2400	Stuart
2800	Adams
2900	Brouse
3300	Arsenal

Neighborhoods Considered to have "More" Crime Now than One Year Ago	
Block Number	Street Name
1500	34th Street
1600	Yandes
1800	Arsenal
1800	Yandes
2300	Oxford
2400	Stuart
2700	Baltimore
2800	Baltimore
2800	Brouse
2800	Ralston
3300	Arsenal
3300	Hovey
3800	30th Street

**Table 4 – Respondent Neighborhoods**

When asked how safe they feel out alone in their neighborhood during the day and after dark, 74.7% (n=77) of the respondents stated that they feel safe during the day, while only 44.6% (n=46) stated that they feel safe after dark. Approximately 23.0% (n=24) of the respondents stated that they feel unsafe during the day, while over 49.0% (n=51) stated that they feel unsafe after dark.

How safe do you feel out alone in your neighborhood during the day?		
	Number	Percent
No Answer	1	1.0%
Very Safe	16	15.5%
Somewhat Safe	61	59.2%
Somewhat Unsafe	17	16.5%
Very Unsafe	7	6.8%
Don't Know	1	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

How safe do you feel out alone in your neighborhood after dark?		
	Number	Percent
No Answer	2	1.9%
Very Safe	6	5.8%
Somewhat Safe	40	38.8%
Somewhat Unsafe	33	32.0%
Very Unsafe	18	17.5%
Don't Know	4	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

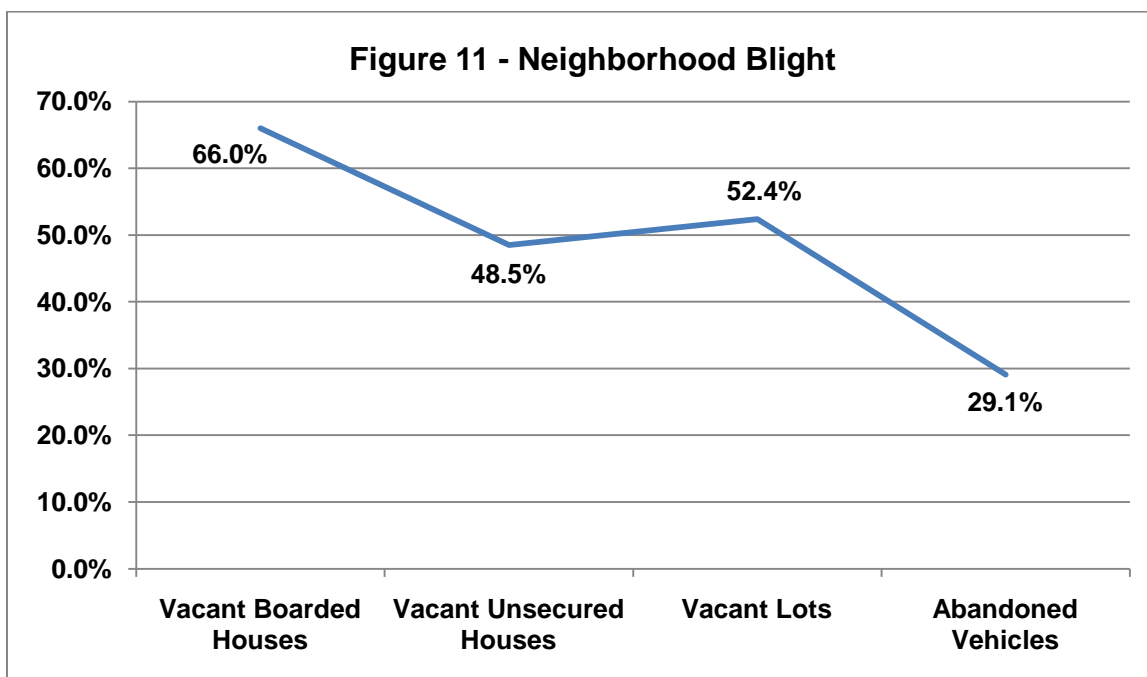
**Table 5 – Safety During the Day and After Dark**

Worry about crime often prevents 43.7% (n=45) of all respondents from visiting public parks or other neighborhood places. Thirty-five percent (n=36) of the respondents stated that worry about crime rarely prevents them from visiting these places, while 12.6% (n=13) of the respondents stated that worry about crime never prevents them visiting these places.

<b>How often does worry about crime prevent you from visiting public parks or other neighborhood places?</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No Answer	2	1.9%
Never	13	12.6%
Rarely	36	35.0%
Somewhat Often	34	33.0%
Very Often	11	10.7%
Don't Know	7	6.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 6 – Worry About Crime at Public Places**

Figure 11 below illustrates the percentage of survey respondents that noted blight in their neighborhood. Vacant boarded houses and vacant lots top the list. Of the 103 survey respondents, 66.0% (n=68) noted “Vacant Boarded Houses”, 48.5% (n=50) noted “Vacant Unsecured Houses”, 52.4% (n=54) noted “Vacant Lots”, and 29.1% (n=30) noted “Abandoned Vehicles”.



Survey respondents were asked to name the number one change they would like to see in their neighborhood. Table 7 below details the changes:

Type of Change	Number	Percent
Better lighting.	7	6.3%
<b>Clean and repave streets, curbs and sidewalks.</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
Closer playground for children.	1	0.9%
Community help.	1	0.9%
Community unity/Work together.	6	5.4%
<b>Crime control (gun fire, drugs, etc.).</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
Demolish condemned houses.	5	4.5%
Eliminate motorcycle clubs.	1	0.9%
Everyone to put God in their life and stay faithful.	1	0.9%
Families and individuals doing positive things and wanting a better life.	2	1.8%
Get rid of stray dogs.	1	0.9%
Help seniors with their homes (safety, maintenance, etc.).	1	0.9%
Housing services.	1	0.9%
Less vacant houses/Occupancy of homes.	3	2.7%
More activity for seniors.	1	0.9%
More advertising of events and available assistance for neighborhood.	1	0.9%
More children able to play outside.	1	0.9%
More community activities and meetings.	1	0.9%
More homeownership.	1	0.9%
More jobs (for adults) and paid internships (for youth).	2	1.8%
More prosecution.	1	0.9%
More services and activities for youth.	6	5.4%
More signage.	1	0.9%
No dumping.	1	0.9%
No loitering of young males; etc.	5	4.5%
Remove abandoned cars.	2	1.8%
<b>Safety/More police patrol.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13.4%</b>
Traffic control/Stop running of stop signs.	2	1.8%
<b>Upkeep of all homes (occupied, vacant, abandoned) and vacant lots.</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15.2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

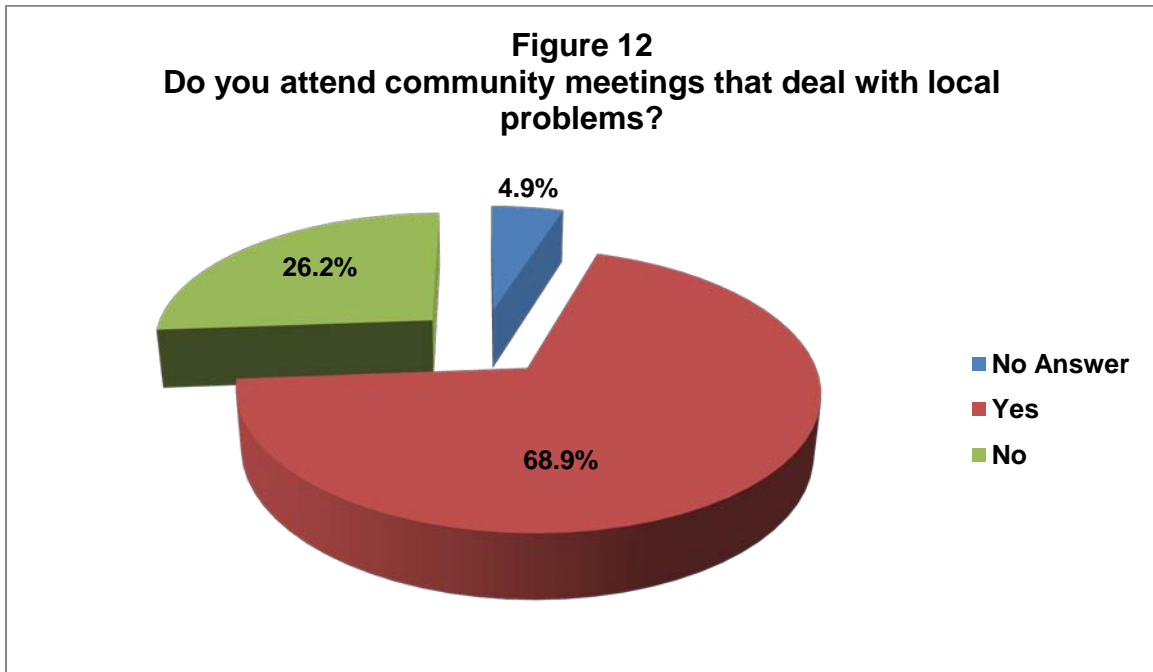
**Table 7 – Changes Needed in Neighborhood**

One respondent noted the following: *“Grey apartments need to be closed down and demolished, possible drug activity. Abandoned houses near Glen Drive and Dearborn Street need to be demolished; there is definitely drug activity going on.”*

Another respondent said: *“Police may not be the problem. Prosecution is often a joke!”*

The upkeep of all homes and vacant lots, crime control, and more police patrol topped the list of changes that survey respondents would like to see; followed by clean and repaved streets, curbs and sidewalks.

When asked if they attend community meetings that deal with local problems, 4.9% (n=5) of the respondents did not answer the question, 68.9% (n=71) answered “Yes”, while 26.2% (n=27) answered “No”.



Respondents were then asked if they are familiar with the Weed and Seed Program in Indianapolis. Nearly 9.0% (n=9) of the respondents did not answer the question, 68.0% (n=70) stated “yes”, while 23.3% (n=24) stated that they are not familiar with the program.

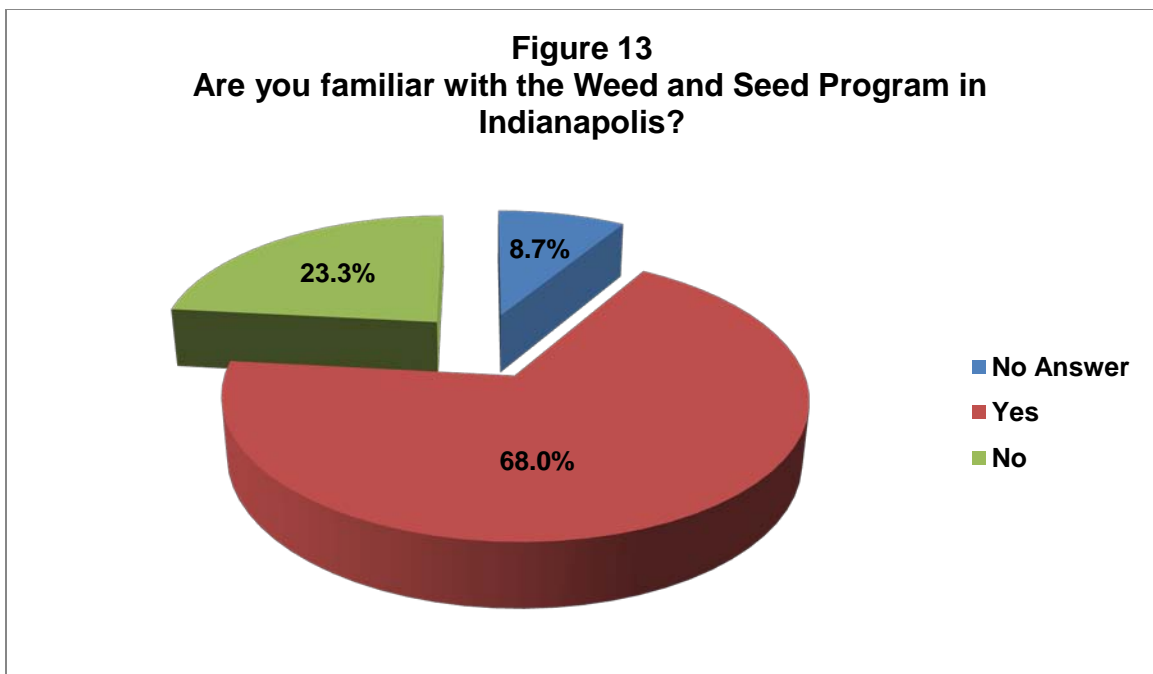
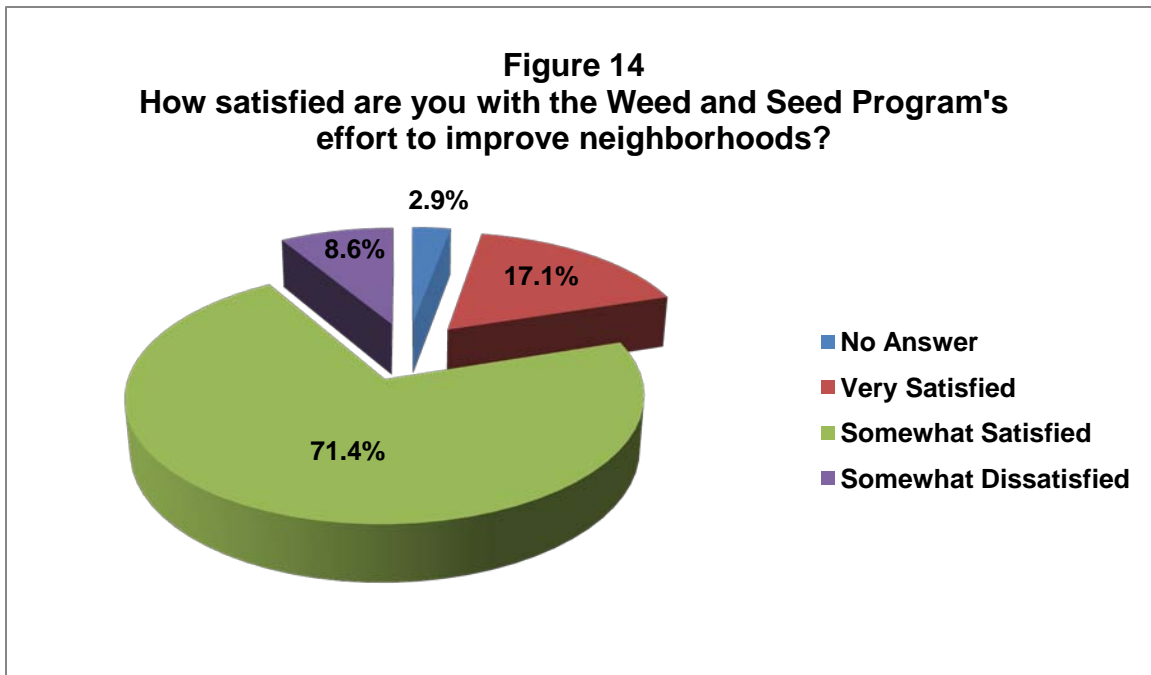
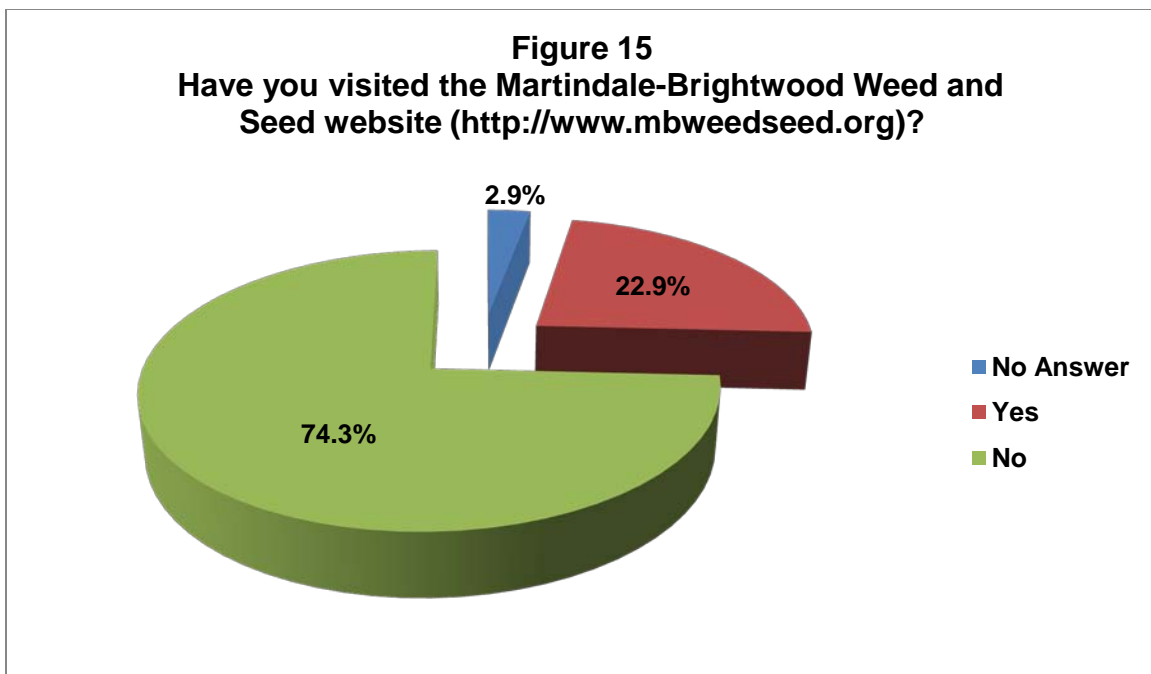


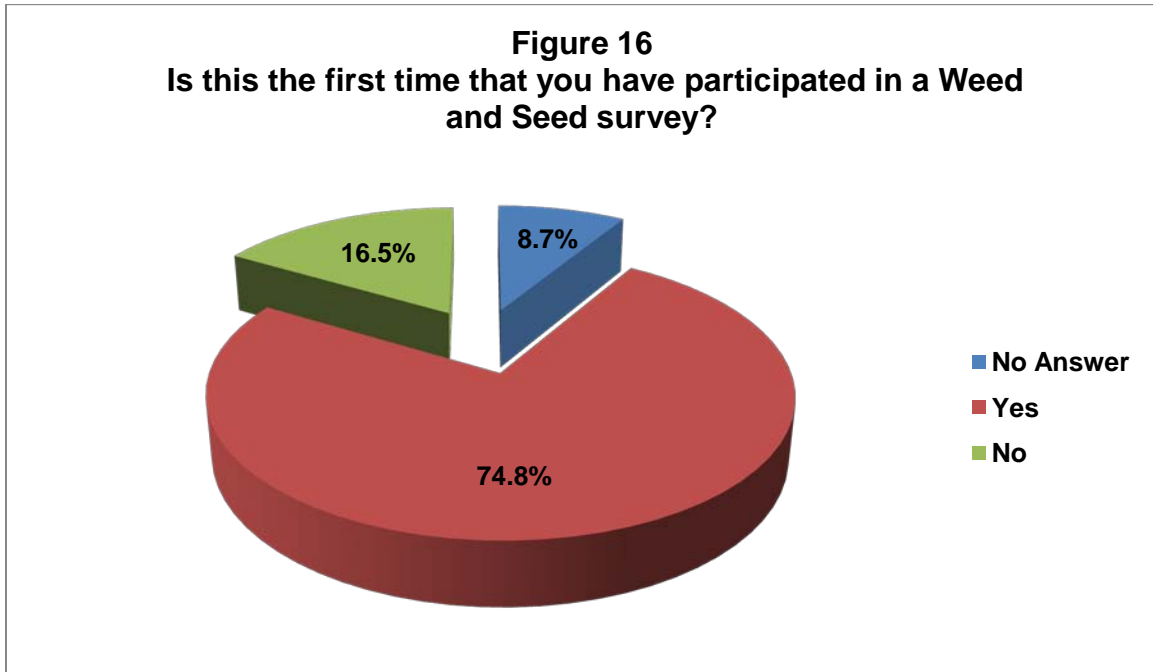
Figure 14 below illustrates the respondent's level of satisfaction with the Weed and Seed Program's effort to improve neighborhoods:



In August of 2008, a website (<http://www.mbweedseed.org>) was created to help promote the Martindale-Brightwood Weed and Seed strategy, and to increase the residents' knowledge of Weed and Seed. Nearly 23.0% (n=16) of the survey respondents familiar with the Weed and Seed Program in Indianapolis have visited the website.



It is important during the evaluation process that a variety of residents are surveyed. In order to assure that this happened; as previously stated, the “Community Perception Survey” was distributed to Martindale-Brightwood residents and other stakeholders at several public locations, as well as at community meetings. Approximately 75.0% (n=77) of the respondents stated that this is the first time that they have participated in a Weed and Seed survey.



## INTERPRETATION

Martindale-Brightwood Weed and Seed has identified drug and gun crime as its top priorities for action. According to the FBI, in the year 2008, drug abuse violations in the United States accounted for over 12.0% of all arrests. However, reported drug abuse violations and weapons/gun crime statistics are not readily available for review. Both fall under Part II of the UCR Program.

Although there was a 12.3% overall drop in reported crime over a three year period (July 2006 – June 2009) in Martindale-Brightwood, the largest decreases were seen in larcenies and vehicle thefts. Five crimes illustrated in Figure 2 and Figure 3 seemed to fluctuate, while aggravated assaults increased each of the three years.

### Assumptions Based on Three Years of Perception Survey Data

- In general, female adults age 45 and over outnumber all other groups at community meetings related to problem solving.
- The majority of Martindale-Brightwood residents have lived in the community for 10 years or more and are homeowners.
- At least 85.0% of Martindale-Brightwood residents rate their neighborhood as fair or better.
- Although there has been a steady decrease in the number of residents that feel that their neighborhood has gotten worse, many still feel that there has not been a decrease in the rate of crime. In other words, the neighborhoods have stayed the same.
- As previously mentioned, crime is always a big concern; and changing the perception of nothing is being done to decrease it, can be challenging. Nearly 50.0% of Martindale-Brightwood residents do not know if the police have gotten tougher about crime. There appears to be few visible changes.
- Approximately 20.0% of the residents are still concerned about their safety while out alone during the day, while 50.0% of the residents are concerned about their safety while out alone after dark.
- Worry about crime often prevents over 43.0% of Martindale-Brightwood residents from visiting parks and other neighborhood places.
- The upkeep of all homes and vacant lots, crime control, and more police patrol still top the list of changes that residents would like to see; followed by clean and repaved streets, curbs and sidewalks. Neighborhood blight contributes to drug activity and decline in property values.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analyses of the information gathered from the crime statistics and the “Community Perception Survey”, the following is recommended:

- ❖ IMPD should regularly report drug/narcotics and weapons arrests, and cases cleared.
- ❖ The Marion County Prosecutor should regularly report prosecutions and convictions.
- ❖ IMPD should increase patrol in the areas noted in Table 4 and at public parks.
- ❖ IMPD should increase community policing efforts.
- ❖ The issues regarding a lack of proper lighting need to be addressed immediately. More lighting will improve safety after dark.
- ❖ Applicable organizations and Weed and Seed sub-committees need to address the requested changes listed in Table 7.
- ❖ Promote the Martindale-Brightwood Weed and Seed strategy through various types of advertising, including the website (<http://www.mbweedseed.org>).
- ❖ Encourage more participation (specifically residents age 45 and under) at community events and meetings that address local problems. This should also increase website visitation.
- ❖ Increase the knowledge about Martindale-Brightwood Weed and Seed by 10% to 15%.
- ❖ Create additional ideas that will encourage residents to report crime.
- ❖ Address the reason(s) why over 8.0% of Martindale-Brightwood residents that are familiar with the Weed and Seed Program are not satisfied with its effort to improve neighborhoods.