



Community Safety Survey Response Summary

March 2012

The vision of the grassroots group Citizen Advisors for Public Safety (CAPS) is for Rochester to have the safest neighborhoods in Minnesota. The mission of CAPS is to give City residents an active role in promoting neighborhood safety.

This survey was created by our all-volunteer committee and distributed across community sectors with the goal of collecting community feedback on the issue of perceived public safety in Rochester. No funds were requested for creation or distribution of the survey. Thanks to the citizens who took time to complete the survey.

Survey Facts

- Survey was available online June-November 2011
- 18 Questions
- Results are not scientific
- Efforts were made to collect answers from a cross section of Rochester residents
- 140 Surveys submitted
- **Not all survey respondents answered each question and some gave multiple answers**
- Unanswered questions were considered a “no” answer
- Breakdown of respondents*
 - 58 Male and 73 female
 - Area of Rochester currently reside in
 - Downtown 2
 - Northeast 47
 - Northwest 55
 - Southeast 14
 - Southwest 22
 - Years having lived in Rochester
 - 10 years or less 24
 - 11-20 years 28
 - 21-30 years 35
 - 31-40 12
 - 41-49 12
 - 50+ 15

Citizen Advisors for Public Safety (CAPS) Committee Members

- Harvey TePoel, Landlord Association
- Nora Dooley, Human Rights Commission and Ward 1
- Amanda Eggenberger, Ward 3 and Cimarron Neighborhood Association
- Jon Eckhoff, Rochester Downtown Alliance
- Savita Katarya, Diversity Council
- René Lafflam, RNeighbors
- Zoe Masterpole, Youth Commission
- Wayne Norrie, Historic SW Neighborhood Association
- Bob Nowicki, RNeighbors and Past City Council Member
- Jan Thronson, Ward 5
- Susan Todzy, Ward 3 and Kutzky Park Neighborhood Association
- Police Department Community Action Team (CAT) representatives
 - Lieutenant Mike Sadauskis
 - Lieutenant Casey Moilanen
 - Sergeant Jim Evenson

**Survey questions 1-6 asked for name, email, gender, age and area of residence.*

Question 6*

If you have lived outside of Rochester, please tell us where and how did it compare?

Count

- 92 Participants have lived outside of Rochester
- 21 Participants have not lived outside of Rochester
- 28 Did not respond

City Size	People
Greater than 100,000	45
2,500 - 100,000	37
Less than 2,500	10
Rochester Only	21
Unknown	28

How does Rochester compare in terms of safety?

Category	Count
Better	31
Worse	30
No Difference or N/A	80

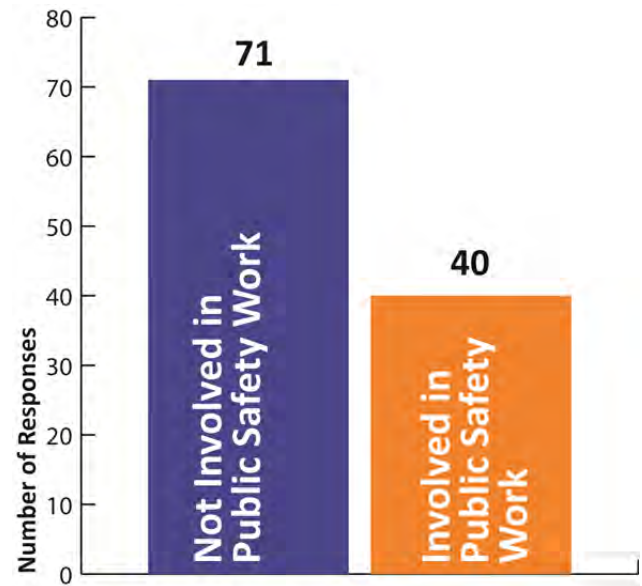
Did you know?

Rochester's crime rate is 37% lower than the national average for similar sized cities. The violent crime rate is 60% lower.

Rochester's crime rate has fallen from a high of 13,193 in 1980 to a low of 5,906 in 2011 - a drop of 55%.

Question 7

Are you involved in any public safety work? If yes, what are the issues and what are you doing?



General Summary of Survey Comments

- Those who answered were involved with public safety work including:
 - Law Enforcement
 - Neighborhood Watch
 - Neighborhood Association

What is a Neighborhood Watch?

Organized by the Police Department, neighbors involved in a Neighborhood Watch volunteer their time to keep an eye on what is happening in their neighborhood. There are currently 180 active (monthly contact) and 900+ inactive (periodic contact) Neighborhood Watches working throughout Rochester neighborhoods.

You can contact Crime Prevention at (507) 328-6890 or by email at dhildebrant@rochestermn.gov and learn how to work with either your established Neighborhood Watch or start a new one.

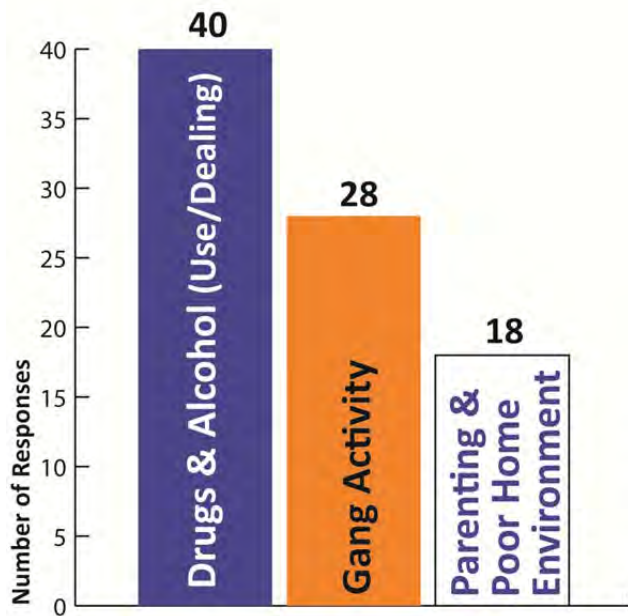
What is a Neighborhood Association?

A Neighborhood Association is the officially designated, recognized organization for a specific geographic location and registered with RNeighbors, the Rochester Neighborhood Resource Center.

There are currently 42 registered Neighborhood Associations in Rochester; some are very active, while some meet only annually to celebrate National Night Out. See page 6 on how to start a Neighborhood Association with your neighbors.

Question 8

Out of the list below (33 different options), please select your top 3 safety concerns affecting Rochester and rank them 1, 2, and 3.

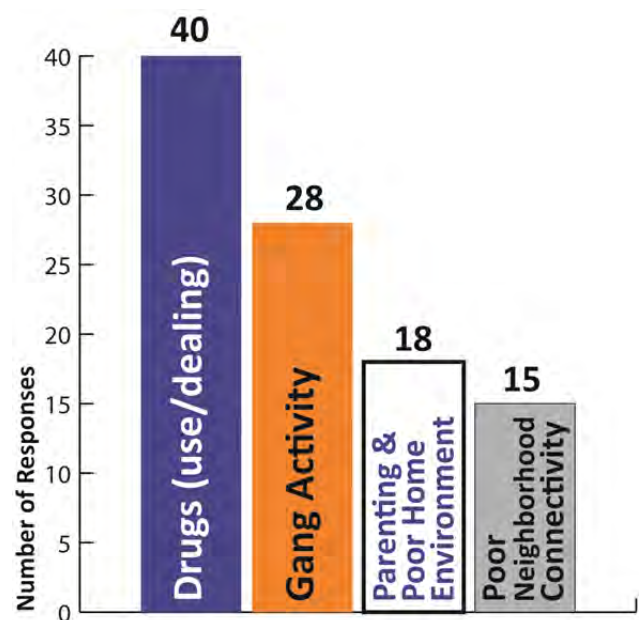


What is a gang?

A gang is defined as any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons that has a common name, common identifying sign or symbol and includes members who individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity.

Question 9

What do you think contributes to your top three safety concerns? (Answers might include drugs, poorly lit areas, abandoned buildings, etc.)



General Summary of Survey Comments

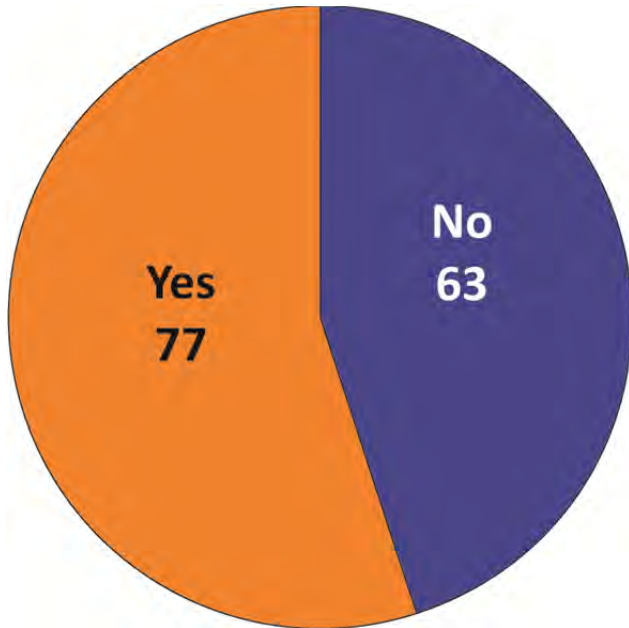
- 33 Different safety concerns were listed
- Top additional answers also included
 - Poverty
 - Burglary
 - Property Theft
 - Guns
 - Panhandling
 - Blight and Abandoned Homes

Did you know?

The Police Department recently reorganized in order to better address community concerns. Two new units, the Community Action Team and the Street Crimes Unit, have partnered with the existing Narcotics and School Liaison units to form a Crime Interdiction branch of Investigations. These units work in concert to effectively address a wide range of crime related problems throughout the community.

Question 10

Do you or your organization have contact with the local police department? If so, please describe it. If not, please explain.



Did you know?

Rochester dispatchers answered 52,622 emergency 911 calls last year. Each emergency call requires them to get as much information as possible as quickly as they can so emergency personnel can respond safely and effectively.

How to Call 911 (www.wikihow.com)

1. Do not panic.
2. Know what you will be asked. Make sure that you are aware of each of the following:
 - Where is the emergency?
 - Nature of the emergency.
 - A detailed, yet concise, description.
 - The phone number of your phone.
 - Location.
3. Listen to the dispatcher. Follow orders.
4. Do not hang up until instructed to.

General Summary of Survey Comments

77 Respondents answered "Yes"

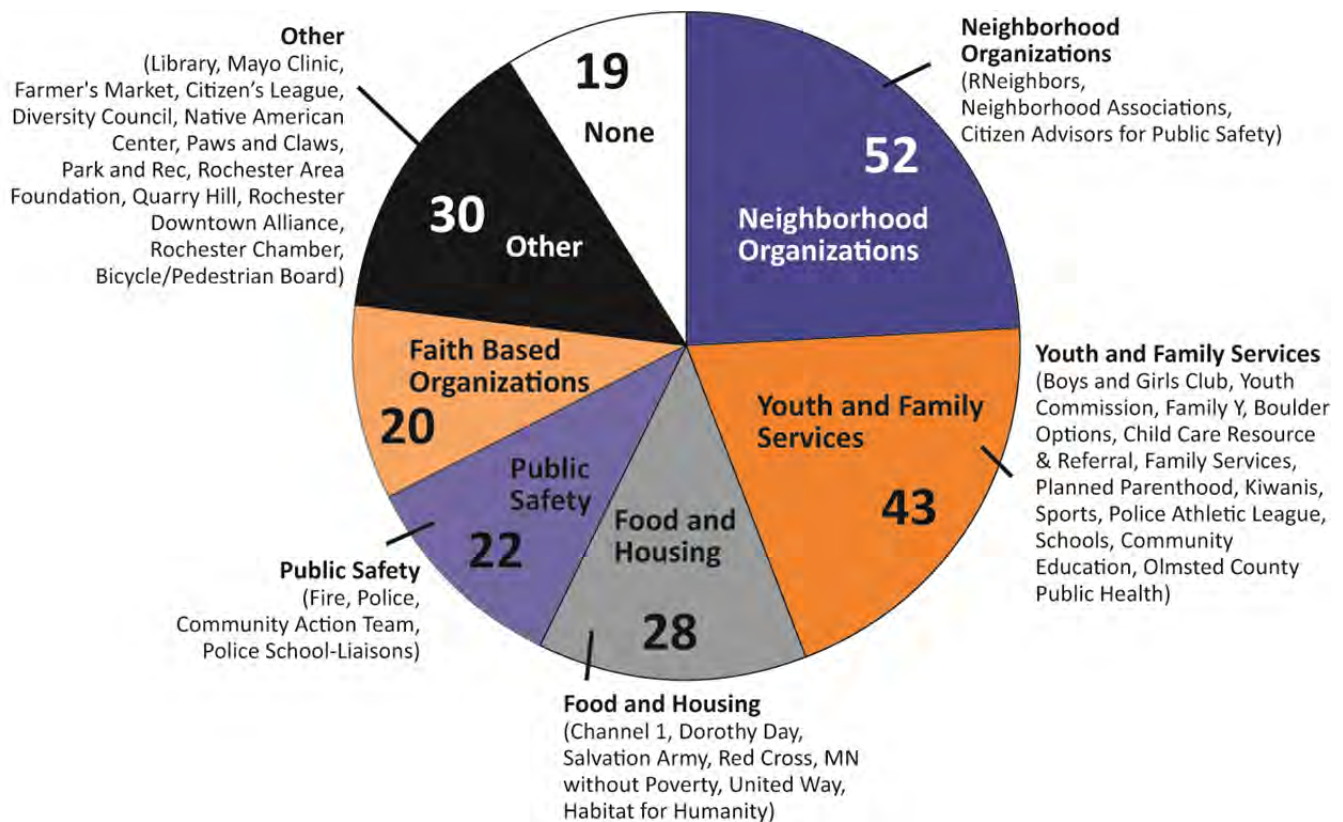
- Collaborate with Police through "Safe Bars"
- Frequently call non-emergency number when seeing suspicious activity (cars, people, etc.)
- Through active Neighborhood Watch and Neighborhood Association
- Through RNeighbors
- Friends on Rochester Police Department
- MN Crime Free Drug Free Housing member
- Talk to police when driving past my house
- Volunteer In Police Service (VIPS) or other volunteer organizations with police connection
- Email & scheduled meetings

63 Respondents answered "No"

- Don't feel it's necessary (thankfully)
- Have active Neighborhood Watch and they handle police contact
- Dispatchers sometimes treat you like a criminal
- Not personally but through Neighborhood Association or CAPS

Question 11

What community organizations are making a positive difference to your life in Rochester?



General Summary of Survey Comments

- Responses listed many organizations making a difference, not all are included here

Examples of Comments

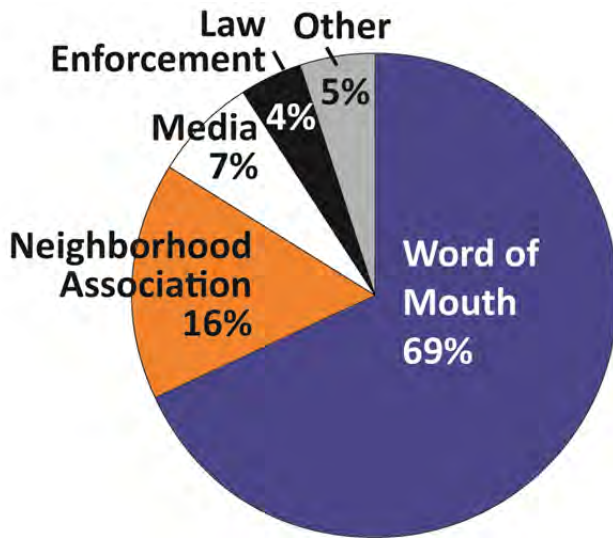
- Several answers correlated to "There is overlapping to help the same people".
- Police liaisons that are assigned to each area
- None, we have no one to help us here that I'm aware of including the police department, and the city council.
- Do not have names, but I consider any organization that is working to make Rochester a better place is making a positive difference.

Rochester Facts

- According to the National Center for Charitable Statistics there are 14,095 Public Charities in Rochester, MN.

Question 12

How did you learn about that organization that is making a positive difference?



General Summary of Survey Comments

- Answers grouped in “Other” include:
 - Flyer
 - Job
 - Internet

Local Resources

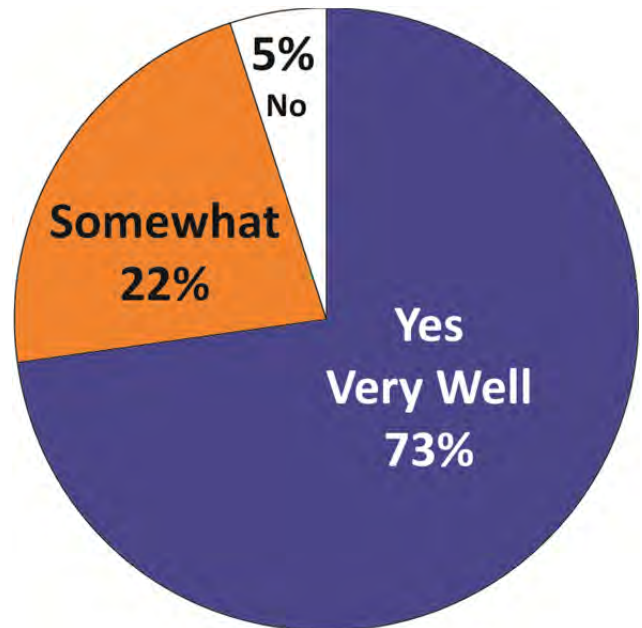
What’s a Neighborhood Association?

A Neighborhood Association is the officially designated, recognized organization for a specific geographic location.

RNeighbors, the Rochester Neighborhood Resource Center provides a Neighborhood Toolkit and additional resources to aid current Associations, and give start-up neighborhood groups guidelines for successful community organizing. Check the website for resources www.RNeighbors.org.

Question 13

Do you know your neighbors? How do you connect with them?



General Summary of Survey Comments

102 respondents answered “Yes”

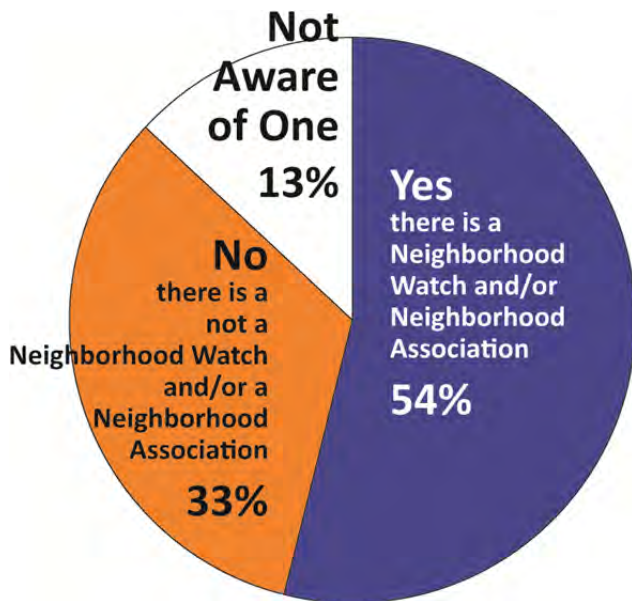
- Interact frequently
- Connect through email, phone, and conversations
- I’ve lived in the neighborhood 50 years
- Attend social events
- Participate in neighborhood association meetings

31 respondents answered “Somewhat”

- Chat with when outside
- Know immediate neighbors only
- Just starting to get to know
- Barely, just for small talk

Question 14

Is there a Neighborhood Watch or Neighborhood Association in your neighborhood? Are you involved in any way? If so, explain. If not, what reasons are inhibiting you from participating?



General Summary of Survey Comments

77 Respondents answered “Yes “

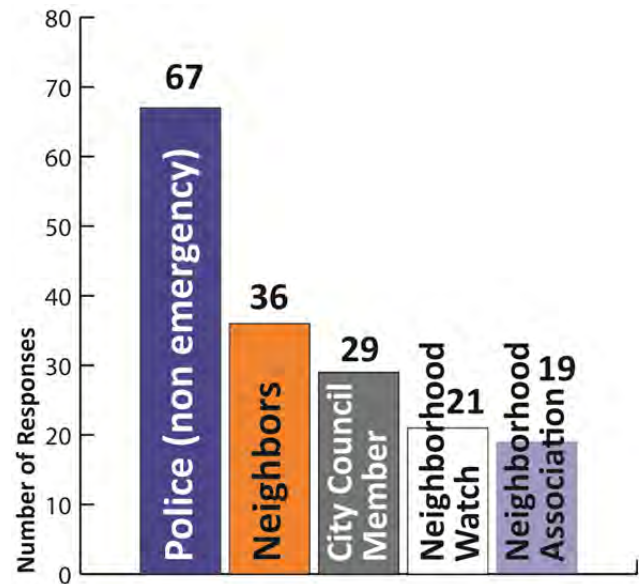
- Block captain
- Leadership position in NA
- On a mailing list
- We have a phone chain if necessary
- Neighbors look out for each other

48 Respondents answered “No”

- I travel for work and am not around very much
- I need more information as to how I can get involved
- Young children take up my time
- There is no need at this time
- We watch out for each other without a formal Neighborhood Watch or Neighborhood Association
- Neighbors are too busy to cooperate
- I don't participate for any particular reason
- No concern about the neighborhood

Question 15

Who would you talk to about neighborhood safety concerns?



Rochester Resources

- Rochester Police Non-Emergency 24-Hour (507) 328-6800
- Rochester/Olmsted Crime Stoppers www.rochesterolmstedcrimestoppers.org

City Council Members

- Dennis Hanson, Council President (507) 281-3013
- Ed Hruska, 1st Ward (507) 289-0111
- Michael Wojcik, 2nd Ward (507) 269-8606
- Bruce Snyder, 3rd Ward (507) 252-8712
- Mark Bilderback, 4th Ward (507) 282-7178
- Randy Staver, 5th Ward 507-288-9034
- Sandra Means, 6th Ward (507) 288-7996

To see a Ward map of Rochester and find out what Ward your neighborhood is in check the City website at www.rochestermn.gov.

Question 16

Are there particular areas within Rochester you find unsafe? Please tell us where, when and what about these places make you feel unsafe.

Top 4 Areas where citizens feel unsafe

- 15th Avenue SE (Highway 14, east of 15th Avenue, south of 8.5 Street SE)
- Public Parks (Essex, Slatterly, Quarry Hill)
- Meadow Park Apartment neighborhood (3rd Avenue SE and 4th Street SE)
- 41st Street NW

General Summary of Survey Comments

- After dark is the time when citizens feel most vulnerable
- Areas of high density and places where youth congregate affect peoples' perception of safety

Did you know?

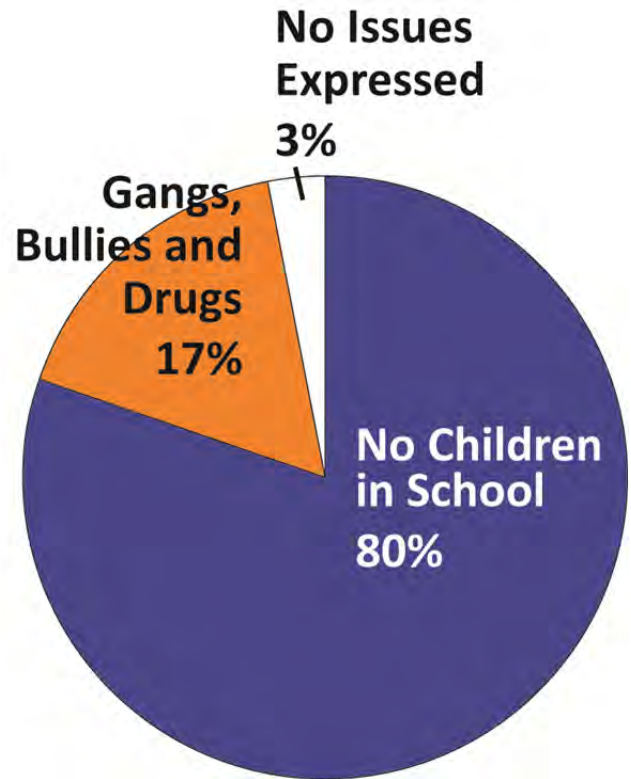
The Rochester Police Department has partnered with IBM to develop and implement the technology that will drive the department's Intelligence Led Policing effort. This approach to crime abatement utilizes crime analysis to identify the city's most prolific offenders and interdict in criminal activity much earlier than was previously possible.

While IBM has utilized different aspects of this technology in working with very large government agencies around the world, this is the first time it is being deployed in a mid-sized city.

This technology not only has the potential to reduce crime, but to reduce costs as well. The ability to put police officers in the right place and the right time provides greater efficiency - and better safety.

Question 17

If you have school age children, have they expressed safety concerns to you? If so, what are those concerns?



General Summary of Survey Comments

111 Respondents

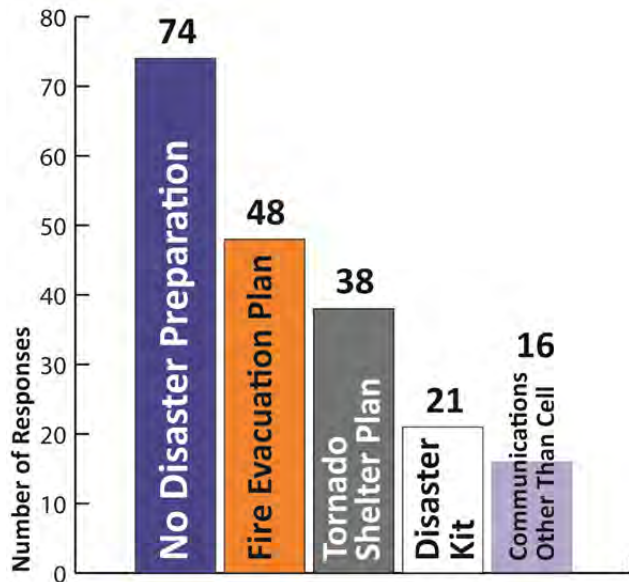
- No children in school
- Talked about shooting several years ago but nothing recently

23 Respondents

- Majority responded with issues about bullying in school, gangs and drugs
- Cross walks
- High risk students being integrated into schools
- Gangs at public events (County Fair, Rochesterfest, etc.)
- Child was abducted on way to school and kids were scared

Question 18

Over the last 12 months, what steps have you taken toward disaster preparedness? (select all that apply)



Local Resources

Rochester Alert is a public notification system. Police, fire, public works, and emergency management use Rochester Alert to keep you informed before, during, and after a disaster.

Sign up online at

<https://users.alerts.rochestermn.gov/>

or by phone at the Rochester Alert Subscription Line (507) 328-2828.

National Resources

Find out what to do before, during, and after an emergency. This website can help you create a plan, prepare, plan and stay informed for all types of emergencies. www.ready.gov