

COMMUNITY SAFETY

HEIGHTS-
WIDE
SURVEY



Some topline stats

- There were a total of **177 responses**:
 - **91.5% CH residents**, 6.8% UH, 0.7% former/elsewhere
 - **80.2% homeowners**; 18.6% renters; 0.2% other
 - **27% have lived in their homes 1-5 years**; 22% 15-30 yrs; 17% 30-45 yrs; 13% 5-10 yrs; 9% 0-1 yrs; 8% 10-15 yrs; 4% more than 45 yrs
 - **62.5% identified as a woman**; 32.4% as a man; 2.8% as trans*/nonbinary/genderqueer; 1.7% preferred not to say; 0.6% identified as a couple
 - **53% identified as under the age of 60**; 47% as over the age of 60
 - **74.4% identified as White**; 13.8% as Black; 5.7% preferred not to say; 4% as multi-racial; 1.2% as Jewish (this was a write-in/other); 0.6% as Hispanic

SAFETY



Defining Community Safety

Top 10 Responses

- The ability to move freely without fear (90)
- Having a strong, cohesive neighborhood (73)
- Feeling comfortable out on a walk (45)
- Feeling secure at home (36)
- No risk or experience of bodily harm (31)
- Being engaged with neighbors (27)
- Sense of belonging (27)
- Clear concern for the well-being of others (24)
- Ability to trust law enforcement (21)
- No fear being out at night (16)

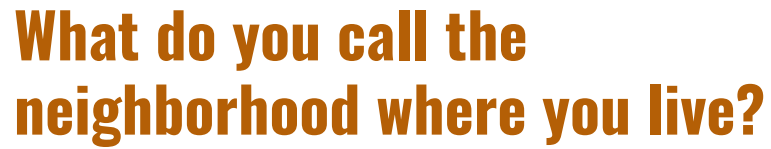
Perceptions of Safety

The following scale ratings are from 1 (I do not consider it safe at all) to 5 (I consider it extremely safe):

- **45.2% of respondents rated Cleveland Heights a 4 out of 5 on safety perception;** 39% rated it a 3; 10.2% rated it a 2; 5.1% rated it a 5; 0.6% rated it a 1.
- **47.5% of respondents rated University Heights a 4 out of 5 on safety perception;** 36.7% rated it a 3; 9.6% rated it a 5; 4.5% rated it a 2; 1.7% rated it a 1
- **42.9% rated their own neighborhood a 4 out of 5 on safety perception;** 25.4% rated it a 4; 23.7% rated it a 5; 5.6% rated it a 2; 2.3% rated it a 1

[illegible]

- I personally feel safe (75)
- I know/trust my neighbors (33)
- I live in a good neighborhood (29)
- Gun violence/gun shots (20)
- There is minimal crime near me (19)
- Break-ins in the neighborhood (18)
- Speeding/traffic is an issue (17)
- Car-jacking (17)
- Housing stability (10)
- I feel vulnerable in my neighborhood (10)



Top 10 Answers:

- Coventry (23)
- Cedar Lee (21)
- Noble (17)
- Cedar Fairmount (16)
- Cleveland Heights (13)
- Millikin (11)
- Grant Deming (9)
- I don't know (9)
- Royal Heights (9)
- Forest Hill (8)

Sense of safety varies by time of day

- **Early morning 4am-8am:** 101 rated feeling “safe” in their neighborhoods; 35 rated “very safe”; 34 rated “a little safe”; 7 rated “not safe at all”
- **Morning 8am-12pm:** 87 rated feeling “very safe” in their neighborhoods; 79 rated “safe”; 10 rated “a little safe”; 1 rated “not at all”
- **Midday 12pm-4pm:** 91 rated feeling “very safe” in their neighborhoods; 71 rated “safe”; 14 rated “a little”; 1 rated “not at all”
- **Early evening 4pm-8pm:** 76 rated feeling “very safe in their neighborhoods; 72 rated “safe”; 27 rated “a little safe”; 2 rated “not at all”
- **Evening 8pm-12am:** 77 rated feeling “safe” in their neighborhoods; 52 rated “a little safe”; 36 rated “very safe”; 12 rated “not at all”
- **Late night 12am-4am:** 63 rated feeling “safe” in their neighborhoods; 62 rated “a little safe”; 29 rated “not at all safe”; 23 rated “very safe”

Sense of safety varies by time of day (cont'd.)

Heights residents feel safest in their neighborhoods:

1. Midday 12pm-4pm (92 rated feeling “very safe”)
2. Morning 8am-12pm (87 rated feeling “very safe”)
3. Early evening 4pm-8pm (76 rated feeling “very safe”)
4. Early morning 4am-8am (101 rated feeling “safe”)
5. Evening 8pm-12am (77 rated feeling “safe”)
6. Late night 12am-4am (63 rated feeling “safe”)

Respondents identified these factors influencing their sense of safety the most:

- Familiarity with surroundings (119 rated this mattered “a great deal”)
- How often I spend time there (107 rate this mattered “a great deal”)
- My perception of safety in the area (98 rated this mattered “a great deal”)
- How well I know people in the area (92 rated this mattered “a great deal”)

Respondents identified these factors influencing their sense of safety the least:

- My data-based knowledge of the area (64 rated “neutral” on this)
- How often I see police patrolling (55 rated this mattered “a little”)

Respondents identified these factors that would increase their sense of safety the most:

- Having alternatives to police, like mental health professionals, social workers, or mediators (99 rated this as mattering “a great deal”)
- Good infrastructure (88 rated this as mattering “a great deal”)
- Having fewer abandoned/vacant homes (85 rated this as mattering “a great deal”)
- Seeing more people out and about (80 rated this as mattering “a great deal”)
- Having better exterior lighting (75 rated this as mattering “a great deal”)
- Seeing more code/law enforcement (54 rated this as mattering “a great deal”)

Respondents identified these factors that would increase their sense of safety some:

- Forming a neighborhood group (78 rated this as mattering “some”)
- Having police on foot/bike instead of in cars (74 rated this as mattering “some”)
- Knowing your neighbors better (72 rated this as mattering “some”)
- Knowing who you can contact for non-emergency questions/reports (72 rated this as mattering “some”)
- Meet & Greet with local police (71 rated this as mattering “some”)
- More safety-based legislation prioritized by council (66 rated this as mattering “some”)
- Conducting regular neighborhood cleanups (65 rated this as mattering “some”)
- Seeing more police patrols (55 rated this as mattering “some”)
- Less graffiti/vandalism (54 rated this as mattering “some”)

Respondents identified these factors not impacting their sense of safety

- Seeing fewer police patrols (78 rated this as “neutral/not a factor”)
- More public art/murals (61 rated this as “neutral/not a factor”)

Respondents are most satisfied with:

- Local police presence (58)

Respondents are most neutral or find most not-applicable when it comes to:

- Allocation of funds for community safety (76)
- Local police response to calls (62)
- Your neighbors' awareness of community safety (62)
- Police awareness of racial/social equity (54)
- Elected officials focus on community safety (52)
- Our city government's focus on community safety (52)
- Elected officials' awareness of racial/social equity (51)

Respondents are a little satisfied with:

- Community-wide awareness of racial/social equity (43)

Community experience with crime in the past 6 months

- **76.3% of respondents had not experienced crime in the past 6mo.;** 14.7% had experienced crime; 9% had first-hand knowledge of a crime
- **The most common types of crime reported by survey respondents:**
 - Car-jacking (7); Home break-in (6); Theft (5); Bike theft (4); Mail theft (4); Hate crime/harassment (4); Car crash (2); Mugging (2); Vandalism (2); Gun violence (2); Arson (1); Violent crime (1); Traffic collision (1); Check fraud (1); Property damage from fireworks (1); Housing insecurity/rent increase (1); Trespassing (1)
- **Outcomes reported:**
 - No outcome was mentioned by respondent (29); No arrest/no action taken (6); There was a sense that no one cared (3); There were no resources available (3); Trauma/increased sense of fear (2); Suicide (1); Report that a shooting victim survived (1); Perpetrator was arrested and charged (1)

ACTION

What do you care enough about to act upon?

Respondents identified these as what they'd be very willing to take action on:

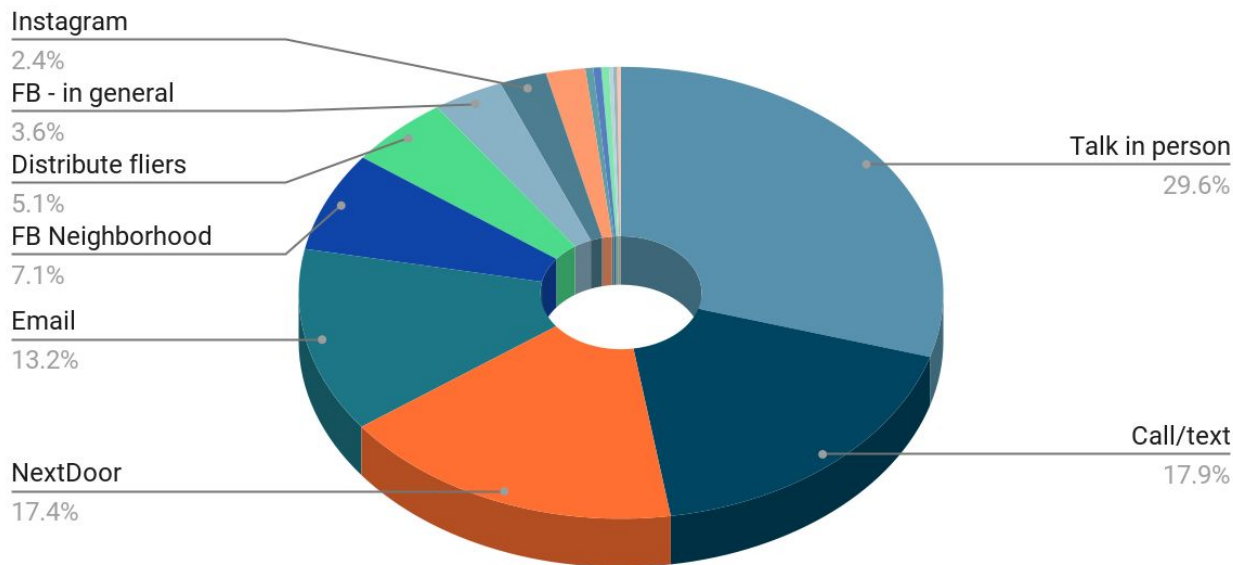
- Advocate for reduction of vacant/abandoned properties (79)
- Advocate for improved infrastructure (lighting, etc.) (75)
- Advocate for more police alternatives (71)
- Participate in a community-building activity like a block party (68)

Respondents identified these as what they'd be willing to take action on:

- Get to know more neighbors (77)
- Participate in a neighborhood litter cleanup (64)
- Advocate for racial/social equity as it applies to safety (62)
- Contacted your elected officials about your neighborhood's safety concerns (62)
- Contacted your city officials about your neighborhood's safety concerns (62)
- Create/participate in a neighborhood group (60)
- Having opportunities to get to know local police officers (60)

Most common methods of keeping in touch

Connecting with Neighbors



- Talk in person (150)
- Call/text (91)
- NextDoor (88)
- Email (67)
- Facebook Neighborhood Group (36)
- Distribute fliers to invite neighbors to a conversation or event (26)
- Facebook - general use (18)
- Instagram (12)
- Zoom/virtual meetup (10)
- I don't keep in touch with neighbors (2)
- NextDoor has become too toxic to use (2)
- Neighborhood meetup (2)

TAKEAWAYS

Topline Takeaways:

- While most respondents reported feeling safe themselves, there was acknowledgement that they understood not everyone shared that sense of security.
- Respondents that reported not feeling safe expressed feeling vulnerable because of their personal identities (racial/ethnic, identifying as LGBTQIA+, political allegiance, etc.)
- Respondents want to live in a community where they can move freely without a sense of fear for themselves, their family members, and their neighbors.
- Respondents are willing to take action in a number of areas, which demonstrates the importance of this topic and how safety shapes and creates a community.
- Respondents seem mostly satisfied with current police & city/elected officials' work around safety but want to see more police alternatives (like mental health services or social workers who could respond to non-violent calls).
- Respondents want to see fewer abandoned/vacant house, more traffic calming, and better infrastructure (sidewalks, lighting, etc.) to make neighborhoods feel more safely walkable.

What is noteworthy:

- Respondents from this survey offered deeply personal responses on many occasions, which highlights how significant an individual's sense of safety contributes to their overall impression of the city they call "home."

FACTS ABOUT

Who what when where why how

OUR STATS

About this survey:

This survey was created and distributed as part of the [Crowdsourced Conversations Forum Series](#), being conducted in partnership with FutureHeights, Cleveland Heights Green Team, Home Repair Resource Center, City of Cleveland Heights Racial Justice Task Force, Racial Inequity Repair Committee of Forest Hill Church, representatives of Cleveland Heights City Council, and more.

Survey data was collected from July 6th through July 27th, 2022. Respondents completed an online-only Google Form that was distributed via email, on social media, through the media, via fliers, and through word of mouth.

This survey data analysis was completed by FutureHeights and shared with forum series partners, including elected officials, and is available for the community to review.

Any questions, please contact Sarah - swolf@futureheights.org.