

Chapter Five: Community Survey

In order to better understand the desires and attitudes of the people of Charlottesville, a survey was conducted of its citizens. The following is an analysis of those survey results. The complete survey can be found in Appendix A.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF METHOD

This report details the findings of a survey conducted by the Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia, on behalf of the government of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia. The purposes of the survey were to:

- Assess the perceptions of residents regarding the quality of life in Charlottesville and in their neighborhoods.
- Determine the opinions of residents regarding the relative importance of goals to be included in the comprehensive plan.
- Determine residents' level of satisfaction with a variety of City services.
- Assess opinion about improvements that might be needed in neighborhoods.
- Assess residents' concerns about safety and security in the City and in their neighborhoods.
- Assess opinions about housing issues in the neighborhoods.
- Assess opinion about needed community resources.
- Where possible, assess changes in opinion from prior surveys (1975 and 1993).

Drawn from a sample of listed telephone numbers, a total of 1,075 city residents were called by interviewers at CSR's CATI (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing) laboratory at the University of Virginia in July, 2000. The study was designed to allow for statistical comparisons among five sectors of the City of Charlottesville: North, West, South Central, South, and East. These sectors were used as a basis for the community planning activities that are part of the City's comprehensive plan update process. For purposes of analysis, the data were weighted to compensate for the under-representation of minorities and renters in the sample.

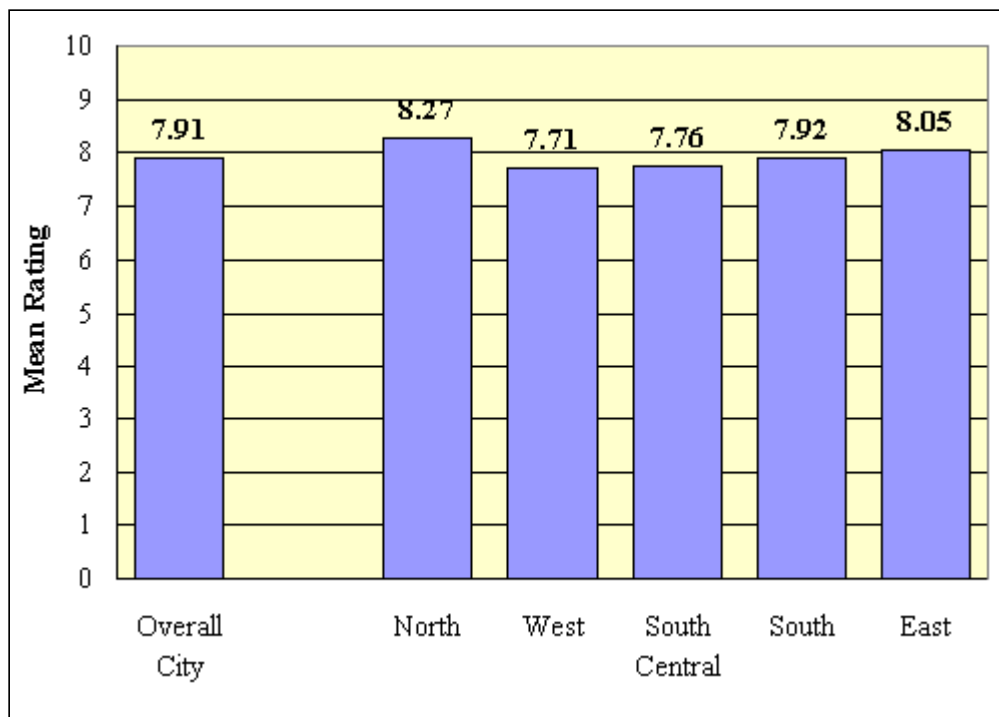
The questionnaire was developed in consultation with members of the City of Charlottesville professional staff. In order to avoid administering an overly long interview to the entire sample, while still assembling desired information from a sample sufficiently large for acceptable statistical analysis, certain questions were asked of only 400-500 randomly selected responses. This technique, known as question rationing, has been used successfully by the Center for Survey Research in prior surveys. The overall results of the survey have a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percentage points. Additional details on our sample and methods are supplied in Appendix F.

Responses to the survey were broken out and analyzed by several demographic categories, in addition to sector of the City. In discussing the results, this summary reports those instances in which statistically significant differences were found among demographic subgroups, such as for example, between blacks and non-blacks, age groups, or those with varying levels of education or income. The demographic variables listed below were those considered for the subgroup analysis:

- Length of residence in Charlottesville
- City sector of residence
- Age
- Household income
- Race
- Educational level
- Presence of children under 18 years of age in the household

QUALITY OF LIFE IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

One of the purposes of this survey was to assess residents' perception of the quality of life in the City of Charlottesville. Respondents were asked how they would rate Charlottesville overall as a place to live today on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest). Next they were asked to rate their own neighborhood on the same scale. In addition, the survey asked respondents to rate the city and their neighborhoods five years ago.

Figure 2.1: Quality of Life: Charlottesville

Charlottesville on the whole receives very high ratings on the 10 point scale. The average rating was 7.91. Almost 16 percent of our respondents gave the city the highest possible rating, a "10." An additional 19 percent rated it a "9," while 35 percent rated it an "8." Less than 16 percent of our respondents ranked the city in the lowest six categories. There was some variation in rating, depending on the sector of the respondent's residence. The highest mean rating came from those in the North sector, at 8.27, while those in the West rated Charlottesville 7.71, the lowest of the sectors. Figure 2.1 displays this information.

Interestingly, neighborhoods did not fare quite as well as the City overall, though they were also highly rated on our 1 to 10 scale. When asked to rank the quality of life in their own neighborhood, the average rating was 7.42. The highest rating came from the East, at 8.09, but the mean for the South Central sector was 6.44, the lowest of the ratings. Figure 2.2 illustrates these results.

Figure 2.2: Quality of Life: Respondent's Neighborhood

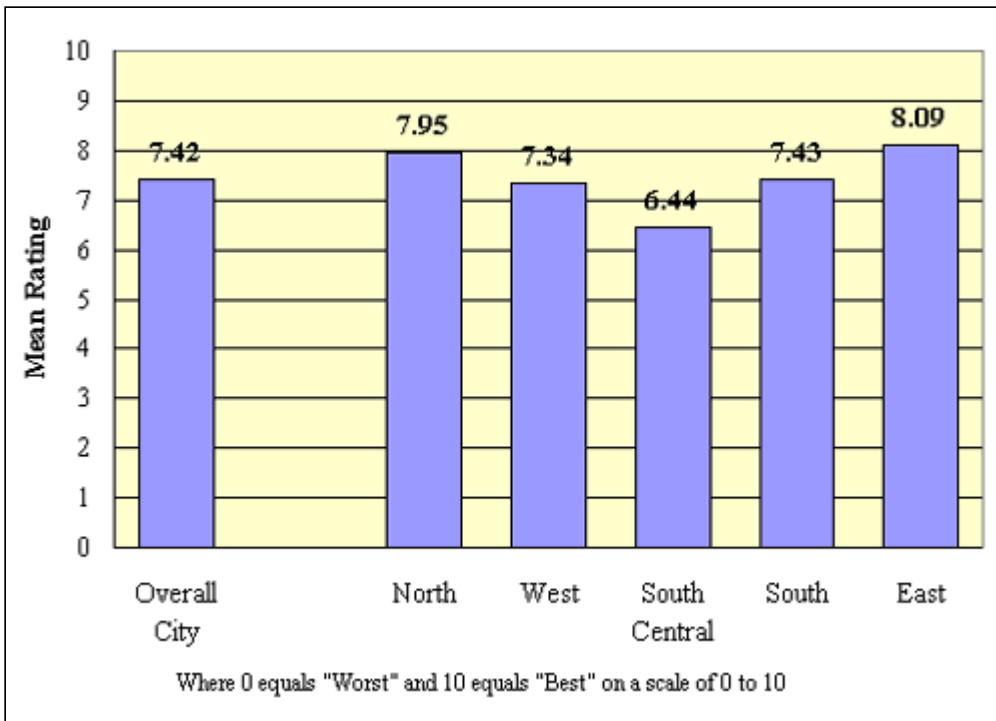


Figure 2.3 compares the City’s rating this year with the two prior years for which we have this information available. It appears that residents’ assessment of quality of life has improved. In 1975 the mean on the 10-point scale was 7.19. It had increased to 7.56 in 1993, and is at its highest point of 7.91 currently. Long-time residents of the City perceive a larger change in quality of life. This result is seen in Figure 2.4, which compares respondents rating of the city and their neighborhoods five years ago and presently. The survey asked only those residents who had lived in Charlottesville five years or longer to rate the quality of life in the City 5 years ago. That group rated the city 7.67 for five years ago, and 8.02 currently. As the Figure shows, this compares to the overall mean of 7.91 for all respondents. A different same result is seen for neighborhoods.

Figure 2.3: Quality of Life: 1975, 1993, 2000

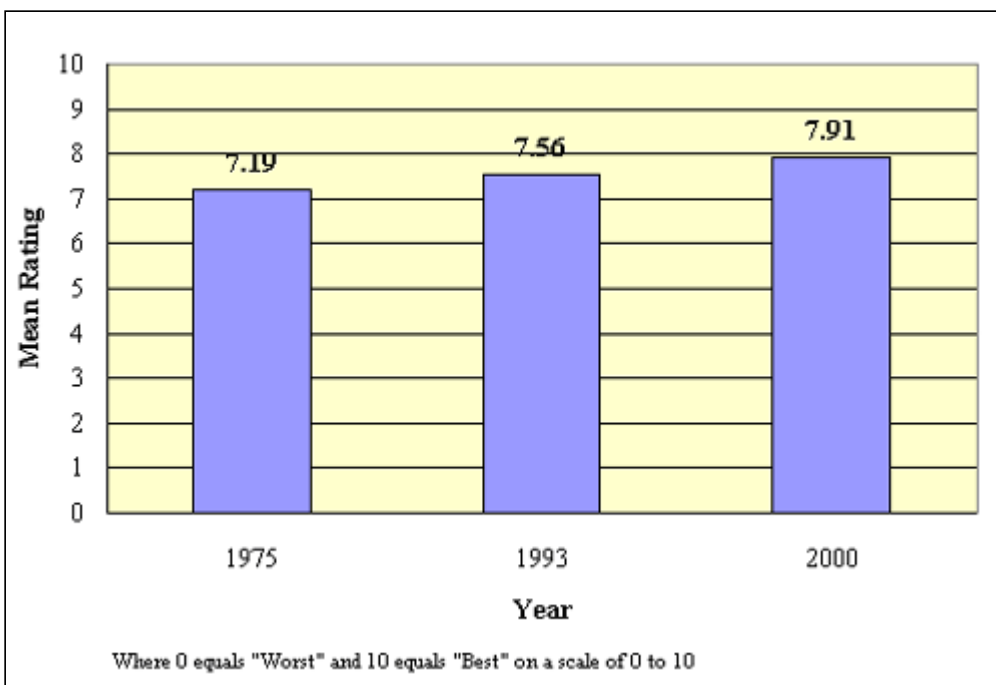
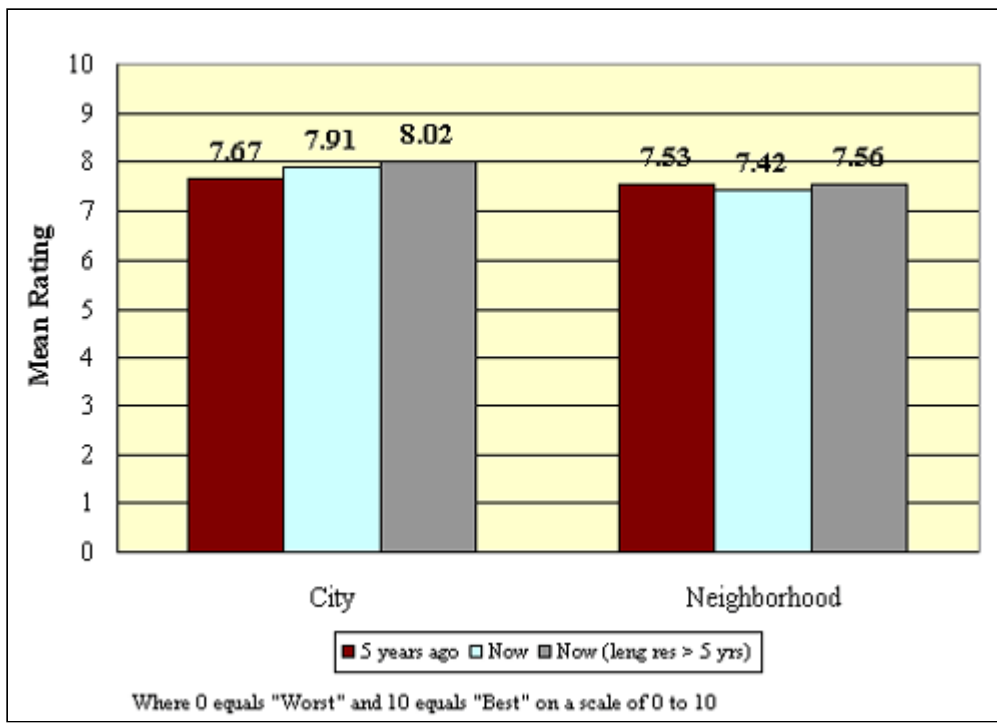


Figure 2.4: Quality of Life: Five Years Ago and Current



Those respondents who had lived in the city five years or longer rated their neighborhood 7.53 for 5 years ago and a nearly identical 7.56 currently. The overall mean for neighborhood quality is 7.42.

Older residents of Charlottesville tend to rate the quality of life, both five years ago and at present, higher than younger residents. This is especially true for rating the quality of life in their neighborhood, where residents age 65 and older rate the quality of life over 8 while those age 18 to 25 rate the quality of life around 6.7. African-Americans in Charlottesville consistently rate the quality of life in the City and their neighborhood lower than residents of other races. In a similar manner, those with lower incomes rate the quality of life in the City and their neighborhood as slightly lower than those with higher incomes.

STRATEGIC GOALS

In order to assess the relative importance that residents placed on particular goals for the Comprehensive Plan, respondents were asked about 23 different items. For each item, respondents were asked whether they would say the item was very important, somewhat important, or not that important. To avoid burdening any individual respondent with a long list, each was asked about 10 of the goals at random. The goals were ranked according to the percentage of respondents that said the item was "very important." The results are shown in descending order in Table 3.1.

The goal at the top of the list for Charlottesville residents was improving the quality of education in the public schools. Eighty-six percent of respondents to the survey said this was very important for the plan. Next in order of importance was making the area's neighborhoods and streets safer, with 81 percent saying this was very important. Those goals which more than 70 percent of our respondents said were very important included preserving natural resources and open space (75.3 percent), making housing more affordable (74.5 percent), expanding affordable health care services (74.1 percent), emphasizing development programs for youth (73 percent), expanding and improving affordable child care services (71.8 percent), and expanding services for the elderly (70.8 percent).

Table 3.1: Goals for Comprehensive Plan

Rank	Variable Name	Description	% Very Important	Mean
1	Goal.1	Improve quality of education in schools	86.0	2.84
2	Goal.8	Make neighborhood & streets safer	81.1	2.78
3	Goal.5	Preserve natural resources & open space	75.3	2.71
4	Goal.4	Make housing more affordable	74.5	2.70
5	Goal.19	Expand affordable health care services	74.1	2.69
6	Goal.14	Emphasize development programs for youth	73.0	2.70
7	Goal.15	Improve affordable child care services	71.8	2.68
8	Goal.16	Expand services for elderly	70.8	2.67
9	Goal.10	Encourage racial & cultural diversity	63.9	2.56
10	Goal.2	Bring higher –paying jobs to area	62.6	2.53
11	Goal.17	Emphasize self-sufficiency programs for adults	61.6	2.54
12	Goal.3	Improve quality of existing housing	58.8	2.50
13	Goal.20	Keep taxes at or below current level	58.3	2.47
14	Goal.9	Support cultural & entertainment opportunities	56.2	2.49
15	Goal.11	Reduce traffic in neighborhood	55.2	2.39
16	Goal.21	Expand cooperation between UVA and City	54.0	2.44
17	Goal.22	Expand cooperation between the City and Albemarle	53.0	2.43
18	Goal.13	Control rate of growth in area	50.2	2.35
19	Goal.18	Improve access to service and information from City government	48.4	2.34
20	Goal.12	Provide better public transportation	47.2	2.29
21	Goal.7	Better parks & recreation	43.1	2.27
22	Goal.23	Future growth of University on or near UVA grounds	40.2	2.27
23	Goal.6	Promote economic growth	39.7	2.15

The goal that received the lowest ranking was promoting economic growth through redevelopment in selected commercial areas, with about 40 percent of respondents identifying it as very important. Other goals that gained fewer than 50 percent of respondents saying they were very important were: improving access to service and information from the City government (48.4 percent), providing better public transportation (47.2 percent), providing better parks and recreation facilities (43.1 percent), and keeping future growth of the University on or near the University of Virginia grounds (40.2 percent).

Table 3.2 provides the list of goals with the ranking and percent saying each was "very important" by sector of the City. In all sectors but one, improving the quality of education ranked ahead of all others in importance. The exception was the South sector, which ranked making the neighborhoods and streets safer first and improving education second.

The areas differed according to goals they ranked second in importance. For the North, emphasizing prevention and development programs for youth was second to education, while for the West, preserving natural resources and open space ranked second. For the South Central sector, expanding affordable health care services ranked second. The overall city rankings were reflected in the East, which ranked education first and safety second.

Several differences among the sectors of the City become apparent from study of Table 3.2. Compared to all other sectors, the South Central residents were more likely than others to say most goals are very important, except for Goal 5, preserving natural resources and open space, and Goals 21 and 22, cooperation between UVA and the City and between the City and Albemarle County. More than 80 percent of South Central sector respondents said that improving housing was very important, as were making housing more affordable, making the neighborhood and streets safer, emphasizing programs for youth, improving affordable child care services, expanding services for the elderly, and expanding affordable health care services.

By way of comparison, the only goal rated "very important" by more than 80 percent of respondents in the North and West Sectors was improving quality of education. The South and East Sectors also showed more than 80 percent of respondents rating improving education that highly, with 88 percent of respondents from the South Sector saying that improving safety is "very important," and 81 percent of respondents from the East Sector saying that preserving natural resources and open space is very important.

The bold-face type in Table 3.2 indicates goals on which the sectors differed significantly from each other.

In general, those with higher education and household income rate most of the strategic goals as less important than those with lower education and income. This is true especially for those goals related to educational or economic issues, such as improving the quality of education, bringing higher paying jobs to the area, making housing more affordable, expanding affordable healthcare, and keeping taxes below or at the current level. In addition, those with higher education and income rate the goals related to services as less important. These include development programs for youth, services for the elderly, self-sufficiency programs for adults, and access to City services and information. However, those with higher education and income did rate the expansion of cultural and entertainment opportunities and the cooperation between the City and Albemarle County higher than those with lower education and income.

African-American respondents and those who have lived in Charlottesville for a long period of time tend to rate the importance of social services, including education, services for the elderly, programs for adults and youth, affordable childcare, and healthcare as more important than residents who are not African-American and those who have lived in the City for a fewer number of years. In addition, African-Americans rate the encouragement of racial and cultural diversity as more important than other races, while all non-whites rate the improvement of public transportation as more important than white residents.

[View Table 3.2 PDF](#) (opens in a new window)

SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

One of the main purposes of the 2000 Charlottesville survey of residents was to find out how satisfied people were with their government overall and with particular services. To this end, respondents were asked to tell whether they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the job the City is doing in a variety of areas. Eighteen separate items were included in the survey, one of which was the overall satisfaction with services from the City. All respondents were asked about their general level of satisfaction. In addition, each respondent was asked about twelve of the seventeen specific services.

For purposes of analysis, responses on the satisfaction items were dichotomized into two categories: satisfied and unsatisfied. The survey then ranked each item according to the percent of respondents who said they were satisfied with the City's efforts.

An important and interesting finding is that 90 percent of respondents to the survey said they were satisfied overall with the job the city is doing in providing services. That percentage is higher than any of the services when considered individually. The 90 percent includes about 30 percent of respondents who said they were very satisfied, and about 59 percent who said they were somewhat satisfied, as is illustrated in Figure 4.1. These figures show no significant change since 1993, illustrated in Figure 4.2. In that year, as in this one, about 90 percent of residents said they were satisfied with the City's provision of services overall.

Figure 4.1: Overall Satisfaction with City Services

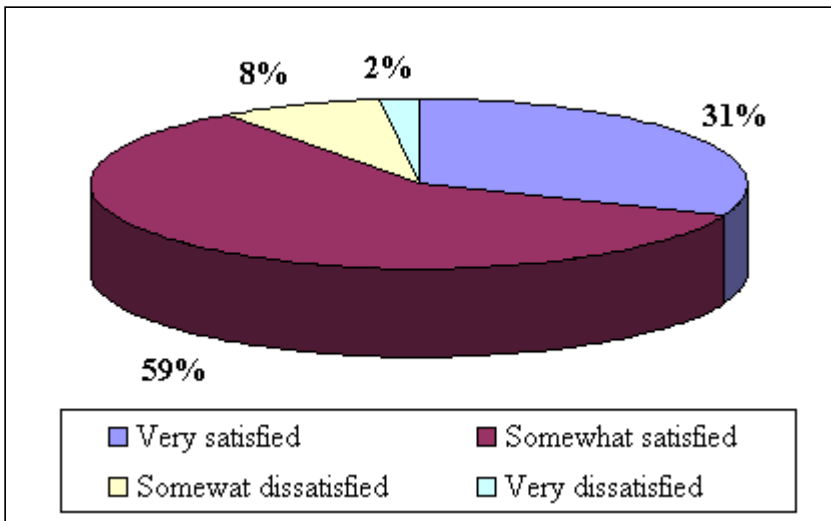
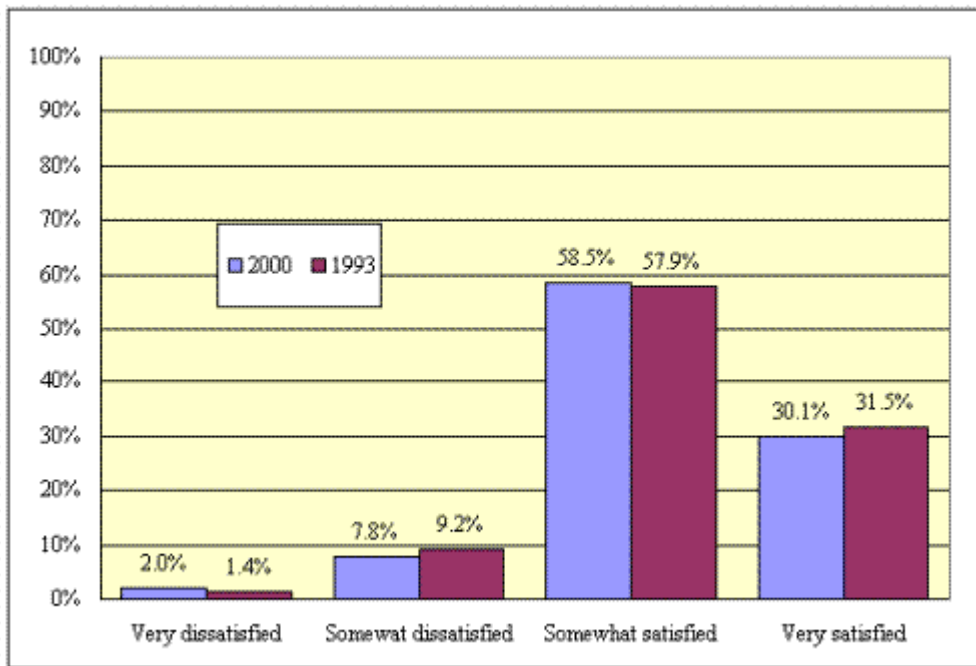


Figure 4.2: Overall Satisfaction with City Services, 1993, 2000



Of the services considered individually, that with the highest level of satisfaction was the provision of open green spaces and parks, which satisfied 87 percent of our respondents. An additional nine services scored in the range of 70 to 80 percent satisfied. At the opposite end

Table 4.1: Satisfaction with City Services, 2000 Ranked

Rank	Item	Service	Percent Satisfied
1	Overaint	Overall satisfaction with city services	90.0
2	Serv16	Provision of open green spaces and parks	86.8
3	Serv3	Repairs and street maintenance	78.9
4	Serv2	Garbage collection & solid waste	78.8
5	Serv1	Police protection	78.6
6	Serv5	Litter and weed control	75.6
7	Serv17	Provision of adequate public transportation	74.0

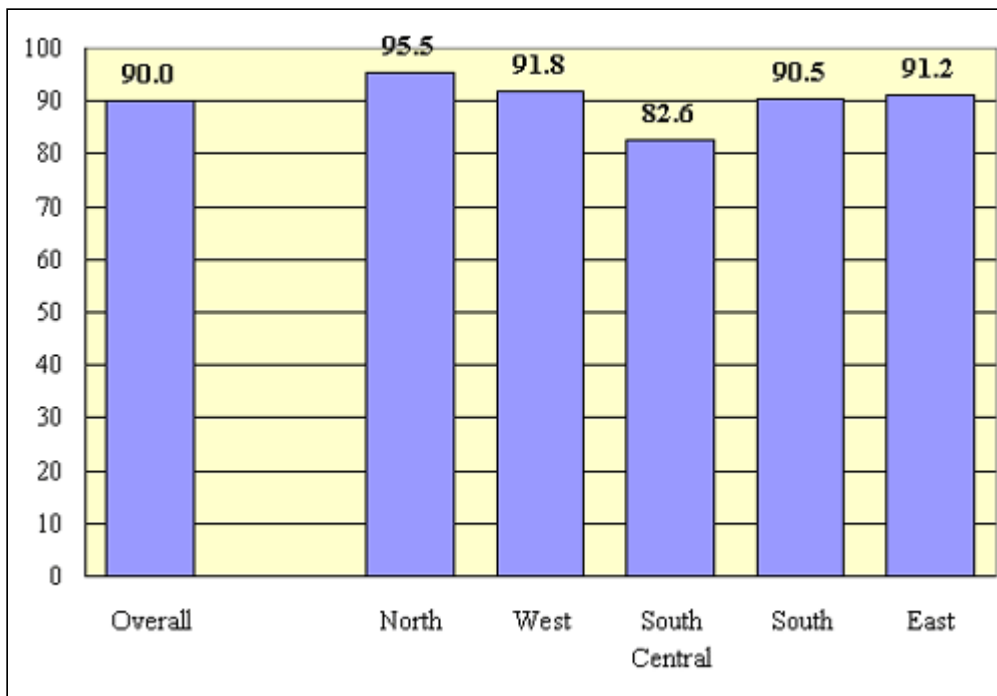
8	Serv6	Maintenance & Improvement of drainage	72.6
9	Serv8	Provision of recreation programs for youths	72.1
10	Serv4	Building and repairs of sidewalks	71.0
11	Serv14	Public assistance to families in need	70.0
12	Serv10	Adequate housing opportunities	63.9
13	Serv13	Protection of kids from abuse or neglect in home	62.8
14	Serv7	Appearance of neighborhood	58.9
15	Serv11	Higher paid employment opportunities	56.8
16	Serv15	Reduction in traffic congestion and noise	47.9
17	Serv9	Reduction of illegal drug use among adults	47.3
18	Serv12	Reduction of illegal drug use among youths	41.3

of the spectrum was the percent satisfied with the City's efforts to reduce drug use among youth (41.3 percent satisfied) and among adults (47.3 percent satisfied). In a safety-related item, 78.8 percent said they were satisfied with police protection. In the area of social services, 70 percent said they were satisfied with public assistance provided to families in need, while 62.8 percent were satisfied with the protection of children from abuse and neglect in the home. Seventy-two percent were satisfied with the provision of recreation programs for youth. Concerning the City's infrastructure, 78.9 percent were satisfied with street repair and maintenance, 72.6 with the maintenance and improvement of drainage, 71 percent with the building and repair of sidewalks. Nearly 79 percent were satisfied with the City's efforts to collect garbage and solid waste, while 75.6 percent were satisfied with litter and weed control. Three-quarters (74 percent) were satisfied with the provision of public transportation, while about 50 percent were satisfied with the city's efforts to reduce traffic congestion and noise. Fifty-seven percent were satisfied with the City's efforts to promote higher paid employment opportunities for city residents. Sixty-four percent were satisfied with the City's efforts to promote adequate housing opportunities for city residents, while 58.9 percent were satisfied with the City's efforts to maintain the appearance of neighborhoods in the City that are less well-off. The level of satisfaction for each service is provided in Table 4.1.

Table 4.2 shows the ranking by satisfaction level of each item by sector of the City. As it was on rating the importance of goals, the South Central sector is significantly different from the other sectors on a number of items, as seen in Figure 4.3. While the rating of all other sectors of the City's services overall is over 90 percent, for the South Central sector, that percentage is 82.6. Residents from the South Central sector are also less satisfied with police protection, garbage collection, street maintenance, litter and weed control, neighborhood appearance, provision of recreation programs for youth, reduction of illegal drug use among adults and among youths, provision of employment opportunities, and protection of kids from abuse or neglect in the home. Conversely, of all the sectors, residents from South Central were most satisfied with public transportation, at 81 percent. The lowest satisfaction ratings in South Central went to reduction of illegal drug use among youths (30 percent satisfied) and among adults (33.4 percent satisfied).

Residents of the North sector were quite satisfied in general with all specific services but reduction of illegal drug use among youths (42.8 percent satisfied) and adults (46.2 percent satisfied). Reduction in drug use was also a significant problem for the South sector, where 43.9 percent reported being satisfied where adults were concerned, and 33.6 were satisfied where youths were concerned. In the West and East, the lowest satisfaction levels went to reduction in traffic congestion and noise, at 47.4 percent satisfied in the West, and 40.8 percent satisfied in the East. In general, Table 4.2 provides much more information than can be summarized in this narrative and warrants careful consideration by the reader.

Figure 4.3: Overall Satisfaction with City Services, by Sector



In general, African-American residents displayed a lower level of satisfaction with many of the City's services. These include police protection, garbage and waste collection, keeping up the appearance of neighborhoods, recreational programs for youths, higher paid employment opportunities and public assistance to families in need, as well as reducing illegal drug use by both adults and youths.

Older residents of Charlottesville are less satisfied with the City's efforts to reduce the illegal drug use of adults and youth, and protecting children from abuse or neglect in the home. Those with higher education display more satisfaction with the City's efforts to maintain and repair the streets and control litter and weeds, but display less satisfaction with the City's public transportation than those with lower education levels.

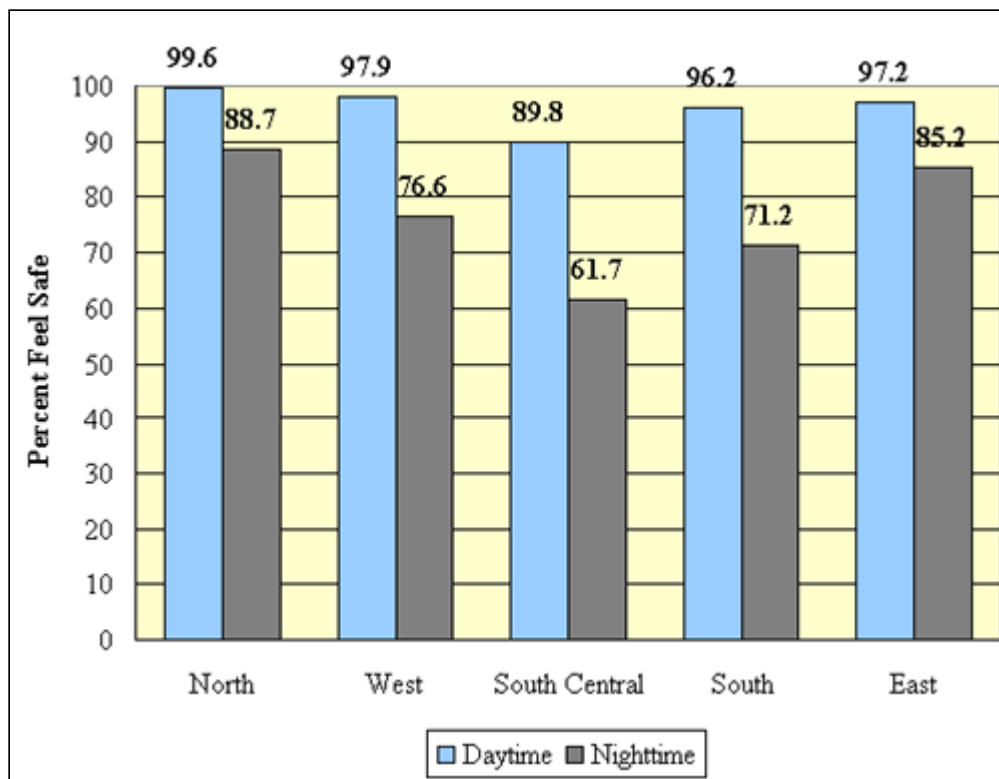
[View Table 4.2 PDF](#) (opens in a new window)

SAFETY

As reported in Chapter III, more than 81 percent of respondents said that making neighborhoods safer is a very important strategic goal. This concern with safety issues is reflected in several other questions that were included in this survey.

First respondents were asked to think about safety and security issues in their neighborhood and in other parts of the city. They were asked how safe they felt in their neighborhood during the daytime and after dark. For the City overall, 96 percent of residents said they felt somewhat safe or very safe in their neighborhood during the day, while 76 percent said they felt that way after dark. As might be expected, this difference carried through the sectors of the City. In all sectors of Charlottesville, residents felt safer during the day than they did at night. Analyzed by sector, fewer residents of the South Central area said they felt safe or somewhat safe than in other sectors, though the percentage who felt that way was still high at almost 90 percent. At night, 61.7 percent of residents of the South Central sector said they felt safe, the lowest level among the sectors, while 89 percent of residents in the North sector felt safe at night. These responses are illustrated in Figure 7.1.

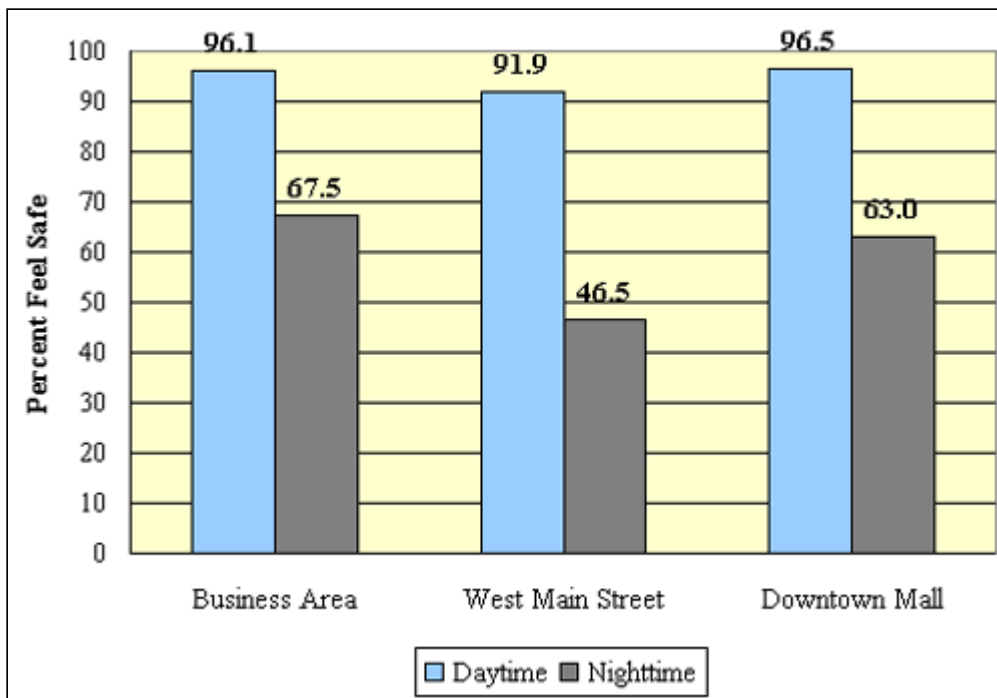
Pertaining to the City of Charlottesville as a whole, residents were asked how safe they felt in particular areas. Again, there was a difference between feelings of safety during the day and at night. The survey asked about three different areas of the city: business areas in general, the West Main Street area, and the Downtown Mall. In all three areas, more than ninety percent of residents said they felt safe during the daytime. In contrast, 67.5 percent of respondents said they felt safe in business areas at night, while 63 percent said they felt safe on the Downtown Mall, and 46.5 percent said they felt safe in the West Main Street area at night. Figure 7.2 illustrates these results. It should be noted that a large proportion of respondents,

Figure 7.1: Safety in Neighborhood, by Sector

10% to 20%, were not able to answer questions of safety for West Main Street, the Downtown Mall and business areas in Charlottesville - indicating instead that they did not know. It is likely that these respondents infrequently venture to these areas or did not know the location of West Main Street.

In another question pertaining to safety issues, the survey asked, "Compared with other problems facing the people who live in [your neighborhood], how important a problem is crime in this area?" For the City overall, 13.3 percent said it was the most important problem facing residents in their neighborhood. An additional 35.6 percent indicated that it was one of the more important issues, while slightly more than half (51 percent) said that crime was not that important in their neighborhood. Answers on this question varied significantly by sector of the City, as is shown in Table 7.1. The percent indicating crime to be the most important problem ranged from 2.9 percent of respondents in the North sector and 3.3 in the East to 24.3 in the South and 27.7 in the South Central. The West fell in between the extremes, at 7.8 percent indicating crime to be the most important problem in their neighborhood. The survey followed this question with, "What do you think is the most important thing the City could do to make people in [your neighborhood] feel safer and secure?"

Figure 7.2: Safety in Areas of City



Although there were many different responses to this question, a great many focused on the need for greater police presence in the neighborhood, and for more police patrols. Many residents suggested that police increase their patrols on bicycles or on foot. Getting rid of drug traffic and improving street lighting were often-repeated suggestions. Some residents were concerned about pedestrian safety issues and asked for better sidewalks. The verbatim comments of our respondents on this question can be read in the list of open-ended responses provided to the City in a separate document.

Table 7.1: Importance of Crime as a Problem in Respondent's Neighborhood

Area	Percent indicating		
	Most Important	One of the more important	Not that important
Overall	13.3	35.6	51.1
North	2.9	25.0	72.1
West	7.8	40.5	51.7
South Central	27.7	43.0	29.3
South	24.3	47.4	28.4
East	3.3	20.1	76.5

Bold numbers indicate a statistically significant difference between regions ($p \leq 0.05$).

In general, residents with higher education and income feel safer in both their own neighborhood and in common areas of the city, such as business areas, West Main St, and the Downtown Mall. Older respondents are less likely to feel safe, during the day and after dark, in both their own neighborhood and in public areas. Residents age 65 and older are especially likely to feel unsafe in these areas.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The City of Charlottesville is interested in determining residents' perception of the need for various community resources in their neighborhoods. Respondents were randomly asked eight of a list of sixteen resources that they

might consider necessary in their area. For each item, the respondents told the interviewer whether they thought the resource was very much needed, somewhat needed, or not needed in their neighborhood. Tables 8.1 and 8.2 summarize the results for this set of questions.

Table 8.1 presents the sixteen items, ranked according to the percent of respondents who said it was "very much needed." The two items at the top of the list both pertain to providing resources for children. Fifty-five percent of Charlottesville respondents said that more efforts to keep kids away from crime were very much needed. About 53 percent said that more services to teens and pre-teens to avoid pregnancy were very much needed. More than half of respondents also said that more affordable medical care for children and families was also very much needed.

Between 40 and 49 percent of respondents said that the following resources were very much needed: support for children with disabilities and their families (49 percent), after school programs for young people (48 percent), recreational programs for the neighborhood's young people (46 percent), employment programs for youth (46 percent), infant and pre-school child care services (45 percent), services for the elderly (45 percent), protection for children from abuse or neglect in their home (44 percent), help to prevent substance and alcohol abuse (44 percent), and education to help adults read or write better (40 percent).

The remaining items were considered to be very much needed by between 30 and 39 percent of respondents: counseling and mental health services for the neighborhood's young people (39 percent), adult education and vocational training classes (36 percent), more emergency services, such as food, clothing, or shelter to needy families (30 percent), and assistance to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten (30 percent).

Respondents were also given the opportunity to tell the interviewer any other resources that they thought were needed for helping children develop in healthy and successful ways. Though the responses were too varied to be discussed here, the verbatim comments will be made available to City staff in a separate document. Table 8.2 presents percentages in each sector of Charlottesville who thought each resource was very much needed, and shows the ranking of the items within sectors.

Table 8.1 Needed Community Resources, Ranked

Rank	Item	Description	Percent "Very Much Needed"	Mean
1	Resrc.6	Keep kids away from crime	55.4	2.34
2	Resrc.10	Avoid teen pregnancy	52.9	2.30
3	Resrc.13	Affordable family medical care	50.3	2.27
4	Resrc.14	Kids with disabilities	49.3	2.27
5	Resrc.15	After school programs	48.0	2.24
6	Resrc.2	Recreational programs for youth	45.9	2.20
7	Resrc.16	Employment programs for youth	45.7	2.19
8	Resrc.1	Infant care	44.6	2.17
9	Resrc.4	Services for the elderly	44.6	2.20
10	Resrc.7	Protect kids from abuse at home	44.1	2.14
11	Resrc.5	Prevent substance/alcohol abuse	44.1	2.19
12	Resrc.8	Educate adults in literacy	40.4	2.06
13	Resrc.3	Counseling and mental health for youth	38.7	2.11
14	Resrc.12	Adult education and vocational	35.8	2.02
15	Resrc.9	Emergency food, clothing, shelter	30.4	1.90
16	Resrc.11	Help parents prepare kids for kindergarten	30.3	1.91

The two resources deemed most important by city residents overall are ranked very highly in the sectors as well. In the South Central sector, more than 80 percent of respondents said that resources to keep kids away from crime were very much needed. That item also ranked at the top of the list for the West, where 44 percent said it was very much needed, and for the South, where 69 percent said so. Keeping kids away from crime was second on the list for the East, with 46 percent saying it was very much needed. Help to teens to avoid pregnancy was the most needed resource in the North, where 38 percent said it was very much needed, and in the East, where 47 percent said it was very much needed. On the whole, the South Central sector again stands out from the others, indicating that the community resources on our list are perceived to be very much needed by most of the residents of the South Central sector.

Table 8.2, like many of the tables in this report, does not lend itself to simple summarization. There is however a great deal of information to be gathered by studying this table. Once again, the boldface type indicates that the sectors differed significantly on each item.

Residents with higher education and income are less likely than those of lower education and income to perceive a need for any of the itemized resources. However, African-Americans, compared to all other races, are more likely to perceive that each one of these resources is needed. Longer term residents of Charlottesville are more likely to perceive a need for youth oriented programs, such as employment and after school programs, and feel that there is a need for resources that would help parents prepare their children for kindergarten. Those residents with children are more likely to perceive a need for resources to help avoid teenage pregnancy than those with no children.

[View Table 8.2 PDF \(opens in a new window\)](#)

CONCLUSION

The data provided in this survey is very useful to the development of the Neighborhood and Comprehensive Plans. In most cases, it supports the input received through the many neighborhoods and community meetings that were held as part of the planning process.