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MATTAPAN UNITED COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Conducted by

**THE MATTAPAN UNITED
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES/RESILIENT FAMILIES
COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY**

With Guidance and Technical Assistance from

**THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL POLICY
MCCORMACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GLOBAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON**

JUNE 2012



Introduction

In the winter and spring of 2012, the Steering Committee of the Mattapan United Resilient Communities/Resilient Families project undertook an assessment of community members' attitudes and opinions for use in planning and program development.

The Committee was assisted in this endeavor by the Center for Social Policy (CSP), McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston. The work of CSP is supported by a grant from The Boston Foundation to provide analytical and evaluation assistance for its Fairmount Initiative along the Fairmount/Indigo Corridor of Boston.

The questionnaire was widely disseminated throughout Mattapan in hard copy and online to those who reside in the neighborhood and those who work in Mattapan. By design, the MU Steering Committee members distributed the questionnaire through their community network ties, using this needs assessment as a way of not only learning from those who live and work in Mattapan, but also of building momentum and increasing engagement among additional community members for its neighborhood change initiative. In particular, the questionnaire was distributed in locations where Mattapan residents regularly gather (e.g., faith-based settings, schools, library, businesses and other). Of primary importance was hearing from Mattapan youth. A total of 691 completed questionnaires were submitted and were analyzed for this report.

It must be emphasized that those who filled out and submitted the questionnaire do not constitute a scientifically selected sample of those who reside and work in the area.¹ With these caveats, and in conjunction with other information already available to the MU Steering committee², the results reported herein may nonetheless be useful as one source of insight and input for the Mattapan United action planning process.

The most important finding from the questionnaires is, that of the 37 community concerns that respondents were asked to rate in terms of their seriousness, the following 10 stand out, as they are considered to be serious problems by at least 35% of all respondents:

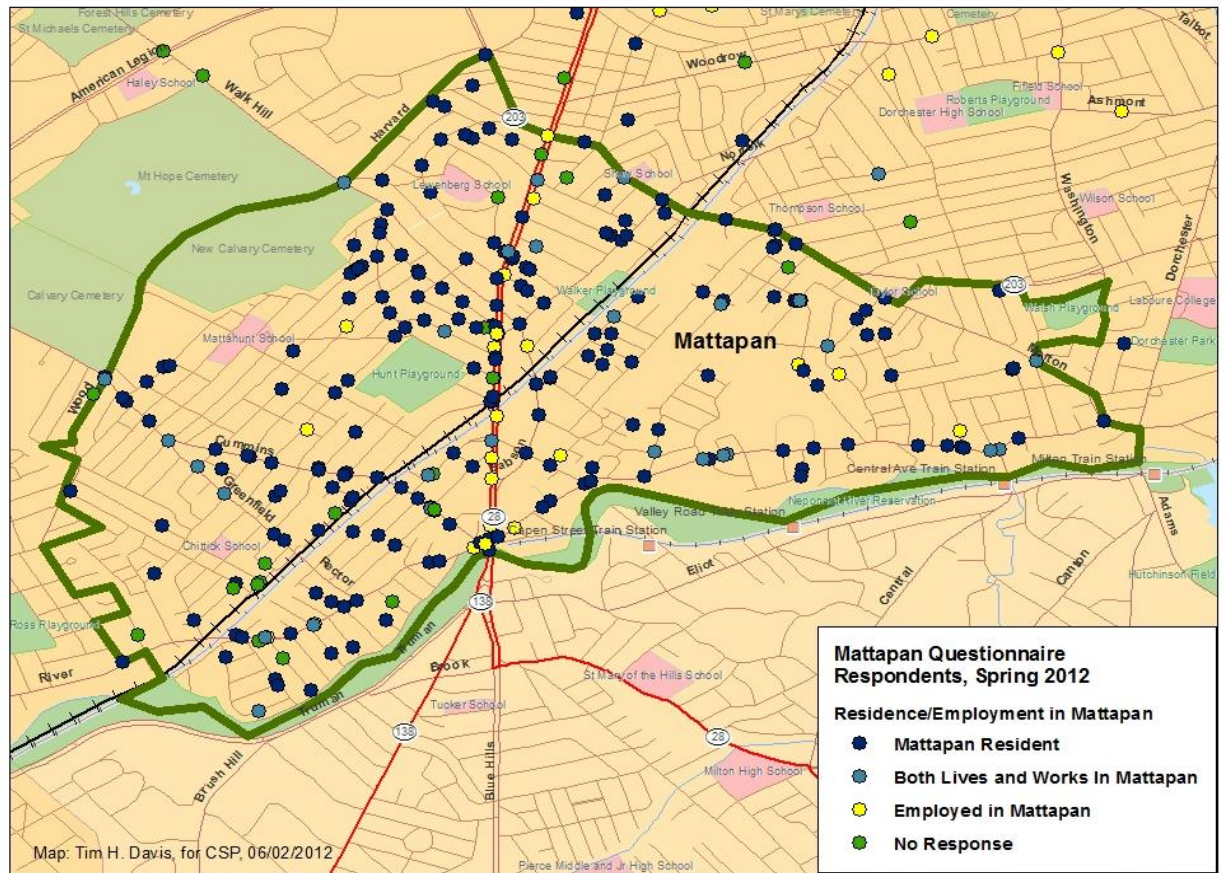
¹ This means that the final set of respondents cannot be verified as statistically representative of the target area. Thus, the results presented in this report are the views of the RESPONDENTS ONLY. THEY CANNOT BE GENERALIZED THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF MATTAPAN RESIDENTS AND WORKERS

² Other sources of information are the results of 88 one on one interviews carried out in Fall 2011, neighborhood level data assembled by the CSP for MU in April 2012, as well as learnings from MU's current visioning process.

- Lack of jobs for adults (52%)
- Lack of youth jobs (51%)
- Low incomes/wages of residents (47%)
- Substance abuse (45%)
- Lack of affordable housing (42%)
- Youth violence & gangs (41%)
- Recreational activities for youth (41%)
- Obesity & diabetes (38%)
- Education/training opportunities for adults (38%)
- Foreclosures (35%)

Respondent Characteristics

In order to determine how widely the questionnaire was reaching different parts of Mattapan, respondents were asked to indicate their street or nearest intersection. Of the 691 questionnaires that were submitted, 506 (73%) provided sufficient information so that their locations could be mapped, as shown below.



Note that those identified as “No Response” on the map did not respond to the question about whether they live or work in Mattapan, or both, but did indicate their location.

Mattapan United requested that the questionnaire responses be tabulated and presented not only for the full set of 691 respondents (herein referred to as “ALL”), but also for three specific sub-sets, as follows:

- Individuals between the ages of 12 and 24, herein referred to as “YOUTH”; there were **143** identifiable Youth respondents;
- Individuals 25 years of age or older, who have resided or worked in Mattapan for more than 10 years, herein referred to as “ADULT, LONG-TERM”; there were **246** identifiable adult, long-term respondents;
- Individuals 25 years of age or older, who have resided or worked in Mattapan for 10 years or less, herein referred to as “ADULT, SHORT-TERM”; there were **181** identifiable adult, short-term respondents.

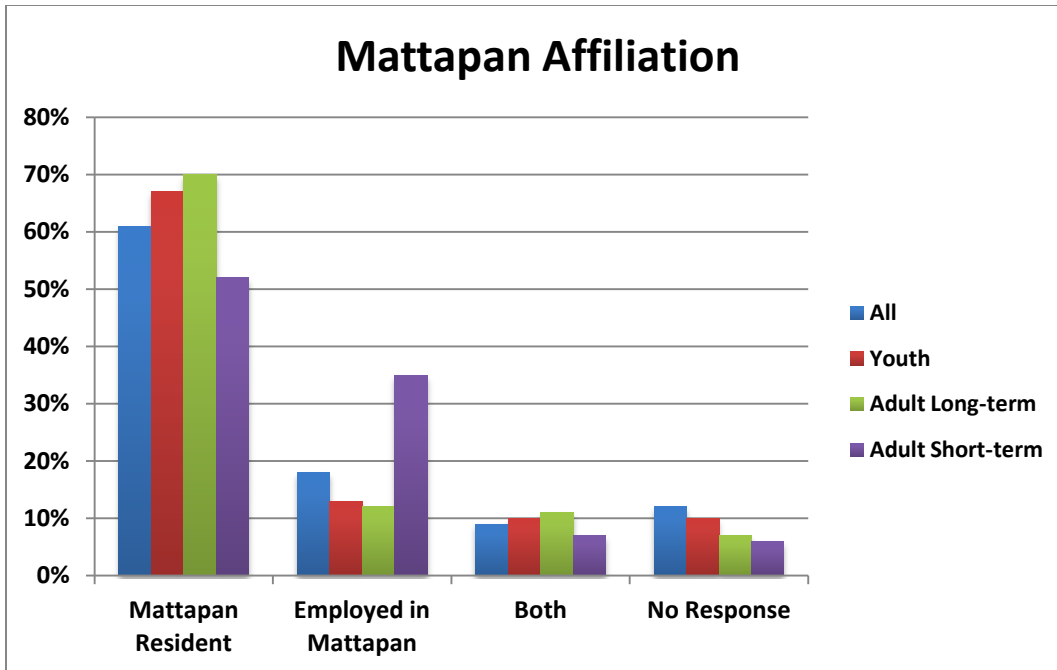
These three sub-groups account for a total of 570 of the 691 respondents. The other 121 respondents failed to identify their age and/or their duration of living or working in Mattapan and therefore could not be placed into one of the three sub-groups for analysis. It should also be noted that this set of 121 respondents also disproportionately failed to answer quite a few of the other questions.

Tables 1 through 10 summarize the results of the ten specific questions on respondent characteristics. Each table presents the results for all respondents as well as for the three identified sub-groups.

The overwhelming majority of respondents identified themselves as either residing or employed in Mattapan, but not both (Table 1). Among the youth and adult long-term respondents, about two-thirds are residents and not employed in Mattapan. By contrast, among those in the adult short-term, a bare majority are residents who do not work in the neighborhood while over one-third are employed there but not residents.

TABLE 1. Are you?

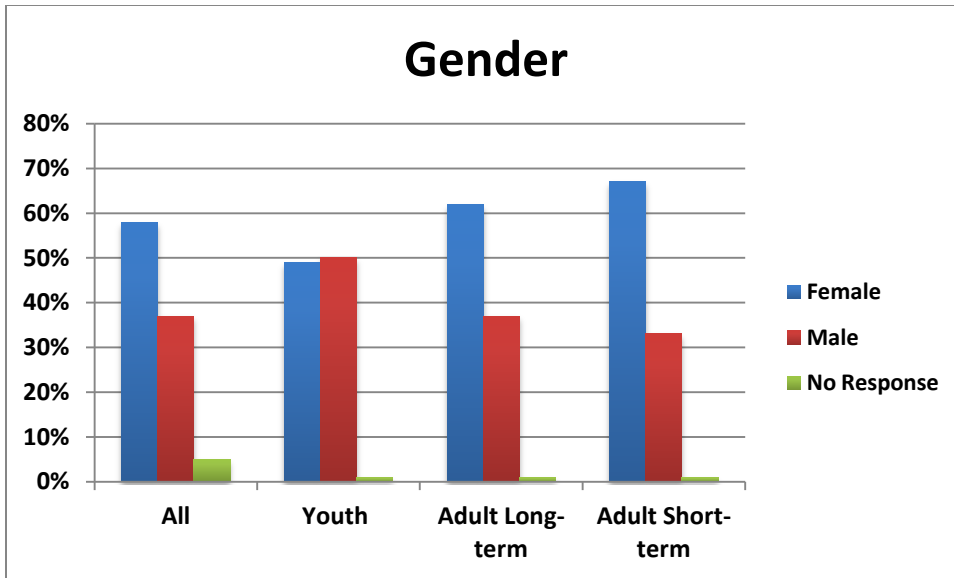
	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
Mattapan Resident	61%	67%	70%	52%
Employed in Mattapan	18%	13%	12%	35%
Both	9%	10%	11%	7%
No Response	12%	10%	7%	6%



In terms of gender, a sizable majority of both adult sub-groups of respondents are female (Table 2). By contrast, the youth respondents are almost exactly half female and half male.

TABLE 2. Are you?

	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
Female	58%	49%	62%	67%
Male	37%	50%	37%	33%
No Response	5%	1%	1%	1%



There are significant differences in the distribution of self-identified racial/ethnic backgrounds among the different respondent sub-groups (Table 3). Among all respondents, about 6 out of 10 identify as “Black/African American,” while 2 out of 10 identify as “Haitian/Haitian American,” 1 out of 10 as “Hispanic/Latino,” about 1 out of 14 as “African Nationalities,” and insignificant fractions as “Caucasian/White” and as “Asian.”

Youth respondents are for the most part very close to these fractions, with the exception of a substantial greater share of Latinos – about 1 out of 7.

The two adult respondent sub-groups are very different from each other and also somewhat different from the youth respondents in terms of the distribution of racial/ethnic backgrounds. The adult long-term sub-group is the least diverse and overwhelmingly “Black/African American” – 7 out of 10 respondents so identify. Those who identify as “Haitian/Haitian American” account for 1 out of 8 members of this sub-group. About 1 out of 14 as “African Nationalities,” with insignificant fractions of all other racial/ethnic backgrounds.

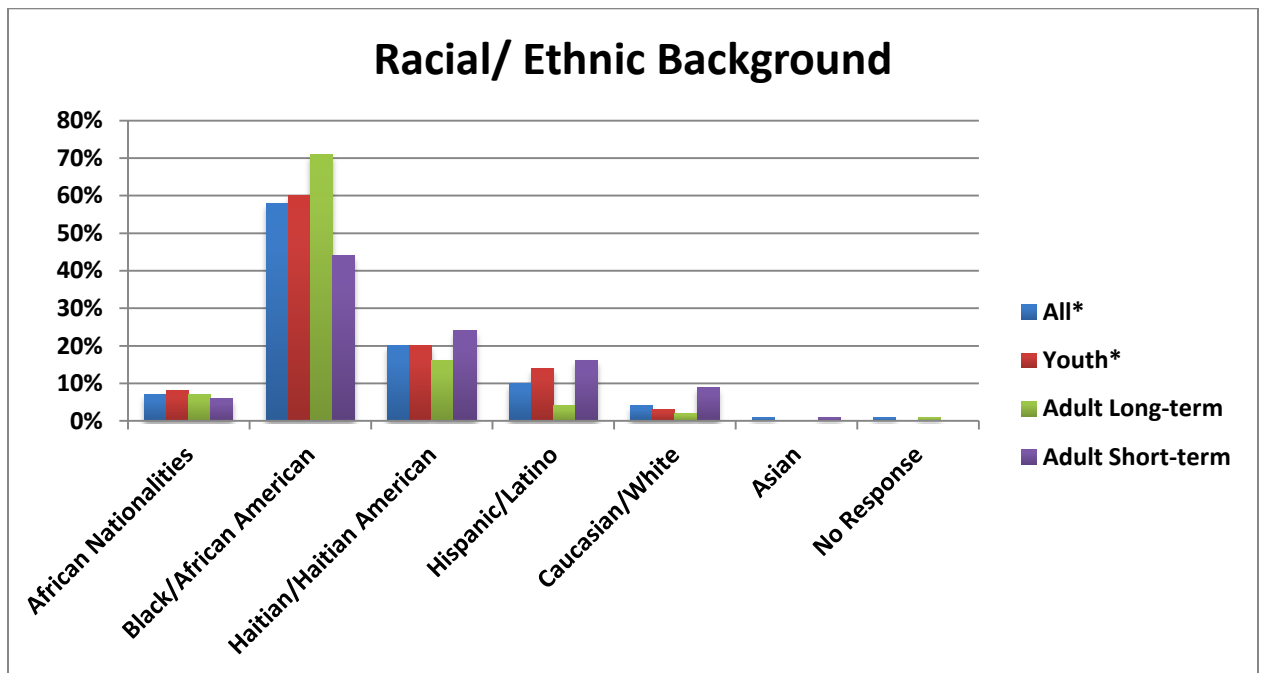
By contrast, the adult short-term respondent sub-group is very diverse. Less than half the respondents identify as “Black/African American,” while fully a quarter are “Haitian/Haitian American.” One-sixth are “Hispanic/Latino,” and nearly one-tenth are “Caucasian/White.”

TABLE 3. How would you describe your racial/ethnic background?

	Respondent Group			
	All*	Youth*	Adult Long-term#	Adult Short-term
African Nationalities	7%	8%	7%	6%
Black/African American	58%	60%	71%	44%
Haitian/Haitian American	20%	20%	16%	24%
Hispanic/Latino	10%	14%	4%	16%
Caucasian/White	4%	3%	2%	9%
Asian	1%	<1%	0%	1%
No Response	1%	0%	1%	0%

* Total adds to more than 100% because 7 youth respondents identified with more than one racial/ethnic category.

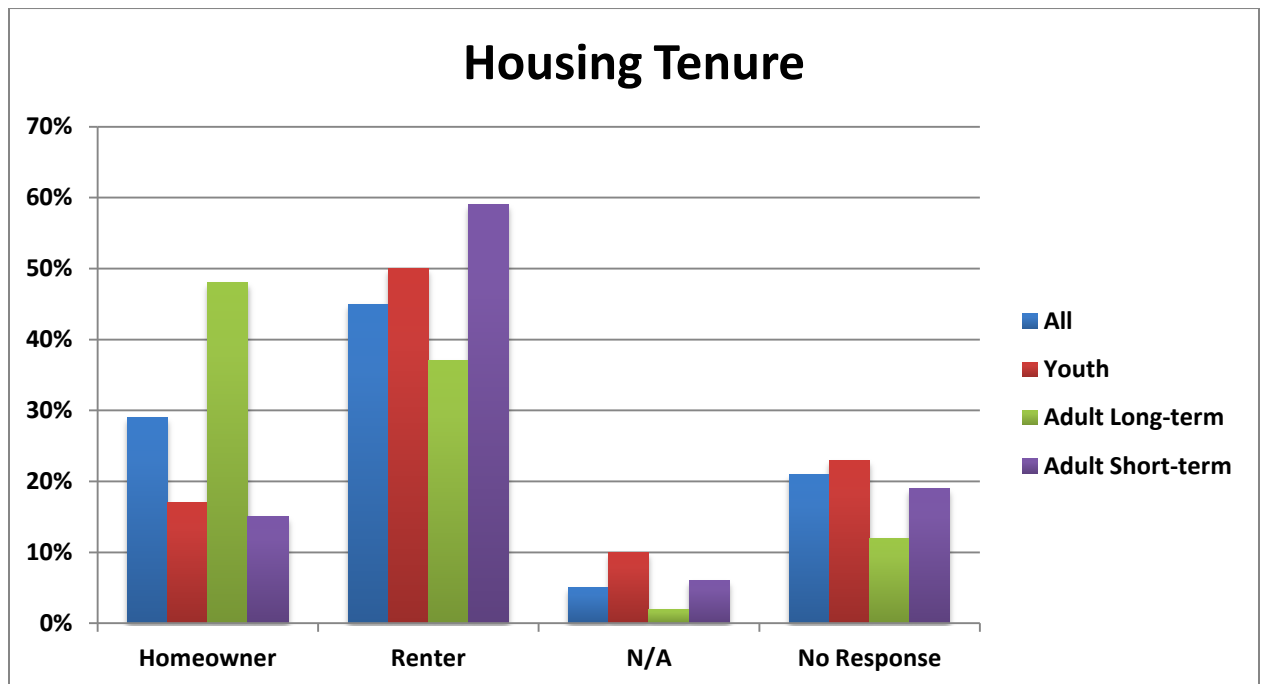
Total adds to more than 100% because 1 adult long-term respondent identified with more than one racial/ethnic category, while 3 others gave no response to the question.



In terms of housing tenure (Table 4), among all respondents a much higher fraction has identified as renters rather than homeowners. Among the youth and adult short-term sub-groups, the great majority live in renter households, with fewer than 1 in 5 residing in a homeowner household. Only among the adult long-term respondents do more identify as homeowners than renters, although the difference is modest.

TABLE 4. If you are a resident, are you?

	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
Homeowner	29%	17%	48%	15%
Renter	45%	50%	37%	59%
N/A	5%	10%	2%	6%
No Response	21%	23%	12%	19%

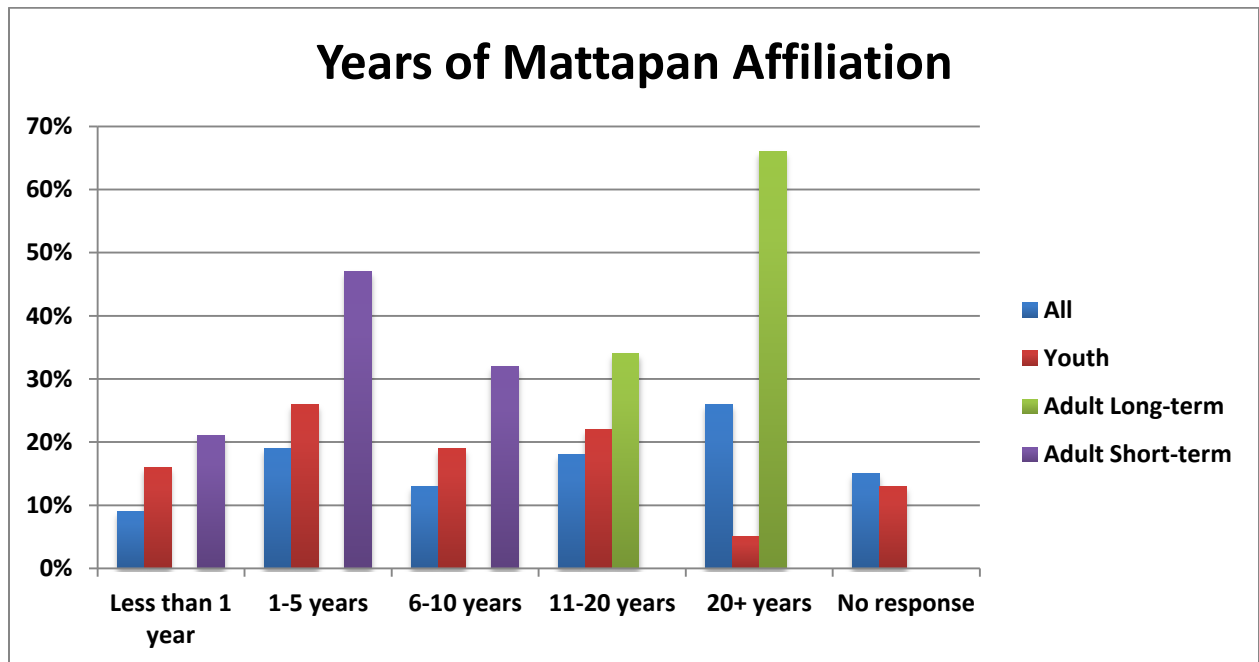


The duration of living or working in Mattapan (Table 5) also varies of course by sub-group, although even among youth and adult short-term sub-groups very few have been attached to the community for less than one year. Among youth nearly half have been part of the community for more than 5 years. Among adult long-term respondents fully two-thirds have been part of the neighborhood for more than 20 years. Even among

the adult short-term sub-group, nearly a third have been affiliated with Mattapan for 6 to 10 years.

TABLE 5. How long have you lived or worked in this community?

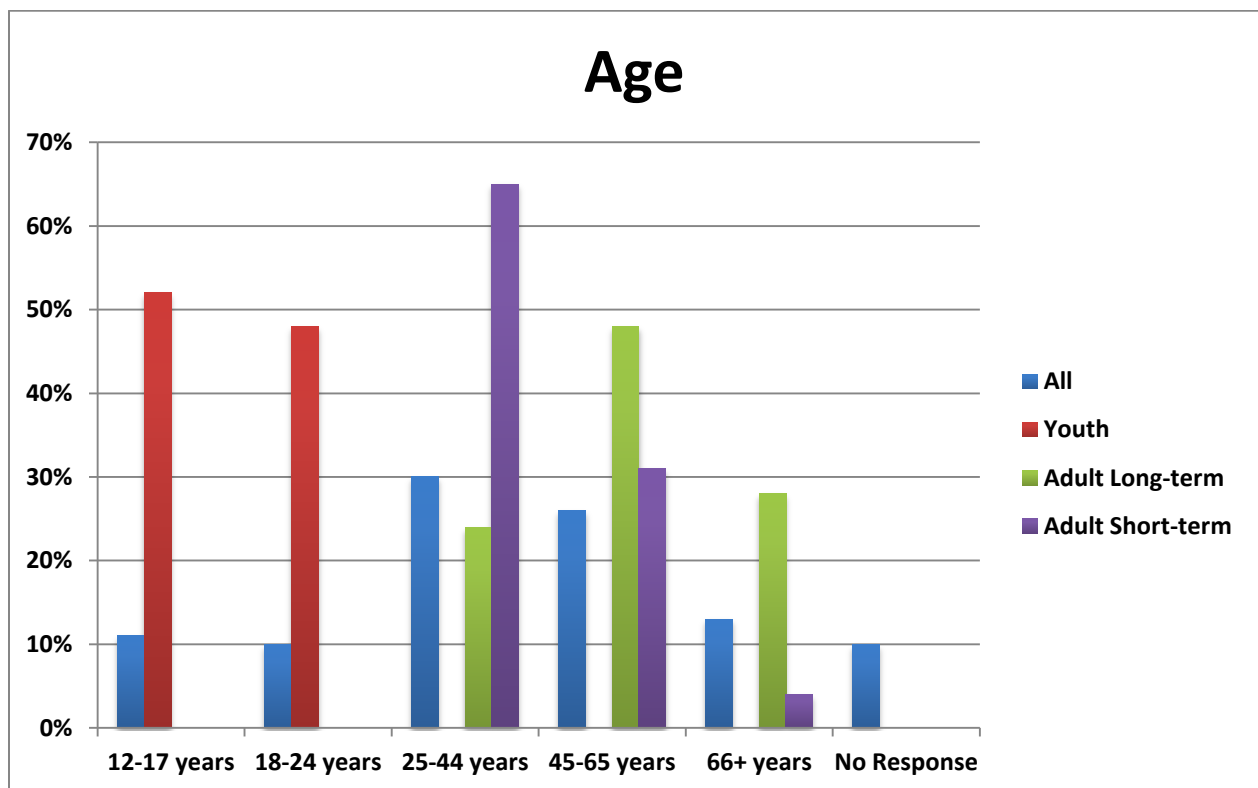
	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
Less than 1 year	9%	16%	0%	21%
1-5 years	19%	26%	0%	47%
6-10 years	13%	19%	0%	32%
11-20 years	18%	22%	34%	0%
20+ years	26%	5%	66%	0%
No response	15%	13%	0%	0%



In terms of age (Table 6), the youth respondents are almost evenly divided between those 12-17 and those 18-24 years old. The modal age range for adult long-term respondents is 45-65, with about half in this age range; about a quarter each are in the 25-44 and 66+ age brackets. About two-thirds of the adult short-term respondents are in the 25-44 age group, with one-third 45-65 and a insignificant share 66+.

TABLE 6. What is your age?

	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
12-17 years	11%	52%	0%	0%
18-24 years	10%	48%	0%	0%
25-44 years	30%	NA	24%	65%
45-65 years	26%	NA	48%	31%
66+ years	13%	NA	28%	4%
No Response	10%	0%	0%	0%



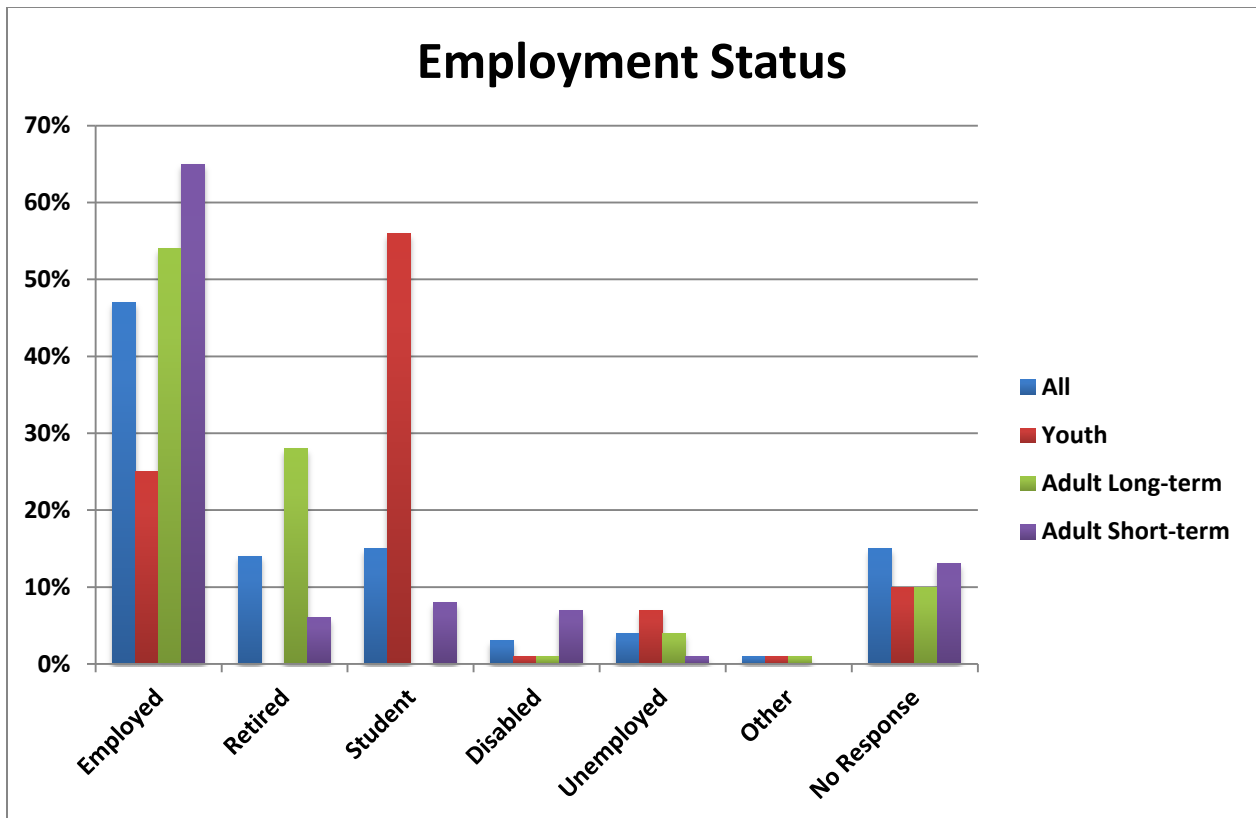
Employment status also varies substantially among the sub-groups of respondents (Table 7). Over half the youth identify as students, while a quarter are employed and 7 percent unemployed. Of the adult long-term respondents a little over half are

employed, a little over a quarter are retired, and 4 percent are unemployed. Among the adult short-term sub-group, about two-thirds are employed, with only 1 percent unemployed. However, about 6 to 8 percent identify in each of the following categories: retired, student or disabled.

TABLE 7. Are you currently?

	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
Employed	47%	25%	54%	65%
Retired	14%	0%	28%	6%
Student	15%	56%	0%	8%
Disabled	3%	1%	1%	7%
Unemployed	4%	7%	4%	1%
Other	1%	1%	1%	0%
No Response	15%	10%	10%	13%

Note that totals may not add to 100% due to round-off error.

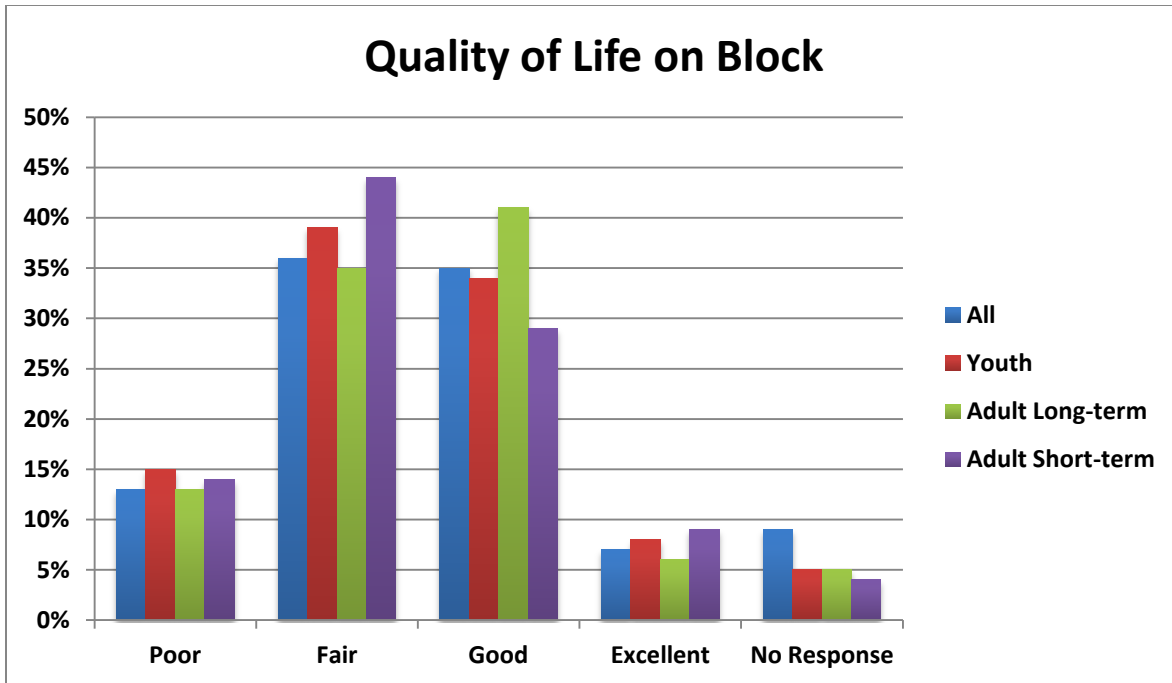


Respondents were then asked their opinion of the overall quality of life on their block or street (Table 8). In every respondent group, about three-quarters gave a rating of “fair” or “good.” The adult long-term respondents were somewhat more likely to rate as “good,” while the adult short-term respondents were somewhat more likely to rate as “fair.” In every group, about 1 in 8 respondents gave a rating of “poor,” but even smaller fractions gave a rating of “excellent.”

TABLE 8. How would you rate the overall quality of life on your block or street?

	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
Poor	13%	15%	13%	14%
Fair	36%	39%	35%	44%
Good	35%	34%	41%	29%
Excellent	7%	8%	6%	9%
No Response	9%	5%	5%	4%

Note that totals may not add to 100% due to round-off error.



The respondents were also asked about neighborhood associations on their block or street (Table 9). The modal response from all groups was “not sure” whether there is such an association. Among the adult long-term respondents, in particular, nearly 4 out of 10 answered “not sure,” while 3 out of 10 answered “yes” and about a quarter answered “no.” Among the other two sub-groups, more than half answered “not sure.”

TABLE 9. Is there a neighborhood association group on your block/street?

	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
Yes	21%	14%	30%	18%
No	23%	26%	24%	22%
Not Sure	44%	55%	38%	51%
NA	3%	2%	3%	6%
No Response	9%	3%	5%	3%

Note that totals may not add to 100% due to round-off error.

Those who indicated that there is a neighborhood association were asked about their involvement (Table 10). Among the adult long-term respondents, about half of those who answered this question indicated “a little” or “a lot,” with the other half indicating

“not at all.” Among youth two-thirds and among adult short-term respondents half indicated “not at all,” with insignificant fractions indicating any involvement.

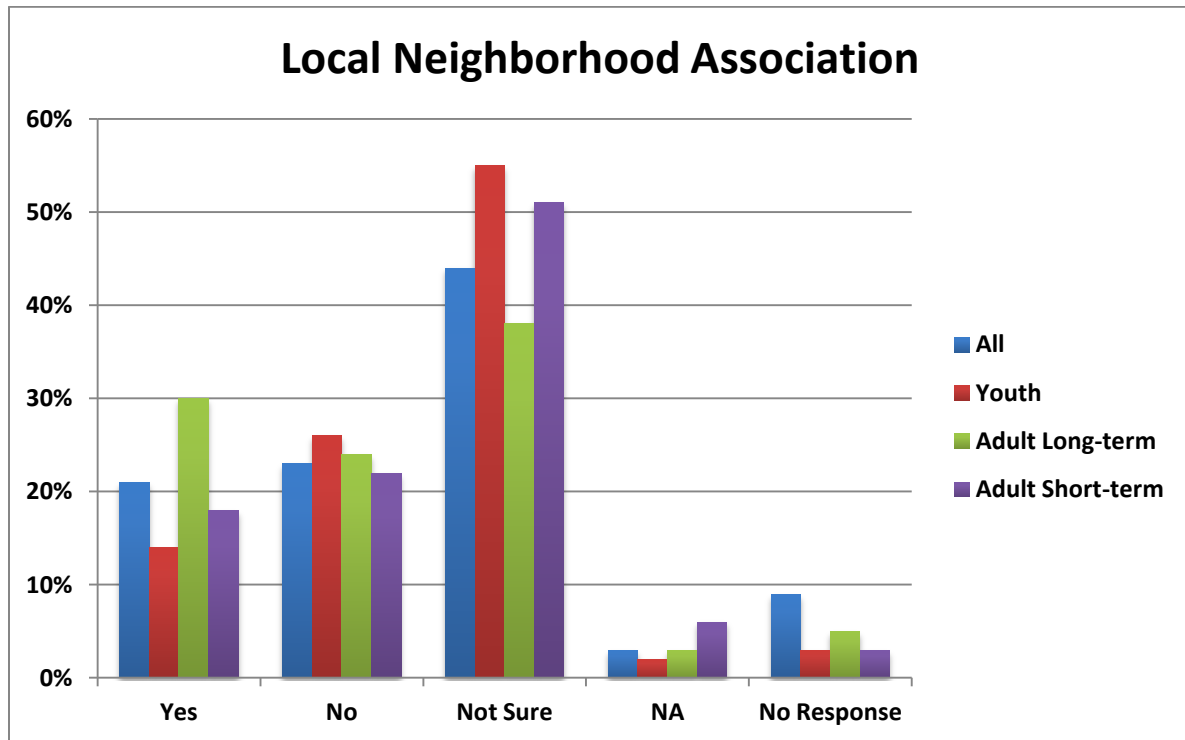
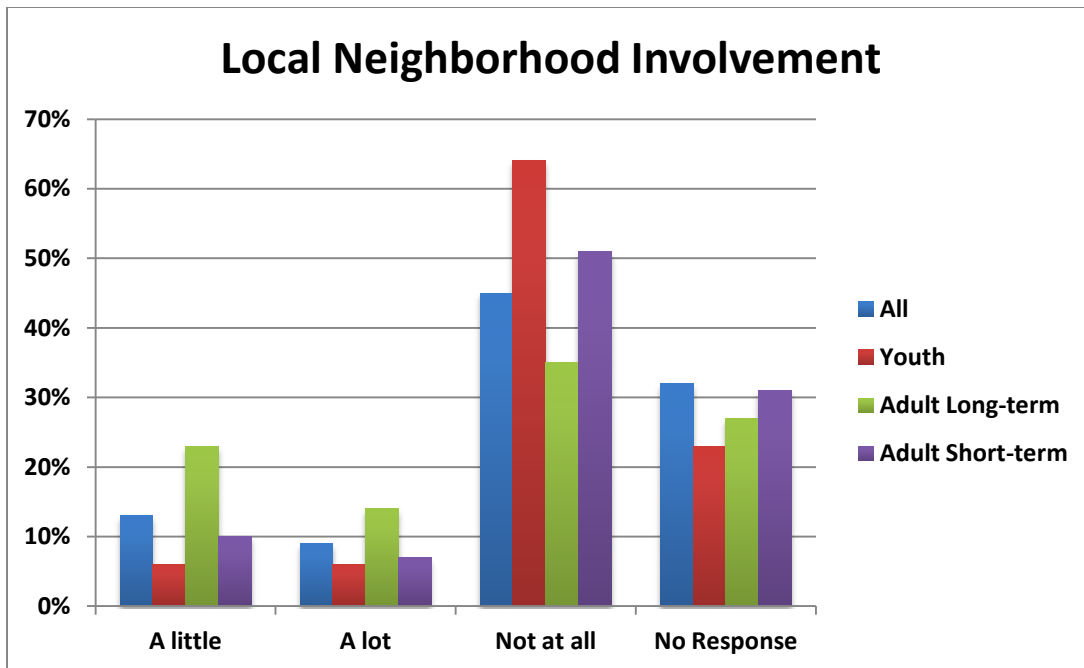


TABLE 10. If so, are you involved in your neighborhood association group?

	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
A little	13%	6%	23%	10%
A lot	9%	6%	14%	7%
Not at all	45%	64%	35%	51%
No Response	32%	23%	27%	31%

Note that totals may not add to 100% due to round-off error.



Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

Respondents were asked to give their opinion of the seriousness of 37 different community concerns: do they regard each as a “Serious Problem,” “Moderate Problem,” “Not a Problem,” or “Not an Important Issue” (The last of these categories was not clearly distinguished from “not a problem,” and very few respondents chose the last category).

The full set of responses on every community concern on the list is presented in Tables 12-15, one table for all respondents and one for each of the three sub-groups.

The most notable difference among the sub-group responses is that, for the most part, a smaller percentage of youth respondents identified each concern as a serious problem than did the adult sub-group respondents.

Nonetheless, some of the concerns do stand out as “serious problems” even though the youth percentages are lower than those of the adults. These are summarized in Table 11 (based on the data in Tables 12-15). Of the 15 concerns on this list, 10 are considered serious problems by at least 35% of all respondents as well as both adult sub-groups. Half of these concerns were also rated as serious by at least 35% of youth respondents.

TABLE 11. Community Concerns Rated as “Serious Problem” by at least 35% of Respondents.

	Respondent Group			
	All	Youth	Adult Long-term	Adult Short-term
Lack of jobs for adults	52%	37%	61%	54%
Lack of youth jobs	51%	39%	63%	45%
Low incomes/wages	47%	37%	52%	52%
Substance abuse	45%	35%	46%	48%
Lack of affordable housing	42%	--	46%	49%
Youth violence & gangs	41%	41%	39%	44%
Recreational activities for youth	41%	--	45%	44%
Obesity & diabetes	38%	--	44%	40%
Education/training opportunities for adults	38%	--	47%	36%

Foreclosures	35%	--	38%	37%
Violent crimes	--	35%	--	
Lack of community events	--	--	37%	
Lack of community involvement by residents	--	--	--	38%
Traffic & parking	--	--	--	36%
Public safety	--	--	--	36%

The 5 concerns at the bottom of Table 11 were rated as serious by one of the three sub-groups of respondents, even though not rated as serious problems by 35% or more of all respondents or the other two sub-groups.

When the percentage of respondents who consider a community concern to be a serious problem is combined with the percent who consider that concern to be a moderate problem, every concern (with just one exception to be noted below) is regarded as a problem of some sort by a sizable majority of all respondents as well as sizable majorities of the two adult sub-groups of respondents.

The one concern that is notable for *not* being regarded as a serious or even moderate problem by many respondents in every group is racial/ethnic tensions. For this particular concern, the non-response rate is extraordinarily high due to a problem with the questionnaire format. Nonetheless, if the non-responses are left out, among those who did respond the share of those who do regard this as a problem is considerably lower than the share who do not. This is true for all respondent groups.

Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

TABLE 12. All Respondents (n=691)

	Serious Problem	Moderate Problem	Not a Problem	Not an Imptnt Issue	No Response
Public Safety (feeling safe in Mattapan)	33%	43%	17%	2%	5%
Youth Violence & gangs	41%	37%	13%	2%	6%
Thefts & break-ins	26%	41%	22%	3%	8%
Violent crimes (rapes, assaults, etc.)	30%	38%	20%	3%	9%
Police and community relations	20%	37%	31%	3%	9%
Police responsiveness	20%	32%	35%	3%	9%
Politician responsiveness/involvement	25%	35%	24%	4%	12%
Quality of community based organizations	24%	35%	21%	7%	13%
Lack of community involvement by residents	32%	36%	16%	5%	10%
Lack of community events (fairs, parades, etc.)	34%	31%	19%	7%	10%
Racial /ethnic tensions	11%	22%	36%	7%	24%

Availability of mental health services	23%	33%	26%	6%	11%
Lack of services for people with special needs	28%	34%	21%	4%	13%
Obesity & diabetes	38%	30%	16%	3%	12%
Substance abuse	45%	28%	11%	3%	13%
Availability of healthy food options (grocery stores & restaurants)	33%	30%	22%	4%	12%
Variety of businesses (small business, retail)	25%	31%	26%	6%	11%
Customer service at local businesses	20%	34%	28%	5%	13%

Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

TABLE 12. All Respondents, continued

	Serious Problem	Moderate Problem	Not a Problem	Not an Imptnt Issue	No Response
Trash/maintenance at local businesses	23%	30%	29%	5%	13%
Quality of schools and educations (K-8)	26%	35%	22%	4%	13%
Availability of pre-school services	24%	29%	25%	4%	17%
Quality of before & after-school programs	25%	35%	20%	3%	17%
Lack of youth jobs	51%	25%	10%	2%	12%
Recreational activities for youth (arts, sports, etc.)	41%	30%	15%	2%	12%
Education/training opportunities for adults	38%	32%	15%	2%	12%
Lack of jobs for adults	52%	25%	10%	2%	12%
Low incomes/wages of residents	47%	27%	10%	2%	14%
Availability of programs for seniors	30%	33%	20%	4%	13%
Lack of affordable housing	42%	27%	15%	3%	13%

Trash/maintenance on residential streets	26%	34%	25%	3%	11%
Poorly maintained & abandoned properties	29%	37%	18%	3%	12%
Foreclosures (families losing their homes)	35%	31%	15%	4%	15%
Quality of bus & train service	21%	31%	32%	4%	12%
Traffic & parking	27%	32%	25%	6%	10%
Parks & green space for community use	28%	33%	24%	4%	11%
Availability of biking and walking routes	26%	31%	26%	5%	13%
Pollution and air quality	27%	35%	21%	3%	14%

Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

TABLE 13. Youth Respondents, Ages 12-24 (n=143)

	Serious Problem	Moderate Problem	Not a Problem	Not an Imptnt Issue	No Response
Public Safety (feeling safe in Mattapan)	31%	44%	21%	3%	1%
Youth Violence & gangs	41%	38%	15%	5%	2%
Thefts & break-ins	29%	33%	29%	5%	2%
Violent crimes (rapes, assaults, etc.)	35%	28%	25%	6%	6%
Police and community relations	22%	35%	33%	5%	6%
Police responsiveness	24%	27%	37%	6%	6%
Politician responsiveness/involvement	25%	34%	29%	3%	8%
Quality of community based organizations	23%	30%	26%	10%	11%
Lack of community involvement by residents	31%	31%	21%	10%	7%
Lack of community events (fairs, parades, etc.)	31%	31%	23%	10%	5%
Racial /ethnic tensions	12%	22%	36%	8%	22%

Availability of mental health services	20%	28%	35%	10%	7%
Lack of services for people with special needs	22%	29%	33%	6%	10%
Obesity & diabetes	25%	29%	30%	5%	10%
Substance abuse	35%	27%	22%	7%	9%
Availability of healthy food options (grocery stores & restaurants)	28%	24%	31%	7%	9%
Variety of businesses (small business, retail)	17%	24%	36%	13%	9%
Customer service at local businesses	14%	30%	38%	8%	10%

Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

TABLE 13. Youth Respondents, continued

	Serious Problem	Moderate Problem	Not a Problem	Not an Imptnt Issue	No Response
Trash/maintenance at local businesses	16%	27%	38%	7%	12%
Quality of schools and educations (K-8)	17%	34%	31%	6%	12%
Availability of pre-school services	17%	24%	41%	8%	10%
Quality of before & after-school programs	18%	31%	34%	6%	11%
Lack of youth jobs	39%	27%	21%	5%	8%
Recreational activities for youth (arts, sports, etc.)	32%	25%	31%	3%	8%
Education/training opportunities for adults	25%	29%	31%	6%	9%
Lack of jobs for adults	37%	28%	23%	3%	9%
Low incomes/wages of residents	37%	28%	22%	6%	7%
Availability of programs for seniors	23%	24%	35%	8%	10%
Lack of affordable housing	25%	31%	27%	8%	10%

Trash/maintenance on residential streets	24%	29%	33%	7%	8%
Poorly maintained & abandoned properties	22%	37%	25%	3%	13%
Foreclosures (families losing their homes)	23%	29%	27%	7%	14%
Quality of bus & train service	14%	27%	43%	8%	9%
Traffic & parking	15%	24%	44%	9%	8%
Parks & green space for community use	23%	24%	39%	5%	9%
Availability of biking and walking routes	24%	24%	39%	6%	7%
Pollution and air quality	27%	33%	24%	6%	10%

Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

TABLE 14. Adult Respondents, Ages 25+; Long-Term, over 10 years residing or working (n=246)

	Serious Problem	Moderate Problem	Not a Problem	Not an Imptnt Issue	No Response
Public Safety (feeling safe in Mattapan)	32%	47%	16%	1%	4%
Youth Violence & gangs	39%	40%	13%	1%	7%
Thefts & break-ins	23%	46%	23%	2%	6%
Violent crimes (rapes, assaults, etc.)	24%	43%	23%	2%	9%
Police and community relations	17%	38%	32%	3%	10%
Police responsiveness	15%	35%	39%	3%	8%
Politician responsiveness/involvement	24%	37%	25%	3%	11%
Quality of community based organizations	24%	36%	22%	5%	13%
Lack of community involvement by residents	31%	39%	17%	4%	9%
Lack of community events (fairs, parades, etc.)	37%	30%	20%	5%	8%
Racial /ethnic tensions	7%	21%	39%	8%	25%

Availability of mental health services	22%	38%	22%	5%	13%
Lack of services for people with special needs	30%	40%	14%	3%	13%
Obesity & diabetes	44%	31%	9%	3%	13%
Substance abuse	46%	33%	7%	2%	13%
Availability of healthy food options (grocery stores & restaurants)	35%	33%	17%	3%	12%
Variety of businesses (small business, retail)	28%	35%	21%	4%	11%
Customer service at local businesses	20%	35%	24%	4%	17%

Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

TABLE 14. Adult Respondents, Long-Term, continued

	Serious Problem	Moderate Problem	Not a Problem	Not an Imptnt Issue	No Response
Trash/maintenance at local businesses	27%	29%	25%	5%	14%
Quality of schools and educations (K-8)	28%	35%	20%	4%	13%
Availability of pre-school services	29%	29%	21%	4%	16%
Quality of before & after-school programs	29%	36%	13%	3%	18%
Lack of youth jobs	63%	22%	3%	2%	11%
Recreational activities for youth (arts, sports, etc.)	45%	34%	8%	2%	11%
Education/training opportunities for adults	47%	33%	7%	0%	12%
Lack of jobs for adults	61%	24%	5%	0%	11%
Low incomes/wages of residents	52%	29%	5%	0%	14%
Availability of programs for seniors	34%	36%	17%	2%	12%
Lack of affordable housing	46%	27%	12%	1%	14%

Trash/maintenance on residential streets	24%	38%	22%	3%	13%
Poorly maintained & abandoned properties	30%	36%	16%	4%	13%
Foreclosures (families losing their homes)	38%	33%	11%	3%	15%
Quality of bus & train service	21%	38%	26%	2%	13%
Traffic & parking	26%	35%	23%	7%	9%
Parks & green space for community use	29%	35%	19%	6%	11%
Availability of biking and walking routes	26%	33%	23%	4%	15%
Pollution and air quality	25%	32%	22%	4%	17%

Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

TABLE 15. Adult Respondents, Ages 25+; Short-Term, 10 years or less residing or working (n=24)

	Serious Problem	Moderate Problem	Not a Problem	Not an Imptnt Issue	No Response
Public Safety (feeling safe in Mattapan)	36%	41%	16%	2%	4%
Youth Violence & gangs	44%	35%	12%	3%	6%
Thefts & break-ins	27%	45%	15%	4%	8%
Violent crimes (rapes, assaults, etc.)	34%	44%	12%	1%	9%
Police and community relations	25%	38%	26%	2%	9%
Police responsiveness	25%	34%	31%	1%	10%
Politician responsiveness/involvement	28%	36%	19%	4%	13%
Quality of community based organizations	24%	39%	18%	6%	13%
Lack of community involvement by residents	38%	38%	10%	3%	12%
Lack of community events (fairs, parades, etc.)	34%	35%	14%	5%	11%
Racial /ethnic tensions	13%	25%	37%	6%	19%

Availability of mental health services	24%	34%	29%	3%	10%
Lack of services for people with special needs	31%	30%	21%	3%	15%
Obesity & diabetes	40%	32%	14%	3%	10%
Substance abuse	48%	28%	8%	3%	13%
Availability of healthy food options (grocery stores & restaurants)	37%	30%	19%	2%	12%
Variety of businesses (small business, retail)	28%	33%	28%	3%	9%
Customer service at local businesses	24%	36%	27%	3%	9%

Respondent Assessment of Community Concerns

TABLE 15. Adult Respondents, Short-Term, continued

	Serious Problem	Moderate Problem	Not a Problem	Not an Imptnt Issue	No Response
Trash/maintenance at local businesses	25%	34%	29%	3%	9%
Quality of schools and educations (K-8)	29%	36%	19%	2%	13%
Availability of pre-school services	24%	33%	23%	2%	18%
Quality of before & after-school programs	28%	33%	19%	3%	17%
Lack of youth jobs	45%	33%	8%	1%	12%
Recreational activities for youth (arts, sports, etc.)	44%	30%	14%	1%	12%
Education/training opportunities for adults	36%	37%	14%	1%	13%
Lack of jobs for adults	54%	23%	8%	2%	13%
Low incomes/wages of residents	52%	24%	8%	1%	15%
Availability of programs for seniors	33%	33%	16%	3%	14%
Lack of affordable housing	49%	27%	11%	1%	13%

Trash/maintenance on residential streets	30%	35%	21%	2%	12%
Poorly maintained & abandoned properties	31%	41%	16%	4%	8%
Foreclosures (families losing their homes)	37%	33%	12%	3%	15%
Quality of bus & train service	25%	27%	34%	3%	10%
Traffic & parking	36%	33%	18%	5%	8%
Parks & green space for community use	32%	38%	19%	3%	8%
Availability of biking and walking routes	28%	31%	23%	7%	11%
Pollution and air quality	30%	39%	20%	2%	8%

RESPONDENT PRIORITY CONCERNS

On the questionnaire, following the rating of the 37 listed community concerns, there was an open-ended question, in which respondents were asked to identify 3-5 that they considered the highest priority. Only about half the respondents answered this question. Of those who did, some identified items from the list of 37, while some added other items. Also, some of the responses were impossible to read. So, the reported results reflect the views of rather less than half the respondents

The readable responses to this question have been arranged into a number of broad categories, with the overall frequency of items in each category determined. The results are as follows:

1. Employment 175

a. Lack of jobs for adults 76

- i. CORI issues

b. Lack of youth jobs 99

- i. Job trainings for youth

2. Tended and Inviting Environment 163

- a. Noise pollution
- b. Trash/maintenance of local businesses
- c. Variety of businesses
- d. Trash/ maintenance on residential streets
- e. Poorly maintained and abandoned properties
- f. Pollution and air quality
- g. Parks and green space for community use
- h. Traffic and Parking
- i. Lack of crosswalk
- j. Mattapan Square
- k. Fix River St.
- l. Quality and cleanliness of school buildings
- m. Quality of businesses
- n. Well lighting on streets in community
- o. Wood Ave. need speed bumps to reduce speeding
- p. Vacant lots
- q. Speed
- r. Parks with supervision
- s. Pedestrian crossing is dangerous
- t. Sidewalks repaved
- u. Fence across from the nursing home common it's dangerously broken
- v. Road conditions
- w. Store entrance accessibility

3. Delinquency/Safety 162

- a. Public Safety
- b. Youth Violence & gangs
- c. Thefts & break-ins
- d. Violent Crimes
- e. Crime Prevention

4. Community Relations 83

- a. Police and community relations
- b. Police Responsiveness
- c. Politician responsiveness/ involvement
- d. Quality of community based organizations
- e. Lack of community involvement
- f. Lack of community events
- g. Racial/ethnic tensions
- h. Unity people need to love more
- i. Communication collaboration among and across community agencies
- j. Strength building (intellect)
- k. Representatives need to be more visible
- l. The police don't give the Black people the proper respect
- m. Community centers

5. Education 70

- a. Quality of schools and education (k-8)
- b. Availability of pre-school services
- c. Quality of before & after school
- d. Youth not in school
- e. Educational activities
- f. Workshops for young parents (teens)
- g. Schools for higher education
- h. University

6. Prevention of obesity & diabetes 55

- a. Availability of health food options
- b. Teen and kids free fitness and sports programs seasonal

7. Substance abuse 53

- a. Drugs

8. Lack of affordable housing 39

9. Recreational activities 35

- a. Recreational activities for youth
- b. Physical activities such as: biking, walking, running

- c. Arts/ cultural programs opportunities
- d. Biking and walking routes
- e. Youth centers

10. Education/ training opportunities for adults 19

- a. Community service for adults

11. Low Income/ wages of residents 18

- a. low income programs for children in the summertime

12. Foreclosures 17

- a. First time home buying programs for Mattapan residents
- b. Home/property values declining

13. Other 74

- a. Availability of mental health services
- b. Lack of services for special needs (autism)
- c. Customer Service at local businesses
- d. Availability of programs for seniors
- e. Quality of bus & train service
- f. Political Apathy of voters
- g. Car insurance too high
- h. Child abuse
- i. Employment for American people speaking only English
- j. Unemployment
- k. Black women health and abortion
- l. Mattapan reputation and public opinion
- m. Health
- n. Everything is an issue!
- o. Trauma
- p. General quality of life
- q. Lack of jobs for seniors
- r. Disable citizens