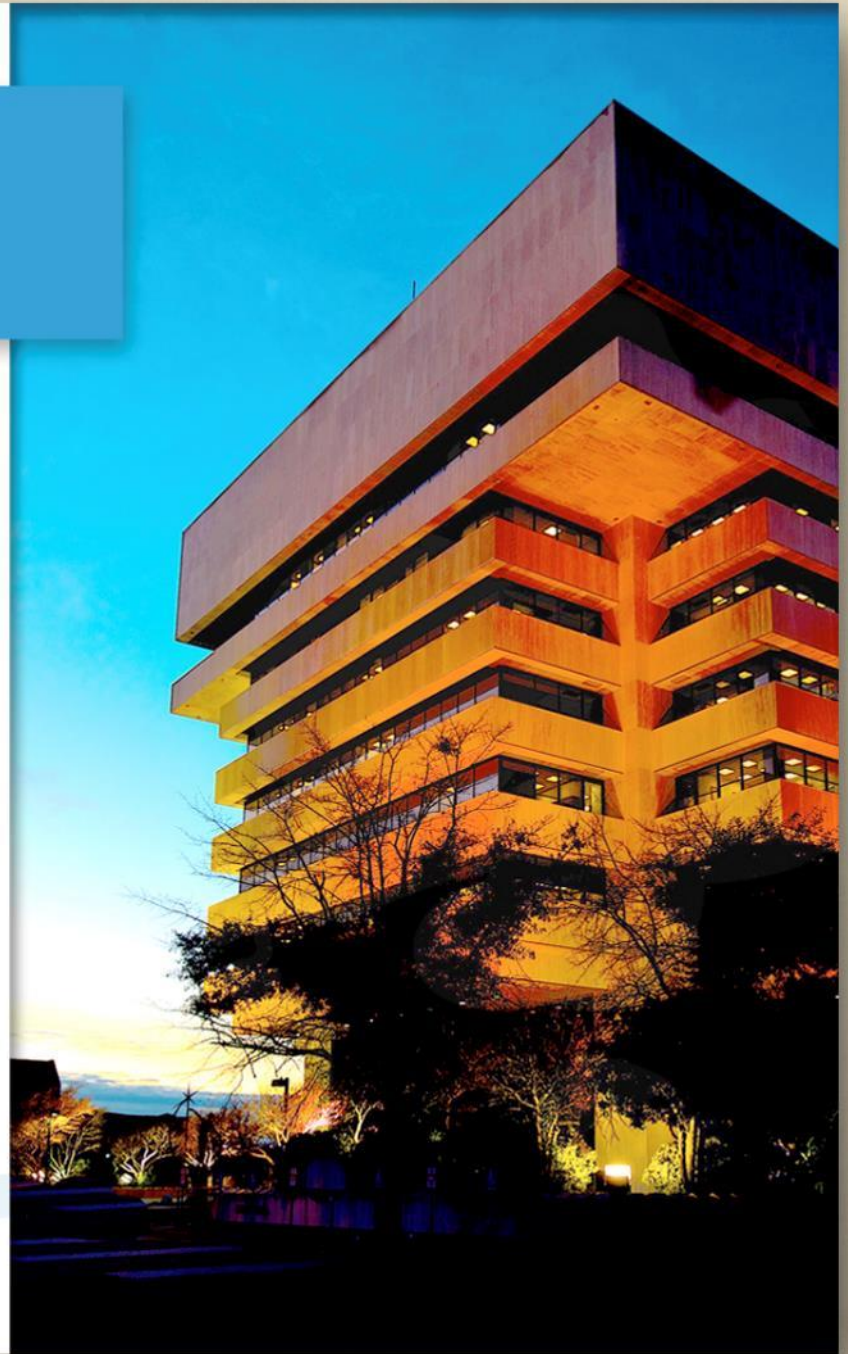


HAMPTON VA

Briefing on the Community Assessment on Perceptions of Crime and Safety and the ARPA Community Grant Process 2022



Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities



Discussion Points

- Hampton Community Assessment
 - ❖ Principal contributors to crime
 - ❖ Police presence and safety
 - ❖ Racial prejudice and discrimination
 - ❖ Mental health;
 - ❖ Community Resources
- Connecting Opportunities
 - ❖ Service & Support Coordination
- Funding Opportunities
 - ❖ American Rescue Plan Act Grant



Hampton Community Assessment

HAMPTON COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Prepared by

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Christopher Newport University

Presented to YYAS: January 14, 2022

Presented to Hampton City Council: February 9, 2022



CENTER FOR CRIME, EQUITY AND
JUSTICE RESEARCH AND POLICY
CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY



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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to better understand community members' perceptions of crime and safety in the City of Hampton. What does the community see as the cause of this violence? What do they see as the greatest issues that they face? What are their own experiences? How aware are they of prevention and intervention programs in the city? This report, commissioned by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities (YYAO), will be used to better align YYAO's work with the needs of the community and to design intentional violence prevention and intervention strategies.

METHODOLOGY

The Hampton Community Assessment Survey (HCAS) was created in collaboration between researchers at Christopher Newport University's Center for Crime, Equity, and Justice Research and Policy (CCEJRP) and the City of Hampton's Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities (YYAO). The survey was collaboratively designed by YYAO staff, CCEJRP researchers, and members of the community, and was primarily fielded by YYAO staff and representatives with assistance from Hampton's Commonwealth Attorney's Office, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Phoebus Community Center. The survey was fielded in late November through early December of 2021. The target audience was the general population, especially individuals aged 13 and up, and particularly individuals who live in neighborhoods characterized by high levels of violence.



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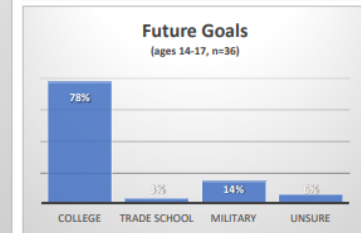
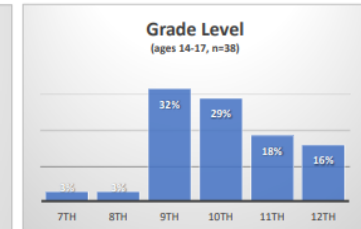
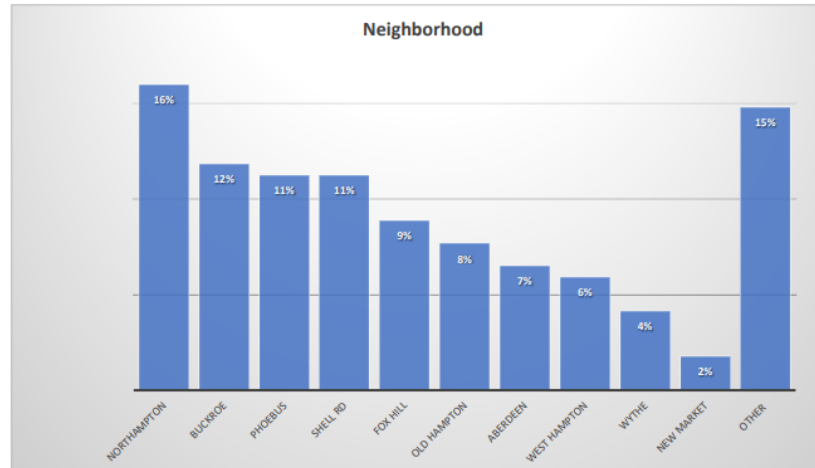
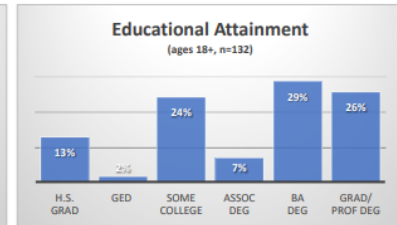
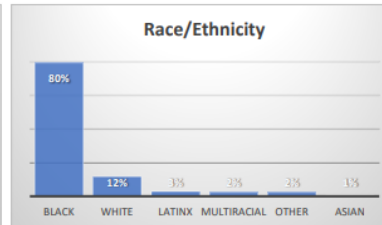
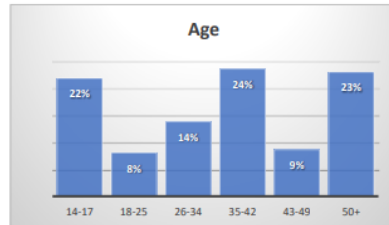
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DEMOGRAPHICS

197 individuals responded to the survey. Respondents were generally young, primarily African American, and highly educated. Respondents largely hailed from the City of Hampton and have lived in the same neighborhood for many years.*

According to the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), the city of Hampton has a population size of 134,870. Nearly 50 percent of the population is African American and 38 percent is white (non-Hispanic). About 62 percent of the population has had at least some college education, with just over 16 percent having earned a bachelor's degree. The high school graduation rate for white students (92.58 percent) is comparable to that of Black students (91.77 percent), although Black families in Hampton have nearly twice the rate of poverty (20.19 percent) compared to white families (10.25 percent).

* This sample is not representative of the broader population of the City of Hampton and results from this survey and report cannot be extrapolated to the broader population.



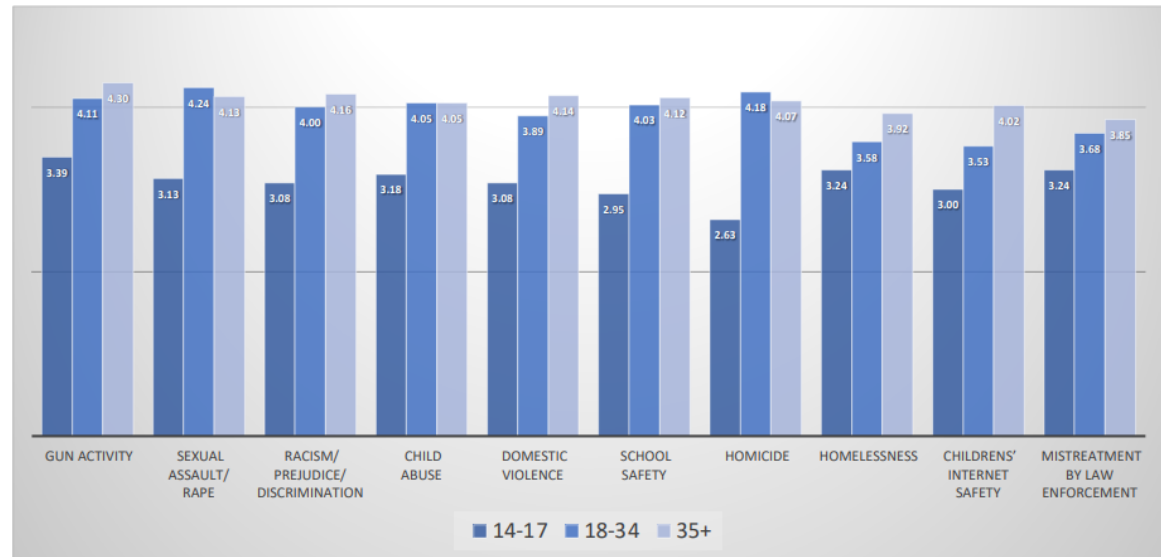
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PRIMARY CONCERNS

Top ten primary areas of concern: gun activity (#1), sexual assault and rape, racism and prejudice, child abuse, domestic violence, school safety, homicide, homelessness, children's internet safety, and mistreatment by law enforcement (#10). Areas of lowest concern: disorderly adults (#25), disorderly youths (i.e. cruising, gathering), prostitution, vandalism/graffiti, and noise violations (#29).

Younger respondents were less concerned about all areas surveyed and were much less concerned in the areas of children's internet safety, homicide, and child abuse. Fairly strong consistency in responses among those 18 years old and older. The largest gaps in responses regarding primary concerns between respondents 18-34 and 35+ was in terms of gang violence, drug abuse, and school safety, where, in all cases, respondents aged 35+ were significantly more concerned than respondents aged 18-34.



Primary areas of concern, by age
(5-point scale where 1 = "Not at all concerned" and 5 = "Extremely concerned")



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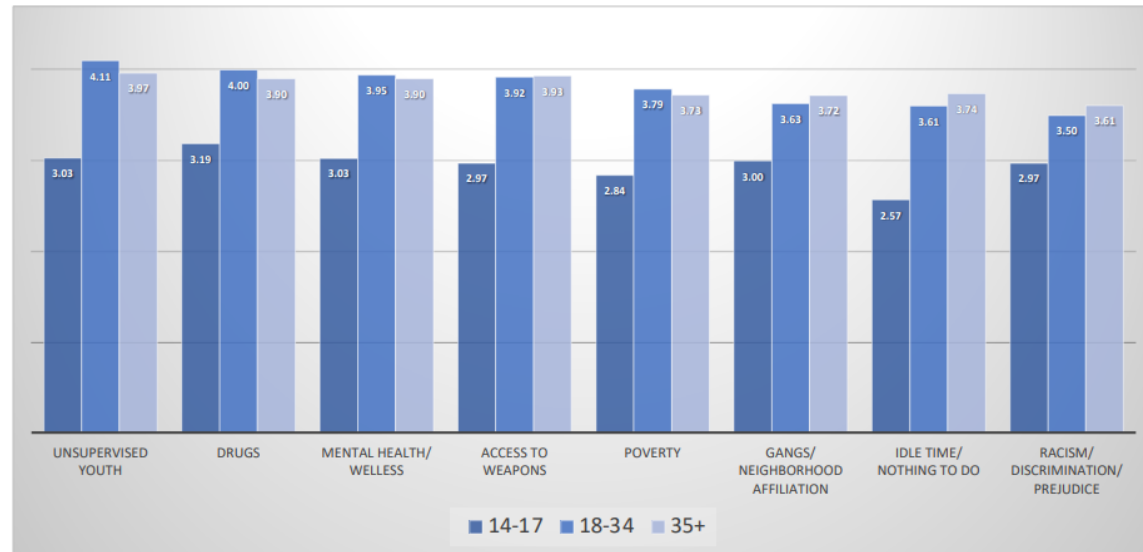
PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

All ages perceived unsupervised youth, drugs, and mental health/wellbeing to be the top three contributors to crime.

For respondents aged 14-17, gangs/neighborhood affiliations and racism, discrimination, and prejudice were also in their top five categories of underlying causes of crime.

Respondents aged 18-34 included weapons and poverty in their top five, whereas respondents aged 35+ saw weapons and idle time/nothing to do in their top five categories.

Younger respondents generally thought that all items contributed less to crime than older cohorts, especially in terms of attributing crime to unsupervised youth, access to weapons, and idle time.



Perception of primary contributors to crime in the community, by age
(5-point scale where 1 = "None at all" and 5 = "A great deal")



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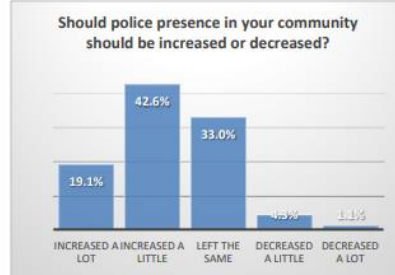
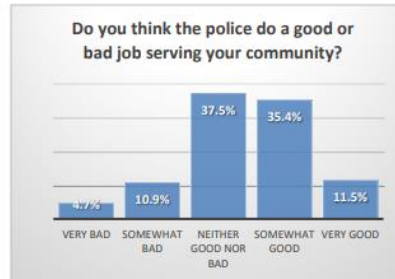
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POLICE & SAFETY

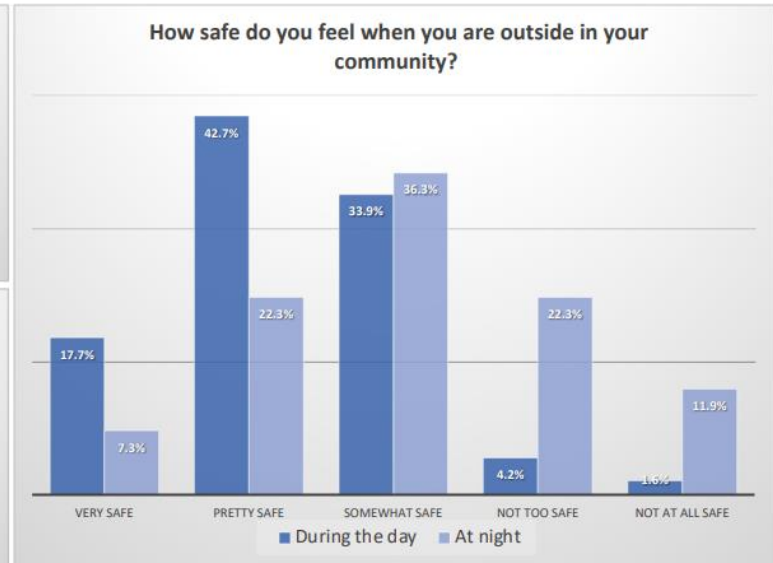
A plurality (46.9 percent) of respondents reported that the police do a “somewhat good” or “very good” job serving their communities, and an outright majority (61.7 percent) think that police presence in their communities should be increased.

Most respondents (>60 percent) feel “pretty safe” or “very safe” outside in their community during the **day**.

Over one third (34.2 percent) of respondents reported feeling “not too safe” or “not at all safe” outside within their community at **night**.



Perceptions of police in the community



Perceptions of daytime and nighttime safety in the community



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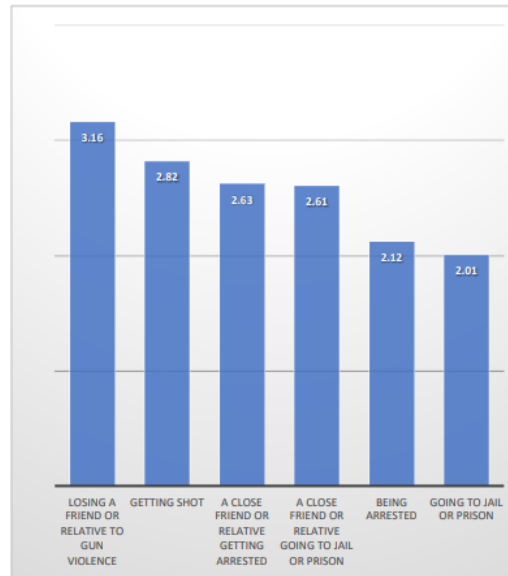
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POLICE & SAFETY

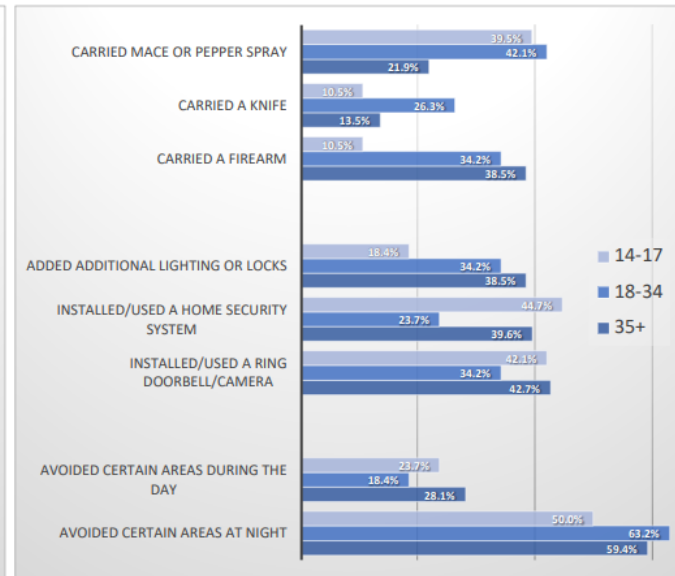
Respondents reported widespread concern about friends, and to a lesser degree themselves, being victims of gun violence, being arrested, and/or being imprisoned.

Respondents reported engaging in a variety of different activities and strategies, from avoiding certain areas at night to carrying a firearm.

Younger respondents were more likely to carry mace or pepper spray, and significantly less likely to report carrying a firearm than their older counterparts.



Relative level of worry/anxiety related to gun violence and incarceration (5-point scale where 1 = "Never" and 5 = "Almost always")



Activities and strategies that respondents reported engaging in due to concerns over crime in their communities

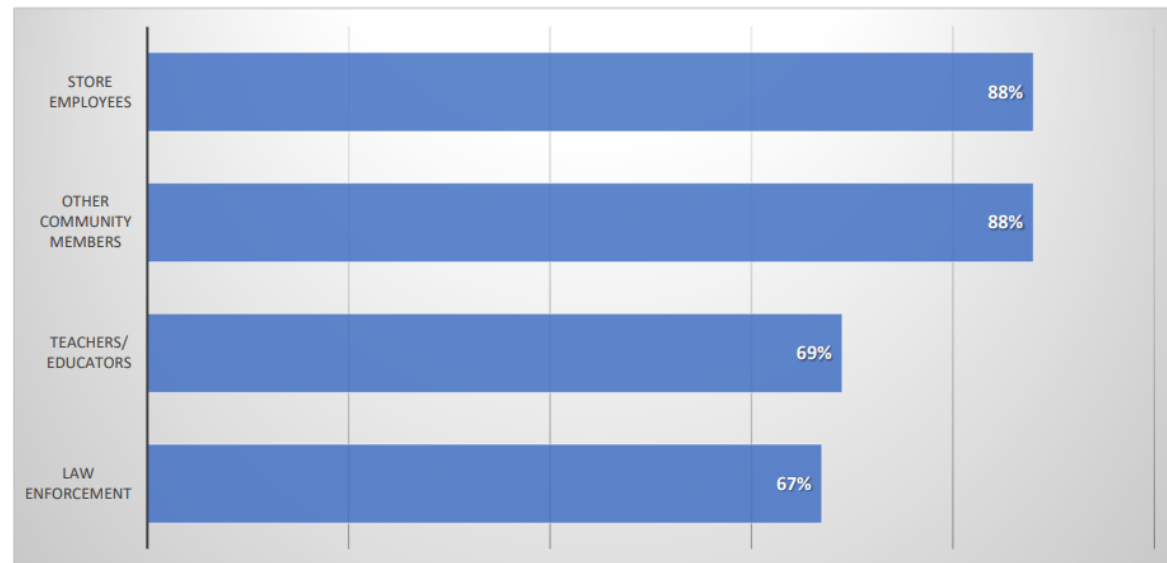


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RACIAL PREJUDICE & DISCRIMINATION

Respondents reported widespread experiences of racial prejudice and discrimination, especially in retail spaces, from community members, in school, and in interactions with law enforcement.



Percentage of respondents who reported experiencing racial prejudice or discrimination either "Sometimes (a few times per year)" or "Often (once per month or more)"



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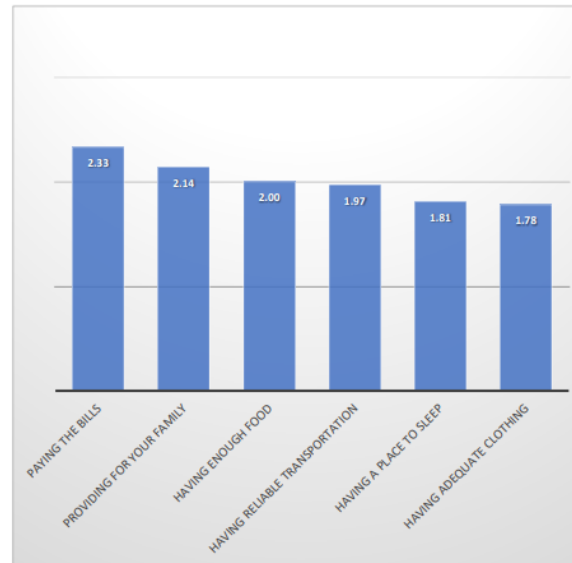
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ANXIETIES & MENTAL HEALTH

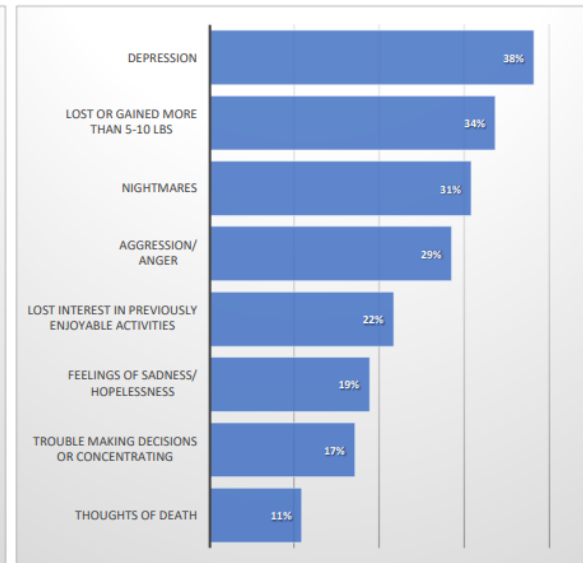
Respondents reported considerable socio-economic anxieties and mental health challenges

Notably, the overall level of socio-economic anxiety was substantially lower than the reported level of concern over gun violence and incarceration.

Respondents reported experiencing depression, weight gain/loss, nightmares, aggression/anger, losing interest in previously enjoyable activities, periodic feelings of sadness and/or hopelessness, difficulty making decisions and/or concentrating, and thoughts of death.



Relative level of worry/anxiety related to socio-economic stressors
(5-point scale where 1 = "Never" and 5 = "Almost always")



Percent of respondents who reported experiencing any of the following within the past six months



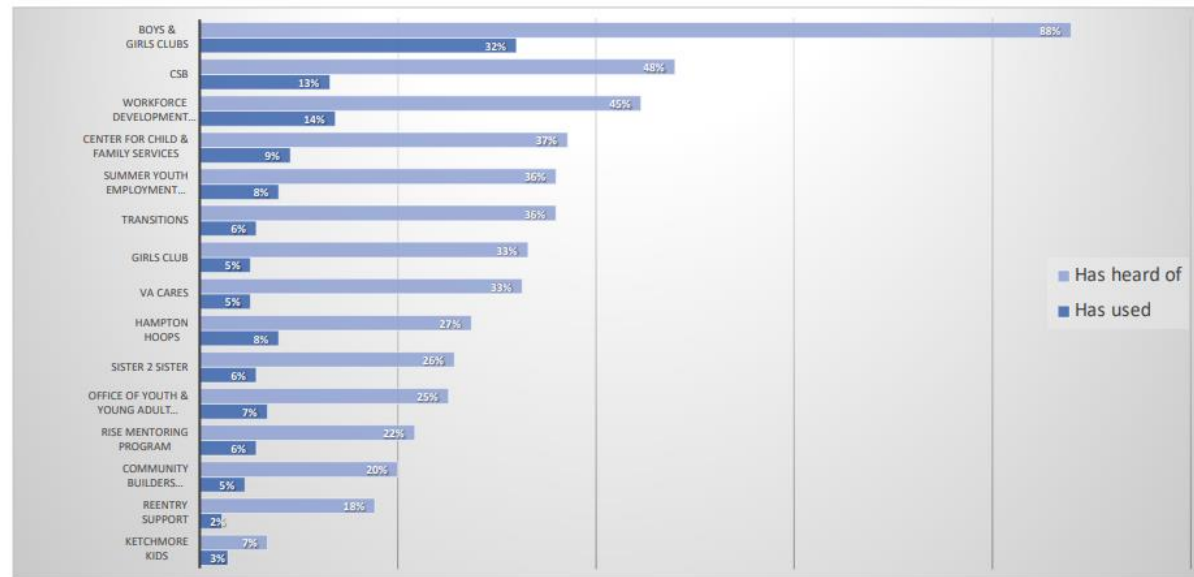
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Survey results displayed a considerable gap between knowing of, and actually using, many currently available community resources.

Less than one-third of participants had even heard of 7 of the 15 local organizations, much less utilized their resources. Only a quarter had heard of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities.



Percent of respondents who have heard of / used the following resources



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CONCLUSIONS & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Top concerns in the survey were gun activity, sexual assault and rape, and racism and prejudice; respondents also cited considerable mental health challenges and socio-economic anxieties.
- Unsupervised youth, drugs, and mental health/wellbeing seen as core contributors to crime. Key limitation: perceptions important, but any response must consider empirical literature of causal factors of crime and violence.
- Plurality indicate police do somewhat good or very good job; majority feel safe during day, though percentage drops at night. May carry mace, install security camera, and avoid locations to night.
- Overwhelming majority experience of racial prejudice or discrimination. Anti-racism should be built into framework of all policy change, considered when funding and evaluating programs.
- All ages concerned about being arrested/incarcerated. Research shows incarceration unable to address underlying issues (mental health, substance abuse); mass incarceration disproportionately impacts people of color.
- Differences across age likely shaped by everyday experiences. Younger respondents concerned about gangs and racism; older respondents concerned about poverty and weapons. One universal approach will not alleviate all concerns.
- Large gap between knowing of and using community resources. Partnerships with community leaders, schools, and organizations could help increase public awareness efforts and increase access to resources.
- Sample not representative of entire Hampton population and lacks generalizability. Some of city's most vulnerable residents, such as unhoused citizens, may not be represented.



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Laine Briddell, Ph.D. is Associate Director and co-founder of CCEJRP and a Senior Lecturer of Criminology at Christopher Newport University. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Pennsylvania State University. Her research expertise includes crime, law and justice; drugs and addiction; and quantitative research methodology.

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Roadmap Core Areas

- Community Building and Empowerment
- Education
- Out of School Time Activities
- Employment
- Public Health
- Mental Health
- Family Support
- Alternatives to Incarceration and Reentry Support
- Community Policing
- Policy



Opportunity Connect

Community Building and Empowerment

- Neighborhood building events or programs in targeted areas to increase participation in violence prevention activities (ideas for gatherings: bar-b-ques, block parties, karaoke party, outdoor movie, etc.)
- Community Building mediations, vigil or watches in response to events of trauma involving violence
- Clean and Green initiatives mitigating blighted properties



Opportunity Connect

Education

- Industry & Vocational Certifications (i.e. cosmetology, CDLS, construction, barbers)
- GED Courses
- Prevention Courses



Out of School Time Activities

- Sports activities & memberships
- Extracurricular activities (etc. piano, swimming, singing, painting, carpentry)
- Supportive Group services
- Mentorship



Opportunity Connect

Employment

Workforce readiness training (soft skills, resume building, interview training etc.)



Mental Health

- Case management
- Counseling/ Therapy
- Conflict Mediation

Family Support

- Parenting Sessions
- Family Assistance (not a long-term measure related to supportive services including burial, housing, relocation due to events of violence)



Opportunity Connect

Alternatives to Incarceration and Reentry

- Safe housing
- Adequate Food
- Clothing and Personal care
- Transportation & Communication
- Identification
- Psychiatric Care
- Alcohol or substance-abuse treatment & rehabilitation
- Mitigating barriers to employment



Grants



www.hampton.gov/youthopportunities

For a print application, contact Charone Dew
at charone.dew@hampton.gov



Questions

