

IMPROVING SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITY

2017 Chinatown-International District Public Safety Survey

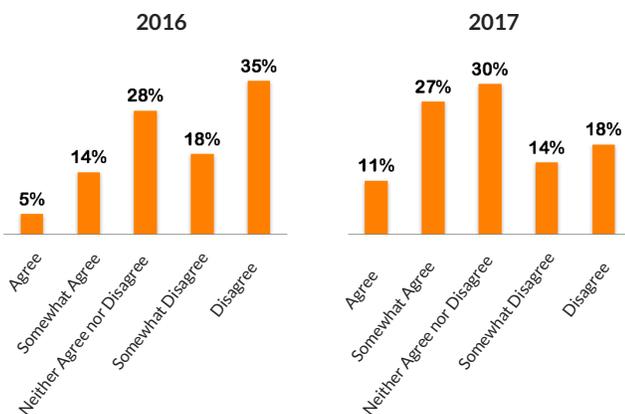
While perceptions of safety are improving, systemic barriers and conditions still exist.

Key Findings

+ Perceptions of neighborhood safety are improving

- 38% of respondents stated that they *agree* or *somewhat agree* that the neighborhood is safer than one year ago. This is up from 19% in the 2016 survey.
- 18% of respondents stated that they *disagree* that the neighborhood is safer than one year ago. This is down from 35% in the 2016 survey.

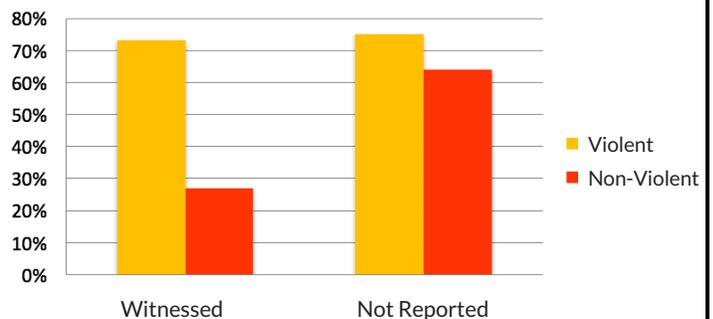
"Streets and public areas in the CID are safer than they were one-year ago"



- Many still do not report when they witness a crime

- 75% of those who witnessed a *non-violent* crime said they did not report it to the police. This is up from 72.9% in 2016. Respondents' top reasons for not reporting non-violent crimes in 2017 are: **they believed the police would not follow up, deemed the situation a non-emergency, and/or thought the police couldn't do anything.**
- 64% of those who witnessed *violent* crimes said they did not report it to the police. This is up from 59.5% in 2016. Respondents' top reasons for not reporting violent crimes in 2017 are: **they believed the police would not follow up, were afraid to get involved, and/or someone else already called the police.**

How Often Respondents Witness a Crime and Don't Report it to the SPD



+ Many say they trust the police - but trust varies based on English language proficiency

- 64% of respondents said they trust the police.
- However, when English language proficiency is taken into account, those who were *proficient* in English were 34.6% more likely than those who are *not proficient* to say they trust the police.

+ Perceptions of neighborhood cleanliness are improving

- 46% of respondents stated that they *agree* or *somewhat agree* that the streets and public areas are cleaner than they were a year ago. This is up from 30% in the 2016 survey.

- Majority of respondents experience stress or anxiety related to neighborhood safety

- Feeling unsafe in one's neighborhood can cause chronic stress and anxiety, which are linked to damaging long-term effects.*
- 68.4% of respondents indicated that it is *somewhat true* or *very true* that they experience stress or anxiety due to feeling unsafe in the CID. This is a similar percentage to 2016 (70%).

*STRESS AND HEALTH: Psychological, Behavioral, and Biological Determinants <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2568977/>

This work was conducted by InterIm CDA and SCIDpda with support from the City of Seattle and the BUILD Health Challenge.

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Recommendations

Continue to focus on efforts to support community / Seattle Police Department relations. Trust from the community is conditional. To ensure that safety is a priority for all CID community members, there needs to be **more education and engagement**. This includes **trainings for community members on how to use 911 and community meet-and-greets**.

Support health and social service providers currently in the neighborhood. These providers offer **culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services** to residents, employees, and community members of the CID who experience chronic stress and anxiety related to public safety issues in the neighborhood.

Continue to support street cleaning and coordination for sanitation contracts in the CID. Our neighborhood experiences excessive illegal dumping and littered streets. CID needs continued support for street cleaning and coordination around garbage, recycle, and compost pick-up.

Continue supporting efforts for community-gathered data collection and analysis. This not only includes leveraging data from the CID public safety survey to influence the City of Seattle's allocation of resources to the CID neighborhood, but also supports work between community and SPD on comparing community survey data to City crime statistics.

Continue to support trainings related to homelessness, education around mental health and chemical dependency in the CID. Mental health, chemical dependency, and homelessness issues contribute to perceptions of safety in the neighborhood. These trainings will educate community members and are intended to break down barriers and help them better understand these complex issues. This will shift perceptions of safety.

Background

The Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) in partnership with InterIm Community Development Association (InterIm CDA) developed a public safety survey to evaluate the community's perceptions of public safety, police-community relations, and various public safety interventions. The findings of this survey are intended to shed light on the state of public safety in the CID and to make targeted advocacy, programmatic, and policy recommendations to improve the safety, health, and livability of this historic neighborhood.

The CID public safety survey asked questions related to mental stress and anxiety to better understand the impact of public safety on health. The first survey took place in 2016.

InterIm CDA and SCIDpda conducted and analyzed this survey with funding from the City of Seattle and the BUILD Health Challenge, which supports bold, upstream, integrated, local, and data-driven community health interventions in low-income, urban neighborhoods, like the CID.

About the Survey

- Of the 423 respondents, 66% of residents identified as female and half reported English as their primary language, followed by 35% reporting Chinese as their primary language.
- 19.1% of respondents have limited English speaking skills and 11.8% are non English speakers.
- The greatest portion of the respondents were at least 55 years of age (40%).
- Most respondents claimed to be residents or employees of the neighborhood, with 39.1% of respondents reporting neighborhood affiliations exceeding 10 years.
- The survey was conducted in English, Chinese, and Vietnamese and was disseminated through SCIDpda, InterIm CDA, and other email and social media networks from February to March 2017.
- Business owners and residential building managers were also engaged to ensure that neighborhood workers and residents, especially those without access to internet and with limited English-speaking skills, could participate.

