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**An Overview of the Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative: A Developing Strategy that
Addresses the Open-Air Marijuana Market Located in the Conkey & Clifford**

Neighborhood

By

Pedro O. Vazquez Gonzalez

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

Of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Science

in

Criminal Justice

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Abstract

Because low-level marijuana possession is not illegal in New York State, the police have difficulty intervening and eliminating the open-air marijuana markets in the City of Rochester. Project HOPE, a non-profit organization, is trying to find another way to intervene in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood, and bring to an end the open-air marijuana market in that neighborhood. The object of this research is to identify the problems that are caused by the open-air marijuana market in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. I will also examine the process of project HOPE's new initiative that addresses the issues of the open-air marijuana market in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood.

To conduct this study I used multiple methods to examine the context of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood and its response. These efforts included a dashboard camera used to gauge the overall outdoor in the neighborhood. Surveys of residents captured perceptions of their neighborhood its residents and activities in a park on Conkey and Clifford. Additionally, I examined official police data in the form of calls for service in the area the number of marijuana arrests. These data sources yielded comparisons to other areas in Rochester that did not have persistent open air marijuana markets and allowed for an exploration of the consequences that resulted from its presence.

Project HOPE is coordinating an initiative that is targeted at resolving the issues associated with the open-air market, as well as rebuilding the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. I conducted interviews with the key participants of the project throughout my research and participated in meetings, outreach, and focus groups organized by project HOPE. This portion of the research was conducted to examine the strategic development of the initiative and suggest ideas for its future evaluation.

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Introduction

This thesis examines the growing issue of open-air marijuana markets. The Conkey Avenue and Clifford Avenue neighborhood, an urban area in Rochester, NY, has been a hot-spot for marijuana sale for decades. Project HOPE (Healthy Outcomes through Participation, Education, and Empowerment), a non-profit organization, has launched a new strategy that is targeted at resolving the issue of low-level drug sales in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. For this project, there will be two focus areas: The notion of the open-air marijuana market problem in the neighborhood and the process of project HOPE's new develop strategy. From this come two questions:

1. What are the issues surrounding the open-air marijuana market in the Conkey and Clifford area?
2. What is the process of developing a solution that is targeted at resolving the issue of low-level marijuana sales in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood?

Overall, this project is not conducting an evaluation of the new strategy, but rather aims to understand the impact that an open-air drug market can have on a neighborhood and what a non-profit organization has begun to do about the issue.

Open-air drug markets represent the lowest level of the drug distribution network and operate in geographically well-defined areas at identifiable times so buyers and sellers can locate one another (Harocopos & Hough, 2005). Low-level drug dealers thrive where they do not conflict with legitimate businesses but rather support and are supported by certain elements of their environment (Charron, Whitcomb, & Ross, 2004, pg. 3). According to Charron, Whitcomb, & Ross (2004), dimly lit parking lots, alleys, abandoned buildings, bars, and roads that allow drivers to slow down or stop are some of the elements of the environment that support low-level drug dealers. Open-air drug markets are located almost entirely in poor minority neighborhoods (Kennedy & Wong, 2009, pg. 2). Open-air drug markets are the scourge of too

many communities in the United States (Kennedy & Wong, 2009). Kennedy and Wong (2009) expressed that these markets “destroy neighborhoods, demolish the sense of community, contribute to crime, shootings, and prostitution and have a negative effect on local businesses and residential property values” (pg.1).

Police officers face a considerable challenge when dealing with open-air drug markets; simply arresting market participants will have little or no impact in reducing the size of the market or the amount of drugs consumed by buyers (Harocopos& Hough, 2005). This is exclusively true of low-level drug markets where if one dealer is arrested, there are, most likely, several others to take their place (Harocopos& Hough, 2005). Not only are open-air drug markets a challenge for the police, but they are also problematic for residents who live within neighborhoods where the market is operating. These markets generate and contribute to a wide range of social disorder and drug-related crime in the surrounding neighborhood, which can affect the quality of life in the neighborhood (Harocopos& Hough, 2005). Residents may feel a diminished sense of public safety as drug-related activity becomes more blatant, and evidence has shown that communal areas such as parks are often taken over by drug dealers and their customers, rendering them unusable to the local population (Harocopos& Hough, 2005).

Open-air drug markets are often located in inner city or urban areas (Harocopos& Hough, 2005). According to Harocopos& Hough (2005), there are four geographical features common to open-air drug markets. First, they are likely to be located in economically depressed neighborhoods; secondly, dealers will sell from static sites so customers know where to find them; thirdly, the market will probably be located around a transport hub, or along a main route to allow buyers easy access; and finally, markets that have a reputation for selling drugs can grow large in size (pg.3). The location of an open-air drug market can also be influenced by

situational factors (Harocopos& Hough, 2005). According to experts in the field, poor street lighting, street layout, environment structures, and road systems and parking are some of the different ways the environment can contribute to the open-air drug markets.

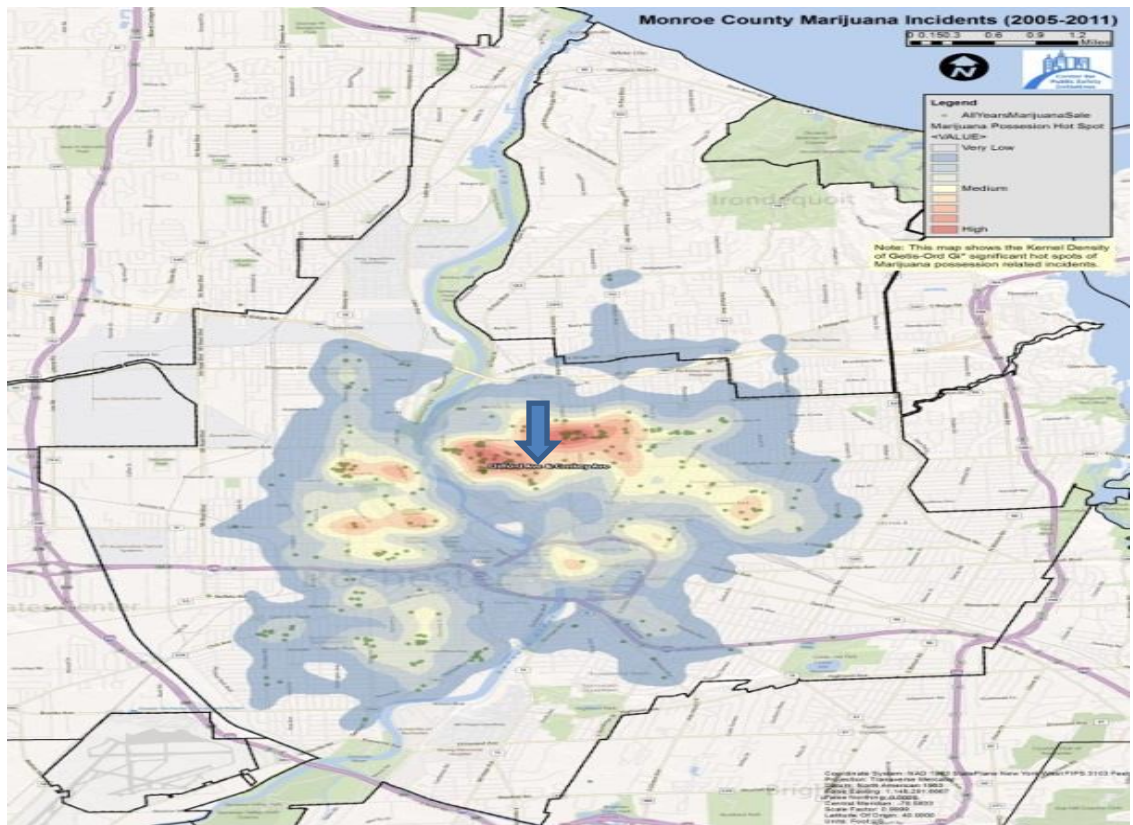
These markets are operated by groups with clear hierarchies and well-defined job functions (Harocopos& Hough, 2005, pg3). Selling drugs provides those who are socially excluded and unemployed with a means of earning money It does not require education or training and presents relatively low legal risk (Harocopos& Hough, 2005, pg3). At times, drug dealers will attempt to buy the cooperation of local residents or even employ other residents from the community, which includes, steerers who refer customers, touts who find customers, and middle-men who transport money and drugs between buyers and seller (Harocopos& Hough, 2005, pg3).

Rochester, New York & Conkey and Clifford Avenue

Rochester, NY is a city in Monroe County, NY located south of Lake Ontario. The City of Rochester covers roughly 37.1 square miles. The City of Rochester is the third largest city in New York State with a population of 210,532 according to the 2012 U.S Census. In terms of demographics, 43.7% of Rochester, NY residents are white, 41.7 % are African American, 3.1% are Asian, and 16.4 % are Hispanic or Latino, the median household income is \$30, 367, and overall 78.5 % of City of Rochester residents have graduated from high school.

In 2013 Rochester, NY was identified as “the murder capital of NY State,” due to the high numbers of murders that occurred in the city per capita. According to the F.B.I’s 2012 Uniform Crime Reporting Data (UCR), there was a total of 2,069 violent crimes and a total of 11, 283 property crimes in the City of Rochester. The following map shows the geographic distribution of marijuana-related incidents in the City of Rochester. The map shows that there

are several concentrations involving marijuana in the City of Rochester. It also indicates a very strong concentration of involvement with marijuana in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood (the arrow on the map points at the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood). For this project, we are focusing on the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood of Rochester, NY because it has been known to be a hot-spot for marijuana sale for decades, and it is the focus of the Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative.



Since 1986, the Ibero-American Development Corporation (IADC), a community development organization in Rochester, NY, has constructed and managed housing, working to strengthen urban neighborhoods in the north eastside of the City of Rochester. In 2008, the IADC launched Project HOPE, which is focused on the social, physical, and economic factors impacting the neighborhoods, including the health of the residents in impoverished city

neighborhoods. Project HOPE is a program designed to empower families in the community through advocacy, education, and support. In 2012 Project H.O.P.E conducted a “Voice of the Community Survey” of 268 residents to examine a wide range of issues related to the quality of life in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood. Project HOPE found that the primary quality of life issue identified by Conkey and Clifford Avenue residents was the drug issue. Residents have identified this as a marijuana market issue and feel that it is a major contributor to high stress, lack of physical activity in the area, and poorer health for residents in the neighborhood.

Once the issue of open-air marijuana markets was identified, the project recognized that it would have to take a different approach to reclaim the neighborhoods back from the drug dealers. Project HOPE began to explore alternatives to the criminal justice system that would be effective in interrupting the open-air marijuana market. After deliberating with the Monroe County District Attorney, the Center for Public Safety Initiatives, and reviews of crime prevention literature, the project produced two promising civil approaches. Project HOPE launched the Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative (RDFSIS) to give residents a tool to regain control of their neighborhood and their public spaces. The intervention, which is known as INSPIRE, is being run by RDFSIS staff, local community partners, and community members.

This new strategy uses a two-tiered approach to deal with the open-air marijuana market. First is the Restorative Practices Strategy: working with PiRI (Partners in Restorative Initiatives), neighborhood residents, and other community providers. RDFSIS created what is being known as “Restorative Community Circles.” Here people who are currently selling marijuana on the street can transition into productive community members. This process creates a safe space for people selling marijuana. Residents who live in the neighborhood are able to talk about how drug sales

are affecting them and their families. The second strategy involves a stay-away order. RDFS I staff knows that not all dealers will be receptive to the restorative community circle process, but residents still need to be protected from those who continue to sell marijuana in their neighborhoods. The order aims to interrupt the sale of marijuana by exiling the dealers from their market.

For the purpose of this study the open-air marijuana market is defined as a location in an outdoor area with easy access in and out of the location for the sole purpose of purchasing marijuana. This project is focusing on the problem of the marijuana market in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood and the methods presented to solve the issue of the open-air marijuana market problem.

Chapter 1 of this paper will address literature regarding the changing legal status of marijuana, issues related to policing and public space, and enforcement and intervention for dealing with open-air drug markets. It will also address research techniques, a literature review on the use of restorative practices, the violence in and around drug markets, and media portrayals of issues relating to marijuana.

Chapter 2 of this paper will address theories and public policy regarding the issue of marijuana. Routine Activity theory provides us with the knowledge about the drug market setting and Crime Pattern theory explains why crime, like selling marijuana, are committed in certain areas and why drug dealing is not a random act, but an act that is either planned or opportunistic. This chapter also addresses the effects that public policy has on open-air drug markets.

Chapter 3 re-introduces the Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative and provides a full description of the new initiative. Further, this chapter also addresses the framework of the project and some of the changes the project has faced since it was launched.

Methodology used for this project is described in Chapter 4. This chapter will discuss the surveys that were conducted in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood, Project TIPS surveys, and the resident surveys. Further, the chapter also discusses the interviews with the key stakeholders of the project. The chapter also addresses the use of the call for service data, marijuana arrest data, observations of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood, observations of three parks, which include the park located on the corner of Conkey and Clifford, and focus group participation of residents and former drug dealers. Finally, information on the method used, participants, and sampling for the interviews and surveys will be described.

Next the findings from the data collected will be discussed in chapter 5. Each finding will be divided into its own section. The type of analysis used will also be discussed. The last section will include a discussion and conclusion further analyzing the findings obtained in the study. A discussion on the pros and cons of the initiative will be highlighted in this section, as well as the challenges faced by the RDFSI staff and policy implications. The section also looks at what we have learned from a comprehensive examination of an open-air drug market and its community impact, furthermore, explaining how a neighborhood developed an iterative solution to the problem of open-air drug markets. Lastly, a recommendation for a future evaluation of the new initiative will be discussed.

Chapter One: Literature Review

1.1 Changing Legal Status of Marijuana

Since 2012 the legal status of marijuana has become a frontline issue in the United States. The purpose of this paper is to describe the current legal status of marijuana across the U.S. New York State is one of the state's that has just passed legislation to legalize "Medical Marijuana". This will be discussed in more detail later in the paper. Not only have some states legalized medical marijuana, but the sale and consumption of marijuana as a recreational drug has also become a significant policy issue in the U.S.

In 1996, California became the first state that allowed the medical use of marijuana. In 2012 there were 16 states and the District of Columbia has passed legislation allowing the use and distribution of medical marijuana. Since then, three more states have enacted similar laws bringing the total number to 21 states and the District of Columbia. States with medical marijuana laws generally have some form of patient registry and provide protection from arrest for possession of up to a certain amount of marijuana for medical use (Ellick, 2013, pg.6). Washington and Colorado are the only two states that have legalized the production, sale and consumption of marijuana as a recreational drug.

Marijuana Related Issues & Legalization:

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (www.whitehouse.gov), marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States, with nearly 17 million Americans ages 12 and older reporting past-month use, and 314,000 people entering an emergency room annually with a primary marijuana problem. Listed below is a list of why marijuana can become harmful to the human body (www.whitehouse.gov).

- Marijuana use is associated with dependence, respiratory and mental illness, poor motor performance, and impaired cognitive and immune system functioning, among other negative effects.

- Marijuana intoxication can cause distorted perceptions, difficulty in thinking and problem solving, and problems with learning and memory.
- Studies have shown an association between chronic marijuana use and increased rates of anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and schizophrenia.
- Other research has shown marijuana smoke to contain carcinogens and to be an irritant to the lungs. Marijuana smoke, in fact, contains 50-70 percent more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than does tobacco smoke.

Another area of concern is that the legalization of marijuana can lead to an increase in crime and thus increase the need for criminal justice resources (Austin, 2013). According to Austin (2013), there is little evidence of a direct link between marijuana use and criminal behavior. Some researchers have also stated that marijuana itself is least likely to generate criminal activities and that there are many other factors that are associated with criminality.

Listed below are some factors that contribute to the legalization of marijuana

(www.whitehouse.gov):

- Illegality helps keep prices higher. And because drug use is sensitive to price, especially among young people, higher prices help keep use rates relatively low.
- Use of the legal substances alcohol and tobacco far outpaces the use of marijuana, a strong indication that laws reduce the availability and acceptability of substances.
- Marijuana accounts for only a portion of the proceeds gained by criminal organizations that profit from drug distribution, human trafficking, and other crimes, so legalizing marijuana would not deter these groups from continuing to operate.
- Under the most commonly proposed legalization regime – one that imposes high taxes on marijuana – violent drug cartels would simply undercut legal prices to keep their market share. With increased demand for marijuana resulting from legalization, these groups would likely grow stronger.

Even though there is little evidence of a direct link between marijuana use and criminal behavior, there are still a number of people arrested for marijuana possession and sale. In

1970 there was an estimated 188,682 arrests for marijuana and by 2003 the number increased to 755,000 (www.norml.org). Overall, it has been indicated that marijuana is the third most popular recreational drug in America and is far less dangerous than alcohol or tobacco.

State versus Federal Law:

State Activity: Currently states with medical marijuana laws generally have some form of patient registry, which may provide some protection against arrest for possession of the drug (www.ncsl.org). In each state other than Maryland, a doctor's recommendation or certification is required for a patient to qualify and the physician must certify that the patient has a serious medical condition. The state's laws generally include cancer, AIDS, and multiple sclerosis as qualifying conditions (www.mpp.org). The laws also protect physicians who make the recommendations, and all but Maryland's laws include designated caregivers who may assist one or more patient. Most laws specify that they do not allow marijuana to be smoked in public or possessed in correctional facilities. According to the Marijuana Policy Project, the laws also generally specify that employers do not have to allow on-site marijuana use. In most jurisdictions the patients are required to send an application, a fee, and the physician's certification in to a state or county department to receive an ID.

Federal Activity: Marijuana is still classified as a schedule I controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I substances are considered to have a high potential for dependency and no accepted medical use, making distribution of marijuana a federal offense (www.ncsl.org). Under federal law there is no such thing as medical marijuana, because of its high potential for abuse. In October 2009, the Obama Administration sent a memorandum advising federal prosecutors that it is not an efficient use of resources to prosecute individuals who use marijuana for medical purposes in accordance with state laws

(Ellick, 2013, pg.6). in June 2011, the Obama Administration sent another memorandum advising that, while this view of the efficient use of resources had not changed, persons who are in the business of cultivating, selling, or distributing marijuana, and knowingly facilitate such activities are in violation of federal law (Ellick, 20013, pg.6).

21 Legal Medical Marijuana States and DC:

The following is a list of the states that have passed and legalized medical marijuana as of June 2013. The list provides key information about medical marijuana laws, year it was passed, and the possession limits.

State	Year Passed	In Favor Votes & Bill	Possession Limit of Marijuana for Patients
1.Alaska	1998	58% (Ballot Measure #8)	1 oz. usable; 6 plants
2.Arizona	2010	50.13% (Proposition 203)	2.5 ounces usable; 0-12 plants
3.California	1996	56%(Proposition 215)	8 ounces usable; 6 mature or 12 immature plants
4.Colorado	2000	54% (Ballot Amendment 20)	2 ounces usable; 6 plants (3 mature, 3 immature)
5.Connecticut	2012	House 96-51, Senate 21-13 (House Bill 5389)	One-month supply
6.District of Columbia	2011	13-0 (Amendment Act B18-622)	2 ounces of dried marijuana; other forms of drugs are still pending
7.Delaware	2011	27-14 House, 17-4 Senate (Senate Bill 17)	6 ounces usable
8.Hawaii	2000	32-18 House, 13-12 Senate (Senate Bill 862)	3 ounces usable; 7 plants (3 mature, 4 immature)
9. Illinois	2013	House Bill 1(61-57 House, 35-21 Senate)	2.5 ounces of usable cannabis during a period of 14 days
10.Maine	1999	61% (Ballot Question 2)	2.5 ounces usable; 6 plants
11. Maryland	2014	House Bill 881 (125-11 House, 44-2 Senate)	30-day supply, amount to be determined
12.Massachusetts	2012	63% (Ballot Question 3)	Sixty day supply for personal medical use
13.Michigan	2008	63% (Proposal 1)	2.5 ounces usable; 12 plants
14.Montana	2004	62% (Initiative 148)	1 ounces usable; 4 plants (mature); 12 seedlings
15.Nevada	2000	65% (Ballot Question 9)	1 ounces usable; 7 plants (3 mature, 4 immature)
16. New Hampshire	2013	House Bill 573 (284-66 House, 18-6)	Two ounces of usable cannabis during a 10

Additional States

New York State Assembly approves medical marijuana legislation, which allows for the therapeutic use of marijuana by qualified patients. The Assembly Bill Compassionate Care Act 6357 was approved by a vote of 95-38 by members of the New York State Assembly. Now the Senate members are expected to vote on the Senate Bill 4406, which can make New York State the 20th state with medical marijuana laws. Even with the approval of the Compassionate Care Act Bill 6357 medical marijuana is still illegal in New York State. However, in 2014 Gov. Cuomo is bypassing the legislature and is taking executive action to revise a 1980 law allowing the use of marijuana for research (Adler, 2014). The medical marijuana bill proposed by governor Cuomo consists of a pilot program that will allow 20 hospitals to dispense marijuana to patients under state Department of Health regulations (www.FoxNews.com, 2014).

The following is a list of states that are pending legislation or ballot measures to legalize medical marijuana (<http://medicalmarijuana.procon.org>). According to procon.org, this is a helpful resource that frequently updates information on medical marijuana legislation. The following is a list of states that are pending medical legislation (<http://medicalmarijuana.procon.org>)

Pending States

1. Florida
2. Minnesota
3. Missouri
4. New York
5. Ohio
6. Pennsylvania

Some of the states that have failed legislation have proposed new legislation, therefore they are represented in both lists.

States with Recreational Marijuana Legalization

Colorado and Washington are the only two states that have legalized recreational marijuana, since the 2012 November election. Both states have also passed medical marijuana laws.

Colorado

Colorado voters passed Amendment 64 last November, which makes the limited sale, possession and growing of marijuana for recreational purposes legal for adults 21 and over. According to Amendment 64, adults can possess up to an ounce of marijuana; grow up to 6 marijuana plants and can be used only for personal use and cannot be sold; adults are also allowed to give as a gift to another adult up to an ounce of marijuana. In addition, Colorado lawmakers passed two bills to implement recreational marijuana legalization. House Bill 1317, which proposes the regulatory framework for legal marijuana, passed the Senate on a 29-6 vote and the House on a 37-28 vote. House Bill 1318, which proposes the tax rates which will fund the regulatory framework for legal marijuana sales, passed the Senate on a 25-10 vote and the House on a 37-28 vote. This bill will ultimately need Colorado voter approval (HB 1318). However, The HB 1318 also known as the Proposition AA, was voted on by the people of Colorado in November of 2013, with a vote of 65.27% resulting in yes and 34.73% no. In the beginning of 2014, the bill imposed two different taxes on the sale of recreational marijuana. First, there a 15% excise tax on all recreational marijuana sales in the state of Colorado. The second, there is a 10% sales tax, which is an addition to Colorado's standard 2.9% state sale tax. Colorado's governor has also signed House Bill 1318 in to law in 2013. House Bill 1318 creates

the regulatory framework for legal marijuana, outlining what business activities are permissible as well as processes for licensing, monitoring, and free collection.

Washington

Washington Initiative 502 was approved by voters in the 2012 November election, with a vote of 55.7% resulting in yes and 44.3% no. This legalization allows the production, possession, delivery and distribution of marijuana. Like Colorado, Washington regulates the sale of marijuana to people 21 and older. Under this legalization farm and food processors would be licensed by the Washington State Liquor Control Board. There is also a 25% sales tax, with a 40% of the new revenues going to the state general fund and local budget. State-law criminal and civil penalties are removed for activities that are authorized under this legalization. The state is also looking into establishing a new standard for marijuana DUI.

After the legalization of recreational marijuana use in Colorado and Washington other states are now considering legislation that would legalize marijuana this year. There are 16 states that are looking to legalize and tax recreational marijuana use for adults 21 and older; Rhode Island, Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, Nevada, Maine, Montana, Oregon, Washington, D.C., New York, and Pennsylvania. Each state will have a different process being it's voted by the public or goes to state legislators.

New York State Health Committee and Senator Introduces Bill

In December of 2013, New York Assembly Health Committee Chairman Gottfried and State Senator Liz Krueger introduce legislation to legalize the possession, cultivation, and retail sale of marijuana (Altieri, 2013). The proposed Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act would legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana under state law along lines similar to the state's current system regulating alcohol, and would represent a new approach for New York State after decades

of costly, counterproductive policies that have produced racially discriminatory outcomes (Goldston, 2013).

1.2 Issues Related to Policing in Public Space

Background & Policy

The term “public space” refers to places that are generally open and accessible to people in the public. Police face numerous challenges when policing in public spaces. Furthermore, police interaction with members of the public can result in both verbal and physical conflict, which depends on the reasons police are needed in the first place. For the purpose of this paper, a review of the issues police face when policing public urban parks and playgrounds, open-air drug markets, disorderly youth in public places, street prostitution will be touched upon. Disorder in public space has been and remains issue.

Historically, control of public spaces and in particular the maintenance of order in the street has been a central concern of all police forces, yet the maintenance of police presence in public spaces such as on streets continues to be a key strategy of urban policing (Fyfe, 1995). The “broken windows” theory of policing argues that neighborhoods that fail to fix broken windows or address other manifestations of disorder display a lack of informal social control and are inviting serious criminals into the neighborhood (Beckett & Herbert, 2008). Yet one implementation of broken windows policing –such as enforcing vagrancy and loitering laws in disorderly neighborhood- has been hampered by a series of Supreme Court decisions that invalidated such local statutes (Beckett & Herbert, 2008). Thus, the Supreme Court ruled that penalizing people for behaviors over which they had no control was unconstitutional (Beckett & Herbert, 2008). It has been argued by some, that the Supreme Court decisions intensify problems of neighborhood crime and decay and prevent police from fulfilling their traditional order maintenance role in society (Beckett & Herbert, 2008).

Policing & Public Space Issues

Parks and playgrounds are difficult for police to patrol, because they cannot be locked as easily or have alarm systems installed like buildings (Hiborn, 2009). Also, some parks and playgrounds with more naturalistic features (i.e. trees, shrubs, etc.), inhibit surveillance, and that surveillance is unlikely to be able to cover the whole park anyway (Hiborn, 2009), which still make it problematic for police to patrol.

Urban parks and playgrounds, which are often located in areas where crimes and violence are high, are also particularly difficult for police to patrol. Often, the police do not have accurate data on exactly what crime and disorder is occurring in the urban park or playgrounds (Hiborn, 2009). Also, compared with streets and buildings in urban areas, it is difficult to define the boundaries of some urban parks and playgrounds (Hilborn, 2009).

Even with the criminal acts that occur in urban parks and playgrounds, law-enforcement does not generally consider it a priority until it is seen as a crisis residents in that neighborhood. There is usually a response from law-enforcement when problems in a park or playground gotten so bad that the public demanded a noticeable police response (Hilborn, 2009). However, it is often difficult for police to enforce laws in public spaces unless there is very clear evidence of a specific crime; people have a right to be in public spaces, even if they appear suspicious. Often, the enforcement that they can provide in a given circumstance only momentarily disrupts the activities at the public space, as even the sanctions for low-level violations such as loitering do little to stop the activity.

Youth in Public Spaces

For the police, however, the presence of youth and, in particular, male youth, out on the street is commonly taken as a sign of potential trouble (Fyfe, 1995). Now, not only are the

presence of male youth on the street a sign of potential trouble, but the sign of female youth, students, dealers, and homeless individuals are seen as potential trouble by police who are patrolling urban streets. Disorderly youth in public spaces constitute one of the most common problems most police agencies must handle (Scott, 2001). Some of the youth related problems and disorder police face in place spaces are, graffiti, open-air drug dealing, loud car stereos, panhandling, shoplifting, truancy, and numerous other related problems. Police officers must balance youth' rights against complainants' rights, distinguish legitimate from illegitimate complaints, and at times be firm and be flexible with young people, and remain sensitive to how the public will perceive the action of the police(Scott, 2001).

Drug Markets in Public Spaces

Open-air drug markets have been a difficult issue for law- enforcement. These markets by definition operate out in public spaces. Dealing with open-air drug markets presents a considerable challenge for the law- enforcement (Harocpos& Hough, 2005, pg.8). Arresting market participants' does little to nothing to reduce the open-air market, according to police officers who deal with such markets (Harocpos& Hough, 2005, pg. 8). Loitering is another issue police face when dealing with drug dealers in public spaces. Dealers are usually hanging out on the streets and at times use public areas for extended periods of time without a specific purpose other than, to sell drugs.

Prostitution in Public Spaces

Police also address the problem of street prostitution, which also occurs in public spaces. Prostitution is the practice of engaging in sexual relations, in exchange for money, but the problem goes further. Wherever there are prostitutes, there are also their clients, drugs, sex in public places, and the possibility of organized crime, murders, pimps, and many other related

potential problems (Scott & Dedel, 2006, pg. 1). Street prostitution markets are more prevalent in run-down neighborhoods. Those that are populated heavily by unattached males are more vulnerable to street prostitution than those with a lot of women, families, or elderly residents; because the likelihood of vocal community opposition is lower (Scott & Dedel, 2006, pg. 11). Neighborhood redevelopment and gentrification frequently prompt strong community opposition to street prostitution, and clearly drives much of the pressure on the police to control the issue.

One of the challenges police face with street prostitution is that many of the prostitutes who have been out on the street for an extended number of years have regular clients whom they know and deal with frequently, which can make it difficult for undercover officers trying to target prostitutes in public spaces (Marshall, 2013).

Street prostitution and open-air drug markets are closely linked; they support and reinforce each other. Most street prostitutes use drugs and most of the prostitutes' clients use drugs as well, giving drug dealers a higher number of clientele. This also benefits street prostitutes, as primarily drug market clients can also start to become clients of prostitutes.

Most disorderly or criminal acts that occur in public spaces are considered a nuisance to the public; they cause inconvenience to community residents. Police face many challenges when dealing with criminal and disorderly acts in public spaces, because of the lack of structure in public spaces and polices' inability to remove people from public spaces under most circumstances. Often, police are not able to maintain order and security in public spaces without the assistance of community residents, law makers, and community organizations.

Neighborhoods must often think creatively about how to decrease crime and increase order in their public spaces. To effectively do this, the role of law enforcement and their true ability to

police (i.e. provide a presence, arrest individual, etc.) in public spaces must be clearly communicated and understood by the community.

1.3 Drug Market Interventions and Police Strategies

Open-air Marijuana markets contribute to the disorder and quality of life in inter-city neighborhoods. According to experts in the field, drug markets result in higher levels of the neighborhood signs of disorder, crime, and fear of crime (McGarrell, Corsaro, & Brunson, 2012, pg. 398). These open-air drug markets also have a negative effect on local businesses and on business and residential property values (Kennedy & Wong, 2009, pg. 3). According to Kennedy and Wong (2009), police sweeps, buy-bust operations, warrant services, and the arrests and jailing of drug dealers have not eliminated the problem (pg.3). Since these strategies do not eliminate the problem, drug dealers return back to the market or new dealers come into the market in their place, and the drug markets are quickly back in business (Kennedy & Wong, 2009, pg. 3).

The present study looks at what police departments and community agencies other interventions are doing to deal with the issues surrounding open-air drug markets in one neighborhood. I will start by looking at the strategies that have been use by police departments and then move on to the strategies that are being used by interventions.

Police Department Strategies

Police department's strategies used to include two principal components (1) reactive and (2) proactive. Reactive police work was characteristically described as being unfocused and involving patrol officers responding to call for services, and Proactive police work was characteristically referred to self-initiated activities during uncommitted patrol time (Soole&Rombouts, 2006, pg. 410). The standard model of policing involves unfocused

strategies, relying typically on traditional law enforcement practices and including tactics such as rapid response to calls for services, routine patrol throughout a community or increasing the number of police officers across a jurisdiction (Soole & Rombouts, 2006, pg. 411). These components ended up changing over time, now the police departments shifted to new approaches to law enforcement, which includes hotspots policing, community policing model, and problem-oriented police. Following is a description of these strategies:

Hotspots Policing:

Like the standard model hotspots policing strategies rely upon law enforcement techniques. The hotspot policing strategy uses computer technology to distribute and illustrate statistical trends in criminal data. Law enforcement agencies use maps visualize and study crime patterns within an area in a neighborhood. The hotspot policing strategy was used in Jersey City. According to Crime Solutions website (www.crimesolutions.gov), the strategy was developed to reduce drug-related activities in numerous identified hotspots around Jersey City. These street level drugs markets can be identified by the use of computer mapping of existing police records, emergency narcotic-related calls for services, and local officer intelligence (www.crimesolutions.gov).

Community Policing Model:

This strategy is based upon partnerships between the law enforcement agency, community members, and organizations. It serves to develop solutions to problems in the community and to increase the trust in police. This strategy was used in the High Point Drug Market Intervention, which I will define later in the paper.

Problem-Oriented Policing:

Like community policing, this strategy is based on the community and the police working together to analyse community problems. The strategy focuses on problems in area rather than the calls for services or incidents and requires police to proactively develop responses to crime and disorder problems based on a careful analysis of the factors (Weisburd, Telep, Hinkle, & Eck, 2009, pg.1). There is a consistent and growing body of empirical support for the effectiveness of problem-oriented policing approaches in reducing crime, disorder and fear (Soole, & Rombouts, 2006, pg.412). This strategy was used by the Rockford Police Department with their pulling levers strategy.

Besides the above approaches police departments still utilized other strategies that deal with open-air drug markets. Street-level drug law enforcement officers used the hot-spots approach to acquire other ways on how to deal with the issues of open-air drug markets. These policing approaches include crackdowns, raids, undercover operations, directed patrols on drug hot-spots, and drug-free zones.

Crackdowns are defined as “abrupt escalations in law enforcement activities that are intended to increase the perceived or actual threat of apprehension for certain offenses occurring in certain situations or locations” (Mazerolle, Soole, & Rombouts, 2007, pg.12).

Characteristically, police crackdowns aim to reduce drug supply by arresting dealers and disrupting open-air drug markets activity, thus reducing the availability of the drug market (Mazerolle, Soole, & Rombouts, 2007, pg.12). Raids on the other hand are particularly localized search-and-seizure type of operations. Raids operations are targeted at places with drug use and low-level drug dealing problems, which are generally residential and commercial (Mazerolle, Soole, & Rombouts, 2007, pg.13). The intention behind the raids operations is to act as deterrent

others in the area or who are also involved in the drug market. Undercover operations are an approach that is used by the police to target a specific problem. These operations according to Mazerolle, Soole, & Rombouts (2007) include, undercover investigations, undercover drug buys, buy-busts, use of information, and reverse (pg. 14). Police departments also target any and all types of drugs and behavior. To target these issues police use what is known as the “directed patrols on drug hot spots”, which is also known as intensive policing, saturation patrols, and/or drug sweeps (Mazerolle, Soole, & Rombouts, 2007, pg.14). Lastly, drug free zones provide police with additional powers in their efforts to disrupt street drug dealing (Mazerolle, Soole, & Rombouts, 2007, pg.15). Overall, these approaches are targeted at reducing open-air drug markets and the issues that are associated with them.

While these are useful approaches they do not eliminate the problem of open-air drug markets in communities. Currently, police departments and other community organizations are using the Drug Market Intervention approach (DMI). According to Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice (<http://www.dmimsu.com/>), DMI is a strategic problem-solving aimed at permanently closing down open-air drug markets and the associated crime, violence, and disorder that has proven challenging for communities and law enforcement for decades. This strategy targets individual geographic-based drug markets using a focused deterrence approach, specifically targeting drug dealers in those areas (<http://www.dmimsu.com/>). Overall, the DMI is a strategic and focused intervention intended to shut down or eliminate open-air-drug markets, and reduce the levels of crime and violence in a targeted area. The goal of the DMI is to return the neighborhood from the dealers back to the community (<http://www.dmimsu.com/>).

Police officials in High point, North Carolina implemented a problem-solving approach that sought to permanently shut-down illegal drug-markets, this strategy came to be known as

the DMI. High Point Police officials wanted to incapacitate chronic offenders involved in violence, divert and deter lower level dealers, and build community partnerships to reclaim neighborhoods so that the short-term enforcement gains are accompanied with an increase in collective efficacy and informal social control to prevent the drug market from re-emerging (McGarrell, Corsaro, & Brunson, 2012, pg.399). Before High point used the DMI method they had to recognize that the problem they were facing was a drug market problem and not just a drug problem.

The High Point DMI Method had four interlaced goals 1. Eliminate open-air drug markets; 2. Return the neighborhood to the residents; 3. Reduce crime and disorder; and 4. Improve the public's safety as well as their quality of life (Hipple, Corsaro, &McGarrell, 2010, pg.4). To achieve these goals the High Point officials followed nine steps:

1. *Crime Mapping*: the police department felt it was important to identify the problem area first (Hot-Spot policing).

2. *Survey*: After locating the problem areas the police department officials meet with other law enforcement officials who worked in the problem area, as well as, community members who lived in the problem area.

3. *Incident Review*: Provide one way of sharing detailed information about specific types of crime and using the information to develop strategic approaches to reduce crime (Klofas &Hipple, 2006, pg.1). This step allowed the High Point Police Department to review information of the dealers in the targeted problem area.

4. *Undercover Operations*: Here police officer conducted undercover buys.

5. *Mobilize Community*: The police department had the reasonably to mobilize and engage community members in the targeted problem area.

6. *Contact with Offender's Family*: The goal in this step was to identify influential people in each targeted offender's life. Once someone was found they will be explained what the DMI was about. Letter were also send to dealers in this step, informing them that they needed to stop and asked them to come to meeting which is the known as call-in.

7. *Call-in/Notification*: Determining what services is needed for the call-in with the dealer. Here the face to face meeting with the offenders, the community, and law enforcement was conducted.

8. *Enforcement*: Enforces the standards that were set in the call-in for the dealer.

9. *Follow Up*: Involved a variety of efforts to work with local neighborhood leaders, the faith community, schools, businesses, and residents to improve the quality of life and build the type of social relationships to sustain the gains made through the intervention with the drug market. (Hipple, Corsaro,&McGarrell, 2010,pg.8).

This strategy has been found to be effective when it comes to dealing with the issues of open-air drug markets. Other strategies that have been used are pulling lever which was first targeted at reducing gang activities in a specific area in Boston. This pulling lever strategy is now being used as an open-air drug market strategy in other cities.

Moving away from intervention and police strategy to reduce the drug markets, New Jersey took on a different approach to deal with the drug market issues. Law makers in New Jersey passed a Drug Offender Restraining Order Act in 1999, which has been modified since then. According to the 24-7 press release website (<http://www.24-7pressrelease.com>), the basic goal of the act is to prevent suspects from returning to the area where the alleged crime occurred, and the obvious target is street crime involving drug possession and distribution. The drug crime restraining order includes “any premises, residence, business establishment, location or specified

area including all buildings and all appurtenant land, in which or at which a criminal offense occurred or is alleged to have occurred or is affected by the criminal offense with which the person is charged”(<http://www.24-7pressrelease.com>). Police officers in San Francisco have also applied a restraining order approach. Using court-mandated stay-away orders, officers are targeting drug dealers who work a specific spot in the city. Officers in San Francisco, were tired of the “revolving door” offenders will get arrested and the next day they will be right back on the same corner were officers arrested them. Now, if the dealer is found at the location where they were arrested they will be in violation of the law, due to the stay-away-order.

Overall, police departments, law makers, and community members are all working on ways to stop the issues of drug dealing and crimes in their areas. Here we see some of the strategies that have worked or have been useful for implementing into other strategies. Rochester Drug Free Street initiative is a new coming strategy in the City of Rochester; the strategy is targeted at reducing the open-air marijuana market located in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. Further into to this project an in-depth explanation of the Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative will be provided.

1.4 Restorative Practices

Restorative Justice is an approach that focuses on the safety and well-being of a community and its members. Unlike the traditional justice approach which focuses on punishment, restorative justice is an intervention that emphasizes the rehabilitation of the offender and the restoration of the community. In this section I will focus on explaining Restorative Justice and how this practice is operated. Furthermore, I will examine how this intervention has been applied to the community by looking at studies that have been conducted on this intervention, and the effectiveness of this intervention as well as any challenges/issues

that has been faced with this intervention. Lastly, the restorative practices in Rochester, NY are also highlighted in this chapter.

Explaining Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice (RJ) is an intervention that emphasizes the way in which crime affects relationships between people who live in a community (Umbreit&Fercello, 2000, pg. 15). The main focus of the intervention is repairing the harm done to the victims and community members that are caused by unjust behaviors as well rebuilding the relationships between victims, community members, and offenders. Not only does this intervention focus on the harm done to the victims and the community, but it also focuses on the rehabilitation and accountability of the unjust behavior of the individuals who caused the harm (offender). According to Suffolk University Center for Restorative Justice, victims are empowered because they are offered to voice their opinions in the RJ process. This gives them the opportunity to ask questions and seek answers (www.Suffolk.edu/research/6953.html). Offenders are given the opportunity to be accountable for their actions and to make amends as well as express remorse to the victims and community members; community members are allowed to articulate and affirm the moral standards of the community (www.Suffolk.edu/research/6953.html).

The key elements that are utilized in the RJ intervention process are restorative circles, restorative conferencing, and victim-offender mediation. According to the Restorative Justice online website the key elements of RJ can be described as followed

(www.restorativejustice.org/press-room/05jprocesses):

- Restorative Circles: These circles are facilitated community meetings attended by offenders, victims, their supporters, interested members of the community, and sometimes representatives of the justice system. The purpose of the restorative circles is

bringing the victim face-to-face with the offender to talk about their painful experiences that was conducted by the offenders act. The offender also has the chance to take responsibility for his/her actions and to apologize for what he/she has done. Furthermore, a plan for the offender's recovery is developed and it is followed up by another circle.

- Restorative conferencing: This process is where the victim has the opportunity to face his/her attacker and discuss how the crime has impacted their life. The differences between the two elements are that this process can be divided into three parts: pre-conference, the actual conference, and post-conference follow-up. Also the facilitator who is the individual conducting the conference meets with the participants to inform them of the process.
- Victim-Offender Mediation: At this point the victim and the offender are brought together with a facilitator, but without any supporters to discuss the crime and develop an agreement on how to make reparations. The victims get the chance to ask the offenders questions to as to why the offender did what he/she did. The offenders then get the opportunity to explain why he/she committed the criminal act against the victim.

These are the key elements that restorative justice is comprised of when it comes to strategy. Overall, this intervention uses effective communication skills that build bridges of trust and understand between victims, community members and offenders (www.bcrjp.org/#). This in turn helps individuals in building stronger, safer, and healthier communities.

Where are Restorative Practices Used?

This intervention is not only being employed in the community-level, but it is also being employed in the courtrooms, schools, and other areas that can benefit from the intervention.

Jessica Ashley and Kimberly Burke, illustrate that schools can apply restorative justice principles

to move beyond responding to violations of school rules or merely reacting to conflict (pg. 6). RJ emphasizes values of empathy, respect, honesty, acceptance, responsibility, and accountability (Ashley & Burke, pg.7). Furthermore, RJ also provides ways to effectively address behavior and other school issues that offers a supportive environment that can improve learning as well as safety, and alternatives to suspension and expulsion (Ashley & Burke, pg.7). These are some of the reasons why schools should use restorative justice practices. According to Jon Kidde and Rita Alfred (2011), School implicates the activities of RJ in the following ways (pg.11):

1. Relational Practices: working to understand how individuals in the classroom or school community relate to one other.
2. Circles: Coming together to facilitate student and teacher connectivity.
3. Routines: Creating classrooms values, such as classroom constitutions.

In Colorado it has been shown having RJ in schools has not only decreased suspension rates from 40% to 80%, but it has also reduced the dropout rates as well as decreasing tardiness (www.restorativejusticecolorado.org). RJ practices are also being used throughout the problem solving courts process.

When it comes to neighborhood disputes restorative processes provide an opportunity for neighbors to develop their own solutions to their conflicts while building more understanding and stronger relationships (www.restorativejustice.org). RJ is also used to aid ex-offenders who are in prison and are returning back into society. According to Anderson and Karp (2004), Vermont Department of Corrections has applied restorative principles to their reentry program (pg.7). The program is run by a restorative justice panel that consists of community volunteers who meet with returning offenders to offer advice and support to the offenders (Anderson & Karp, 2004.pg.7).

When it comes to the RJ practices in reintegrating offenders into the communities it is important to look at the characteristics of the community. Rodriguez (2005) stated that community characteristics becomes especially important given the direct role community members play in restorative justices programs (pg.104). Rodriguez (2005) conducted a study that utilized official juvenile court data to examine if there was a relationship between individual-level characteristics, community-level characteristics and the decision to select juvenile offenders for participation in restorative justice programs in Maricopa County, Arizona. She found that both individual-level characteristics (race/ethnicity, gender) and community-level characteristics (ethnic heterogeneity, unemployment rate, and juvenile crime rate), did indeed have an influence on the decisions to select juvenile offenders for participation in restorative justice programs (Rodriguez, 2005, pg.119). However, it was found that race/ethnicity played a more significant role in the selection decision than any other characteristics (Rodriguez, 2005, pg.119)

RJ programs must also ensure that communities have the capacity to recommend and provide resolutions for criminal behavior (Rodriguez, 2005, pg.105). It is important to also take the quality of life into consideration as well. The perceived quality of life within any community is directly affected by street crimes; often, property crimes, vandalism, graffiti, street drug use, and street drug sales (Gilbert & Settles, 2007, pg.10). Street crimes are much more prevalent in areas with high rates of poverty, multiple social deprivations, a pervasive sense of hopelessness, helplessness, and fatalism among residents (Gilbert & Settles, 2007, pg.10). By developing a RJ program with these types of community characteristics it can help residents develop a renewed sense of hope and empowerment (Gilbert & Settles, 2007, pg.10).

Studies, Effectiveness, and Issues of RJ Programs

A restorative justice program was developed at Cole Middle School which is located in Oakland, California. The RJ practices at Cole Middle School consisted of circles, shared values, and circle keepers. According to Sumner, Silverman, and Frampton (2010), the restorative circles involved students, teachers, staff, and sometimes others, as well as a circle keeper who guided the process (pg.11). The Cole school used RJ practices to resolve and avoid conflicts with teenagers, which included boyfriend/girlfriend disagreements and jealousy, play fighting and bullying, smoking, and racial issues (pg.14). There were some teachers using circles to introduce their lesson plans and to better understand difficulties that students might have with the class work (pg. 14). Overall, these circles gave students the opportunity to share their opinions about the issue at hand. At the end of 2008 school year at Cole Middle School a questionnaire was passed out to students.

According to the researchers, students reported on their knowledge about and use of restorative justice and expressed how restorative justice had an effect on their relationships (pg.20). It was shown that 83% of students believed restorative justice were helping the school and 83% also felt that the program was reducing fighting at the school (pg.20). It has also been shown that suspension rates have declined since the implementation of the RJ program. Even with these effective turnouts for the program some issues still remain within the program. Researchers pointed out that there were other programs in place at the school that could have influenced the behaviors of students as well. One challenge that is faced in this type of program will be the willingness to partake in the program by students.

Another study was conducted on restorative justice peace circles within Monroe High School in the City of Rochester. This study was conducted by Isaac (2011) and focused on the

impact of peace circles within the school and how it effects the perceptions of safety, respect, violence, and communication amongst teachers and students (pg.3). The researcher relies on surveys, personal observation, and interviews with people who have been part of the peace circle program.

It was found that there has been an increase rate of attendance, decrease in violence, and improving communication within all aspects of the school (pg.78). Even with this prime example of the impact of the peace circle program at Monroe High school it was still shown that the program was not as effective as other school models. Like Cole Middle School study, it was also indicated in Isaac study that the outcomes and effectiveness of the MHS program could have been influence by other concurrently used programs.

Crime Solutions.gov is a website that uses research to determine if a program works within the field of criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. The research of these programs review the effectiveness of the program and rate them from effective, promising, or no effects. The next two programs have been reviewed by crimesolutions.gov and both are forms of(Isaac, 2011) RJ programs.

The Clarkes County Victim Impact Panels (VIPs) is a restorative justice program that is operated through the courts. This program has been reviewed by Crime Solutions website. The goal of the VIPs program is to keep offenders convicted of driving under the influence from drinking and driving in the future. According to the program description on Crime Solutions (www.crimesolutions.gov), VIPs allow DUI victims to express their personal trauma and share their story with the convicted drunk drivers. Just like the restorative justice program, the VIPs works to repair the harm done by the offender to the victim and allows the victim to have a voice in the proceedings of the offender. Offenders also have the opportunity to express why they

committed the act of driving under the influence and are able to face the outcome of their actions.

According to Rojek, Coverdill, & Fors (2003), findings of the program show that after 5 years 15.8% of offenders who attended the VIPs were rearrested, which is lesser than offenders who do not attend a VIPs. Crime solution has rated this program promising, because it has shown that it can achieve its intended outcome. A challenge with this approach is that victims do not get the opportunity to set face-to-face with the offender, so they are just able present to the offender how DUI affected them. Here victims are not able to get their questions answered and might still feel unhappy with how the system deals with DUI offenders. Also offenders are not really being targeted; they are simply being put in a large group and are present a story by a victims who been harm by this type of crime.

Another program that has been reviewed by Crime Solutions and evaluated by McGarrell & Hipple (2007), is the Indianapolis Family Group Conferencing Experiment. The program is also known as Indianapolis Restorative Justice Conference Project, the goal of the program is to break the cycle of offending among first-time juvenile offenders so he/she does not reach the stage of repeat offending. Juveniles who have committed a non-violent offense are assigned to a conference, if eligible to participate. The conference includes the offender, the offender's parents, the victim, and supporters. At the end of the conference the group will come up with an agreement plan that will allow the offender to repair the harm that was caused by his/her actions. After evaluating the FGC program it was found that juveniles in the FGC had fewer re-arrests rather than juveniles who did not take part of the FGC.

Limitation of Restorative Justice Programs

There are several limitations to the restorative justice approach and one significant limitation is the involvement of the communities. Communities are not as integrated as they once were, and there is a greater emphasis on individual privacy and autonomy as well as major division between cultures and age groups (Marshall, 1999, pg.8). Marshall (1999) also illustrates that the limitation of restorative justice is the existence of social injustice and inequality in and between communities, which limits the community's support (pg. 8). Social divisions also make voluntary participation less likely or less effective (pg.8). Thus, if community members care of the issues surrounding justices' issues in their community, it will be prospective to say that a restorative program will not be effective.

Being that RJ justice relies largely on individuals volunteering it is possible that one of the parties are not willing to participate, however, if neither party is willing there is no option but to let formal justice take its course (Marshall, 1999, pg.8). Not only can non-willingness to participate limit restorative justice, but if parties do agree to participate in a restorative circle and produce an agreement it's possible that the agreement might not be followed through. According to Souza & Dhami (2008), found that most volunteers are recruited through word of mouth, which promotes community awareness and generated volunteer participation (pg.19). It is also illustrated that demographic and personal characteristics of individuals also play a role in the determination of volunteers. These are limitations that can break the goals of restorative justice and it is an enormous challenge that is faced by all restorative justices' practices. Another limitation to RJ is the characteristic of the individuals who are taking part in the program and the community in which they are from. Rodriguez (2005) did point out that some individuals are

denied/selected to participate in RJ programs because of these community and individual level characteristics.

Restorative Justice in Rochester NY

Restorative Rochester (Transforming Conflict, Building Community), is a voluntary association of organization and individuals in the City of Rochester. According to Restorative Rochester (www.restorativerochester.org), the programs objectives are to empower leaders to take whatever bold steps are necessary to accomplish the creation of a restorative community. This Rochester intervention has been working with city schools, universities, the community, and in courts. The program is associated with Partners in Restorative Initiatives, which is an organization working to empower the community. PiRI implemented their strategy in school communities, which utilizes peace circles. Above I have acknowledged the study conducted in Monroe High School which has used the peace circles to resolve conflict and bring people together. Community conferences are also utilized in this practice and focuses on bringing together willing victims, offenders, and community members affected by a particular crime or harm (www.pirirochester.org). PiRI have also published a restorative practices booklet that in tells how community conferences are pro-formed as well as it risks and benefits. Below I have highlighted some of the benefits that are pointed out in the booklet.

Offenders Benefits	Victims Benefits	Community Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to take responsibility • Opportunity for repentance • Experience a greater sense of closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express anger and plan • Learn new information • Get answers • Put a face to the person • See remorse in the offender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater sense of connectedness between people • Opportunity to be involved in problem solving • Decreased fear of crime

Partners in restorative initiatives (www.pirirochester.org)

Overall, the PiRI mission is to have an impact on the use of restorative practices throughout the world and see its uses to solve and improve relationships within communities. Not all restorative practices are used to aid victims who have been harmed by an offender, but are also focused on individuals who are victimizing members of the community. The RDFS is planning on using the restorative practices to deal with drug dealers who are becoming a nuisance to the community.

1.5 Research Techniques

Researchers have and still use many dissimilar method techniques when conducting their studies. For this particular project I have used numerous forms of research method techniques. This section consists of a literature review of research method techniques, specifically on observation, check list survey, and the use of multiple methods. Every technique does not function for just any study; it all depends on the researcher's question. The following will outline the types of observation techniques used by researchers as well as the purpose of the use check list surveys for research purpose.

Research

Research means the examinations, investigation, or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws (www.merriam-wester.com). Research technique signifies a body of technical methods which accomplishes a desired aim (www.merriam-wester.com). Methods are the various procedures, schemes, algorithms which are used in research, however, research methods helps researchers with collect samples, data, and find a solution to a problem (Rajasekar, Philominathan, &Chinnathambi,

2006, pg.2). The following is a list of the prime objectives of research :(Rajasekar, Philominathan,&Chinnathambi, 2006,pg.1)

1. To discover new facts
2. To verify and test important facts
3. To analyses an event or process or phenomenon to identify the cause and effect relationship
4. To develop new scientific tools, concepts and theories to solve and understand scientific and non-scientific problems
5. To find solutions to scientific, non-scientific and social problems
6. To overcome or solve the problems occurring in our everyday life.

Overall, research is a logical and systematic search for new and useful information on a particular topic and it is an investigation of finding solutions to scientific and social problems through objective and systematic analysis (Rajasekar, Philominathan, &Chinnathambi, 2006, pg.1).There are two forms of research, quantitative or qualitative research. Quantitative research includes any research method that produces hard numbers which can be turned into statistics and Qualitative research produces observations, notes, and descriptions of behavior and motivation (American Intercontinental University, 2013). These methods are at times combined in order to aid the researcher with gathering comprehensive evidence or to give a more complete picture of what is being studied.

Observation Techniques

Observational research is a type of correlational (non-experimental) research, in which a researcher observes ongoing behavior (Price & Oswald, 2006, pg.1). This part of the part will discuss some of the types of observational research followed by a detailed description of systematic social observation (SSO). The following is a description of the variety types of observational research (www.mbaofficial.com):

Participant Observations: It refers to a variety of strategies in which the researcher studies a group in its natural setting by observing its activities and to varying degrees, participating in its

activities. This type of observational research represents a commitment to more inductive or sensitizing strategy.

Casual versus Scientific Observation: A casual observation approach involves observing the right thing at the right place and at the right time whereas a scientific observation approach involves the use of writing down what the researcher see.

Natural Observation: This observational approach involves observing the behavior of others in a normal setting and in this type of observation; no efforts are made to bring any type of change in the behavior of the observed.

Subjective and Objective observation: All observations consist of the two main components, the subject and the object. The subject refers to the observer whereas the object refers to the activity or any type of operation that is being observed. Subject observation involves the observation of one's own immediate experience whereas the observations involving observer as an entity apart from the thing being observed, are referred to as the objective observation.

Direct and Indirect Observation: Direct method of observation the observer is physically present in which type of situation he/she is present and this type of observation monitors what takes places. Indirect method of observation involves studies of mechanical recording or the recording by some of the other means like photographic or electronic.

Non-Participant Observation: This observational approach is performed by an observer who remains as distant as possible from those being observed. Overall, there isn't any kind of relationship between the researcher and the group or thing being studied.

Structured and Unstructured observation: Structured observation works according to a plan and involves specific information of the units that are to be observed as well as the information that is being recorded. Such observations involve the use of special instruments for

the purpose of data collection that are also structured in nature. Unstructured observation observers have the freedom to note down what he/she feels is correct and relevant to the point of the study and it is very suitable in the case of exploratory research.

Controlled and Non-Controlled Observation: Controlled observations are the observations made under the influence of some of the external forces and such observations rarely lead to improvement in the precision of the research results. Non- controlled observations are made in the natural environment and reverse to the controlled observation these observations involve no influence or guidance of any type of external force.

These methods are useful to researchers in a many different ways. They provide researchers with ways to check for non-verbal expression of feelings, determine who interacts with whom, grasp how participants communicate with each other, and check for how much time is spent on various activities (Kawulich, 2005, pg. 3). When designing a research study and determining whether to use observation as a data collection method, a researcher must consider the types of questions that are guiding the study, the site under study, what opportunities are available at the site for observation, the representativeness of the participants of the population at the site, and the strategies to be used to record and analyze the data (Kawulich, 2005, pg.4).

Systematic Social Observation

Systematic Social Observation (SSO) is a field research method that is used to observe the object of study in its natural setting (Parks, Reiss, Worden, DeJong, Snipes, & Terrill, 1998, pg.7). Researchers record events as they see and hear them and do not rely upon others to describe or interpret events, however, researchers follow well-specified procedures that can be duplicated (Mastrofski, Parks, Reiss, Worden, DeJong, Snipes, & Terrill, 1998, pg.7). SSO was first utilized in criminology by Albert J. Reiss, Jr. According to Mastrofski, Parks, Reiss,

Worden, DeJong, Snipes, & Terrill (1998), Reiss thought that the important considerations in conducting SSO include (pg.7):

1. Selection of problems for investigation
2. Preliminary investigation by direct observation
3. Definition of the universe to be observed
4. Sampling for observation
5. Development of instruments to collect and record observations systematically
6. Provision for measuring error
7. Pretesting instruments
8. Organization for direct field observations
9. Processing observation
10. Quantitative analysis

Reiss also believe that systematic meant the observation and recording are done according to explicit rules that permit replication; he also argued that the means of observation, whether a person or technology, must be independent of that which is observed (Sampson & Raudenbush, 2013, pg.606). SSO is also often used in combination with other forms of observations (McCluskey, Parks, & Mastrofski, 2013, pg.3).

Selecting the- who, when, where, and what to observe is important because the purpose, opportunities, and constraints differ from one SSO study to the next (Mastrofski, et al., 1998, pg7). A systematic approach to observation entails a consideration of all the basic elements of research design: defining the purpose of the study, instituting one or more unit of analysis, identifying the important variables, defining the population and sampling frame, designing data-collection instruments, and assessing the reliability and validity of the data (Mastrofski, etc., 1998). According to McCluskey, Parks, & Mastrofski (2013), the first step entails establishing the unit of analysis, which in itself can have many different approaches. Some researchers may use the period of time, observing what occurs within an even time segment and others may use an act or behavior as a unit of analysis (McCluskey, Parks, & Mastrofski, 2013, pg.3). This can consist of a transaction between neighbors in a given neighborhood. Lastly, some researchers approach

is to socially construct an event as a unit of analysis, this includes face-to-face encounter between the individuals that are being studied (McCluskey, et al. 2013, pg.3).

Researchers who choose the SSO approach use similar principles that apply to other forms of research. There are different forms of instruments that the researcher can utilize. For the study I'm conducting I decided to record the drug-market located on the block of Conkey & Clifford. Further details of this method will be explained in the methodology section.

McCluskey, Parks, & Mastroski (2013), illustrate that there are two issues that arise in recording of phenomena observed through SSO, which include: (1) whether it is contemporaneous with the observation and (2) whether technological recording devices are employed. One of the most important advantages of recording is the benefit of being able to analyze the recording at a later time, so one can recollect what happened, but also the researcher is able to develop a more accurate observation (McCluskey et al., 2013). For example: researchers used SSO to test whether Google Street View could be used to learn the effectiveness that neighborhood might have on children's health.

SSO data are subject to the same range of threats that occur with other methods (McCluskey et al., 2013). Error can be introduced by the observer, and issues of reliability and validity of the method must be addressed. Reliability refers to the degree to which a technique produces stable and consistent results whereas validity refers to how well a test measures what it is supposed to measure. Cheating is an error that's intentionally introduced by researchers when utilizing SSO. Cheating is rarely reported in SSO, and it seems likely that most instances of SSO cheating can go undetected (McCluskey et al, 2013). This transpires when a researcher reduces their work-load, because of the extensive writing and structured coding need for their

observations. Overall it is significant for a researcher to commit to their study when using SSO, meaning that the researcher has to devote time to with every step of his/her study.

Adjective Checklist Surveys

A survey is a method of collecting information directly from people about ideas, feelings, health, plans, beliefs, and social, educational, and financial background (Fink & Kosecoff, 1998, pg. 1). A survey can be a self-administered questionnaire that someone fills out alone or with assistance or a survey can be an interview that is done in person or on the telephone (Fink & Kosecoff, 1998, pg.1). Adjective checklist surveys are used to obtain information about someone's feelings or attitudes toward their environment, peers, self, etc. According to Vos (n.d.), Adjectives checklists are easy to construct since they only consist of a set of directions and a list of adjectives (pg. 3). The adjectives usually consist of a number of positive or negative adjectives that are randomly ordered. This method is a fast way to gather information before and after an intervention and it will show changes and feelings overtime (Vos, n.d.,pg.3).

There are numerous forms of adjective checklist surveys. The design of the survey depends on the type of study that is being conducted and the information that the researcher wants to obtain. The idea of utilizing an adjective checklist comes from Gough and Heibrun, who developed the adjective checklist to identify common psychological traits of individuals. One of the earliest attempts to use the adjective checklist technique in a systematic manner was that of Hartshorne and May in 1930 according to Gough (1960). The checklist consisted of 160 words, consisting of 80 pairs of antonyms, and it was used to obtain reputation scores for students by having teachers complete the lists (Gough, 1960, pg. 108). In 1936, All port and Odbert provided an important step to the history of ACL technique (Gough, 1960, pg.108). The researchers made a survey of the English language for all trait names and/or words referring to

personal behavior and about 17,953 terms were listed (Gough, 1960). The task of consolidation and ordering of this complete list into a manageable sub-list was undertaken by a researcher named Cattell (Gough, 1960). The adjective checklist was employed by Gough in 1980. It was used to measure the attitudes of children by utilizing an open-ended format that allows Children to select as many positive and negative adjectives from a provided list to describe a specific person (http://www.csde.umb.edu/inst_adjective.html).

Overall, ACL is a useful tool to obtain information from others. One way to utilize the information obtained is by counting the number of times each adjective is chosen, which is one method of scoring used for an adjective checklist. If the adjective checklist is used before and after an intervention, comparing the number of positive adjectives circled before and after the intervention is one way of acknowledging the impact of the intervention. The following is an example of how an adjective checklist is formatted.

Example:

Circle each word that describes how you feel?			
Unnecessary	Sad	Needed	Happy
Inconvenient	Important	Frustrating	Unpleasant
Practical	Useful	Worthwhile	Interesting

(<http://www.minerva.stkate.edu>)

An example of the Adjective Checklist used in this study can be found in the appendix at the end of the paper.

Multiple Method Approaches

Some researchers find themselves combining quantitative and qualitative methods. Using multiple approaches can capitalize on the strengths of each approach and offset their different weaknesses, but it could also provide more comprehensive answers to research questions, going

beyond the limitations of a single approach (Walker, Spratt, & Robinson, 2004, pg. 6). Multiple methods research obtains a fuller picture and deeper understanding of a phenomenon. Mixed methods can be integrated in such a way that qualitative and quantitative methods retain their original structures and pure form mixed methods; alternatively, these two methods can be adapted, altered, or synthesized to fit the research and cost situations of the study (Johnson, Onwuegbuzie, & Turner, 2007, pg.120). Given the subject matter of approaching this study this methods had to be used.

1.6 The Impacts of Open-air Drug Markets and Other Remedies to Deal with the Issue

Open-air drug markets are often linked to the violence in urban neighborhood. In 2009 Stevens and Bewley-Taylor, conducted a studied that specifically at the strength of the link between drug markets and urban violence, as well as, policies and tactics that can be used to reduce the link. According to Stevens and Bewley-Taylor (2009), the link between drug markets and violence has often been examined through the “tripartite framework” which was developed by Goldstein (pg. 2). These categories three types of links between illicit drugs and violence:

“First is the Psycho-Pharmacological violence which may involve drug use by either offender or victim, drug use may contribute to a person’s behaving violently or it may alter a person’s behavior in such a manner as to bring about that person’s violent victimization. Second is the Economic Compulsive Model which suggests that some drug users engage in economically oriented violent crime. Third is the Systemic Violence which refers to the traditionally aggressive patterns of interaction within the system of drug distribution and use, for example: disputes over territory between rival drug dealers (Goldstein, 1985)”

Overall, Stevens and Bewley-Taylor (2009) looked at drug markets and urban violence, how strong is the link between drug markets and violence (using research from Latin America), types of drug markets, and the drug market contexts. They concluded that the majority of urban violence is related to trafficking, rather than the use of illicit drugs, while some urban violence is

certainly perpetrated by individuals under the influence and the extremely high profit margins associated with illicit markets incentivizes often-violent involvement (Stevens and Bewley-Taylor, 2009, pg. 10). Also the link between drug markets and urban violence depends on the level and distribution of poverty, according to Stevens and Bewley-Taylor (2009). Lastly, decisions made by governments and police officials have influenced the global pattern of drug-related violence, as well as the level of violence that drug dealers are prepared to engage in (Stevens and Bewley-Taylor, 2009, pg. 10).

Neighborhood Impacts

Local open-air drug markets can sometimes be populated by entrepreneurial solo traders who have few ties to the neighborhood and care little for the area, or sometimes they are run by cohesive groups with local family ties and extensive local networks of friends in the neighborhood (May, Duffy, Few, & Hough, 2005). The community destruction wrought by open-air drug markets has impacted inner city and urban areas across the nation (Frabutt, Shelton, Di Luca, Harvey, & Hefner 2009). Drug markets that operate in public spaces are clearly toxic to neighborhoods, because of the direct nexus between drug dealing and violence (Hunt, Sumner, Scholten, & Frabutt 2008). Drug dealing generates or contributes to a wide range of social disorder and drug-related crime and violence within the neighborhood, the following is a list of problems associated with drug dealing in open-air drug markets according to Harocopos and Hough (2010):

Traffic Congestion	Vandalism
Noise	Drug Use and Littering (discarded drug paraphernalia)
Disorderly Conduct	Criminal Damage to Property
Begging	Prostitution
Loitering	Robbery
Residential and Commercial	Theft
Fencing Stolen Goods	Assaults
Homicide	

Impact on Residents

Drug markets that exist in public space are harmful to communities as well as to residents who live in those communities. Not only do these drug markets cause many negative consequences, violent criminal behavior, and social disorder. They also cause public nuisances and decreased quality of life for community residents (Frabutt, Shelton, Di Luca, Harvey & Hefner, 2009). Moreover, safety and security of community residents who reside in neighborhoods wrought by open-air drug markets are compromised, and residents are often faced with complex predicament that are intertwined in relationships with other community residents, drug dealers, and law-enforcement officials (Hefner, Frabutt, Harvey, Di Luca, & Shelton, 2013). These intertwined relationships are characterized by particular norms and narratives- the often misguided and challenged beliefs that groups possess regarding the behaviors and motivations of other groups (Hefner, et al. 2013). Overall, residents residing in these neighborhoods also deal with fear of what might happen, fear for their children, fear for themselves, and the use of property for storage spaces for dealers.

Other Remedies for Addressing Open-Air Drug Markets

There have been numerous strategies to combat the negative effects of open-air drug markets. Beside Drug Markets Interventions (DMI), Harocopos and Hough (2005) identified responses to the problem of drug dealing in open-air markets. First, “Drug Enforcement” approaches which include policing areas in highly visible fashion, enforcing the law intensively, buy and bust operations, intelligence-led investigative work, confiscating stashed drugs, arresting drug buyers, and warning potential buyers. Second, “Community Responses” approaches include encouraging community action and operating a telephone hotline. Third, “Civil Remedies” approaches which include encouraging place managers to be more proactive—including

landlords, housing authorities, local business, residents, and tenants associations— Applying nuisance abatement laws, issuing restraining orders—County Prosecutors in Newark, N.J have begun asking judges to issue Drug Offender Restraining Orders against drug defendants (Harocopos and Hough, 2005)—Notifying mortgage holders of drug-related problem on their properties, enforcing regulatory codes, and seizing and forfeiting assets related to drug dealing. Fourth, “Modifying the Physical Environment” approaches include re-claiming public areas, installing and monitoring surveillance cameras, altering access routes and restricting parking, changing public pay phones, and securing vacant buildings. Lastly, “Demand Reduction” approach which include providing drug treatment.

According to Harocopos and Hough (2005), the most effective intervention are those that have been tailored to a specific area and which involves implementing several different approaches. Law enforcement alone will have a limited effect but a collaborative multi-agency approach can be more effective (Harocopos&Hough, 2005). It is also unlikely to eradicate drug markets completely with any approach (Harocopos&Hough, 2005).

Chapter two: Policy and Theory

Overview

The provisions dealing with drug offenses were brief and simple in New York State in 1965; the penalties for these crimes were moderate sentences (Tsimbinos, 2012). In the late 1960's and 1970's as the New York State became plagued by the scourge of drug abuse, the public clamored for answers to the problem (Tsimbinos, 2012). New York State, Governor Rockefeller and the Legislature responded by enacting the toughest drug laws in the nation, which are commonly known as the Rockefeller Drug Laws (Tsimbinos, 2012). These new statutes provided for mandatory prison terms involving a possible life imprisonment sentence for a large category of drug offenders (Tsimbinos, 2012). The Rockefeller Laws mandated extremely harsh prison terms for possession or sale for relatively small amounts of drugs (<http://www.drugpolicy.org>). Not only were offenders facing mandatory prison terms, but most people incarcerated under the law were convicted of low-level, non-violent, first-time offenses (<http://www.drugpolicy.org>). New York's Rockefeller Laws became the national model for being "tough on drug" and many states enacted their own versions of the Law (Sayegh, 2010).

Years after the Rockefeller Drug Laws were enacted, it was found that the laws have effectively failed to combat drug abuse or impact the incidence of violent crime in New York. Racial disparities became a defining element of the law; over 90 percent of people incarcerated under the law were Black and Latinos (Sayegh, 2010). In 2009 the Rockefeller laws were reform which caused a major change in New York's drug policy, shifting it away from mass incarceration and toward a public health model (Klein, 2012). The two most fundamental pieces of the reform included the elimination of mandatory sentences, and restoration of judicial discretion to order treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to incarceration (Klein, 2012).

2.1 Drug Policies

Controlled Substance Act

Controlled substances are drugs or other substances that are controlled under the controlled substance act and regulated under federal law (Hartney, 2014). These substances are categorized into five “schedules” and the schedule the drug is placed under depends on its medical use, its potential for abuse, and its safety or how easily individuals become dependent on it (Hartney, 2014). The following is a list of the five “schedules” and some examples of the substances under the schedule (<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/>). An updated and complete list of the schedules is published annually in Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R) 1308.11 through 1308.15.

Schedule I Controlled Substances, a substance in this schedule have no currently accepted medical use in the US, a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision, and a high potential for abuse. Some examples of substances listed under Schedule I: heroin, LSD, marijuana, methaqualone, and peyote. Schedule II Controlled Substances have a high potential for abuse which may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence. This schedule includes the following narcotics: hydromorphone, methadone, meperidine, morphine, opium, and codeine. Schedule III Controlled Substances have a potential for abuse less than substances in Schedules I and II. The abuse may lead to moderate or physical dependence or high psychological dependence, example: combination products containing less than 15 milligrams of hydrocodone per dosage unit. Schedule IV Controlled Substances have a low potential for abuse relative to substances in schedule III. Some examples: alprazolam, carisoprodol, clonazepam, and midazolam. Lastly, Schedule V Controlled Substances have even a lower potential for abuse relative to substances in schedule IV and consist primarily of preparations containing limited quantities of certain narcotics.

Under New York State Public Health Law 3306: NY code- Article 33: Controlled substances, also divides its controlled substances into five schedules. In New York State, marijuana is classified as a schedule I drug. Similar to schedule I regulated under federal law, NYS schedule I Controlled substances are listed as the most dangerous drugs, which have high probability of abuse and addiction, and no recognized medical value (Steiner, 2014).

New York State Marijuana Policies

It is illegal for an individual to sale or possesses illegal drugs in New York State. In New York State, Article 220 of the Penal Law deals exclusively with controlled substance crime (Epperson, 2013). Article 220 of the Penal Law divides controlled substance criminal charges into two different categories, 1) Criminal possession of a controlled substance and 2) Criminal sale of a controlled substance. Thus, penalties for should crime vary depending on the type and amount of the controlled substance involved in the crime action.

New York State has distinguished marijuana from other legal drugs, so is not generally considered a controlled substance or a narcotic under state drug crime statutes (Berliner, 2013). Instead, marijuana is separately defined under Penal Law 221, which provides for several different types of penalties for marijuana related offenses (Berliner, 2013). According to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law (NORML), New York State has decriminalized marijuana to some degree, which means that an individual will not face prison time or a criminal record for first-time possession of a small amount for personal consumption (<http://norml.org>). Thus, small amounts of possession of marijuana are considered a violation and not a criminal offense (see table). The table below descried the offense and penalty for possession and sale of marijuana in New York State.

Table 1 New York State Marijuana Offense (Possession & Sale)

Offense	Penalty	Incarceration	Max. Fine
<u>Possession</u>			
Less than 25 g (first offense)	not classified	N/A	\$ 100
Less than 25 g (second offense)	not classified	N/A	\$ 200
Less than 25 g (third offense)	not classified	15 days	\$ 250
25 g - 2 oz	Misdemeanor	3 mos.	\$ 250
2 - 8 oz	Misdemeanor	1 year	\$ 250
8 oz - 1 lb	Felony	4 years	\$ 250
1 - 10 lbs	Felony	7 years	\$ 250
More than 10 lbs	Felony	15 years	\$ 250
In public view	Misdemeanor	90 days	\$ 250
<u>Sale</u>			
Less than 2 g without profit	Misdemeanor	3 mos.	\$ 500
Less than 25 g	Misdemeanor	1 year	\$ 1,000
25 g - 4 oz	Felony	4 years	\$ 5,000
4 oz - 1 lb	Felony	7 years	\$ 5,000
More 1 lb	Felony	15 years	\$ 15,000
Using a child to assist	Felony	4 years	\$ 5,000
To a minor	Felony	7 years	\$ 5,000

(<http://norml.org>)

However, the sale of marijuana is still considered a criminal offense and the possession of marijuana is still considered a criminal offense depending on the amount of possession. For example: possession of 8oz to 1lb of marijuana is considered a felony under New York State Penal Law and sale of 4oz to 1lb is considered a felony as well (see table). Overall, marijuana is still illegal in NY, but in circumstances a small amount may not be a criminal offense but it is still a violation level offense (Murray, 2014). This status creates ambiguity for enforcement.

2.2 Routine Activity Theory

Routine Activity Theory –which is also referred to as lifestyle theory –has proven to be one of the more useful theories for understanding criminal victimization and offending patterns

in the late 20th and early 21st centuries (Cullen and Wilcox, 2010). Routine Activity Theory provides a macro perspective on crime in that it predicts how changes in social and economic conditions influence the overall crime and victimization rate. Cohen and Felson in 1979, consider paradoxical trends in crime rates in terms of changes in the “routine activities” of everyday life (Cohen and Felson, 1979). Cohen and Felson (1979), believe that the structure of such activities influences criminal opportunity and therefore affects trends in a class of crime, which they referred to direct-contact predatory violations (pg. 589). According to Cohen and Felson (1979), Predatory violations are defined as illegal acts in which someone definitely and intentionally takes or damages the person or property (pg. 589).

Cohen and Felson argue that the structural changes in routine activity patterns can influence crime rates by affecting the convergence in space and time of the three minimal elements of direct-contact predatory violations (pg.589). The three minimal elements consisted of 1) motivated offender, 2) suitable target, and 3) the absence of capable guardians against a violation. If one of the three elements is missing, then a crime will not likely occur. According to Cohen and Felson’s theory, a crime will only be committed if a likely offender thinks that a target is suitable and a capable guardian is absent (motivated offender). A suitable target – accessible target – can included a person, an object or place. An absence of a capable guardian that could intervene is usually a person who by their mere presence would deter potential offenders from perpetrating a crime, some examples: police officers, security, friends, family and neighbors.

Over the years Felson (1986) took into account informal social control of offenders, this was accomplished by linking the routine activity approach to Hirschi’s (1969) control theory (Felson, 1986). Hirschi’s four elements in the informal social control of delinquency are

commitments, attachments, involvements, and beliefs but Felson summarize them with one word “handle” (Felson, 1986). Felson further states that, society gains a handle on individuals to prevent rule breaking by forming the social bond and people have something to lose if others dislike their behavior, if their future is impaired, if their friends and families are upset with them, if they are occupied with conventional activities, or if their beliefs can be situationally invoked to make them feel bad every time they break a rule (Felson, 1986). From this Felson presents the “web of informal” (control?) which induces: 1) a handled offender that is, someone who can both offend and be handled; 2) an intimate handler, that is, someone close enough to grasp the handle; 3) a suitable target of crime; and 4) a capable guardian against such a violation (Felson, 1986). Now if the potential offender is unhandled—that is, lacking in commitments, attachments, involvements, and beliefs—the intimate handler does not exist and the four minimal elements are reduced to the three elements: offender, target, and guardian (Felson, 1986).

Routine activity theory was further extended by John E. Eck, after conducting a study on the “Spatial structure of illegal drug markets” in 1994. For Eck, important roles in discouraging crime go to those who control or monitor places (Felson, 1986). Using the term “Place manager”, meaning anyone who controls or monitors a places, for example: homeowners, building manager, resident-owners, close neighbor, bus driver, and security (Felson, 1986). Eck noted three objects of supervision: 1) the suitable target crime, 2) the likely offender, and 3) the amenable place for crime to occur (Felson, 1986). So, under Eck extension a crime can only occur if the places manager is absent, ineffective, or negligent.

Routine Activity Theory and Open air Drug Markets

Open-air drug markets are typically found in inter-city neighborhoods which tend to generate street crime. The attraction of likely victims (drug buyers) and victimizers (sellers),

open-air drug markets are by Routine Activity Theory defined as environments that can spawn additional crimes beyond the immediate violations of the drug trade (Ross, 2013). The perceived lack of management and control over an area may serve as an opportunity for drug sellers (and subsequently drug buyers) to make illicit exchanges (Johnson, 2012). According Johnson (2012), if place management is indeed weak around public land uses, one would expect: “1) Drug dealers to compete in a possibly violent manner for turf in public markets due to the low likelihood of police detection 2) Drug dealers to come from near and far distances due to the availability of customers brought by public land uses, 3) Drug buyers to travel from near and far distances due to the availability of drugs from multiple sellers (pg.28)”.

If place managers or guardian do not care for their area in which they live, open-air drug markets are more likely to exist as well as other crimes. Drug dealers sell drugs in areas where inhabitants from the area or the police ignore their activity. If an intimate handler is present in a dealers life or buyers life and enforce that what they are doing wrong, is most likely that the seller will stop selling and buyer will stop buying in front or around the intimate handler. The Dealer and buyer will found a locating were they can be away from and intimate handler. A dealer will most likely go to other neighborhood to sell his drugs, and the buyer will find somewhere far from the intimate handler to buy their drugs. Thus, if an intimate handler or place manager is absent, ineffective, or negligent a crime will then occur (Eck and Weisburd, 1995). Place managers or intimate handlers may also be absent, ineffective, or negligent, because of fear of retaliation from drug dealer, therefore not getting involved and ignoring the issue. Also, place managers may have given-up caring due to the fact that drug dealing has been going in their area for such a long period of time, therefore the pattern for dealer to sell and buyers to buy stays consistent in that area.

Eck (1995) conducted a study that sets forth a general model of the geography of illicit retail marketplaces. The study was based on three well established criminological theories, rational choice theory, routine activity theory, and offender search theory (Eck, 1995). Routine activity theory was important to this model because the everyday patterning of legitimate activities helps structure the decision making of people in illicit markets (Eck, 1995). It was found that the general model of the geography of illicit retail marketplaces was ultimately insufficient, but the study did suggest that place managers have a substantial role in the general model of the geography of illicit retail marketplaces (Eck, 1995).

Lastly, the integration of social disorganization theory and routine activity theory must also be taken into consideration, the fact that the theories partially overlap in at least two respects: their treatment of social control in the community and their assumptions about delinquent and criminal motivation (Rice and Smith, 2002). Social Disorganization Theory states that disorganized neighborhoods lack the capacity to self-regulate and organize against criminal behavior and, as such, have higher crime rates than other neighborhoods. Open-air drug markets are more likely to be present in disorganized neighborhood; due to the fact the individuals living in such areas lack community efficacy. Without community efficacy, neighbors (guardians) do not tend to work together, which makes it difficult for residents to deal with open-air drug markets in the area. Therefore, dealers are motive to continue with selling drugs and buyers keep on buying.

2.3 Crime Pattern Theory

The distribution of offenders, targets, handlers, guardians, and managers over time and place will describe crime patterns (Eck and Weisburd, 1995). Crime pattern theory is developed to explain spatial distribution of crime and fear of crime (Bilimliri, 2011). Crime Pattern Theory

also explains that individuals have both activity spaces and awareness spaces. Awareness of space is comprised of those areas with which an individual is familiar with and activity of space is comprised of various nodes of activity or locations that represent where people live, work, and live (Hill &Paynich, 2011). There are three main concepts to the theory: nodes, paths, and edges (Felson&Clarke, 1998). “Nodes”, which is a term from transportation, refers to where people travel to and from, such places not only can generate crime within, but also nearby (Felson&Clarke, 1998). Some examples of nodes are home, neighborhoods, stores, school and entertainment area (Felson&Clarke, 1998).

In addition, the paths that people take in their everyday activities are closely related to where they fall victim to crime (Felson&Clarke, 1998). This is why crime pattern theory pays so much attention to the geographical distribution of crime and the daily rhythm of activity (Felson&Clarke, 1998). The third concept of crime pattern theory, edges, refers to the boundaries of where people live, work, and shop or seeks entertainment, in which some crimes are more likely to occur at the edges (Felson&Clarke, 1998).

The importance of path to Crime Pattern Theory is that potential offenders tend to search for opportunities to commit crimes along the nodes and paths of their own activity and awareness spaces (Hill &Paynich, 2011). Offenders often create cognitive maps of areas they are familiar while traveling from one node of activity to another and use these maps to help them choose targets of crime (Hill &Paynich, 2011). Drug dealers are aware and familiar with the areas they choose to sell illegal drugs; therefore we find concentrated drug markets in given urban neighborhoods. In looking to set up drug markets however, and in line with routine activity theory, drug offenders are also likely to search initially around the home but for places that have poor place management (Johnson, 2012). Buyers also have an understanding and awareness of

areas where they can buy illegal drug and while travel from one area to another area to obtain the illegal drug.

Thus, place characteristics highlighted by routine activity theory include the presence and effectiveness of managers and presence of capable guardians (Eck, 1995). Crime pattern theory links places with desirable targets and the context within which they are found by focusing on how places come to the attention of potential offenders (Eck, 1995). Offenders who operate open-air drug markets have the motivation, understanding and awareness of the area in which they choose to operate their market. The presence and effectiveness of managers, handlers, and guardians in these areas are then absent. These are areas in which one will find an operating drug market.

Chapter Three: The Issues and Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative

The following information in section 3.1 consists of secondary data that was obtained from the Rochester Police Department and research conducted by Kyle Letteney, a researcher from the Center for Public Safety Initiative at R.I.T. In 2012 Letteney obtained marijuana-related arrests data from the Rochester Police Department. The data contained seven years of marijuana-related arrests in the City of Rochester. Letteney worked closely with Project HOPE, and used the data to verify the existence of the open-air marijuana market in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood compared to other areas of Rochester, NY. In the study, Letteney also looked at the distribution of crime in the city of Rochester using the marijuana-related arrest data, data on other drug arrests, and reports of violent crime. Generally, Letteney's study found that the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood shows a strong concentration of involvement with marijuana compared to other areas in Rochester, NY.

The Rochester Police Department (RPD) collects calls for service data in the expectation of using it to map crime for geographic areas within the City of Rochester. Calls for services refer to assignments that are characteristically distributed to the police and occasionally require police presence to resolve, correct, or assist in individual situations. The calls for service data symbolize a geographic location and the type of services residents in that location are requesting from the police.

The calls for services data collected by the RPD represents January 1, 2011 through November 19, 2013. It includes 15,510 service calls made to the police from residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood (detailed description in 3.1). In addition to the calls for service data, the arrest data represents marijuana-related arrests from 2005 through 2011 in the city of Rochester, Monroe County, surrounding areas, and within ¼ mile of the Conkey and Clifford corner (1/4 mile).

3.1 Calls for Service & Arrests Data

Research shows that open-air drug markets are associated with other criminal activity. Calls for services are a good indicator in showing the types of criminal activity that are most likely linked to drug markets. Calls for services are not necessarily for criminal acts, but incidents that are called in to police by residents. The following charts look at call for services in the studied neighborhood. The calls for services data represent the block of Conkey and Clifford Avenue (see map below); this block includes Conkey Avenue; Avenues A-B-C-D; and Clifford Avenue; Gladys Street; Harris Street; Nielson Street; and Woodford Street.

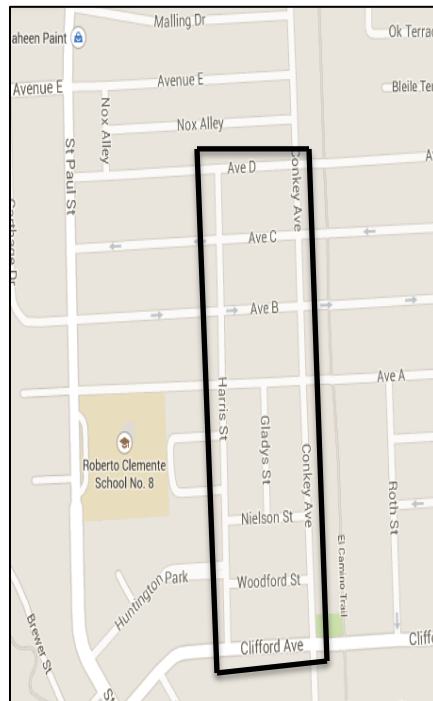


Table 2 shows the total numbers of calls for services for the years 2011, 2012, and 2013. The calls for services data for 2013 only represent data up to 11/19/13. In 2011 there were a total of 5443 (35.10%) calls for services and in 2012 there were a total of 5504 (35.49%) calls for services. There is not much of a difference in calls for services between the years of 2011 and 2012. In 2013 there were 4562 (29.42%) calls for service in the area by 11/19/13. There are a

total of 15,509 calls for services between the years 2011-2013. Table 3 represents the total numbers of calls for services for each street within the block that is being studied. According to the data there have been 4,706 (30%) calls for services between the years 2011-2013 by residents on Clifford Avenue, 2,457 (15.84%) in the Conkey Avenue area, 4,666 in the Avenue D area, and only 123 (0.79%) in Nielson street area. The data indicates that the majority of calls are made by residents in who are living in the Clifford Avenue, Conkey Avenue, and Avenue D. These areas are located by the street's corner store and the Conkey and Clifford Avenue Park.

Table 2 Services Calls

Year	Calls for Service	Percent of total
2011	5443	35.10%
2012	5504	35.49%
2013*	4562	29.42%
Total	15509	100.00%

*2013 CFS data up to 11/19/13; other years represent the full years' worth of data.

Table 3 Total Numbers of Calls for Services 2011-2013

Value Label	Frequency	Percent
AVENUE A	844	5.44
AVENUE B	642	4.14
AVENUE C	939	6.05
AVENUE D	4666	30.09
CLIFFORD	4706	30.34
CONKEY	2457	15.84
GLADYS	190	1.23
HARRIS	740	4.77
NIELSON	123	.79
WOODFORD	202	1.30
Total	15509	100.0

Lastly, table 4 indicates calls for services (incidents) that are most likely linked to the open-air marijuana market in the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood. The following incidents are represented in the as chart parking problems, firearms incidents, fights, disorderly/annoying person(s), noise problems, suspicious person/condition/vehicle, prostitution activity, and narcotics. Also, 29.4% of disorderly/annoying person calls are made in the Conkey Ave area, 28.2% in Avenue D, and 20.7% in the Clifford Ave area. Firearms incidents have been reported only in the Clifford Ave area. 84.6% of prostitution activity calls are made in the Clifford Ave area, 44.9% of narcotics activity calls are made in the Conkey Ave area, and 35.4% of fight calls are made in the Clifford Ave area. Overall, this chart indicates that residents in the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood are indeed facing some negative activity possibly associated with the open-air drug market. Furthermore, this chart also indicates that even within one neighborhood there are areas that face more problems than others.

		Table 4: Services Calls by Residents: Calls That are Most Likely Linked to the Open-Air Marijuana Market in the Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood (2011-2013)								Total
		Parking Problem	Firearms Incident	Fight	Disorderly /Annoying person(s)	Noise Problem	Suspicious Person/ Condition /Vehicle	Prostitution Activity	Narcotics Activity	
Locations of Services Calls	AVENUE A	5.8%	0.0%	2.7%	4.0%	6.5%	4.6%	0.0%	1.9%	4.5%
	AVENUE B	2.9%	0.0%	4.4%	3.8%	6.5%	4.4%	0.0%	5.5%	4.0%
	AVENUE E	5.5%	0.0%	10.6%	6.8%	6.5%	6.9%	0.0%	7.6%	6.5%
	AVENUE D	27.4%	0.0%	30.1%	28.2%	31.5%	28.5%	7.7%	19.1%	26.6%
	CLIFFORD	44.4%	100.0%	35.4%	20.7%	27.8%	24.0%	84.6%	12.6%	29.7%
	CONKEY	7.5%	0.0%	11.5%	29.4%	13.9%	23.8%	7.7%	44.9%	21.4%
	GLADYS	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	.5%	.9%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	.9%
	HARRIS	3.3%	0.0%	4.4%	5.4%	6.5%	5.0%	0.0%	6.1%	4.6%
	NIELSON	.5%	0.0%	.9%	.3%	0.0%	.7%	0.0%	.6%	.5%
	WOODFORD	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	.9%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	1.5%	1.2%
TOTAL		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.

Next, we look at the arrest data for this neighborhood. The United States has a higher incarceration rate than any other nation. Thirty-five years after Nixon started the “War on Drugs” there has been over one million non-violent drug offenders living behind bars (Booth, 2007). This war on drugs has become the longest and most costly “war” in American history (Booth, 2007). In the 2013 budget the Obama administration requested \$25.6 billion in federal spending for the drug war, with \$15 billion going to law enforcement (Sledge, 2013). This portion of the study explores the number of people incarcerated for marijuana sale/manufacturing and possession in the United States, New York City, and Rochester, NY. Because our focus is on a specific neighborhood in Rochester, the data for Rochester, NY will include marijuana-related arrests for Monroe County, the City of Rochester, and the one quarter mile radius around the Conkey and Clifford Avenue corner.

United States

Marijuana is the third most popular drug in America, after alcohol and cigarettes, and been used by nearly 100 million American (NORML, n.d.). Government surveys have shown that about 25 million Americans have smoked marijuana in the past year, and more than 14 million do so regularly despite the harsh laws (NORML, n.d.). In 2013, the national polls showed that a majority of Americans (58%) support the legalization of recreational marijuana (Kaste, 2013). Earlier in 2010, ABC News/ Washington conducted a poll by telephone and found that 46% of Americans supported legalizing small amounts of marijuana ([ABC News, 2010](#)). This shows a 10% increase for the support of legalizing marijuana by Americans between 2010 and 2013.

Moreover, according to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data, there were a total of 1.5 million drug arrests nationwide in 2011, about half of which were related to marijuana (Femer, 2012). According to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report in 2012, 42.4% of

arrests were for possession of marijuana and 5.9% for sale/manufacture of marijuana (FBI UCR, 2012). In 2013, the American Civil Liberties Union wrote a report that examined marijuana arrest by race. It was found that the arrest rate for whites was 192 per 100,000 whites, and the arrest rate for blacks was 716 per 100,000 blacks (ACLU, 2013). According to the ACLU, report “The War on Marijuana is Black and White”, despite the fact that marijuana is used at comparable rates by whites and blacks (2013, pg.9). Blacks are 3.73 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than a white person (ACLU, 2013). In 2010, 14 % of blacks and 12% of whites reported using marijuana (ACLU, 2013, pg.9). After acknowledging these numbers for blacks and whites, ACLU wondered about the number for Latinos. It was discovered that the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report, the federal government’s data source for national crime statistics, does not keep data on ethnicity (Garcia, 2013).

New York City

Since New York City (NYC) is the biggest city in New York State, it is interesting takes a look at the marijuana arrests rates there. Low-level marijuana offenses remained the number-one cause of arrests in NYC in 2012, even after the drop in total arrests from 52,220 in 2011 to 40,661 in 2012 (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>). In 2012 there were 39,218 marijuana possession arrests in New York City, according to (marijuana-arrests.com, 2012). Between the years 1996 and 2010, there were a total of 536,322 marijuana possession arrests in NYC. In 2013, there were 29,927 arrested for marijuana possession in NYC, which according to new data there a 26% drop in arrest for marijuana arrest from 2012 (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>).

Rochester, NY and the Conkey and Clifford Avenue Neighborhood

We are focusing on the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood of Rochester, NY because it has been known to be a hot-spot for marijuana sale for decades, and it is focus of the

Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative. Below, we compare rates of arrest in this neighborhood to the rates of arrest in all of Rochester and all of Monroe County. We specifically look at ¼ mile radius around the corner of Conkey Ave and Clifford Ave. A quarter mile radius is a small distance, equating to 1,320 feet. Thus, the Conkey and Clifford Ave. area considered here is just under 0.2 square miles. The City of Rochester is 37.1 square miles, so the Conkey and Clifford area comprises 0.5% of the city of Rochester's total area. Yet, as can be seen below, a much higher proportion of the City's marijuana arrests occur in this neighborhood than would if arrests were evenly distributed across the city.

Table 5 and Table 6 illustrate the number of marijuana-related arrests between the years of 2005 and- 2011 in or near Rochester, NY. Table 1 illustrates the arrests for marijuana violations and misdemeanors in Monroe County, City of Rochester, and the ¼ mile radius around Conkey and Clifford Ave. The arrest data was provided by the Rochester Police Department. There were a total of 13,359 marijuana-related arrests in Monroe County between 2005 and 2011, which includes the arrests in the City of Rochester, the suburban areas, and the Conkey and Clifford area (1/4 mile radius). Out of the 13,359 marijuana related arrests in Monroe County, 9,315 occurred in the City of Rochester (70%) and 342 occurred in the Conkey and Clifford area. Thus, 3.7% of all marijuana related arrests in the City of Rochester occurred in the Conkey and Clifford corner, which comprises 0.5% of the city's area. Moreover, 2.6% of marijuana-related arrests in all of Monroe County occurred in this ¼ mile radius.

The following information looks at the specific offenses people were arrested for. New York State Penal Law Section 221.05 (unlawful possession of marijuana) makes it a non-criminal violation to possess a small amount of marijuana. Table 5 shows that between 2005 and 2011, there were 10,754 arrests for NYS-PL 221.05 in Monroe County, 7,049 in the City of

Rochester, and 269 in the Conkey and Clifford area. Thus, 3.8% of arrests in Rochester occurred in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue area, and these accounted for 2.5% of all violation arrests in Monroe County.

New York State Penal Law Section 221.10, criminal possession of marijuana (CPM) in the fifth degree, is a class B misdemeanor. As viewed in table 5, the arrests in Conkey and Clifford accounted for 3.2% of all these arrests in Monroe County and 3.7% of those in Rochester. Also, 86.9% of these arrests in the county were in Rochester. New York State Penal Law Section 221.40, criminal sale of marijuana (CSM) in the fourth degree, is a class A misdemeanor. Table 5 shows arrest counts for NYS-PL 221.40. For this, arrests in the Conkey and Clifford Ave. neighborhood made up 8.4% of all misdemeanor sale arrests in Monroe County and 8.7% of the arrests in Rochester. Here, Rochester accounted for 96.6% of misdemeanor marijuana sale arrests in Monroe County.

Table 6 illustrates felony arrests related to marijuana between the years of 2005 and 2011. The data shows that there was a total of 385 felony marijuana related arrests in Monroe County, which includes the arrests in the City of Rochester, the suburban areas, and the Conkey and Clifford area. Out of the 385 felony marijuana arrests in Monroe County, 290 occurred in the City of Rochester (75.3%) and 13 occurred in the Conkey and Clifford area (3.4%). Also of note, most of these arrests were for felony marijuana possession, with significantly fewer being felony sale arrests.

There have been a large number of marijuana arrests throughout the U.S. Locally in Rochester, NY; the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood experiences a disproportionately high number of marijuana related arrests for its small geographical area. The Conkey and Clifford area has been noted as a location for marijuana sales for as long as forty years by the Rochester

Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSI). Thus, RDFSI is working on reducing low-level drug sales that take place on the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood street corners by changing the way the community and local government react to these sales.

Table 5

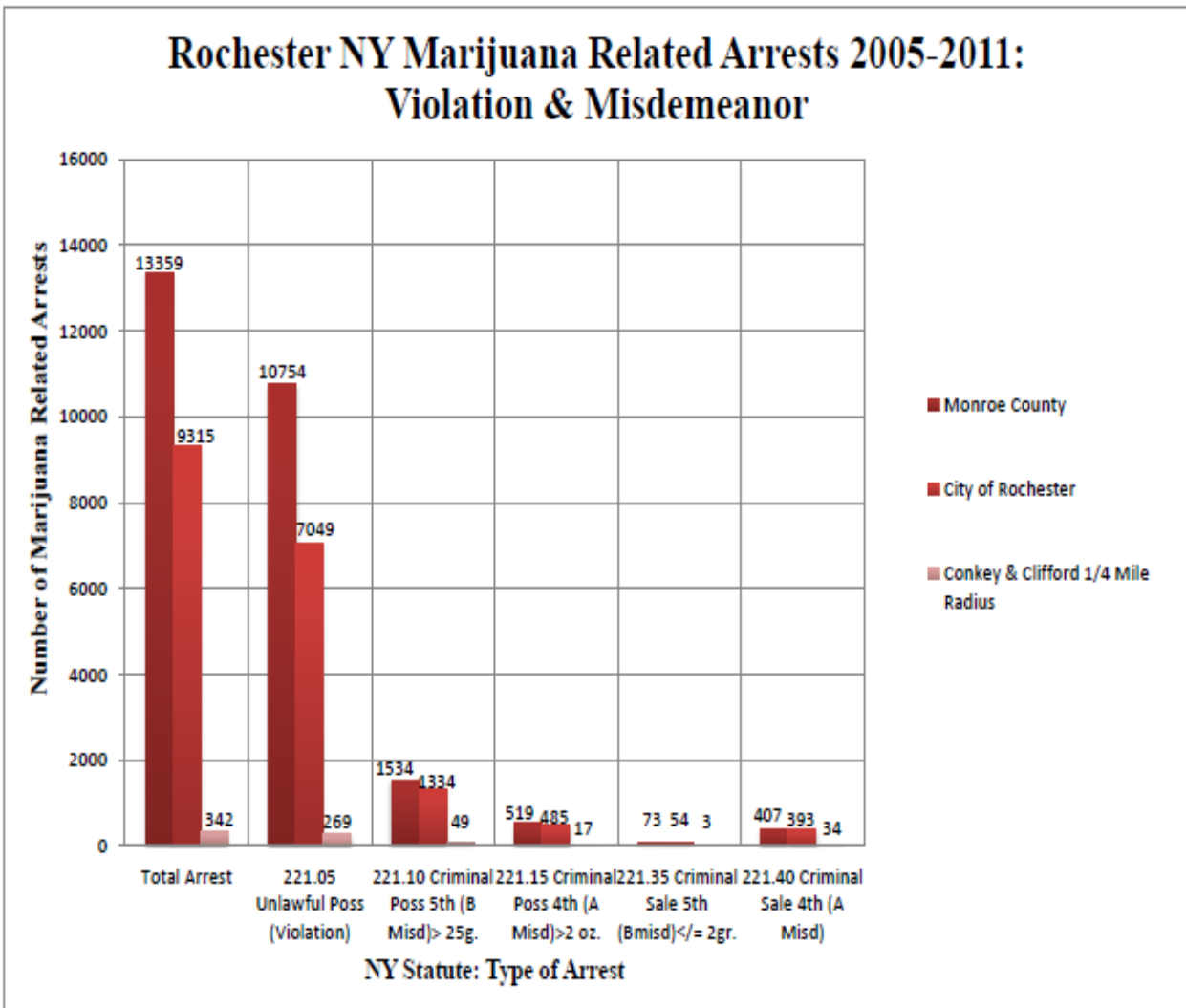
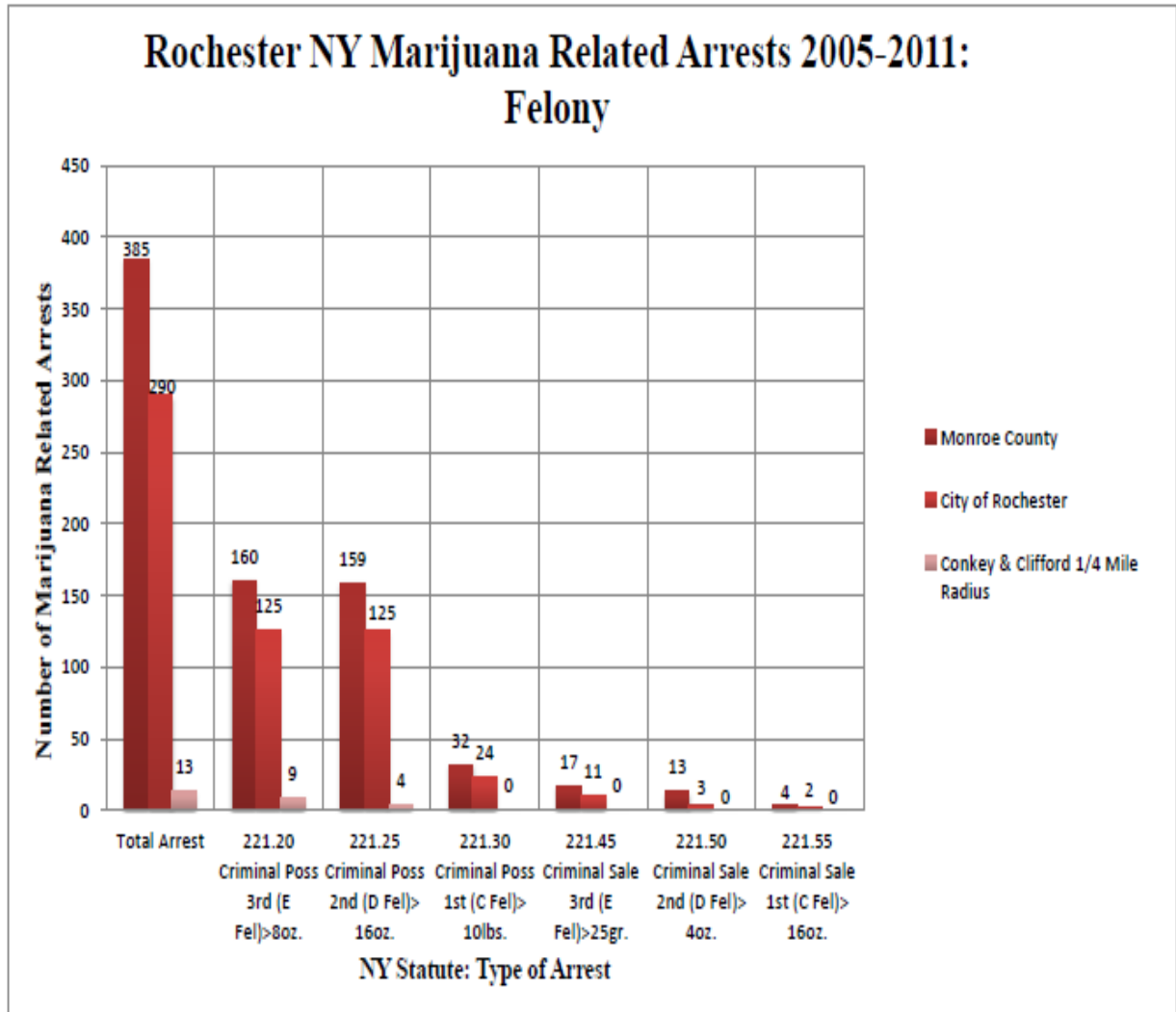


Table 6



3.2 Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative

The following developing initiative is targeting open-air marijuana markets in the northeast quadrant neighborhoods in the City of Rochester NY. The Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood is the initiative's first targeted neighborhood.

The Ibero-American Development Corporation (IADC) has been awarded a Health Community Grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to improve policies and systems related to open-air marijuana markets in Rochester, NY. The Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative (RDFSI) is a product of the Ibero-American Development Corporation (IADC). The goal Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative was to eliminate low-level marijuana open-air markets throughout the Project HOPE area, by reducing low-level drug sales. In addition the initiative wants to change the way the community and local government respond to low-level open-air drug markets, by using a two-pronged approach (figure 1). Overall, the RDFSI is a coalition of individuals and organizations who work together to build a coordinated community response to nuisance issues related to low-level marijuana sales, addressing the needs of the community and the needs of the individuals selling on the streets. The following is the mission and purpose of the RDFSI:

Mission: "The Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSI) is dedicated to educating and advocating for a systemic change in dealing with low-level open-air drug markets in Rochester. New York" (Melendez, 2013). .

Purpose: "Open-air marijuana markets have plagued resident's neighborhoods in the City of Rochester impacting the quality of life and health of residents in these communities. These markets increase the perception and fare of crime, hindering the development of the community, and increasing the stress amongst residents. The RDFSI intervention is committed to improving

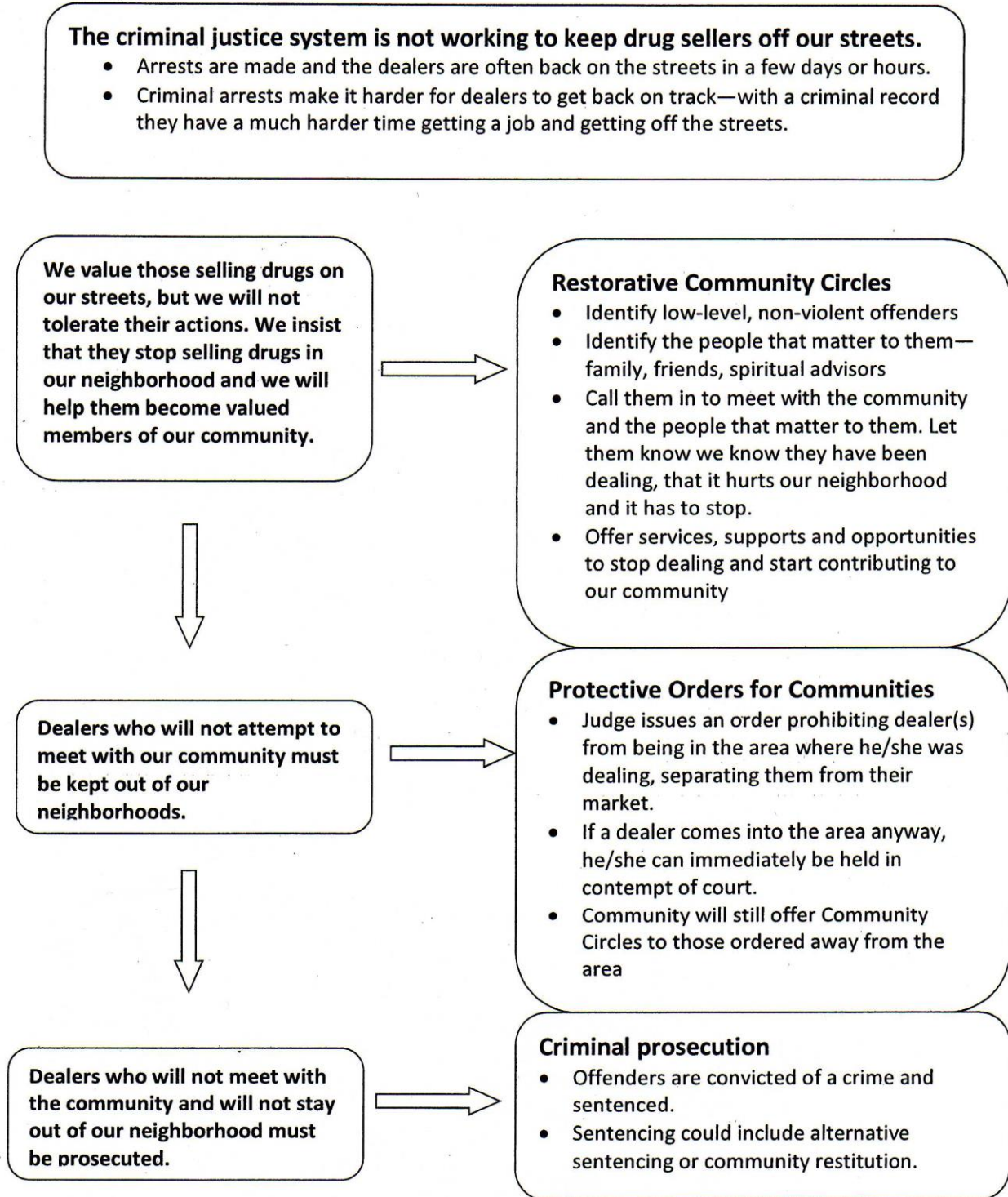
the quality of life in residential neighborhoods that have been affected by open-air drug sales” (Melendez, 2013).

The first approach of the developing initiative consisted of a community intervention strategy that engages individual drug dealers, drawing them onto community restorative circles if they agree to address their activities. The goal of this strategy is to give residents a tool to regain control over their community and their public spaces by taking proactive steps to eliminate existing drug activity and persuade young offenders to make different life choices. Secondly, RDFSII proposed a policy change that would allow communities to protect themselves from constant drug sales.

The following is a full description of the RDFSII, followed by a detailed step-by-step explanation of the RDFSII model. Finally some of the benefits and challenges will also be highlighted.

Figure 1

Creating Drug-Free Streets in Rochester Neighborhoods



RDFSI Committees

The RDFSI has put together committees that address different issues within the intervention and are scheduled to meet once a month. Each committee is involved in making decisions and committee members contribute to decision making. To contribute to decisions each committee member follows the code to making process by; speaking their individual truth, leaning into discomfort and leaning into each other, committing to “no-closure”- which means staying engaged in the dialogue and process of working together, and seeking intentionality, not perfection. This allows members to feel involved in the discussion and decision process. To make sure each member contributes to the decision making of the coalition, RDFSI created a tool that each committee uses. Committee members use a one to five voting tool, used by each member. Other tools that are utilized are dot voting, which give each member a chance to vote on what they are more in favor with. Also, the fishbowl allows members to create an outer and inner circle and give members the opportunity to listen when strong opposition is presented.

Each committee has a chairperson and a co-chairperson that are responsible for:

- Working with RDFSI staff to finalize agendas for meetings via once a month conversations
- Facilitate meeting for the committee; following decision-making structure, tools, and guiding principles.
- Assign responsibilities/action items to committee members throughout meeting based on expertise and relevance
- Assist in the continual evaluation of the committee
- Communicate with scribes to ensure accuracy of meeting minutes (notes)

Each committee also has a note taker, who is responsible for keeping minutes and sharing the notes via email with all other RDFSI members. This way, each member is kept informed, even if they are not part of a given committee. There are four committees associated with the RDFSI: the residents committee, the steering committee, the restorative practices working group committee, and the legal/policy group committee.

Resident committee: This committee consists of residents who have voluntarily involved themselves with the initiative and who are ready to make a change in their neighborhood. Residents are joined by RDFSI staff and are provided with a meal at each meeting. The goal of the residents committee is to keep residents engaged in the initiative. Residents are also informed about the RDFSI progress as well as its setbacks. Residents are also given the opportunity to share their stories about how they have been impacted by such drug markets, with others residents and RDFSI staff. RDFSI staffs are also informed by the residents of where drug dealers are dealing within the neighborhood. This aids RDFSI staff in identifying and selecting the dealers/drug market in the targeted neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to advocate to other non-involved residents and encourage them to get involved with the initiative. Overall, the RDFSI staff is reinforcing the ownership of the initiative to residents, which they can use as a tool to deal with the issues of marijuana sales in their neighborhoods.

Steering committee: RDFSI staff and other coalition members are responsible for setting directions for the initiative and making strategic decisions. Committee members feed into the committee with exchanges of information, progress of the initiative, and updated information. Members vote on important decisions as well as inform members of any changes.

Restorative Practices Working Group (RPWG) committee: The RPWG committee consists of RDFSI staff, Partners in Restorative Initiatives staff, RDFSI restorative practices coordinator, other coalition members, the RDFSI community engagement specialist, and community members. These members are responsible for adhering with the restorative component of the initiative. Old and new information of the initiative are expressed and members are involved in making deliberated decisions on the progress of the restorative component.

Legal Workgroup committee: This group is responsible for legal and legislative research. The group is also focused on the civil approach and making strategic decisions when dealing with a new developing policy. For example, the group worked on a local ordinance that would make the sale of a controlled substance and marijuana, on public property a public nuisance. Members' share ideas, discuss different alternatives, consider the pros and cons to a new policy, and collaborate with outside sources.

RDFSI Staff & Responsibility

The staff of the RDFSI consists of the director, project coordinator, restorative practices coordinator, and the community engagement specialist. Each staff member has their own level of responsibility to achieve the mission and purpose of the initiative. The following is a clarification of each staff member and their roles.

Director: The director is responsible for overseeing the staff and devolving a vision for the program. The director keeps the staff on track and informs them of their process with the project. Staff members are reinforced about the vision of the project by the director, so that they do not lose their focus on the project's goals. Most importantly, the director builds the relationships with the other coalition members and makes sure everyone's voices are heard. The director also works closely with the project coordinator to guarantee that project objectives within the grant are being focused on.

Project Coordinator: The project coordinator is responsible for overseeing the grant funding and meeting the outlined objectives of the project. The project coordinator is also responsible coordinating the different efforts, obtaining feedback from all the different coalition members, conducting outreach to more people, and following through with the action items from the committees.

Restorative Practices Coordinator: The restorative practices coordinator (RPC) works closely with Partners in Restorative Initiatives (PiRI) staff and is responsible for creating the process that is used for the Restorative Community Circles (RCC). The coordinator provides input from engagement with dealers for the RCC intake process. A critical role of the coordinator is to conduct outreach with both community residents and service providers, to inform them about the RCC process. Another responsibility is to get community residents involved in the roles in the RCC. RCC training sessions are put together and offered to community residents. At the training, the coordinator provides the community residents with in-depth information on restorative practices. The coordinator and PiRI work together to train community residents as either community resident participants or co-facilitators for the RCC. Besides dealing with the residents, the RPC is responsible for each step within the RCC component, working as a case manager for each individual dealer that is involved in the process.

Community Engagement Specialist (CES): The community engagement specialist is mostly responsible for engaging dealers and community residents. The CES is accountable for putting together two outreach teams. The first team is a Youth Outreach Team (YOT) team which on engaging young people who are selling marijuana in the community. The second team is a Resident Outreach Team (ROT); this team focuses on engaging other residents who live in the community. The Resident Outreach Team is responsible for informing residents about the restorative practices process, petitions drives, legal actions or legislation awareness (non-lobbying). The Youth Outreach Team is responsible for effectively talking to young people who are out in the street selling and informing them about the program and its benefits. The CES uses five different types of outreach strategies: door to door, flyers, phone calls, living room meetings, and mail-outs.

The two-pronged approach

The first approach of initiative consists of a restorative community circle. Individual drug dealers will be approached and asked to voluntarily participate in this restorative process. The restorative community circles will include two facilitators, the dealer and his/her supporters, trained neighborhood members, representatives of community organizations, and staff from the Drug Free Street Initiative. The overall goal of this initiative is to provide dealers with other alternatives rather than selling drugs on the street. Some of these alternatives may consist of education programs, job training, job placement, and substance abuse counseling, just to name a few.

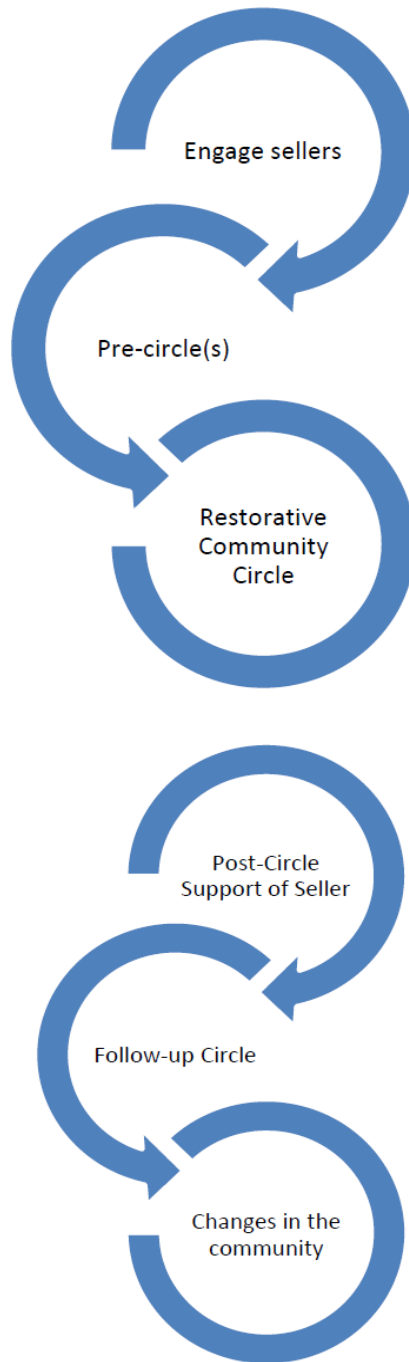
The process will consist of a pre-circle in which the dealer will be informed about the expectations and process of restorative circles by the CES and RPC. It will also give the parties an opportunity to know the dealer and his/her supporters as well as giving the dealer a chance to identify his/her own needs. After identifying the needs of the dealer, staff members can then identify the service providers that should be present at the restorative circle. The service providers inform the dealer about their services and how their services can aid them in achieving their goals. Once the dealers are informed about the process, the restorative community circle is then conducted. At the circle the dealers have the opportunity to take responsibility for his/her action, and community members have the chance to tell the dealer how their actions have impacted their lives.

After taking responsibility for their actions, dealers and other participants in the circle create an Individual Plan for Success (IP4S) in conjunction with the dealer. This plan is intended to aid the dealer with the steps needed to transition to alternatives to selling marijuana. Subsequently a follow-up circle is conducted with the dealer in which he/she reports on progress

and accomplishments. Staff will also identify if additional support is needed and will acknowledge if additional follow-up circles are need with the dealer. (Seefigure 2). Lastly, an incentive will be provided to dealers who are progressing through the circles. The incentive will keep the dealer/dealers motivated and off the corner while waiting to be discharged with their personal IP4S.

The second approach attempted by the RDFSJ encourages courts to grant a protective order for the community in order to prevent low-level offenders from entering a specific geographic area in which their drug activities have been deemed an ongoing nuisance to the neighborhood. Such orders would restrict the movement of repeat offenders in known drug markets and thereby disrupt drug sales by separating dealers from their markets. This protective order for the community would be issued in a civil court proceeding, avoiding the risk of a criminal record being imposed on the young individual.

Figure 2 RDFSII: Overview of the Restorative Community Circle Process



RDFSIS step-by-step components:

There are four major components to the RDFSIS intervention model. Each component is explained below

Component 1: Seller Engagement

Initial contact: The community engagement specialist and resident and staff volunteers engage in on-the-street conversations with identified sellers. Dealers are approached and informed of the program, and if the dealer seems interested they are provided with information on the program, as well as contact information. Dealers are identified through:

- Referrals made by a RDFSIS supporter (community resident)
- Information provided by the Rochester Police Department

Follow-up contact(s): Not all dealer(s) will be interested in the program upon first contact, so the engagement volunteers and community engagement specialist frequently and repeatedly contact the dealer(s) on the street, for the purpose of relationship building and information sharing. The following information will be relayed in follow-up contacts:

Benefits of seller's participation in the Restorative Process

- Not risking their family
- More freedom and less stress and obtaining respect in a positive way.
- Becoming a productive member in the community
- Share their stories with residents
- Get a understanding of how their behavior(s) have impacted other residents

Explanation of the initiative's needs from seller

- Must be open and willing to talk and listen
- Must be ready to takes steps towards change
- Must be willing to admit to selling marijuana
- Initiative Staff will act as a support for him/her throughout the process.
- Must be open to taking part in an incentive to stay off the corner

The follow-up contact process is continued until the dealer(s) buy-in to the program. This is due to the building of the relationship and the gaining of the dealers' trust.

Component 2: Intake Conversation

Intake Conversation & Form Completion: The Intake conversation is the bridge linking seller engagement to the Formal Restorative Process. After engaging the dealer and receiving notification of willingness to participate in the program, the dealer is given a date and time to meet for the intake conversation and form completion, by the community engagement specialist. In this component, both the community engagement specialist and restorative practices coordinator meet with the dealer(s) at an agreeable location. Staff members must provide key information on the formal restorative process and must gather the following:

Information from the participants:

- Seller contact information
- Names of Supporters and their contact information
- A sense of what goals/interests the dealer has

Note: Since the community engagement specialist has already built a relationship with the dealer(s), it is important for that staff member to be present at the intake. This will allow the dealer(s) to feel comfortable because they will see a familiar face. The dealer will more likely be open and honest with the answers they provided the staff members. At end of the intake conversation staff should have buy-in that the individual definitely wants to be a part of the Restorative Process.

Component 3: Formal Restorative Process

Pre-meeting: After obtaining the information from the dealer in the in-take process the dealer is then scheduled for a pre-meeting which includes: The dealer, outreach staff, Restorative Practices coordinator, and the dealer's support person(s). The following information is the key purposes for this process:

- Develop trust in circle process and facilitator(s)
- Provide a refresher on initiative purpose and mission
- Clearly explain what takes place at the Restorative Community Circle (RCC)

- Gain a sense of what service providers should be at the RCC

Restorative Community Circle: Once the dealer and supporters are informed about the RCC staff members start to put together the initial circle. The circle includes: the dealer, Outreach staff, Restorative Practices coordinator, dealer's support persons, service providers, community residents, and facilitators. The purpose for the RCC is to discuss the impact that drug sales have on: the community, the dealer, and the dealer's supporters. To build support base for dealers to encourage positive change in lifestyle and start the process of becoming a productive member, circle participants discuss the dealer's goals and create an Individual Plan for Success (IP4S), which aids in reinforcing the goals of the dealer. Each member present at the circle will sign the IP4S indicating that they support the dealer. The following are the steps that are taken right after the RCC.

Post-Meeting: The post-meeting consists of the restorative practices coordinator and dealer. The purpose for the post-meeting is for the restorative practices coordinator and former dealer to touch base and to begin the implementation of the individual plan for success (IP4S). This can be conducted by phone or at a location that has been agreed by both parties. At this step, the IP4S can be modified as needed for the former dealer's success.

Ongoing Support: The restorative practices coordinator continues to support the dealer, by assessing the dealer's ongoing needs to reach goals. The restorative practices coordinator also celebrates small steps of success, which aids in building the dealer's confidence. The coordinator also follows through with the service providers to verify if the dealer obtains the services that were recommended in the IP4S.

Follow-up Circle: The follow-up circle consists of the dealer, outreach staff, restorative practices Coordinator, dealer support person, service providers, community residents, and

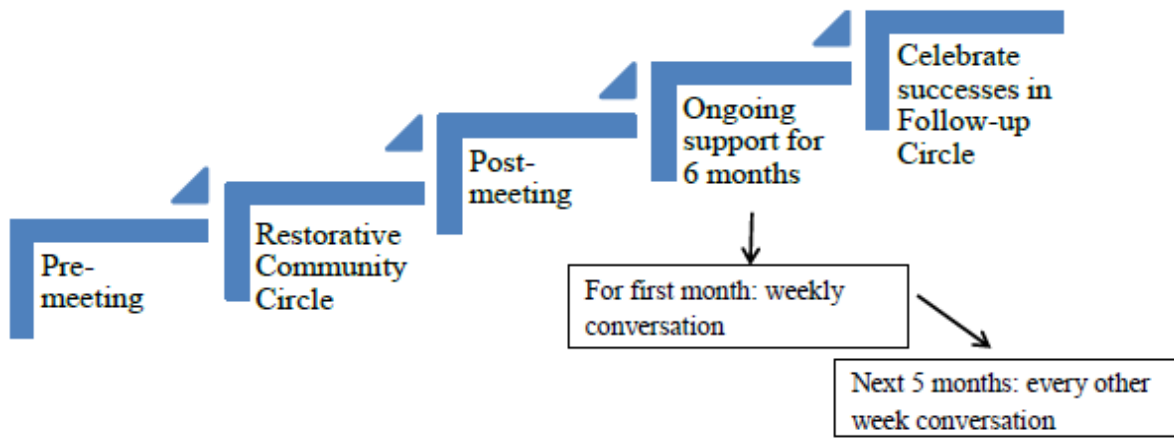
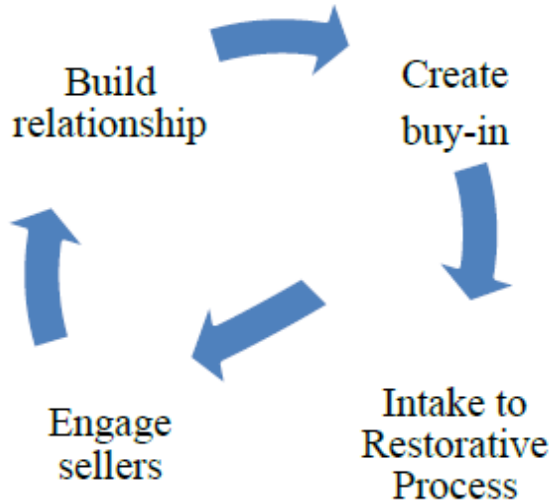
facilitators. At this circle members celebrate the changes and successes of the dealer since the first circle. A renewed plan for their on-going success for the next few months is created. An exit plan for the dealer is also created and dealer is informed that the community will keep on supporting the dealer's successes (see figure 3).

Component 4: Stay Away Order

Protective Order: If courts do grant a stay away protective order for the community, the stay away order will be the last component of the RDFSII initiative. In the case that a dealer does not want to take part in the initiative and continues to be a nuisance to the community, community residents joined by the City of Rochester can file a petition against the dealer seeking an injunction, which would prohibit the dealer from being at or within a certain distance of a specified location in that community.

**Figure 3: Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative
Steps in Restorative Process for Individuals currently selling**

Engagement Process:



Chapter Four: Methodology

For this study I have utilized multiple quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Surveys, interviews, secondary data, and observations were conducted throughout this study. The study focuses on two areas: the notion of the open-air marijuana market problem in the neighborhood and the process of project HOPE's new develop strategy. To obtain reasonable and thorough information on both the issue of the open-air marijuana market and Project HOPE's new developing strategy, multiple methods had to be utilized. This chapter illustrates each method used in this study.

4.1 Community Survey

Design:

A community survey was conducted in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood to determine how residents perceived their own neighborhood. The purpose of the community survey was to establish if residents held a positive or negative view of the Park located on the corner of Conkey and Clifford Avenue, of the neighborhood, and of others who live in the neighborhood. This was done because residents who live in the neighborhood are dealing directly with the open-air marijuana market and the criminal activity that comes along with such markets. Residents were also asked about what they like and dislike about their neighborhood.

Sampling:

Since the survey was conducted door-by-door; the resulting sample is a non-random sample of the residents in the Conkey & Clifford Avenue neighborhood. While conducting outreach in the Conkey & Clifford neighborhood for the RDFSI, residents were asked if they wanted to participate in taking a survey. Outreach members were informed to either read the questions on the survey to the residents and fill it out for residents or let the resident fill out the survey themselves. Residents that responded and agreed to take the survey are included in the

sample. A total of 45 surveys were collected from the Conkey & Clifford neighborhood. Despite this small number of respondents, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various effects that the open-air marijuana market has on residents in the Conkey & Clifford neighborhood.

Instrument:

The community survey (Appendix A), which was developed by CPSI (Center for Public Safety Initiative) student researchers, consisted of four demographic questions, 1 question on the use of recreational facilities & Conkey & Clifford corner park, three adjectives checklist questions, and two questions that asked residents to list their concerns and what they like about their neighborhood. The adjectives checklist questions gave the residents the opportunity to circle all the adjectives that they felt describe the park, neighborhood, and neighbors. The adjective checklist for the park and neighbors provided 12 negative adjectives and 12 positive adjectives, which residents were able to circle. The adjective checklist for the neighborhood provided 14 negative adjectives and 14 positive adjectives. The outcome of the data collected with this survey will provide the study with answers to the question “what effects does the open-air marijuana market have on the living environment in the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood”.

4.2 Community Survey and Project TIPS Comparison

Design:

The TIPS (Trust, Information, Programs, and Services) initiative uses a survey to obtain information from residents in the given neighborhood that is surveyed. The TIPS initiative is a city-wide program that is run by the Rochester Police Department. Law enforcement personnel and other community agencies work together in selected city neighborhood to rebuild trust amongst residents, as well as, sharing information with residents. For the purpose of this study, a

supplemental survey using two adjective checklist questions was attached to the TIPS survey (Appendix B). The supplement checklist survey questions consisted of negative and positive adjectives that are used to obtain information about the residents' feelings or attitudes toward their neighborhood and neighbors. The goal for this survey was to obtain information from three other urban neighborhoods Parkside Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, and Clinton Avenue. The overall objective of this survey is to compare the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood with the other three urban neighborhoods. It is also important to acknowledge the impact the open-air marijuana market has had in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood, compared to the other three neighborhoods. The information obtained also displays the overall issues within these neighborhoods. Furthermore, open-air marijuana markets can impact the community cohesion in a neighborhood and this survey will allow for an analysis of such effect.

Sampling:

The same sample from the Conkey and Clifford Avenue population was utilized. Just like the Conkey and Clifford Avenue survey, the TIPS survey was conducted door-by-door. The resulting sample is a non-random sample of the residents in the Parkside Avenue, Clinton Avenue, and Jefferson Avenue neighborhoods. For the project TIPS survey, a group of volunteers were sent out to administer the survey to residents in the neighborhoods. Each group had at least one law enforcement officer with them. The groups of volunteers were instructed to walk down one side of the street and then return on the other side, knocking on every door. When residents answered, the volunteers would introduce themselves and that they were conducting a survey for project TIPS. The volunteers informed the residents what the survey consisted of and asked if the resident wanted to participate. Residents who did participate were informed of the supplement checklist survey attached to the back of the TIPS survey.

Residents that responded and agreed to take the survey are include in the sample. A total of 51 surveys were collected from the Parkside Avenue neighborhood, a total of 112 surveys were collected from Clinton Avenue neighborhood, and a total of 45 surveys were collected from Jefferson Avenue neighborhood. Despite the somewhat low number of residents surveyed in each neighborhood, the resulting analysis should give a valuable insight into the numerous issues within the neighborhoods and help to compare each neighborhood. Additional information for all four neighborhoods studied was obtained from the United Stated Census Bureau and Federal Financial Institutions Council using neighborhood census tract numbers. As discussed in chapter 5 section 5.2.

Instrument:

The TIPS initiative survey consisted of 10 questions. For the purpose, of this project only four questions were analyzed, as well as the supplemental survey that was attached. Out of the four questions, two consisted of demographic questions, two questions asked residents to list their top three concerns/likes of the neighborhood, and two were adjective checklist questions. The first adjective checklist asked residents to circle the adjectives that apply to their neighborhood; residents were able to choose from 14 negative adjectives and 14 positives adjectives. The second adjective question asked residents to circle the adjectives that describe the people who live in their neighborhood.

4.3 Residents' Feelings

A purpose of this project is to gain an understanding of how residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood in Rochester, New York have been affected by the open-air marijuana market, as well as their view of their overall neighborhood. The Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSI) coalition has been working with residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood to bring to an end the marketing of low-level drugs in their neighborhood. To

collect more information about how residents feel about their neighborhood, two other surveys and one focus group were conducted, as described next.

Design:

After taking part in the residents' committee meetings and acknowledging how residents have been affected by the open-air marijuana market located in Conkey and Clifford area, researchers felt that their voice should be more-fully heard in the study. The purpose of the "Your Voice" survey was to gain more information on how residents felt about the neighborhood as well as the open-air marijuana market in the area. The "Your Voice" survey was given to residents who are involved with RDFSII.

Even with having dedicated residents in the initiative, the RDFSII conducted an additional survey at the TIPS event in hopes of reaching out to residents who they may not usually get input and ideas from. The TIPS events provide a great format for the RDFSII because most people in the neighborhood are drawn in to the event for food and other services that are offered. The RDFSII set up a table at the event to draw in residents who do not participate in the resident committee meeting or were not reached by outreach in the neighborhood. The reasoning for the survey conducted at the T.I.P.S event was to gain information on residents' impression of a drug-free neighborhood, as well as what would inspire them to join an initiative like RDFSII.

Lastly, RDFSII staff conducted a resident focus group with non-committee residents, to gain more information on how to get other residents in the neighborhood involved in the initiative. Even with the number of residents already involved in the initiative, RDFSII staff members feel that more outreach to community residents will lead to larger groups of residents. Having a larger group of residents supporting the initiative will increase the initiative's message in the neighborhood.

At the end of the paper you will find “Your Voice Survey” (Appendix C), “Raw answers to the Your Voice survey” (Appendix D), and the “Raw answers to RDFSIS survey” (Appendix E).

Sampling:

RDFSIS staff put together a motivation survey, which was conducted at the T.I.P.S event. The aim of the survey was to gain information on residents’ conception of a drug-free neighborhood, as well as what will encourage them to join an initiative like RDFSIS. A total of 55 surveys were completed, but the individuals who did complete the survey may not have answered all of the questions. The resulting sample is a non-random sample of the residents who completed a survey. In spite of the small sample size, the resulting analysis should give valuable information as to what inspires residents to join such initiatives, as well as, the impressions residents have of a drug-free neighborhood.

Second, the Your Voice survey was given to residents who had already taken part in the RDFSIS resident committee. They were also asked to pass a survey along to neighbors in their area. Residents were informed that their voices were important to this project. The survey was anonymous, so residents who chose to complete the survey did not have to write their name on the survey. Residents were also provided with a pre-paid self-addressed envelope with the survey so they could mail the survey back to the researcher. A total of 8 surveys were mailed backed. The resulting sample is a snowball sample of the residents of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. Despite this, the resulting analysis offers some insight into the distress caused by the open-air marijuana market in the Conkey & Clifford neighborhood.

Finally, RDFSIS staff conducted a resident focus group with non-committee residents. RDFSIS members conducted outreach in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood, using the door-by-door approach. Outreach members informed non-active residents of the focus group meeting.

On the day of the focus group, only two residents attended. This is a non-random sample of the non-active residents in the neighborhood. Notwithstanding, the resulting information should give awareness into what motivates residents to be active in community involvement. The focus group was held at 218 Clifford Avenue, making it accessible for non-active residents who live in the neighborhood. For the purpose of this study, I participated as an observer. Notes on the focus group are found at the end of the paper and were provide by RDFSIS staff (Appendix F).

Instrument:

The focus group consisted of three parts: 1. Questions to understand current level of engagement. 2. Questions to determine what motivate people to get involved, and 3. Questions to determine if people will become active around the drug issue. Other topics were discussed as well.

The RDFSIS motivation survey consisted of four open-ended questions, which focused on what residents feel about a drug-free neighborhood, their motivation for community involvement on this issue, things that are important to them, and things that they can do to assistance with the issues of the open-air marijuana market.

The Your Voice survey consisted of seven open-ended questions, which focused on what residents have experienced in their neighborhood. At the end of the survey, residents were also asked how long they have lived in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood and their age.

4.4 RDFSIS Key Stakeholders Interview

Design:

In-person interviews were conducted with all key stakeholders in the RDFSIS, with exception of two, which were conducted via email. Each interview consisted of different questions, each fitting the role and responsibility of the key stakeholder. For example, the

personnel that are responsible for project engagement were asked questions regarding community engagement.

Interviews were conducted with people in all positions as described below. We interviewed the Ibero- Special Project Director who is responsible for overseeing Project HOPE, as the project coordinator and the director of the RDFS. The RDFS project coordinator manages the grant funding and makes sure the project's objectives are being met.

The volunteer president of board of directors of Partners in Restorative Initiatives was also interviewed. This person also serves as the liaison for the RDFS Restorative sub-committee practices and is accountable for supervising the restorative meetings and formulated a restorative model which is focused on the population RDFS is targeting.

The RDFS restorative practices coordinator, who is also associated with the Partners in Restorative Initiatives, is responsible for developing the process of the community circles that is used to engage the drug dealers, as well as contributing to outreach with residents in the neighborhood and service providers.

The resident and non-active or active dealer engagement coordinator was also interviewed. The administrator from the city's Northeast Service Center was interviewed and is accountable for working with residents and police in the northeast of the city of Rochester. Lastly, two Rochester lawyers that volunteer for Project HOPE and are responsible for providing RDFS with legal advice were interviewed.

Sampling:

Each staff member was contacted in person or via email to set a day for the interview. Interviews were conducted at the staff member's office or at place that was agreed by both the interviewer and interviewee. At the time of the interview, the interviewees were informed about the interview process and purpose, and it was expressed to interviewees that they did not have to

answer any question they did not wish to respond to. The interviewees responding through email were also informed of the same thing. A total of eight interviews were conducted, the interviewee's role in the initiative determined the specific questions asked.

Instrument:

Each interview consisted of open-ended questions, giving the interviewee the opportunity to give an unrestrained response to each question (see Appendix F). The technique allowed for additional information about the role, responsibility, and opinions of the initiative. It also allows the interviewer to ask questions that arise when conducting the interview. The first four questions inquired the name of the interviewee (interviewees were granted assurances of confidentiality), so names are not used), their occupation and responsibilities, and how they got involved with the initiative. The remaining questions focused on the point of view the interviewees have on the new initiative, as well as the pros and cons. Finally, interviewees were asked what they will consider as success for the new initiative (this question resulted from the interviews).

4.5 Observations of the Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood & Park

To get a better grasp of the activity in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood observations were conducted of the neighborhood as a whole and of the park. There were 15 observations that took place through the months of May-November 2013, utilizing a dashboard camera and driving through the neighborhood (see Appendix G for observations notes). Within each month there were at least 2-4 observations conducted. The days and times the recording took place were picked at random during blocks of time in which researchers believed the marijuana market might be active, since the neighborhood has been identify as an open-drug market area. Moreover, two other parks located in the city of Rochester were also recorded. The additional recordings of the parks served as a tool for comparing the activities of each park.

The variables that were observed from the recording of the neighborhood activity consisted of: date and time, weather, total number of people observed, number of males, numbers of females, race (as observed), age range estimates, , number of people at the park, and age range at the park. The variables observed for the parks consisted of: time, date, and activity levels of each park. Levels for activity were based on the number of people observed at the park at the time of the recording. To keep the variables organized for both recordings, an excel spreadsheet was created.

4.6 Focus Group Participation

The Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative (RDFSI) held a former drug dealer focus group with two former dealers on October 17, 2013. Even with the small number of representatives (Former Dealers), the meeting was still conducted as part of the RDFSI information session on best ways to approach and engage dealers. Participants provided information in group discussion. RDFSI staff members informed participants about recording their discussion and then provided participants with consent forms. The form clarified the intent for the recording and its further use. Each participant, including staff members, had to sign the consent form before the discussion could be recorded. Neither the former dealers nor staff had a problem signing the consent form, which allowed RDFSI to record the discussion. The participants were also given an explanation of what RDFSI is and what the initiative is trying to organize in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood. The RDFSI permitted access to the recording for the purpose of research use.

The objective of the discussion was to gather information from former dealers in regard to the following: to understand better ways to approach drug dealers who are selling on the street corners, to understand better ways to engage these drug dealers, to understand the reasoning for selling, and to understand reasons for involvement in the drug game and reasons for leaving the

drug game. The answers to the focus group questions and the observations of the focus group are utilized in this study for further analysis.

Table 7A: Conkey and Clifford: Data, Methods, & Purpose

Data Collection	Method	N	Drug Market Dimension
Community Survey	Survey/ Adjective Checklist	45	Residents' perceptions of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood
Your Voice Survey	Survey	8	Residents' View of the Community
RDFSI Motivation Survey	Survey	55	What Motivates Residents to get Involved in their Neighborhood
Observations	Systematic Social Observation	15	The Activity in the Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood
Former-Dealers	Focus Group	2	Understanding the Approaches for Active dealers
Stakeholder	Interviews	8	The Process and Perceptions of RDFSI Staff
Community Residents	Focus Group	2	Understanding What helps Residents get Involved in Their Community

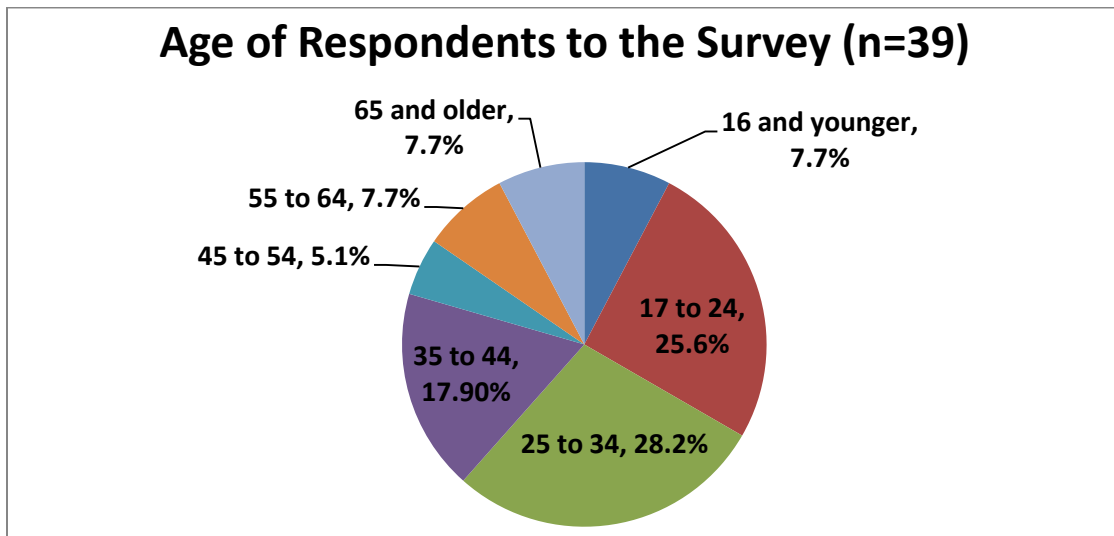
Chapter Five: Findings

5.1 Community Survey Results from Conkey & Clifford Neighborhood: Residents' View of Their Neighborhood

Demographics of the Respondents

Of the residents surveyed in the Conkey & Clifford neighborhood, the vast majorities were under 45 years old, with half between 17 and 34 years old (see Figure 4). Out of the 43 residents who answered the question, 58.1% were female whereas only 41.9% were male.

Figure 4:



Housing Status of Respondents

Over a third of respondents lived in the neighborhood for two years or less (35.8%). Over 75% lived in the neighborhood for less than 5 years. Only about 20% lived in the neighborhood more than 10 years, and only 7.1% lived in the neighborhood more than 30 years.

Next, respondents were asked if they owned or rented their property. Most (77.4%) reported that they rented the property, and under one quarter (22.6%) reported that they owned their property n = 31. A lower number of home owners is often associated with a high turnover

of neighbors and lower neighborhood stability, and it could pose a challenge during times when the community is encouraged to come together to address problems (Rohe& Stewart, 1996). In 2012, the TIPS (Trust-Information-Programs-Services) initiative surveyed 205 residents across several neighborhoods. That survey found that 36.1% reported that they owned their property and 63.9% reported that they rented their property. Thus, if these numbers are representative of all people in the neighborhood, between 2012 and 2013, the home ownership rate is 13.5% lower in the Conkey/Clifford neighborhood.

Neighborhood Features and Characteristics

The survey asked residents if they have used any recreational facilities or parks in the neighborhood or elsewhere, within the past 30 days. Of particular interest is the use of a neighborhood park located on the corner of Conkey and Clifford Avenues, as well as the El Camino Trail located behind the park. Figure 5 below shows the results for each recreational facility or park.

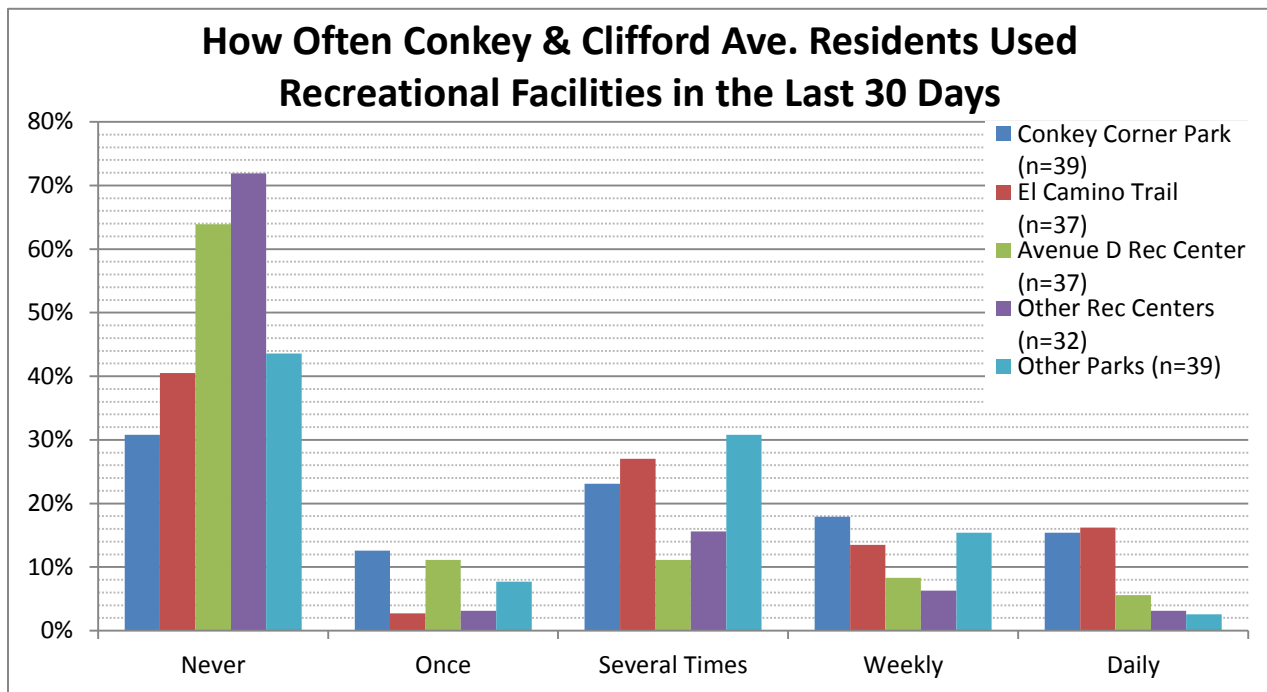
Almost a third of those surveyed had not used the park in the past month, while 15.4% used the park daily. Overall, 69.2% of respondents reported that they used the park within the past 30 days. Under half (40.5%) of 37 respondents reported that they had not used the El Camino Trail in the past 30 days, and 15.2% reported to had used the trail daily. Overall, 59.4% of respondents reported that they had used the trail within the pasted 30 days.

The survey also asked if residents had used the Avenue D Recreation Center located nearby. Of the 37 respondents, 63.9% reported that they had not used the center in the past30 days, and 5.6% of the respondents reported that they use the center daily. In total, 36.1% reported that they have used the center at least once in the past 30 days.

Next, residents were asked if they have used any other recreation centers besides the Avenue D Recreation Center. Of the 32 respondents, 71.9% had not used any other centers in the past 30 days, 15.6% of the respondents reported using other centers several times in the past 30 days, and 3.1% of the respondents reported using other centers daily in the past 30 days. Overall, 28.1% reported that they have used another center in the past 30 days.

Next, residents were asked if they used any other recreational features or parks. Out of the 39 respondents, just under half reported that they had never used other parks, under a third reported that they had used other parks several times, and 15.4% of the respondents reported that

Figure 5:



They used other parks weekly. Only one out of the 39 respondents reported using other parks daily in the past 30 days. Over half (56.4%) have used other parks in the past 30 days.

Residents were asked to write down the other parks or recreation centers they have used in the past 30 days. Their responses are listed below.

If you use other recreation centers or parks, which ones do you use?

Baden Street	Carter Street Recreation Center
Campbell Street	River Trail
Seneca Park	Durand
School #33	Fairport Parks
School #8	Webster Parks
Park by Edison	Henrietta Parks
North Street Park	Ellison Park

This list does not signify the number of times these parks are used by the residents but is a demonstration of the parks that some residents have used in the past thirty days besides the parks in their primary area of the Conkey & Clifford Avenue neighborhood. This also indicates that residents may not feel safe enough to use the park in their primary area.

Adjectives to Describe the Neighborhood

Residents were also asked to complete three adjective checklists by circling adjectives from a pre-defined list that they believed described the Conkey & Clifford Park, the neighborhood, and the people who live in the neighborhood. These types of checklists are used to obtain more nuanced information about the residents' feelings or attitudes. The following charts (Figures 3 through 10) display the number of times adjectives were circled by respondents.

Figure 6 illustrates the number of times respondents circled each negative adjective to describe the park on the corner of Conkey and Clifford. Of note, 18 respondents circled the adjective unsafe, which illustrates that less than half of these residents feel that the park is unsafe. Even though quite a few residents mentioned feeling unsafe, a lower number circled violent, frightening, dark and noisy, this might be associated with feeling unsafe. None of the

residents circled the adjective deserted, which indicates that they see the park on Conkey and Clifford as being used by the community.

Figure 7 illustrates the number of each positive adjective circled also illustrates a positive view of the park by the residents. The residents felt that the park is clean, fun, useful, and welcoming. Many felt it was family-friendly and cared for. Even though more residents indicated feeling unsafe (18 people, Figure 3) than safe (11 people, Figure 4), residents are still utilizing the park even if some feel unsafe.

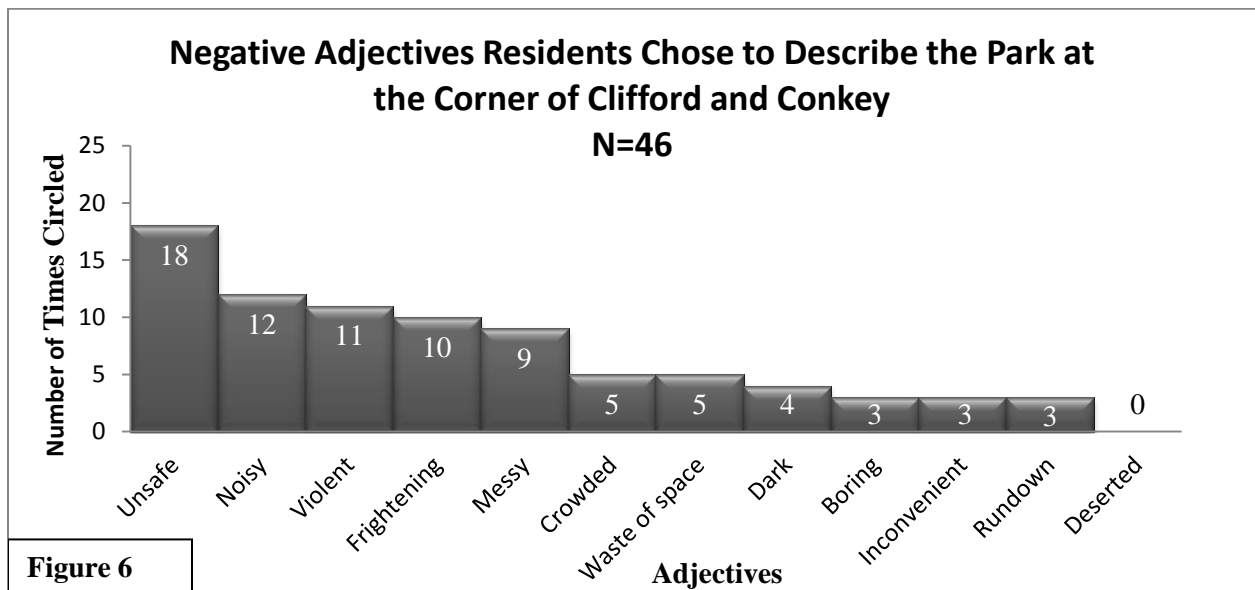
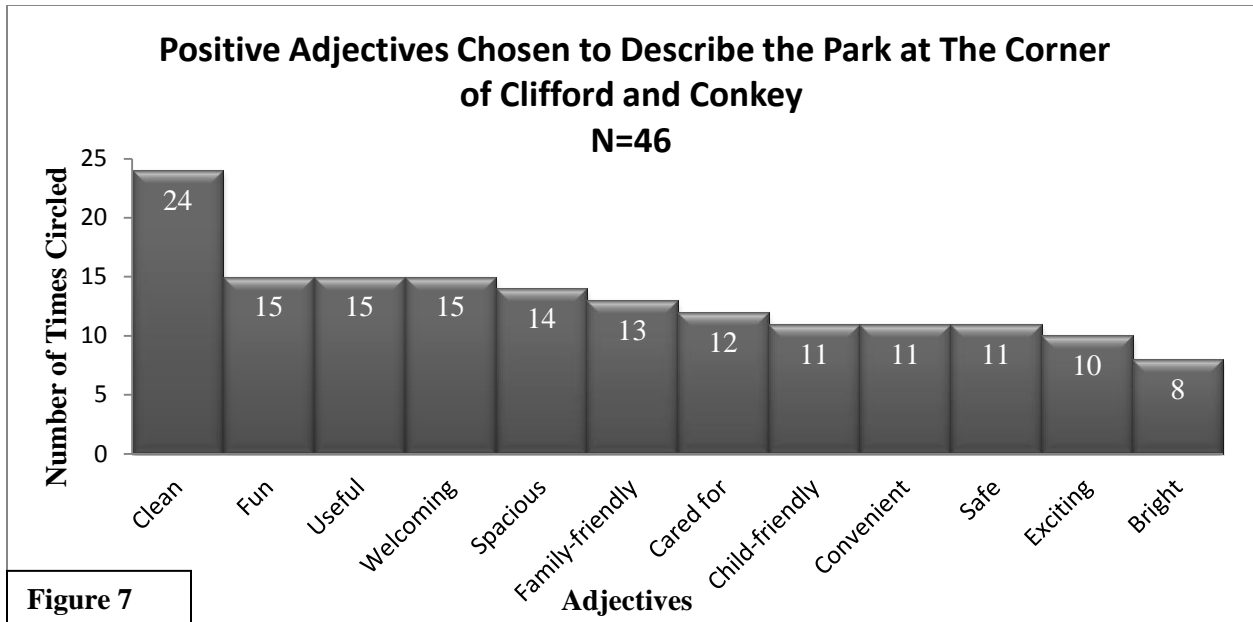
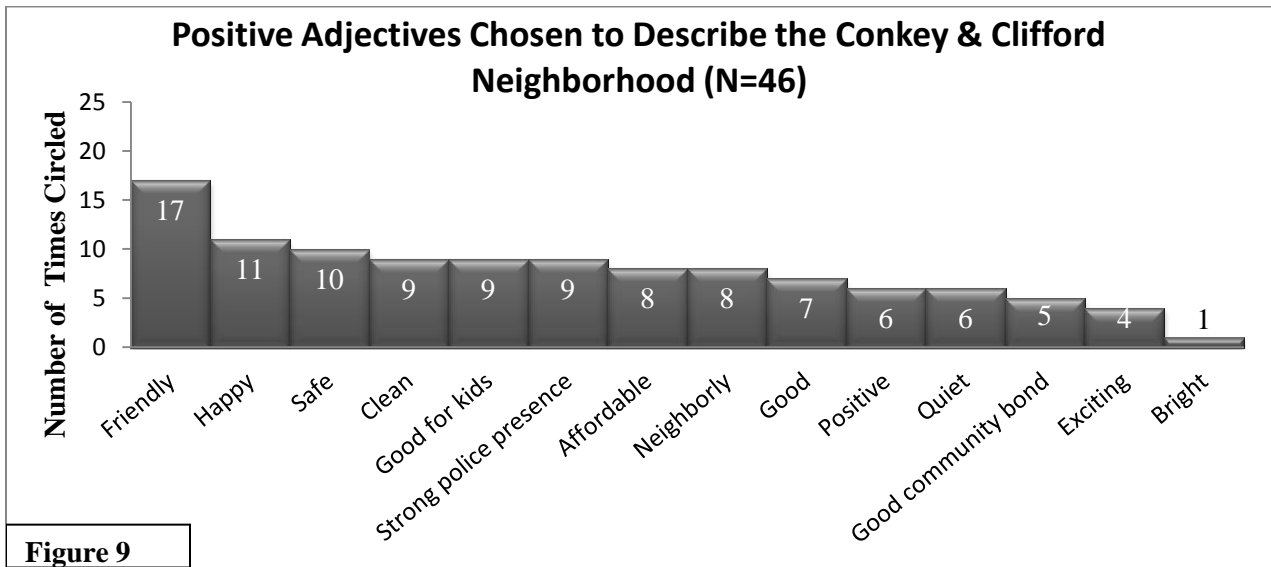
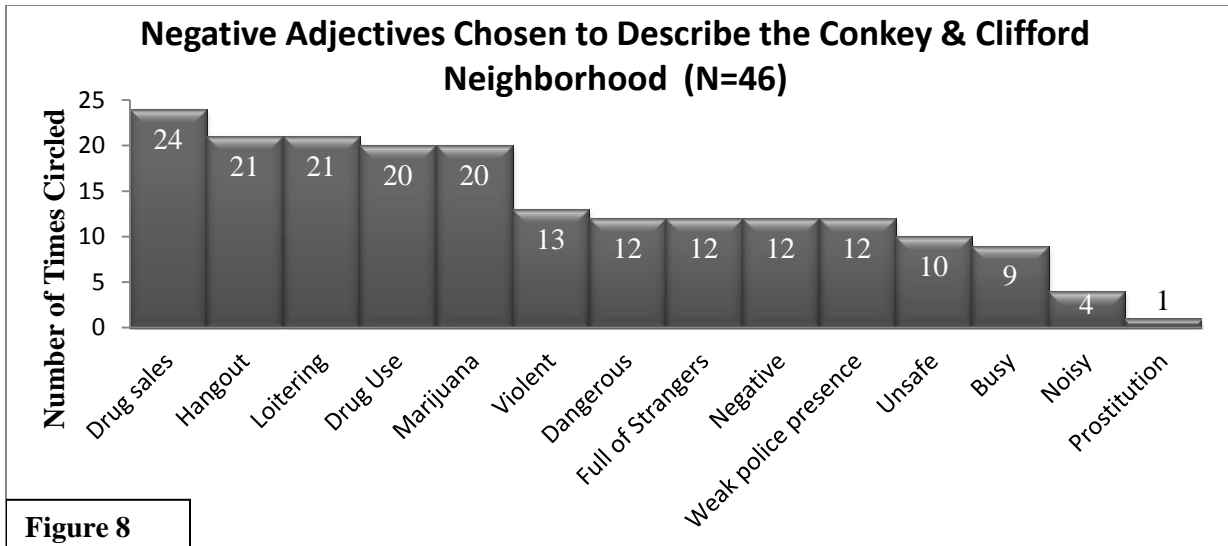


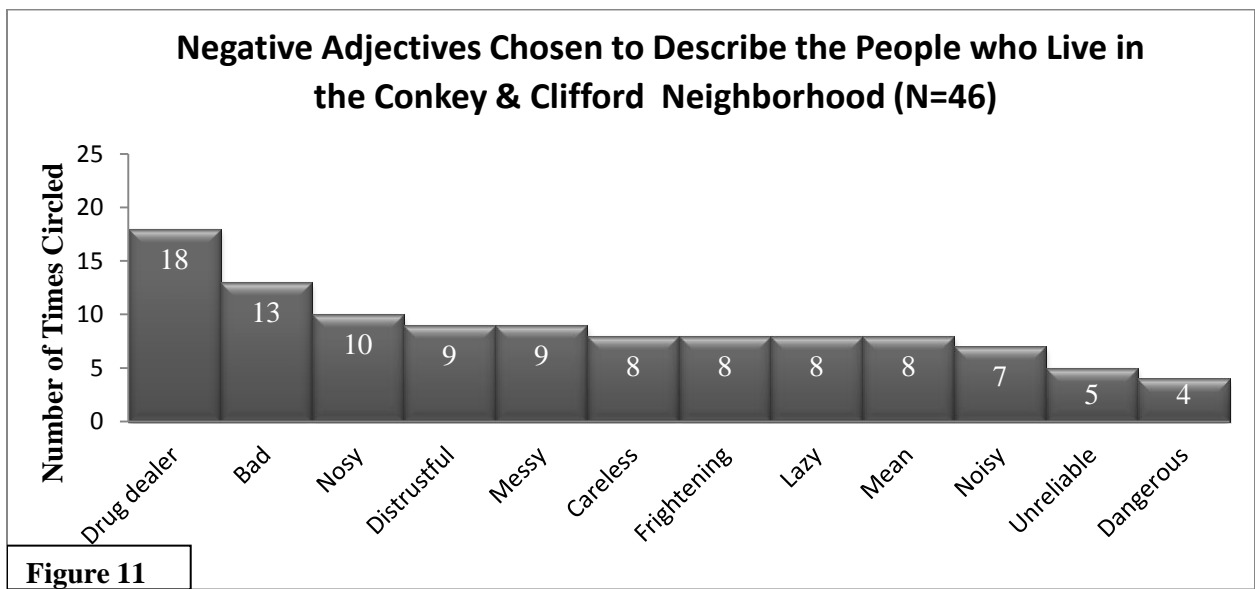
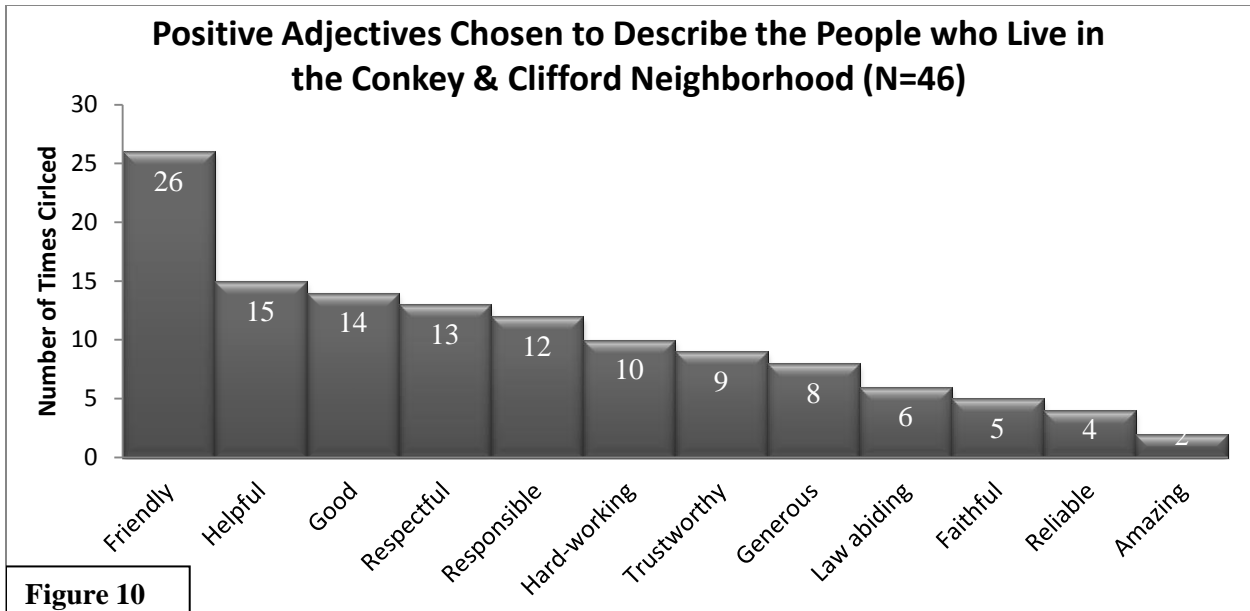
Figure 6



Residents were next asked to choose words to describe their neighborhood. The results are shown in Figures 8 and 9. The residents have a more negative view of the neighborhood than a positive view. Out of the 46 residents, the term “drug sale” was circled 24 times, and “hangouts” and “loitering” were both circled 21 times. Other commonly-chosen terms, such as “drug use” and “marijuana” are associated with what one might consider a drug market. A smaller number of residents felt the neighborhood was friendly and happy. More residents felt that the neighborhood was dangerous (12) compared to safe (10), negative (12) compared to positive (6), weak in police presence (12) as opposed to strong in police presence (9), and full of strangers (12) compared to neighborly (8). Two more residents chose the word quiet than chose noisy. Overall, it seems that the majority of the residents have a more negative view of the neighborhood than a positive view. The negative adjectives that were circled by the residents also demonstrate the activities of an active drug market.



Residents were then asked to choose words to describe the people who live in their neighborhood (Figures 10 and 11). The terms friendly, drug dealer, and helpful were the most popular words chosen. It seems that residents have a more positive feeling about their neighbors than a negative feeling. Residents felt that their neighbors were helpful, good, respectful, responsible, and hard-working. Less people felt their neighbors were disrespectful, careless, and messy. However, more people felt their neighbors were frightening than law-abiding or reliable.



The following charts show how many more positive adjectives residents circled than negative adjectives on each of the adjective checklists (number of positives responses subtracted by the number of negative responses). When looking at the x-axis of these graphs, the positive numbers (to the right of the .00 tick) represent the overall positive responses, showing how many more positive adjectives a person circled than negative. The negative numbers (to the left of .00) represent the overall negative responses, showing how many less positive adjectives were circled

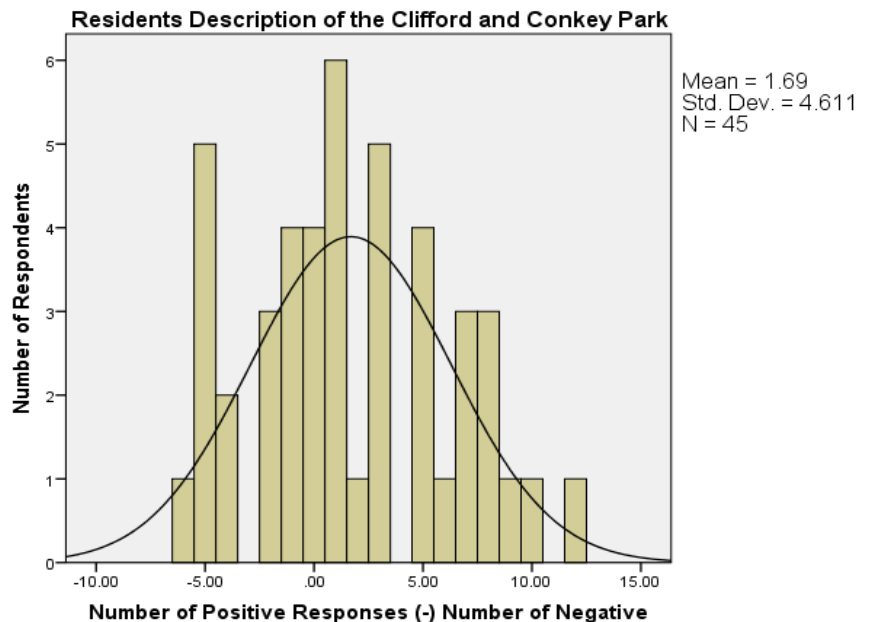
than negative. The 0 mark represents the number of individuals who chose exactly the same number of positive and negative adjectives. The heights of the bars show how many people responded in such a way as to yield the positive-minus-negative number on the x axis. The curves drawn on the graphs show the distribution of these response patterns. If the curve's peak is to the right, residents felt more positively overall. If to the left, they felt more negatively.

Results: Figure 12 shows the results regarding the park. Here we see, for example, that 1 out of the 45 respondents circled 10 more positive adjectives than negative adjectives, and six out of the 45 respondents circled 1 more positive adjective than negative. Overall, the

distribution curve represents a “Bell Curve”, so there is a normal distribution of responses. Although, the graph represents a normal curve, the curve's center is shifted slightly to the right (positive), with a mean of +1.69. So, most respondents feel positively overall about the park.

Figure 13 shows how many positive minus negative adjectives people circled to describe their neighborhood. Overall, respondents circled more negative adjectives than positive adjectives. The distribution in

Figure 12



Residents Description of the Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood

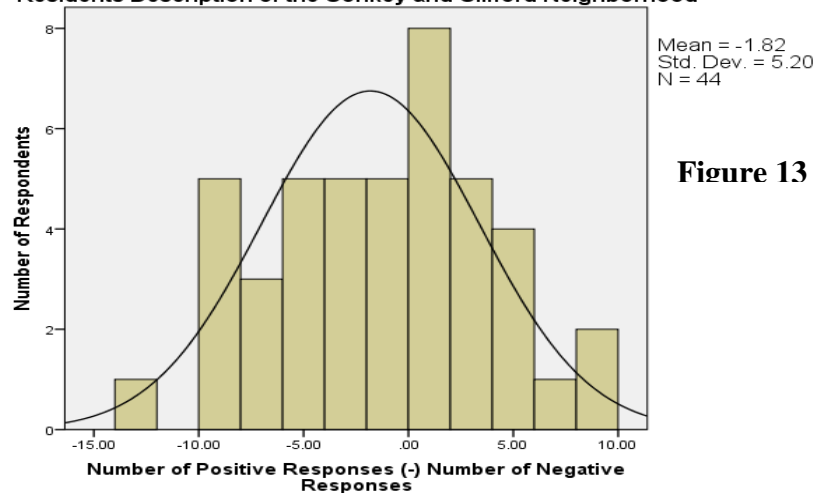


Figure 13

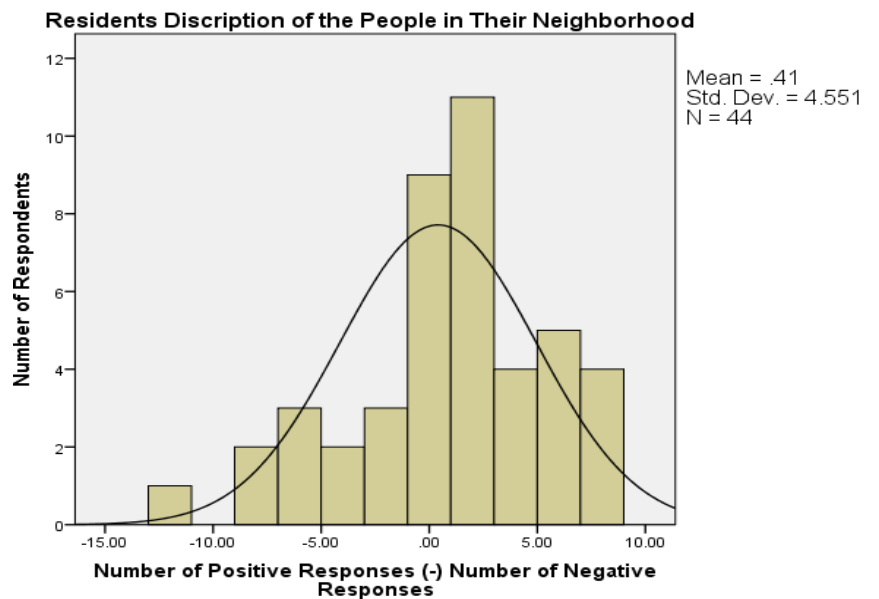
the graph represents a positively skewed curve, which means that there is larger number of responses to the left (negative responses). The mean is -1.82, which shows that the respondents have a more negative view of the neighborhood than a positive view.

The next histogram (Figure 14) shows these results for how people described the people who live in their neighborhood. Here you can see that mostly all the residents had positive things to say about their neighbors. The distribution in the graph represents a negatively skewed curve, which means that there is a larger

number of responses to the right (positive responses), making the left side longer (negative responses).

Overall, the mean is +0.41, meaning that the respondents overall have a more positive view of the people than a negative view.

Figure 14



In summary, most residents felt or viewed the park in a more positive way than negative. Residents also felt or viewed their neighbors in a more positive way, but when it comes to the neighborhood, residents viewed their neighborhood in a more negative way than a positive way.

Residents' Concerns for Their Neighborhood

The next questions asked the residents to list the three top concerns they had for their neighborhood, in ranked order.

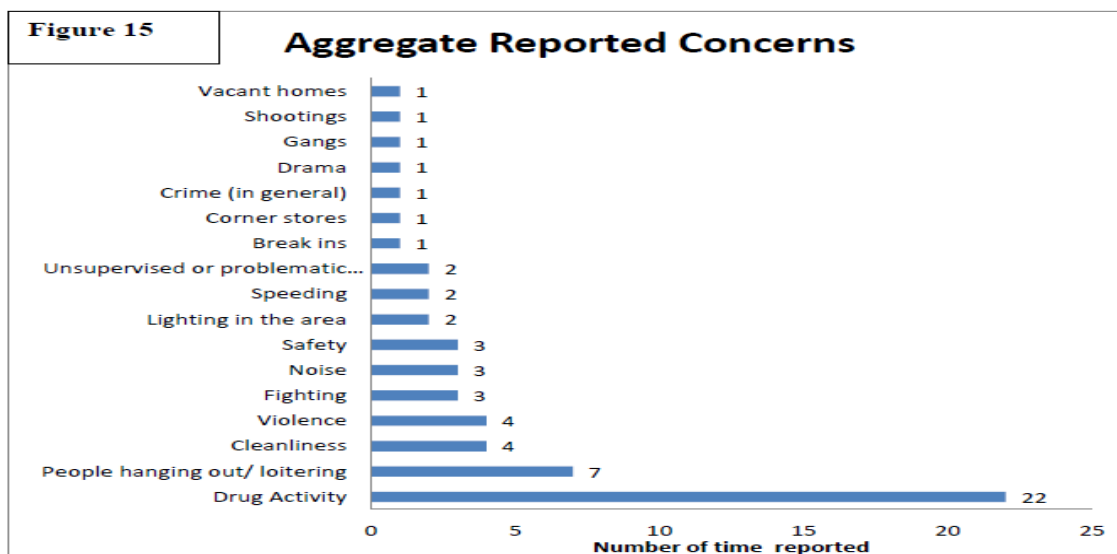
Out of the 44 residents that were surveyed, 24 reported a top concern. By far, the most common top concern was drug activity, with 75% of people listing this. Two respondents

reported speeding as their top concern, and cleanliness, people hanging out/loitering, noise, and violence were each reported by one resident as their top concern for their neighborhood.

Then, out of the 44 residents who completed the survey, only 19 reported a second concern. The most common second concerns were people hanging out/loitering and safety. Fighting, noise, and violence were each reported by two (10.5%) residents as their top second concern for their neighborhood.

Finally, 16 residents reported a third top concern for their neighborhood. The third-highest concerns residents listed most commonly were drug activity, unsupervised or problematic kids, cleanliness, and people hanging out/loitering. Gangs, crime, break-ins, and violence were each reported by one resident as their third top concern for their neighborhood

Figure 15 below shows the total number of times residents reported a concern in each of the categories listed, no matter how it was ranked in their list. In total, twenty-four residents listed some concerns. Drug activity is by far the most common concern reported by residents. Seven residents reported people hanging out/loitering as a primary concern, which is possibly associated with the drug market. Overall, the table shows a prevalent concern of drug activity.



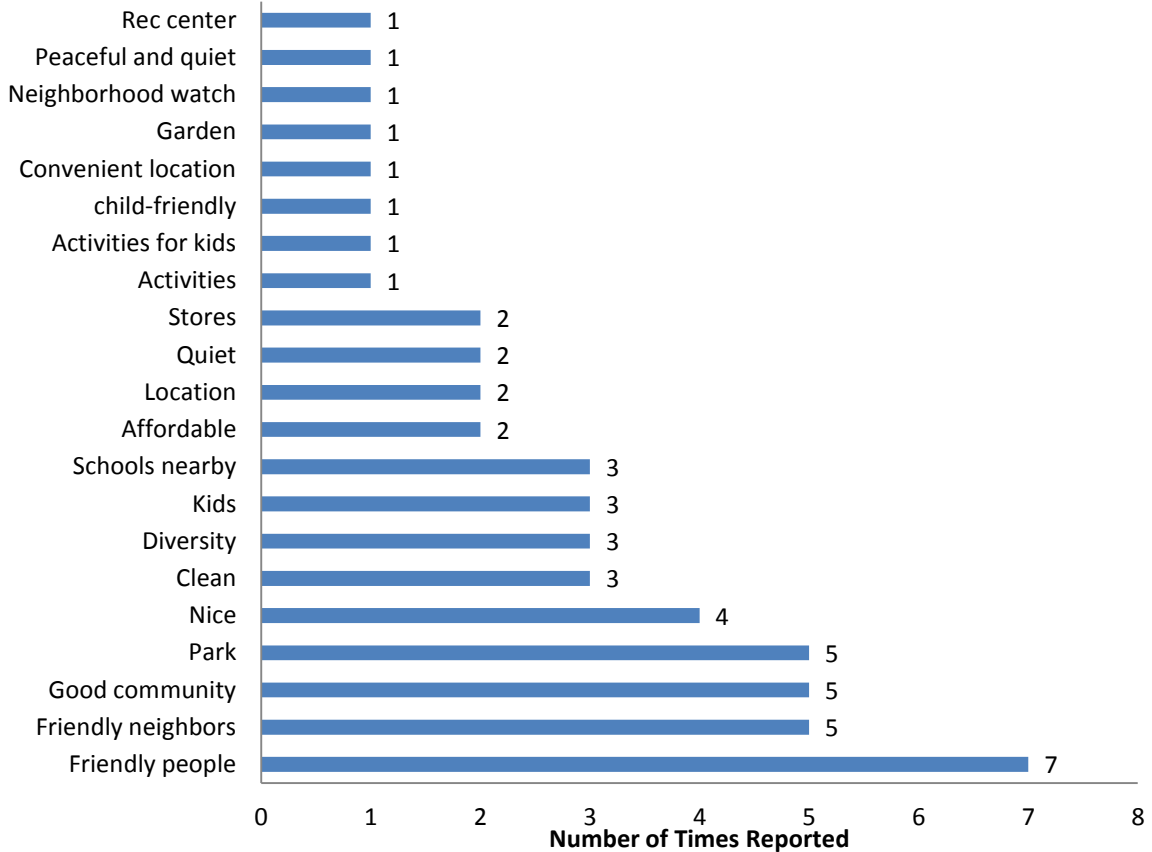
What Residents Like About Their Neighborhood

Residents were also asked to list the top three attributes that they liked about their neighborhood. Out of 44 residents, 24 listed a top positive attribute. Top-ranked positive features reported by four people were friendly neighbors, friendly people, and the park. Three residents felt the neighborhood was a good community. The neighborhood's cleanliness and location were each reported by two residents. Other aspects like the presence of children, nice, peaceful and quiet, recreation centers, and the school nearby were each reported by one resident.

Eighteen residents reported a second positive thing about their neighborhood. Three people reported diversity, two reported friendly people, it being "nice," and having schools nearby. One resident each listed that they liked the area's activities for kids, affordability, child-friendliness, cleanliness, garden, good community, kids, neighborhood watch, and park. Out of 44 residents, 12 reported a third thing that they liked about their neighborhood. Again, these varied widely, but two mentioned quietness, stores, and friendliness as characteristics they liked. Others reported that they like the activities, affordability, geographical convenience, good community, kids, and that it was "nice". Figure 16 below displays the total number of times each characteristic was mentioned anywhere on the residents' lists. The table shows that residents mostly like the friendly people and neighbors, the good community, and the park. Fewer residents reported liking the recreation center, the garden, activities, and activities for kids, child-friendliness, convenience, neighborhood watch, and peace and quiet. Residents also felt that having schools nearby, kids, diversity, cleanliness, and "nice" attributes were things that they liked about their neighborhood.

Figure 16

Aggregate Reported Likes



5.2 Community Survey and Project TIPS Survey Comparative: Conkey & Clifford Area to Three Other Neighborhoods in Rochester, NY

Neighborhood Characteristics

The neighborhoods chosen for this study have similarly high rates of poverty and minority residents. They were chosen because the T.I.P.S (see other CPSI TIPS papers) project was already having their events in these areas. First, we look at information about these neighborhoods from the United States Census Bureau and the Federal Financial Institutions Council. To obtain a good representation of the areas, data is collected at the census tract level to most closely match neighborhood boundaries.

Even when using the census tracts for the neighborhoods, we still have to take into account that the census tracts embody a larger area than that of the area surveyed. Also, some neighborhoods must be represented by one or more census tract numbers. For example, Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood is represented by two, whereas Jefferson Ave neighborhood is represented by three. To estimate the information for studied neighborhoods, the information from each census tract for the given area was added up and then divided by the number of individual census tracts. For example, Conkey and Clifford neighborhood covers two census tracts (39 and 50). To get the average of household incomes, we added up both households' incomes from census tracts 39 and 50 and then divided by 2.

(Example: (Household income: \$25,657 (CT-39) + \$15,426 (CT-50) = \$41,083/2= 20,541 avg.)

The results of this analysis are shown in the charts below. As shown, the unemployment rate in the Conkey Clifford area is higher than the other neighborhoods (16%), as is the poverty rate (46%). Overall, each of these neighborhoods shows some concerns, but some show more challenges than others.

Table 7B: Neighborhood Characteristics Charts

**Conkey & Clifford Ave Neighborhood
Characterizes (Tract #'s 39 & 50)**

Reported by FFIEC 2013:
Population: 3819
Minority Population: 3535
Below Poverty line: 45.68%

Reported by United States Census Bureau
2011:
Household Income: 20,541
Educational levels:
 High School or Higher: 55.3%
 Bachelor's degree or Higher: 8.15%
Unemployment: 16.1%

**Parkside Ave Neighborhood
Characterizes (Tract #'s 57 & 58)**

Reported by FFIEC 2013:
Population: 5913
Minority Population: 4716
Below Poverty line: 42.6%

Reported by United States Census Bureau
2011:
Household Income: 27,950
Educational levels:
 High School or Higher: 73.2%
 Bachelor's degree or Higher: 13%
Unemployment: 7.2%

**Clinton Ave Neighborhood Characterizes
(Tract #'s 7, 13, & 92)**

Reported by FFIEC 2013:
Population: 5233
Minority Population: 5046
Below Poverty line: 37.85%

Reported by United States Census Bureau
2011:
Household Income: 18,878
Educational levels:
 High School or Higher: 55.2%
 Bachelor's degree or Higher: 7%
Unemployment: 10.5%

**Jefferson Ave Neighborhood
Characterizes (Tract #'s 66, 64, & 27)**

Reported by FFIEC 2013:
Population: 5991
Minority Population: 5831
Below Poverty line: 35.2%

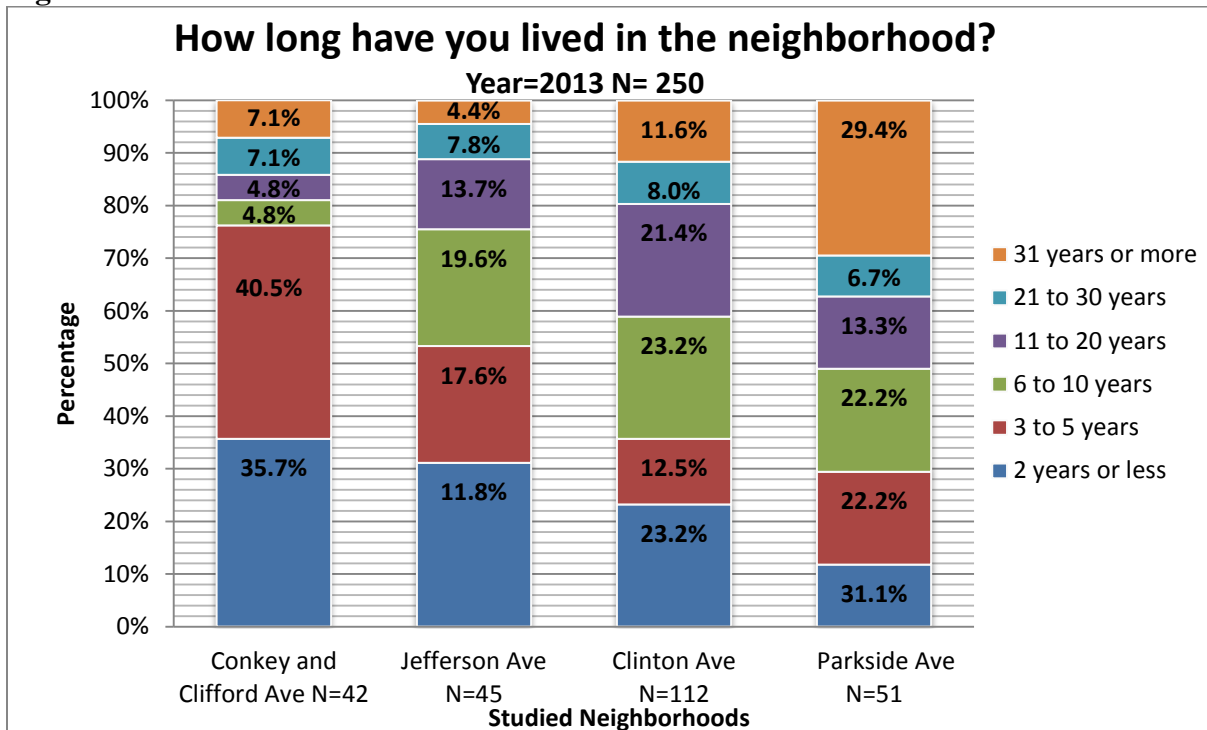
Reported by United States Census Bureau
2000:
Household income: 24,348
Educational levels:
 High School or Higher: 67.9%
 Bachelor's degree or Higher: 9.7%
Unemployment: 8.9%

TIPS Results: Household Status

On the TIPS survey, residents in each neighborhood were asked how long they have lived in the neighborhood. In total across all neighborhoods, 250 residents were surveyed. Just under half of those surveyed lived in their neighborhood for 5 years or less. Under a quarter (20.8%) lived in their neighborhood for 21 years or more. Across the city, then, there are high rates of residential turnover in these neighborhoods.

Figure 17 below shows the number of years residents have lived in each of the neighborhoods. Out of the 42 residents surveyed in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood, 40.5% reported living in the neighborhood for 3 to 5 years, and 7.1% reported living in the 31 years or more. Overall, this illustrates that out of all these neighborhoods, Conkey and Clifford shows a higher number of residents living in the neighborhood for less than 10 years. This can indicate a high turnover among neighbors and lower neighborhood stability in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood than other neighborhoods surveyed. Since this area has been identified as

Figure 17

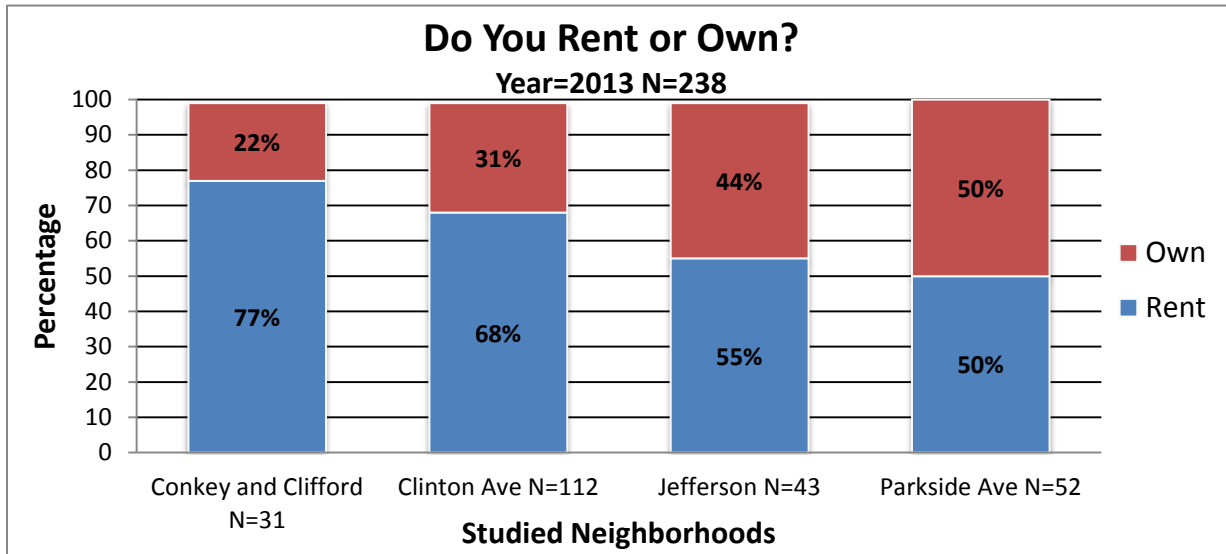


having an open-air marijuana market, it is possible that the market is influencing the turnover among residents or alternately that such markets exist more comfortably in such neighborhoods. The Parkside Ave. neighborhood seems to have the lowest turnover of neighbors and highest neighborhood stability, followed by the Jefferson Ave. neighborhood. Clinton Ave., which is Conkey and Clifford Ave.'s neighbor, also has a lower turnover among neighbors than Conkey and Clifford Ave.

Combining all residents surveyed in all four neighborhoods, 63.45% reported that they rented their home, and the remaining 36.6% reported that they owned their home (n=238). A low percentage of resident home owners is often associated with a high turnover of neighbors and lower neighborhood stability and could demonstrate a challenge during times when community cohesion is needed. According to Routine Activity Theory, a neighborhood with high turnover rates and low neighborhood stability are targets for a motivated offender, since these conditions are consistent with higher likelihood of an absence of capable guardians.

Figure 18 shows the percentage of residents who reported renting or owning their home, broken down by neighborhoods. In the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood, more than three quarters rented their home, with the rest owning. In the Clinton Ave neighborhood, less than three quarters rented, while more than a quarter owned their homes. In both the Jefferson Ave and Parkside Ave. neighborhoods, about half of respondents own their homes.

Figure 18



In summary, there is lower number of reported home owners in the Conkey and Clifford Ave. neighborhood. This is often associated with a high turnover of neighbors and lower neighborhood stability, which may be a cause or effect of the area’s open-air marijuana market.

Descriptions of the Neighborhoods

The residents of all four neighborhoods were also asked to circle adjectives on a list to describe their neighborhoods and the people in their neighborhoods. These types of questions are called adjective checklists and provide insight into respondents’ complex feelings about a topic. Here, we compare the previously reported results from the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood to the results from all three other neighborhoods combined (Jefferson Ave., Clinton Ave., and Parkside Ave.). Figures 19 through 22 show the percentage of respondents from either the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood or from the other three neighborhoods combined that chose each word. This comparison will illustrate the social cohesion and perception of the living environment in these neighborhoods.

Figures 19 and 20 show which adjectives respondents circled to describe the neighborhoods. These demonstrate that the residents in all these neighborhoods have a more negative view of their neighborhoods than a positive view, since a higher percentage of respondents circled negative words compared to positive. Responses from the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood followed mostly the same pattern as the other neighborhoods, meaning that the most-common words chosen were similar across neighborhoods.

The terms “drug sale,” “hangouts,” “loitering,” and “drug use” were the most commonly-chosen negative words in both Conkey and Clifford and the other neighborhoods combined (see Figure 19). However, a higher percentage of residents in Conkey and Clifford chose these terms than in the other neighborhoods combined. These adjectives are associated with what one might consider a drug-market. “Noisy” and “prostitution” were the only two negative adjectives that were circled less in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood.

Figure 20 shows the positive adjectives chosen by respondents. “Friendly” was by far the adjective chosen by the largest percentage of people in both Conkey and Clifford and other neighborhoods. The Conkey and Clifford neighborhood was also commonly described as happy, safe, and clean. For the other neighborhoods combined, the most common positive terms were “affordable,” “neighborly,” and “clean.” Overall, a higher percentage of people in the other three neighborhoods combined chose all of the words besides happy and safe compared to the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood.

Across all neighborhoods, residents felt their neighborhoods were more “good” than dangerous. More people thought there was a strong police presence compared to weak presence; more people thought it was neighborly compared to “full of strangers.” Residents did indicate that their neighborhoods were more quiet than noisy. Overall, Figures 19 and 20 show that the majority of the people who live within in these four neighborhoods have a slightly more negative

view of their neighborhood than a positive view. The negative adjectives that were circled by the residents might demonstrate the activities of an operational drug-market, particularly in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood.

Figure 19

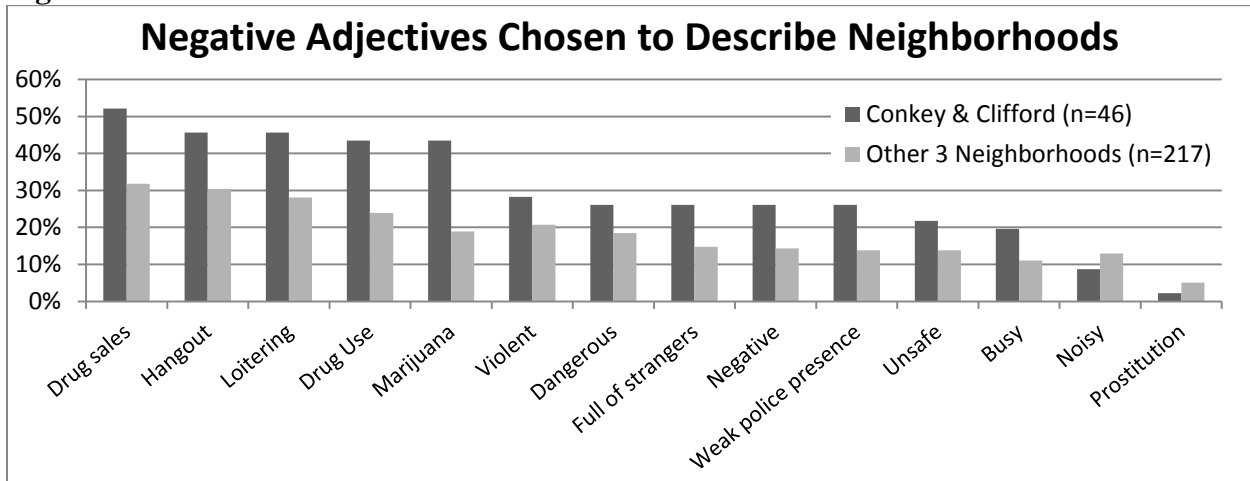
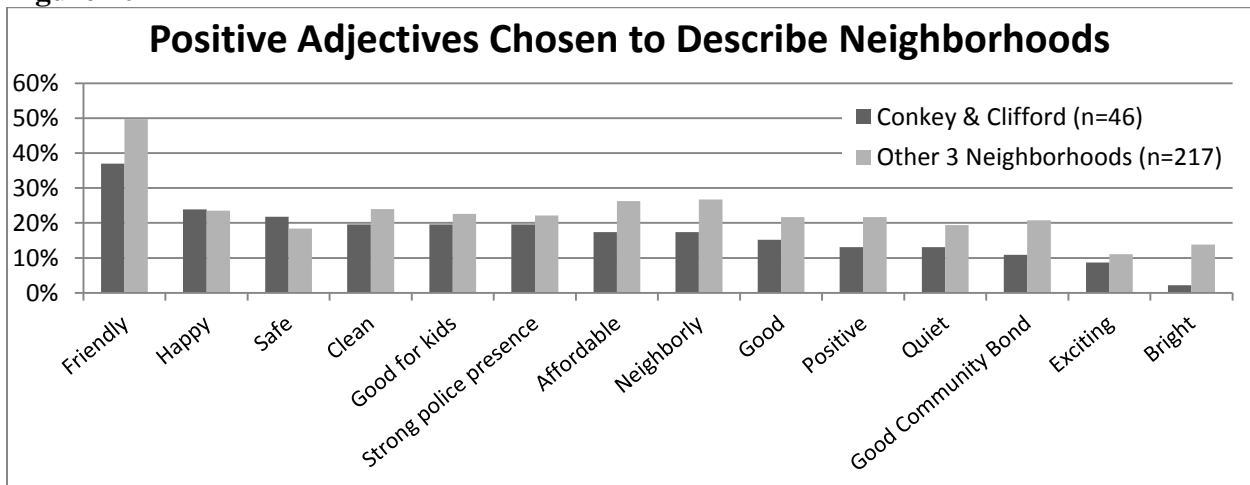


Figure 20



Residents were also asked to circle all the adjectives that describe the people who live in their neighborhoods. Figures 21 and 22 show these results, comparing the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood results to the results from the other three neighborhoods combined.

Figure 21

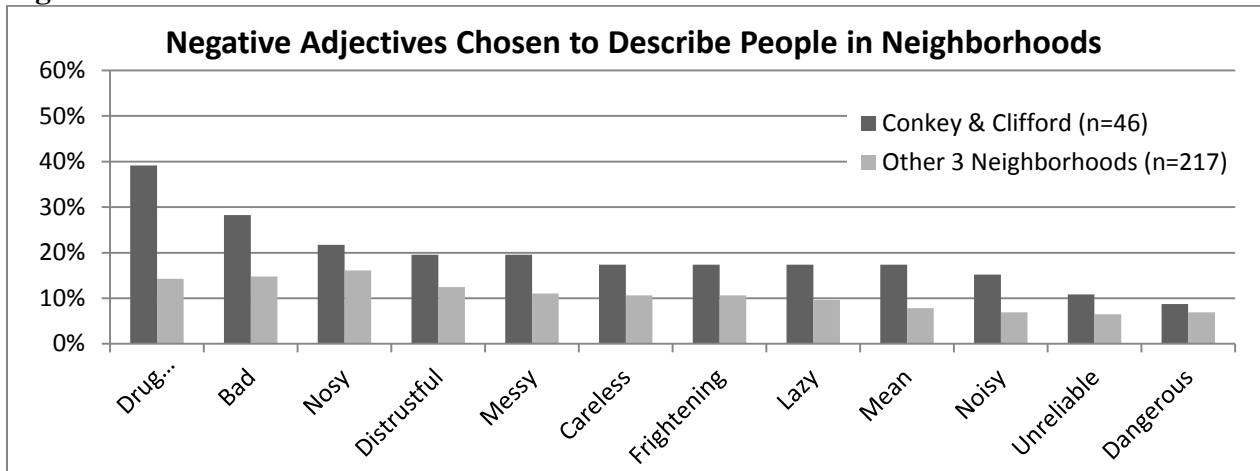


Figure 22

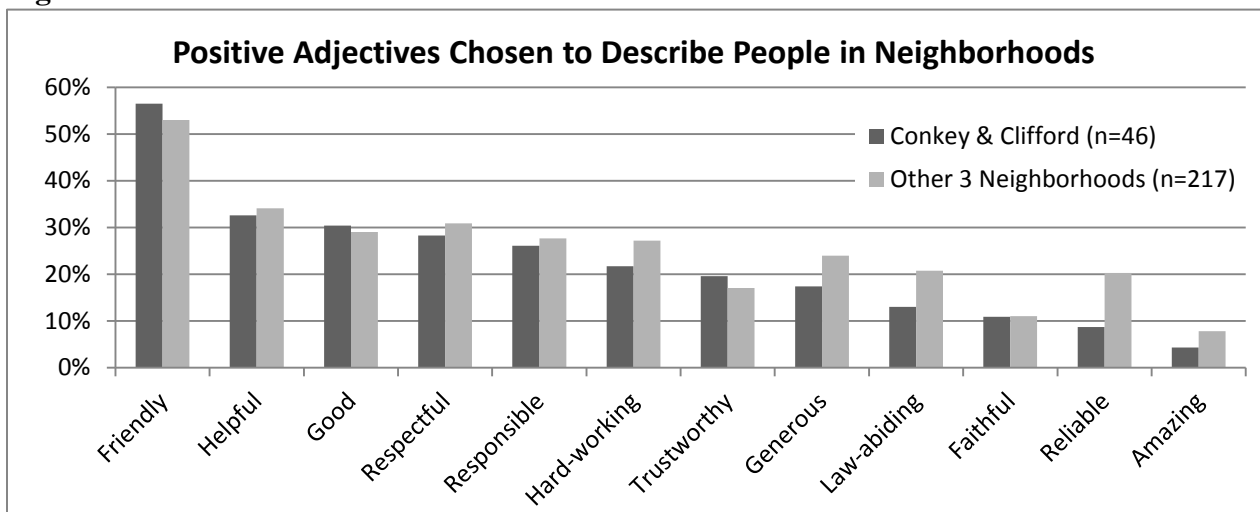


Figure 21 shows the negative adjectives. The most commonly circled negative adjectives among all four neighborhoods were drug dealer, bad, nosy, and distrustful. A much higher percentage of Conkey and Clifford respondents circled the words “drug dealer” and “bad” to describe the people in their neighborhood than in the other neighborhoods combined. In fact, a higher percentage of Conkey and Clifford respondents circled every negative word than residents from other neighborhoods.

Nonetheless, comparing Figure 21 to Figure 22, a higher percentage of respondents in every neighborhood, including Conkey and Clifford, circled positive words than negative words.

The adjective “friendly” was circled by far the most, followed by helpful, good, and respectful. Conkey and Clifford residents chose positive words less often than residents in other areas, except for friendly, good, and trustworthy. Despite these differences, residents, including those in Conkey and Clifford, have a more positive feeling about their neighbors than negative.

Next, we examine how many more positive adjectives respondents circled than negative. In these histograms (Figures 23 through 30), the numbers on the x axis show the difference between the number of positive and negative responses (i.e. number of positives responses minus the number of negative responses). The height of the bars show how many respondents answered in such a way to yield the number on the x axis.

Figures 23 through 26 show these histograms for how residents’ chose words to describe their neighborhood. For the Parkside Avenue neighborhood, residents circled more positive adjectives than negative adjectives. The curve in the graph (Figure 26) represents a “Bell Curve”, which means that there is a normal distribution of responses. Although, the graph represents a normal curve, the curve’s center is shifted slightly positively. The mean is +1.11, meaning that, on average, residents circled one more positive word than negative. So, most Parkside Avenue area residents feel slightly positively about their neighborhood.

Residents' Descriptions of their Neighborhoods

Figure 23

Residents Description of the Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood

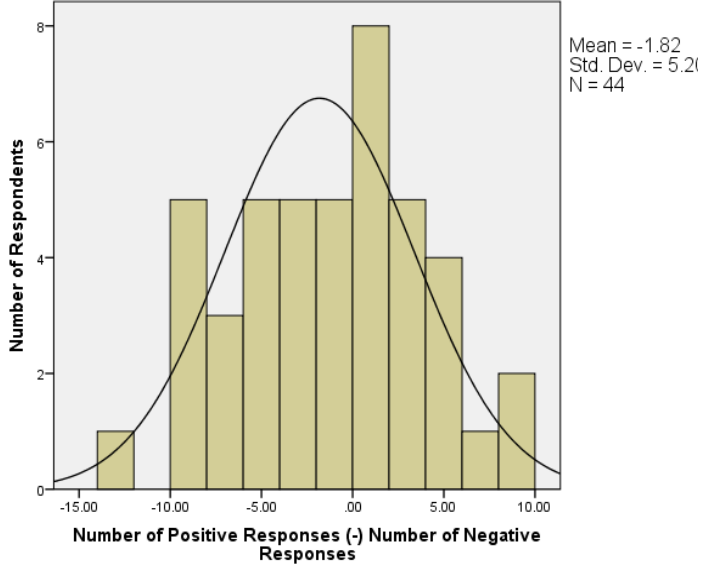


Figure 24

Jefferson Ave Resident Description of the Neighborhood

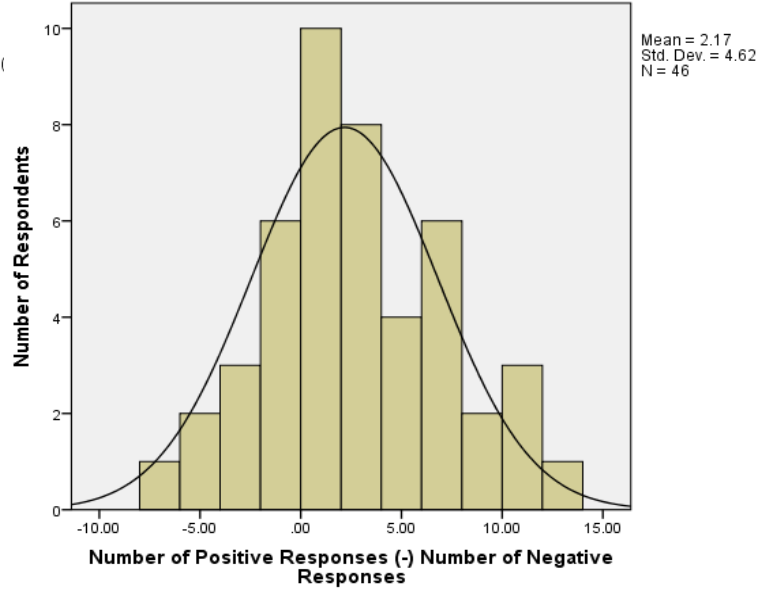


Figure 25

Clinton Ave Residents Description of the Neighborhood

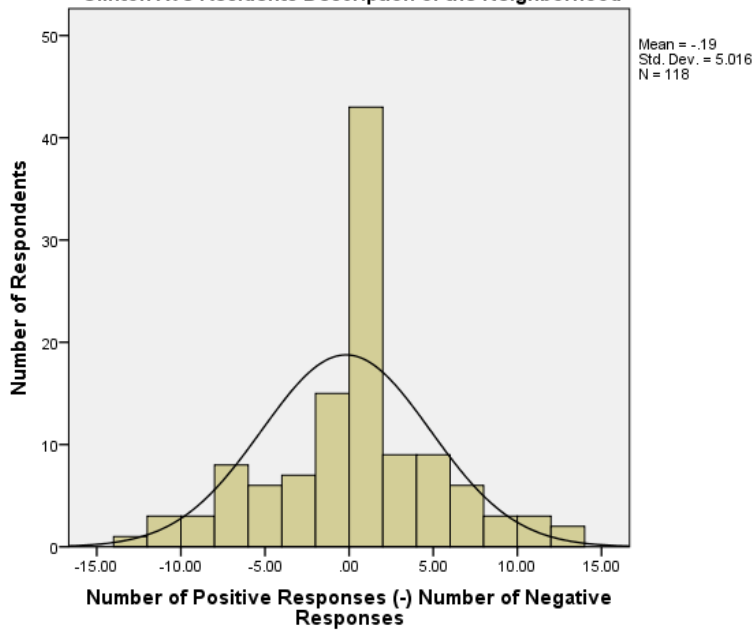
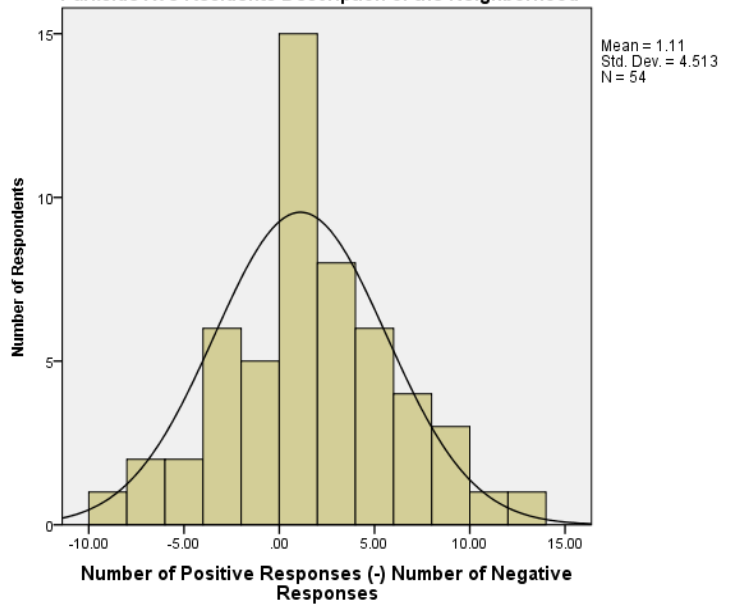


Figure 26

Parkside Ave Residents Description of the Neighborhood



Clinton Avenue residents circled almost the same number of positive and negative adjectives (see Figure 25). The curve approximates a “Bell Curve”, which means that there is a normal distribution of the negative and positive response neighborhood. The curve’s center is shifted slightly very negatively, with a mean of -0.19. Thus, most Clinton Ave. residents feel slightly negatively, but mostly neutral, about their neighborhood.

Jefferson Ave. residents (Figure 24) circled more positive adjectives than negative, yielding a mean of +2.17, which means that residents on average circled two more positive adjectives than negative. The distribution in the graph represents a skewed curve, with a larger number of responses to the right (positive responses).

The Conkey and Clifford neighborhood responses represent a skewed curve also (see Figure 23), but this time with a larger number of responses to the left (negative responses). The mean is -1.82, the lowest of all the neighborhoods studied, meaning that respondents circled nearly two more negative words than positive words. Therefore, people in the Conkey and Clifford Ave. neighborhood have a more negative view of the neighborhood. In contrast, Clinton Ave. residents were mostly neutral, and residents in the Jefferson Avenue neighborhood and the Parkside Ave. neighborhood view their neighborhoods positively.

Hence, the negative view of residents in the Conkey and Clifford area gives valuable insight into the issues within the neighborhood. The negative view might be caused by the ongoing issues surrounding the open-air marijuana market in their area, or other negative factors may contribute to the continuation of the market. It is clear from the list of concerns residents made drug activity in the area its top concern.

We now look at how respondents felt about the people in their neighborhoods. Figures 27 through 30 display the histograms for each neighborhood. Again, the x axis represents the

number of positive adjectives people circled minus the number of negative adjectives circled. The height of the bars (the y axis) shows how many people circled that number of positive minus negative adjectives.

For Parkside Ave. residents (Figure 30), the distribution in the graph represents a negatively skewed curve, which means that there is a larger number of responses to the right (positive responses). The mean is +2.20, which represents that the residents on average, circled two more positive words than negative. The responses from Clinton Ave. residents also show a negatively skewed curve, meaning there are more positive responses than negative (Figure 29). Overall, the mean for Clinton Ave. (+1.57) is slightly less than Parkside Ave. Jefferson Ave. residents were slightly more neutral but still positive overall. The curve in Figure 28 is not skewed, which means there is an even distribution of negative and positive responses. Jefferson Ave. residents generally circled 1 or 2 more positive words than negative (mean = +1.65). So, most Jefferson Ave. residents feel positively overall about their neighborhood. Respondents from the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood were more neutral than the other neighborhoods (Figure 27). Their responses create a negatively skewed curve, with a larger number of responses to the right (positive responses). The mean is +0.41 which represents a somewhat positive view of the people in the neighborhood.

Thus, while overall Conkey and Clifford respondents viewed the people in their neighborhood slightly positively, residents in all other neighborhoods had more positive responses. For all neighborhoods, respondents seemed to feel more positively about the people in their neighborhoods than the neighborhoods themselves. One explanation may be that residents in all four neighborhoods could be possibly speaking about just their favorite neighbors when responding about the people and not the community as a whole.

Residents Description of the People in their Neighborhood

Figure 27

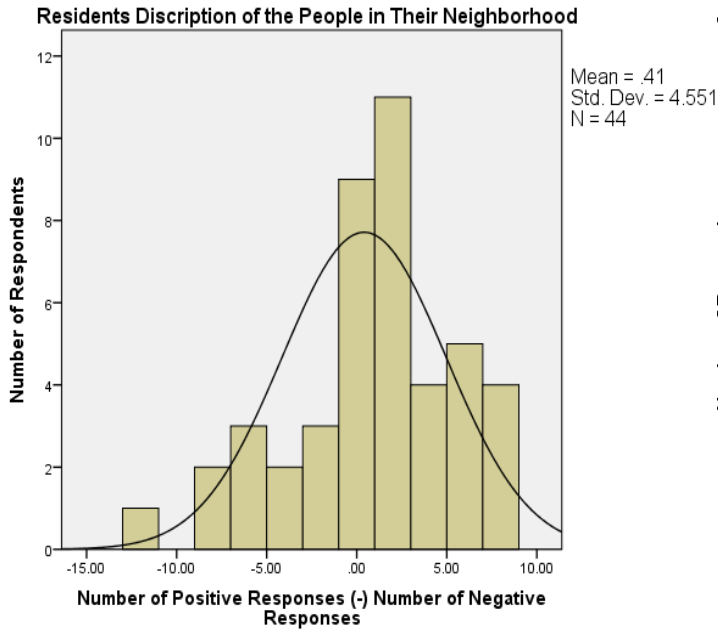


Figure 28

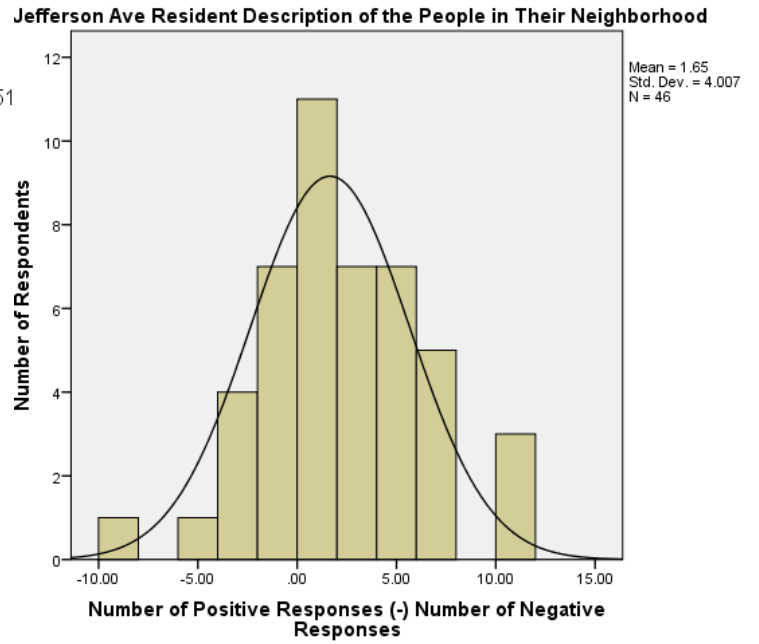


Figure 29

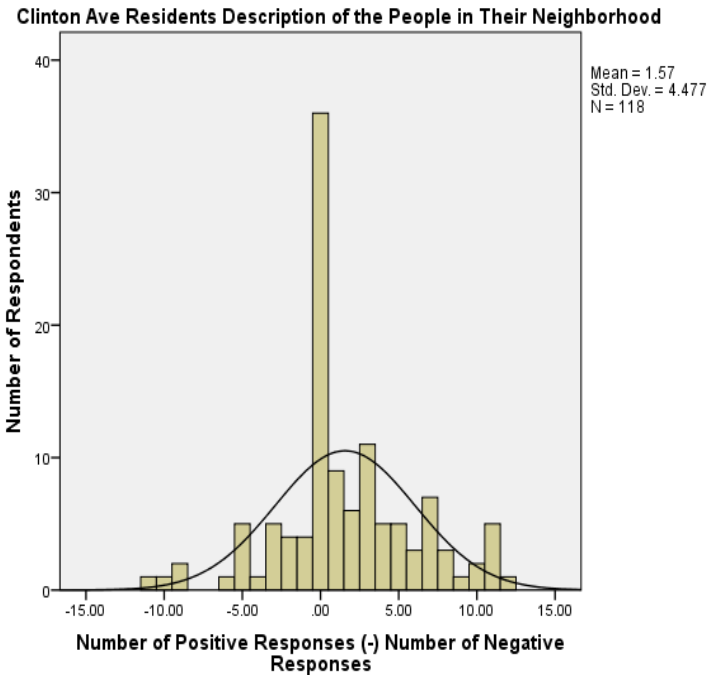
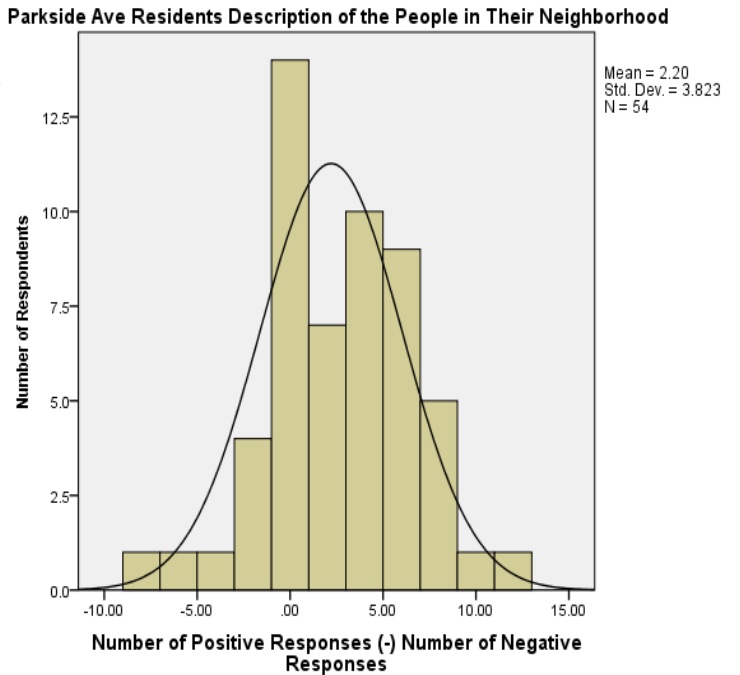


Figure 30



Residents' Concerns

Residents were also asked to list the top three concerns they had about their neighborhoods. Table 1 below shows the residents' highest-ranked concerns for each neighborhood, in order of the total most common concerns. For the purposes of this analysis, the variable "Drug Activity" describes all related responses such as drug dealers, drugs, drugs use, and drug sales. The category "Drama" describes issues that residents see between neighbors but are not involved in, and the category "Crime (in General)" describes any crime.

Table 8: Residents Top Concern in the Studied Neighborhoods (2013)

			Survey Location				Total
			Conkey and Clifford N=44	Parkside Ave N=54	Clinton Ave N=118	Jefferson Ave N=46	
If yes, what are your top 3 concerns? (1st)	Drug Activity	%	75.0%	9.3%	39.2%	12.5%	32.7%
	Unsupervised or problematic kids	%	0.0%	11.6%	13.4%	9.4%	10.7%
	Speeding	%	8.3%	11.6%	8.2%	12.5%	9.7%
	Crime (in general)	%	0.0%	4.7%	7.2%	9.4%	6.1%
	Safety	%	0.0%	11.6%	4.1%	0.0%	4.6%
	Violence	%	4.2%	7.0%	2.1%	6.3%	4.1%
	Noise	%	4.2%	4.7%	3.1%	6.3%	4.1%
	Shootings	%	0.0%	2.3%	4.1%	6.3%	3.6%
	Break ins	%	0.0%	7.0%	0.0%	9.4%	3.1%
	Cleanliness	%	4.2%	2.3%	1.0%	9.4%	3.1%
	Vacant homes	%	0.0%	2.3%	4.1%	3.1%	3.1%
	Location	%	0.0%	0.0%	5.2%	0.0%	2.6%
	Fighting	%	0.0%	2.3%	2.1%	3.1%	2.0%
	People hanging out/loitering	%	4.2%	0.0%	2.1%	3.1%	2.0%
	Lack of police presence	%	0.0%	7.0%	0.0%	3.1%	2.0%
	Corner stores	%	0.0%	2.3%	1.0%	3.1%	1.5%
	Robberies	%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
	Drama	%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	3.1%	1.0%
	Gangs	%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
	Guns	%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	.5%
	Communication	%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	.5%
	Homeless people	%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	.5%
	Outsiders	%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	.5%
Total	Count		24	43	97	32	196
	%		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 1 shows that more residents in Conkey and Clifford are concerned about drug activity (75%) compared to the other neighborhoods (Parkside Ave. 9.3%, Clinton Ave. 39.2%, Jefferson Ave. 12.5%). More residents in the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood also reported people hanging out/loitering as a top concern compared to Parkside Avenue, Clinton Avenue, and Jefferson Avenue. However, a higher percentage of residents in the Parkside Avenue neighborhood reported violence as a top concern, compared to the other neighborhoods.

As a second concern, 21.1% of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood reported people hanging out/loitering at a higher rate than residents in the other neighborhoods (9.7% in Parkside Avenue, 2.7% in Clinton Avenue, and 0% in Jefferson Ave). Residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood also reported fighting (10.5%) and safety (15.8%) as their second-highest concerns compared to the other neighborhoods. Conkey and Clifford Avenue residents also reported vacant homes (5.3%) and violence (10.5%) as a second concern, more than the other neighborhoods.

As a third concern, more residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood (12.5%) reported cleanliness than the other neighborhoods (Parkside Ave= 5.9%, Clinton Ave= 10.3%, and Jefferson Ave= 9.1%). Also, 6.3% of residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood and 9.1% of residents in the Jefferson Avenue neighborhood reported corner stores as a third concern, compared to 0% in Parkside Ave and Clinton Ave. Gangs is another concern that was reported by some residents of the Conkey and Clifford Ave. and Parkside Ave. neighborhoods, while no residents in the Clinton Ave. or Jefferson Ave. neighborhoods reported gangs as a third concern. Also, 12.5 % of residents in the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood reported people hanging out/loitering as a third concern, which is once again higher than the compared neighborhoods (Parkside Ave = 0%, Clinton Ave = 2.6%, Jefferson Ave = 0%). More Conkey

and Clifford residents also reported violence (6.3%) and lighting in the area (6.3%) as a third concern, compared to the other neighborhoods.

Next, residents in the studied neighborhoods were asked to list the top three attributes they liked about their neighborhoods. Table 4 shows the residents' most-liked community attributes. Specifically, 8.3% of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood reported cleanliness as something they liked, whereas residents in other neighborhoods rarely mentioned this, if at all. In contrast, none of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood reported quiet as something they most-liked, whereas this was much more commonly reported by residents in other neighborhoods. None of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue or Jefferson Avenue neighborhoods reported liking the safety of their neighborhood, compared to the 6.3% of residents in Parkside Avenue and 5.7% of residents in Clinton Avenue. Less than a quarter (16.7%) of residents reported liking the park in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood. Also, 12.5% of residents in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood liked the good community, compared to 6.3% of residents in Parkside Avenue, 3.8% of residents in the Clinton Avenue area, and 4.7% of residents in the Jefferson Ave neighborhood. None of the residents surveyed in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood reported that their area being a convenient location as a most-liked attribute, whereas some residents in all other neighborhoods mentioned this.

For the residents' second highest-ranked positive attributes residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood reported liking the diversity of their neighborhood(16.7%) and the activities for kids (5.6%) than in any other neighborhood. Once again, we see that none of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood reported it being a convenient location. Also, none of the Conkey and Clifford residents reported friendly neighbors here, compared to

Table 9: Residents Top Liked Feature in the Studied Neighborhoods (2013)

			Survey Location				Total
			Conkey and Clifford	Parkside Ave	Clinton Ave	Jefferson Ave	
If yes, then please list the top three things (1st)	Quiet	%	0.0%	16.7%	18.9%	34.9%	19.6%
	Friendly neighbors	%	16.7%	25.0%	17.0%	9.3%	17.3%
	Friendly people	%	16.7%	8.3%	18.9%	11.6%	13.7%
	Good community	%	12.5%	6.3%	3.8%	4.7%	6.0%
	Kids	%	4.2%	4.2%	11.3%	2.3%	6.0%
	Park	%	16.7%	4.2%	0.0%	4.7%	4.8%
	Convenient location	%	0.0%	6.3%	5.7%	4.7%	4.8%
	Location	%	8.3%	2.1%	3.8%	4.7%	4.2%
	Nice	%	4.2%	0.0%	5.7%	7.0%	4.2%
	Peace and quiet	%	4.2%	6.3%	1.9%	4.7%	4.2%
	safe	%	0.0%	6.3%	5.7%	0.0%	3.6%
	Affordable	%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	4.7%	2.4%
	Police in the area	%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	4.7%	2.4%
	Clean	%	8.3%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	1.8%
	Activities	%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
	Rec center	%	4.2%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
	child-friendly	%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	1.2%
	Schools nearby	%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	1.2%
Neighborhood watch	%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	.6%	
Total	Count		24	48	53	43	168
	%		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

8.6% in Parkside, 23.15% in Clinton, and 20.6% in Jefferson. None of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood reported safety as a second most-liked attribute, while some residents in all the other neighborhoods mentioned this.

Regarding the residents' third most-liked attribute, 8.3% of residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood reported convenient location as a third highest-ranked attribute of the area. The only neighborhood who listed convenience more than Conkey and Clifford was its neighbor, Clinton Avenue. More residents in Conkey and Clifford than in other neighborhoods listed activities, affordability, quiet, and stores as third-highest-ranked attributes. Another 8.3%

of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood reported liking the kids in the area, while no one in the other neighborhoods mentioned this as a third most-liked attribute. Safety was again not reported by any of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood or in the Clinton Ave neighborhood, while it was mentioned mostly by Parkside residents and by some Jefferson Ave. residents.

Initiatives like Project HOPE aim to improve the quality of life in Conkey and Clifford and can use some of these results to inform their programming. Compared to other neighborhoods, Conkey and Clifford has an opportunity to positively use the park, which Project HOPE has done by holding family activities there. Such activities can help residents reclaim their neighborhood from those selling drugs and loitering. Strengthening community activities, the area's police presence, and the neighborhood watch may help residents feel safer as well.

Finally, the marijuana market there not only affects quality of life but economic development of the area. Residents reported liking the stores in the area, but many businesses are reluctant to do business in areas with high drug activity. Thus, there is an opportunity to provide businesses or non-profits with more support to open and maintain storefront businesses in the area. This could provide more positive activities and positive traffic in the area, potentially dissuading the marijuana market that has claimed so much of this community. Any such endeavors would need tangible and long-term support to be maintained, but residents would likely support economic improvements to their area.

5.3 Residents' Feelings and Interpretation of the Open-Air Drug Market in Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood of Rochester, New York

Residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood were asked the following open-ended questions:

1. What would the neighborhood look and feel like?
2. Most important to you (from your answers in #1)?
3. What can you do?
4. What will inspire you?

The following charts demonstrate the overall answers that residents provided for each question.

Table 1 shows the overall answers for question 1. Out of the 49 residents who responded to question 1, 30.6% felt that the neighborhood will look and feel safe, 12.2% of residents felt that the neighborhood look and feel like a good community, 6.1% felt that the neighborhood will look and feel peaceful, 6.1% felt that the neighborhood be safe for kids to play, 8.2% felt that the neighborhood will look and feel cleaner, and 4.1% felt that the neighborhood will look and feel like there is less violence.

Table 10: Residents Responses to Question 1: N=53, Missing=4, Total N represented=49

What Would the Neighborhood Look and Feel Like?		Frequency (N)	Percent (%)
Valid	Different	3	6.1
	Safe	15	30.6
	Cleaner	4	8.2
	Safer for families	1	2.0
	Peaceful	3	6.1
	Safe for children	2	4.1
	Opportunities for kids	2	4.1
	Better place	1	2.0
	Good community	6	12.2
	Safe to walk	1	2.0
	Drug free street	3	6.1
	Happy	2	4.1
	Kids can play outside	3	6.1
	Bad	1	2.0
	Less violence	2	4.1
Total	49	100.0	
Missing	System	4	
Total		53	

Table 2 shows the overall answers for question 2. Out of the 31 residents who responded to question 2, 45.2% felt the most important thing from question 1 was safety, 12.9% felt that the most important thing was making the community a better place, 12.9% felt that the most important thing was drug-free streets, 9.7% felt that the most important thing was having a safe neighborhood for kids, and 6.5% felt that the important thing was for the neighborhood to be clean.

Table 11: Residents Respond to Question 2: N=53, Missing=22, Total N Represented=31

Most Important to You (From Your Answer in #1)?		Frequency (N)	Percent (%)
Valid	Less violence	1	3.2
	Safe	14	45.2
	Better place	4	12.9
	Drug free street	4	12.9
	Good community	2	6.5
	Safe for kids	3	9.7
	Clean	2	6.5
	Schools	1	3.2
	Total	31	100.0
Missing	System	22	
Total		53	

Table 3 shows the overall answers for question 3, which asked residents what they could do to reduce drug activity in their neighborhood. Out of the 47 residents who responded to question 3, 31.9 % felt that they can call the police, 17.0% felt that they can look out for others, 10.6% felt that they cannot do nothing, 8.5% felt that they can just help, 4.3% felt that they can report drugs, 1.9% felt that they can pray, 3.8% felt that they use cameras to help, and 3.8% felt that they can do outreach to help.

Table 12: Residents Respond to Question 3: N=53, Missing= 6, Total N Represented=47

What Can You Do?		Frequency (N)	Valid Percent (%)
Valid	Report drugs	2	4.3
	Help	4	8.5
	Call the police	15	31.9
	Look out for others	8	17.0
	Move	1	2.1
	Hope	1	2.1
	Nothing	5	10.6
	Clean	3	6.4
	Part of community action group	1	2.1
	Do not make problems	1	2.1
	Pray	1	2.1
	Outreach	2	4.3
	Events for kids	1	2.1
	Cameras	2	4.3
	Total	47	100.0
Missing	System	6	
Total		53	

Lastly, Table 4 shows the overall answers for question 4, which asked residents what would inspire them to help. Out of the 47 residents who responded to this question; 23.4% felt that kid safety will inspire them, 17.0% felt that working with other will inspire them, 10.6% felt that their kids will inspire them, 10.6% felt that the police will inspire them, 8.5% felt that nothing will inspire them, 8.5% felt that the availability of drug treatment for people will inspire them, and 8.5% felt that change will inspire them.

Table 13: Residents Respond to Question 4: N=53, Missing=6, Total N Represented = 47

What Will Inspire You?		Frequency (n)	Valid Percent (%)
Valid	Nice people	1	2.1
	Police	5	10.6
	Working with other	8	17.0
	Nothing	4	8.5
	My kids	5	10.6
	Kids safety	11	23.4
	My family	2	4.3
	Change	4	8.5
	More snitch	1	2.1
	No drugs	1	2.1
	Community events	1	2.1
	Treatment for people	4	8.5
	Total	47	100.0
	Missing	System	6
Total		53	

Overall, this information shows that the residents who took the survey do indeed want a change for their neighborhood. Most resident respondents want the neighborhood to be safe and good for the children the area, but we also notice that there are residents that feel that there is nothing that can be done to save their neighborhood. These residents indicate that they have given-up on their neighborhood or just truly feel that nothing can be done because it has been damaged for so long.

Your Voice Survey

After taking part in the residents’ committee meetings and acknowledging how residents have been affected by the open-air marijuana market located in Conkey and Clifford area, researchers felt that their voice should be more-fully heard in the study. The purpose of the “Your Voice” survey was to gain more information on how residents felt about the neighborhood as well as the open-air marijuana market in the area. The survey was given to residents who had

already taken part in the RDFSFI resident committee and were also asked to pass one along to neighbors in their area. Residents were provided with a pre-paid self-addressed envelope and with the survey, so they could mail the survey back to the researcher. A total of 8 surveys were mailed backed. The resulting sample is not a random sample of the Conkey & Clifford neighborhood. Despite this, the resulting analysis offers some insight into the distress of the open-air marijuana market in the Conkey & Clifford neighborhood.

The survey asked:

1. What do you like about living in this neighborhood?
2. What activities and conditions in particular is a concern to you in your neighborhood? Why? And if you stated any issues what will you do to address these issues?
3. What are some of the most significant changes that have taken place in the neighborhood since you lived here?
4. Do you feel safe in this neighborhood? Why or Why not?
5. Do you consider drug activity as a problem in your neighborhood? Why or Why not?
6. What do you think the police or community agencies could do to address the issues in the neighborhood?
7. Is there anything else that you will like to say about your neighborhood that was not asked above?

Residents were also asked how long they have lived in this neighborhood and their age.

The following is a summary of the answers from the eight residents who completed the survey.

The conveniences of the area, the services of the area, the diversity, the history, public transportation, the houses, and the people who live in the area were all things that people liked and contributed to the positive view of the neighborhood. So, even with the acknowledgment of the drug market, residents still appreciate other qualities of their neighborhood. Besides appreciating the good qualities of the neighborhood, residents indicated that their concerns in the neighborhood were drug sales, prostitution, open-air drug markets, violence and police behavior. It was brought to our attention that the landlords in the area rent establishments to drug dealers, which leads to the open-air market and sale of marijuana in the area. Residents were also

concerned about young kids drinking alcohol. Overall, most residents felt that by working together and brainstorming with city officials something can be done to clean up their neighborhood.

Residents felt unsafe in their neighborhood; therefore most residents are non-active in engaging in helping their neighborhood. Residents feel unsafe because there is a great deal of young kids out on the street. Residents feel that the drug problem contributes to the reason why so many young kids are on the street. Not only does it contribute to the hangout of young kids, but it also brings other elements, like violence to their neighborhoods. The lighting, shootings, and violence in the area are also justifications of why residents do not feel safe in their own neighborhood.

Police are not approaching the drug-market problem in their neighborhood in the right way, according to the residents. Police are entering the neighborhood with an inappropriate attitude. Residents also feel that parents need to be more involved in their kids' lives, because police cannot do all the work. Generally, residents feel that removing the young drug dealers off the street will enhance the quality of the neighborhood and rebuild the relationships between residents and the dealers. Residents that by bring more opportunities to the neighborhood for young kids and for residents will contribute to a better neighborhood for all.

Resident Focus Group

RDFSI staff conducted a resident focus group with non-committee residents, to gain more information on how to get other residents in the neighborhood involved in the initiative. Even with the number of residents already involved in the initiative, RDFSI staff members feel that more outreach to community residents will lead to larger group of residents. Have a larger

group of residents supporting the initiative will increase the initiative's message in the neighborhood.

The day of the focus group only two residents attended both were females and lived within the targeted neighborhood. The focus group consisted of three parts: 1. Questions to understand current level of engagement. 2. Questions to determine what motivates people to get involved, and 3. Questions to determine if people will become active around the drug issue. Other topics were discussed as well. Notes on the focus group are found at the end of the paper and were provided by RDFS staff (Appendix F).

Part I- Questions to understand current level of engagement:

The focus here was to get an understanding of how and why residents participate or volunteer in neighborhood events. The residents who attended made it clear that they take part in events in the neighborhood if it is fun and positive for kids, as well as, if it is close by and free. Not only do the residents feel that events should be productive for children, close by, and free, but that they should create teachable moments for the kids. When deciding on participating or volunteering for an event, both residents felt that it can depend on other factors that are going on in their life. Such reasons relate to child care, being that both residents have children; they feel that it hard to obtain a babysitter so they choose to attend events that welcome children. Overall, from the view of both these residents, events in the neighborhood should be child focus and free, so parents do not have to struggle in participating or volunteering.

Part II- Questions to determine what motives people to get involved:

In this portion of the focus group, both residents were asked about neighborhood safety and what type of event or volunteering opportunity will they take part in to make their neighborhood safer. Both residents acknowledged that the drug issue in their neighborhood was a

big issue in their area. The residents identified the RDFS I as a project that is focused on the safety of the neighborhood. One resident went on to say, “If you act like they [the drug dealers] aren’t there, then they [are] going to continue to do what they are doing like if they were invisible”. Overall, both residents recognized that the open-air drug market in their neighborhood has contributed to the depression of their neighborhood and the people in the neighborhood.

Part III- Questions to determine if people will become active around the drug issue:

Residents in attendance were asked what will motivate them to specifically address drug sales in their neighborhood. The residents felt that by seeing others residents involved in activities, so will they. So, if residents acknowledge other residents in the movement of deterring the open-air marijuana market, it is most likely that other residents will follow along. To get an understanding of the residents, staff asked “what sets you apart from everyone else?”, Both residents stated that it is about the pride they have for the neighborhood, faith that things will get better and religion, wanting to be an example to their children, and the support for other family members. This is what set them apart from others and the reasons they join events in their neighborhood. Attending residents also specified that they enjoy the public spaces in the neighborhood (The park, trail, and neighborhood garden) and feel that it is great because there are more kids in neighborhood than before.

5.4 RDFS I Key Stakeholders Interview

The following section explains the information obtained for RDFS I personnel interviews regarding the program. Even though Chapter 3 explains the program in detail, the goal here was to obtain information about how personnel approach and understand the program and its implementation.

Overview

According to with the RDFSİ personnel, the strategy was developed to support residents in taking ownership of their community and to supplement efforts of law-enforcement to solve the problem of open-air drug markets within their community. According to personnel, the restorative community circles (RCC) strategy encourages residents' involvement with the initiative and interaction with dealers in streets. The civil strategy of the initiative is a new approach that is somewhat related to traditional criminal justice system. The goal of the civil approach, according to personnel is to discontinue the behaviors of the dealers without penalizing them from other opportunities if the dealers decide to change.

RDFSİ personnel clarified that the RDFSİ initiative, is a collaboration of residents, professionals, and some individuals who are involved in criminal justice who care about the issue surrounding open-air drug markets and understand the nuisance and issues it causes in the neighborhood. Overall, RDFSİ is a group of individuals who realize that what has been done so far to address this market has not impacted the issues and who recognize that something new has to be done to approach the issue.

Community Response and Supports

When discussing the community resources, support, and networks that support the initiative, personnel indicated that they are currently defining the problem of open-air drug markets and proposing a strategy to address the problem of open-air drug markets to other agencies. The support for the initiative from residents progressed from the connection and relationship building done by Project HOPE. Besides the connection between Project HOPE and RDFSİ, door-to-door outreach was conducted to inform residents about RDFSİ. This allowed the RDFSİ personnel to build new relationships with community residents who have felt discouraged

about their community. RDFSİ personnel explained that in the beginning of the program, residents felt skeptical about the initiative, but it changed after residents became involved with the initiative. Besides the residents' support, there are also sixteen different organizations that are offering their services as well as supporting the initiative, and participating in the restorative circles component. According to RDFSİ personnel, these organizations offer services that will aid the dealers in the transition from selling drugs and becoming productive members in their communities.

Challenges

Since the RDFSİ initiative is a developing program, personnel were asked about some of the challenges they have confronted and how have they overcome those challenges. RDFSİ personnel expressed that one of the biggest challenges is convincing individuals that marijuana poses an issue and that the sale of marijuana creates a nuisance in the community. These in turn, create a particular challenge for advancing the initiative's civil strategy. Messaging for outreach is another challenge, according to RDFSİ personnel. The initiative's name ("Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative") leaves the impression that the initiative is targeting all drugs. Time commitment and volunteer recruitment have also been challenging for the initiative. For example, RDFSİ personnel conducted an all-day training on a Saturday for the restorative practices, and few people showed up. Also, residents have a fear of retaliation from the dealers. On the legal side of the initiative, RDFSİ personnel have struggled to figure out where to send their legislation, and the election for the Mayor of Rochester was taking place at the same time, making it a challenge for RDFSİ personnel to introduce the legislation.

To overcome the challenge of the impression of the initiative's name, RDFSİ started asking residents for feedback on the name and began, reforming their message and flyers they

hand out to residents. The initiative is also working on finding different opportunities for volunteers so that they can feel more comfortable. Personnel want to also identify an individual that will advocate for the initiative's civil approach to government officials and explain the proposed legalization.

Innovative Model

According to personnel, the RDFSI model is a one-of-a-kind model with goals to initiate a civil approach and policy change to face the issues surrounding open-air marijuana markets and eliminating drug sales. The restorative practice component of the model has never been used to work with drug dealers, which makes this component new as well as different to the restorative world. Project staff member understand that not every dealer will want to participate in the initiative's restorative piece, and they acknowledge that passing new legalization can be time-consuming. Overall, RDFSI personnel expressed, that in the collaboration of various agencies working to abate a serious community problem, the two-step process (Restorative Justice and Civil) represent some of the most positive qualities of the initiative.

Measuring Success

Lastly, RDFSI personnel described how they will define success for their initiative. Some RDFSI personnel felt that the reduction of drug sales in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood would define success for their initiative. The way that marijuana is sold will change; it will not be as open nor sold in the middle of streets or on corners. Seeing residents engage with dealers in the neighborhood and informing them about the initiative are also key outcomes. RDFSI personnel stated that having a policy change that deals with the issue of open-air marijuana drug markets can have a positive impact in the long run, and could possibly be used on other drugs.

Overall, to see just one dealer go through the process and accomplish a personal goal will be considered success, according to program staff.

New Hybrid Model

RDFSI personnel explained that the restorative justice process that will be employed by the initiative is a newly created hybrid called Restorative Community Circles (RCC). This new hybrid model is a combination of restorative conferencing, peace circles, and restorative transition circles. Unlike the traditional restorative approaches, which deal with offenders and victims, these RCC deals with individuals who are selling marijuana in open-air drug markets in the community. There is not a direct instance of crime or harm instead the RCC looks at how a group of people as neighbors are being victimized as well as how the dealers' families have been affected by the dealers' behaviors. Therefore, unlike traditional restorative approaches, the RCC process is more preventative than reactive. According to RDFSI personnel, the RCC brings together community members, service providers, dealers, and dealers' supports in the same spaces. Through this process, RDFSI personnel are less concerned about punishment and more concerned about restoring the relationship between community members and dealers, while still holding the dealers accountable for their actions. Overall, to match with more traditional restorative practices, the RDFSI new hybrid RCC views the impact of selling to be harm and the community and its residents as the collective victims.

Dealers Success

After conducting the RCC, the individual dealer creates an "individual success plan," which is managed and followed up by the restorative coordinator. Each member involved in the RCC will receive a copy of the plan, which, RDFSI personnel explained, will help reinforce the commitment and satisfaction each individual will sustain after the RCC.

Resident Engagement

To inform residents about restorative approaches, RDFSFI personnel conduct community outreach by going door-to-door to invite residents to the community forum and information sessions. At the community forums, residents have the opportunity to sign up to get involved as community residents in the RCC, outreach, or helping with events.

Pros and Cons of New Hybrid Model

Since this model has not been use before, RDFSFI personnel identified the pros and cons to the approach. According to RDFSFI personnel, dealers have the opportunity to change their lifestyle and become productive members in their communities. Residents in the community have the opportunity to have an impact on the issues in their community. The process helps rebuild relationships between dealers and the residents and gives the residents a tool that focuses on the issue of open-air drug markets. Personnel also explained that not every dealer will want to take part in the program and not every resident will want to participate either.

Lastly, through this process, dealers are connected with service providers that offer the services the dealer needs to stay off the corner. The service providers attend the Restorative Community Circle and inform the dealers about the services they are willing to offer to aid them in their transition to becoming productive individuals. Personnel focused on the needs of the dealers; therefore getting buy-in from relevant service providers is crucial for the program.

RDFSFI Dealer Engagement

Engaging dealers on the street is one of the most critical components of the RDFSFI, yet it is also one of the most tenuous and difficult. Since the RCC is a voluntary process, dealers have the option to get involved with the program. Without the aid of the police, RDFSFI personnel are left to identify individuals as dealers. RDFSFI personnel explain that when conducting outreach in

the street, one cannot come to the conclusion that every individual is a dealer. According to RDFSFI engagement staff, everyone that is engaged on by the program on the street is not automatically seen as a dealer, but as an individual who is street oriented. There have been times when personnel have observed dealers conducting transactions, making it is easier to identify dealers. When transactions are not observed, personnel identify dealers by making an educated guess, meaning that the individual has been seen numerous times during outreach. The dealer engagement team also interacts with residents. This is another way personnel identify dealers in the area, since that residents already have identified who is selling drugs in their neighborhood. Residents do not point out the dealer but inform RDFSFI staff of the area where dealers are located. Residents are also informed and encouraged to join the initiative.

Notifying the Dealer

When engaging the dealer, outreach staffs notify them about the opportunities that the program is offering. They also emphasize that others care about them and want what is best for their futures. If the dealer expresses interest in taking part in the program, the outreach staff provides them with information about the program as well as contact information. Information from the dealer is also obtained using an intake form. The intake form allows the program to collect personal contact information, types of goals the individual has, and names and contact information of individuals who will support the dealer throughout the process. This information is collected as preparation for the pre-circle meeting.

Pros and Cons to Engaging Dealers

When asking about the pros and cons to the approach RDFSFI use when engaging dealers personnel stated that the positive is bringing the message to the dealers, informing them that there are other alternatives, and getting one-on-one personal time with the dealers. The only

negative identified by personnel is that dealers already perceive programs like this one as something that is not promising. To overcome that stereotype, personnel reinforce their message to dealers by leaving flyers around the neighborhood and by maintaining their presence in the area, explain RDFSİ personnel. They also hope that interest in the program will spread as more individuals become involved and find it helpful.

Civil Approach

The RDFSİ's civil approach consists of a civil injunction that would require the individual to stay away from a particular location in which they have created a public nuisance through their participation in the public sale of drugs in an open-air drug market. Since this is a new approach to deal with the issue of open-air drug markets, RDFSİ personnel were asked about their thoughts on the civil approach, which is still in development. According to some staff members, the approach brings up some Fourth Amendment concerns (due to potential lack of probable cause for asking someone to stay out of a public space), while others feel that it is constitutional and the best way to be effective and fair about the issue. They feel that because it is not a criminal case, the individuals will not face any barriers such as those incurred with criminal record, yet it may discourage loitering and illegal activity in public space. Even with the different views on the civil approach, members are still working together to produce the most appropriate and effective approach. Taking routine activity theory into consideration, the program's approach is working on rebuilding the guardians in the neighborhood, therefore making it difficult for dealers to sell in their area.

Civil Approach Challenge

Members explained that a challenge for the civil approach will be the legalization of marijuana in other states. Since New York State is considered a liberal state, most people feel

that New York will eventually be moving forward with legalization. At this time, possession of small amounts of marijuana is decriminalized in New York. RDFSİ personnel expressed that even if the state moves forward with marijuana legalization, the issues of open-air drug selling will not end. They stated that dealers will either keep selling marijuana or start selling other drugs, and if people do not look at the marijuana drug market issues in a more serious way, then people are not looking at it as a drug issue. Another challenge is getting lawmakers to change policy for dealing with the issue of open-air marijuana markets. To change the issue, personnel feel that elected officials need to be motivated to make the change as well as maintaining awareness of the issue.

Stay-a-Way Order

The stay-a-way order is the key component to the civil approach and policy change. RDFSİ personnel expressed that if the stay-a-way does get implemented by Rochester City Council, it will change their strategy, and they understand that it is one of the most difficult things the team is trying to accomplish. Because that the sale of marijuana is illegal, people are still on the corners selling it, so if a stay-a-way order can be implemented effectively, it can make some changes in the communities where marijuana is being sold, according to personnel. If a stay-a-way order is implemented to deal with the issues of open-air marijuana markets, but dealers are not staying away from the area, then it completely faltered, state RDFSİ personnel. RDFSİ personnel used the example of the street cameras used by the police department. The police department put up these cameras with good intentions for residents to feel safe and to deal with crime and drug markets, but residents see that crime is still occurring, and drug markets are still operating. According to personnel, this minimizes the efficiency of the cameras, and RDFSİ personnel do not want this same problem to occur with their approach.

Overall, RDFSİ personnel consider open-air marijuana markets to be a huge nuisance to communities. They also feel that the issue of open-air marijuana markets can be considered a public health issue. The definition of public health has changed in the last few years; it is not just about physical health, but rather about the overall health of the community. Therefore, if a strong community is an indicator of good public health, then this issue of open-air marijuana markets could be considered a public health issue.

5.5 Observations of the Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood & Park

Observations were conducted of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood and park by the researcher, by driving through the area and filming with a dashboard camera. The intent was to make several observations of the area at different times of day and day of the week to get a sense of what types of activities are occurring in public spaces and how many people use the public park. The observations conducted were conducted at random, meaning that the days and times were not scheduled. Figures 31 and 32 in this section show the activity in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue neighborhood and Conkey Corner Park.

Figure 31 shows the total number of people that were observed per-observation and the number of each gender. For the dashboard camera observations, age, race, and weather conditions were also documented. As seen in Figure 31, males are present in the neighborhood more often than females. The highest presence of people in the neighborhood occurred on 7/29/2013 at 6:10pm, and on three different occasions there were no females present when conducting the observation (on 6/6/2013, 8/26/2013, and 11/6/2013). The weather during the three observations in June was rainy compared to the hot weather during the four observations in July, which partially explains why more people were observed in July. Throughout out the

observations, most individuals observed appeared Black and Hispanic and/or between the ages of 14 to 30.

Figure 32 shows the total number of individuals observed in the neighborhood as well as in the Conkey Corner Park per-observation. This shows that the majority of people observed were in the neighborhood and not in the park. Throughout the observations in May and June, only one person was observed at the park compared to the seventeen people observed in the park in July alone. Young kids are still attending school in May and June, which could explain why there are not so many people observed in the park. Also, the poorer weather in May and June could also affect the presence of people in the park, compared to the hot summer weather in July. Overall Figure 32 shows the people are more active in the neighborhood than in the park

Alongside the observations of the neighborhood and the Conkey Corner Park, observations of two other parks in the city were also conducted. These observations were conducted to compare the activity within each park. The observations of the three parks were mostly conducted on different days and times than the observations in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. Besides having a playground for kids, the two other parks that were observed also had a basketball court. Out of the three parks, the Conkey Corner Park was most active. In general, this was primarily due to, Project HOPE having built the Conkey Corner Park and using it to hold community events. The other parks did not seem to have such events and thus had less activity. The month with the most activity was July, and this is the month that Project HOPE conducts most of their events. Descriptions of these observations were also written up and are included (see Appendix G).

**Dashboard Camera Observation of Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood:
Total Number of Males and Females Viewed Per-Observation (2013) n= 16
Observations**

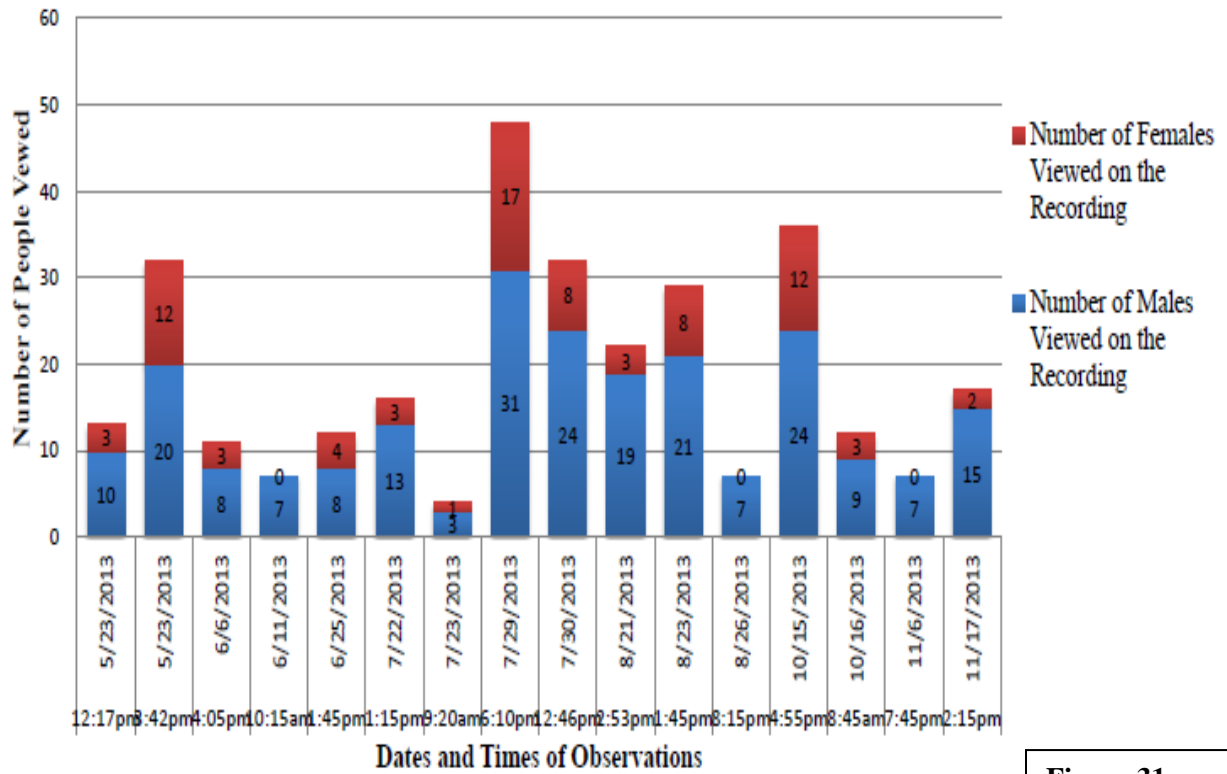


Figure 31

Number of People Viewed pre-observation in the Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood and Conkey Corner Park (2013) N=16 Observations

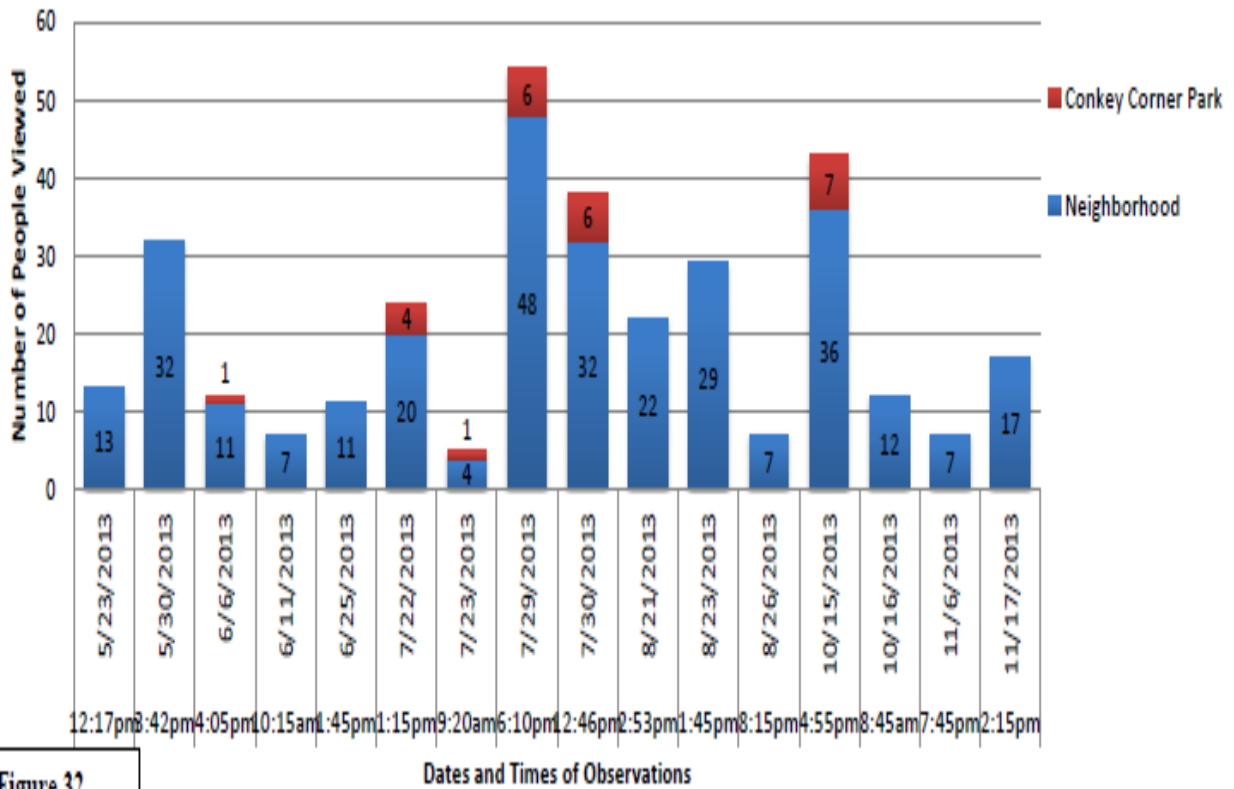


Figure 32

5.6 Former Dealer Focus Group

The discussion was designed to gather information from former dealers in regard to the following outcomes: 1. to understand better ways to approach drug dealers who are selling on the street corners, 2. to understand better ways to engage drug dealers who are selling drugs on street corners, 3. to understand individuals' reasons for selling, and 4. to understand reasons of involvement in the drug game and reasons for leaving the drug game.

The focus group started with an ice breaker question, followed by a question about their personal experience as drug dealers, and finishing with questions about whether things were different for them now than they were when they were selling. Each former dealer had the opportunity to answer each question. This paper is a summary of the overall outcome of the focus group question, using the recording provided by RDFS, and my observations of the focus group. This paper concludes with my recommendations.

Participants Demographics

As stated above, only two former dealers took part in the focus group:

- One was male, and was one female
- One former dealer was age 28; the other former dealer did not state her exact age but stated she was a teen.
- Both former dealers were employed with community outreach organizations.
- Both former dealers were African-American.
- Both former dealers had identified goals for their lives.
- Both former dealers have been involved in the criminal justice system.
- Both dealers live in the inner-city of Rochester.

Outcome of the focus group questions

Purpose: To understand the reasoning for selling

What's your story?

Each former dealer was asked to share their life story and how they got involved in dealing drugs. To break the ice, the Pathways to Peace staff member started the discussion by

informing the former dealers about his life story. The following details the stories of the two former drug dealers, as this was the focus of the group. For consistency, each participant will be indicated by a number, for example: “Former Dealer 1” and “Former Dealer 2”.

Former Dealer 1 grew up in the area RDFS is targeting their approach. Before getting involved with selling drugs, he attended a private school and went to church with his family. He acknowledged that his family was known to be part of the drug game. His father was known as the biggest drug dealer in the in the area he grew up in. Growing up, he felt he had to involve himself in the game (dealing drugs) to get his father’s attention. Therefore, by the age of 12, he found himself selling drugs with his friends, which at first was marijuana. He stated that due to the money earned from selling he was able to buy a house with some of his friends in their teenage years. Once he and his friends got the house, they started selling out of the house. The former dealer said, “Nowadays dealers do not make money out their homes like me and friends did back then”.

Former Dealer 2 also got involved with the drug game because of family members. Her father was a one of the biggest drug dealers on the west side of the City of Rochester. After realizing that the father was making money, she would steal some money from him to buy her own marijuana to smoke. She stated that they were poor, and, growing up she had to fight a lot because other people would bully her and her siblings. She got tired of being poor and not having anything and further said “Once you get tired, you do whatever.” She had to find a way to make money so she could look better, and not get into fights due to looking poor. She ended up stealing drugs and started selling to make money for herself. She never pictured herself selling marijuana, but from seeing other family members, she felt she could do it as well. Once she

started getting money from selling, she did not want to stop. After a while of selling marijuana, she got tired of selling and started robbing people.

After selling marijuana for a while, Former dealer 1 and his friends ended up graduating to selling crack. Soon, they found an addict to help them cook 62 ounces of crack. Due to selling crack, the former dealer informed the group that by the age of 16 or 17 he was making \$5,000 a day. The game of dealing drugs gave this former dealer recognition from others in his area. His father ended up going to prison for nine years for dealing drugs. The focus group participant stated that he was on probation for other issues he had with the justice system. He was involved with gangs, distribution of drugs, and guns. He had been arrested by law enforcement numerous times when dealing drugs. Being around his father who sold drugs and other family member who sold drugs, he concluded that selling drugs was the family business. He felt that he could overcome the police and the F.B.I. because he saw himself as a perfectionist and could be like the big time drug dealers on T.V.

Former Dealer 2 informed the group that once she started robbing people, she noticed that she was getting more money doing that than from selling drugs. She stated that the reason why she started robbing people was out of anger she had towards her mother. She ended up getting other friends who also liked to rob others, and they would all go down to the University of Rochester at night and steal from people's cars. She ended up getting arrested because she stole from an undercover police car. Being a teen, she was sent to a detention center. After a few months there she was sent to another detention center. While there, she struggled to get money to buy food, but she stated that because of being the youngest person there, others helped her out. After serving some of her time, she was afraid to go back home because of her mother's drug

issue. She also felt that no one cared about her, because she did not get any letters or money from her loved ones. She got out and ended up robbing an older lady.

Question of Personal Experience: Getting in and Leaving the Drug Game.

What got you into the game?

Former Dealer 1's father was the major influence and reason he got into dealing drugs. Not only was his father one of his influences, but the money and the attention he was receiving from others in the area had played a major role in why he sold drugs. The participant informed the group the getting involved with the drug game was also a cry out for attention from his father. Former Dealer 2 stated that, she already had family members who were involved in the drug game and a mother who was addicted to drugs. Being poor and not having anything were the prevalent motivators for her selling drugs; for the same reason, she began, robbing people to make money.

What kept you in the game?

Both participants stated that the money was the key motivator to keep selling drugs. However, Former Dealer 1 also felt that the attention also kept him in the game. He was able to get into nightclubs with his older friends and was able to drink alcohol underage. Former dealer 2 also added that her mother's addiction to drugs and her father being in prison also had played a part, being that they were not there to support her.

What pushed you to change?

Both participants stated that after being arrested and then incarcerated, helped push them to change. According to Former Dealer 1, ended up getting arrested and was sentenced to six years in state prison. Going to prison is what helped push him to change his life, as well as his children that he stated he had while being involved in the drug market. According to Former Dealer 2, she got tired of looking at four walls all day. She realized that she did not want to be

incarcerated her whole life. Obtaining employment after being incarcerated was also another motivator that helped her change.

Where were you five years ago, and where do you see yourself five years from now?

Former Dealer 1 explained that, five year ago, he was being transferred from one prison to other and had 8 months left to serve. While in prison, he obtained his GED, associate's degree, and his license to minister. He felt as if he was on fire while in prison. He said, "I could not wait to get out and change the world". Since he had been through so much in his young life and was around all different types of individuals in prison—many of whom would never get the chance to go back to their communities to make a change—he felt he had all the weight on his back to do the right thing when he got out.

He also informed the group that people think that individuals who are in prison learn how to become better criminals, but he stated it not also the case. Individuals in prison pushed him to do positive things. While in prison, he wrote down short-term and long-term goals for when he got out. Due to things that happened to him in his life, he feels that it's time for him to help other. While in prison, he was told that he will never be able to run a non-profit or work with kids because of his criminal record. He feels great because he did do what they said he could not do. He is now running his own non-profit organization. In addition to the non-profit he runs, He now works with organization that works closely with people in the community, which is something he loves.

Five years from now, he sees himself being elected as an official for the city. He wants to make a change so that his kids and other kids can live a better life. He talked about how dealers today do not respect the police, like his group did back in the day. He also hoped that if the government legalized marijuana it would have an impact on crime.

Former Dealer 2 stated that, five years ago, she was still locked up. She was also getting into problems with other individuals and law enforcement. Five years from now, she stated that she does not know where she will be. One goal that she did point out was to become a motivational speaker. For now, her short-term goal is completing Job Corps and to stop smoking weed. She stated that she does not know how she is going to stop smoking weed, but acknowledges that she has done it before. Not only does she want to get into graduate from Job Corps, but she wants to get involved with a construction trade through Job Corps. She stated that someone told her that she could not be a motivational speaker, because she smokes weed. In her past ways, she would have gotten mad, but now she feels that no one can stop her from building herself.

If Things Were Done Differently: To understand better ways to approach drug dealers who are selling on the street corners and to understand better ways to engage drug dealers who are selling drugs on the street corner.

Could anyone have said/done something to get you out of the game?

Former Dealer 1 explained that, he may have gotten out of the game if someone said they had a job for him and was persistent about it as well. Former Dealer 2 felt that only someone offering a higher paying job would have gotten her out the game. She stated that a job is the only thing that would have opened her eyes while selling. She elaborated after being asked that she still would have given everything up for that required her to follow rules.

What advice do you have about engaging young people?

Being involved with the organization outreach team that he works for, Former Dealer 1 has regularly engaged young people and others in the community. He suggested having cookouts in the community to give information out to members in the community. Former Dealer 2 suggested, approaching the “hard” person in the group and “putting a bug in his/her hear” about the program. She went on to say that, if she was trying to engage someone, she would inform the

dealer about her own life story and how she had changed. Furthermore, she will let the individual know the opportunities that are available, and persistent with the dealer about the program.

Off subject discussion:

The discussion did get off subject at one point, but some of the information I felt was important for the RDFSI. The discussion pertained to outreach methods though there was not a question specifically on outreach. As stated before, when doing outreach, the individual conducting the outreach with dealers has to be consistent with the dealers on the street. The former dealers informed the group that most dealers are looking for a job and really do not want to be selling. The former dealers stated that the person conducting outreach with dealers on the street should invite them somewhere out of the area. By getting the individuals out the area of where they sell, they are no longer in their comfort zone. Former Dealer 1 stated that when he does outreach, his goal is to identify the “big timer” of the group. By doing this, it is possible for others in the group to follow him if he changes. He also stated that successful outreach occurs when there is a group of two or more doing outreach, and it is not successful if only one person is doing outreach. They also talked about “the power of one”, which means that it only takes one person to change to make a difference in the community.

Researcher's Observations

The focus group was conducted in a meeting room with food for the individuals who took part in the group. I noticed that the two former dealers who took part were delighted in telling their story, because it made them feel their experiences were important and valuable. The staff members made sure to keep the focus on them and made the participants feel comfortable by telling their story as well. Staff members also complimented the participants on their success.

Even though some of the questions that were asked by staff were beneficial for the project, I noticed that not every planned question was asked. Most of the questions asked the former dealers why they got involved in the game. Only three questions were focused on approaching and engaging drug dealers. It took 41 minutes for the focus to get on track and obtain the information the staff was actually looking for. It felt like it was all over the place and not structured correctly, but the dealers answered all the questions when asked about their stories. By the end of the focus group, the staff members as well as the dealers got off the key subject. Nonetheless, valuable information, as discussed above, was obtained.

Chapter Six: Conclusion/Policy Implications & Recommendations

Community Survey Results from Conkey& Clifford Neighborhood: Residents' View of Their Neighborhood

The findings show that Conkey& Clifford Ave neighborhood is indeed being affected by open-air drug markets, thus impacting the residents' quality of life. Residents have identified drugs to be the number one issue in the neighborhood; this was also evident when Project HOPE conducted their yearly survey in 2012. Most residents' who live in the area are renting their homes and most residents only live in the area for no more than 5 years. Open-air drug markets causes a high turnover of residents, lower neighborhood stability, and lower community cohesion which in turn, creates an environment for crime, drug sales, and drug use. The majority of residents' in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood view the Conkey Corner Park and the people in their neighborhood in a positive way. Even through residents like the park in their neighborhood, it has been known to be impacted by loitering and drug sales issues. Furthermore, they view their neighborhood negatively, which is due to the concentration of drug activity in their neighborhood. However, Residents' like how convenience and affordable it is to live in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood.

Community Survey and Project TIPS Survey Comparative: Conkey& Clifford Area to Three Other Neighborhoods in Rochester, NY

These findings show that the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood does indeed face many challenges along with the open-air marijuana market that has been identified in the area. The majority of Conkey and Clifford residents view their neighborhood negatively but have a positive view of the people who live in the neighborhood. However, they tend to feel more negatively about their neighborhood and neighbors than residents of the other surveyed neighborhoods. Fewer people in Conkey and Clifford live in the area for a long period of time

compared to other neighborhoods, which may be a direct correlation to the open-air marijuana market. This causes a high turnover of residents and lower neighborhood stability, which in turn, creates an environment for crime, drug sales, and drug use. Drug concerns were reported by a much higher percentage of Conkey and Clifford residents (75%) than the other three neighborhoods. The open-air marijuana market located in the Conkey and Clifford Avenue is affecting the way residents view their neighborhood. Thus, while each area shows a variety of issues, Conkey and Clifford Avenue seems to struggle more than others, perhaps because of the marijuana market. While there are some aspects of the neighborhood that residents liked, there do seem to be several indicators that the quality of life in Conkey and Clifford is negatively affected by the drug market there, and Conkey and Clifford's challenges differ from other neighborhoods. The quality of life issues and challenges in Conkey and Clifford are creating opportunities for crime activity in the area. This information can inform initiatives to help revitalize and reclaim this area, including and expanding on Project HOPE's efforts.

Residents' Feelings and Interpretation of the Open-Air Drug Market in Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood of Rochester, New York

As evidenced by the results [T.I.P.S survey, Your Voice, and Resident Focus Group], the residents in the Conkey & Clifford neighborhood recognized the issues of the open-air marijuana market and how it has impacted their neighborhood and other residents. From the analysis of the report, residents typically feel that the most important thing to address is safety. Residents generally feel satisfied with where they live, because it is affordable, they like people in their neighborhood, and convenience. It was also acknowledged that most residents will get involved or be inspired to get involved in a project like RDFSI if others in the neighborhood get involved (see Table 4: 15% -working with others). Residents understand that if open-air marijuana markets are deterred their neighborhood will be much safer. Not only will it be safer,

but it will clean up the neighborhood, produce a healthier neighborhood, and rebuild the quality of life in the neighborhood. To accomplish this residents have pointed out that more opportunities to get involved are needed in their neighborhood. Acknowledging that residents are motivated in rebuilding their neighborhood should be an indicator for RDFSFI that they will be supported by the residents. However, this does not mean that all residents will take part in the initiative.

Former Dealer Focus Group

Even with the minor flaws, the focus group session did help RDFSFI members obtain some important information on how to approach and engage drug dealers in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood, even when they got off the main subject. They learned that consistency and offering employment opportunities are the most important things to help dealers stop dealing. They learned that incarceration was a primary motivator for change for these particular individuals, and that they started dealing largely due to family influences and wanting or needing money. Overall, the former dealer focus group benefitted RDFSFI in constructing their work with active dealers.

Arrests Data

There have been a number of marijuana arrests throughout the U.S. Locally in Rochester, NY; the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood displays a disproportionately high number of marijuana related arrests for its small geographical area. The Conkey and Clifford area has been noted as a location for marijuana sales for as long as 40 years by the Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative. Thus, RDFSFI is working on reducing low-level drug sales that take place on the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood street corners by changing the way the community and local government react to these sales.

RDFSI Key Stakeholders Interview & Observations of the Conkey and Clifford Neighborhood & Park

The Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSI), personnel consider open-air marijuana markets to be a huge nuisance to communities. This is impacting the safety and health of the residents in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. Furthermore, they also feel that the issue of open-air marijuana markets can be considered a public health issue. The definition of public health has changed since the last few years; it is not just about physical health, but rather about the overall health of the community. Therefore, if a strong community is an indicator of good public health, then this issue of open-air marijuana markets could be considered a public health issue. Also, even with the challenges that RDFSI personnel have face, they have been able to reevaluate their mistakes, approaches, and model to the initiative. Overall, RDFSI personnel are enthusiastic about their initiative and express that their civil approach to deal with the issue of the open-air drug market in the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood will have superior impact on the issue. Furthermore, personnel point out that this approach is something different than the traditional criminal justice approach that has been use for years in the area.

It can be concluded from the observations in the area, that there are active people in the neighborhood. It can also be concluded that there is more activity in the neighborhood than in the Conkey Corner Park. This can be the case due to the loitering and drug sales issues that have been known to transpire in the Park. Lastly, the findings show that the majority of residents' observed in the neighborhood are Black and Hispanic males.

Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative

The Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative is focused on addressing the open-air marijuana markets with an approach that seeks accountability from dealers, but also furthers their opportunities to become contributing and productive members of their respective communities.

The initiative also seeks to rebuild the relationships and trust between dealers and community residents, as well as empowering community residents to reclaim their communities which leads to stronger community cohesion. The initiative is seeking a different alternative than the traditional criminal justice approach. That alternative is one that does not seek out criminal records for dealers, but rather emphasizes the rebuilding of community efficacy.

Policy Implications & Recommendations

Police have faced some challenges in deterring open-air marijuana markets, due to the fact that the possession of small amounts of marijuana is decriminalized in New York. Before the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana, there were harsh policies like the “Rockefeller Laws”. These policies did not have any effect on the issues of open-air drug markets, much less marijuana markets. Since the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana and the difficulty faced by police, the issues of open-air marijuana markets have fallen onto residents in the community. Creating harsh penalties or for that matter criminalizing small amounts of marijuana may not be the best alternative to deal with the issue of open-air marijuana markets. Bringing together policy and community initiatives may be more effective.

The Rochester Drug Free Initiative (RDFSI) is working with residents’ in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood to improve community cohesion and public safety, while promoting positive use of the areas Conkey and Clifford Park and recreational facilities. The RDFSI is working on creating a policy, which will protect residents that are facing quality of life and public safety issues due to open-air drug markets. The correlations between policy and community initiatives reinforce empowerment within a community and its residents. Initiatives, like RDFSI that are targeted in rebuilding community cohesion can have a greater chance of being effective. Routine Activity Theory states guardians’ (such as residents, police or

neighborhood watch) presence would discourage crime from taking place. If guardians are absent, powerless, or not motivated then crime is most likely to take place. When rebuilding community cohesion and safety through community-based organizations, it is hypothesized that residents will become empowered and therefore better guardians for their neighborhoods.

Open –air marijuana markets discourages businesses from opening in the area. Neighborhoods are unstable and many businesses are faced with loitering and drug sales issues in front of their business. Therefore most businesses close down or move out of the area, and new businesses do not enter the area. This can cause residents to live in the area for a lesser period of time, lower neighborhood stability, and lower community cohesion and cause concentrated poverty which in turn, creates an environment for crime, drug sales, and drug use. Reinforcing or recreating Offenses against public order can aid in keeping businesses in the areas that are flooded with open-air drug markets.

A community initiative alongside of policy will assist in empowering, motivating, and strengthen community cohesion and public safety, which in turn will deter open-air drug markets. By rebuilding community cohesion residents will become more productive in their neighborhoods and business owners will keep their business open in the area. Nevertheless, new businesses will most likely open in the area improving the stability of neighborhood. This can cause residents to live in the area for a longer period of time, and deter concentrated poverty which in turn, creates an environment free from crime, drug sales, and drug use.

Marijuana legalization has been changing throughout the United States; however these laws are also changing in New York State. The first recommendation for future research pertaining to the issues of open-air marijuana markets, is the impact that new legalization can have on the issues of such markets. For example, if new policy for marijuana recreational use

passes in NY State it will be important to acknowledge how this type of policy impacts drug markets. Some questions to consider, 1. Have open-air marijuana markets in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood discontinued due to new policy? 2. In spite of the new policy are open-air marijuana markets still operating in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood? 3. How effective has the new policy been in deterring open-air marijuana markets in the area? 4. Has there been any impact on crime levels in Conkey and Clifford neighborhood?

This project focused on the process of coming up with a solution that is targeted at resolving the issue of low-level marijuana in the Conkey and Clifford. It was found that Project HOPE, a non-profit organization, has launched a new strategy that is targeted at resolving the issue of low-level drug sales in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. The strategy known as, the Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSI), which consists of a two prong civil approach to deal with the impact of low-level sale drug sales in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood. Since this is a new developing approach to the issue of drug markets, this study looked at the process and steps of the new developing strategy.

Another recommendation for further research is an evaluation of the new strategy. The following is recommended; conducting further interviews with residents, key project stakeholders, and dealers that have chosen to proceed through the restorative community circle, participating or observing the process and outcomes of restorative community circle, evaluating if dealers are succeeding through this process, obtaining data on the number of dealers that have taken part in the project, evaluating the effectiveness of the plan 4 success for dealers and how effective are personnel in proceeding the plan 4 success, lastly attending and observing strategies for outreach.

Nevertheless, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the stay-a-way order should also be conducted. The initiative is still working on the approach they are going to use, whether it will be a civil or criminal approach. Whatever approach is employed it is critical to distinguish how it has impacted the sales of drug in the Conkey and Clifford area. However, it will also be critical to look at the crime rate in the neighborhood, the amount of arrests related to marijuana offenses, the use of public space in the area, and how it has impacted the view residents have about their neighborhood.

In general this study started by looking at two questions; 1. What are the issues surrounding the open-air marijuana market in the Conkey and Clifford area? 2. What is the process of coming up with a solution that is targeted at resolving the issue of low-level marijuana sales in the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood? It was found that violence, intimidation of public space, isolation, fear, increase in trash and debris, unstable neighborhood, invasion of residents' property, outsiders coming into the neighborhood, and numerous of other things are the issues that are surrounded by open-air marijuana markets. Coming up with a solution to such a persistent problem was not straightforward.

For the RDFSI the process consisted of a partnership between community members and community-organizations that are dedicated in resolving and rebuilding community relationships. Understanding the impact that open-air marijuana markets have on the community and its residents is significant. Furthermore, putting together meetings with members that are involved in the initiative and critically thinking about ideas will move the project forward. This approach requires continuously adjusting strategies and evaluating what works and what does not work. Most importantly, understanding that the initiative is working process and remembering that perseverance is a key core value to a long lasting and effective project.

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Appendix A: Research Log

Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFS) Campaign:

April through September 2013

Jan.24.2013: Restorative Practices Work Group Meeting

Feb.11.2013: Restorative Practices Work Group: Description of Restorative Practices, Report on Neighborhood Consortium Meeting, Development of the Individual Success Plan, Time Frame for Meeting with the Community

Feb. 13th. 2013: Steering Committee Meeting

Feb. 21.2013: Restorative Practices Work Group Meeting

Mar.11.2013: Restorative Practices Work Group Meeting: Review Job Description for Restorative Practices Coordinator, Review of Webinar Discussion with M&R Services, Review Description of Restorative Practices, Identify Key Influencers in the Community

Mar.23.2013: Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative Brainstorming Meeting: Looking at the parts of the project; questions that needed to be answered; brainstorming about the issues of drug markets

Apr.8.2013: Restorative Practices Work Group Meeting: Updates, Campaign Plan, How to Approach Dealers, Action Item, Description of Restorative Practices for the Community, After Grant

Apr.10.2013: Steering Committee Meeting: Old Business: Job Descriptions for-Restorative Coordinator& Community Engagement Specialist, New Business: Community Meetings, Action updates, Market Strategies, Upcoming Events

Apr.11.2013: Resident Listening Tour

May.8th .2013: Steering Committee Meeting

May.23rd .2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

May.30th .2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

Jun. 6th .2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

Jun.11th .2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

Jun. 25th .2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation& Parks Observations

Jul.10th.2013: Steering Committee Meeting

Jul.13.2013: Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative Community Forum

Jul. 16th. 2013: Parks Observations

Jul. 17th. 2013: Parks Observations

Jul.18. 2013: Parks Observations

Jul.22nd.2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation& Parks Observations

Jul. 23rd. 2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

Jul.27.2013: Restorative Community Circle Training

Jul.29th.2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

Jul.30th. 2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation& Parks Observations

Aug.12th.2013: Restorative Practices Work Group Meeting

Aug.21st.2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

Aug: 23rd.2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation& Parks Observations

Aug. 26th. 2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

Aug.27th. 2013: Parks Observations

Sep.14th.2013: Steering Committee Meeting

Sep.17.2013: Residents at City Council

Sep.23.2013: Restorative Practices Work Group Meeting: Update on Public City Council with residents, Round Robin, Voting on name change for residents, Drug Free Zones Legislation, Neighborhood Petition, Residents Survey

Sep. 23. 2013: Resident Committee Meeting: Updates from Public City Council Meeting, Voting for Community Friendly Name for the Initiative

Sep.25.2013: Mock Restorative Circle

Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSI) Campaign:

October 2013 through April 2014

Oct.02.2013: Map out Six-Mouths Plan Meeting

Oct.8.2013: Restorative Practices Work Group Meeting: Service Providers Update, Upcoming Restorative Process related dates, Name Change Update, Residents Committee Involvement in

Restorative Process, Pilot Restorative Community Circle Candidate and Seller Outreach Challenges

Oct.9.2013: Steering Committee Meeting: Old Business: Guiding Principles, Structure & Decision-Making Process/Tools, Scribes for Meeting, Petition, New Business: Chair & Co-Chair positions, Residents Committee updates, Restorative Practices updates, Legal/Policy updates

Oct.9.2013: Interview with RDFS I Staff Member

Oct.10.2013: Interview with Restorative Practices Work Group Staff Member

Oct.11.2013: Interview with Restorative Practices Work Group Staff Member 2

Oct.17.2013: Interview with RDFS I Community Engagement Member

Oct. 18th.2013: Interview with City of Rochester Neighborhood Services Staff Member

Oct.10.2013: Resident Focus Group: Non-Resident Participants Question & Answer Meeting

Oct. 15th .2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation && Parks Observations

Oct.15th.2013: Emergency Discussion Meeting with Community Members & Committee Member on Drug Free Zone Legislation: Residents and Committee Members Voice their Opinion to City Council about the Legislation, Members and ResidentsVoice their Opinion to Each Other Traveling to City Council

Oct.16th . 2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation & Parks Observations

Oct.17th.2013: Dealers Focus Group: Questions & Answer Meeting

Oct.26th .2013: Mini-Training for Restorative Community Circle: General restorative practices information, practicing using I statements, and talking about impact on the neighborhood.

Oct.28th .2013: Outreach: Name for petition

Nov. 06th . 2013: Neighborhood Dashboard Camera Observation

Nov. 06th .2013: Drug Free Zone Legislation Discussion with Councilman Adam McFadden

Feb.04th . 2014: Restorative Practices Community Forum

Feb.10th . 2014: Restorative Workgroup Meeting

Feb.11th . 2014: Outreach Team Orientation: Reaching out to residents

Feb.12th . 2014: Steering Committee Meeting: Impact of drug markets in Rochester neighborhood

Feb.15th.2014: Restorative Circles Training

Feb. 20th. 2014: Legal/Policy Meeting

Feb. 24th. 2014: Resident Committee Meeting

Mar. 03rd.2014: Legal/Policy Meeting: Local strategies-potential criminal prosecution from DA's offices

Apr.09th. 2014: WNY Restorative Practice Conference at Rochester Institute of Technology: RDFSJ to present on the initiative

Apr. 14th.2014: Steering Committee Meeting

Apr.24th.2014: RCC Orientation with Residents

Apr.28th.2014: Residents Committee Meeting

May. 5th.2014: Legal/Policy Meeting

May.07th.2014: RCC Orientation with Residents

May.10th.2014: RCC Orientation with Residents

May. 12th.2014: Restorative Workgroup Meeting: Ice cream outreach with dealer and residents

May.13th.2014: First Restorative Community Circle with dealer

May.14th.2014: Steering Committee Meeting: Updates on first RCC with dealer, impact sheet for residents, update on potential criminal prosecution from DA's offices

May.17th.2014: RCC Orientation with Residents

**Community Survey 2013
Rochester Drug-Free Street Initiative
Thesis Project Pedro Vazquez**

Use of Recreational Facilities/ Park at the Corner of Clifford and Conkey

1. In the past 30 days, how often have you used the following:

	Once	Several Times	Weekly	Daily	Never
Conkey Corner Park					
El Camino Trail					
Ave D Recreation Center					
Others Recreation Centers					
Other Parks					

If you use other recreation centers or parks, which ones do you use?

2. Please circle all the adjectives that you think describe the park at the corner of Clifford and Conkey:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Clean | Bright | Exciting | Dark |
| Noisy | Unsafe | Frightening | Safe |
| Spacious | Convenient | Welcoming | Inconvenient |
| Crowded | Deserted | Violent | Cared for |
| Family-friendly | Boring | Child-friendly | Waste of space |
| Messy | Fun | Rundown | Useful |

Attitudes toward Neighborhood

3. Please circle all the adjectives that apply to this neighborhood:

Friendly	Marijuana	Positive	Exciting
Full of strangers	Neighborly	Strong police presence	Dangerous
Safe	Happy	Prostitution	Good for kids
Loitering	Drug use	Unsafe	Drug sales
Clean	Affordable	Good community bond	Good
Bright	Busy	Hangout	Negative
Weak police presence	Noisy	Quiet	Violent

4. Please circle all the adjectives that describe the people who live in your neighborhood:

Friendly	Unreliable	Helpful	Generous
Dangerous	Law abiding	Mean	Bad
Reliable	Trustworthy	Nosy	Faithful
Responsible	Messy	Respectful	Careless
Drug dealer	Amazing	Distrustful	Hard-working
Noisy	Frightening	Good	Lazy

5. Do you think there are significant problems in the neighborhood?

Yes___

No___

If yes, what are the top three concerns?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

6. Do you think there are really good things about the neighborhood?

Yes_____

No_____

If yes, then please list the top three things

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Household and Respondent Demographics

7. How old are you? _____

8. What gender are you?

Male____

Female____

9. How long have you lived in the area? _____

10. Do you rent or own the home? _____

Community Survey 2013 TIPS Supplement

Attitudes/Opinion toward Neighborhood

1. Please circle all the adjectives that apply to this neighborhood:

Friendly	Marijuana	Positive	Exciting
Full of strangers	Neighborly	Strong police presence	Dangerous
Safe	Happy	Prostitution	Good for kids
Loitering	Drug use	Unsafe	Drug sales
Clean	Affordable	Good community bond	Good
Bright	Busy	Hangout	Negative
Weak police presence	Noisy	Quiet	Violent

2. Please circle all the adjectives that describe the people who live in your neighborhood:

Friendly	Unreliable	Helpful	Generous
Dangerous	Law abiding	Mean	Bad
Reliable	Trustworthy	Nosy	Faithful
Responsible	Messy	Respectful	Careless
Drug dealer	Amazing	Distrustful	Hard-working
Noisy	Frightening	Good	Lazy

Appendix D: Key Stockholder Interview Questions

Interview questions for Project personnel 2013

Key: Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSFI)

1. What is your name?
2. What organization do you work for? And what are your responsibilities?
3. How did you get involved with RDFSFI?
4. Could you describe your role in the project?
5. What is the RDFSFI and why have you devolved this new strategy?
6. Describe the available community resources, support, and network to support the initiative?
7. How did the community/community members become involved or engaged?
8. How do you think the community perceives the strategy?
9. What have been some of the challenges of the strategy from your perspective?
10. How have you overcome these challenges?
11. How would you define “success” for the RDFSFI?
12. Has this strategy or something similar been conducted in this area or elsewhere?
13. What type of outreach is being conducted to inform community members of your new initiative?
14. What are some of the goals of the initiative?

Interview questions for Restorative personnel 2013

Key: Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSFI)

1. What is your name?
2. What organization do you work for? And what are your responsibilities?
3. How did you get involved with RDFSFI?
4. Could you describe your role in the project?
5. What type of restorative justice process will be used for RDFSFI?
6. How do restorative circles work?
7. How is the restorative approach different than the traditional approaches?
8. How is the “individual success plan”, managed and followed-up?
9. How are community members informed and selected to participate in the restorative circle?
10. How are the dealers informed and selected to participate in the restorative circle?
11. What are some of the positive and negative to this approach?
12. How have you tried to overcome those negative?
13. Who will be responsible for running the circles?
14. How are service providers identified and what steps are taken to get the service providers involved in the restorative approach?

Survey for Legal Volunteer 2013

Key: Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSFI)

1. What is your name?
2. What organization do you work for? And what are your responsibilities?
3. How did you get involved with RDFSFI?
4. Could you describe your role in the project?
5. What are some of the positives and negatives to the approach?

6. How have you tried to overcome those negatives?
7. What do you think about the stay-away order strategy?
8. What are some of the positive and negative to this stay-away order strategy?
9. Do you consider the issue of open-air marijuana markets as a nuisance to communities?
10. Do you consider the issues of open-air marijuana markets as a public health issues to the communities?
11. What are your overall feelings of the RDFSFI?

Neighborhood Service Center Personnel Interview 2013
Key: Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSFI)

1. What is your name?
2. What organization do you work for? And what are your responsibilities?
3. How did you get involved with RDFSFI?
4. Could you describe your role in the project?
5. What are some of the positives and negatives to the approach?
6. How have you tried to overcome those negatives?
7. What do you think about the stay-away order strategy?
8. What are some of the positive and negative to this stay-away order strategy?
9. Do you consider the issues of open-air marijuana markets as a public health issues to the communities? If so why?
10. What are your overall feelings of the RDFSFI?

Interview questions for Project Engagement personnel 2013
Key: Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSFI)

1. What is your name?
2. What organization do you work for? And what are your responsibilities?
3. How did you get involved with RDFSFI?
4. Could you describe your role in the project?
5. How are dealers identified?
6. What strategy are you using to engage the dealers?
6. How are dealers selected to participant in the restorative circle?
7. What are some of the positives and negatives to your approach?
8. How have you tried to overcome those negatives?
9. Besides the dealers; is there any other community members being in engaged?
10. What approaches are you using to follow-up with the dealers/community members that you have engage with?
11. What is the overall goal for conducting the engagement with dealers/community members?

Rochester City Council Meeting Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative and Residents

On September 17, 2013 residents attended the city council meeting with project HOPE staff to talk and inform city council about the issues of drug markets in their neighborhood.

City Council Board Members

Number of RDFSIS Speaker's (Residents) = 6

Overall residents talked about the issues they face day-to-day with the open-air drug market in their neighborhood. Mostly every resident felt that the neighborhood is not safe because of the dealers in their area. At the council meeting each member had 3 minutes to address the council member about their issues and why they were there. Although, residents were the one's speaking project HOPE staff come long for support. The following notes are on some of the key points of what the residents expressed to the council members:

Resident 1: This resident talked about the dealers on Ave A and Flower Street. The resident informed the council members about how dealers stop moving traffic to sell drugs. The resident stated that dealers will run up to vehicles to sell their drugs. The resident then stated that member of the resident's family as well as friends do not want to visit, because of dealers running to their vehicles. The resident also point out that the dealers hang out in front of the home were the resident lives. Furthermore, the resident specified that more people in the community need to fight back against drug dealers.

Resident 2: This resident has lived in the area for 22 years. The resident expressed to the council members that gang's members are selling drug and hanging out in front of the home were the resident reside at. The residents informed council that her neighbors are afraid to be outside of their homes or for that matter call the police, because the community members do not see many police in their area. The resident was approached by dealers in her area because of calling the police.

Resident 3: This resident resides in the area affected by the drug markets and is also an employee of the RDFSIS. The resident explains to council that because of being part of the RDFSIS with project HOPE he feels unsafe in the area. The resident further explains that some individuals hit the resident because of wearing a project HOPE t-shirt. The resident called 911 and nothing was done. The individuals toke the residents cell phone and now the residents will not walk in the area or even go to the corner store, because of what toke place. The resident also talked about the needles in the area that are all over the place and finch by asking council to help stop the open-air drug market activity in the area.

Resident 4: The 4th resident informed council that the resident is known as the mayor of Treyer Street. The resident cleans and helps others in the community and theresident helps the older

members in the community get to their doctor appointments. The residents talked about the garden. The resident also informed council (like other residents) about how family and friend are afraid to come over because of the dealers running up to their cars. The entire drug dealing in the area also sends family and friend away.

Resident 5: This resident is part of the church in the area. This resident informed council that he forgot to hear his project HOPE t-shirt. The resident talked about a march on the street of the area years ago, which was targeted at stopping the drug sales in the area. He further stated that back then they used GOD words to say “We love you, but we don’t like what you’re doing”. The resident talked about the harm that is been done in the community because of drug markets. Lastly, the resident informed council that resident’s will be back to something happens.

Resident 6: This resident has been living in the area for 20 year. The residents see that the drug market is placing an issue on the quality of live. The resident talked about the steps that were token to take care of the dealers in the area. Know the dealers call the residents all kinds of names. The resident informed council that corner store owners allow dealers to sale in front of their store. The resident talked about the needles as well and informed them that the park on Conkey is good things that happen for the area. The resident asked for help on the quality of life issues.

Resident Committee Meeting Sept. 23rd. 2013

Rochester Drug Free Street Initiative (RDFSI) conducts a meeting on Monday night of each month. These meeting help keep residents involved with the initiative inform. It also aids RDFSI staff members known the numbers of residents who are step-up to make a change in their neighborhood. Not only are residents informed about the things that are going on with the project, but they also have the opportunity to have input as well. Residents are free to talk about the impact the open-air marijuana has had on them at the meeting as well.

Today residents met to talk about updates form the last meeting, updates from the City Council Meeting, Round Robin conversation on mock circle, voting for top three new names for the initiative, and the Drug Free Zones Legislation.

Number of residents at meeting= 6; 4=males & 2= females

Residents were asked about their feeling toward the Restorative Community Circle role play, but instead residents had other things on their chest. They all started talking about the issues they are face with everyday living in the Conkey and Clifford area with is the marijuana drug market throughout the meeting.

Resident 1: Talked about the individuals he has seen on the corner of Ave A and Conkey Ave.

Resident 2: This resident talked about the work opportunity program that was put in place in 2002. He stated that the program was funded to help young kids obtain employment. He stated that the program has not been used and it should be used for this program.

Resident 3: This resident was upset with the work of the police. He stated that police officers are giving residents tickets for parking more than a foot away for the curve, but are not doing anything about the dealers in the area. He said that residents feel that the police are putting the job on them and they are now feeling like victims more than ever before. He states that police are fast to arrest a resident member before a drug dealer. Furthermore, the resident talks about how the dealers can be bad, but they do watch he's home when he not there and they do not mass up his yard. The resident also informs us about how he knows were dealers kept their drugs. He stated that dealers keep their drugs in can and trash cans. He said that the dealers on Flower Street are on the corner around 9am to 10pm. He states that police need to find other methods to find the drugs. Lastly, he stated that he feels unsafe because the dealers will get mad if they find out residents want stop them selling.

Resident 4: This resident stated that other residents in the area feel that there is nothing that can be done about the drug dealing issue.

Resident 5: This resident talked about the experience at the City Council meeting. She felt important when speaking at the meeting, because she has never done anything like that before. She also feels that even if they do not about the issue the residents involved in the project will not give-up.

**Emergency Discussion Meeting with Community Members & Committee Member on Drug Free Zone Legislation
Oct.15th.2013**

A "Drug Free Zone" legislation was being introduces by Rochester City Council member. The law proposed that police officers would have the authority to arrest anyone they believe is loitering in front of a home, businesses or on a street corner.

RDFSI personnel put together an emergency meeting with other staff members and community residents. The objective of the meeting was to obtain information on how residents and staff were feeling about the new proposed legislation. In general, residents and staff thought that the new legislation will not have any impact on open-air drug markets and further stated that the legislation gives the police more power. Residents felt that they will be targeted by police just by being in public. Also they stated that the legislation will just move drug dealers form one corner or neighborhood to another. Overall, residents and staff felt that the RDFSI will have a greater impact on open-air drug markets than the new proposed legislation.

Observations of Drug-Market (Camera)

Notes

These notes consist of camera recordings of the Conkey and Clifford Ave Drug-Market as well as the park located at the corner of Conkey and Clifford Ave. These notes also include the activity of the overall block of Conkey and Clifford Ave (Ave D, Harris Street, Clifford, and Conkey). The recordings of the drug-market will allow me to analysis the activity of such market as well as being able to get a better understanding of the characteristics of this particular market.

To keep my data organized I have created a excelspreadsheet, which permits me to store and organizes data. The spreadsheet consists of the Date and Time, Weather, Number of told people, Number of Males, Numbers of Females, Race, Age Range, Number of people at the park, and age range at the park.

May 23, 2013- The weather today was nice, so I expected that the market might be busy. After conducting my drive by recording at 3:46pm of the market, I came home and analysis what has been recorded. I found that not many people were out on the street around the time of the recording. I did see that a block away from the corner of Conkey and Clifford there were 3 black males (Age range 17-25) standing at another corner. Further down the block on the corner of Ave D and Conkey I spotted 2 black males (Age ranges 15-19) standing in front of the corner store. I than made a right turn on to Ave D from Conkey Ave and made a left turn on to Harris Street. On Harris Street I notice that about three houses down from the corner of Harris Street and Ave D (Left Side) a group of Black males (5 or more) were hang on the street around a vehicle. One of the males ran up to the house as I drove by them. After passing the group of individuals I notice that there was not much activity on Harris Street. There were some but not many people out in their yards. There were no activity at the park located at the corner of Conkey and Clifford.

May 31, 2013- Friday May 31 was a sunny hot day and at 3:43pm I conducted my drive around the drug-market. Unlike May 23, I found that there were many more people out on the street. I drove around the market nearly the same time as I did on May 24th (Thursday), but on that day there were not many people out on the street. The corner of Conkey and Clifford was clear of any activity as well as the corner that is a block away from Conkey and Clifford. Today I did see that a group of black males (age range 17-32) were hanging out at a vacant lot. These

individuals were sitting on chairs and drinking (Cannot identify if it was alcohol). Once again the park at the corner of Conkey and Clifford was empty. Most people were in their yards, walking on the street, riding bikes, or sitting on their house porch. At the corner of Ave D and Conkey Ave I did observe that there was no one standing at the corner. When turning on to Harris Street I noticed a group of black males (5 or more) were hanging out on the porch of a house. This is the same house that is three houses away from the corner of Harris Street and Ave D. Furthermore, Harris Street was quiet after driving by that house and most people that are seen on the recording are out on Conkey Ave.

June 06, 2013- It was a rainy day today and time was 4:05pm I conducted my drive around the drug-market. There were not many people out on the street today, most likely because it was raining. Both the corner of Conkey and Clifford and Conkey and Woodford were clear of any activity. The individuals that I did spot outside were walking from the store (had shopping bags) while others were just walking the street. Ave D and Conkey were also clear of any kind of activity. Now the house on Harris Street that I have noticed more than 5 people hanging together was clear as well today. I did notice that there were two individuals (males/Black- age range 24-30) hanging out front. Besides that Harris Street was clear of any activity, but school buses were dropping off kids at the corners. One thing that did capture my eyes that day was the one individual at the park. When looking at the recording I noticed the individual (who was male) was walking through. He was not sitting at the park or using the park. Overall today does show me that weather can have an impact on a drug-market activity.

June 11, 2013- Tuesday June 11th, was also a rainy day, but not as bad as the Thursday the 6th. It was sprinkling rain when I conducted my drive around at 10:15am. As I approached Conkey and Clifford I spotted two young black males (18-24) hanging out on the corner in front of the store located across the street from that park. There was not any activity at the park again today. Once I made my left on to Conkey I did see that there wasn't anyone standing at the corner of Conkey Ave and Woodford as I did on the 6th of June. After passing Conkey and Woodford I noticed two individuals ahead at the corner of Conkey and Ave A, both individuals were on bikes. As I approached the stop sign one of the individuals comes up to my window and pulls out a bag containing marijuana. He tells me that he got "That Good Shit" and if I needed some, I replied "I'm okay" and smiled at him he smiled back. Both individuals were black males roughly around 17-18 years of age. Today is a school day and both of these individuals should have been in school and off the streets. After the encounter I kept on with my recording, on the corner of Ave D and Conkey I noticed that there was not anyone standing in front of the store. Once I made my left onto Ave D I saw that there was not any activity. I then made a right onto Harris Street I saw two young males (ages 19-25) hanging out in the front yard and one older male (age 29-35) on the porch at the third house from the corner all were black males. After that Harris Street was clear of any activity. Today showed me that even early as 10:15 am individuals are out selling marijuana.

June 25, 2013-today is a hot summer day. At 1:45 I conducted my drive by the Conkey and Clifford community. At this time it had started to rain and by the time I got to Conkey and Clifford the rain had slowed down and the sun was coming back out. Today I saw that the Park was not being used at the time I drove by, but I did see three young black males (age range 17-24) hanging out next to the park and away from the corner. I did not see many people out on the street or the corners. On Harris Street I noticed that the house that I have seen a lot of people at on my other recordings was quiet and no one was outside or on the porch. For a summer day there was not much going on and the street, it was quiet, and clear of people.

July 22, 2013- Since conducting outreach with RDFS and surveying the community members, I have put my recordings on hold. I did not want to be seen driving around right after walking the area. On July 22 (1:15pm) just about a month from my last recording I conducted my drive by the Conkey and Clifford community. Today was a really hot summer day and before going out I felt that there was going to be a lot of people out. Once I pulled up to the corner of Conkey and Clifford I noticed people at the park. They were mostly kids and just one adult from what I saw. There were some individuals crossing the street when I drove by, but the corner by the store was clear of any activity or individuals hanging out. After passing the park, Woodford St, and Nielson St I pulled up to the stop sign on Conkey and Ave A where I noticed a group of young kids hanging out on the corner (the same corner where a kid asked me to buy some marijuana). The kids are around the ages 14-19 and were all black. Before turning off of Conkey I saw that there were other people out enjoying their day. Once I turn on Harris St I saw that the house that always had a lot of people was clear. There was no one hanging out at the house and the street itself was quite. I saw a man walk with a kid and another young kid riding his bike. Overall, the area today was quite even though there were people out.

July 23, 2013-Today I conducted my recording drive by at 9:20am. It was a warm morning and I did see someone a woman sitting at the park on the corner of Conkey and Clifford. There was no activity out because there was not anyone outside at the time on Conkey. Even the corner of Conkey and Clifford where I saw the group of young male's hangout on July 22 was clear as well on this morning. Harris St was also clear of any activity, the only thing I noticed was two older males hangout in front of the house on Harris St (3rd house on the right) and an older man walking on the street. Overall, this morning is quite and all corners are clear of any activity.

July 29, 2013-At 6:10pm Saturday, July 29 I conducted my recording. Today I decided to go down Harris St first. As soon as I turn on to Harris St from Conkey I saw two kids playing ball. On Ave A and Harris St I saw kids (3) sitting on by the driveway of a home on the corner with an adult, it look like one of the kids were getting their hair done. Before getting to the end of Harris St there was another group of kids and teens playing basketball on the street and the kids were sitting down in the driveway as well as in front of the Harris St. I then turn on to Conkey from Ave D I wanted to go this way today to see if I can get a better recording of the young kids on Ave A and Conkey corner. I noticed that there were a lot of people out on Conkey, Kids

playing, kids on bikes, adults setting outside, and people walking around though out Conkey. Once I did get to Ave A and Conkey I did see a group of young kids again there was 5 teen (14-19) and one adult (age 30-45). I did see that the young groups of boys (black) were in a circle talking while the older man stood right at the corner alone. The recoding did not get the park because of the route I toke. I do recall seeing a number of people using the park (6) I was able to see due to the fact that there is a stop sign at the corner of Conkey Ave by the park. I was able to look at the park and then did my full stop. Overall, today showed to be a busy day a lot of people were out and the corner of Ave A and Conkey was once again a spot were a group of young kids were seen hanging out.

July 30, 2013-Today is a really nice day and at 12:46pm I conducted my recoding. Today there was activity at the park once again. There were kids and adults. The kids were playing around the park while others were on bikes and some were playing basketball. There was a group of young adults walking down Conkey by Woodford Street. When I got up to Ave A and Conkey I once again saw the group of young kids at the corner. This time some of the young kids were on bikes and they were riding them in circles around that corner. After that I did spot another young kid on is bike on the corner of Ave D and Conkey by the corner store. Once I turn on to Harris Street I seen that there two older man setting at the 3rd house on right and down the street there was a group of people in front of their home. Just like Conkey, but not as busy there were people out enjoying the hot weather. Overall, today made it the third time I saw a group of people hanging out on Ave A and Conkey. I can only think that these people are involved in some form of drug sale activity. I conduced to this because I have been stop at that corner and asked if I wanted to buy marijuana.

August 21, 2013-Before heading over to the HOPE office for outreach today, I conducted a recording of the targeted area. I started by driving down Harris Street at 2:54pm. Harris Street was not as busy as other days. There were some young males out on the street but no one hanging on the corners. There were some kids out riding their bikes in front of their home, before I hit Ave D and Harris Street. Ones I got up to the corner of Ave D and Conkey Ave, I did see to young males (ages 16-24) riding bikes and to others on the corner in front of the store. The two males in front of the store were black males (ages 18-30) and were just standing there. After passing by that Conkey was clear, onto I got up to Ave A. The corner of Ave A and Conkey has been really active the last few times I recoded. Today I saw ones again a group of young males (ages 14-19) standing at on the corner. One of the males was on a bike and the other two were standing around. Passing that corner I saw people walking around, some were out in front of their homes, and others were riding their bikes. There was no active at the park today.

August 23, 2013-Today was a nice summer day. I conducted my recoding of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood area at 1:45pm. I was joined by a student and Professor. I informed them that they will see a group of young kids on the corner of Ave A and Conkey, the same corner I was asked to buy marijuana. I also informed them that I will be driving down Harris Street first;

because I can get better views of the group of people on the corner of Ave A when coming down from Ave D and Conkey. Once we made it to Harris Street I noticed that it was clear, until we got between Harris Street, Ave A, and Ave B. There I saw four young black males (ages 14-17), three were on bikes (I wonder if these are the same kids from Ave A and Conkey, since they were on bikes and going toward Ave A). One of the young males was walking. After passing these young males Harris Street was clear. When turning on to Ave D from Harris Street, I noticed an older male (age 35-40) pushing a cart full with things. The corner of Ave D and Conkey was clear of any activity, but a young kid (age 6-9) was dancing while waiting for someone to come out the store. On the recording you see an old kid (age 14-17) come out the store and start to walk away with the young kid. Once we started pull up to the stop sign on Ave A and Conkey we saw 8 young black males on the corner (ages 14-19). Three of the kids were on bikes, I think the ones on the bikes are the ones that come up to cars (the one that come to my car was on a bike). At the stop I stop for a minute because it looked as if a car was pulling over to buy (I did see because I kept going). After passing Ave A and Conkey I did notice people were out and Conkey and Clifford were clear from activity. The park was also clear from activity.

October 15, 2013- Today was a sunny cool day. I conducted my recording of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood area at 5:45pm. I started by driving down Harris Street. Being that it was a nice cool day there were some people out enjoying the weather. I did notice that there was a young group of individuals hanging in front of a home before I got to Harris Street and Ave D. there was also another group of young males hanging out at the home next to the first group. These homes are located two to three house down from the corner of Harris and Ave D. I then made a right turn on to Ave D from Harris. When stopping at stop sign on the corner of Ave D and Conkey I noticed no activity (no one on the corners). I then made my right on to Conkey, same as Harris Street people were out enjoying the weather. The most important thing I noticed on Conkey was the corner of Ave A and Conkey. It was clear; no one was at neither corner, in pasted times I have driven by I have seen a group of young males, but not today. Once I got to the Conkey and Clifford corner I did not see anyone hanging out at the corner, but I did notice kids and adults at the Park.

October 16, 2013- It was a rainy morning today. I conducted my recording of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood area at 8:45am. The corner of Conkey and Clifford was clear of any activity, as well as, the Conkey Park. There were two males hanging out in front of a home on the corner of Conkey and Nielson and I also noticed a young male standing on the corner of Conkey and Ave C alone. The corner of Conkey and Ave D was also clear of any activity today. I then went on driving to Harris street, where I noticed two males at the same home we I have seen people hangout before. After that and before getting to Ave A and Harris Street the street was clear. When coming up to the stop sign on the corner of Ave A and Harris Street I saw two young males on the corner (which is the other side of the block of Ave A and Conkey). I also noticed a mother walking her kids to school (kids had on backpacks), and they had to walk right by the two individuals at the corner. Besides the males seen at the same home and the two on the

Ave A and Harris Street, Harris Street was clear. Overall, it was a rainy day and therefore most of the neighborhood was clear of and kind of activity.

November 06, 2013- After attending the resident meeting with Councilman Adam McFadden, my recoding of the Conkey and Clifford neighborhood area at 7:45pm. Community Engagement Specialist joined me today as well. I started by driving down Harris Street and saw a male riding a bike by the corner of Nielson and Harris Street. The reminder of Harris street was clear tonight unto I got up to the house by the corner of Harris Street and Ave D (House were males have been seen hanging out). Tonight was different than before, there were three cars parked in front of the home. I noticed a male talking to the driver of one of the cars (the driver had the car door open). Another male got out of one of the other cars and ran to the car with the driver door open and got in. Once the male got done talking to the driver he walked back to the house and the car pulled off. Being that it was dark I couldn't see what was going on with the male who was talking to the driver. After I went on to Conkey, on Conkey I noticed two males on bike riding down Conkey. Beside those two males on bike Conkey Ave was clear.

November 17, 2013- Today was a windy day and at 2:15pm I conducted my recoding of the Conkey and Clifford Ave neighborhood. I started by driving down Conkey by Ave D. I noticed today three young males standing on the corner of Ave A and Conkey, Passing Conkey and Ave A, I saw three older males hangout in an open-lot and two other young males walking away for the Corner of Clifford Ave. Once on Harris Street I saw two young males in front of the same home by Ave D. I also saw two older males cleaning their yard, besides that Harris Street was clear of any other activity.

Outreach: Community Surveys & Flyers

Field Notes 2013: Pedro Vazquez

The community survey consists of questions of the use of recreational facilities in the area (including the Park at Conkey and Clifford Ave), community member's feelings of the park itself, and their attitudes towards the neighborhood and other people who live in their neighborhood. RDFS I Project Coordinator, Restorative Practices Coordinator, and Community Engagement Specialist and I conduct the outreach in the community. In addition we are also passing out flyers that inform the community members of the Restorative Practices and its potential for impact on drug sales.

Community members are asked to join us at the community forum in which they will be informed about the Restorative Practices (RP). At the forum community members will have the opportunity to sign up to participate in the RP.

June 6th-Today at 4:00pm was the first day that we planned on conducting the surveys in the targeted community. Due to the weather we were unable to conduct the surveys. We rescheduled the day to June 11th.

June 11th-RDFS I staff and I met at 218 Clifford Avenue at 3:30 pm. At this location I handed out surveys. We broke up into groups of two. RDFS I staff and I started conducting the surveys on Clifford Ave. Overall I found that most community members are willing to fill out the survey. Some members had question about the surveys, like one member was confused about the question concerning the use of the Conkey Ave Park. She had stated "My kids and I use the park daily when the police truck is there, but we don't if it's not there". There were some individuals that did not want to talk to us or have anything to do with the survey. Once we meet back up RDFS I staff informed me that a known dealer did fill out a survey. After that as a group we all went on to Harris Street. I visited a house where 3 males were sitting on their porch smoking marijuana, two of the individuals were Hispanic and one was black (age range 18-32). All three individuals were happy and willing to fill out the survey, while waiting for the survey one of the Hispanic individuals asked me who I work for; I informed him that I was working with Ibero. He then replied that he will do anything to help and support Ibero, because they do a lot for the community and its members.

June 14th- Today at 12:45pm Community Engagement Specialist and I conducted some surveys on Ave C, which is off of Conkey Ave. I walked and survey community members on one side, Community Engagement Specialist did the same on the other side. Today I really did not get many surveys done being that it was 12:45pm it can be possible that people are at work or school. Even with that I did get a chance to talk to one community member who has been a landlord in the area for 8 years. The individual is female age (45-55) moved here from New York City in hope of rebuilding herself, because of been laid off from her job in New York City. Once she moved here she got involved with the real estate market and purchased two homes. She stated that one home is for her to live in and the other she wanted to rent out, both homes are located in the ConkeyAve area. She informed me about the drug issue in this area and how she at one point had to evict some individuals from her rental property due to drug sales. She informed me that she has acknowledged for several years the drug issue in her area and that it is time to do something about it. Furthermore, she goes on and states that she has to respect these “Drug Dealers”, because she does not want to get hurt. She has been approached by dealers who have tried to sell her drugs. She also told me that one of her renters had helped her keep her rental home clean and safe from the drug activity.

June 19- Today I conducted some surveys on Woodford Street and Huntington Park. On Woodford Street community members were happy to fill out the surveys and did not ask any questions about the flyer. One thing that I did notice, a 16 year old male had a difficult time filling out the survey. I did help him with whatever he needed help with. I also told him that he does not have to fill everything out if he did not want to. On Huntington Park a Hispanic woman who was filling out the survey informed me that she cannot attend the RS meeting because she smokes “weed” and she will look like a hypocrite. She also told me that the Restorative Practices will not work in their community. After that I talked to an older black woman (age range 50-62) who told me that she loves her neighborhood (Huntington Park). She told me that she does not use the park located at Conkey and Clifford, because there are too many drug dealers hanging out there. Her overall thoughts on the community were that it’s a troubled community and too many people hang outside. When I asked her about her immediate area (the area she loves), she stated that it’s clean, people are nice, and they help each other at times. She did tell me that the only issues she has are that drug dealers come walking on her street and that herself and other community members in her area have been robbed. These robberies consist of people getting things taken from their yards. Overall, I thought that this area (Woodford Street & Huntington Park) put you in the mind of a suburban area. The streets’ are clean, there were new houses & really old homes, and the yards were kept up. I felt as if this area did not belong in the Conkey & Clifford community. I felt safe and if I did not know about the issues going on in the community here, I would purchase a home in the Woodford Street & Huntington Park area.

June 21- Community Engagement Specialist and I went out at 1:00pm. The temperature today was hot and there were a lot of community members outside. Most members did not want to fill out the surveys today, but did want to know about the restorative practices. One member

had come running back to get more copies of the flyers for his friends. Most members were happy to hear that something was being done to help the area. I did stop into a corner store today and talked with the owner. He did not fill out a survey, but I informed him about the upcoming meeting on restorative practices and he stated that he will love to join the meeting. Also he informed me that he always attend community meeting at the neighborhood service center.

August 02- RDFS staff and I conducted outreach on Hawkins St, Oakman St, Fien Street, Princeton St, and a part of Scrantom St. The goal of the outreach was to inform residents about the restorative community circles and how it is going to be used to stop drug dealing and aid dealers in obtaining better opportunity. Residents were also informed about the steps they can take to get involved. Most residents were whiling to talk with us and learn about the project. Each resident was given flyers that obtain information about Restorative Practices and its potential for impact on drug sales as well as a contact number and email. Residents were asked if they wanted to sign up by signing the sign-up sheet, but each one stated that they will get in contact if they wanted to get in involved.

October 28-Community Engagement Specialist and I conducted outreach on Conkey Ave. Today the goal of the outreach was to obtain signatures for the RDFS petition. I also had on hand four “Your Voice Surveys”, these surveys asked residents about their overall view of the issues of marijuana markets in their area. It was around 2:34pm when I and Community Engagement Specialist went out to conduct the outreach. It was a cold day even with the sun being out. I thought that there will not be many people out, but I was wrong. Once we started walking down Conkey Ave I notice three young males hanging out between Clifford Ave and Woodford Ave. There was also a group of guys (about 6 guys) at a house between Woodford St and Nielson St. This group of guys kept looking at us as we went door to door. The residents we did talk to did sign the petition. One resident (Female) did ask us to come in and told us that something has to be done about the young girls who are walking around pregnant. Another resident also female inform us that she has been living in the area for 17 years and seen many things that have happen there. Community Engagement Specialist asked this resident if she will like to take a part and come to a resident meeting, she stated that she will love to but she has 3 young kids and it hard for her to do anything. One other resident did not want to talk to us; I believe they thought we were the RG&E individuals, being that they were also going door to door. When we got close to Ave A, the corner where we have seen groups of young kids hanging out and when conducting my last two drive around of the area I notice that the corner was cleared. Today I did see three young black males at the corner, by the time I passed the corner with Community Engagement Specialist two of the young males went over to the other-side (Ave A and Harris Street). When returning back I saw a police car drive up to the corner where the one individual was still hanging out at (Ave A). Once he saw the police he started walking away. Before getting to my car I saw the three young males that were hanging out between Clifford and Woodford Ave, hanging out on the corner of Clifford and Conkey with two other young males.

Due to weather conditions outreach was put on hold

January 24th 2014: myself, and two other project HOPE volunteers conducted outreach on Conkey Ave. Before heading conducting the outreach we all met at the Conkey corner park. Since there were four of us and one of the volunteers conducted outreach with the dealers, while myself and the other volunteer posted flyers in the area. While posting the flyers I noticed a group of young man on the corner of Conkey and Woodford Street, which volunteer started to engage. After posting on Conkey Ave, we went over to the corner of Roth and Ave A which is like 200 feet away from Conkey and Ave A. While we were posting the flyer there was a group of 7 males just hangout on the corner. They did not ask us any questions but did acknowledge us.

February 14th 2014: After conducting some outreach in the area RDFS Staff and me put together a meeting to inform others (residents and staff) about conducting outreach. The objectives of the meeting were to inform individuals of the two approaches of outreach: 1. Dealer outreach and 2. Resident outreach, as well as, getting others involved in either outreach team. A flyer for the outreach meeting was pasted out a week before the meeting. A total of 5 people showed up and only one was a resident of Conkey.

February 9th 2014: Today I and RDFS Staff members went out on Conkey Ave to post more flyers in the area. There were not many people out on the street today, but one young man that was hangout on the corner of Conkey and Ave A. I acknowledged the young the man and he replied. The flyers that we were posting had information for the dealers as well as conduct information.

February 11th 2014: Staff and I went out on Conkey Ave, Ave A, and Harris Street to post more of the flyers. We met at the Conkey corner park and before we went out I saw a young woman with two kids at the park. The kids were playing while the mother set and watched them. Right before Staff member and I went on to post the flyers the young mother approached us and ask us if we are the ones posting the flyers for dealers in the area. We informed her that we are and she was happy to see that there is something being done in her area. She stated that her kids' father is a dealer on Ave A. she stated that a program like this can get him off the street. After walking around we ended up seeing a group of young men hangout at the corner of Conkey Ave and Nielson Street. Before heading home we also passed out flyers to residents.