Introduction

This poster examines the attitudes and orientations of residents of Brownsville, Greenpoint and Sunset Park, Brooklyn, with regard to their quality of life, drug and crime problems and the effectiveness of policing. The data allow for comparisons with the original data from the 1980s and with more recent data collected by students in summer 2015.

Methods & Materials

The data for this poster comes from the survey done each semester by CUNY students who participate in the “Neighborhood Drug and Crime Project”. For this poster, all responses from the 3 neighborhoods were extracted from the database between 2012-2015. Nearly 400 responses were available for analysis. The findings are presented here.

Ideas about quality of life vary considerably

Perceptions of the severity of crime are starkly different

The extent of the drug “problem” mirrors responses about crime

Police effectiveness is seen as less effective in high-crime areas

Conclusions

- Three Brooklyn neighborhoods (Brownsville, Sunset Park and Greenpoint) are the subject of this study.
- In Sunset Park and Greenpoint residents report a higher level of quality of life, compared to Brownsville.
- Due to the poor quality of life in Brownsville, the crime rate has not decreased as much as at the other two areas (37% higher than that at Sunset Park and Greenpoint combined).
- Police presence is very heavy in Brownsville, but perceived as less effective.
- In Greenpoint the police is very effective in controlling crime.
- Drug related crimes in Greenpoint have not affected the neighborhood in the long run.
- In Sunset Park and Brownsville drug crime rates have traditionally been higher, (especially Brownsville).

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