

**Safety for All at the
Expense of None:
A Town Hall on
Public Safety**

Tuesday, April 11 at 5-7pm

**The Community Advisory on Public
Safety (CAPS) Commission
of the City of Bloomington**

**Below find the link to the
CATS TV recording**



<https://catstv.net/m.php?q=12326>



Safety for All at the Expense of None: A Town Hall on Public Safety in Bloomington

Host: Alternative Public Safety Special Committee
Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission
City of Bloomington, Indiana

Presented on April 11, 2023

Tonight's Agenda

5-5:30 [Auditorium] What is alternative public safety?

5:30-6:30 [1/B, 1/C, 215] Speak, Listen, Reflect

6:30-7 [Auditorium] Summarize outreach & next steps

Who we are

The CAPS Commission was assisted in producing this event tonight by volunteers from:

Image:
B-Square
Beacon



Mission: Reduce crime, costs and injustice

BLACK MARKET FIREBOMBING
On December 26, 1949, a local man with Ku Klux Klan ties firebombed the Black Market, destroying the entire store. Though it never reopened, students, faculty, and the community raised funds to cover the store's inventory. In 1970, Indiana University students began developing the vacant lot into Peoples Park, a space for activism, recreation, and free expression.
INSTALLED 2012 INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU AND THE GREATER BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Background Photo: 2020 © The Bloomingtonian / Jeremy Hogan



Goals of CAPS' Alternative Public Safety work

1. Recommend a community-led alternative public safety program based on the principles of poverty decriminalization, human dignity, racial equity, harm reduction and restorative justice.
 2. Empower our community to have maximum control of program design, implementation and oversight.
 3. Ensure sustainability of program through detailed recommendations for budgeting plans, institutional partners, staffing, and key performance indicators.
- 



Process

Step 1

Research and Analysis

Step 2

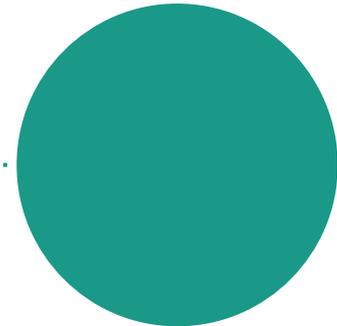
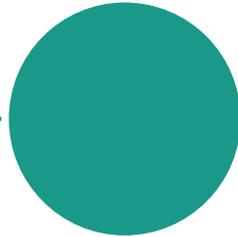
Community Outreach
and Engagement

WE ARE HERE



Step 3

Final Analysis and
Recommendations





Timeline

May 2022

Step 1 - Begin research

Feb-Apr 2023

Step 2 - Perform
Community Outreach

Jun 2023

Deliver Report and
Presentation

May

Jun

Oct

Dec

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jun-Dec 2022

Step 1 - Identify best
practices

May 2022

Step 3 - Create
Recommendations

Research Findings

- Unmet needs drive crime
- Public safety - for whom?
- Communities know best



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Home > Research > Working Papers > Substance Abuse Treatment Centers and...

Substance Abuse Treatment Centers and Local Crime

Samuel R. Bondurant, Jason M. Lindo & Isaac D. Swensen



NATION Mental Health Add Topic +

A program to remove police from some 911 calls in Denver helped reduce crime, study finds

 **Ryan W. Miller**
USA TODAY

Published 2:00 p.m. ET June 8, 2022 | Updated 12:35 a.m. ET June 11, 2022

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [r](#)

A photograph showing three people sitting on a paved sidewalk outdoors. On the left, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a green long-sleeved shirt and a black and white striped skirt, is sitting on a green plastic crate and looking towards the other two people. In the middle, a woman wearing a dark blue polo shirt, a black baseball cap, and dark pants is crouching and looking at the woman on the left. On the right, a man with a beard, wearing a green t-shirt and a tan baseball cap with sunglasses on top, is sitting and looking towards the other two people. The background shows a paved path leading into a grassy area with trees.

Best Practices:

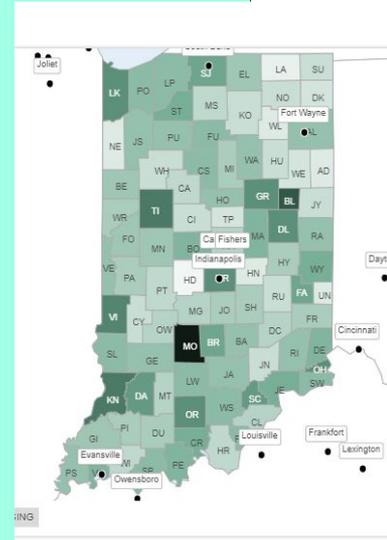
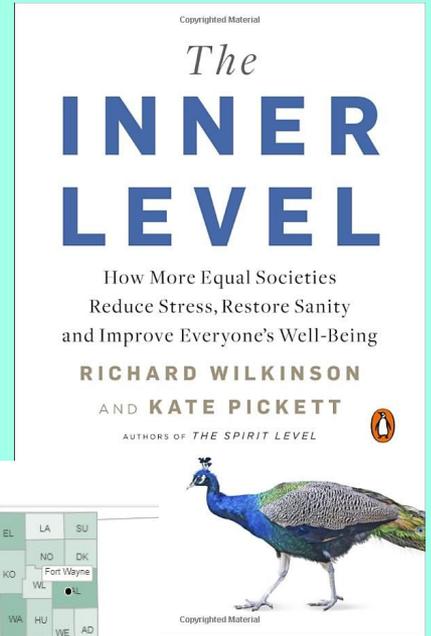
- Non-coercive, peer-staffed crisis response
- Resilient, self-organized neighborhoods
- Care-first cuts costs

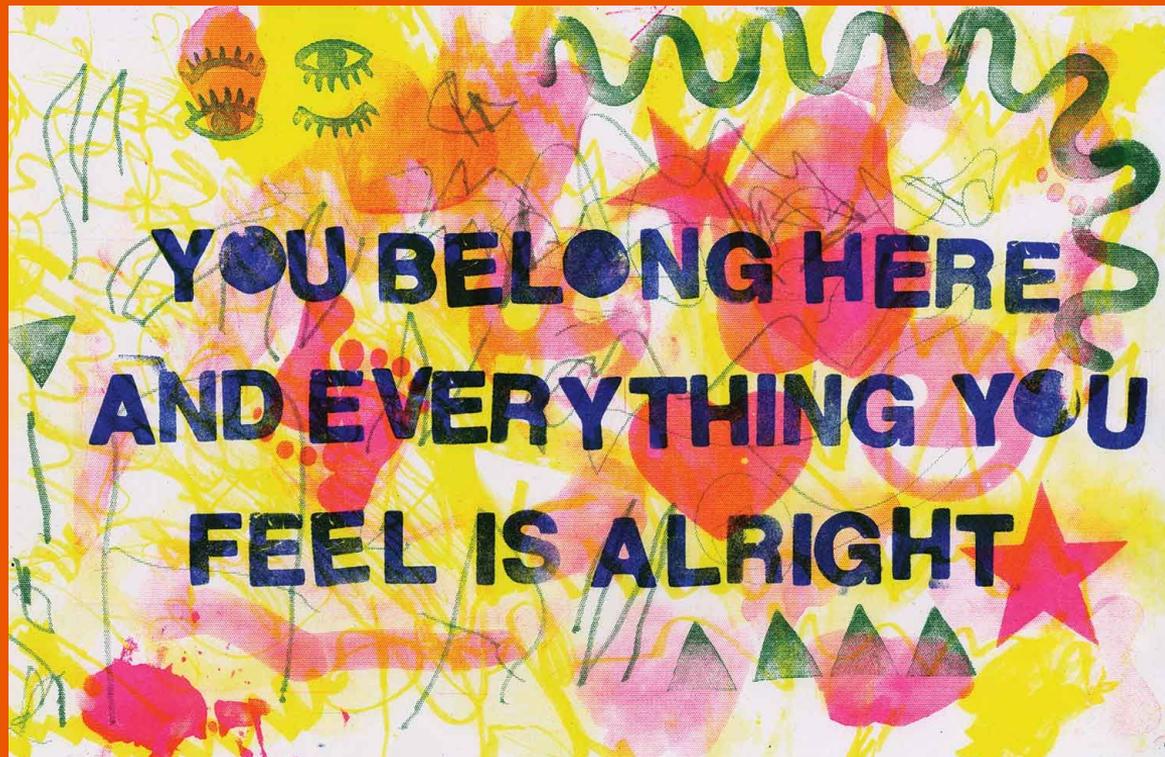
A photograph of a railway platform. In the foreground, there is a tiled floor with a herringbone pattern. A white rectangular sign with the words 'MIND THE GAP' in bold black letters is embedded in the tiles. Above the sign is a yellow safety line. In the background, there are railway tracks with gravel and steel rails. The text 'PUBLIC SAFETY FOR ALL' is overlaid in white on the tracks.

PUBLIC SAFETY FOR ALL

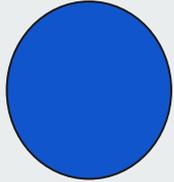
MIND THE GAP

What ONE factor is scientifically correlated with higher rates of homelessness, drug use, mental illness, violence and homicides?

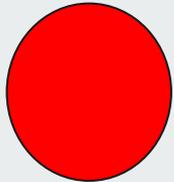




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= **1/B**



= **1/C**

No Dot = **215**

Online = **Zoom**

1/B and **1/C** are at the **end of the hallway** past the bathrooms on **this floor**.

215 is **upstairs** (elevators available) to the **left** past the bookcases.

Facilitator (F): takes note of themes. Note taker (NT): takes bulleted highlights of discussion points.

1. SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT (60 Mins)

Welcome and review priorities and group guidelines (see above). Ask for agreement. Address participation if "observers" are in attendance. (3 mins)

Prompt 1: Introductory ~~Go-round~~ (Personal stake). Say first name/pronouns if you choose (30 Mins total including theme review by facilitator)

- From your personal experience, how do you relate to the issue of public safety in Bloomington? How have you been affected, or you and your family been affected? Others you know?

Repeat question

*NT gives three-minute sign to facilitator. Facilitator wraps up session in about a minute and then has 2 minutes to:

- Facilitator reviews high level themes. Ask if miss anything?

Where does a person go to get safe (warm, dry)?

I'm not allowed to assess my own safety

JAIL
The most Vulnerable

How do you relate to Public safety?

Positive, helpful interactions with Law enforcement comparatively

Not getting the help I want.

Missing Service

Devastated that resource options perpetuate harm

I feel safe
Others say they don't

diff. perceptions of safety

Who do I call to get help that's not police?

Is my person white?

Is my person black?

Wanting better options to intervene

mistrust

How do I get help but avoid bringing the police?

Vulnerability

Prompt One

- Individuals experiencing homelessness
 - disruptive behavior, clean up with vacated camps
- lighting in the community
 - feelings of unsafety
- lack of 24/7 help - Community resource officers
- Sidewalk repairs, signage on streets
 - pedestrian safety
- intervention with stalking from police force
- Community resources for low income individuals and individuals with substance/mental health concerns
 - where to put funding, what resources are most important? More public resources
- Lack of inclusive resources - funding for resources
 - language barriers, income disparities
- ~~Discrimination~~ Discrimination against marginalized individuals
- Stigma against mental health
- Standardized training on deescalation for police.

1. FROM your personal experience, how do you relate to the topic of public safety

- Gender discrimination
- Racial discrimination
- Housing
 - mental / emotional
 - from yourself
 - from others
- POLICE
- BUDGET
- Individual experience trying to make changes
- access to resources
- Theft
- Substance use
- Drug houses
- Public Transportation

Prompt 2 (15 Mins) Open Discussion (Not a go-round)

- What steps are needed to move our community forward to ensure *safety for all* in Bloomington?

Possible follow up questions, time permitting:

- What would it take to do this? What resources exist in our community that might support such efforts?
- What are tradeoffs/ what might we have to give up to make this happen?

***NT gives two-minute warning to facilitator to end of round.**

Note: If conversations from Prompt 2 are robust, and it seems that there are folks who are eager to continue sharing, you can take a pause, let them know they can choose to keep talking about Prompt 2. Read prompt 3 question and then get their agreement to either move on to next question, or continue exploring 2.

Prompt 3 (15 Mins) (Not a go-round)

From your perspective, what might be some potential benefits and/or challenges in establishing a city-wide, unarmed, crisis-response team to respond to emergency

Prompt Two

- Policy changes to lessen discrimination
 - MCCSC policy change in their handbook
- Education for community members on how to intervene in issues of public safety
 - who conducts these trainings?
- Elect individuals that take a humane approach
- Cap enrollment for Indiana University
- Reprioritizing resources in the community
 - allocate money to certain resources depending on need
- Community Discussions all around the community, including diverse population

Prompt Three

- How do you reallocate the resources?
- Putting certain individuals in violent situations, unarmed
- provides more services/resources than typical officers
- Who would manage this group?
- How would we fit this into current resources?
- must be 24/7 • Advertise as non-police group.
- When would you send this group versus officers?

What steps → Safety 4 All

- Public Education on who/how to call?
 - 988, 911, ~~911~~
 - Stride - who can refer? access?
no bars at shelters
- Identify service gaps
 - understaffed shifts
 - uncovered neighborhoods
 - transportation
 - de-escalation
- transportation to resources
- more ~~of~~ alternative intervention officers
 - after hours ambassador
- listening to ~~the people we're~~ the people we're claiming to protect (i.e. unhoused)
 - self-organized
 - assets
- permit + support safe outdoor living options
 - bathrooms
 - dedicated camping zones
- knowledgeable interventions
 - understand addiction
- Safety for whom?
 - who is vulnerable?
 - believing those who are vulnerable.

1.

- Wealth inequality
- Power dynamics
- Presence of weapons

2.

- Organization (not involving police)
- Work together w/police
 - Police: think about uniform
- Use mental health professional
- Safe spaces
- Trusted adults
- Violent crime prevention
- Collaboration w/unhoused
- Holding treatment facilities accountable

2.

- Prolonged treatment for those who need it
- active participation to make changes

Comments: All people, but especially those who make decisions from places of power or privilege, would benefit greatly from actually getting to know homeless people

- Better lighting and other 'utility' type improvements that can make a physical environment feel more safe (including open-ness)
 - Wealthy people who are very much oblivious to the realities experienced by homeless people fear them because they haven't met or genuinely made acquaintance with these people
- Primary prevention: why do people lose homes, commit crimes, do drugs? We can prevent violence by keeping people in good health & vacations where they are less likely to commit crime in the first place

choose to keep talking about Prompt 2. Read prompt 3 question and then get t
agreement to either move on to next question, or continue exploring 2.

Prompt 3 (15 Mins) (Not a go-round)

From your perspective, what might be some potential benefits and/or challenges
establishing a city-wide, unarmed, crisis-response team to respond to emergency
calls which do not require the presence of law enforcement?

Possible follow up questions, time permitting:

- What would it take to do this? What resources exist in our community that might support such efforts?
- What might we have to give up to make this happen?
- Who might be made safer? Less safe? What are some ways to reduce or mitigate safety risks to these people?

***NT gives three-minute warning to end of round.** Facilitator moves to wrap up
discussion in a minute, leaving time to:

- Facilitator reviews high level themes of Prompts 2 & 3. F can ask NT if missed anything and then participants.

**Facilitator thanks participants and reminds them that if they have more to share t
reach out to the commission members to schedule a 1-1. Directs participants to go
back to the auditorium for wrap up.**

Prompt Two

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- Use mental health professional
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- Holding treatment facilities accountable

Crisis Response Team

benefits + challenges

Cost-savings of using cheaper first responders

PR around perceived mishaps

Training of dispatchers

Less harm / Disrupting cycle of harm
- how to measure, convey

Where is it housed administratively?

- training - support - accountability
city / county / public / private

Name and contact information (optional):

Comments:

Benefits

More appropriate services to the need
app to offer services to address

root cause

challenges

who manages them?
Are they linked in to 911

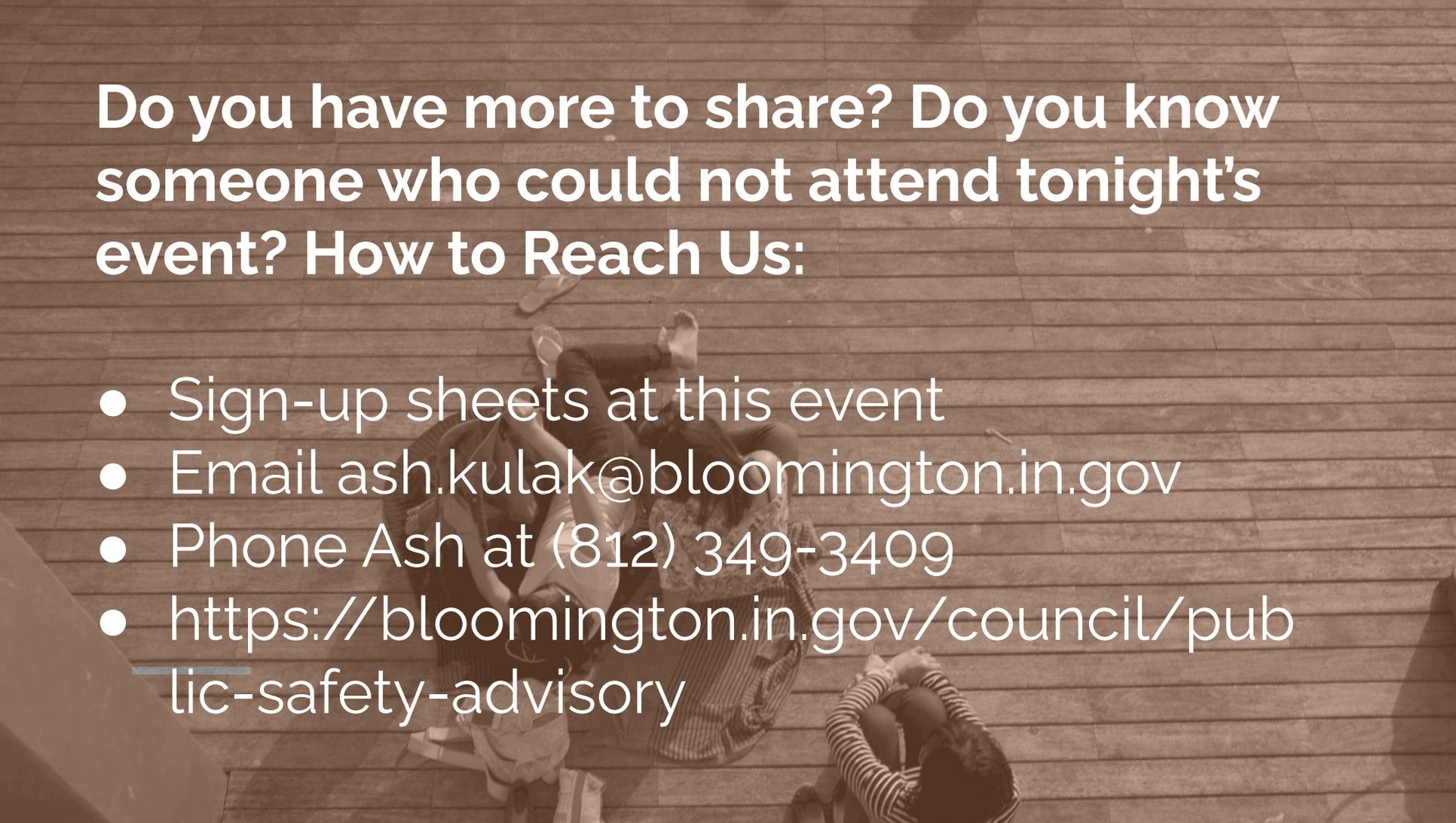


Welcome back!! Closing Presentation

How to Reach Us, Survey Results and Next Steps

Public Safety Special Committee
Advisory on Public Safety Commission
Indianapolis, Indiana

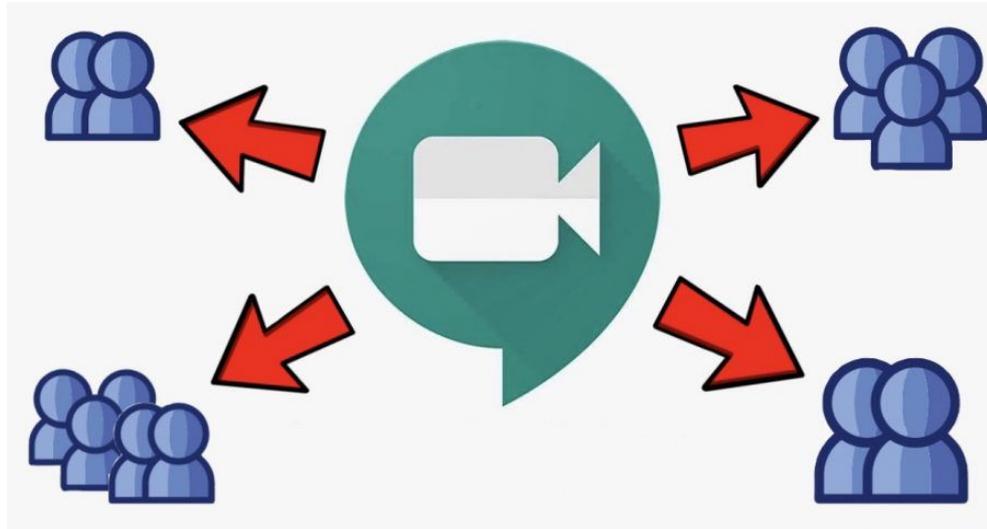
April 11, 2023



Do you have more to share? Do you know someone who could not attend tonight's event? How to Reach Us:

- Sign-up sheets at this event
- Email ash.kulak@bloomington.in.gov
- Phone Ash at (812) 349-3409
- <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/public-safety-advisory>

Town Hall Community Outreach Group Results





Next Steps

May 2022

Step 1 - Begin research

Feb-Apr 2023

Step 2 - Perform
Community Outreach &
Engagement

Jun 2023

Deliver Report and
Presentation

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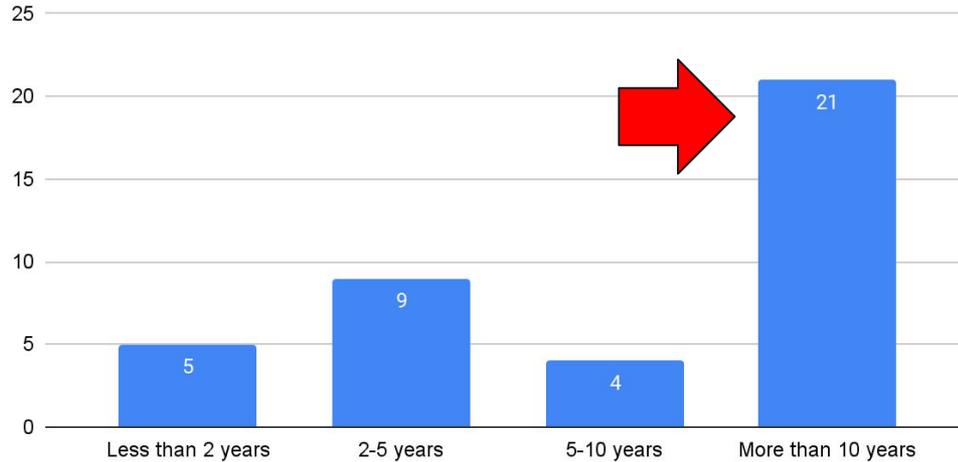
Step 1 - Identify best
practices

May 2022

Step 3 - Create
Recommendations

Pre-event survey: How long have you lived in Bloomington?

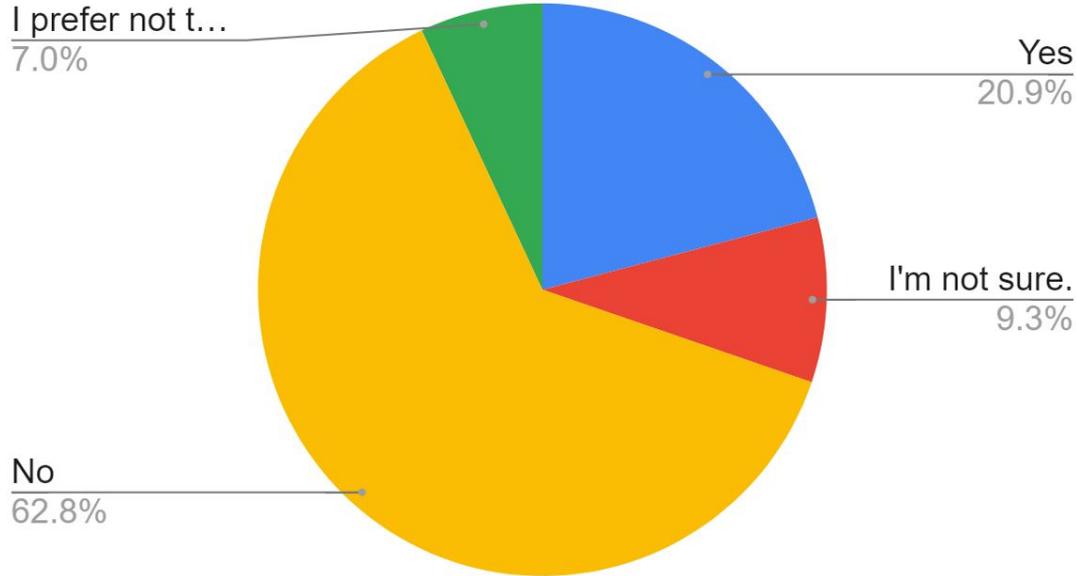
How long have you lived in Bloomington?



Count of How long have you lived in Bloomington?

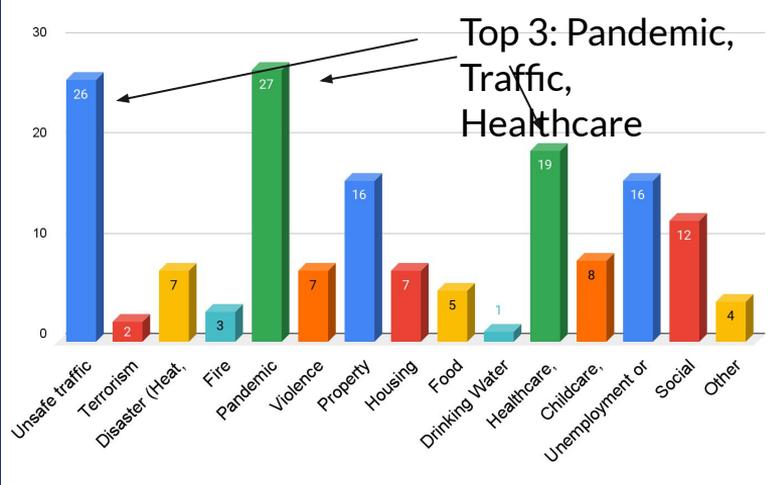
Pre-event survey: Do you consider yourself a member of a marginalized group?

Do you consider yourself a member of a marginalized group?

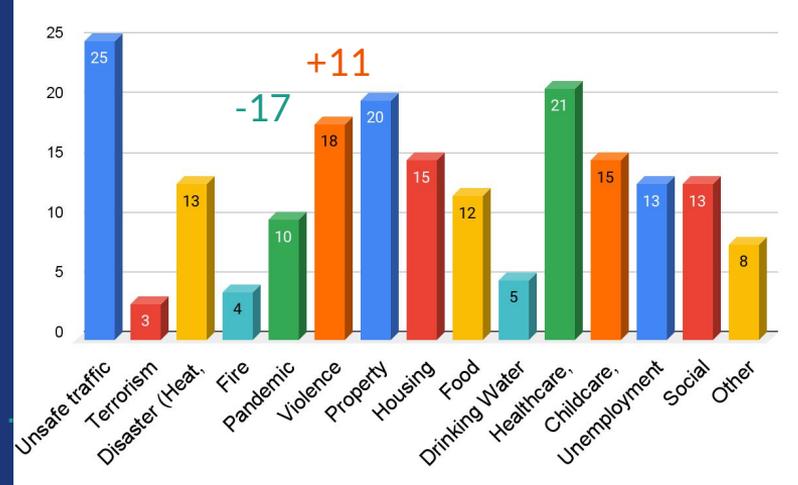


Pre-event Survey: Experienced vs Perceived Threats to Safety

Which of the following dangers have you or your family **directly experienced** while in Bloomington?

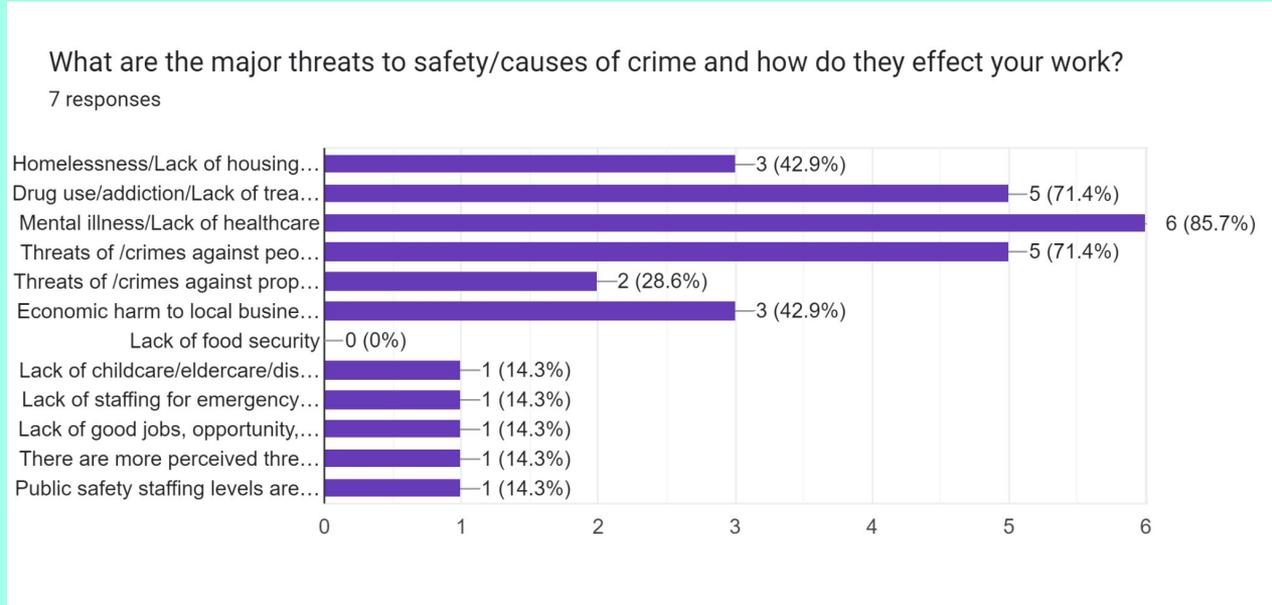


Which of the following dangers do you **view** as ongoing threats to you or your family's safety while living in Bloomington?



Key Institutional Stakeholder Outreach

**Top 3:
Healthcare,
Drug Use,
Violence**



COMMUNITY

