

Eye of the Beholder: Perceptions of Crime & Underground Economy

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Introduction

Crime is all around us. Everywhere we go, crime is being or has been committed. Some acts of crime are solved and some are left unknown. Car thefts, drug sales, and the underground economy are not strange occurrences in all these neighborhoods.

Background

Tract 88 is located in Ozone Park, Queens County, New York.

Tract 4049.02 is located in Elmont, Nassau County, New York.

Tract 947 is located in College Point, Queens County, New York.

Conclusions

It is impossible to prevent all crimes. The objective here was to provide insight on the residents in these census tracts and their perspectives on the issues at hand. "Eye of the Beholder" is intended to portray the varieties of perspectives in these neighborhoods.

Census Tract 88, Car Thefts

Age Groups

Under 14 years	555
15 to 19 years	197
20 to 24 years	170
25 to 29 years	221
30 to 34 years	221
35 to 39 years	230
40 to 44 years	288
45 to 49 years	232
50 to 54 years	248
55 to 59 years	203
60 years and over	530

Car Thefts: Why do they occur?

"It has to be the young people of the neighborhood, when I was growing up things like this never happened."

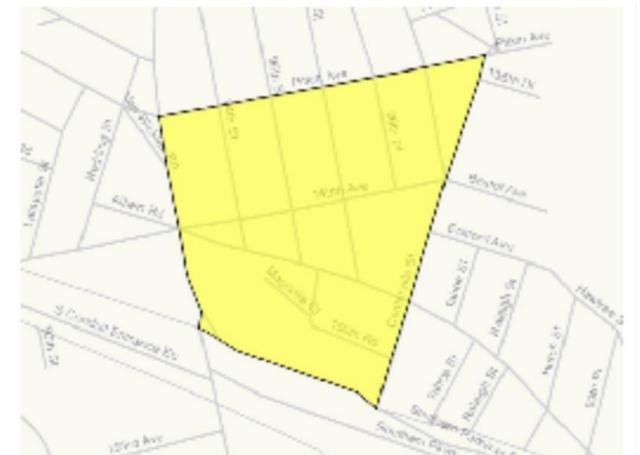
—Alison Farducci

The older residents believe that it has to be the sons or daughters of the people they don't like.

"I'll tell you one thing, whoever did this is not from around here." —Peter Mosely

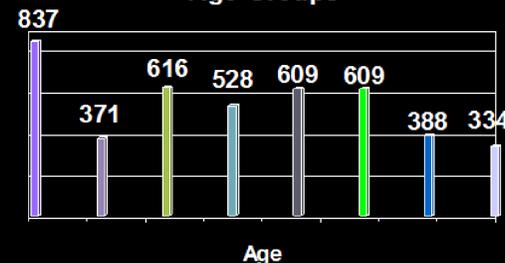
The younger residents believe that outsiders are the cause of this

Maps



Census Tract 4049.02, Views on Crime

Age Groups



Crimes such as robberies, vandalism, car thefts, assaults & battery have been increasing. The community; old timers, new families and young teenagers have different views on who does it and why they are doing it.

Races	# of People
White alone	599
Black or African American alone	1,997
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	5
Asian alone	492
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0
Some Other Race alone	31
Two or More Races	99
Hispanic or Latino	1,069

Census Tract 947, Underground Economy

Tract covers 13th and 14th avenue and 129th street and 126th

Population: 2,577
57.9%, or 1,492 people, are white

Out of 824 households
75.1% are family households

People of the neighborhood survive on non-recorded income.

Mara who lives within my census tract survives on non-recorded income. She is a full time babysitter and gets paid by cash. "It's great. I don't have to pay taxes on any of the money I make."
— Mara

Rick who works as a delivery guy at a pizzeria in College Point but lives within my census tract also receives non-recorded income. He gets paid in cash at the end of his shift and keeps whatever tip money he receives

I have witnessed drug deals occur. On the street I have found out that this dealer goes by the name of Sezo and that he has been selling marijuana and ecstasy in the neighborhood for years.

