

BACKGROUND

Somerset Neighborhood

- Located in Kensington
- Economic, environmental, and social issues that come with disinvestment
- Average median income for Somerset is \$26, 015 per year
- Philadelphia’s city wide income is \$36, 957



Aims

- To assess the relationship between perceptions of safety and stress among neighborhood residents
- To discuss how the linkages between perceptions of safety and stress can inform the work of community-based agencies

Perceptions of Safety

- Vary on the target population and neighborhood under study
- Common predictors: Appearance of the neighborhood, socioeconomic status, amount of time lived in the neighborhood, exposure to violence and danger, police responsiveness

Perceived Stress

- Depends on cultural and social aspects, relates back to a person’s overall health status

METHODS

- Secondary data analysis from a cross-sectional study in the Somerset neighborhood
- Data was collected by trained members of the neighborhood (July-December 2017)
- Self- reported surveys from Somerset residents completed at home
- **Independent Variables:** Perceptions of Safety
 - 4 general safety questions
 - 8 police responsiveness questions
- **Dependent Variable:** Perceived Stress
 - 4 questions, used validated stress scale
- **Control variables:** Demographics, years lived in the neighborhood, employment status, and home ownership status
- IBM SPSS statistical software (Version 24)
- Calculated Spearman’s Rank Order Correlation for each of our 12 perceptions of safety variables and stress, $\alpha = 0.10$
- Final model created using a multivariable linear regression model

RESULTS

Demographics

- 328 adults (21-71+ years of age)
- Majority Females
- Majority single
- 16 years average amount of years lived in the neighborhood
- Over half of the residents owned their own home
- Average age 48
- 35.3% Latino
- 29.3% employed full- time

Bivariate

- 12 statistical tests ran, 8 variables statistically significant
- Multicollinearity checked among all variables

Table 1: Bivariate Analysis between Perceptions of Safety and Perceived Stress

How safe would you say you feel walking in the community during the day time?	How safe would you say you feel walking in the community during the night time?
How safe do you feel children and youth in your community are going to and from school?	How safe do you feel senior citizens are in the community?
The police do a good job in responding to people in the neighborhood after they have been victims of crime.	The police are NOT able to maintain order on the streets and sidewalks in the neighborhood?
The police should spend more time working with community members and groups to solve problems?	Members of my community are interested in crime prevention activities?

Multivariable

- 4 statistically significant

Table 2: Multivariable Linear Regression Model for the Correlations between significant Perceptions of Safety Variables and Perceived Stress

Age	Length of time in community (Years)
The police should spend more time working with community members and groups to solve problems?	Members of my community are interested in crime prevention activities?

- Average score on stress scale was 5.18 (range 0-16)
- As age increased, stress decreased
- As the length of time in the community (years) increased, stress increased
- As police spend more time working with community members, stress decreased
- As crime prevention activities increased, stress decreased
- Strongest predictor of stress was the variable: “police should spend more time working with community members and groups to solve problems”

DISCUSSION

Main Findings

- Mean stress level was lower than we expected
- We found associations between demographics and some perceptions of safety variables
- Collaboration between police and community members have the potential to improve health
 - May also help residents feel safer and less stressed in the community

Study Limitations

- Due to the cross- sectional nature of the study, cause and effect is not clearly determined
- Potential bias from self-reported data about perceptions of safety and perceived stress
- Survey instrument should have included additional response options for police responsiveness questions

Future Direction

- Further research needed for self-reported safety and perceived stress
- Study results will be disseminated in community meeting in Somerset
- New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC) can use results during outreach with police or additional community programming

Conclusion

- Research in community based settings is crucial to informing diverse communities and enhancing overall health

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Describes factors affecting the health of a community
- Identify quantitative and qualitative data and information
- Information technology in accessing analyzing, using, maintain, disseminating data and information
- Identifying gaps in data
- Identifying current health, social, and environmental trends affecting health of community
- Recognize relationships that are affecting health in a community
- Provide input for developing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and services

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