

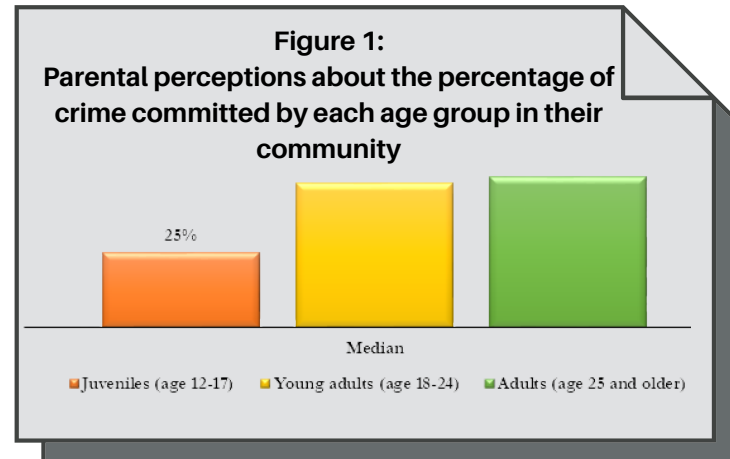
WHAT PARENTS THINK



...CRIMES IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Parents often find themselves worried about their teens' vulnerability to crime and delinquency, especially when they have negative perceptions of safety in their community. A survey in Texas found that more than 50% of the parents surveyed felt fairly safe in their community. The survey outcomes indicated that parents believed that juveniles (age 12-17) commit far fewer crimes than do young adults or adults, while the percent of crimes committed by young adults (age 18-24) come close to that of adults (age 25 and older).

Juvenile delinquent acts, including crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and crimes against public order[1], and these may incur serious expenses for those harmed.



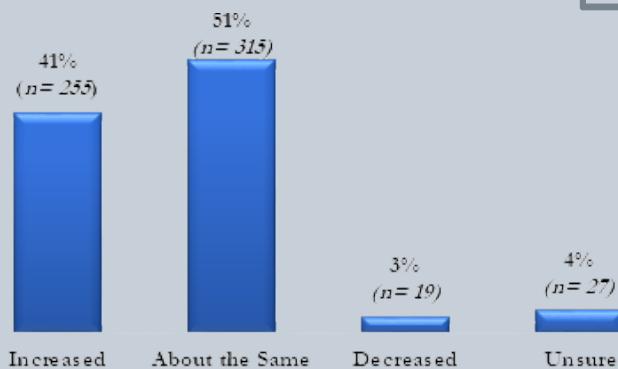
Did you know that...?

According to parents surveyed in Texas,

- Seventy-two percent of parents (n=439), believed that petty crimes in their community were primarily committed by juveniles.
- Sixteen percent of parents (n=98) believed that adolescents were responsible for most of the property crimes.
- A few (3%, n=21) believed that adolescents were primarily responsible for violent crimes in their community.
- Two percent (n=14) described juveniles as responsible for other types of crimes in their community; and,
- Seven percent (n=41) indicated that they were unsure about the types of crimes primarily committed by juveniles in their community.

In addition to perceptions about the types of crime within communities, parents described the rate of crime levels within their area. Over half of the Texas parents surveyed (51%, n=315) indicated that there was no change in community crime levels in the year prior to the survey, and only a few reported that community crime had decreased (3%, n=19) or were not sure (4%, n = 27). Of the remaining, 41% (n=255) of parents surveyed suggested that crime in their communities had increased.

Figure 2:
Parental perceptions about crime levels in their community



Parents attributed the increase in community crime levels to many factors. A few of these include:

- A rise in drug use and other drug use-related behaviors
- Poor or neglectful parenting with unsupervised teens
- Population growth that often resulted in greater area access by those considered to be undesirable
- Boredom, exacerbated by inadequate community services
- Poverty, exacerbated by a decrease in jobs, inadequate law enforcement, a general change in beliefs defining acceptable behavior
- Inadequate punishment/deterrents for criminal behavior.

Parents also attributed the decrease in community crime levels to many factors. A few of these include:

- Increased police activity
- Parental and community involvement with teens
- Family movement out of the community
- Teens growing up or leaving the community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Practice effective parenting by providing a safe space for your child and involving yourself more in your teen's life <http://www.yessafechoices.org/parents/tips-and-tools/get-involved-your-child%E2%80%99s-life>
- Participate in more family-centered activities and have regular talks with your child.
- Collaborate with your teen's school by joining Parent-Teacher meetings or Parent Training and Information Centers in your State <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/>

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Prairie View A&M University, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center <https://www.pvamu.edu/cojpp/texas-juvenile-crime-prevention-center/>
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) <https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en>
- PACE Youth <https://paceyouth.org/>
- Department of Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program <https://www2.tjtd.texas.gov/services/jjaep.aspx>
- SAMHSA family support <https://www.samhsa.gov/families/resources>