

Community Survey Report

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Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth Safe (ABSPY) Community Safety Survey Report: April 2022 — May 2022

This report describes community responses to the ABSPY Community Safety Survey that were collected by staff from the Rainier Beach Action Coalition (RBAC). Data was collected from April 2022 through May 2022 at four of the five ABSPY hotspots: Rainier and Henderson, Rose Street, Lightrail, and Lake Washington. The results presented in this report encompass each of those hotspots because there are too few responses to produce meaningful hotspot-specific results.

This report is presented in eight sections:

1. The first section contains information about the respondents' demographics and activities in the Rainier Beach neighborhood (page 3).
2. Sections two through seven describes the responses to five safety-related statements (presented below). Respondents were asked to rate their agreement (1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 4 = *Strongly Agree*) with each statement, and to respond to follow-up questions in an open-ended format.
 - “There are positive activities for youth here” (page 5).
 - “There are community events that bring people together” (page 6).
 - “Properties are clean and well-maintained” (page 7).
 - “Places where I walk at night are well-lighted” (page 8).
 - “People and groups from the community are working hard to make this place safe” (page 9).
3. Section eight describes the responses to the following questions (page 10):
 - “In what ways or areas do you think the neighborhood is improving?”
 - “In what ways or areas do you think the neighborhood needs more improvement?”

Note: Throughout this report, the word *youths* refers to respondents who are 25 years old or younger; and the word *adults* refers to respondents who are 26 years old or older.

Respondent Information

Demographics

Thirty-three respondents completed the Community Safety Survey, many of which were collected at the Lake Washington hotspot ($n = 12$ Lake Washington, $n = 8$ Rainier and Henderson, $n = 7$ Light rail, $n = 6$ Rose Street) from adults ($n = 20$ adults, $n = 12$ youths, $n = 2$ not reported) who are residents of the Rainier Beach neighborhood ($n = 18$ residents, $n = 11$ non-residents), and have been residents for at least 10 years ($n = 10$ residents for at least 10 years, $n = 6$ residents for 5-10 years, $n = 3$ residents for 1-5 years, $n =$ residents for less than one year). Many of the respondents identified as female ($n = 17$ female, $n = 11$ male, $n = 1$ agender, $n = 4$ not reported) and Black ($n = 17$ Black/African and/or Black/African American, $n = 5$ White/Caucasian, $n = 2$ Latinx, $n = 2$ Asian, $n = 2$ Native/Indigenous, $n = 1$ Pacific Islander, $n = 1$ Mixed Race, $n = 3$ not reported).

Activities

Respondents were asked to report the “main activities” they do in the Rainier Beach neighborhood by checking boxes next to the following eight statements, when applicable:

- “I work here.
- “I go to school here.”
- “I own a business/property here.”
- “I shop here.”
- “I use public transit here.”
- “I use local resources here (e.g., library, park, community center, place of worship).”
- “I walk or drive through here on my way to somewhere else.”
- “Other”

Most respondents perform two or more activities in the Rainier Beach neighborhood ($n = 23$), but some perform only one activity ($n = 8$) or no activities at all ($n = 2$). As can be seen in the pie chart below, the most frequently reported activities were walking/driving through the area ($n = 19$), using public transportation ($n = 18$), using local resources ($n = 17$), working ($n = 16$), and shopping ($n = 16$). The other activities were reported much less frequently ($n = 5$ school, $n = 5$ own a business/property, $n = 4$ Other).

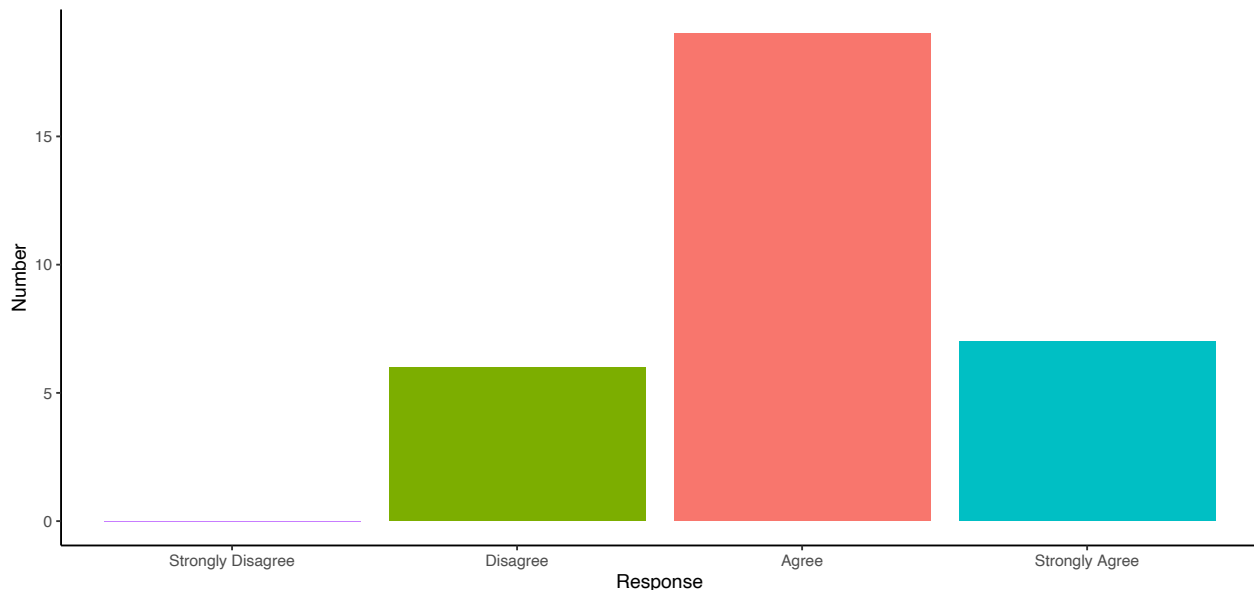
Activities Performed in the Rainier Beach Neighborhood



Figure 1: Pie Chart of Activities Performed in the Rainier Beach Neighbourhood

“There are positive activities for youth here.”

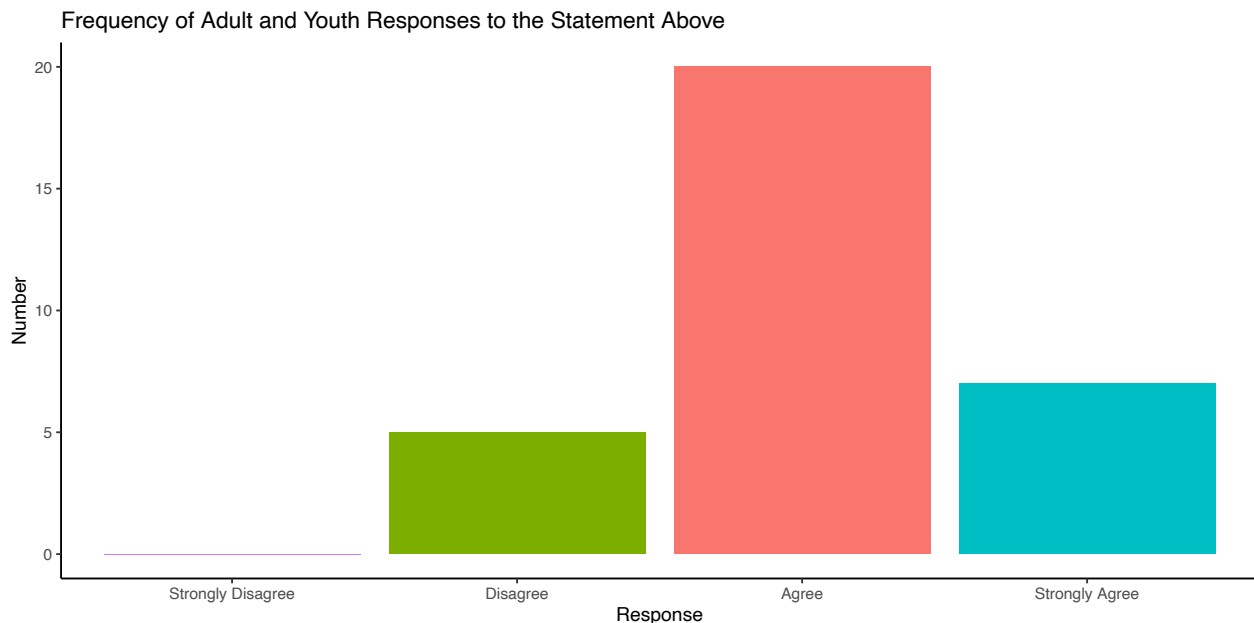
Frequency of Adult and Youth Responses to the Statement Above



Most respondents agreed ($n = 19$ agreed, $n = 7$ strongly agreed) with the following statement: There are positive activities for youth here. Respondents who agreed with the statement were asked to give examples of positive activities for youths. Youths who agreed with this statement ($n = 11$) and provided examples stated the following: “community center activities”, RBAC, RCC, “trampolines during the summer”, “opportunities to help”, and “group settings”. Adults who agreed with this statement ($n = 15$) did not provide any examples of what they believed to be positive activities for youth.

Respondents who disagreed with the statement were asked what they believed could be changed. Adults who disagreed with the statement ($n = 5$) and stated what they believe could be changed stated that more youth activities and “outdoor spaces” are needed. The only youth who did not agree with the statement did not state what they believe could be changed.

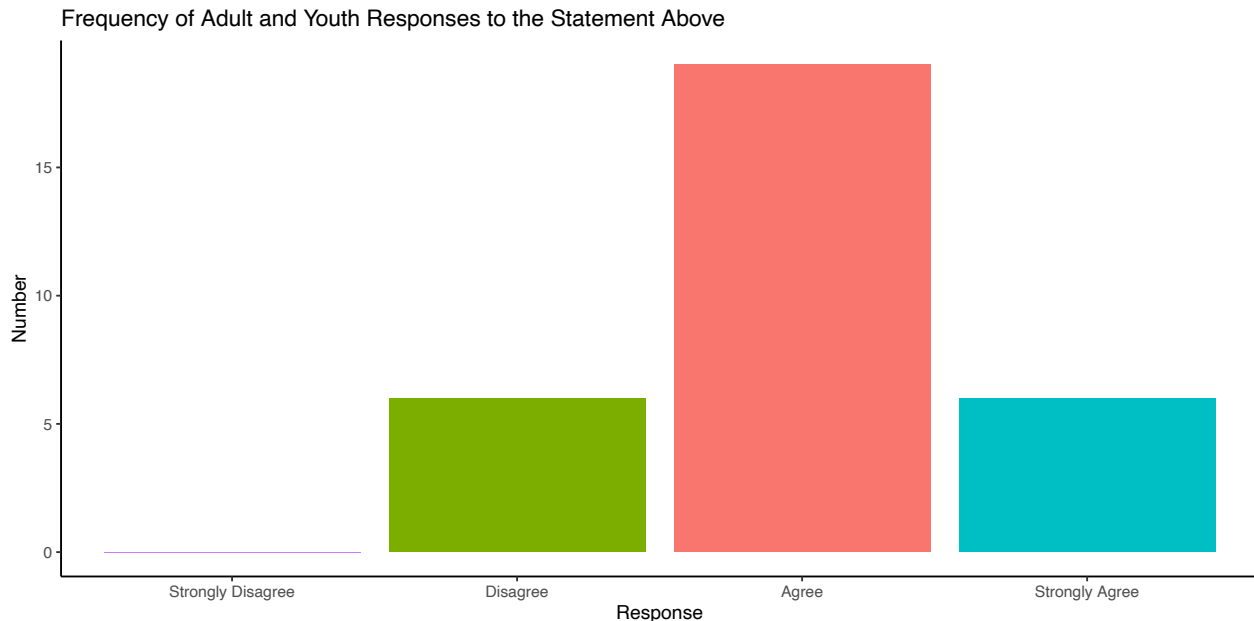
“There are community events that bring people together.”



Most respondents agreed ($n = 20$ agreed, $n = 7$ strongly agreed) with the following statement: There are community events that bring people together. Regardless of if respondents agreed or disagreed with the statement, they were asked to report the community events they have attended. Youths who agreed with this statement ($n = 10$) and reported the community events they have attended stated the following: “a cultural dance event”, “dances”, and a “community healing space”. Adults who agreed with this statement ($n = 17$) and reported the community events they have attended stated the following: “movies nights”, “running club”, the “Verbal Oasis Poetry Conference”, and the neighborhood (presumably a list serve).

Adults who disagreed with the statement ($n = 3$) and provided an explanation of the opinion, believed more events were needed. Youths ($n = 2$) who did not agree with the statement did not provide an explanation of their opinion.

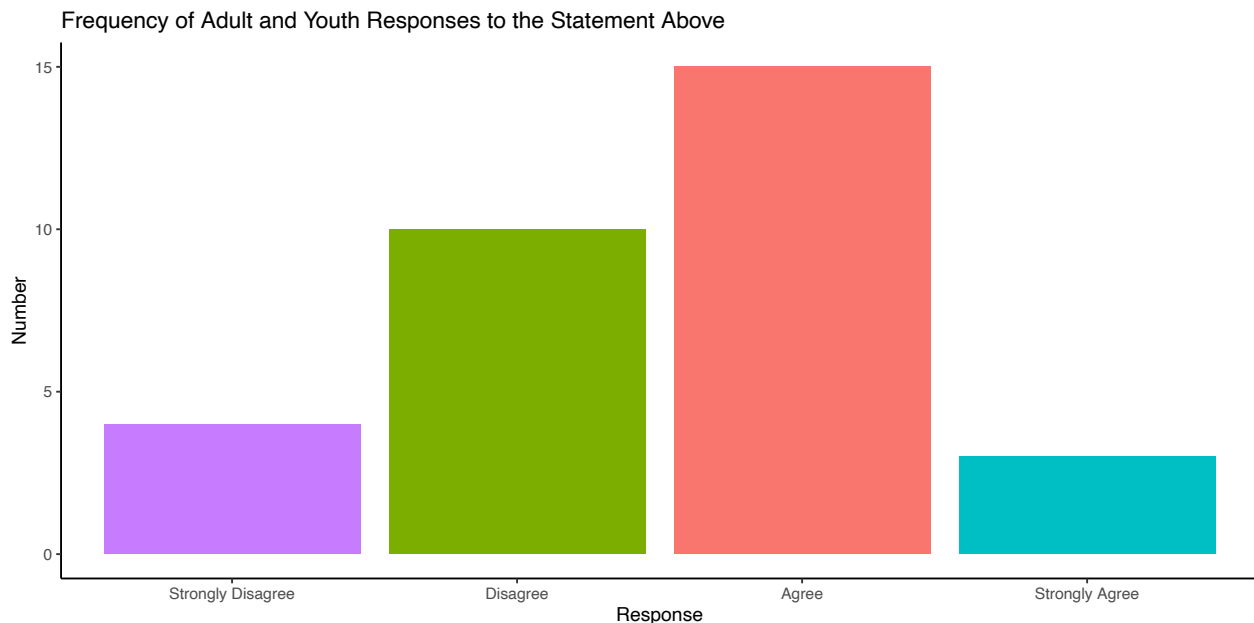
“Properties are clean and well-maintained.”



Most respondents agreed ($n = 19$ agreed, $n = 6$ strongly agreed) with the following statement: Properties are clean and well-maintained. Respondents who agreed with this statement were asked to provide examples of properties they believe are cleaned and well-maintained. Youths who agreed with this statement ($n = 10$) and provided examples cited the “lake” as well as “the street and corners, and back road” as examples of clean and well-maintained areas. Adults who agreed with this statement ($n = 15$) and provided examples cited the “food bank” and Kubota Gardens as examples of clean and well-maintained properties. One adult respondent had the following to say: “I love that RBAC helped clean up the old Pho Van Spot.”

Respondents who disagreed with the statement were asked to state which properties they believe need to be cleaned up. Of the adults who disagreed with the statement ($n = 4$), only one provided an explanation of their opinion. That respondent believes that “more trash cans are needed.” The youths who disagreed with the statement ($n = 2$) did not provide an explanation of their opinion.

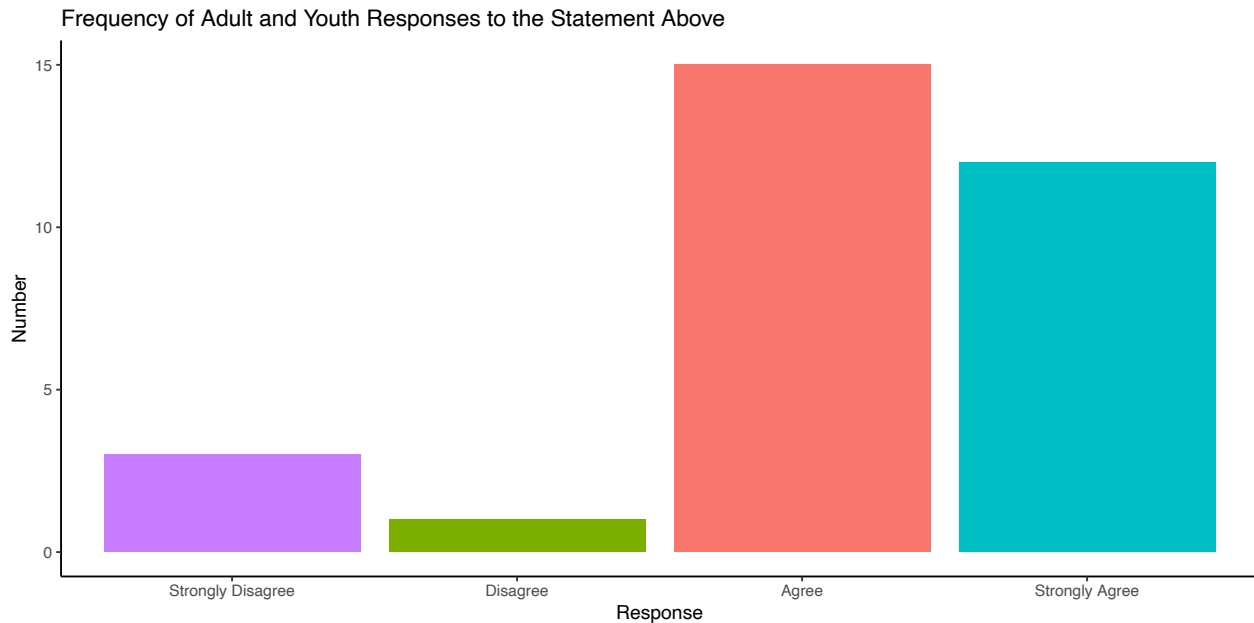
“Places where I walk at night are well-lighted.”



Most respondents agreed ($n = 15$ agreed, $n = 4$ strongly agreed) with the following statement: Places where I walk at night are well-lighted. Youth were evenly split in their agreement with this statement ($n = 6$ agree, $n = 6$ disagree), but most adults agreed with the statement ($n = 12$ agree, $n = 8$ disagree). Respondents who agreed with the statement were not asked to provide additional information.

Respondents who disagreed with the statements, however, were asked to state which streets/places they believe need more lighting. Adults who did not agree that the places they walk at night are well-lighted stated that bus stops, “side streets”, “Safeway”, the Chief Sealth Trail, and the park need better lighting. Youth who did not agree that the places they walk at night are well-lighted did not state which streets/places they believe need more lighting.

“People and groups from the community are working hard to make this place safe.”



Most respondents agreed ($n = 15$ agreed, $n = 12$ strongly agreed) with the following statement: People and groups from the community are working hard to make this place safe. Respondents who agreed with the statement were asked to provide examples of people and/or organizations they believe are working hard to make the neighborhood a safe place. Youth who agreed with this statement ($n = 11$) and provided examples stated the following: “RBAC”, “the volunteers”, “Safeway”, “the park”. Adults who agreed with this statement ($n = 16$) and provided examples stated the following: “neighborhood events”, “people giving out COVID tests”, and “everyone looking out for each other”.

Respondents who disagreed with the statement were asked to state what they believed could be changed. None of the adults who disagreed ($n = 3$) responded to the follow-up question. Only one youth disagreed with the statement, and they did not respond to the follow-up question.

Thoughts on Improving the Community

Respondents were asked to respond to two open-ended questions regarding their thoughts about things that have improved in the neighborhood and things that need more improvement. The responses to those questions are described below.

“In what ways or areas do you think the neighborhood is improving?”

Please note that 10 respondents did not respond to this question.

Youths who responded to this question ($n = 8$) believed that the opening of community centers and other new buildings is improving the neighborhood; the lighting in unspecified areas is improving; there is less garbage and cleaner parks; and there are more activities for youth.

Adults who responded to this question ($n = 15$) believed that the neighborhood has become cleaner and is well-maintained; there is less crime; there is a greater sense of community among the residents; youths are more involved in the community; there are more affordable grocery stores; and there are more parks. Several adult respondents also mentioned specific locations they believe have improved: Rose Street, Skyway, and Rainier Beach. One respondent indicated that every location in the neighborhood has improved.

“In what ways or areas do you think the neighborhood needs more improvement?”

Youths who responded to this question ($n = 6$) believed that there needs to be “less gentrification”; Lake Washington Park needs to improve; and there needs to be “more community consistency”. Three of the youths did not provide a meaningful response (“none”, “I really don’t know. . .”, “youth”).

Adults who responded to this question ($n = 8$) believed that there needs to be less gentrification, garbage, and speeding; and there needs to be more gun control, “leadership in the community”, community centers, “night watching”, and lighting (particularly along the trail behind Safeway).