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Survey reveals crime statistics in east Toledo

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By Cristy Gimbel - bio | email



TOLEDO, OH (WTOL) - One out of every four people in the Birmingham neighborhood in east Toledo has been a victim of a crime, according to a recent survey.

The survey was conducted by the Birmingham Development Corporation, East

Toledo Family Center and the Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo.

After surveying about 200 people, they found 28 percent of Birmingham residents saw their home broken into or vandalized in the past six months. In addition, 32 percent had their cars broken into or vandalized. Finally, more than half of those surveyed said they knew someone whose home was broken into or vandalized.

"I think this is a bad neighborhood, especially for my son to be growing up in, you know. It was terrible," said Ashley Hammonds, a Birmingham resident.

Hammonds had her garage broken into. Nearly \$1000 of her property was stolen.

"The neighborhood has gotten a little rougher. The crime rate's up in the neighborhood. It's not as safe as it once was," said Roy Adams, who works in Birmingham.

Jodi Gross, the East Toledo Family Center's Community Builder, was one of the people who spearheaded the survey.



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"There are some concerns, safety and some things that do happen- vandalism or break ins to their cars, but people in general do still like their neighborhood. They feel safe," Gross said.

Nearly half of the respondents said they did feel safe where they lived, but they do want to make things better. Gross said she hopes the survey engages residents.

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"We're hoping that we're going to build sustainable and healthy neighborhoods," Gross said.

Residents have already met to talk about the results. They tossed around some ideas to improve the crime rate, including starting a block watch.

Hammonds said she would be on board with that.

"People watching the block would help a lot because I think most of the damage is done during the night time," she said.

This is the first survey of this sort conducted in east Toledo. Gross said they are prepared to do others. The first of which will be in the Garfield neighborhood.

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