



## Protocol Question Bank Artifact

---

### Research Questions

How do feelings of safety affect youth and families' ability to navigate their community in Wards 7 and 8?

What are the experiences of trauma for youth in Wards 7 and 8? How does that trauma further community violence throughout Wards 7 and 8?

---

### Lack of Safety Everywhere

1. How does lack of safety in your community influence what you wear?
2. How does lack of safety in your community influence your mode of transportation?
3. How does the lack of safe spaces to play affect the children in your community?
4. How important are safe spaces to you in your community?
5. With the knowledge you have of Wards 7 and 8, how often do you have to return home early due to a shooting nearby?
6. How often do you feel the need to have someone with you, on the phone, or call the police when traveling through Wards 7 and 8?
7. Where do you feel safe in your community? Why?
8. How has lack of safety affected the way you interact with your community?
9. How safe do you feel walking around your community?
10. How safe do you feel hanging out in public areas of Wards 7 and 8?
11. How safe do you feel when there are police present in the area compared to when they are not present?
12. How safe do you feel taking public transportation to school?
13. How safe do you feel when leaving your neighborhood?
14. What concerns you most when your child leaves to go to school?
15. Do you often fear for your safety or the safety of your loved ones when out in your community? If so, why?

### Lower Educational Attainment

1. How does access to community resources impact the local high school graduation rate?
2. How does having positive community influences impact the youth in your community?

### Changing Community Dynamics

1. How does the lack of youth engagement affect your community activities?
2. How does children living without parents in the home impact community violence?
3. How does gentrification change community dynamics?
4. Does community violence affect your participation in community events? How so?
5. Do you think community violence gives outsiders a negative outlook on our neighborhoods in Wards 7 and 8? Why?
6. How does community violence decrease the amount of community advocates?

*This project was supported by Award No. 15PNIJ-22-GG-01420-RESS, awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.*

Learn more about Safety 7 at <https://www.childtrends.org/project/centering-youth-experiences-youth-participatory-action>.

### **Community Trauma**

1. How does community violence create a cycle of trauma in Wards 7 and 8?
2. How does community violence impact the mental health of people living in Wards 7 and 8?
3. Do you think community violence has desensitized youth in Wards 7 and 8? How so?
4. In your opinion, how does unhealthy communication in your community result in a lack of safety?
5. How do youth in Wards 7 and 8 view mental health services? Do you think services are accessible to them?
6. Have you experienced trauma in your community? How so?
7. Do you believe that unresolved community trauma is connected to the increasing violence in Wards 7 and 8? If so, why?
8. What trauma does your community face?
9. Do you think that the rising crime rate is a result of people becoming desensitized to crime?
10. When you were younger, what type of violence did you experience?
11. Do you believe the violence in Wards 7 and 8 is “never ending”? If so, why?
12. Do you believe that youth in Wards 7 and 8 are more prone to violence than others in DC? If so, why?
13. How often do you see a kid walking around your neighborhood with anger because of a loss from gun violence?
14. When you experience violence outside of your community, do you have the same reaction as when you experience violence in Wards 7 and 8? If yes or no, why?
15. What experiences in your community might cause anxiety?

### **Law Enforcement and Justice**

1. How does police bias affect your feelings of safety when navigating your community?
2. Why do you think stereotypes are placed on Black people by police? Do you think this causes more fear leading to more violence? How so?
3. Do you think police response times play a role in the number of homicides in Wards 7 and 8?
4. How does the current consequence structure for youth who participate in crime affect feelings of safety among community members?
5. Who does your community rely on to enforce the law and bring justice?
6. How does police officer demeanor affect their involvement in your community?
7. If police were to increase arrests and wellness checks with families in the community, how would this affect your feelings of safety outside of your home?

### **Poor Problem Resolution Skills**

1. In your opinion, why do people bring weapons to a fist fight?
2. What motivates youth to commit violence?
3. Do you believe youth are committing crimes for popularity? If so, why?
4. Do you think women are inserting themselves into men’s beef? If so, do you believe it causes situations to escalate?
5. Do you believe that youth in Wards 7 and 8 have poor resolution skills? What causes this?
6. Do you believe youth feel the need to automatically react with violence when seeing another group of teens? If yes, why?

## Safety 7

7. Why do youth in Wards 7 and 8 revert to violence to solve their problems?

### **Few/No Good Mentors**

1. Do you feel there are a lot of good mentors in our communities? If so, why?
2. Do you believe the youth in our community are easily influenced? If so, why?
3. Do you have any experience with a good mentor? If so, how were you connected to them?
4. What qualities make a good mentor?
5. Do you believe youth are being used by adults to commit crimes? If so, why?
6. Do you have any experience with bad mentors? How were they bad?
7. In your experience, do you think that youth choose to be misled by other youth leading to long-term consequences?

### **Future Concerns**

1. What concerns do you have about the future of Wards 7 and 8?
2. Who are you concerned for? Why?
3. On a scale from 1-10, how serious are your concerns?
4. What changes do you want to see in Wards 7 and 8?