



Public Health and Community Needs Assessment Report of Spring Hill Community

2015-2016

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Introduction

Spring Hill, also known as Southwest Deland CDP (census designated place), is a 698-acre community located west of Deland, Florida (Spring Hill Community Redevelopment Agency, 2014). Of the 698 acres, 260 acres are annexed into the City of Deland and 438 acres remain under the governance of Volusia County. As seen in figure 2, community borders identify Woodland Boulevard as the east end, Beresford Avenue as the north end, and Spring Garden Avenue (SR-15A) as the south and west ends of the neighborhood. Spring Hill is described by its Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) as a “densely populated, low income neighborhood,” (2014). The Orlando Sentinel referred to Spring Hill as the “poorest community in Florida,” (Sarmah, 2009). The 2014 United States Census data identified Deland Southwest as having 988 residents, with 81% being non-white. The area is composed of 66% African American, 7% Hispanic/Latino, and 8% Asian or two or more races. The remaining 19% are non-Hispanic white (United States Census Bureau, 2014). This population data from the 2014 US Census was for DeLand Southwest, applying to an expanded Spring Hill, and excluding parts of the original community that are governed by the city of DeLand.

Florida Department of Health – Volusia County (DOH-VC) decided to address the prevalent environmental health concerns in Spring Hill in 2015 mainly because of the community’s lower socioeconomic status (SES). In partnership with DOH-VC and the community of Spring Hill, 12 students at Stetson University were involved in this project as part of their senior research. Emma Schaefer was the recipient of Stetson SURE grant to continue the project during the summer of 2016.

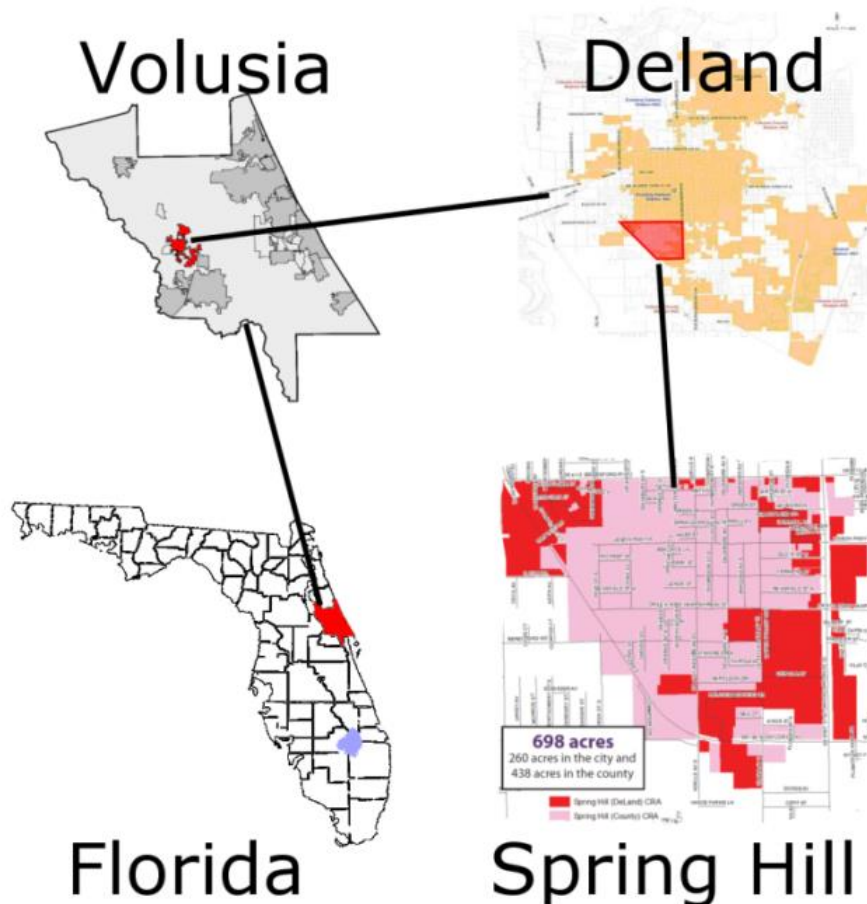


Figure 1: A nested map of Spring Hill showing its location relative to the city, county, and state.

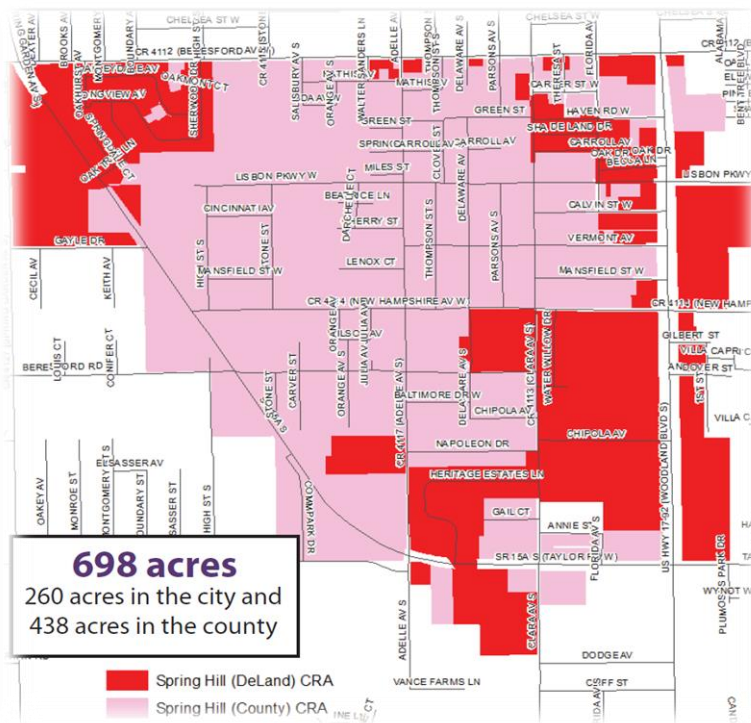


Figure 2: Annexation Map of Spring Hill, Spring Hill CRA, 2014

1. History

The Original Spring Hill covers a square block from W. New Hampshire Avenue to W. Beresford Avenue and S. Adelle Avenue to S. Woodland Boulevard, with annexed blocks throughout, as told by local residents. This study focused on the Original Spring Hill, which is about 445 acres (Spring Hill Community Redevelopment Agency, 2014). The current Spring Hill lies between W. Beresford Avenue to Taylor Road and Spring Garden Avenue to S. Woodland Boulevard. The area has businesses on the perimeters of Spring Hill but there is a lack of local businesses in the core geographical area.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Original Spring Hill served as interim housing for seasonal citrus harvesters and affordable year round housing for the fern industry. Because of the temporary nature of stays of the labor force, many of the homes and rentals had no bedrooms and consisted primarily of a living room and kitchen area. Homes were approximately 500-600 square feet and centered on affordability rather than sustainability and quality (Chen, Neville, Sher, Chen, & Schrag, 2011). The community went through an economic down spiral after the Freeze of 1885 -1886. All citrus and pineapple crop were killed off on the Floridian peninsula, therefore killing \$1 million and the state's main source of revenue at the time (Stetson Institute for Social Research, 2004; NOAA and the Preserve America Initiative, 2005). With the orange industry killed off by a frigid winter, so was the demand for housing in Spring Hill.

2. Community

Spring Hill is a community with strong identity and is proud of its cultural and historical heritage. Walking through the neighborhood of approximately 2 square miles in Original Spring Hill, one can sense residents' passion for their community, particularly long-term residents who firmly push for progress while maintaining the cultural identity of the area. Part of this sustained culture is housed in the African American Museum of the Arts (AAMA) on South Clara Avenue. The museum is devoted primarily to African American cultures and art, founded by Irene D. Johnson and her husband, Maxwell. There are more than 150 artifacts, including sculptures and masks, from countries of Africa. The

museum is also researching the Spring Hill community with the intension of documenting the community's historic events (AAMA, 2015). In 2004, Gina Hickman, a local artist, and a group of 11 neighborhood children, ages 10 to 14, worked after school and on weekends to complete their community's own wall of fame (Haines, 2004). "The Power of Expression," is a mural of fifteen influential residents of Spring Hill painted on the wall of the Boys and Girls Club, on 462 Green Street (Figure 3). The project was finished with the help of the Boys and Girls Club and the Deland Museum of Arts. According to Orlando Sentinel, it was funded by the Deland police department and the Weed and Seed Program, a national mission to eliminate crime and alter social characteristics that contribute to crime (Haines, 2004). The musical instruments were painted by a local sixth grader, Crystal DuPont. Many prominent people are featured in this mural, including police officers, professional athletes (Bridget Gordon and Trey Thomas), city employees, pastors, principals, veterans (a Tuskegee airman), musicians, founders of the Weed and Seed program, founders of the Chisholm Community Center (in honor of Jo Chisholm dedicated to him in 1982), and entertainment producers (New Kids on the Block-Johnson family).

Since 2001, the Spring Hill community has held the "To Unite, Rebuild and Network" (TURN) Festival to inform residents about resources available and provide an opportunity for the community to come together (DeFeo, 2013). The director of the Spring Hill Resource Center (SHRC), Ms. Shilretha Dixon, said in an interview with the Daytona Beach News-Journal that "the initial spark was just trying to revive the Spring Hill area and just get us into unity. In order for the community to be self-sustainable, we have to bring unity. There was such a big division here between members of different churches and other social groups" (DeFeo, 2013). Organizations that attend this event are Kappa Alpha Kappa, the On the Move HIV testing truck, Organizing for America, Spring Hill Neighborhood Association, and Rising Against All Odds. These nonprofits provide information to residents about services that their organizations offer. Fun activities Ms. Dixon and the SHRC put on are a sweet potato pie contest, live music from a DJ, a mime competition, and talent show (DeFeo, 2013).

Spring Hill attempted to be completely annexed into the City of Deland in 2002, but it was without success. Residents were afraid that they would not be able to afford increased property taxes and the effects of urban sprawl, so they voted against the annexation (Sarmah, 2009). The following year, over 100 property owners throughout the community agreed to annex their land into the City of Deland. This led to a patchwork of city and county designated land throughout Spring Hill. The community still relies heavily on septic systems and their sidewalk system is incomplete, despite partial annexation. Many improvements need to be made throughout the community but there isn't enough funding.



Figure 3: "The Power of Expression" mural on 462 Green Street in Spring Hill depicting some of the neighborhood's most influential men and women

3. Methods

This study began as a partnership between the Florida Department of Health-Volusia County (DOH-VC) and several Stetson University Students under the supervision of Dr. Asal Johnson. Stetson students participated in several walk-throughs of Spring Hill, making qualitative observations of environmental health concerns. During this process, we participated in local neighborhood events to learn more about the community. The descriptive study conducted by students revealed strengths and weaknesses of the community. Spring Hill possesses a strong sense of community identity, is very tight-knit, and celebrates their neighborhood’s historical beginnings. In addition, leaders in the community work hard to keep the community’s youth out of trouble. However, Spring Hill’s overall health status seems to be hindered by high rates of unemployment and insufficient infrastructure.

The results of the descriptive study were used by the DOH-VC and Stetson University to generate an asset map of Spring Hill’s access to basic commodities: food, businesses, churches, hospitals, schools, and civic centers (Figure 4). The map was brought to town hall meetings organized by the DOH-VC to share with the community and organize focus groups to further understand Spring Hill’s needs. Focus groups engaged in discussions about Spring Hill’s strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities (SWOT) and their community’s public health issues. Responses from focus groups and observations from the descriptive study were used by Stetson students to generate a survey with the ability to quantify concerns of Spring Hill residents. Because of the inability of the DOH-VC to share gathered data due to Florida Department of Health policies, Stetson University and DOH-VC split their joined effort and continued separate studies. Stetson students focused their study on Spring Hill residents’ concerns regarding the community’s environment and health, while the DOH-VC focused on health and economy mostly at the county level. This report will only be discussing the findings of Stetson students and the responses to the survey they generated.

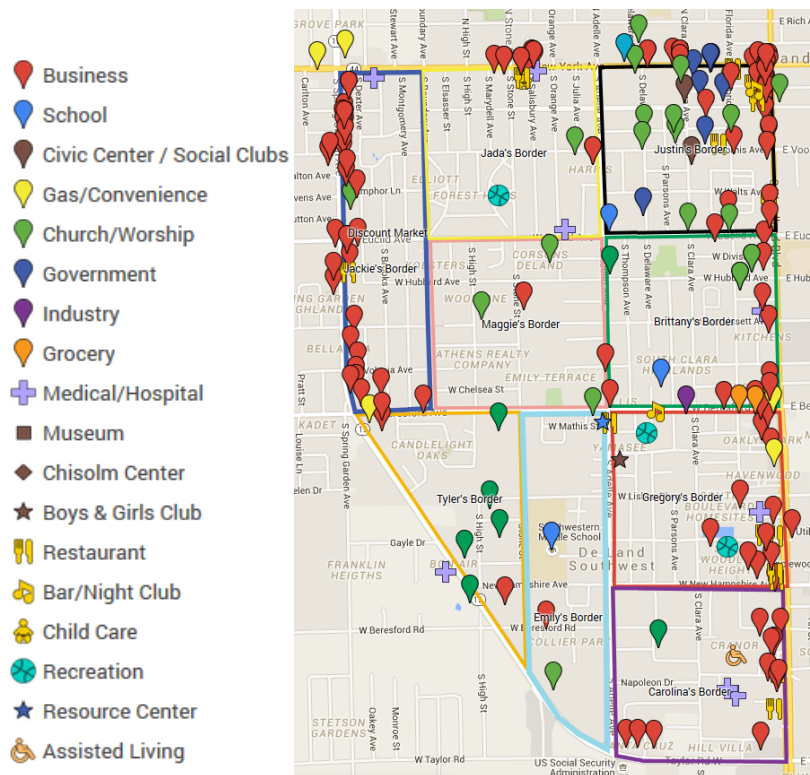


Figure 4: Asset Map of Spring Hill Community and surrounding areas created by Stetson students

Initial survey distribution was conducted by going door to door within Spring Hill borders on routes, but this method did not yield a substantial amount of responses (27 questionnaires). Therefore, the data collection changed to a different form of convenience sampling. Questionnaires were distributed to parishioners at worship houses and churches within the community. In total, 180 responses were collected. The first question on the survey was “Do you live in Spring Hill?” The responses to this question were used to classify respondents as “Spring Hill Residents” and “Non-Spring Hill Residents”.

All survey responses were entered into the statistical software, SPSS, by students. Responses were coded with “1” meaning “yes” and “2” meaning “no” for all questions aiming to ascertain respondent demographics. The Likert scale responses used to identify the degree of respondent concern were originally entered as 1 thru 5, but responses were recoded to identify answers as “disagree/not concerned” or “agree/concerned”. Answers to the open-ended question were entered into the program verbatim. Once the data was entered into SPSS, it was analyzed to quantify respondents’ demographics, rank community concerns from most concerning to least concerning, and analyze the comment section (the open ended question) by residence status in Spring Hill.

4. Community Profile Based On Survey Responses

a. Demographic and Socioeconomic Status of Respondents

Of the 180 respondents in the sample, 88 (49%) respondents identified as Spring Hill residents and 85 respondents (47%) identified as living outside the borders of Spring Hill; 7 respondents (4%) were unsure if their homes were situated within the boundaries of Spring Hill. Of the participants living in Spring Hill, 61.4% (n=54) were residents of the City of Deland and 31.8% (n=28) were residents of Volusia County. Among Non-Spring Hill respondents, 56.5% (n=48) resided in the City of Deland and 41.2% lived in Volusia County.

The sampled population was majority female, with Spring Hill respondents being 67% (n=59) female and Non-Spring Hill respondents being 74% (n=63) female. There was a higher response rate of males by Spring Hill Residents (n=27, 31%) than Non-Spring Hill Residents (n=22, 26%). The majority of Spring Hill respondents, 46.6% (n=41), were between the ages of 45 and 64, while the majority of Non-Spring Hill respondents, 43.5% (n=37), were between the ages of 25 and 44. Of Spring Hill respondents: 27.3% (n=24) were 65 or older, 22.7% (n=20) were between the ages of 25 and 44, and 2.3% (n=2) were between the ages of 18 and 24. Of Non-Spring Hill respondents: 22.4% (n=19) were 65 or older, 22.4% (n=19) were between the ages of 45 and 64, and 9.4% (n=8) were between the ages of 18 and 24. A majority of Spring Hill residents (n=79, 89.8%) and Non-Spring Hill residents (n=70, 82.4%) identified as African American. Of Spring Hill respondents: 3.4% (n=3) identified as Hispanic/Latino, 3.4% (n=3) identified as Non-Hispanic White, and 3.4% (n=3) identified as other. Of Non-Spring Hill residents: 4.7% (n=4) identified as Hispanic/Latino, 3.5% (n=3) identified as Non-Hispanic White, and 7.1% (n=6) identified as other.

Over half of Spring Hill respondents (n=46, 52.1%) had obtained a high school or lesser education, while a smaller proportion of Non-Spring Hill respondents (n=31, 36.5%) had obtained the equivalent. An equal amount of Spring Hill residents received some college education (n=20, 22.7%) as those who received a bachelor’s degree or higher (n=20, 22.7%). Non-Spring Hill respondents had a higher degree of education: 38.8% (n=33) received some college education and 23.5% (n=20) obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher. A majority, 56.8% (n=50), of Spring Hill respondents own their homes, while a majority, 44.7% (n=38), of Non-Spring Hill respondents rent their homes. Of Spring Hill respondents, 79.5% (n=70) depended on cars as their main mode of transportation, leaving 15.9% (n=14) using other modes, like public transportation, walking, and biking. A greater proportion of Non-

Spring Hill respondents (n=76, 89.4%) depended on cars as their main mode of transportation, with only 8.2% (n=7) using other modes. Close to half of Spring Hill respondents (n=40, 45.5%) held public health insurance plans (Medicare, Medicaid, or Veterans Affairs), with only 6.8% (n=6) holding insurance policies through both a private and public provider. An equal amount of Spring Hill respondents had an insurance policy through a private provider (n=16, 18.2%) as those who had no health insurance (n=16, 18.2%). Non-Spring Hill respondents' insurance coverage trends were similar to that of Spring Hill Respondents', but more individuals were covered by a private insurance provider (n=19, 22.4%), less were covered by public insurance providers (n=36, 42.4%), and less were covered by multiple insurance policies (n=3, 3.5%). Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8 illustrate the demographic and socioeconomic status of respondents.

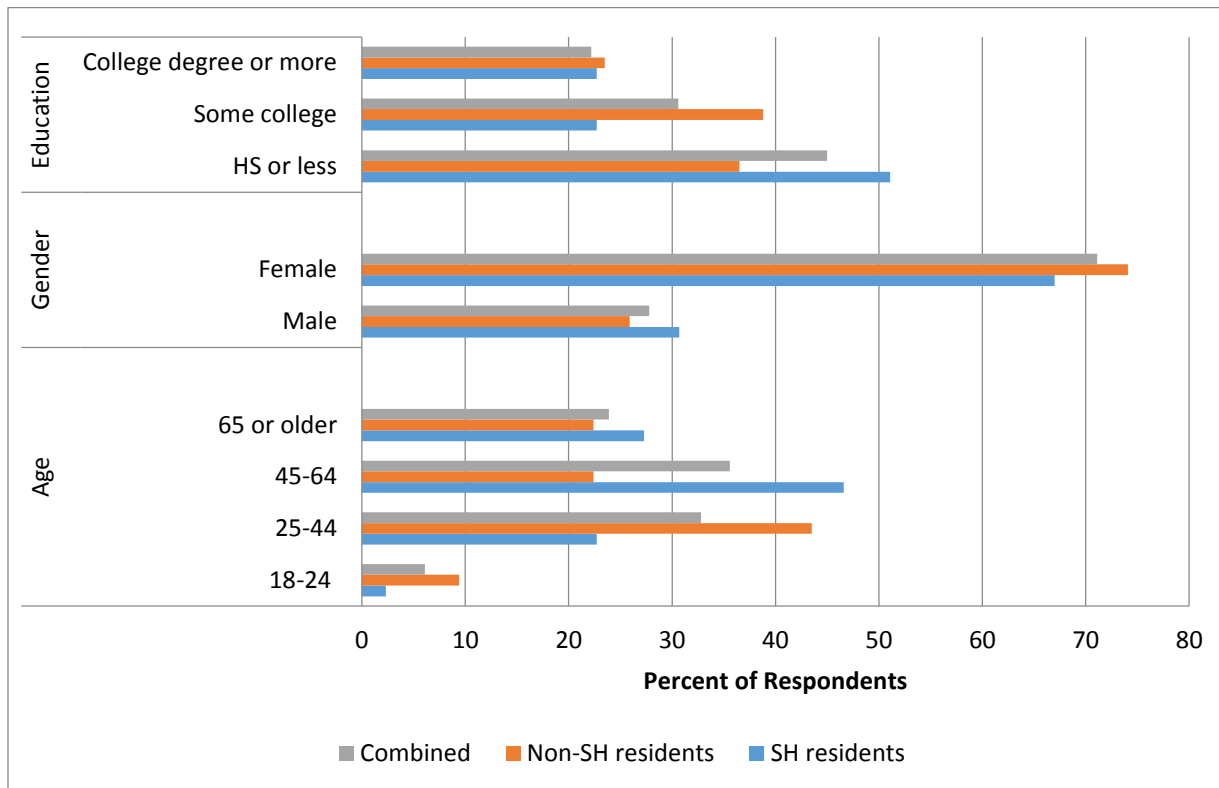


Figure 5: Percentage of respondents by education level, gender, and age for Spring Hill residents, Non-Spring Hill residents and all respondents combined

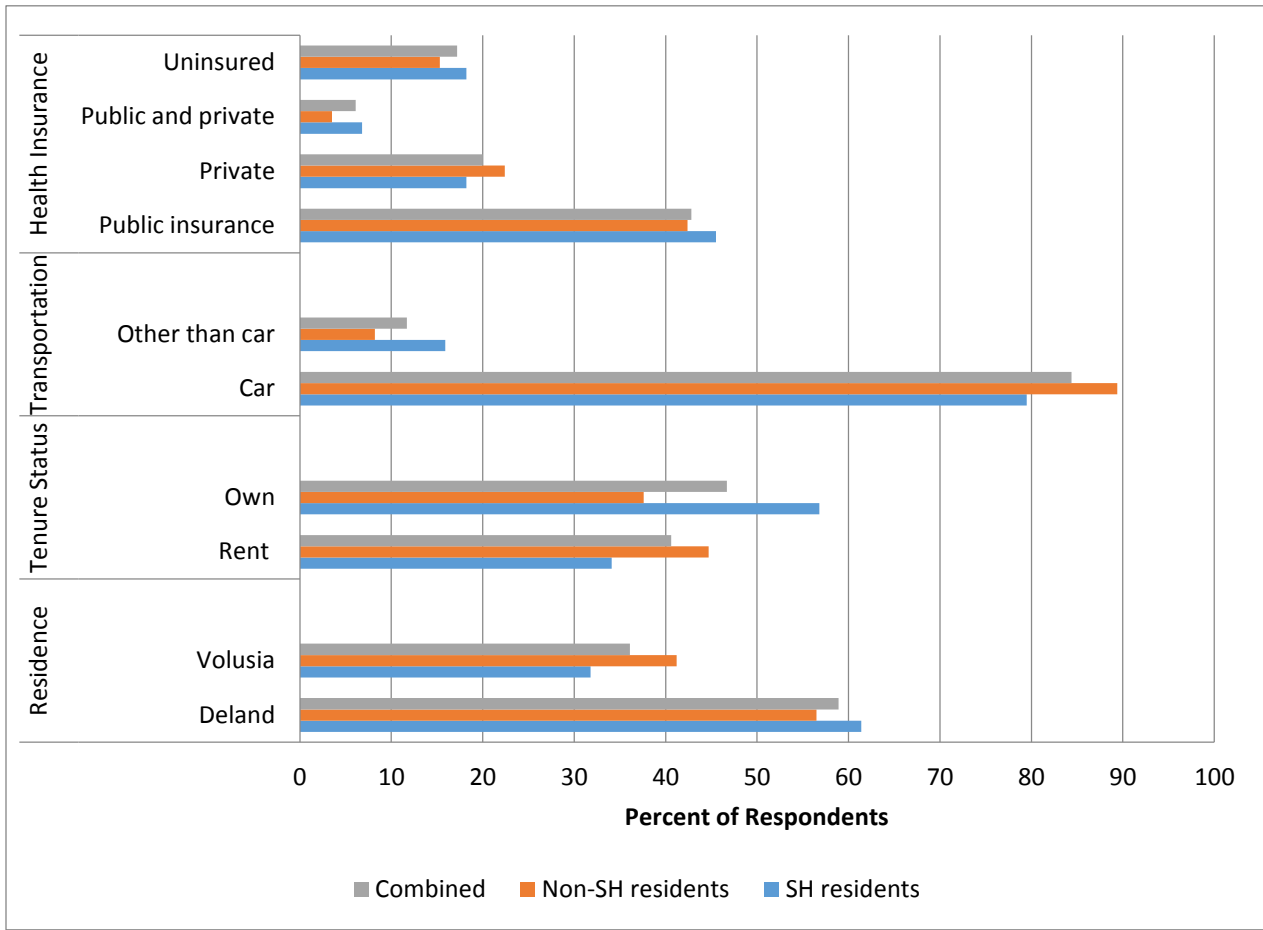


Figure 6: Percentage of respondents, both Spring Hill and Non-Spring Hill, by health insurance coverage, dependence upon cars as primary mode of transportation, tenure status, and residence status

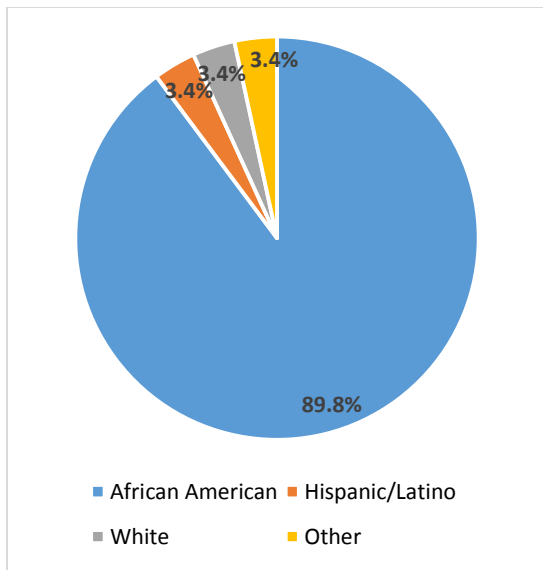


Figure 7: Racial composition of Spring Hill Respondents.

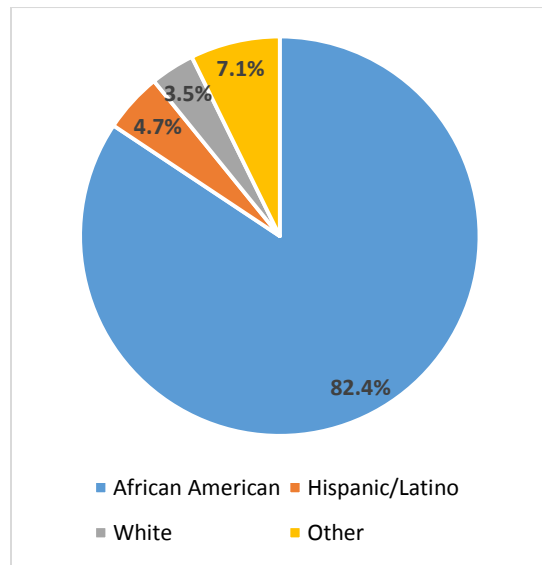


Figure 8: Racial composition of non-Spring Hill Respondents.

5. Results

a. Neighborhood Concerns

Spring Hill respondents were almost always more concerned about the community characteristics questioned in the survey than Non-Spring Hill respondents. Spring Hill respondents agreed that the community benefitted from the SHRC (n=61, 69.3%) and the Boys and Girls Club (n=44, 50%). This was a larger proportion of agreement when compared to the Non-Spring Hill respondents: they had a lower agreement rate in regards to the community's benefit from the SHRC (n=30, 35.3%) and the Boys and Girls Club (n=26, 30.6%). Spring Hill respondents were most concerned with their lack of access to fresh produce (n=76, 90.5%), with only 9.5% (n=8) agreeing that they had ready access to fresh produce. Only 11.4% (n=10) of Spring Hill respondents agreed that they had access to exercise programs and felt safe in their community.

Spring Hill respondents also expressed a higher degree of dissatisfaction with the amount of sidewalks (n=59, 67%) and street lights (n=63, 71.6%), their feeling of safety during the day and night from crime (n=66, 75.0%), the pleasantness of walking around the neighborhood (n=63, 71.6%), and the maintenance of buildings (n=66, 75.0%). Non-Spring Hill respondents possessed a more positive view of conditions in their community. Compared to Spring Hill respondents, they had a lower degree of dissatisfaction when it came to the amount of sidewalks (n=46, 54.1%) and streetlights (n=57, 67.1%) in the neighborhood, their degree of safety during the day and night from crime (n=55, 64.7%), the pleasantness of walking around the neighborhood (n=48, 56.5%), and the maintenance of buildings (n=57, 67.1%). Figure 9 illustrates the neighborhood concerns held by respondents, ranked by most concerning to least concerning as expressed by Spring Hill residents.

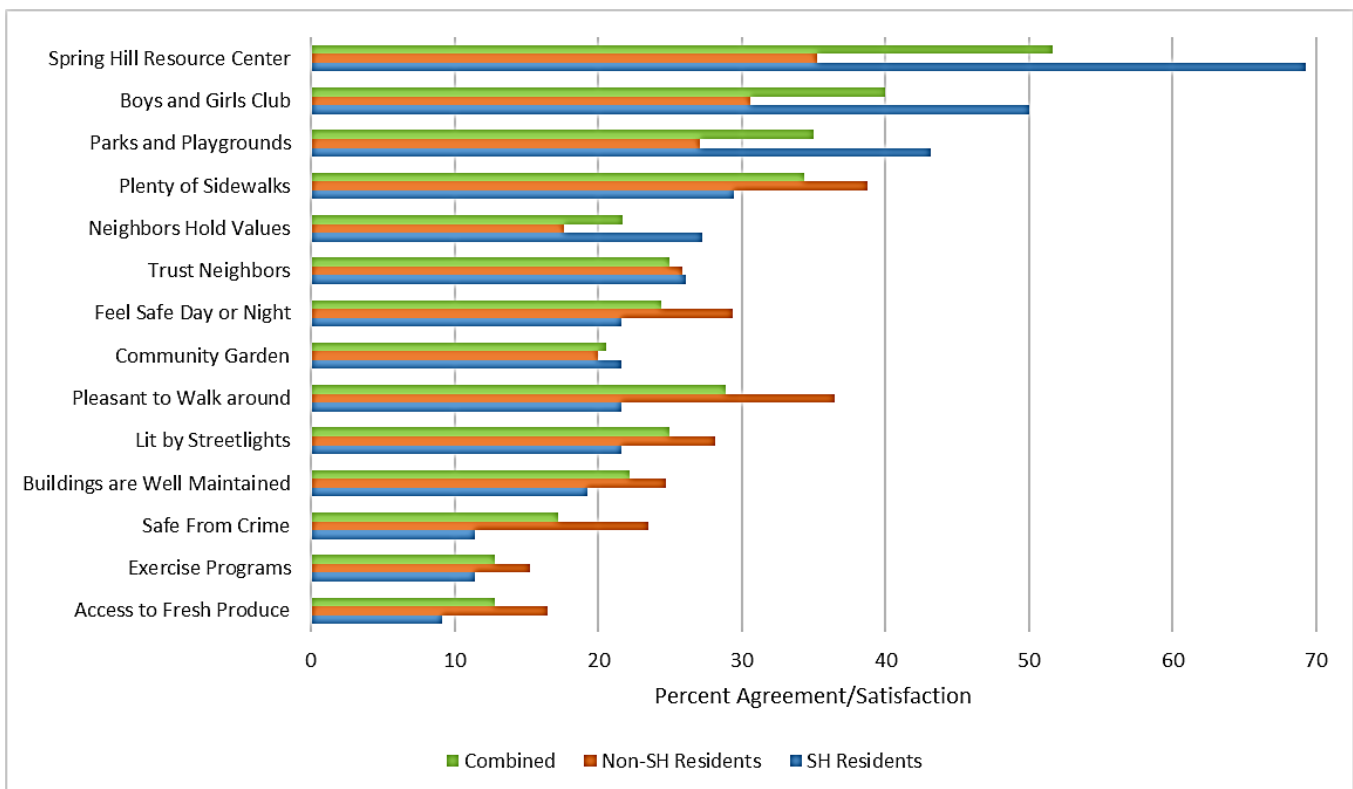


Figure 9: Percentage of Spring Hill Respondents, Non-Spring Hill Respondents, and all respondents that agreed or strongly agreed with the neighborhood characteristics listed on the questionnaire.

b. Socioeconomic and Neighborhood Environment Concerns

Participants were asked to rate their degree of concern in regards to different socioeconomic aspects of their community. Listed here, from highest degree of concern to lowest degree of concern, are the concerns of Spring Hill respondents about their neighborhood socioeconomic and physical problems: drug/crime activity (n=74, 84.1%), unemployment (n=69, 78.4%), lack of jobs for those with prior convictions (n=69, 78.4%), poverty (n=67, 76.4%), land polluted with trash and illegal dumping (n=66, 75.0%), lack of access to healthcare (n=65, 73.9%), lack of affordable housing (n=62, 70.5%), access to transportation (n=61, 69.3%), and access to grocery stores (n=61, 69.3%). The lowest ranked items in relation to the concerns of residents were access to grocery stores and transportation options, with approximately 69% which still delineates substantial proportion of concerned respondents.

A similar trend of concern with some differences was seen in Non-Spring Hill residents. The order of socioeconomic concerns expressed by Non-Spring Hill respondents, listed from highest degree of concern to lowest, was: unemployment (n=54, 63.5%), lack of jobs for those with prior convictions (n=53, 62.4%), drug/crime activity (n=51, 60.0%), poverty (n=50, 58.8%), lack of access to healthcare (n=46, 54.1%), lack of affordable housing (n=44, 51.8%), land polluted with trash and illegal dumping (n=43, 50.6%), insufficient transportation options (n=42, 49.4%), and lack of access to grocery stores (n=39, 45.9%). Along with the order of concerns being different between Spring Hill respondents and Non-Spring Hill respondents, the degree of concern expressed by Non-Spring Hill respondents was on average 19.9% lower than those expressed by Spring Hill respondents. Figure 10 depicts the socioeconomic concerns of respondents.

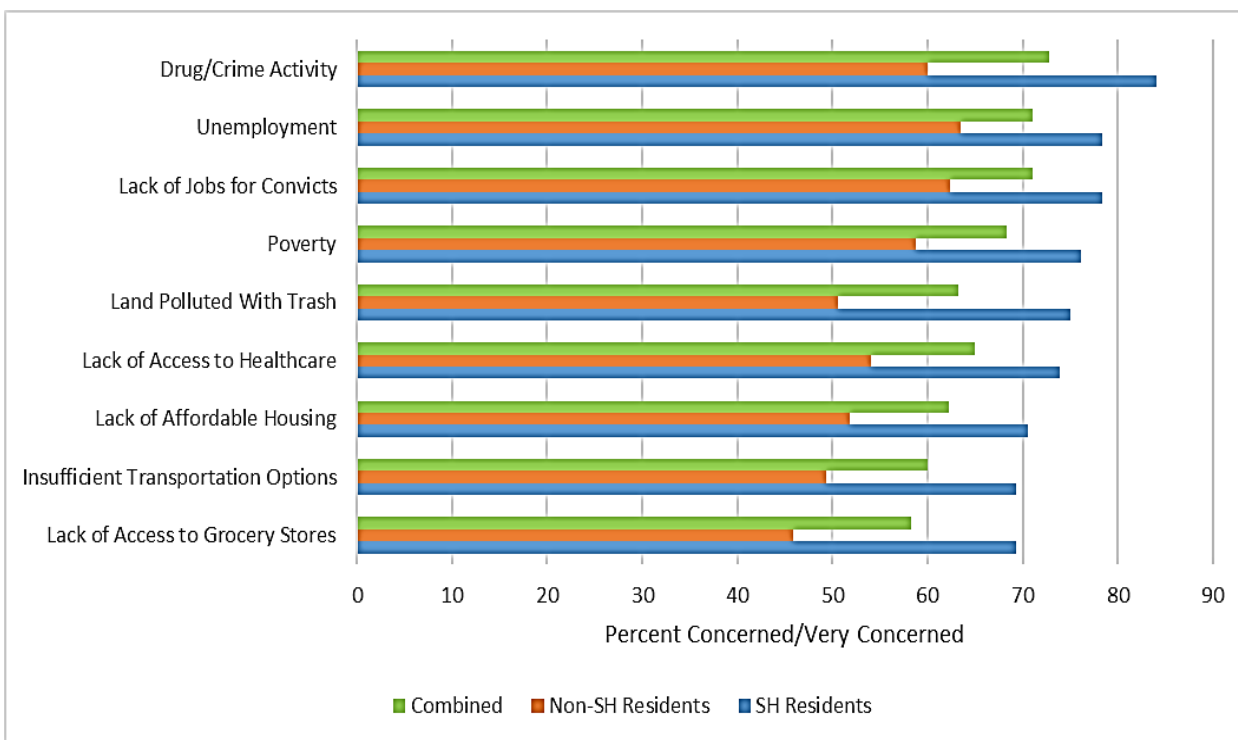


Figure 10: Socioeconomic concerns of Spring Hill respondents, Non Spring Hill respondents and all respondents combined listed by highest degree of concern to lowest expressed by Spring Hill Respondents.

c. Public Health Concerns

Like other aspects of the survey distributed by Stetson students, Spring Hill respondents were more concerned with community health than Non-Spring Hill respondents. Spring Hill respondents' top three health concerns were high blood pressure (n=65, 73.9%), diabetes (n=63, 71.6%), and HIV/AIDS (n=60, 68.2%). The fourth most concerning condition was heart disease (n=59, 67.0%), which is the leading cause of death in the United States and Florida. A large proportion of Spring Hill Respondents were also concerned with mental illness (n=57, 64.8%) and Dementia/Alzheimer's (n=54, 61.5%). The trends of concern expressed by Non-Spring Hill Respondents were similar. Health conditions of concern in the community, from highest concern to lowest concern, expressed by Non-Spring Hill Respondents: diabetes (n=53, 62.4%), high blood pressure (n=48, 56.5%), HIV/AIDS (n=46, 64.1%), heart disease (n=42, 49.4%), mental illness (n=41, 48.2%), and Dementia/Alzheimer's (n=37, 43.5%). Figure 11 depicts the public health concerns of respondents in order of most concerning to least concerning, as expressed by Spring Hill residents.

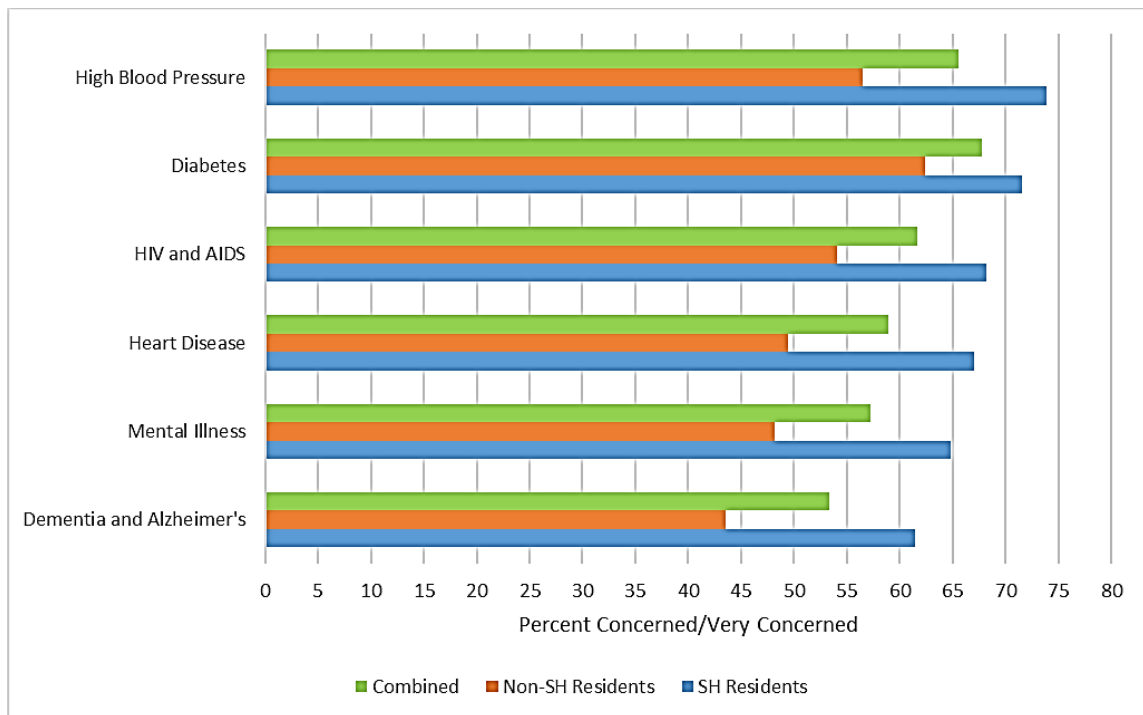


Figure 11: Public health concerns questioned in the survey distributed by Stetson students, ranked by degree of concern expressed by Spring Hill residents.

d. Emergency Response Concerns

Response times for the police department, fire department, and ambulance services were rated by respondents on a scale of fast, slow, average, or not sure. The majority of Spring Hill respondents indicated an average response time for the fire department (n=40, 45.5%) and ambulance services (n=42, 47.7%). Only 9.1% (n=8) of Spring Hill respondents believed ambulance response to be slow, with 8% (n=7) identifying fire response as slow. Spring Hill respondents delineated a different view on police response times. A majority of Spring Hill respondents (n=33, 37.5%) identified the police as having a slow response time, with 30.7% (n=27) saying response time by police was average. Only 11.4% (n=10) indicated police response as being fast. Non-Spring Hill respondents held a more positive view of emergency response time by identifying each department as having an average response time. Of Non-Spring Hill respondents, 42.4% (n=36) identified the police as

having an average response time, 41.2 (n=35) identified the fire department as having an average response time, and 37.6% (n=32) identified ambulance services as having an average response time.

In addition to rating the response times of emergency responders, the respondents were asked if they believed police presence should be increased to promote safety and decrease crime rates. Of Spring Hill respondents, 45.5 % (n=40) indicated “yes”, 30.7% (n=27) indicated “no”, and 19.3% (n=17) were “not sure”. Of Non-Spring Hill respondents, 44.7% (n=38) indicated “yes”, 20% (n=17) indicated “no”, and 31.8% (n=27) were “not sure”. Figures 12, 13, 14, & 15 depict the opinions of Spring Hill residents, Non-Spring Hill residents, and all respondents in regards to emergency response services.

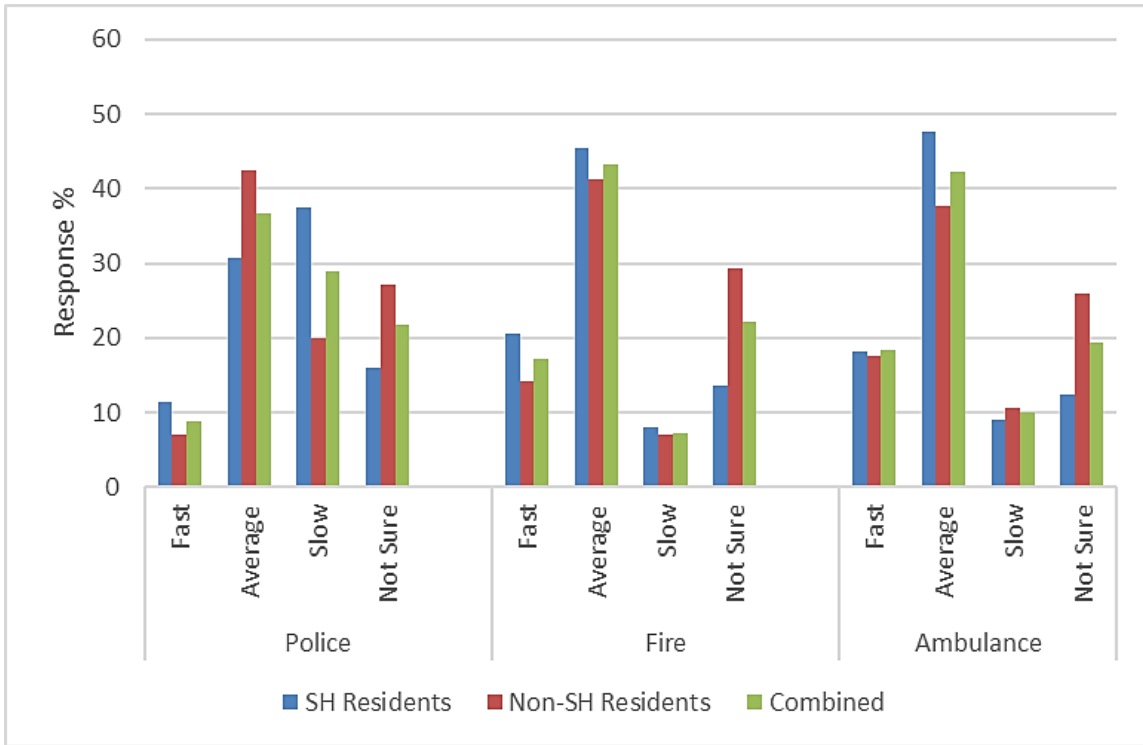


Figure 12: A side by side representation of opinions of emergency response times held by respondents. Specifically, the responses of Spring Hill residents only, Non-Spring Hill residents only, and all respondents combined.

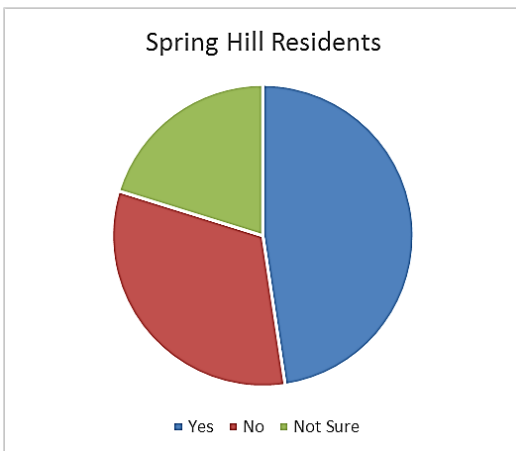


Figure 13: Distribution of responses held by Spring Hill residents who answered the survey question “Should police presence be increased?”

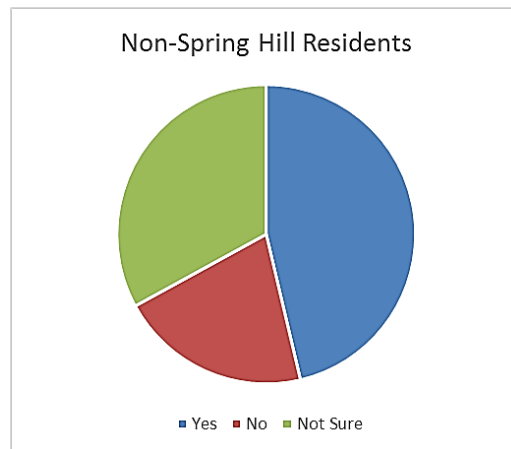


Figure 14: Distribution of responses held by Non-Spring Hill residents who answered the survey question “Should police presence be increased?”

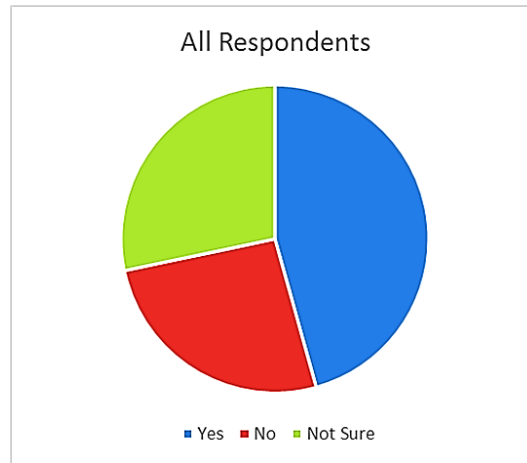


Figure 15: Distribution of responses held by all respondents who answered the survey question “Should police presence be increased?”

e. Verbatim Responses to the Open-Ended Question

There was an open-ended question placed at the end of the questionnaire asking respondents “If you could address one issue in Spring Hill, what would it be?” to obtain qualitative data regarding concerns about the community’s health problems. There was a higher rate of response for this question by Spring Hill respondents (n=37, 42%) compared to Non-Spring Hill respondents (n=17, 20%). Comments were broken down into categories: drug and crime activity, poverty and unemployment, police attitude, lack of housing and street lighting, and other miscellaneous comments. When looking at the open-ended answers of Spring Hill residents, 24% (n=9) were about poverty and unemployment, 19% (n=7) were about drug and crime activity, 19% (n=7) were about police attitude, 5% (n=2) were about lack of housing and street lighting, and 32% (n=12) were miscellaneous comments. Of the free responses made by Non-Spring Hill residents, 29% (n=5) were about drug and crime activity, 24% (n=4) were about police attitude, 18% (n=3) were about housing and street lighting, 18%, 12% (n=2) were about poverty and unemployment, and 18% (n=3) were other miscellaneous comments. Verbatim comments made by respondents can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Inventory of comments provided in the verbatim open-ended question portion of the surveys distributed by Stetson students by category and sample population.

Comment Category	Spring Hill respondents	Non-Spring Hill respondents
Police	police	How the police connects and respond to citizens
	Police brutality and presence; their attitude toward residence in neighborhood.	Constant harassment of law abiding citizens
	Drugs. police brutality, police not working with community but against	Why do we get harassed more than others by the cops? In our own community! They act as if living here is a crime!
	The way the police act	Police harassing people
	Lack of respect the police show for the people living in the Springhill area	
	Targeting black motorists. Better job services for convicted felons.	
	Police brutality	
Drug and Crime activities	Drug Activity	Crime
	Drugs	Stop the drug activity in the park in Candle Light Oaks
	People are not concerned with drug dealing and "indecent acts" on the road that children can see these things happening	Crime and associated noise pollution
	Need more road maintenance, tear down abandoned houses, get rid of drug dealers, prostitutes, over grown properties, pick up stray animals.	The drugs and crime
	Drugs. police brutality, police not working with community but against	Young men loitering
	Drugs/ crime/ activities...I hope that it will come to an end.	
	Home invasions and illegal activity.	
Poverty and Unemployment	More jobs around the area	help people get jobs
	Vocational training for unemployed youth and homeless	Get jobs for people with prior convictions and take care of the elderly.
	Jobs and housing. Jobs for our youth.	
	Poverty	
	Lack of employment and shelter	
	Unemployment	
	MORE JOBS!	
	Employment for those with prior convictions	
	Youth activities lacking work for youth and offenders	

<i>Comment Category</i>	Spring Hill respondents	Non-Spring Hill respondents
Lack of Housing and Street lighting	street lights and sidewalks	moving people back into the neighborhood
	Move street lighting, too dark on the streets at night	More homes need to be built for the ones that cant receive section 8 when needed
		Lack of affordable housing
Other Comments	Loud music and noise, pollution	A lack of activities for young people and family things
	More community events involving adults and children, similar to the TURN festival	lack of useful/resourceful things for children and adults to do
	Lack of youth activities/engagement. \$1 or good grades to motivate youth to participate in games.	More help
	city sewer	
	Need more road maintenance, tear down abandoned houses, get rid of drug dealers, prostitutes, over grown properties, pick up stray animals.	
	would love to help out	
	Affordable health care for all	
	Lack of equality in all aspects of living such as: jobs, education, health care and housing.	
	Find things to keep the young people with things to do, to keep them out of bad things so they can grow up to be good young people.	
	Resource center needs bigger building	
	We request the consideration that Mrs. Dixon deserves to be noted to receive an honorary Doctorial degree from Stetson University for humanitarian service for the community service at the Spring Hill Community Center	
	Discrimination	

6. Summary and Conclusion

Spring Hill residents expressed great concern regarding poverty (n=52, 58.8%) and unemployment (n=69, 78.4%). By quantifying the community's degree of concern regarding unemployment and poverty, it can be deduced the community views it as an important issue within Spring Hill. According to the findings of this survey, Spring Hill has limited access to food, businesses, hospitals and healthcare, schools, and civic centers. The neighborhood's only convenience store provides no fresh fruits or vegetables for sale with overpriced goods but with very little nutritional density. Spring Hill residents responding to the survey were also not satisfied with the completeness of sidewalks in the community (n=59, 67.0%) and the lack of streetlights (n=63, 71.6%). These attributes of a neighborhood reinforce safe active lifestyles and socialization by promoting walks and visiting neighbors. Without sufficient amounts of sidewalks and streetlights, residents are discouraged from walking around their community and travelling through the neighborhood at night. Residents were also concerned about the health of their community. All health conditions noted in the survey were seen as

concerning within the Spring Hill community by over 60% of residents. Limited access to nutritional food and an environment that discourages physical activity followed by high community rate of unemployment and poverty can lead to a higher occurrence of heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

The respondents' concerns about public health could be attributed to the poor infrastructure, both physically and financially. These factors have driven members to express high levels of concern about diabetes, high blood pressure, and HIV/AIDS. The high concerned rate for HIV/AIDS (68%) is noteworthy and alarming. Through informal discussions residents seemed to have knowledge of those with HIV/AIDS and expressed great concern that the HIV mobile clinics were not being utilized effectively in the community. More importantly, it seems a major health concern that has continued to go unnoticed by healthcare providers and local policy makers. Many of the aforementioned concerns stem from the jagged jurisdictional boundaries between the City of DeLand and Volusia County. Based on informal and focus group interviews with community members the top four areas of opportunities identified included allocating more resources to the Resource Center and the Boys and Girls Club, development of small businesses to warrant more employment opportunities while minimizing vacant lots, developing a community garden and increasing the resources allocated to schools to improve the quality of education and afterschool youth programs. In summary, the following recommendations are based on residents' responses:

- Expansion of Spring Hill neighborhood resource center
- Investment in the boys and girls club
- Education and community outreach programs about prevention and control of chronic and infectious diseases such as diabetes, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the community
- Allocating resources and community grants to integrate people with prior convictions to employment opportunities
- Reducing drug/crime activities in the area and restoring trust between police and the community
- Improving street lights and sidewalks in the neighborhood
- Facilitating access to healthy food options for residents (for example through expanded and accessible community gardens)

The study encountered some limitations. The door-to-door data collection method yielded a very low response rate. Therefore, data was collected mostly through convenience sampling by going to churches. This may have resulted in underestimation of proportion of respondents who are male, those dependent on public transportation as their main mode of transportation, and renters. In addition, in order to avoid sensitive questions that may be perceived as violation of privacy, respondents were not asked questions concerning employment status and income. This is because the survey was originally designed to be administered door-to-door and the community size is small resulting in possible compromise of privacy. Regardless of obtaining respondents income, participants expressed their concerns about unemployment in the community and access to healthcare; a quarter of comments left by residents pertained to unemployment and poverty.

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1. Do you live in Spring Hill?

- Yes No Not Sur

2. Do you live within the following boundaries?

- Yes No Not Sure



3. What is your age?

- 18-24 years
 25-44 years
 45-64 years
 65 years or older

4. What is your gender?

- Male
 Female
 Other
 prefer not to answer

5. What is your race/ethnicity? (check ALL that apply)

- African American
 Hispanic/Latino
 White (Non-Hispanic)
 Caribbean
 Two or more races
 Other _____

6. How long have you lived in Spring Hill?

- Less than a year
 1-4 years
 5-9 years
 10-15 years
 15 years or more
 I do not live in Spring Hill

7. What is your highest level of education:

- Less than high school
 High school diploma or GED
 Some college/Associate degree
 4 year college degree/graduate degree

8. Your residence is considered which of the following?

- City of Deland Volusia County

9. Do you rent or own your home?

- Rent Own Other

10. Which transportation do you use the most?

- Car
 Bike
 Walking
 Bus/Taxi
 Other _____

11. Do you or anyone living in your household own a car?

- Yes No Not Sure

12. If you take the bus, how long does it take for you to walk to the bus stop?

- 0-5 min
 6-10
 11-15
 15+ min
 I don't take the bus

13. Which of the following applies to you (check ALL that apply)?

- Medicare
 Medicaid
 Veterans Affairs (VA)
 Private Insurance
 Other _____
 None
 Prefer not to answer

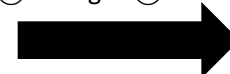
14. Do you feel greater police presence would make Spring Hill a safer place to live?

- Yes No Not Sure

15. How do you feel about the response time of the following:

- Police: fast average slow Not sure
 Fire: fast average slow Not sure
 Ambulance: fast average slow Not sure

Continue to back



Please indicate to what extent you **agree** with following statements.

Left to right: *Strongly disagree* *Disagree* *Somewhat agree* *Agree* *Strongly Agree*

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 16. People in my neighborhood can be trusted | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 17. People in my neighborhood share the same values | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 18. There are sidewalks in my neighborhood | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 19. There are parks and playground in my neighborhood | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 20. It is pleasant to walk in my neighborhood | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 21. My neighborhood offers many programs to get exercise | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 22. I feel safe walking in my neighborhood day or night | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 23. In my neighborhood the buildings and homes are
well-maintained | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 24. My neighborhood is safe from crime | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 25. A large selection of produce is available in my
neighborhood | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 26. My neighborhood is well lit by streetlights | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 27. My neighborhood benefits from an easily accessible
community garden in Chisholm Center | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 28. My neighborhood benefits from Spring Hill Resource
Center and its expansion | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 29. My neighborhood benefits from the Boys and Girls Club | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |

Please indicate how **concerned** you are about the following issues in your neighborhood:

Left to Right: *Don't Know* *Not Concerned* *Somewhat concerned* *Concerned* *Very Concerned*

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
|--|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 30. Heart Disease | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 31. High Blood pressure | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 32. Diabetes | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 33. Dementia/Alzheimer's | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 34. Mental illness | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 35. HIV/AIDS | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 36. Unemployment | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 37. Poverty | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 38. Insufficient transportation options | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 39. Drug/crime activities | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 40. Land polluted with trash, illegal dumping, etc | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 41. Lack of affordable housing | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 42. Lack of access to health care | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 43. Lack of access to grocery stores | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 44. Lack of jobs for those of prior convictions. | | | | 1○ | 2○ | 3○ | 4○ | 5○ |
| 45. If you could address one issue in Spring Hill, what would it be? _____ | | | | | | | | |
