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Menlo Park Community Profile

Developed by the CPPW Evaluation Team

University of Arizona

Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

for the

Communities Putting Prevention to Work Program

Pima County Health Department

Made possible by funding from the Pima County Health Department via the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

MENLO PARK

Population: 7,792

Location: In metro Tucson, about one mile west of downtown.

Target Area Boundaries:

North: W. St. Mary's Rd.
 South: W. Starr Pass Blvd.
 East: I-10
 West: A Mountain / Tumamoc Hill

Land area: Approximately one sq. mile

Colonia: No

Congressional District: 7

Board of Supervisors District: 5

Census Tracts: 2, 25.01 (block group 1)

Ward: 1

Data Sources: This community profile contains information from multiple sources.



The magnifying glass symbol indicates that the information came from public sources like the U.S. Census Bureau or agency websites.



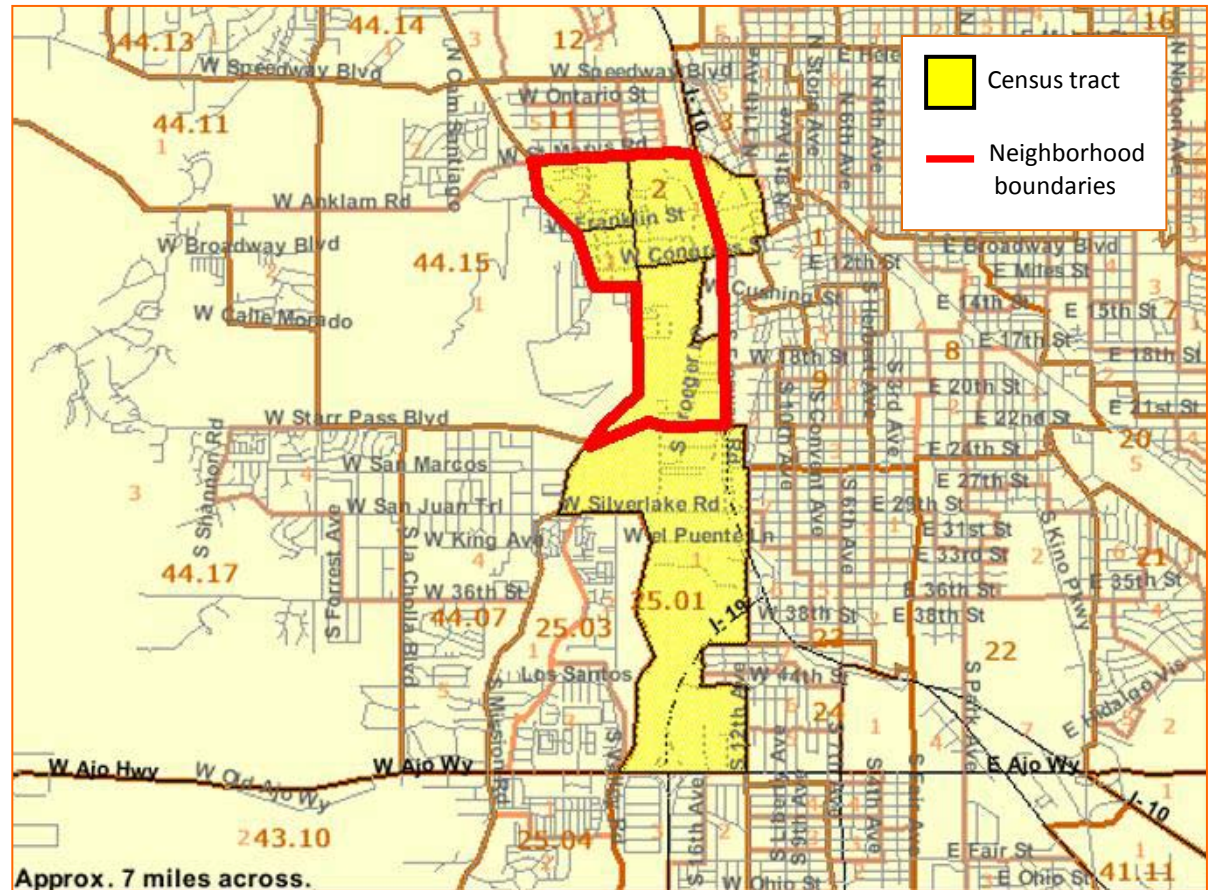
The camera symbol indicates that the information originated from an observational assessment of the community conducted by evaluators from the University Of Arizona College Of Public Health.



The microphone symbol indicates that the information came from an interview with the CPPW neighborhood Connector conducted by evaluators from the University of Arizona College of Public Health.



The clipboard symbol indicates the data originated from the community assessments administered to neighborhood residents by the CPPW neighborhood Connector.



SOURCES: Govtrack.us. Arizona's 7th Congressional District & Map. Available at: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/findyourreps.xpd?state=AZ&district=7>.
 Pima County Board of Supervisors. District Map. Available at: <http://www.pima.gov/bos/distmap/images/bos17.pdf>.
 U.S. Census Bureau. 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Available at: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
 U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. Designated Colonias in Arizona. Available at: <http://www.hud.gov/local/az/groups/coloniasaz.cfm>.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The population of Menlo Park differs from the population of Pima County and the overall U.S. population (see table at right). Compared to these two groups, residents in this neighborhood:

- *Are more likely to be male* – More than 46% of Menlo Park residents are male (compared to less than 50% of those countywide and nationwide).
- *Are slightly younger* – There are fewer adults over 65 in Menlo Park than in Pima County and the U.S.
- *Have lower incomes* – Estimated per capita income is about half that of Pima County and less than half that of the nation.
- *Are more Hispanic and less non-Hispanic White* - 61% of residents are Hispanic or Latino (of any race), compared to 33% in Pima County and 15% in the U.S. Only 27% are non-Hispanic White alone, compared to more than 50% of those countywide and 66% of those nationwide.

Employment by Industry

Of the Menlo Park population age 16 years and over, 64.4% are in the labor force, comparable to the overall U.S. population (65%).

- *Educational, health and social services* are the top industry in both Menlo Park (29% of labor) and Pima County (24%).
- *Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing* accounted for more labor in Menlo Park (10%) than in Pima County (6%), while *manufacturing* (1%) accounted for less labor in Menlo Park (1% vs. 8%).

Demographics (ACS 2005-2009)

	MENLO PARK	PIMA COUNTY	U.S.
GENDER			
Male	46.2%	49.0%	49.3%
Female	43.2%	51.0%	50.7%
AGE			
Median age	-	36.8 years	36.5 years
Under 5 years	6.1%	6.9%	6.9%
18 years and over	84.2%	76.3%	75.4%
65 years and over	10.5%	14.7%	12.6%
HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES			
Average household size	2.34 people	2.62 people	2.60 people
Average family size	-	3.30 people	3.19 people
Median household income	-	\$45,885	\$51,425
Median family income	-	\$56,711	\$62,363
Per capita income	\$12,429	\$24,556	\$27,041
RACE AND ETHNICITY			
Not Hispanic or Latino:			
White alone	27.2%	57.2%	65.8%
Black or African American alone	6.5%	3.1%	12.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	4.0%	2.5%	0.7%
Asian alone	0.2%	2.4%	4.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Some other race alone	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%
Two or more races	0.9%	1.6%	1.6%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	61.1%	32.8%	15.1%

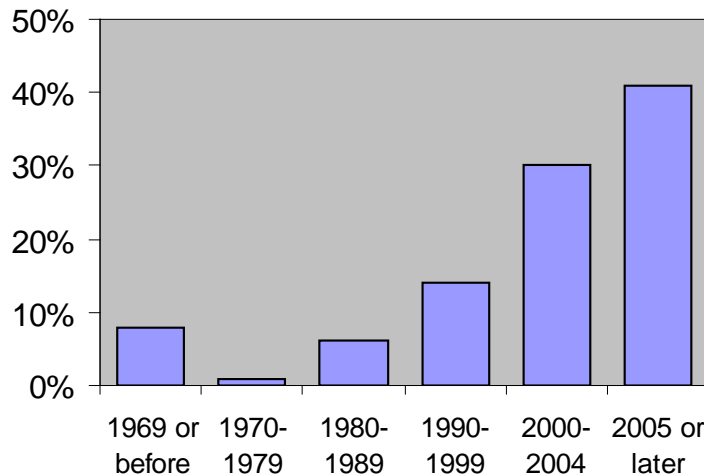
NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS: HOMES VS. COMMERCIAL DESTINATIONS

Residential Areas

Housing characteristics:

- Menlo Park has 2,701 housing units.
- About 13% of housing units in this neighborhood are vacant, compared to about 12% in Pima County.
- There are more renters than homeowners: More than two-thirds (67%) of housing units in Menlo Park are renter-occupied.

**Occupied Housing Units by Year
Householder Moved Into Unit**



0.0% of housing units lack complete plumbing facilities

0.0% lack complete kitchen facilities

Commercial / Public Access Destinations

Of approximately 75 commercial or public access destinations in the Menlo Park neighborhood, the greatest proportions are restaurants and other food vendors (25%) and other services (24%). Additionally:

- There were twice as many abandoned homes or buildings and vacant lots (8) as there were recreational facilities (4).
- No places of worship were observed.

Destination	Count (approx.)	Percentage
Restaurant or other food vendor	19	25%
Other service (salon/beautician, lawyer, laundry)	18	24%
Abandoned home/building/vacant lot	8	11%
Other retail (card shop, video rental, florist, etc.)	7	9%
Health and human services	6	8%
Other civil service	5	7%
Hotel/motel	5	7%
Auto shop	2	3%
Taquería/mobile stand	2	3%
Junior college/college/university/vocational school	2	3%
Liquor store	1	1%
Place of worship	0	0%

Community art at
Garden of
Gethsemane
Park in Menlo
Park



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Menlo Park Neighborhood Association

Meets monthly at 320 N. Commerce Loop

Menlo Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) coordinates neighborhood clean-up events and other community activities. MPNA has also been involved in recent housing restoration and neighborhood revitalization efforts in conjunction with Pima County.

The neighborhood association has been around forever, 20 years.



Food City has donated stuff to various community projects.

SPOTLIGHT: El Día de San Juan Festival

This annual celebration, which commemorates the start of monsoon season, draws members of the greater Tucson community to Congress Street (west of the Santa Cruz River). The event includes a procession and other traditional activities, as well as food, games and music.

Community Resources include



The Mercado and St. Agustín, where we have hosted several kinds of events, and they do help with the Día de San Juan.

FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY

No faith-based organizations were observed in the Menlo Park neighborhood.

SCHOOLS & CHILD CARE

Schools

Menlo Park Elementary School

1100 W Fresno St., 85745

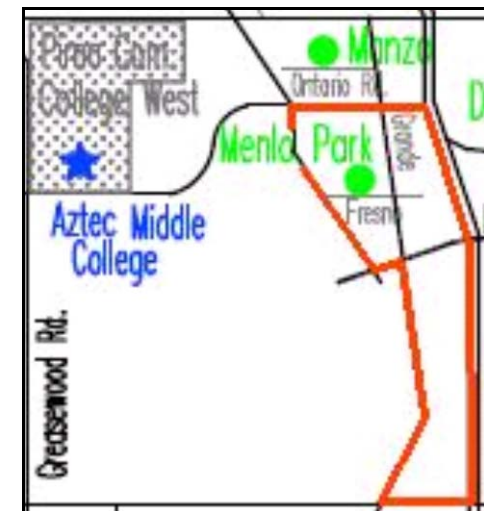
Children and youth who reside in Menlo Park attend schools in Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). One TUSD public school (Menlo Park Elementary) is located within the target area boundaries (see map below). **97%** of students at this school qualified for free or reduced lunch status in March 2010.

Child Care

Enrichment Academy

1415 W. St. Mary's Rd., 85745

Map of Schools Near Menlo Park



SOURCES: Arizona Department of Education. Child Nutrition Programs. Tables SY2009, SY2010. Available at: <http://www.ade.state.az.us/health-safety/cnp/frpercentages/>.
 ChildcareCenter.us. Childcare Centers in 85709. Available at: <http://childcarecenter.us/state>.
 Evans, M. El Día De San Juan Fiesta Celebrates Tucson's History and Culture for 13th Year. Tucson Citizen.com (June 16, 2010). Available at: <http://tucsoncitizen.com/events-calendar/2010/06/16/el-dia-de-san-juan-fiesta-celebrates-tucson%E2%80%99s-history-and-culture-for-13th-year/>.
 Menlo Park Neighborhood Association. Available at: <http://menloparktucson.com/>.
 Tucson Unified School District. District Map. Available at: <http://www.tusd.k12.az.us/contents/depart/efp/Documents/TUSD%20MAP.pdf>.
 Devine, D. One Street's Story. Tucson Weekly (July 22, 2010). Available at: <http://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/one-streets-story/Content?oid=2096105>.

COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



Four recreational facilities were identified in the Menlo Park neighborhood (see map at right):



Menlo Park

NW corner of Grande Ave. & Fresno St.



Santa Cruz River Park

Runs alongside the western side of I-10 from St. Mary's Rd. to Starr Pass Blvd.



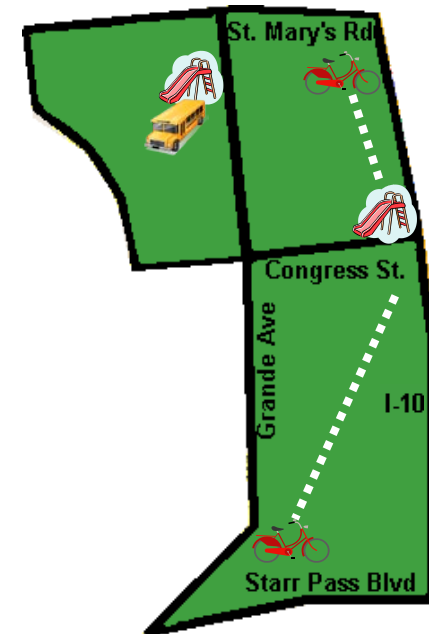
Garden of Gethsemane

602 W. Congress St.



Menlo Park Elementary School

1100 W. Fresno St.



These recreational facilities were assessed for the presence/ visibility and quality of features:

	Open to the public?	Play equipment	Grass	Sports fields	Tennis courts	Benches	Picnic tables	Water fountains	Restrooms	Bike racks	Trash bins	Exercise stations	Walking trails	Lights	Pool	Vending machines	Auditory annoyance	Litter / broken glass	Dog refuse	Dogs unattended	Evidence of alcohol / substance use	Sex paraphernalia	Graffiti / vandalism
Menlo Park																							
Santa Cruz River Park																							
Garden of Gethsemane																							
Menlo Park Elementary																							

COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES – PARKS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC



MENLO PARK

Medium-sized park that is **open to the general public**. Hours are posted in English – facilities are open daily 6am-10:30pm. The area includes:

- Unshaded play equipment
- Shaded and unshaded benches and picnic tables
- Soccer and baseball fields and grassy areas
- Basketball courts (see photo at left)
- Water fountains
- Restrooms
- Trash bins
- Pool (closed – see photo below)

Some litter and dog refuse were observed. There was no graffiti/vandalism and no evidence of alcohol or substance use or sex paraphernalia.



Right now Menlo Park is not an asset because all of the areas are fenced in... and a lot of kids used that pool.

COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES – PARKS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC



SANTA CRUZ RIVER PARK

Large recreational area / trail spanning the length of the Menlo Park area (from northern to southern boundary). The park parallels Santa Cruz River Wash, a wide, empty river basin. The area is open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset (hours are posted in English). The area includes:

- Unshaded picnic tables
- Restrooms (without sink)
- Exercise stations
- Shared-use paths (see photo at far right)

The area is well-maintained – no litter or graffiti vandalism was observed, and there was no evidence of alcohol or substance use and no sex paraphernalia.



GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Large recreational facility paralleling Santa Cruz River Wash / Park. No hours are posted. The area is maintained by the Knights of Columbus and City of Tucson Parks and Recreation. A number of homeless people were observed. The area includes:

- Unshaded play equipment / grassy area
- Unshaded picnic tables and benches
- Water fountains
- Restrooms
- Bike racks
- Trash bins
- Exercise stations (see photo at near left)
- Shared-use path (see photo at far left)

There was noise from the nearby freeway. No litter or graffiti/vandalism was observed, and there was no evidence of alcohol or substance use or sex paraphernalia.

COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES – SCHOOLS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC



MENLO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Medium-sized school recreational facilities with no hours posted.

Facilities are **not** open to the public. The area includes:

- Shaded and unshaded play equipment (see photo at left)
- Baseball field and multi-use field / grassy area (see photo below)
- Basketball court
- One shaded picnic table
- Restrooms (in school)
- Trash bins
- Walking trail

The area is well-maintained, with no graffiti or litter. There was no evidence of alcohol or substance use or sex paraphernalia.



*We consider
everyone who uses the
resources as part of the
neighborhood.*



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



SunTran - Tucson's regional bus service

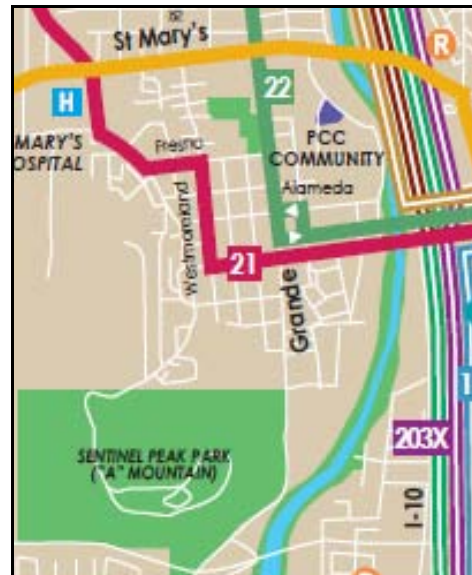
Service

There are at least three full-service routes that run through Menlo Park (see map at right). Additionally, three Express routes pass through the area.

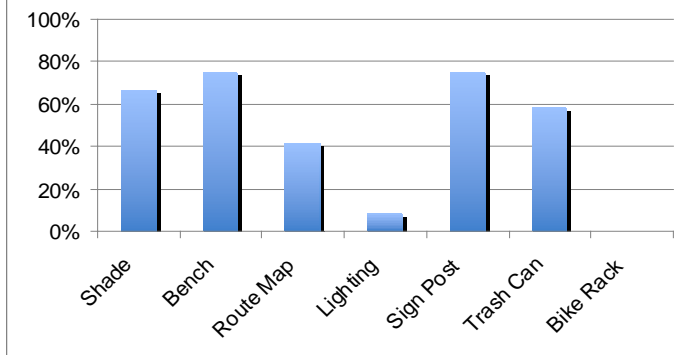
Bus Stops

Of 12 bus stops observed, 75% had a bench and/or sign post, more than 50% had shade and/or a trash can, less than 50% had a route map, less than 10% had lighting, and none had a bike rack.

Map of Sun Tran Routes in Menlo Park



Bus Stop Characteristics



N = 12

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION



Bikeability

Bike Routes

Menlo Park has a variety of bike routes and bikeable residential streets, including the Santa Cruz River bike path (see map below).

Map of Bike Routes in Menlo Park



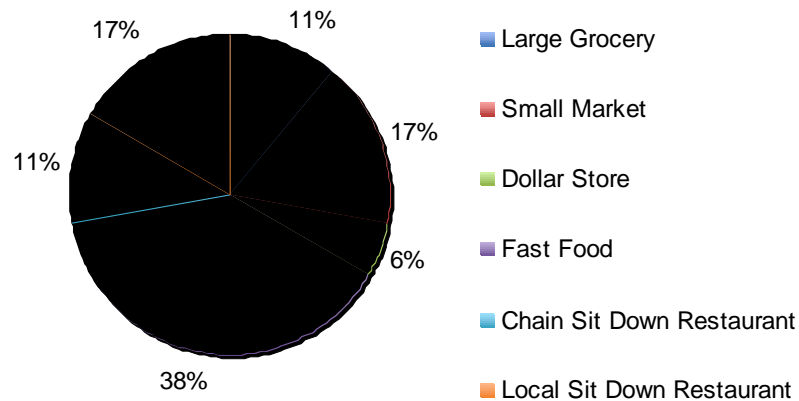
Notes from observational assessment:

- Several of the area's designated bike routes are located on narrow, high-traffic streets.
- All 18 selected neighborhood food sources are located on designated bike routes or bikeable streets; one has a bike rack.

FOOD ACCESSIBILITY

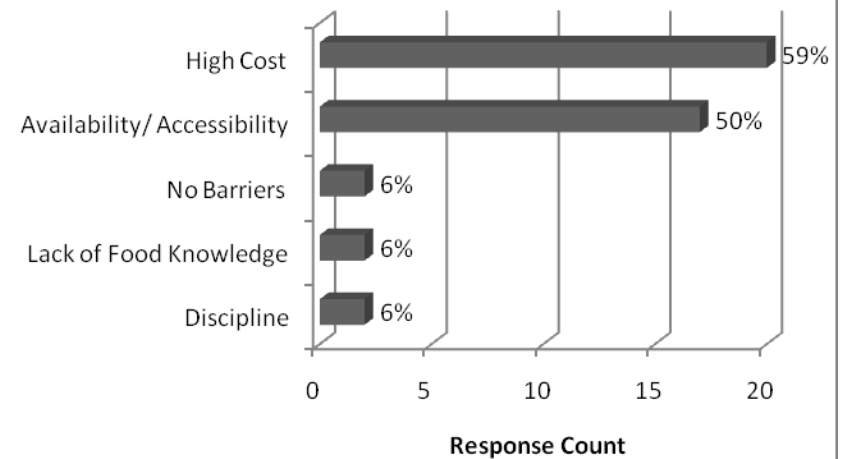


Food Vendors by Type (N = 18)



Of 18 neighborhood food sources assessed, more than one-third are fast food options, and there are two large supermarkets in the area.

Top 5 Barriers to Purchasing Healthy Foods (N = 34)



Other barriers to purchasing healthy foods: Don't know how to prepare healthy foods; taste; no time to prepare healthy foods; and no preservatives.



Alcohol signage in Menlo Park

ADVERTISING / PLACEMENT

- Three of the vendors had visible promotional displays or signage for healthy foods.
- One vendor offered price incentives for healthy options.
- None of the vendors had healthy foods available near checkout.

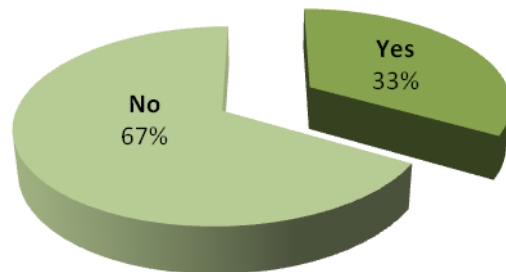
Who answered the survey?

- ★ 34 members of the Menlo Park community.
- ★ 100% in English.
- ★ The survey was filled out at the Mercado Christmas Bazaar event on December 17th, 2010 and at the Ward office via e-mail in February, 2011.

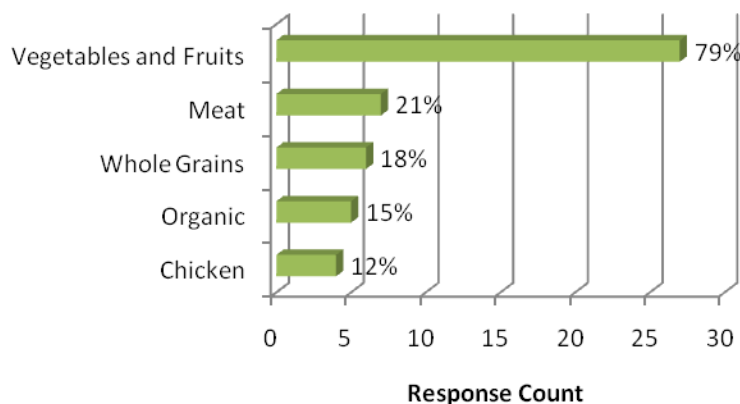
FOOD ACCESSIBILITY



Do you walk, bike, or take the bus to go shopping, do banking, go to school, or other daily business?
(N = 34)



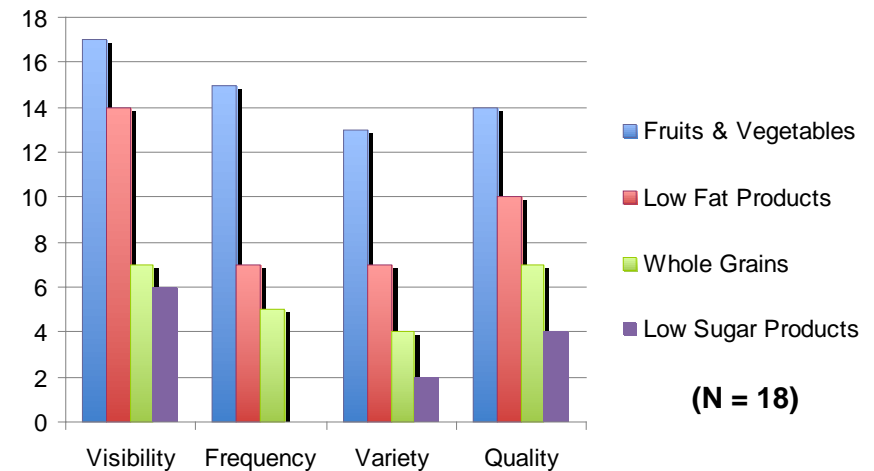
What do you regard as good and healthy food? (N = 34)



Other responses include: Beans (9%); fresh and local (9%); and food that is prepared at home (9%).

ASSESSMENT OF HEALTHY FOODS

Food Vendor Characteristics by Food Type



Of 18 food vendors assessed, nearly all stock fruits and vegetables, and these produce offerings are found somewhat frequently, with some variety, and poor to adequate quality. Low fat products were visible at more than three-quarters of these locations, and whole grain and low sugar products were visible at less than half.



Produce at a food vendor in Menlo Park

HEALTH SERVICES



Closest hospital - located adjacent to the western boundary of Menlo Park:

Carondelet St. Mary's Hospital

1601 W. St. Mary's Rd.

Services: Cardiac Arrest Center, Diabetes Care Center, Faith Community Nursing Program, Primary Stroke Center, Prenatal Clinic, Telemedicine Clinical Services, Wound Healing Center, and more.

Health and human services providers in Menlo Park:

El Rio Health Center – Congress Clinic

Services: Family practice, midwives, internal medicine, urgent care, pediatrics, dental, pharmacy, lab/x-ray, mammography

Pima County Health Department – Theresa Lee Public Health Center

Services: STD/HIV testing, Well Woman Health checks

Community Resource Center

YWCA: Frances McClelland Leadership Center

First Chiropractic

Pueblo Radiology



Health and human services destinations in Menlo Park

FOOD SYSTEMS RESOURCES



Farmers' Markets - NONE WITHIN TARGET AREA

Closest farmers' market (less than a half-mile from the Menlo Park neighborhood):

Santa Cruz River Farmers' Market

NE corner of Speedway Blvd. & Riverview Blvd.
Thursdays from 3-6pm (Oct.-Apr.); 4-7pm (May-Sep.); closed Dec.

Accepts WIC benefits and Food Stamps

Gardening



It is hard to maintain them [community gardens] when you have a transient population and when people are working.



SOURCES: Carondelet Health Network. St. Mary's Hospital. Available at: <http://www.carondelet.org/home/hospitals-locations/st.-marys-hospital.aspx>.
El Rio Health Centers. Congress Clinic. Available at: <http://www.elrio.org/congress.html>.
Local Harvest. Map-based search engine. Available at: <http://www.localharvest.org/>.
Pima County Health Department. Pima County Health Department Clinics & Neighborhood Services. Available at: http://www.pimahealth.org/clinics_locations.asp.

COMMUNITY STRESS INDICATORS

Poverty

In the Menlo Park neighborhood, proportions of families living below the poverty level are substantially greater than in Pima County.

Percent whose income in the past 12 months is below poverty level			
	Menlo Park	Pima County	U.S.
Families	22.9%	10.7%	9.9%
With related children under 18 years	34.2%	17.6%	15.3%
With related children under 5 years	49.2%	19.4%	16.6%
Families with female householder, no husband present	30.2%	27.5%	28.7%
With related children under 18 years	42.6%	35.5%	37.1%
With related children under 5 years	100.0%	45.1%	45.6%



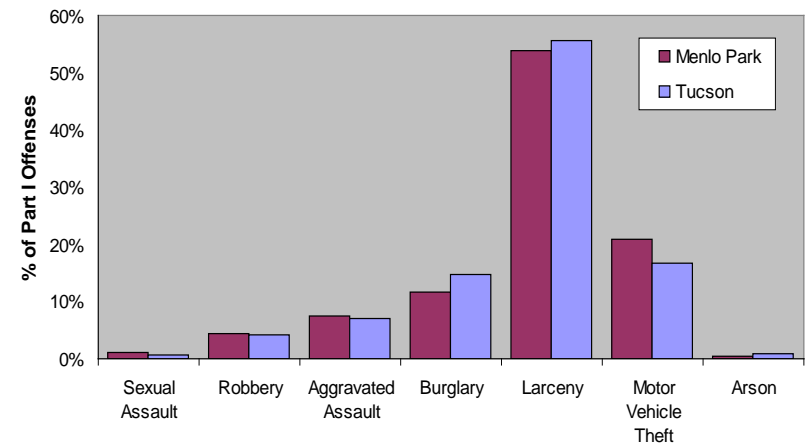
There have always been safety issues [in Menlo Park].

...Especially in the apartments and stuff, you come across economic issues. We also have a higher amount of people who are retired. But other people just spend their time in their houses.

Crime

Compared to all of Tucson, there were more motor vehicle thefts, and fewer burglaries, in Menlo Park in 2008.

Part I Offenses in Menlo Park & Tucson, 2008



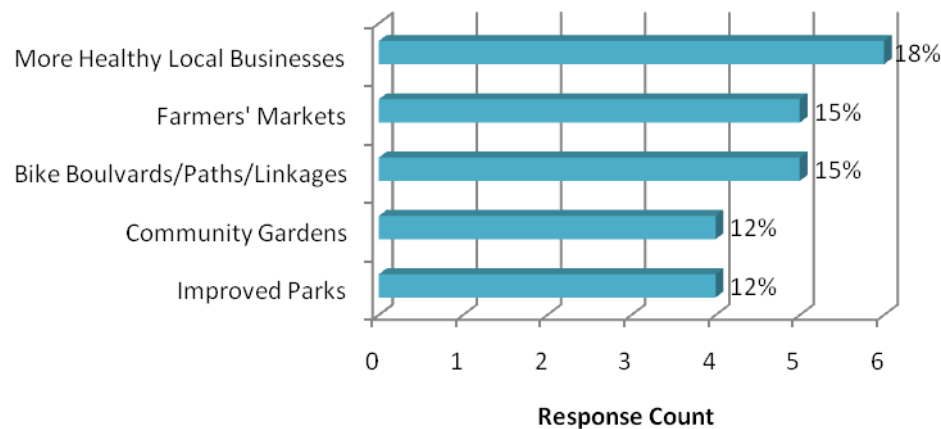
Alcohol signage and graffiti in Menlo Park

SOURCES: Tucson Police Department. Official Uniform Crime Statistics: Counts of Part I Crimes by Type and Year. Available at: http://tpdinternet.tucsonaz.gov/Stats/PART1_CHART_2008.PDF.
 Tucson Police Department. TPD Crime Statistics Search. Available at: <http://tpdinternet.tucsonaz.gov/Stats/Def.aspx>.
 U.S. Census Bureau. 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Available at: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES



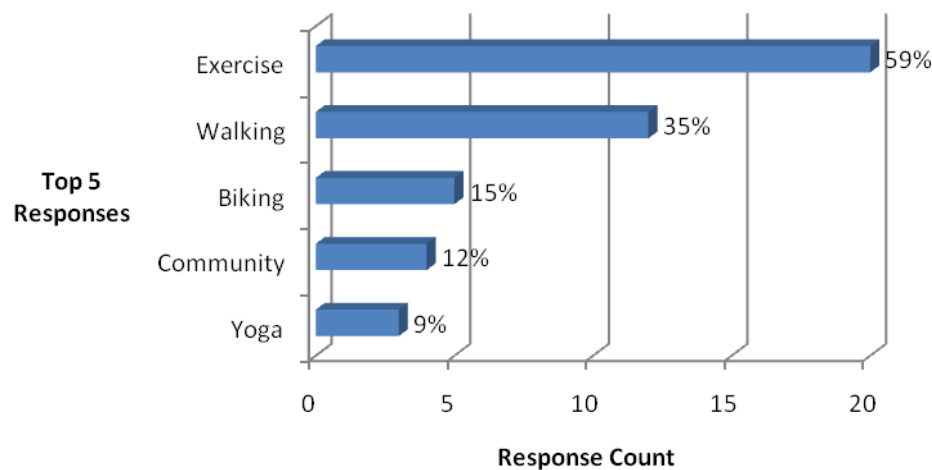
Top 5 Desired Changes to Make Healthy Living More Available (N = 34)



Other desired changes:

- ★ Investing in the community
- ★ Lower speed limit
- ★ More traffic calming
- ★ Bike/pedestrian signals
- ★ Food vendors to serve food with fresh vegetables
- ★ Improvements to the parks
- ★ Improve safety at A-mountain for biking, hiking and exercise

What activities do you think make a person healthier? (N = 34)



Other healthy activities:

- ★ Biking more, driving less
- ★ Any activity that raises the pulse rate
- ★ Yoga
- ★ Weight Training and lifting
- ★ Balance between work and play
- ★ Service and volunteering to help people and the community
- ★ Doing your own yard work/housework and gardening

OPPORTUNITIES



Communication

- *I think part of it is a communication issue. I don't think there is a **central** way to communicate with all the neighbors. At least half don't have computers. I remember that they used to send out postcards. I think that if they announced a community event, people wouldn't know it was happening. How do you communicate that? You can't have it in the newspaper because a lot of people don't have newspapers.*
- **Reaching out** to the senior community when the buildings are up and there is a viable chunk of seniors.

Developments

- *Next to El Rio across from the Mercado in the Banco building it is now called "Plaza Linda" that's looking like it is going to be Pima County Housing Office. They have financial education programs.*
- *They are looking at **establishing** a senior housing project as part of Rio Nuevo. Part of it is that the community can access arts and crafts on Wednesdays...so anyone who is over 60...can go.*
- *They are **fixing** the park...The City is working with the school to **open** up more fields for soccer. I am not sure how it is going to work, but the Ward One Office said that they were going to do that.*



Recreational facilities at Menlo Park

Goals

- *Making sure that the City **follows through** on projects like the park and the Resource Center.*