

Ellensburg Police Department

2025 Community Survey

Collection Process

Demographics

Crime & Safety

Police-Community
Interaction

Community Interests

Collection Process

SURVEY SOURCE	ETHICAL APPROVAL	COLLECTION PERIOD	FORMAT
<p>Survey: Police & Community-Interaction</p> <p>Author: Rosenbaum, D., University of Illinois, Chicago (Retired)</p> <p>Number of Questions: 92</p> <p>Augmentation: Qualitative questions were added to explore specific community interests.</p>	<p>EPD partnered with CWU, submit application for research through CWU-Institutional Review Board (IRB) under exempt status</p> <p>Approved: November 13, 2024</p> <p>Valid Through: December 31, 2027</p>	<p>Open: January 1, 2025</p> <p>Closed: January 31, 2025</p>	<p>Electronic was available in English and Spanish, accessible through QR Code</p> <p>Paper versions were available in English and Spanish at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library - HopeSource - Cold Weather Shelter

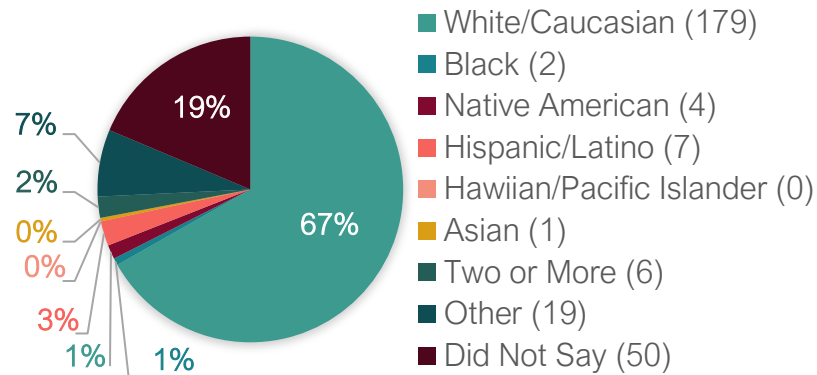
INCOMPLETE RESPONDENTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
<p>0</p> <p><i>* Either did not complete the survey or were not at least 18 years of age</i></p>	<p>268</p>

Demographics

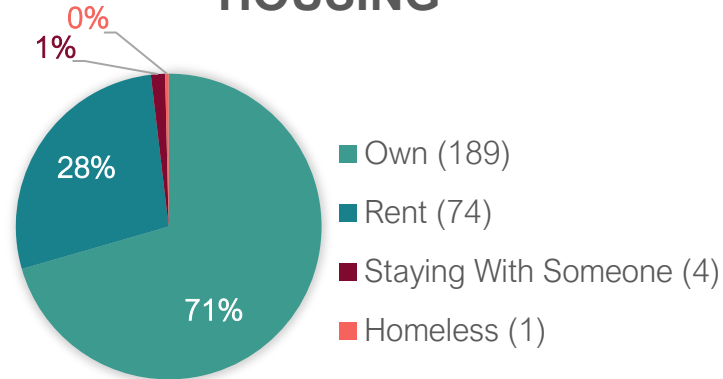
MINORITY
REPRESENTATION

14%

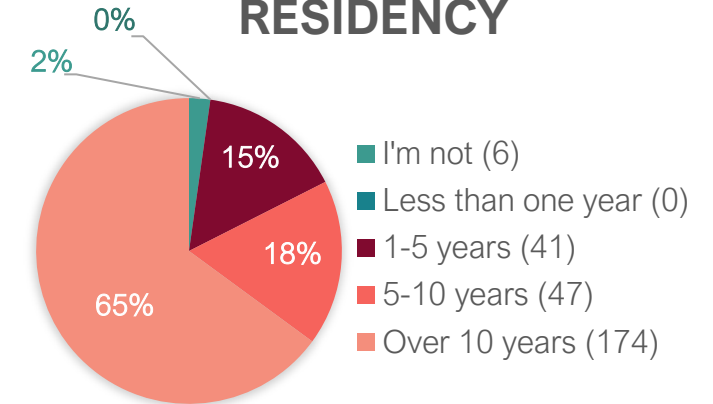
ETHNICITY



HOUSING

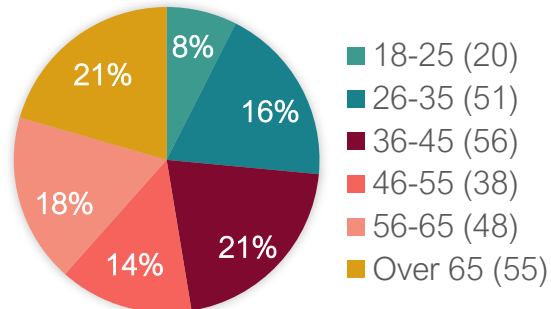


RESIDENCY

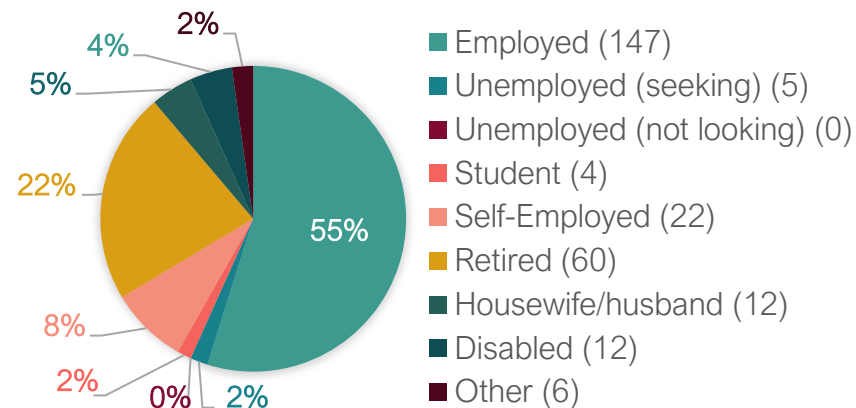


* Matches Ellensburg 2020 Census Data with 96% accuracy

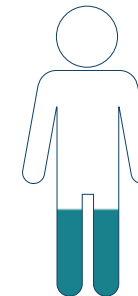
AGE RANGE



EMPLOYMENT



31%



66%



* 3% Chose not to disclose

Crime & Safety

EXPOSURE
TO CRIME

21%

FEELINGS OF SAFETY

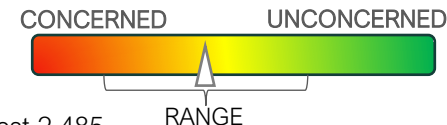
Safety in Ellensburg



Neighborhood Safety



OVERALL CRIME



* RANGE: lowest 1.403 to highest 2.485

** PARAMETERS: 1 (concerned) to 3 (unconcerned)

Top 10 Most Concerning Crimes

Drug Abuse



Domestic Violence



* Significant change from 2024

Driving Under the Influence



Child Abuse



Child Sexual Predators/
Internet Safety



Gang Activity



* Significant change from 2024

School Safety



* Significant change from 2024

Sexual Assault/
Rape



Homeless- or Transient-Related
Problems



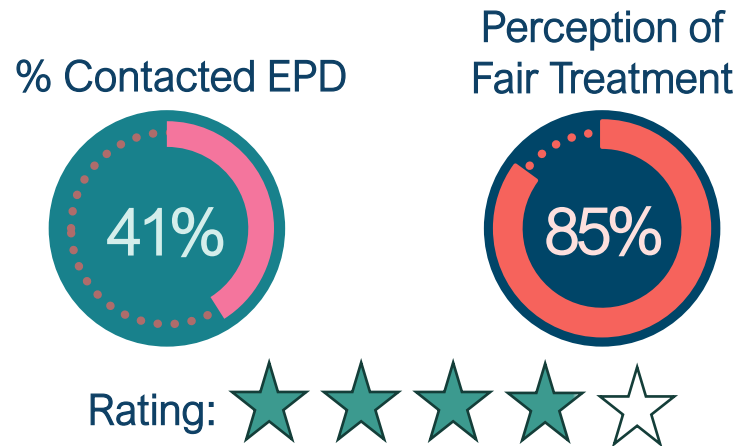
Burglaries/Theft
(Residential)



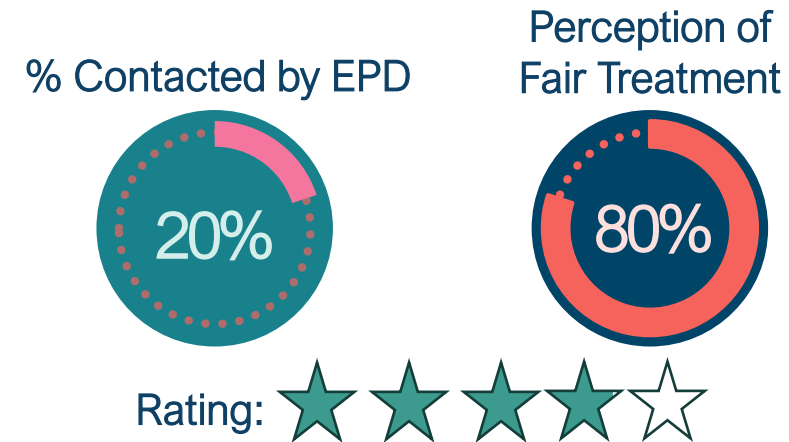
Police-Community Interaction

COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY

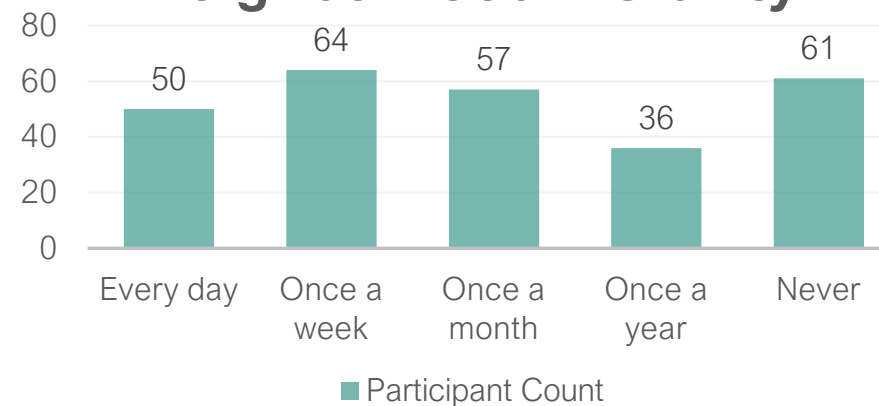
Self-Initiated Contact with EPD



EPD-Initiated Contact



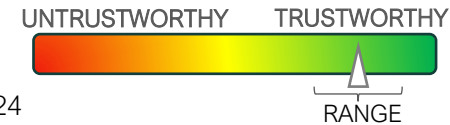
Neighborhood Visibility



Police-Community Interaction

LEGITIMACY & TRUST

Trust Toward EPD



* No significant change from 2024

** RANGE: lowest 1.302 to highest 2.160

*** PARAMETERS: 1 (highly trustworthy) to 5 (highly untrustworthy)

Top 3 Responses

If I saw a crime happening in my neighborhood, I would call the Ellensburg Police to report it.



I would work with the Ellensburg Police to identify a person who committed a crime in my neighborhood.



I think I would be treated fairly by Ellensburg Police.



Bottom 3 Responses

* Although rated lower than others, results show high community trust in the EPD

Ellensburg Police treat people respectfully regardless of their mental health status.



I think my values and the values of Ellensburg Police are very similar.



Ellensburg Police treat people respectfully regardless of their race or ethnicity.



Police-Community Interaction

PERFORMANCE RATING



Fighting crime



Being open and honest
with the public



Working with the community
to solve problems



Listening to community
concerns



Responding to mental health
issues in the community



Being accepting/supporting of
citizens who want to file a
complaint against a police officer



COMMUNITY-RAPPORT



Casual Conversation



Officer Introduction



Policing Explanation



Familiarity



Community Interest

MENTAL HEALTH (MH)

ACKNOWLEDGED
HAVING
MH CONCERNS



MH Responsiveness



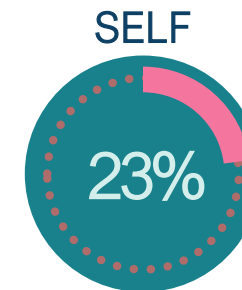
Intervention Support



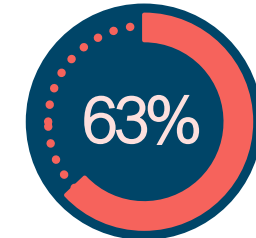
Respect Toward MH



MH Impact on Police Interaction



FAMILY MEMBER



Suggested Action

- Continued awareness training—responsiveness and referral
- Grow collaborative agency support to improve resources

** Refer to comments (q-r) on Community Interest Supporting Comments handout*

Community Interest

INFORMATION SHARING

- **Transparency**
 - Consistency and timing are important for trust
 - Report crime rates/address concerns (i.e., gangs)
- **Community Engagement**
 - Significantly more face-to-face interaction is needed
 - Regularly scheduled events (townhall, coffee, Q&A)
 - Increase availability of community presentations
- **Social Media**
 - Need more platforms to distribute information
 - Be cautious of password restricted mediums
 - Make more engaging, educational content
- **Traditional Media**
 - Alternative methods needed to ensure consistency
 - Inform public on EPD daily media roll-up
 - Post newsletters/bulletins to website
 - Emergency text alert system during major incidents

Notable Comments

“Information needs to be timely and accurate. During the shooting this past year at Jack in the Box, the suspect whereabouts were not immediately provided and citizens did not know where they should shelter...Truth about gangs in Ellensburg and the current state of crime needs to be given to the public on a regular basis.” (P90)

“ I do not have Facebook so updated posts should be on all social media platforms (Instagram, X, Facebook). Facebook requires you to “sign in” which is something I do not want to do. The information provided should be free from requirements to logging in.” (P161)

“To have regular open forum meetings around the city. Perhaps in different neighborhoods or areas around town. Also, the recent social media videos are excellent information so more of those would be great.” (P191)

Community Interest

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- **Awareness Training Topics:**
 - Drug Use & Prevention
 - Gang Violence & Mitigation
 - Human Trafficking
 - Theft & Fraud Prevention
 - Homelessness
 - Partner Conflict Mitigation
- **Youth Focus/School Safety:**
 - Internet Safety
 - Bullying Prevention
 - Self-Advocation Techniques
- **Community Impact Topics:**
 - Mental Health Response
 - Traffic Safety
 - Crime Impact Reporting
 - Police-Community Collaboration Techniques

Notable Comments

“I’d like to have them tackle the bigger issues such as drugs, gangs, and human trafficking (we are tight by i90), but death by power point is not my favorite.” (P43)

“I did not know you offered presentations to the public, I will have to explore what topics you already have available.” (P209)

“How can we support police in Ellensburg?” (P247)

“Teaching children how to report abuse safely, how to stay safe, how to avoid abuse/abduction, assault, etc. Maybe get real about what constitutes these crimes, about statistics, ‘funny uncles’, what ‘lines’ are, what to look out for etc. Actualities instead of protecting them from facts, instead off trying to protect them from fear.” (P252)

Community Interest

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- **Business Associations**
 - Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce
 - Ellensburg Downtown Association
- **City of Ellensburg**
 - Ellensburg School District
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Library
- **Community Interest Organizations**
 - Mental Health Agencies (not just Comprehensive)
 - Substance Abuse Programs (not just Merritt)
 - Healthcare (not just KVH)
 - Homelessness Support
 - Helen House
 - Senior Centers
 - Kittitas County Disability Resources
 - Allied People Offering Year-Round Outreach

Notable Comments

“I feel they need to do better in the schools. The amount of drugs going around is baffling to me! There needs to be more done to keep that stuff out of our schools and away from our children.” (P39)

“More youth programs, junior officer maybe to get younger kids involved and comfortable with police officers, more non-criminal interactions (go shovel snow in your uniform for some old people, or stop at a low income are park and play ball with some kids, invest in the youth with no mentors)” (P43)

“Ask us we see a need. Then address those concerns and follow up. Maybe even once in a while have an article in the paper, on Facebook, or wherever with things you are pursuing or working on for updates to us.” (P163)

“Something that would interest youth. Music and social media. Partner with youth groups.” (P184)

Community Interest

NATIONAL COMPARISON

Comparison Areas	Strength	Growth
Community Centric	✓	
Community Events	✓	
Engagement/Interactions	✓	✓
Inclusiveness		✓
Officer Training/Education	✓	
Open to Change/Future Focused	✓	
Policing Procedures/Policies	✓	
Responsiveness	✓	✓
Support to Schools	✓	
Traffic Safety	✓	✓

Notable Comments

“...One area of deep concern for me is the bullying that occurred in the Ellensburg school district earlier in 2024. I am not sure what role, if any, that the EPD played in the Department of Justice investigation. Recent posts on FB reveal a community in conflict surrounding this topic and I hope the EPD can maintain a safe community for everyone who calls Ellensburg home.” (P71)

“I believe the Ellensburg Police Department has competent leadership and hires quality candidates, considering that our State has taken substantial steps to discourage law enforcement from performing traditional policing and enforcement...” (P99)

“I rate ours as better than what we hear about on the news. I cannot speak for anyone except myself. There may be populations that feel drastically different than I do. Those voices matter.” (P163)

Thank you

Dr. Eliann Carr

carre@ci.ellensburg.wa.us

<https://ci.ellensburg.wa.us/779/Police>