

**Hempfield Township  
Safety Survey**

Submitted to:  
Mr. Rob Ritson

Submitted by:  
**Zogby International**  
John Zogby, President and CEO  
John Bruce, Vice President and Systems Administrator  
Rebecca Wittman, Vice President and Managing Editor

Daniel DeVries, Writer

March 28, 2008

## **Table Of Contents**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page</b>
I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics	2-3
II. Executive Summary	4
III. Narrative Analysis	5-8

<b>Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
Table I. Safety Concerns	5
Table 2. Town Issues	6

## **I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics**

### **Methodology**

This is a telephone survey of Hempfield Township Pennsylvania, commissioned by Hempfield Township PA, and conducted on March 24, 2008.

The target sample is 401 interviews with approximately 30 questions asked. Samples are randomly drawn from telephone CDs of national listed sample. Zogby International surveys employ sampling strategies in which selection probabilities are proportional to population size within area codes and exchanges within those area codes.

Up to six calls are made to reach a sampled phone number. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR's approved methodologies<sup>1</sup> and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies.<sup>2</sup> Weighting by age, gender and education is used to adjust for non-response. The margin of error is +/- 5.0 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

---

<sup>1</sup> See COOP4 (p.38) in *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates of Surveys*. The American Association for Public Opinion Research, (2000).

<sup>2</sup> *Cooperation Tracking Study: April 2003 Update*, Jane M. Sheppard and Shelly Haas. The Council for Marketing & Opinion Research (CMOR). Cincinnati, Ohio (2003).

## Sample Characteristics

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Sample size	401	100
18-29	43	11
30-49	156	40
50-64	102	26
65+	90	23
18-24	34	9
25-34	25	7
35-54	171	44
55-69	95	24
70+	66	17
<i>Did not answer age</i>	10	--
Less than high school	56	14
High school graduate	143	36
Some college	80	20
College graduate+	119	30
<i>Did not answer education</i>	3	--
White	391	98
Other/mixed	8	2
<i>Did not answer race</i>	2	--
Owens home	370	93
Rents	23	6
Other	6	1
<i>Did not answer home</i>	2	--
<10 yrs in Hempfield	42	11
10+ yrs in Hempfield	359	89
Less than \$25,000	70	22
\$25,000-\$34,999	52	16
\$35,000-\$49,999	57	18
\$50,000-\$74,999	60	19
\$75,000-\$100,000	40	13
100,000+	39	12
<i>Did not answer income</i>	83	--
Male	192	48
Female	209	52

\* Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.

## **II. Executive Summary**

When residents of Hempfield Township are asked whether or not their neighborhood is safe, the answer appears simple, as almost everyone says they think they live in a safe area (99%). But when more precise questions about specific crime issues are asked, respondents are more likely to say they have some concerns.

While a majority of everyone polled says they are not afraid of a multitude of scenarios, ranging from walking alone at night to being robbed while shopping, a significant number say they are afraid of having someone break into their home or of being attacked by someone who has a weapon.

A good sign of the overall feeling of safety in Hempfield is the fact respondents focus more on quality of life issues. Speeding and traffic problems trumped a litany of other issues when presented to residents, as 69% said motorist behavior is a problem. A third of all respondents also have concerns about the amount of drinking and drugs in the town and a third also say trash and litter is a problem that needs to be addressed.

People in Hempfield Township also appear to think highly of their neighbors, as worries of “disruptive neighbors” rated as the least of their concerns (87%), along with those who say that gang activity is not a problem (86%). Graffiti, suspicious strangers and vacant houses (83%), along with vandalism (73%) are all considered less of a problem than speeding, litter and drug abuse.

When respondents were asked if they, or someone in their household, were a victim of a crime last year, only 5% said they were, and of those, many reported relatively minor crimes, with several instances of petit larceny and six cases of automotive theft. Only three individuals said they had been victims of a violent crime, and one of those individuals explained that experience as property vandalism.

### III. Narrative Analysis

For questions 1 through 6, please tell us if you are not at all afraid, somewhat unafraid, somewhat afraid, or very much afraid of the following situations in Hempfield Township.

**Table 1. Safety Concerns**

	Afraid			Not Afraid			Not sure
	Somewhat afraid	Very much afraid	Total	Not at all afraid	Somewhat unafraid	Total	
<i>Having someone break into your home...</i>	32	13	<b>45</b>	35	21	<b>56</b>	0
<i>Being attacked by someone who has a weapon...</i>	30	15	<b>45</b>	47	9	<b>56</b>	--
<i>Having items stolen from your property...</i>	29	10	<b>39</b>	38	23	<b>61</b>	1
<i>Being robbed while shopping...</i>	28	9	<b>37</b>	47	16	<b>63</b>	0
<i>Being robbed while on the street...</i>	20	10	<b>30</b>	54	15	<b>69</b>	1
<i>Walking within a mile of your home after dark...</i>	21	8	<b>29</b>	58	12	<b>70</b>	1

A majority of all respondents say they are either not afraid or are somewhat unafraid of each issue presented, with 56% each saying they are not afraid of having someone break into their home, or of being attacked by someone with a weapon. Six in 10 (61%) say they are not afraid of having items stolen from their property, and 63% say they are not afraid of being robbed while shopping.

Overall, 69% say they are not afraid of being robbed while on the street in Hempfield Township, and 70% are not afraid of waking within a mile of their home after dark.

Less than half of all respondents (45%) report being afraid in some form of having someone break into their home, or of being attacked by someone with a weapon.

Overall, 39% report being afraid of having items stolen from their property, and 37% say they have the same concerns about being robbed while shopping. Thirty percent

say they are afraid of being robbed while on the street and 29% report the same about being afraid walking within a mile of their home at night.

*For questions 7-15, please tell us if the following issues in Hempfield Township are not at all a problem, not much of a problem, somewhat a problem, or very much a problem.*

**Table 2. Town Issues**

	<b>A Problem</b>			<b>Not A Problem</b>			<b>Not sure</b>
	<b>Somewhat a problem</b>	<b>Very much a problem</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Not at all a problem</b>	<b>Not much a problem</b>	<b>Total</b>	
<i>Traffic and speeding...</i>	41	28	<b>69</b>	18	13	<b>31</b>	--
<i>Trash and litter...</i>	26	13	<b>39</b>	32	29	<b>61</b>	--
<i>Alcoholism and drug abuse...</i>	29	10	<b>39</b>	39	18	<b>57</b>	4
<i>Vandalism...</i>	22	4	<b>26</b>	52	21	<b>73</b>	1
<i>Graffiti...</i>	15	2	<b>17</b>	65	18	<b>83</b>	0
<i>Suspicious strangers...</i>	14	3	<b>17</b>	58	25	<b>83</b>	0
<i>Vacant houses...</i>	15	1	<b>16</b>	65	18	<b>83</b>	1
<i>Disruptive neighbors...</i>	10	4	<b>14</b>	69	18	<b>87</b>	--
<i>Gangs...</i>	8	2	<b>10</b>	70	16	<b>86</b>	3

A majority of respondents in Hempfield Township say traffic and speeding is a problem (69%), and over a quarter of which (28%) say it is very much a problem. Thirty-nine percent each say they think both trash and litter, and drug and alcohol abuse are problems for Hempfield, while a quarter of respondents (26%) say vandalism is a problem. Fewer respondents say graffiti (17%), suspicious strangers (17%), vacant houses (16%), disruptive neighbors (14%) and gangs (10%) are a problem.

Overall, residents of Hempfield Township are most likely to say disruptive neighbors (87%), and gangs (86%) are not a problem, while 83% say graffiti, suspicious strangers, and vacant houses are not a problem.

16. *In the past year, have you or anyone else in your household been the victim of crime?*

Yes	5%
No	95
Not sure	1

Ninety-five percent of Hempfield Township residents say neither themselves nor anyone else in their household was the victim of a crime in the past year, while 5% report being a victim, or having someone else in their home who was the victim of a crime.

**Questions 17, 18 and 19 were only asked of those who have been victims of a crime.**

17. *Was the crime reported to the police?*

Of the 22 individuals who said they, or a member of their household was a victim of a crime last year, 17 say they reported the incident, or incidents, to the authorities, while 5 said they did not report the crime to the police.

18. *How many crimes were experienced by any and all household members 18 years of age and older?*

Twelve of those who said they, or someone else in their home, were a victim in the past year say it was one incident experienced by someone 18-years-old or older. Six respondents say they, or a household member, were the victims of two crimes and one person said they, or someone in their home was the victim of three crimes.

19. *Please think of the **most serious incident** where you or another household member was a victim. Was the incident a violent crime?*

Of those who said they or a household member was a victim of a crime, two said the incident was a violent crime.

**Question 20 was only asked of those who said they were the victim of a violent crime**

20. *If this was a **violent crime**, `what was it?`*

For the three respondents who said they, or someone else in their home was the victim of a violent crime, one said the incident was a suicide, and the other said it was a case of property vandalism. The third respondent did not detail the nature of the incident.

**Question 21 was only asked of those who said they were a victim of a non-violent crime**

21. *If this was not a violent crime, `what was it?`*

For those who said they, or a household member, were the victim of a non-violent crime, one said it was a larceny theft of less than \$200, and 5 said it was a larceny theft of an item, or items, valued more than \$200. Two respondents said their home was broken into, and six said they were the victims of automotive theft.

Of those who responded “Other” to the question, their write-in responses are as follows: *attacked by a dog; cars were broken into but nothing stolen; destroying of mailboxes; did damage to your house; keying automobiles as well as hitting car and running or not reporting it; Neighborhood teens destroying property and driving on peoples’ land. Spinning doughnuts; vandalism of the lawn.*

22. *Would you say your neighborhood is very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?\**

Very safe	62%	<b>Safe</b>	<b>99%</b>
Somewhat safe	37		
Somewhat unsafe	2	<b>Unsafe</b>	<b>2</b>
Very unsafe	0		

\*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and may not equal 100%

Overall, the people of Hempfield Township have an overwhelmingly positive view of safety in the area, as 99% say they feel safe, with 62% saying that they feel very safe.