



Baltimore In Depth

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A Closer Look at the 2010 Baltimore Citizen Survey Results

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The 2010 Baltimore Citizen Survey asked 1,800 respondents a series of questions to gauge their satisfaction with the services offered by the City of Baltimore and the quality of life in the City. One of the questions asked respondents was **how likely they would be to move out of the City in the next 1 to 3 years**: many respondents said they were likely to leave Baltimore in the near future, especially younger respondents.

Citizen Survey Results

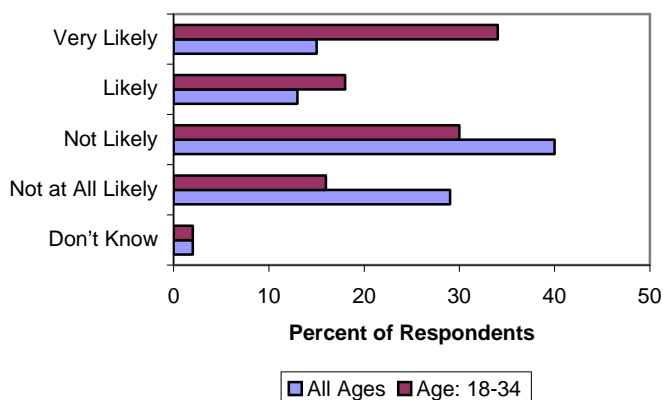
Compared to the 2009 Citizen Survey, fewer respondents said that they were likely to move out of Baltimore, down from 38% to 28%. This decrease could signal a positive shift, or could be a consequence of the housing market preventing house sales.

Younger respondents were much more likely to say they will be moving, with responses of “likely” or “very likely” from:

- 64.28% of 18-24 years olds
- 49.47% of 25-34 year olds
- 37.99% of 35-44 years olds

Respondents who had lived in Baltimore five years or less often responded they were “likely” or “very likely” to leave, indicating so 56.11% of the time. Those in the 25-54 year old age group whose head of household worked outside of Baltimore were more likely to say they are likely to leave Baltimore.

Likelihood of Leaving in the Next 3 Years



In 2009, survey respondents that stated they were likely to leave Baltimore were more likely to be younger, to work outside of Baltimore, and to rent for shelter. Interestingly, there was no difference in likelihood based on children or shorter tenure living in Baltimore.

Further analysis shows that the most common characteristics of a respondent likely to leave Baltimore are between the ages of 18-44, have children, longer tenure in the city, do the majority of shopping outside Baltimore, and rent their home.

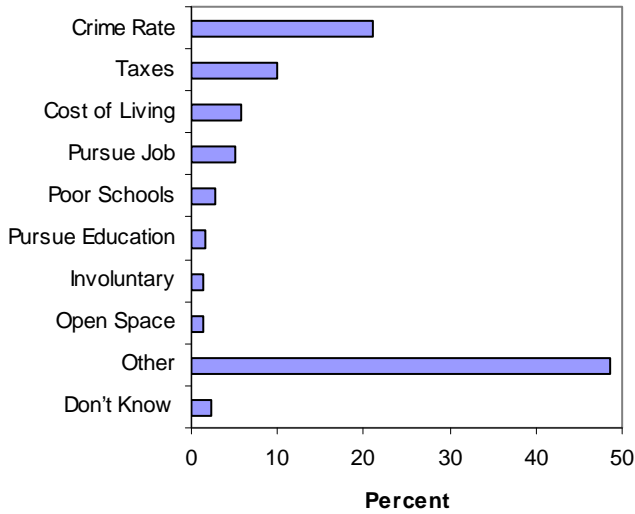
Respondents who said they were likely to leave Baltimore rated City services on average about 0.3 points lower than other respondents; felt less safe at night (34% felt safe downtown compared to 42% for the remaining population and 59% said they felt safe in their neighborhood compared to 71% for the rest of the population); and cited traffic congestion (55%) and property crime (72%) as a more serious problem than the population as a whole (47% and 62% respectively). Those likely to leave also are more likely to have children of elementary school age.

Key Findings

Those more likely to leave Baltimore:

- Have children
- Have lived 5 years or less in Baltimore
- Are 18-44 years old
- Do the majority of their shopping outside Baltimore
- Do not own their home

Why Are You Likely to Leave?



Crime is the most frequently cited reason to leave, and the distribution of responses is similar for all age groups. Homeowners more frequently cite high taxes as their reason for leaving, and high income parents most frequently cite poor public schools as their reason for leaving. The sample sizes for these groups, however, are small and we are reluctant to draw too many conclusions.

A good portion of the “Other” category includes leaving because of a desire for change, moving to be with family, retirement, and a combination reasons from the standard set that was supplied to respondents. More respondents cited the other category than in 2009, suggesting there may be more respondents leaving for a combination of reasons.

18-34 Year Olds

Respondents in the 18-34 year old range were significantly more likely to say they would leave Baltimore than older residents. The 18-24 year old group was too small to examine confidently on its own, so this analysis is confined to the 25-34 year old age group.



This age group is more likely than the population as a whole to be White; to rent their home; over three times more likely to live in Baltimore less than five years; to be better educated; over twice as likely to have children; and is more likely to work in Baltimore. They are also more likely to live in the Central, South, and Southeast districts.

The most common characteristics in 25-34 year olds planning to leave Baltimore seemed to be living in Baltimore less than five years, attaining some level of higher education, and working outside Baltimore. This age group was more likely than any of the others to say they were leaving to pursue other job opportunities (this answer was most likely for graduate students and those who lived in Baltimore for less than five years). This age group was also more likely to say that the availability of cultural opportunities in Baltimore were poor.

In 2009, the characteristics of 25 to 34 year olds likely to leave Baltimore were more similar to the population as a whole, though they were more likely to rent and work outside of Baltimore. Their motivation for leaving remained similar as well (pursuit of a job).

In summary, respondents more likely to leave are younger, and examining the age group of 25-34 year olds shows that these respondents are more likely to leave:

- To pursue a job
- If they live in the city five years or less
- If they work outside of Baltimore
- If they see cultural opportunities as poor
- If they are college graduates, are graduate students, or have some college experience

The Baltimore Citizen Survey is an annual survey, with 1,800 respondents, and a margin of error of ±2.5%. For more information on the survey, and to read full reports, please visit our website at www.baltimorecity.gov/citizensurvey