

# Community Environmental Survey

School of Public and Environmental  
Affairs

Spring 2009

# Purpose

- To develop survey criteria
- To develop a tool to prioritize structural and sanitation conditions
- Use the information to formulate action plans
- Re-survey to measure improvement or lack of improvement

# Survey Criteria

## **Structural-Critical**

1. Foundation
2. Siding
3. Roof
4. Windows
5. Parking Lot-  
Commercial only

## **Structural-Ancillary**

1. Doors
2. Chimneys
3. Gutters/Downspouts
4. Porches
5. Steps
6. Fences
7. Outbuilding

# Sanitation Criteria

## **Garbage/Rubbish**

- Cans, bottles, diapers, food wrappers

## **Large Rubbish**

- Tires, furniture, firewood, lumber

## **High weeds/grass**

- Height is equal or greater than 12 inches

# Criteria Example

## Foundation

- 1 = No defects
- 2= Minor defect-<25% with hairline cracks, missing mortar, or hole <1 foot
- 3=Major defect->25%, uneven settling, hole > 1 foot or diagonal crack wider than 1/4 inch

## Windows

- 1=No defects
- 2=1 or 2 windows broken or boarded, includes sills and frames
- 3=more than 2 windows

# Scoring

0=Not Visible

1= No defects observed

2=Minor defects

3=Major defects

- Each component was evaluated using the criteria and the numeric score.
- Random selection of parcels-350 properties needed to be surveyed for valid sample

N= 277

# Sanitation Criteria

## **Garbage and Rubbish**

1= No defects

2= < 4x4x6 of small rubbish-total could fit into a 30 gallon trash bag

3=total is more than 1 30 gallon trash bag

## **High Weeds/Grass**

1=No defects

2= <25% and taller than 12 inches

3= > 25% and taller than 12 inches

# Results

Structural-Critical

0-4 = Good

5-8 = Fair

9-12= Poor

Average Score=5.38

Structural-Ancillary

0-6 = Good

7-12= Fair

13-18=Poor

Average Score= 5.57

# Sanitation

0-3 = Good

4-6 = Fair

7-9 = Poor

Average Score = 3.81

# Results –Brief Look

18% of structures surveyed were unoccupied

## **No Defects-Critical**

Foundation-76%

Siding-69%

Roof-66%

Windows/Doors-73%

## **Ancillary Structural**

Gutters and Downspouts had the highest major defect at 17%

Overall 68% = No defects

# Results-Brief Look

## **Sanitation-No Defects**

- Garbage/Rubbish-59%
- Large Rubbish-58%
- High Weeds/Grass-50%

56% of total did not have any Sanitation defects

# What did we learn

- Survey is possible
  - Need to work out the bugs of scoring, weighting, and applying survey criteria consistently
- Students really wanted to be engaged in the neighborhoods and learned much
  - We need interested and energetic public health professionals!