

Extended Dance Events (Raves)

Opinion Survey Results

Background

The investigation team administered a simple, multiple-choice and short answer type of questionnaire at nine different locations throughout the city. An on-line version was also promoted, with some questions phrased a little differently. The purpose of the survey was three-fold:

- (1) to understand people's perception about the safety of raves
- (2) to get people's perception about the effectiveness of the Extended Dance Events By-law and
- (3) to understand people's perception about the impact raves have on communities

The locations the questionnaire was administered at were:

- a party (or Rave) on April 27 at the Max Bell arena
- Calgary Achievement Centre for Youth
- North of McKnight Youth Council
- Marlborough Teen Centre
- Bridgeland CNS area office
- Fort Calgary
- Lake Bonavista Community Centre
- Village Square Leisure Centre and
- Triwood Community Centre

Who are the respondents?

A total of 386 individuals responded to this questionnaire. The respondents bring a pro-rave perspective to the issue analysis of raves, with 297 self-identified party goes (or ravers). In addition, 27 concerned citizen and 28 who fall under the 'other' category responded to the questionnaire. The 'other' category includes primarily DJs, but also facility employees, health care workers, first aid volunteers and city employees.

In terms of age and gender composition, out of the 342 respondents who chose to identify their gender, 54% were male and 46% were female. And out of the 327 respondents who revealed their age, 91% were under 29 years of age (46% were 19 years and younger; 45% were between 20 and 29). Only 9% of our respondents fell in the 30-44 age group and none were older than 44 years.

Perception about raves

Respondents were asked seven questions related to their perception of safety and well being at raves. The following table identifies some key dimensions of safety and wellbeing and the percentage of respondents who selected one of the four multiple-choice answers provided. It is important to note that the majority of the respondents answered favorably to questions 1., 4., 5. and 6. They seem to be less satisfied with the availability of water and washroom facilities (questions 2 and 3) and there seem to be some drug-related activities worth noting.

	Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Never	Total
1. Do you feel safe at raves?	69%	21%	8%	2%	100% (n=355)
2. Was there enough free water on site for your needs?	38%	31%	18%	13%	100% (n=349)
3. Were there enough washroom facilities at the rave?	47%	31%	19%	3%	100% (n=342)
4. Was the building a safe place to hold a rave?	68%	23%	8%	1%	100% (n=334)
Were there enough security personnel at the rave to make you feel safe?	75%	16%	7%	2%	100% (n=344)
5. Were emergency medical services easily available to you at the rave?	63%	21%	13%	3%	100% (n=346)
6. Were there any drug-related activities at the raves you attended?	33%	18%	37%	12%	100% (n=334)

Respondents were also asked to identify three things they liked most, and least, about raves. There was some degree of consistency in the responses received, and the most common reasons respondents gave for attending raves were (1) the sense of community they get at these events (2) the specific genre of music and (3) the opportunity to dance all night.

The three things people liked the least about raves are (1) the tight security, including the pat-downs, (2) the drug and alcohol and (3) the bad reputation associated with these events.

Administration of raves

Respondents had to answer two questions regarding the impact the Extended Dance Event Bylaw had in ensuring the safety of the events and in minimizing undue stress on the communities. The responses gathered are presented in the following table.

	Very good	Good	Neither good nor bad/don't know	Poor	Very Poor	Total
How well do you think the City and rave operators are doing of making raves safe and secure for the participants?	32%	33%	22%	7%	6%	100% (n=335)
How well do you think the City and the rave operators are doing in minimizing undue stress on the communities affected?	29%	38%	23%	5%	5%	100% (n=341)

The majority of the respondents believe that both the City and the rave operators are doing a good/very good job at meeting the main objectives of the Extended Dance Event Bylaw. It is important to note that these two questions are based on the assumption that the City and the rave operators are working collaboratively in meeting the goals of the Extended Dance Event Bylaw. The validity of this assumption is yet to be determined.

Impact of raves on communities

Respondents were asked whether they lived close to a facility where raves are held and if so, if they had concerns with noise, vandalism, traffic and/or litter. Only 24% of the respondents said they lived close to a rave facility; their concerns are summarized in the following table.

Are you concerned with the following as they result from the nearby raves?	Yes	No	Total
Noise	11%	89%	100% (n=91)
Vandalism	22%	78%	100% (n=80)
Traffic	12%	88%	100% (n=91)
Litter	28%	72%	100% (n=86)

The majority of the respondents said they didn't have concerns with the four areas mentioned above. However, it is important to put these responses in the context of the age bracket the respondents fall in, and the pro-rave perspective they bring to this survey.