



Goal 2: Public Safety

Desired Community Condition: Residents, including youth, and public safety agencies work together to prevent crime and respond to life safety issues in order to create a safe community.



Indicator: **Number of Neighborhood Watches Organized**

Progress Rating: Local Trend: NEGATIVE National Comparison: NOT KNOWN

Indicator Description

This indicator measures the number of neighborhood watches organized. A neighborhood watch is an organized group of residents on a block or in a neighborhood that provides extra sets of ears and eyes to the Police Department. Activity levels vary from being aware of who is driving through the area, watching a neighbor's property, to foot patrols in the area. The neighborhood watches are organized and trained by the Crime Prevention Unit of the Albuquerque Police Department. Neighborhood watches should not be confused with neighborhood organizations. A neighborhood watch may be part of a neighborhood association or may be independent of a neighborhood association. Also, neighborhood associations do not necessarily have a neighborhood watch. Neighborhood watches focus on crime prevention, where a neighborhood association may be concerned with numerous issues, such as zoning, noise, or infrastructure improvements. Neighborhood watches have existed in Albuquerque since 1982; however, data integrity increased dramatically at the end of 1999. Therefore, the number of watches organized per year, will only be presented from 2000. There are approximately 1000 active neighborhood watches in Albuquerque.

Why is this indicator important?

Neighborhood watches work together with the Albuquerque Police Department to help prevent crime. This helps create a safe community. An alert citizenry prevents crime, enhances the response to crime when it occurs, and provides extra sets of ears and eyes to the Albuquerque Police Department. Also, by being organized, watches give the neighborhoods a louder voice when discussing crime issues with the Albuquerque Police Department or the City. The neighborhood watches also attempt to hold the Albuquerque Police Department accountable for preventing crime in their neighborhood.

Data Sources

Albuquerque Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit

What can we tell from the data?

- There were almost twice as many neighborhood watches organized in 2000 and 2001 than there were in 2002 and 2003.
- The Mid Heights Community Planning Area has the greatest density of Neighborhood Watches.

- The low number of neighborhood watches in the South valley Community Planning Area (CPA) is due to most of the CPA being outside the city limits.

Density Map of Neighborhood Watches in Albuquerque



Number of New Neighborhood Watches Organized per Year

Year	Number of Watches Organized
2000	48
2001	49
2002	28
2003	28
Total	153

Total Number of Neighborhood Watches by Community Planning Area 2003

Central ABQ	East Gateway	Foothills	Mid-Heights	Near Heights	North ABQ	North Valley	South Valley	Southwest Mesa	Westside
47	142	165	364	142	111	141	4	90	164