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FINAL REPORT

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MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
1050 Fourth Avenue
Huntington, WV 25755-8100
Office of Research & Economic Development
West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center
(WVSAC)

**A Study of Knowledge and Attitudes of
Public Housing Residents Toward Community Policing
in the City of Charleston**

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*Marshall University Research Center
Community Policing in Charleston, West Virginia*



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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Dear Friends:

Marshall University's mission has four cornerstones and this publication strongly reflects two of them -- research and community service. At the same time, it contains elements of the university's other objectives -- quality teaching, of course, and the stimulation of economic development for our state and region.

Further, the study is an example of the type of partnerships we at Marshall are eager to develop with governmental agencies and private businesses to help our communities realize their ambitions in terms of education, culture and economic growth.

Dr. Girmay Berhie and his associate, Dr. Alem Hailu, working under the auspices of Marshall's Office of Research and Economic Development in cooperation with the Charleston community, have generated a study which will be of great value, not only to Charleston but to other cities and towns considering the adoption of the community policing approach.

I salute Dr. Berhie, Dr. Hailu and all those who worked with them to make this project successful.

Sincerely,

Dan Angel, President
Marshall University

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Dear readers

As we enter into the 21st century, a growing number of communities including Charleston, West Virginia are now reporting significant declines in crimes. The updated UCR data for Charleston City from 1989 to 1999 has been included in the appendix 1, which is consistent with the national trend. As a whole, Charleston residents, public housing residents, police officers and business owners have expressed their knowledge and attitude about Charleston community policing. It is through this kind of efforts that we can create a constructive dialog to inform the public about how best to invest scarce resources for community policing in order to obtain the most positive impact. In large part, such success in Charleston should be attributed to the hard work that community policing has done so far.

Some of the outcomes of this locally initiative research partnership between academic trained researchers, Charleston community policing, neighborhood organizations, businesses besides these four separate study were a study of youth curfew, false security alarm, officers survey for community policing, follow up study of drug elimination program in public housing, and statewide domestic violence study.

This study is organized into:

1. Abstract/Executive Summary: Policy makers and practitioners will find these concise descriptions an ideal introduction to the four separate study.
2. Charleston Residents Study.
3. Charleston Public Housing Study.
4. Charleston Business Owners Study.
5. Charleston Public Officers Study.

Each study presents in-depth research findings, discussion, and recommendations aimed at enhancing the partnership. The results need to be conveyed to legislators, policy makers, practitioners, and general public.

The challenge for the partnership to continue beyond the life of this research will be plentiful, but the rewards will be fulfilling.

Sincerely,


Ginny Berhie, Ph.D.
Professor/Principal Investigator

About the Authors

Girmay Berhie, Ph. D., is a professor of Social Work at Marshall University and the Director of the West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center (WVSAC) since 1991. Currently, he is the Vice-President and Consultant of Research Policy Analysis and Evaluation for the Sheba International Inc. His professional experience encompasses from the field of Research Methodology, Social Work, Health Care Administration, Criminal Justice, and Public Health to being a consultant at various agencies. He is the author of numerous articles and reports on issues such as Public Health, Community Policing, Criminal Justice, and Domestic Violence among others, which have been released in various scholarly publications. He has also been instrumental in securing federal, state and fund grants for the West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center on Domestic Violence, Diabetes, Title IVE, Community Policing, etc. He has presented papers at national and international conferences. Currently, he is working on research projects such as “The Impact of West Virginia Welfare Reform on Families, Business and Employees” and “The Role of Research and Evaluation in an interactive University at the Dawn of the 21st Century”.

Alem Hailu, Ph. D., is a visiting scholar and Project Director at the Marshall University Research Center and Multi-Cultural and international program. His background ranges from being a Consultant to a Researcher at various prestigious institutions. His research work has been published in several journals and periodicals such as The Journal of Northeast African Studies. He has been awarded the Shell Research Fellow in 1985, and the Research Fellow at the University of Sussex, England in 1984. He has presented papers on different issues like Contradictory Dynamics of Globalization, Post Cold-War Realities, etc. Apart from presenting papers he has also been invited as a Guest Speaker at various conferences and seminars like the International Symposium, Global Issues Forum, Third World Political Association and several others.

Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed towards the completion of this manuscript. Numerous graduate students and work study students were part of the study. However we would like to give special thanks to Chief Frederick L. Marshall who passed away on August 12, 1998, after succumbing to a battle with cancer. Chief Marshall was only 46 years old and had been valiantly working despite the toll the illness took on him. He was known to be a capable, fair, consistent, and open leader who accomplished much, and showed a great love for his family. Chief Marshall was praised in the media as a “dignified and honest” man who was respected by police and the public. His career was an example of hard work and genuine concern. Chief Marshall is credited for many actions and polices which include Domestic Violence Tracking and Civilian Domestic Violence Coordinator, Conflict Resolution and G.R.E.A.T. programs in schools, Cultural Diversity Training, initiated Citizen Police Academic, and added funding through grants for training and equipment of many types. These are just a few of the significant accomplishments he had as chief. Citizens and co-workers alike, mourn the loss of a dedicated leader. Besides, we would like to thank the Mayor of Charleston, Mr. Jay Goldman and Chief Jerry Riffe for their strong support and contributions to make this study a reality.

In addition, we would like to thank the following people Lt. Richard McGinnis, Lt. Roger D. Robinson and Lt. T.D. Mullins Commander of Community Services, Captain Roberta Thompson and Lynn Hartsog Grant Administrators, and Corporal Gary Smith for their support. We would like to thank Dr. Wade Gilley-former President of Marshall University- for his visionary leadership and his drive for this university to be interactive and ready for the challenges of the 21st Century and Dr. Dan Angel, current Marshall President for continuing such partnership vision. A special thank to Dr. Don Williams-former vice-president of Marshall University Research and Economic Development Center-for the trust and vision he had for the center, and Dr. Betty Cleckley- vice-president for Multicultural Affairs and International Program-for her unwavering support. Finally, We want to say thank you to Dean Dr. Lynne B. Welch and Associated Dean Dr. Linda M. Scott for their advice.

If the material in this manuscript helps the reader understand this issue better and provides insight which we had hoped for, the effort and resources put in by all of us would be fruitful. If it encourages people to further study this cause and appreciate the hard work put in by many others besides us, this task would then be regarded as rewarding.

Dedication

We hope that in some small way the data and analyses presented in this manuscript will contribute to further advance studies on these issues which is threatening the family lives of average citizens. In this spirit, I dedicate this manuscript to my children: Princess Saba Hargue Berhie, Princess Sara Girmay Berhie and Princess Sophia Azed Berhie.

I. Introduction

Charleston, West Virginia, the capital city of one of the poorest states in the nation, is located in Kanawha County, Charleston which leads the state in every area of crime. While overall crime actually fell and the clearance rate improved from 13% to 15% from 1992 to 1993, the nature of crime in Charleston changed. Decreases in felonious assault, breaking and entering, larceny, theft, and motor vehicle theft rates brought the overall crime rate down, but murder, rape, and robbery rates increased dramatically. [The number of murders increased from 6 to 16 (166%), rapes increased from 39 to 51 (30.8%) and robberies increased from 251 to 290 (15.5%)]. In February 1991, the Charleston Police Department (CPD) began to explore the philosophy--it was easier to implement new programs than to evaluate them. Evaluation is a component of the programs that action-oriented officers were slow to appreciate. Administrators were forced to rely on anecdotal evidence to judge whether office-hours expended in various programs were cost-effective. Without the internal capacity to evaluate programs objectively, CPD turned to the West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center (WVSAC) for help.

The Charleston Police Department's request for advice and assistance in dealing with their need for analysis led the West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center to develop this request for funding. WVSAC and CPD proposed a plan of action to begin using sound research practices to reinforce police programs in a variety of ways.

A. Background

West Virginia is the only state that lies entirely in Appalachia. The entire state is considered rural; Charleston, the largest metropolitan area, has only 57,000 residents. The rough terrain has protected a distinct Appalachian culture that is widely recognized in research as having tenacious characteristics. One of these characteristics is a strong sense of independence, even among those who live in the city. The native of Appalachia also tends to be fatalistic, suspicious of outsiders, have an adversarial attitude toward authority, be intolerant and ignorant about other races and cultures, and to tolerate domestic violence. At the same time, the Appalachian native is helpful, generous even in poverty, and resourceful (Weller, 1966).

The poverty and unemployment that grips not only the city of Charleston, but also the entire state exacerbate this cultural environment. Loss of jobs due to technological advances in formerly labor-intensive industries such as coal and steel have additional impact because it prevents the low education level of the previous breadwinners from finding their work. The concepts of the Community-Oriented Policing initiative seek to ameliorate many of the problems associated with these characteristics of Appalachian culture.

B. Statement of the Problem

The Charleston Police Department and West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center proposed to study the impact of community policing programs on business, city residents, residents of low-income housing, and police personnel in Charleston, West Virginia. The population within the Charleston city limits in 1992 was 57,000. Of those, 3,778 were

residents of low-income housing. There are 2,500 businesses and 174 sworn police officers and 57 individuals that have completed NAO training and received certification in the program. Specifically, this project will:

1. Assess the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of the general public in Charleston concerning the CPD's Community Policing program,
2. Assess the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of the area businesses in Charleston concerning the CPD's Community Policing program,
3. Assess the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of the community housing residents in Charleston concerning the CPD's Community Policing program,
4. Assess the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of the Charleston Police Department concerning the Community Policing program.

However in this paper we will only report the results of the general public of Charleston's knowledge, attitude and perception. The other three studies will be reported in separate papers.

C. Significance of the Study

The very significance of community policing can be illustrated by the problems posed in the high volume of crime in many areas around the nation. According to the Justice department report, the nation's prison population grew to 1.2 million in 1997, making the U.S. trail only Russia in the proportion of citizens behind bars. While showing a slight decrease from the average rate of growth of 7% to 5% in the 1990s, it is a net gain of 63,900 since 1990 and still indicates a persistence of the problem. Unless

the growth is drastically curtailed the combined prison and jail population is projected to top 2 million by the year 2000.

The issues and challenges to community policing are therefore apparent. Not only the vast number of problems posed by the incarceration of large population groups but the related challenges of addressing the social concerns of stability, fear of crimes and the costs involved in maintaining order strengthen the case for community policing as a great instrument for reducing and preventing crimes.

II. Review of the Literature

A. Introduction

Over the past decade or so, it has become increasingly clear that police and communities can and will work together to reduce crime and improve neighborhood safety. From New York to San Diego, community-policing strategies have gone a long way towards this goal, with hundreds of police departments having formally adopted this philosophy. It was previously observed that the emerging philosophy of law enforcement is community-based. A significantly different perspective of police work, it is an effort to embody new responsibilities and stabilize them in an environment of change. Community Policing is also known by a wide range of labels, such as Problem Oriented Policing (POP), Neighborhood Oriented Policing (NOP), Target Oriented Policing (TOP), Police Area Representatives (PAR), Citizen Oriented Police Enforcement (COPE), Experimental Policing Disaster (EPD) and others.

Community policing is based on recognition of the need to involve the community in the policing process. It is also based on the conclusion over the years that:

1. Recognition of the fact that traditional police approaches have not succeeded,
2. Attitude about the police function among the administrators, line personnel, and citizens must change,
3. Community assessments must be performed to identify new police responsibilities,
4. New organizational and operational approaches must be conceived to meet the newly defined police responsibilities,
5. The community must be enlisted to work cooperatively with the police to achieve the desired results,
6. There must be a commitment both by law enforcement and the community to continue the program growth.

Within this framework, community policing evolved and grew over the years in a successful manner. Its success is not restricted to the U.S. alone, it has emerged as an effective tool in other countries, too, and who adopted it in accordance with their unique social, cultural, legal and economic environment.

B. What is Community Policing?

1. Partnership

Effective community policing has a positive impact on the reduction of acts of violence, especially in areas of neighborhood crime. It also brings an atmosphere of less

fear of crime, resulting in a peaceful and more harmonious environment (“About Community Policing,” 1999).

2. An Idea for Today’s World

Community policing provides an area of collaboration between the society and the police authorities. The identification of problems is a two-way process and a joint effort, which leads to a greater sense of responsibility among the community. It helps foster a better relationship between the two, which is crucial for the well being of the society (“About Community Policing,” 1999).

3. A Practical Approach to Problems

Community policing seeks the input and talents of various members of the society in the mission to protect the neighborhoods. It recognizes the importance of the community in problem solving, as they are a part of the solution. Any solution that does not address the community’s concern will not be workable and definitely unsuccessful (“About Community Policing,” 1999).

4. Emphasis on Crime Prevention

More than the objective of catching the criminals, the main aim of community policing is the reduction in criminal activities in the neighborhood. It is an innovative way in crime prevention and community leaders are increasingly accepting their role and responsibility on this front (“About Community Policing,” 1999).

5. An Approach which Promotes Greater Police – Community Involvement

The police authorities have realized the need for cooperation between the two entities and its importance in crime prevention. Lately the police, under this policy, have

been more interactive with the community, and speaking to its leaders in various neighborhoods. Participating in community – police meetings, civic events, and social service organizations. These forum are a great way to enhance the ties between the two and leads to a better understanding which is crucial not only to development of their relationship but also imperative in crime reduction (“About Community Policing,” 1999).

The above explanation enables us to erase the perception that Community Policing is a new method, which is a replacement for the traditional policing. It is simply a more effective way in making the foundations of policing more strong and meaningful. However, given the changing social environment policing strategies need to undergo an attitude change in their approach to dealing with crime.

C. Understanding Community Policing

Understanding of Community Policing also offers us the rationale as to why this approach has been adopted. First, the very level and nature of crime in society has changed and one of the primary reasons is the socioeconomic transformation of our society. The demographics of the U.S. society are changing. The social fabric is no longer stable, and crime and disorder are increasing. New challenges in the problem of drugs and drug trafficking are developing, and an increasing acts of gang violence, rape, etc. has only made the scenario more complex. Added to this is the resource constraints faced by the police authorities and the need to improve productivity and efficiency (“About Community Policing,” 1999).

Another area that is rapidly gaining the police attention is a growth rate of youth crime. This is a problem that arises out of social causes the involvement of the

community is vital to the success of any program, to be successful in combating it. Domestic violence and growing cases of racial intolerance in today's multicultural U.S. only add to the growing unhealthy environment. By accepting the social nature of these crimes and the possibility of not only controlling but also reducing it with the help and involvement of the community makes the approach even more lucrative ("About Community Policing," 1999).

Community policing is thus not seen as an attempt to reduce or curtail the powers of the police force but as a tool for reduction and prevention of criminal activities and a new method of coping with the challenges of today's environment.

The above analysis of community policing enables us to get a clear understanding of the term and what it stands for and at the same time removes the doubts and suspicions associated with it.

Practitioners generally refer to community policing's four key elements as follows:

1. Increased police presence – especially visible presence at the neighborhood level.
2. Increased problem solving – actually solving crimes and reducing chronic crime conditions rather than focusing on making arrests.
3. Increased partnership between the police and communities, especially those directly affected by serious crime conditions.
4. Emphasizing crime prevention rather than only addressing crimes after they occur ("About Community Policing," 1999).

D. Community Policing in Practice

1. EPD (Madison)

Madison, Wisconsin adopted a Community Policing program called "Experimental Police District" (EPD). The objectives of this program were as follows:

1. Document the process of developing the EPD.
2. Measure the Internal effects of the change.
3. Measure the effects of change on the community (Santoro & Miglia, 1997).

In July 1986, the EPD was set up. The district they chose consisted of one-sixth of the city with a population of 29,000 residents or 12,775 households. It had 11 neighborhoods and a diverse racial mix, which included Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Asians and Native-Americans (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

The EPD constituted nearly 20% of the city's crime. These crimes included personal crimes, general disturbances and property crimes. The report also indicated that this area provided 15,761 calls amounting to 40% of the districts total calls (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

The project team members identified organizational problems that needed to be corrected. Team members would meet in small groups to discuss the problems and would get feedback from the department as well (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

Some of the important findings of the EPD in Madison are:

POLICE

1. Research indicated that EPD officers were significantly more likely to believe that participatory management had been achieved more than the non-EPD officers.

2. EPD officers became significantly more likely to feel they received feedback from other officers.
3. EPD officers became significantly more likely to believe that they work in close cooperation with others, compared to the non-EPD officers.
4. EPD officers felt more successful at problem solving compared to non-EPD officers.
5. EPD officers were able to take out more time for training their officers compared to the non-EPD officers.
6. EPD officers reported a greater degree of satisfaction with physical working conditions and directions over the non-EPD officers.
7. EPD officers were significantly more satisfied with their kind of work than non-EPD officers.
8. EPD officers did suggest a greater commitment to the department as they indicated a reduction in their use of sick time.
9. EPD officers registered a greater feeling of psychological relationship with their work and felt a sense of doing a "whole" job.
10. The police perception of relationship with community was more positive in the case of the EPD officers.
11. EPD officers felt a more positive effect of change over a period of time compared to the non-EPD officers, whereas EPD officers had also become more supportive of decentralization (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

LOW INCOME

1. The residents in the EPD districts felt an increased police presence and were more likely to report knowing about community meetings and also have attended a meeting at which an officer was present.
2. A greater percentage of residents in the non-EPD district stated that lack of police contact was somewhat a "big" problem.
3. More residents in the EPD area believed that the police were working with the citizens to solve the neighborhood crimes.
4. Residents in the EPD district also felt that police were spending adequate time on common problems in their areas (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).
5. There was a significant decrease in EPD areas with regards to crimes such as robbery and burglary and at the same time the residents also voiced concern that drugs has become a bigger problem.

Moreover residents in EPD district felt much safer and thought that crime was less of a problem compared to non-EPD residents (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

CONCLUSION

From the above findings the practice of community policing in Madison revealed that the EPD was a successful experiment and a long-term exercise rather than a short-term tactic. Overall both the residents living in low-income areas and the police benefited from this strategy. There was a greater sense of cooperation and involvement, and the result was a friendlier face of the police. The other notable achievement of EPD was that the residents in the EPD district found the area to be a safer place and felt that the crime rate had decreased (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

2. Community Control Program (Florida)

Florida Community Control Program (FCCP) is an intensive-supervision house arrest program implemented by the Florida Department of Corrections in late 1983 (Wagner & Baird, 1993). The main objective of this program was the reduction in prisoners being sent to jail and at the same time maintaining low levels of crime. In the year 1990-91 nearly 45,000 people were put behind bars and it was estimated that in the next couple of years the number could increase by a minimum of 10,000. This would have resulted in Florida having the nation's most crowded prisons (Sparrow, 1993).

Under this program offenders are often placed under house arrest and the degree of control is relatively high. There are maximums of 28 supervisory contacts in a month and the officers in charge of supervising have a maximum of 20-25 cases. Supervisory officers perform drug and alcohol checks and pressure offenders to perform community service work, make restitution and pay supervision fees. Since 1983 over 40,000 offenders have been placed under this program (Wagner & Baird, 1993).

POLICE

1. FCCP diverted a substantial number of offenders from prison thereby making it less crowded for the police. In 1987, the sentencing guidelines suggest that approximately 54 percent of the offenders sentenced to FCCP would have been sent to prison if the FCCP option was not available.
2. The offenders arrested under FCCP had a lower rate of conviction for newer offences when compared to similar offenders who spent an average of nearly 9 months in prison.

3. It promoted a less hostile environment between the police and the offenders.
4. FCCP was more cost effective in comparison to prison. The costs per day provided by Florida Department of Correction for the various alternatives were as follows: FCCP, \$6.49; regular probation, \$2.19; jail, \$19.52 and prison, \$39.05 (Wagner & Baird, 1993).

CONCLUSION

From the above data it is evident that FCCP has not only solved the prison over crowding problem of Florida, but also helped in reducing the rate of repeat crimes by offenders. Additionally, it has also facilitated better prospects of reduction in crime through supervision and fostered better relations between offenders and the police. Most importantly FCCP has been a cost-effective tool thereby indicating the success of community policing from a different angle (Sparrow, 1993).

3. CAST (Sioux)

Sioux City is located in Iowa and has a population of nearly 85,000 residents. Changes in demographics and rapid urbanization had a drastic effect on this area. There was an increase in fear of crime. This feeling persisted not only in the neighborhoods but the business community as well. Sioux City Police Department decided to adopt community- policing strategy to meet the challenge of crime and fear. A program called CAST (Community Action Support Team) was set up to deal with neighborhood crimes and more specifically nine neighborhoods (Maas, 1996).

CAST officers were selected and assigned to a neighborhood and each area would be approximately 24-36 blocks in size. These areas were composed of residents and a few small businesses. The officers had flexible schedules and as a part of their initial task had to hold surveys of residents and businesses in their respective areas. This provided them with basic first-hand information about their allocated neighborhood and its residents. Moreover, this provided the officers with an excellent opportunity to interact personally with the neighborhood population. This also gave the officers an idea about the residents' perception of fear and crime. This survey was to act as a measure as it would be administered several times (Maas, 1996).

The officers were expected to consult with other CAST officers regarding calls by residents and businesses. A two-step process was initiated wherein the calls would be examined as per the laid-out policy and then attended. This helped in eliminating the burden on the officers. At the same time some potential responses did run up against budgetary constraints (Maas, 1996).

POLICE

1. The calls for service in the CAST neighborhoods were 16 percent less compared to the previous summer in 1995.
2. CAST areas had the highest rate of calls and reduction in CAST areas meant reduction in Sioux City's total calls for service.
3. Decrease in calls resulted in reduction of work pressure for the officers.
4. CAST officers also developed good relations with both the residents and businesses in their areas compared to earlier times (Maas, 1996)

LOW-INCOME

1. There was a reduction in the number of calls for service. This can also be interpreted as reduction in fear of crime.
2. Greater understanding between CAST officers and the community fostered better relations and led to programs such as neighborhood clean-ups and social gatherings.
3. CAST has helped to break down fear, stereotypes, and misunderstandings; not only between police and the residents, but also between the residents and the business and among the residents themselves (Maas, 1996).

BUSINESS

1. There was a more secure feeling in the business community as a reduction in calls for service indicated a decreased sense of fear.
2. The relationship between the CAST officers and the business community also improved and so did the relationship between the business and residents (Maas, 1996).

CONCLUSION

The CAST program has won tremendous public-support and had a positive impact on all the three main segments, namely the police, business and the low-income residents. CAST has helped reduce the fear of crime and thereby instill a sense of security and at the same time fostered better relations between all the three segments. The perception and attitudes of policing have changed in this small town and community policing is not seen as a “quick-fix” but a long term strategy wherein the community and

business feel involved and the police get a greater sense of public cooperation (Sparrow, 1993).

4. ALERT (North DeKalb County, Atlanta)

North DeKalb county is located in metropolitan Atlanta. The Perimeter Center is a one and half-square mile section of this county and is a business area. It has nearly 20 million square feet of office space. In 1991, the Perimeter Center business community formed the North Central Security Association with eight members and by 1996 it had forty members (Swann, 1996). NCSA members exchange crime trends and other such activities in their respective localities (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

NCSA and DeKalb Police Department joined hands to form the "ALERT" system. It is a network of fax machines used to provide information on criminal activities. Under this system, each NCSA member would be assigned to an ALERT team. Each team would receive information from the police departments via the ALERT and forward the same information to their respective team members and this would allow a speedy flow of information on crime related activities (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

The modern day technology has created crimes of a different nature and criminals who are more accustomed to hi-tech equipment. Criminals were targeting the business community, not with the common form of theft, but through laptop, credit cards, and checkbooks. The ALERT system enabled a swift flow of information between various teams and their efforts led to a prompt identification and arrest of a five-person theft ring. This was just one of the many successes of the ALERT system (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

BUSINESS

1. There was a decrease in the acts of crime and swift arrests of criminals.
2. There was a greater sense of cooperation between the police and the business community.
3. There was a greater feeling of participation on both ends (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

POLICE

1. The reduction in crime and free flow of information on crime related activities through the ALERT system helped faster detection of criminals.
2. Cooperation and support from the business community enabled a faster investigation process and helped check crime (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

CONCLUSION

This unique form of community policing augurs well for the future and lends community policing a different and modern perspective. The crimes in the twenty-first century are likely to be of a different nature and there will be a heavier reliance on technology both to carry out the crime and solve them. This new style of community policing has been quite successful and helped reduce and solve the problem of crime and at the same time facilitated a greater interaction between the police and the business community (Skogan & Wycoff, 1993).

5. Sagamore Hills, Ohio

Sagamore Hills is located in Ohio and has a population of approximately 10,000 people. It's police department is quite small with just eight full-time and eleven part-time

officers. This small department was to cover an area of nearly 16 square miles, and a small police force like Sagamore Hills would need some innovative means to meet the town's demand, especially as this was a rural area. The Sagamore Police Department thought of using community policing as a strategy to deal with the situation (Krettler, 1997).

Implementing community policing in a small and rural town was not going to be an easy task, yet in 1995 the Sagamore Police Department went ahead with its plan. In the initial phase a survey was administered to gauge the community's perception of police, crime, and neighborhood and most importantly their fear levels. This survey was supposed to be a long-term strategy and would be conducted annually for the next three years and would help in evaluating the changes in public perception.

Several community-policing tools, such as Patrol Activity Cards and Patrol by Sectors, were used. Under the Patrol Activity Cards officers working in night shifts would leave business cards in resident's newspaper boxes. These cards would inform the residents of the date and time of patrol. This brought about a feeling of safety in the minds of the residents and also made the residents aware that the police were patrolling their streets.

The town was divided into five sectors and each officer would be assigned an area. The task of the officer would be to organize resident meetings and develop a safety committee to identify the problems and issues. This would facilitate a greater interaction between the police and the residents. This gave the residents an opportunity to voice their concerns and the officers to follow-up on reported crimes. Foot patrols, bike patrols,

disputed mediation and relationship building were some of the other practices used by the Sagamore Police Department.

LOW-INCOME

1. The residents' perception of safety had significantly improved between the first survey in 1995 and the second one in 1996. There was a 35 percent positive rise in the perception of safety.
2. According to the survey in 1995, 29 percent of the residents had reported an increase in crime, whereas in 1996, the figure decreased to only 9 percent. This indicated a 20 percent reduction in a year's time.
3. Interaction between the police and the residents improved drastically and gave the scenario that rumors can easily spread in a rural neighborhood; the rumors were kept under control through organized community meetings.

POLICE

1. The Sagamore Police Department received positive feedback from the community. For example, in 1995 the department received 100 unsolicited letters, cards and telephone calls from residents, whereas in 1996, the number shot up to over 150.
2. The fear level had decreased and the public perception to police was more positive.
3. There was increased support for the community policing practice among the community.

4. The police felt a greater sense of cooperation with the community and this also helped in reducing the crime rate and prevention of crime.

CONCLUSION

Community policing has had a positive impact on even a small town like Sagamore, Ohio, which has a small police department. There is a greater sense of safety and the atmosphere is more of cooperation and coordination. Given a rural area like Sagamore, community policing has helped foster better relations between the police and the community and organizing meetings has reduced the chance of rumor spreading, which can create panic and tension. Moreover, the emphasis on crime prevention through mediation in disputes and addressing the issues directly at community meetings has made the town a safer place.

6. SCAN (Miami)

Miami is one of the largest cities not only in Florida, but also in the U.S. It is a diverse city with large Hispanic and Black populations. Miami is a thriving business center and a popular tourist destination. The responsibility of police to maintain law and order in a city of Miami's size is enormous. In order to meet the city's policing demand, the Miami Police initiated a SCAN (Security Communications Assistance Network) program, which was a public-private venture. The main objective of this program was to reduce tourist-related crimes, and under SCAN tourists were protected using private guards who would communicate suspicious or criminal activity to the police through their radios (Babunmatos, 1997).

The other part of the community policing strategy was to address the causes of crime; this was aimed mainly at crime prevention. Under the community-policing program for the residents, police officers were to spend more time interacting with residents in their respective neighborhoods. The officers were assigned to the areas for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The COP (Citizen on Patrol) program has been launched in cooperation with the citizens who volunteer to routinely patrol the neighborhoods with the officers. It has reduced the burden of patrolling on the short-staffed Miami Police Department and promoted a greater sense of responsibility on the community. It makes them feel a part of the solution and has also helped in not only dealing with the crime but also in crime prevention. During 1996, 186 active citizens volunteered under this program and each one of them contributed a minimum of four hours a month.

POLICE

1. With the increased participation of the residents in patrolling, there was less pressure on the police force.
2. A greater sense of cooperation between the police and the residents facilitated a better understanding and created a safer neighborhood environment.
3. With the community being involved in patrolling the police officers were able to devote more time to crime solving.
4. The SCAN program enhanced the security of the tourists and ensured that the tourism industry did not have to deal with crime as a major problem.
5. The purchase of 400 Mobile Digital Computers (MCDs) for patrol brought hi-tech to the officers and helped them save valuable time on paper work.

COMMUNITY

1. There was a 12 percent decrease in crime, this promoting a greater sense of security among the residents.
2. The residents felt a greater degree of participation and the cooperation with the police meant more contact with the police and a better level of interaction.
3. The residents got an opportunity to voice their concerns and fears and communicate the same to the police.
4. Residents also helped the police in identification of the criminals and at the same time facilitated in crime reduction.

BUSINESS

1. The SCAN program successfully tackled the issue of tourism-related crimes and provided adequate security to the tourists.
2. The tourism industry benefited from the SCAN program as compared to 1995; the tourist-related crimes dropped by a whopping 33 percent in 1996.
3. It generated a new era of public-private venture between the police and the business community.

CONCLUSION

Miami provides an excellent example of how community policing has been used to deal with crime in a big city. It has not only helped the police but also the business and the residents. It has, in an indirect way, helped the economy by keeping the tourism

industry strong by reducing tourist-related crimes. With regards to the residents it has provided a greater feeling of cooperation and involvement. The drop in the crime rate indicates the success of this program and the high level of involvement illustrates that community policing is not just a tactic but a long-term strategy.

7. SAFE CITY-CAMPUS (Monrovia)

Monrovia is located in the prosperous state of California on the West Coast. Monrovia had to deal with major crime related problems mostly concerning with the juveniles who constitute over a fourth of the town's population. There was substantial gang violence, drug problem and violence. Truancy in the town reached alarming proportions that in 1994; nearly 100 students were reported truant daily, guns were discovered on school premises and day-time gang violence had reached dangerous levels. Given these circumstances the Monrovia Police Department launched a community-policing program to deal with this situation effectively (Santoro & Miglia, 1997).

Monrovia Police Department developed a Safe City-Campus program whose main task was to deal with the problems of juvenile crime. This program consisted of all city departments such as city administration, fire department, police, community services, community development and probation and the representatives from the schools.

Some of the programs developed under Safe City-Campus were:

Truancy Ordinance:

A new truancy ordinance was implemented under which truants receive a written citation to appear in the traffic division of juvenile court accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Further, if found guilty, truants are required to pay a fine of \$135 or perform 27

hours of community service and the juvenile could even lose his or her driver's license. The court would also have the right to determine if the parent/guardian was exercising adequate supervision over the minor. A 12- hour program for the parent on how to handle children effectively was also started under this plan. The police officers would be present in these meetings and address topics such as crime prevention, discipline, drug abuse, etc.

Cost Recovery Ordinance:

According to the California law, all juveniles needed to be kept separate from the rest of the prisoners and needed to be monitored. This took a great deal of time of the officers and caused delays in their routine work. The situation at times would force the officer to take up to eight hours from his/her routine work until the parent came to take custody of the minor. Under this ordinance, if the parent/guardian did not pick up the juvenile within one hour, they would be charged \$62 per hour.

School Uniform Policy:

Under this recommendation, the schools would need to have a uniform for the students. This helped the police distinguish the students from the others on campus, and thereby dissuade unwanted elements from surfacing on campus, as they would be easily identified. On a social level, a school uniform eliminated socioeconomic barriers and elimination of gang-attire psychology.

Project CARY:

This project was designed to help students who risked failure. A three-member team consisting of the police, Santa Anita Family Counseling Center, and the school would devote individual attention to such students. Their special needs would be

addressed. This would not only keep the students on the correct academic path but would also prevent them from falling prey to anti-social elements and gangs.

Student Art Program:

This program was designed to provide students with an opportunity to engage in extra-curricular activities and thereby making them use their spare time in a constructive and creative way. This program also enhanced the self-esteem of the students and encouraged them to develop new hobbies.

POLICE

1. This multi-faceted community policing aimed at fostering a better relationship between the juveniles and the police.
2. It helped in not only reducing the acts of crime but also facilitated crime prevention.
3. Involvement of all segments of the town made this problem from a police related one to one of a deep concern to all citizens.
4. This community-policing program saw a 31 percent reduction in acts of crime by the juveniles in a period of one year.
5. The truancy ordinance resulted in a 54 percent decrease in student dropout rate and 144 citations were issued during this period.
6. The Cost Recovery Ordinance was even more successful as it saved the officers precious time and it was not necessary to charge the parents even a single dollar

as they came to pick up the juveniles within the stipulated one-hour period. This ordinance increased the level of responsibility among the parents as they all tried to avoid the heavy fine.

JUVENILES

1. There was a significant 31 percent decrease in the crime rate.
2. Eight students who were issued warrants under the Truancy Ordinance chose the community work instead of paying fines.
3. There was a decrease in truancy and the School Uniform Policy helped eliminate socioeconomic barriers and gang attire.
4. The Project CARY helped 435 students who were at risk of failing.
5. The Student Art Program enhanced the self-esteem of the students and gave them an opportunity to display their artistic skills. Fifteen students displayed their work of arts on the local cable channel and the participation rate has doubled since.

CONCLUSION

The growing problem of juvenile crime is not unique to Monrovia but a common problem faced by large and small cities across the U.S. The recent school shootings are just an indicator of how serious this issue is, and the problem of gang violence and drugs is on the rise. This community-policing program initiated by the Monrovia Police Department illustrates the importance of the involvement on all segments of society in order to deal with crime of such gravity. Its success depends on cooperation of all segments as the police alone cannot tackle an issue of such magnitude.

E. Historical Overview on Policing: A Practitioner's Perspective

Several decades ago O. W. Wilson led a movement to make policing more professionals. The professional movement was an effort to de-politicize the police force as during those days most police departments were strongly linked to a politician and some officers were used by these politicians for their jurisdiction. The professional movement resulted in a model that was to be used by most of the police departments across the country. The model constituted of several core components without which policing would be considered incomplete and unprofessional. These components are listed below ("About Community Policing," 1999).

Preventive Patrol

In between calls for service, police officers are usually expected to patrol neighborhoods; they are generally casting a watchful eye over the environment and looking out for any potential sign of disturbance. This is called Preventive Patrol or also Random Patrol. This method creates a sense of security in the neighborhood and most importantly sends a clear signal to the troublemakers that the police are on guard. For ordinary citizens it symbolizes police presence in their neighborhood and erases fear of crime to a large extent. Preventive patrol not only acts as a deterrent but also as an act of creating an atmosphere of security in the neighborhood.

Rapid Response

A spontaneous reaction from officials increases the chances of catching the offender. This in turn increases the fear in the minds of criminals thus forcing them to think twice before they engage in acts of crime. Fear of being caught and being penalized

are strong de-motivating factors for offenders. Moreover, a rapid response also aids in assisting the victim who has borne the brunt of the crime.

Follow-up Criminal Investigation

It is the clean up tool in the professional crime-fighting model. If the offender or violators are not caught during the initial stages, there should be a rigorous follow-up in order to detect the violators. Follow-up investigations not only help solve the crime but also instill a sense of confidence among the citizens about the police's ability to nab the criminals and bring them to the law of court.

Addressing the New Dimensions of Community Policing

1. Community Policing and Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a problem faced by the entire US. The rate at which acts of domestic violence are growing has reached alarming proportions. Within the state of West Virginia, domestic violence complaints are increasing (by over 1600 in one year alone from 1990 to 1991) (Brown, Doroworth, & Roberts, 1995).

The roots of domestic violence can easily be traced to a transformation in the social fabric of the community. Moreover this act of crime has always been ignored as a 'not so serious crime', and thus been drastically underestimated. With a large number of incidents going unreported, the abuse only increases. In fact, some members of the community don't see domestic violence as an act of crime but a social problem, which the society needs to deal with by itself. However, this act of crime has assumed a dangerous dimension with the easy availability of firearms in the household.

The other types of domestic violence, which have also increased, are child abuse, and physical abuse, which has coupled with growing concerns of wife battering. Cases of emotional abuse are also on the rise. Although domestic violence is often seen only as a threat to females, a closer look clearly shows that victims belong to both genders.

West Virginia's peculiar social and cultural background provides some revealing insights into the reasons why domestic violence is more rampant in this part of the country. West Virginia is a predominantly rural state with an urban population in a minority constituting 36% compared to the US as whole, which has an urban majority constituting 75% of the country's population (West Virginia Women's Commission, 1995).

Residents in rural areas are twice as likely to possess firearms in comparison to urban areas (Weisheit, Falcone, & Wells, 1994). Firearms are present in 48% of homes in the southern states, including West Virginia (Maguire & Pastore, 1995) and most importantly, West Virginia's law allows citizens the right to bear arms (West Virginia's Constitution, 1997). Finally, Appalachian culture may actually support and intensify the problems associated with abusive relationships (Gagne, 1992).

The reason these crimes go unreported, undetected, and unsolved are a result of the diminishing police – community interaction, inability to deal with the new social environment, and most importantly a decline of trust and faith in policing over the years. Establishing trust is the foundation on which a partnership or relationship is built. In order to promote a crime free environment the police need to build both of these aspects with the community. Trust will give the police greater access to valuable information

that can lead not only to the solution, but also the prevention of crime. Especially given the nature of the domestic violence crime, it will be impossible for the police to make any headway in dealing with it unless it engages in active cooperation with the community.

Community Policing and Youth Crime

There is no need for introduction of youth crime; the very aspect of this crime has unnerved the U.S. society. As mindless violence by the juvenile, indulgence in gang wars, drugs, rape, theft and burglary to active participation in riots have exposed the dangers the immature youths can cause in today's world. The above mentioned crimes are the more serious ones. Other youth crimes include underage drinking, school violence, (this one of late has assumed dangerous proportions), and sexual offences, etc.

Many police departments have recognized the gravity of this matter and resorted to implementing youth curfews in their cities. But youth curfew alone cannot provide the answer to this problem; what needs to be done is the involvement of the youth and the community in dealing with this problem, to promote greater cooperation between each part of the society taking into account the social conditions and needs. However, the relationship between the police and youth can at best be described as lukewarm.

Some common problems between the two have been a lack of trust, little interaction, high levels of anger and emotion, and racial and cultural differences. There is almost a natural adversarial relationship between police, who must control behaviors, and youths, who are anxious to experience new behaviors (Johnson, 1996).

In order to break this unfavorable deadlock the police departments need to increase positive contacts and initiate confidence building measures with the youth. This

may not be an easy task and a starting point could be to identify the youth leader of the neighborhood and initiate a dialogue with them that will facilitate a more free and open channel of communication. In fact, the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Service (CRS), several police departments, youths, and other individuals have developed the following definition: "The ideal relationship between the police and youths is a positive partnership that includes police, youths, schools, community and business leaders, clergy, and the media. It should be aimed at both preventing and resolving problems of crime and disorder based on cooperation, collaboration, and mutual respect" ("About Community Policing Consortium," 1999). This definition does not provide a solution to youth crime but acts as a guide in dealing with this menacing problem.

The policing, with respect to youth crime, must be youth focused and should encourage forums that provide the youth an opportunity to have a voice in local issues and methods to improve the life in the neighborhood. Youth focused community policing addresses crime reduction, crime prevention, and problem solving (Johnson, 1996). Adoption of a youth focused community policing will give the policing a new direction in dealing with these crimes and broaden their scope and provide them with alternatives beyond the traditional approach of imposing curfews.

Challenges facing Community Policing from Different Perspectives

Community Policing is well on its way to becoming a common term in households across the U.S. But it's meaning and interpretations differ along with changes in demographics and social environments. To some, community policing means a greater community participation in the police work, to some, it is a method of crime reduction. Another

group sees it as a tool being used by the officials who have been unsuccessful in coping with the rapidly changing environment and at the same time facing a resource constraint. To others it means democracy in action, as community policing requires the active participation of all parts of the society, which includes the community. Some have a more narrow interpretation of the term, like dealing with issues of grave concern such as Youth Crime, Neighborhood Crime, Domestic Violence, etc. But these viewpoints all accept one fact that community policing seen from whatever angle helps not only in reducing crime, but also preventing it.

While crime control and prevention remain the areas of primary focus, it helps build a much-needed partnership, reduces the fear of crime, thus improving the life in the neighborhood for the average citizen. Community Policing is a reorientation of thinking and behavior relating to law enforcement's role and function. It is recognition of perceived performance gap between failures to control violent crime, reducing social disorders and lack of strong bonds with the community. Moreover the success of community policing can play a key role in changing the way all government services are provided at the community level.

Community Policing and the Gun Culture

The rise of the gun culture in the U.S. stems from the legal support it has received over the years. In 1968, the U.S. Congress passed the Gun Control Act of 1968. Even though the percentage of households that own guns is actually declining from a decade long average of about 45% to a figure close to 40%, the irony remains that there are still as many firearms in the U.S. as the number of people (Time; July 6, 1998). Another

important statistic reveals that the National Rifle Association (NRA) membership has declined from 3.5 million in 1995 to the current figure of 2.8 million (Lacayo, 1998).

The decline in the figures does not provide any solace to the problem of firearm related crimes. In fact, these crimes have assumed dangerous proportions of late and if the recent school shootouts throughout the country are an indicator of what the future has in store. The rationale for permitting the easy ownership to firearms is self-defense, but to the contrary, the misuse of this very liberty has resulted in an increase of crime. The debate whether 'Is a gun carrying nation a safer nation?' is being discussed and argued at all levels of the society ranging from the community to the top most political circles.

The recent school shootouts, which were carried out by teenagers who engaged in mindless acts of firearm crime, have fueled the need for stricter gun control regulation. One of the main reasons these acts of crime took place was the easy access the offenders had to firearms. Another study on this issue reveals that from 1985 to 1995, the number of juveniles murdered by firearms went up by 153% (Lacayo, 1998).

Community Policing has a major role to play in controlling the firearm crimes. If the fear of crime is reduced from the minds of the community, lesser the desire will be to own such dangerous weapons and thus the risk of such fatal crimes will be reduced. Policing needs to expand its scope beyond crime control. This is where community policing can encompass new emphasis on fear of crime, social disorder, quality of life and a friendlier neighborhood. All these factors will directly dissuade the people to own firearms and lessen the risk of gun related crimes like the recent school shootouts.

F. The Challenges and Opportunities of Community Policing

Community policing evolved out of decade's of individual, group and institutional efforts at establishing a public safety system that brings balance to the goals of peace and security, and the principles of a democratic participatory society. Over the century's governments attempted to enforce laws under conflicting societal demands. As noted, the United States, since its birth as a democratic nation, has had to struggle with the objectives of insulating a force that would be accountable to the people while ensuring the maintenance of peace and order.

With the adoption of professionalism as the most significant policy for establishing a credible police force came greater isolation from the public and reliance on technology and sophisticated technical approaches to solving the problems of crime and disorder. The movements led to reform policing carried out in the mid-20th century resulted with the unanticipated consequences of bureaucratic over-centralization and alienation. The changes also coincided with turbulent social periods and eras of growing crime. As communities also grew diverse and other transformations in values and social conditions relating to civil rights and settlement patterns took place alongside the changes in policing approaches, practitioners, policy makers, researches and citizens began to call for reforms. From 1967, the President's Commission on Law enforcement pioneers called for changes to the numerous studies and public demands for total shifts in policies and procedures. Nationwide movements led to the eventual adoption of community policing. Community policing as an umbrella term that encompasses the principles, concerns and modus operandi of scholars: Practitioners and citizens have thus become

not an approach or a strategy but a whole philosophical paradigm shift that is hoped to address the old and new human concerns for safety, liberty, association and responsibility. The opportunities and challenges this philosophical approach presents to government and society could be briefly divided into three categories – structural, attitudinal, and procedural.

Structural

The structural aspect refers to the challenges of establishing governmental and societal institutions that would be least cumbersome, authoritarian, and closest to the needs of communities. This also entails the designing and development of organizations that are reflections of the demographic, functional, ethnic, income, and social characteristics of the concerned areas. Rooted in the democratic principles of establishing public organizations on the basis of the partnership between government and the consent of populace, the structures are designed to involve the citizenry in the goals of governance. The challenges for community policing, therefore, lie in truly involving citizens in both policy making and implementation. The nature of partnership between the police and citizens has been criticized at times as having been vague. The inability of the structure to incorporate specific income, racial, or social groups into their decision-making system has been identified among the reasons for this vagueness. Community activists and organizers have been singled out as groups that would not be allowed to be made part of the collaborative efforts. Community policing therefore presents the opportunity for involving community, governmental agencies, researchers, and the police, in creating conditions for crime prevention, and resolution, as well as the

maintenance of a responsible level of quality. The challenge consequently hinges on establishing partnership structures that reflect the needs and concerns of all sub-groups that have a stake in a crime-free viable socioeconomic community.

Attitudinal

The attitudinal aspect of community policing pertains to the psychosocial interplay between the various members of the partnership. The perceptions the police have of the members of the community play a vital role to the successful outcome of the goals. A strategy of policing that not only seeks to address crimes, but also the underlying issues, is key to the realization of the objectives. Improving the quality of life in neighborhoods entails the espousing of causes that aim at linking the reduction of disorder conditions and community breakdown with the obvious problems of criminality. Rather than looking for quick returns and viewing crimes in isolation, a broader framework for encompassing strategies that include all members of the area is embraced as a culture that adopts a non-adversarial approach. A disproportionate share of the crime problem is concentrated in the specific "hot spots" or locations where the poor minorities or disadvantaged communities live. The early observers of these crime-ridden areas pointed to the perception problems that divide the police-community gulfs. As Harrington (1981) noted: "For the urban poor, the police are those who arrest you." And for police officers that do not subscribe to the community policing philosophy, the areas become sole locations where criminals reside. The opportunity community policing offers for the police and their areas lie in the benefits derived from developing partnership models that are based on mutual knowledge, trust, and communication.

When the police begin to see the residents they serve as citizens with whom they could work out frameworks of collaboration and as citizens perceive the police as members of their democratic institutions committed to work with them to address crime and neighborhood problems, the partnership approach becomes a viable force of peace and order.

Procedural

This area pertains to the modalities community policing employ in implementing its objectives and goals. The modalities cover a wide range of issues from the modus operandi of the police departments to the ways in which the challenges of decentralization, resource allocation and community mobilization are handled by the policing strategies. One of the key cornerstones of community policing has been the procedural approach that shifts the centralized authoritarian model of its precedent policies in favor of a decentralized approach that empowers officers to be autonomous representatives of the agency with the ability and mandate to work with community members and improve the overall social environment of the neighborhoods they serve. Unlike the old view of the police officers as automations, "that are required to adhere to detailed regulations" in procedural matters, the effective community policing strategy invests trust with the officers in the timeliness to rely on their judgement, wisdom and expertise to fashion new approaches to community concerns. The myriad aspects of modalities for translating the goals of community policing pertains to the procedures utilized to effectuate communication, resource allocation, research, and adequate

solutions to immediate as well as long term challenges that face the communities and the partnership groups in at large.

Community oriented policing programs designed to reduce the fear of crime, reduce crime rates, and increase citizen satisfaction and participation with local police forces are replacing traditional approaches to law enforcement by changing policing from a largely reactive, incident-driven service to a more proactive, problem-solving practice. This shift in philosophy is characterized by cooperation between citizens and police departments, including neighborhood revitalization programs, public education, increased public involvement in identifying problems, and a cooperative approach to finding and implementing solutions. Evaluation of police use of resources, training, and attitudes is an important component in community-oriented policing. Many of these programs differ in structure and substance, but generally share a philosophical commitment to:

Improve the quality of life for neighborhoods and the community by reducing fear of victimization and reported crime, and by improving the detection of crime, through neighborhood revitalization programs;

Strengthen the relationship between the police and the community through public education, increased public involvement in identifying problems, and a cooperative approach to finding and implementing solutions;

Evaluate police resources and provide police training to foster an awareness and acceptance of community policing.

In 1967, President Johnson's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice advocated more frequent, informal contact between police and

the public in hopes of replacing isolated crime prevention and community relations units located within police departments. Research in the 1960s and 1970s showed that up to half of all calls from the public concerned maintaining order and requests for non-police related services (Skogan & Wycoff, 1982).

In 1982, Wilson and Kelling argued that order maintenance policing is critical to breaking the cycle of fear prevalent in troubled urban areas (Skogan & Wycoff, 1982). Fear Reduction studies funded by the NIJ demonstrated that police could use a number of different approaches to break into the cycle of fear about which Wilson and Kelling had written. In addition to the fear reduction strategies tested in Houston, Texas, and Newark, New Jersey, other research suggested that foot patrols also could be an effective means of increasing police-citizen contact and improving citizen attitudes (Trojanowicz, 1983).

These new goals required the revision of traditional evaluation procedures. Crime rates alone could no longer show the effectiveness of a police force. Earlier research on the effectiveness of community-oriented policing occurred in Newark, New Jersey, and Flint, Michigan in the late 70s. Both programs used foot-patrols and aimed to serve as liaisons between the community and other government agencies. In Newark, businesses perceived crime as increasing in the foot-patrol areas, while residents had a reduced fear of crime in these same areas. In Flint, residents perceived a decrease in crime, although there actually was none. Both programs resulted in reduced fear of crime and improved perceptions of police by residents.

III. Research Design

The purpose of this study is to measure the impact of Charleston's community policing (CPD) initiative on the Housing and Urban Development residents. Primary data were collected through surveys, and secondary data were collected through Charleston police department.

A. Target Population

The target populations for this study were the 1022 units (1777 people). Anyone who resides in these units who are 18 years of age and above or more were eligible to respond to the questionnaire representing that unit.

The Charleston Housing Authority manages ten public housing developments, including six family developments and four elderly high-rises, together comprising 1565 units. However, of these three types of developments, only the family housing developments were targeted for the Community-Oriented Policing and the Drug and Crime Elimination Program. These family housing developments include Orchard Manor, Washington Manor, Littlepage Terrace, Southpark Village, Hillcrest, and Oakhurst.

The largest family development, Orchard Manor was built in 1955 and is located in the northwest section of the city of Charleston at 2003 Bowman Court. It is relatively isolated, situated alone on a hillside, separated from Charleston proper by the two-mile Creek and State Route 21. It is a multi-unit brick facility with 360 units that house a total of 532 people, 266 of which are contracted tenants. About 53.3 percent (284) of the total population is African-American, 46 percent (245) is white, and 0.6 percent is Hispanic.

Of the contracted tenants, 142 are African-American, 32 of that are elderly or disabled/handicapped, while 28 of the 124 white tenants are elderly or disabled/handicapped.

Washington Manor, built in 1941, is the second largest with 304 units; however, it has the highest population with 562 residents. It is a multi-unit, brick facility located at 211 Clark Drive, in the mixed-use, western edge of Downtown Charleston, with subsequently no immediate residential context. African-American race comprises 59.8 percent (336) of the total population, while whites comprises 40 percent (225) of the total population and 112 contracted tenants, 59 of that are elderly or disabled/handicapped. The remaining 0.2 percent of the population is Hispanic and is also a contracted tenant.

Littlepage Terrace is the oldest development built in 1940 and was one of the first public housing developments in the state. It too is a multi-unit brick facility as it locates on the West Side of Charleston at 715 Cairns Court. Littlepage Terrace also has 170 units that house 330 residents. The white population is the majority here with 64 percent (415) of the population. They also have 105 of the 166 contracted tenants with only 47 being elderly or disabled/handicapped. African-Americans comprises 37 percent (120) of the population and have 60 contracted tenants, 21 of that are elderly or disabled/handicapped. Littlepage Terrace also shows the first of a "no code" race, which coincidentally is a contracted tenant.

Located in 680 South Park Road, South Park Village is a multi-unit brick with siding facility that was built in 1973. It has 84 units that accommodate 166 people. About 57 percent (96) are African-American, comprising 48 of the 84 contracted tenants

and 7 are elderly or disabled/handicapped. The remaining 44 percent are white and have 35 contracted tenants, 9 of that are elderly or disabled/handicapped. The remaining tenant is a "no code."

Hillcrest and Oakhurst are "sister," brick and siding multi-unit developments both built in 1974, having 54 and 50 units, respectfully. Hillcrest, located at 1000 Hillcrest Drive, has a total of 102 residents, with the majority of the population, 64 residents (63 percent), being white. African-Americans makes up the remaining 37 percent, or 38 residents. As per tenant, Hillcrest has 51 contracted tenants, 32 white and 19 African-American. Of the white tenants, one is elderly or disabled/handicapped and 18 are considered non-elderly or disabled/handicapped. The African-American population has 9 elderly or disabled/handicapped and 23 non-elderly or disabled-handicapped.

Located at 1039 Lawndale Road, Oakhurst is comparable with a population of 94. Whites hold the majority of the population with 68, or 73 percent or the residents. African-Americans solely makes up the rest of the population. Of the 48 contracted tenants, 34 are white and 13 are African-American. A "no-code" resident shows here as well and falls under non-elderly/handicapped. The white tenants show nine are elderly or disabled/handicapped, while 25 are non-elderly/handicapped. One African-Americans is elderly or disabled/handicapped and 12 are non-elderly or disabled/handicapped.

B. Sampling

Housing	Units	Residents	Sample		Respondents	Response Rate
			%	Units		
Washington Manor	304	561	50	152	114	75%
Little Page	170	330	50	85	53	62%
Orchard Manor	360	530	50	180	111	62%
Hillcrest Village	54	102	100	54	42	78%
Oakhurst Village	50	94	100	50	35	70%
Southpark Village	84	160	100	84	60	71%
TOTAL	1022	1777	50	605	415	69%

We used a stratified random sampling procedure using the six housing development units to generate a sample of 605 units out of 1022 units. For the first three housing development units (Washington Manor, Little Page, and Orchard Manor) we took a random sample of 50% out of the lists provided to WVSAC. However, for the housing development units (Hillcrest, Oakhurst Village, and South Village) below 100 units, the researchers took the whole units in the sample as reflected in the above table.

C. Instrument:

After an extensive review of the literature on community policing, the principle investigator, the program coordinator, the community policing staff, the neighborhood organization, and graduate assistants developed the questionnaires to be administered to this sample. Items include in the questionnaire addressed the residents' fear of crime and perception of the level and kinds of crime, perception of police and residents' expectation of police service as well as the respondents' participation in police or community watch organized crime prevention and education programs.

To identify any problem in comprehending or administering the questionnaire, it was pilot tested on the members of tenants who are not otherwise involved in the survey.

The questionnaire was then revised accordingly.

D. Sampling Procedure:

Before the neighborhood organization started knocking the door, the program director, community policing and the neighborhood organization discussed the logistic of the survey and how best they could get a high response rate. Then, they went to each unit that was randomly selected and filled the questionnaire. They were able to get 415 respondents out of the sample of 605, which reflects the responses of 69%. The collected data were entered into SPSS, and the results were analyzed to produce this paper.

IV. Data Analysis/Findings:

This study collected primary data and secondary data on the six housing development units of Charleston for analysis.

Primary Data Analysis

TABLE 1: Demographic Data of Public Housing developments residents

	Number	Percent
Q. 1. Gender		
➤ Male	175	42.2
➤ Female	236	56.9
➤ Missing	4	.9
Total	415	100.0
Q. 2. Race		
➤ White	175	42.2
➤ Hispanic	20	4.8
➤ Asian	18	4.3
➤ African-American	173	41.7
➤ Native American	13	3.1
➤ Other	10	2.4
Total	415	100.0
Q. 3. Age		
➤ 18-20	58	14.0
➤ 21-30	127	30.6
➤ 31-40	105	25.3
➤ 41-50	65	15.7
➤ 51-60	32	7.7
➤ 60 and above	22	5.3
Total	415	100.0
Q. 4. Annual Income		
➤ <20,000	227	66.7
➤ 21,000-25,000	87	21.0
➤ 26,000-31,000	23	5.5
➤ 32,000-41,000	6	1.4
➤ 42,000 and over	10	2.4
Total	415	100.0

Continued Table 1: Demographic data of residents who reside in the public housing developments

Q. 5. Education Level		
➤ GED	137	33.0
➤ High School Diploma	146	35.2
➤ Some College	73	17.6
➤ Associate Degree	14	3.4
➤ Bachelor's Degree, Masters Degree, And Doctor's Degree	19	4.6
Total	415	100.0
Q. 6. Marital Status		
➤ Married	93	22.4
➤ Widowed	31	7.5
➤ Single	206	49.6
➤ Divorced	59	14.2
➤ Separated	25	6.0
Total	415	100.0
Q. 7. Employment		
➤ Full-time	130	31.3
➤ Part-time	111	26.7
➤ Retired	34	8.2
➤ Unemployed	84	20.2
➤ Other	50	12.0
Total	415	100.0
Q.34. Where do you live?		
➤ Washington Manor	114	27.5
➤ Littlepage Terrace	53	12.8
➤ Orchard Manor	111	26.7
➤ Hillcrest Village	42	10.1
➤ Oakhurst Village	35	8.4
➤ Southpark Village	60	14.5
Total	415	100.0

Table 1: Demographic data of residents who reside in the public housing developments

Q.1. Gender:

Of all respondents, 57.0 percent were female and 42.9 percent were male.

Q.2. Race:

42.3 percent of all respondents were white, while 41.7 percent were African American. 4.8 percent were Hispanic, and 4.3 percent were Asian. 3.1 percent were Native Americans and the remaining 2.4 percent of respondents indicated they were “other” race.

Q.3. Age:

About 30.6 percent of the respondents fell in the age group of 21-30, while 25.3 percent were in the age group of 31-40. The other age groups of respondents who fall within the age group of 41-50 and 18-20 were 15.7 percent and 14.0 percent respectively. The remaining 13 percent were in the age groups of 51 and above years of age.

Q.4. Annual Income:

The majority of the respondents, 66.7 percent had an annual income of less than US\$ 20,000 whereas 21.0 percent of the respondents had an annual income between US\$ 21,000-25,000. The remaining 9.3 percent of the respondents had an annual income above US\$ 26,000.

Q.5. Educational Level:

Out of all respondents, 35.2 percent of them had a high school diploma. 33.0 percent of the surveyed population had a GED and 17.6 percent said they had some college. Only 3.4 percent of the respondents had an associate degree. The remaining 4.6 percent of the respondents had bachelor’s degree and above. The level of education was not very high and reflected the socioeconomic status, as nearly 88 percent of the respondents did not have a college degree.

Q.6. Marital Status:

49.6 percent of the survey respondents were single, while 22.4 percent were married. 14.2 percent of respondents were divorced, and 7.5 percent were widowed. The remaining 6.0 percent were separated.

Q.7. Employment:

When the respondents were asked about the employment figure their responses were fairly evenly distributed among the different categories. 31.3 percent were employed full-time, while 26.7 percent were employed part-time. 20.2 percent of the respondents reported to be unemployed, whereas 8.2 percent were retired.

Q.8. Location of Neighborhood:

27.5 percent stated they lived in Washington Manor, while 26.7 percent of the respondents lived in Orchard Manor. 14.5 percent of respondents lived in South Park Village, and 12.8 percent of the respondents stated living in Littlepage. 10.1 percent of the respondents lived in Hillcrest Village. Finally, 8.4 percent of the respondents lived in Oakhurst Village.

TABLE 2: Responses of Public Housing Residents' Feeling of Safety in their Neighborhood

	Number	Percent
Q. 8. Time period in Neighborhood		
➤ Lived Less than 1 year	76	18.3
➤ 2 - 5 years	141	34.0
➤ 5 - 10 years	76	18.3
➤ More than 10 years	120	28.9
➤ Missing	2	0.5
Total	415	100.0

Continued Table 2: Responses of Public Housing Residents' Feeling of Safety in their neighborhood

Q. 9. Feeling of safety during the Day		
➤ Feel safe	220	53.0
➤ Feel somewhat safe	150	36.1
➤ Do not feel safe	142	10.1
➤ Missing	3	0.6
Total	415	100.0
Q. 10. Feeling of safety during the Night		
➤ Feel safe	146	35.2
➤ Feel somewhat safe	167	40.2
➤ Do not feel safe	102	24.6
Total	415	100.0
Q. 11. Safety a few years ago		
➤ Feel safer	137	33.0
➤ No difference	183	44.1
➤ Feel a lot more unsafe	83	20.0
➤ Not specified	11	2.7
➤ Missing	1	0.2
Total	415	100.0

Table 2

Q. 8. Time period in Neighborhood

34.0 percent of the respondents had lived in their neighborhood between two and five years, 28.9 percent for over ten years, 18.3 percent between five and ten years. Only 18.3 percent of the respondents had lived in their neighborhoods for less than a year.

Q. 9. Feeling of safety during the day

89.1 percent of all respondents stated they feel safe or somewhat safe in their neighborhood during the day. The remaining 10.1 percent said they do not feel safe in their neighborhood during the daytime.

Q. 10. Feeling of safety during the night

40.2 percent said they feel somewhat safe, while 35.2 percent responded that they feel safe in their neighborhood at night. The other 24.6 percent said they do not feel safe in their neighborhood at night.

Q. 11. Safety a few years ago

When respondents were asked if they felt safer now compared to a few years ago, 44.1 percent responded there was no difference, while 33.0 percent said they feel safer than they did. 20.0 percent said they do not feel as safe now as they did a few years ago.

In short, even though the neighborhoods generally feel safe, there are still 24.6 percent who do not feel safe at night and 20 percent who feel a lot more unsafe compared to a few years ago. Such problems need to be addressed by the Charleston community policing.

TABLE 3 : Q. 16. In ranking the threats of crime in your area which of the following would you consider as posing the greatest danger?

	NUMBER	PERCENT
Breaking into apartment or home		
Worst	62	14.9
Bad	136	32.8
Not so bad	207	49.9
Not specified	10	2.4
Total	415	100.0
> Involvement of children in drugs		
Worst	131	31.6
Bad	136	32.8
Not so bad	136	32.8
Not specified	12	2.9
Total	415	100.0

➤ Robbery			
Worst	60	14.5	} 51.8
Bad	155	37.3	
Not so bad	191	46	
Not specified	11	2.2	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Crime Against Children			
Worst	95	22.9	} 53.3
Bad	126	30.4	
Not so bad	181	43.6	
Not specified	13	3.2	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Drug Dealer Attacks			
Worst	99	23.9	} 62.7
Bad	161	38.8	
Not so bad	145	34.9	
Not specified		2.4	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Alone with no protection			
Worst	59	14.2	} 47.9
Bad	140	33.7	
Not so bad	204	49.2	
Not specified	12	2.4	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Getting hurt			
Worst	52	12.5	} 46.7
Bad	142	34.2	
Not so bad	209	50.4	
Not specified	12	2.9	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Being Shot			
Worst	83	20.0	} 57.8
Bad	157	37.8	
Not so bad	164	39.5	
Not specified	11	2.7	
Total	415	100.0	

> Random Shooting		
Worst	92	22.2
Bad	135	32.5
Not so bad	175	42.2
Not specified	13	3.1
Total	415	100.0

Table 3

Q. 16. In ranking the threats of crime in your area which of the following would you consider as posing the greatest danger?

When respondents were asked to rank the threats of crime in their area that posed the greatest danger, the results are as follows: (in order of severity)

According to the respondents, 64.4 percent felt involvement of children in drugs as worst or bad, as compared to 32.8 percent who thought it is not bad. Out of all respondents, 62.7 percent felt drug dealer attacks is worst or bad, as compared to 34.9 percent who thought it is not bad. 54.7 percent of respondents felt random shooting is worst or bad, and 42.2 percent thought it is not bad. 53.3 percent of respondents felt crime against children is worst or bad, as compared to 43.6 percent who are not so bad. In addition, 51.8 percent of respondents said that robbery is worst or bad, where as 46.0 percent said it is not so bad. 47.9 percent of respondents considered to be alone with no protection is worst or bad as compared to 49.2 percent as not so bad. 47.7 percent of respondents felt that breaking into an apartment or home is worst or bad as a threat of crime in neighborhood as compared to 49.9 percent is not so bad. Finally, 46.7 percent of respondents believed getting hurt is worst or bad in their neighborhood as compared to 50.4 percent is not so bad.

In short, It appears from the above data that the greatest threats in their area that posed the greatest danger were involvement of children in drugs (64.4 percent), followed by drug dealer attacks (62.7 percent), and being shot (57.8 percent). Such problems need to be addressed by the Charleston Police department.

TABLE 4: Q.20. Which of the following would you consider to be the worst crime problem in your area?

	NUMBER	PERCENT	
➤ Drugs			
Worst	214	51.6	} 80.5
Bad	120	28.9	
Not so bad	73	17.6	
Not specified	8	1.9	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Loud Music			
Worst	183	44.1	} 70.1
Bad	108	26.0	
Not so bad	113	27.2	
Not specified	11	2.7	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Public Drinking			
Worst	159	38.3	} 74.4
Bad	150	36.1	
Not so bad	94	22.7	
Not specified	12	2.9	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Carrying Guns			
Worst	144	34.7	} 70.1
Bad	147	35.4	
Not so bad	113	27.2	
Not specified	11	2.7	
Total	415	100.0	
➤ Shootings			

Worst	135	32.5	} 59.0
Bad	110	26.5	
Not so bad	156	37.6	
Not specified	12	3.4	
Total	415	100.0	
> Child Abuse			
Worst	91	21.9	} 60.2
Bad	159	38.3	
Not so bad	151	36.4	
Not specified	14	2.9	
Total	415	100.0	
> Prostitution			
Worst	89	21.4	} 52.5
Bad	129	31.1	
Not so bad	185	44.6	
Not specified	12	2.9	
Total	415	100.0	
> Squatters			
Worst	48	11.6	} 36.2
Bad	102	24.6	
Not so bad	251	60.5	
Not specified	14	3.4	
Total	415	100.0	

Table 4

Q. 20. Which of the following would you consider to be the worst crime problem in your area?

When the respondents were asked what they considered to be the worst crime problem in the area, the results are as follows: Out of all the survey respondents, 80.5 percent thought that drugs were the worst crime problem in their area, as compared to 17.6 percent who felt it is not so bad. 74.4 percent of respondents felt that public drinking was the worst or a bad problem in their area, as compared to 22.7 percent felt it is not so bad. 70.1 percent thought that loud music and carrying guns are the worst or a bad problem in their area, as compared to 27.2 percent that felt they are not so bad. Out of all respondents

60.2 percent of respondents considered child abuse as worst or bad in their community as compared to 36.4 percent as not so bad. 59.0 percent of respondents believed shootings is the worst or a bad problem in their neighborhood as compared to 37.6 percent is not so bad. 52.5 percent of respondents felt that prostitution is the worst or a bad problem in their neighborhood as compared to 44.6 percent in not so bad. Finally, out of all respondents, 36.2 percent felt that squatters are the worst or a bad problem in their neighborhood.

In short, It appears from the above data that the worst crime problem in their area was drugs (80.5 percent), followed by public drinking (74.4 percent), and loud music and carrying guns with 70.1 percent respectively. Such problems need to be addressed by the Charleston Police Department.

TABLE 5: Sentencing of Criminals, Reporting of Criminals, and why Citizens do not report crimes.

	Number	Percent
Q. 12. In terms of sentencing of criminals, do you believe that?		
➤ Courts are too lenient	173	41.7
➤ Courts are fair	114	27.5
➤ Courts are too harsh	44	10.6
➤ Don't know	78	18.8
➤ Not specified	6	1.4
Total	415	100.0
Q. 17. Do you believe that the reporting of crime and the criminal are?		
➤ Extremely important	255	61.4
➤ Somewhat important	96	23.1
➤ Somewhat unimportant	33	8.0
➤ Very unhelpful	27	6.5
➤ Not specified	4	1.0
Total	415	100.0
Q. 18. In your experience which of the following explain why citizens in your area do not report crimes?		
➤ Fear of retaliation	178	42.9
➤ Fear of investigation	56	13.5
➤ Personal reasons	65	15.7

➤ No good anyway	72	17.3
➤ Not important	16	3.9
➤ Too much time	12	2.9
➤ Other	12	2.9
➤ Not specified	4	1.0
Total	415	100.0

Table 5

Q. 12. In terms of sentencing of criminals, do you believe that courts are too lenient or harsh?

41.7 percent of the respondents said the courts are too lenient in their sentencing of criminals, while 27.5 percent of the respondents said that the courts were fair. 18.8 percent responded that they did not have an opinion on this matter, and 10.65 percent said that the court was too harsh in their sentencing of criminals.

Q. 17. Do you believe that the reporting of crime and the criminal are important or unimportant?

The majority of the respondents (61.2 percent) said they felt that reporting of a crime is extremely important, while 23.1 percent said it is somewhat important. 8.0 percent said that it was somewhat important, and 6.5 percent of the respondents felt that it was very unhelpful.

Q. 18. In your experience which of the following explain why citizens in your area do not report crimes?

When the respondents were asked why citizens do not report crimes, the results were as follows: 42.9 percent said it was because of fear of retaliation, and 17.3 percent said it did not do any good anyway. 15.7 percent of the respondents said it was because of personal reasons, and 13.7 percent of the respondents because of fear of investigation. 3.9 percent said it was not important, and 2.9 percent said it took too much time to report a crime.

TABLE 6: Q. 13. How do you find the Charleston Police's reaction to the problem of crime in your area?

	Number	Percent	
Q. 13. How do you find the Charleston Police's reaction to the problem of crime in your area?			
➤ Very responsive	120	28.9	} 64.3
➤ Somewhat responsive	147	35.4	
➤ Somewhat unresponsive	69	16.6	
➤ Very unresponsive	40	9.6	
➤ Don't know	39	9.4	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 14. With regard to the Charleston Police Officers dealing with you community, how would you describe their responses?			
➤ Very helpful	129	31.1	} 67.5
➤ Somewhat helpful	151	36.4	
➤ Somewhat unhelpful	63	15.2	
➤ Very unhelpful	36	8.7	
➤ Don't know	35	8.4	
➤ Not specified	1	0.2	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 15. How would you rate the Charleston Police's performance in your area?			
➤ Excellent	97	23.4	} 70.9
➤ Very good	70	16.9	
➤ Satisfactory	127	30.6	
➤ Poor	91	21.9	
➤ Don't know	29	7.0	
➤ Missing	1	0.2	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 22. From your experiences would you say that the Police have:			
➤ A great deal of respect for the residents and are willing to help	99	23.9	} 49.0
➤ They have some interest in helping residents	104	25.1	
➤ No opinion	130	31.3	
➤ They have no respect and are only sometimes available for help	53	12.8	
➤ They have absolutely no respect and no interest in helping residents	29	7.0	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 26. Do you perceive the police?			
➤ As public servants who are very much interested in your safety	104	25.1	} 49.0

➤ As officers who are somewhat interested in your safety	99	23.9	
➤ No opinion	119	28.7	
➤ As government authorities who are less interested in your safety than enforcing power over you	53	12.8	
➤ As authoritarian government officials who are only interested in harassing you	32	7.7	
➤ Missing	8	1.9	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 28. A police officer should concentrate on crime control, not on issues such as neighborhood decay or community relations.			
➤ Strongly agree	154	37.1	} 58.1
➤ Agree	87	21.0	
➤ Not sure	70	16.9	
➤ Disagree	61	14.7	} 23.1
➤ Strongly disagree	35	8.4	
➤ Not specified	8	1.9	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 30. Good Communication is more important than the gun and the badge.			
➤ Strongly agree	163	39.3	} 68.5
➤ Agree	121	29.2	
➤ Not sure	74	17.8	
➤ Disagree	32	7.7	
➤ Strongly disagree	15	3.6	
➤ Not specified	10	2.4	
Total	415	100.0	

Table 6

Q. 13. How do you find the Charleston Police's reaction to the problem of crime in your area?

When respondents were asked what the Charleston Police department's reaction to problems of crime in their area was, the results were as follows: 35.4 percent said the police were somewhat responsive to crimes in their area, while 28.9 percent said police were very responsive in their area. 16.6 percent felt police were somewhat unresponsive,

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and 9.6 percent said police were very unresponsive in their neighborhood. 9.4 percent of the respondents stated that they did not have an opinion on this matter.

Q. 14. With regard to the Charleston Police Officers dealing with you community, how would you describe their responses?

36.4 percent responded that the Charleston police response in their community was somewhat helpful, while 31.1 percent said it was very helpful. 15.2 percent of the respondents stated that the Charleston police response was somewhat unhelpful, and 8.7 percent of the respondents stated it was very unhelpful. 8.4 percent did not have an opinion on this matter.

Q. 15. How would you rate the Charleston Police's performance in your area?

When respondents were asked to rate the Charleston Police performance in their area, 30.6 percent said they found police performance as satisfactory, while 23.4 percent stated it was excellent. 21.9 percent responded performance was very good, and 16.9 percent of the respondents reported it was very good. 7.0 percent did not have an opinion on this matter.

Q. 22. From your experiences would you say that the Police have respect or no interest:

Out of all the public housing resident respondents, 31.3 percent of them had no opinion on this matter, while 25.1 percent said the police have some interest in helping people. 23.9 percent reported that the police have a great deal of respect for the residents and are willing to help, whereas, 12.8 percent of the respondents stated that police had no respect for citizens and were only sometimes available for help. Only 7.0 percent of the respondents replied that police have absolutely no respect or interest in helping residents.

Q. 26. Do you perceive the police interested or not interested in your safety?

When respondents were asked how they perceived police in their area, 28.7 percent said that they did not have an opinion on this matter, while 25.1 percent replied that police as public servants are very much interested in their safety. 23.9 percent of the respondents reported that they perceived the police as officers who are somewhat interested in their safety, and 12.8 percent said that the police officers were less interested in their safety than enforcing power over you. Finally, only 7.7 percent felt that police were only interested in harassing the citizens.

Q. 28. A police officer should concentrate on crime control, not on issues such as neighborhood decay or community relations.

When respondents were asked if an officer should concentrate on crime control, and not issues such as neighborhood decay or community relations, 37.1 percent of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement, while 21.0 percent agreed with it. 16.9 percent were not sure if a police officer should concentrate on crime control or not, and 14.7 percent disagree with the statement. Only 8.4 percent of the respondents strongly disagreed with it.

Q. 30. Good Communication is more important than the gun and the badge?

When respondents were asked if they thought that good communication was more important than a gun and a badge, 39.3 percent strongly agreed with the statement, and 29.2 percent agreed with it. 17.8 percent were not sure if communication was more important or not, and 7.7 percent disagreed with the statement. Only 3.6 percent of the surveyed population strongly disagreed with the statement that good communication is more important than the gun and the badge.

TABLE 7: Personal Reaction to Crime and Crime that Happened Against you in the Last Couple of years:

	Number	Percent
Q. 19. As a personal reaction to crime or perceptions of crime in your area which of the following have you adopted?		
➤ Moved into another house	23	5.5
➤ Had new locks installed	35	8.4
➤ Joined a neighborhood watch	36	8.7
➤ Requested better lighting in area	46	11.1
➤ Stayed in at night	104	25.1
➤ Took a friend along	46	11.1
➤ More careful locking car	10	2.4
➤ Obtained a gun	19	4.6
➤ Carried mace, etc.	26	6.3
➤ Other	63	15.2
➤ Not specified	7	1.6
Total	415	100.0
Q. 21. Which of the following crime happened against you in the last couple of years?		
➤ Theft	39	9.4
➤ Burglary	21	5.1
➤ Mugging	20	4.8
➤ Vehicle theft	21	5.1
➤ Vandalism	29	7.0
➤ Assault with a weapon	5	1.2
➤ Physical assault to body	24	5.8
➤ Sexual assault	8	1.9
➤ Consumer fraud	2	0.5
➤ None	245	59.0
➤ Other	1	0.2
Total	415	100.0

Table 7

Q. 19. As a personal reaction to crime or perceptions of crime in your area which of the following have you adopted?

When respondents were asked what precautions they took as a personal reaction to crime in their area, 25.1 percent of them had stayed in at night, while 15.2 percent of the respondents had adopted others actions to prevent crime in their area. 11.1 percent of the

respondents stated they had requested better lighting in their neighborhood, and another 11.1% had taken a friend along with them. 8.7 percent of the respondents reported that they had joined a neighborhood watch, whereas 8.4 percent of the respondents had installed new locks. 6.3 percent of the respondents reported carrying mace, and 5.5 percent of them had moved to another house. 4.6 percent of the respondents said that they had obtained a gun, and the remaining 2.4 percent of respondents stated that that they had been more careful locking cars.

Q. 21. Which of the following crime happened against you in the last couple years?

When respondents were asked what crime happened to them in the last couple of years, the results are as follows: A majority 59.0 percent of the respondents said that no crimes were committed against them, while 9.4 percent responded that a theft had occurred to them. 7.0 percent of the respondent reported that they had fallen prey to vandalism, whereas 5.8 percent said that a physical assault to their body had happened to them. Burglary and vehicle theft had occurred to 5.1 percent of the respondents respectively. Mugging was reported by 4.8 percent of the respondents, while 1.9 percent of the respondents said a sexual assault had occurred to them. Only 1.2 percent of the respondents reported had assault with a weapon. The origin of these crimes committed against the public housing residents should be addressed by the Charleston community police, to develop strategies to prevent them.

TABLE 8: Crime Prevention and Resolution

	Number	Percent
Q. 23. There has been a change in the policing approach by the Charleston Police Department, which of the following reflects your response?		
➤ Yes, aware of philosophical community policing approach and I believe it has made a difference in crime prevention and reduction	126	30.4
➤ No, I am not aware of the approach, but I have noticed a positive change in the way crime is handle in the area	85	20.5
➤ No opinion	110	26.5
➤ Yes, aware of the philosophical change but I don't believe it has made any difference	61	14.7
➤ No, I am not aware of the change and crime has gotten worse in the area	31	7.5
➤ Not specified	2	0.5
Total	415	100.0
Q. 24. Which of the following reflects your view most accurately?		
➤ Citizens have strong role to play in the prevention and resolution of crimes	158	38.1
➤ Citizens have a somewhat limited role to play in crime prevention/resolution	82	19.8
➤ Don't know	126	30.4
➤ Citizens have no role to play	30	7.2
➤ Citizen participation can even be negative for crime prevention/resolution.	16	3.9
➤ Not specified	3	0.7
Total	415	100.0

Continue Table 8	NUMBER	PERCENT	
Q. 25. Which of the following has truth for you?			
➤ Community policing is an excellent tool for preventing and reducing crime	135	32.5	
➤ Community policing is a good concept but impractical	86	20.7	
➤ Don't know	120	28.9	
➤ Community policing is a good approach but is not useful	43	10.4	
➤ Community policing is neither a good approach nor a practical method	26	6.3	
➤ Not specified	5	1.2	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 27. Which of the following in your view could help solve the problems of crime and disorder?			
➤ The building of very strong partnership between city residents, the police, and other government	180	43.4	
➤ The forming of loose associations between residents and police	63	15.2	
➤ Don't know	101	24.3	
➤ Creating structures that maintain some distance between residents and police officers	36	8.7	
➤ Leaving the issues of crime and civil order exclusively to the police	26	6.3	
➤ Not specified	9	2.1	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 31. Technology such as computers, cell phones, and videos is important, but citizen involvement is much more important for crime prevention or resolution.			
➤ Strongly agree	144	34.7	} 63.1
➤ Agree	118	28.4	
➤ Not sure	85	20.5	
➤ Disagree	37	8.9	
➤ Strongly disagree	19	4.6	
➤ Not specified	12	3.1	
Total	415	100.0	

Table 8

Q. 23. There has been a change in the policing approach by the Charleston Police Department, which of the following reflects your response?

30.4 percent responded that they were aware of the philosophical approach known as community policing and believe it has made a difference in crime prevention and resolution. 26.5 percent said they had no opinion on this matter, and 20.5 percent said they were not aware of the new approach but they have noticed a positive change in the way crime is handled in their area. 14.7 percent said they were aware of the philosophical change but do not believe it has made any difference, while only 7.5 percent of respondents said they were not aware of the change and crime has gotten worse in their area.

Q. 24. Which of the following reflects your view most accurately?

38.1 percent of the respondents felt that citizens had a strong role to play in the prevention and resolution of crimes, while 30.4 percent did not have an opinion on this matter. 19.8 percent felt that citizens have a somewhat limited role to play, and 7.2 percent of the respondents said that citizens have no role to play. Only 3.9 percent of the respondents said that citizen participation could be negative for crime prevention and resolution.

Q. 25. Which of the following has truth for you:

Almost one third of the survey respondents (32.5 percent) felt that community policing is an excellent tool for preventing and reducing crimes, while 28.9 percent did not have an opinion on this matter. 20.7 percent thought community policing was a good concept but impractical and 10.4 percent thought it was a good approach but is not useful. The

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remaining 6.3 percent of the respondents said the approach was neither good nor a practical method.

Q. 27. Which of the following in your view could help solve the problems of crime and disorder?

Almost half of the respondents (43.4 percent) thought that the building of a strong partnership between residents, police, and government bodies would help solve problems of crime and disorder. 24.3 percent did not have an opinion on this matter, while 15.2 percent thought that forming loose associations between residents and police would help. 8.7 percent of the respondents thought that creating structures that maintain some distance between residents and police officers could help solve the problems, whereas 6.3 percent thought that leaving the issue of crime and civil order to the police was the best way to help solve problems.

Q. 31. Technology such as computers, cell phones, and videos is important, but citizen involvement is much more important for crime prevention or resolution.

The majority of the respondents (63.1 percent) either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement that technology such as computers, cell phones, and videos were important, but that citizen involvement was much more important for crime prevention and resolution. 20.5 percent were not sure about this issue, and 8.9 percent disagreed with the statement. Only 4.6 percent strongly disagreed with it.

TABLE 9: Citizen Involvement in Charleston Community Policing

	Number	Percent
Q. 32. Overall, on the basis of your experience and evaluation of the policies and practices of community-oriented policing in Charleston, would you describe yourself as being:		
➤ Extremely optimistic about the future	76	18.3
➤ Reasonably optimistic	112	27.0
➤ Not sure	138	33.3
➤ Pessimistic	48	11.6
➤ Extremely pessimistic	33	8.0
➤ Not specified	8	1.9
Total	415	100.0
Q. 33. As a responsible citizen, which of the following do you believe you need to do (do not) to realize the goals of a peaceful and relatively less crime free environment (you can mark more than one answer)		
➤ Willing to pay more taxes	50	12
➤ Volunteer for 5-10 hours a week	88	21.2
➤ Willing to participate in committees	73	17.6
➤ Take part in fund-raising efforts	37	8.9
➤ Do not believe contribution through taxes is necessary	126	30.4
➤ Citizens do not have a say in it	31	7.5
➤ Other	10	2.4
Total	415	100.0

Table 9

Q. 32. Overall, on the basis of your experience and evaluation of the policies and practices of community-oriented policing in Charleston, would you describe yourself as being:

When respondents were asked how they would describe themselves on the basis of their experience and evaluation of the policies of the community-oriented policing in Charleston, 33.3 percent said they were not sure, while 27 percent said they were reasonably optimistic. 18.3 percent said they were optimistic, and 11.6 percent said they were pessimistic. Only 8.0 percent said they were extremely pessimistic.

Q. 33. As a responsible citizen, which of the following do you believe you need to do (do not) to realize the goals of a peaceful and relatively less crime free environment.

When respondents were asked what they felt they needed to do to realize the goals of a peaceful and relatively less crime free environment, 30.4 percent said they did not believe they needed to contribute through taxes because they were being overtaxed already. 21.2 percent responded they would be happy to volunteer 5-10 hours per week, and 17.6 percent said they were willing to participate in police-citizen partnership committees. 12.0 percent said they would be willing to pay more taxes, and 8.9 percent said they would take part in community fund-raising efforts. Finally, 7.5 percent of the respondents said it was the governments business and they had no say in it.

TABLE 10 : Feeling of Youth Crime in Charleston

	Number	Percent	
Q. 35. Do you feel the youth crime rate for the city is?			
➤ Too high	124	29.9	} 68.5
➤ High	160	38.6	
➤ Normal	101	24.3	
➤ Below normal	25	6	
➤ Not specified	5	1.2	
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 36. Do you feel that youths involved in criminal activities become victims of criminal acts because of their age?			
➤ Yes	223	53.7	
➤ No	177	42.7	
➤ Not specified	15	3.6	
➤			
Total	415	100.0	
Q. 37. Do you feel that youths are more likely to be victims of criminal acts during the daylight or the nighttime hours?			
➤ Daylight	46	11.1	
➤ Nighttime	353	85.1	
➤ Both	15	3.6	
➤ Not specified	1	0.2	
Total	415	100.0	

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Table 10

Q. 35. Do you feel the youth crime rate for the city is high or normal?

38.6 percent of respondents thought that the youth crime rate for their area was high, and 29.9 percent said it was too high. The crime rate was thought to be normal to 24.3 percent, while 6.0 percent thought it was below normal.

Q. 36. Do you feel that youths involved in criminal activities become victims of criminal acts because of their age?

When respondents were asked if they felt that youths involved in criminal activities become victims of criminal acts because of their age, the majority of the respondents (53.7 percent) said yes, while 42.7 percent said no.

Q. 37. Do you feel that youths are more likely to be victims of criminal acts during the daylight or the nighttime hours?

When respondents were asked whether youths were more likely to be victims of criminal act during the daylight or the nighttime hours, the majority of the respondents (85.1 percent) said during the nighttime, while 11.1 percent of the respondents said during the daylight. The remaining 3.6 percent reported both, during the daytime and nighttime.

TABLE 11: Curfew

	Number	Percent
Q. 38. Who should be responsible for setting a curfew?		
➤ Government	136	32.8
➤ Parents	245	59
➤ Other	31	7.5
➤ Not specified	3	0.7
Total	415	100.0
Q. 39. Would a youth curfew in the city help reduce crime against youths?		
➤ Yes	259	62.4
➤ No	60	14.5
➤ Don't know	95	22.9
➤ Not specified	1	0.2
Total	415	100.0

Continued Table 11

Q. 40. If a curfew is put in place in Charleston, do you think a violator's parent/guardian should be held accountable?		
➤ Parent/Guardian	119	28.7
➤ Violator	136	32.8
➤ Parent and violator	157	37.8
➤ Not specified	3	0.7
Total	415	100.0
Q. 41. At what time should the curfew start?		
➤ 9:00 p.m.	63	15.2
➤ 10:00 p.m.	89	21.4
➤ 11:00 p.m.	97	23.4
➤ 12:00 a.m.	21	5.1
➤ 1:00 a.m.	1	0.2
➤ 10:30 p.m.	14	3.4
➤ 9:30 p.m.	6	1.4
➤ 3:00 a.m.	1	0.2
➤ 7:00 p.m.	4	1.0
➤ 6:30 p.m.	1	0.2
➤ 7:30 p.m.	3	0.7
➤ 12:30 a.m.	4	1.0
➤ 8:00 p.m.	35	8.4
➤ 11:30 p.m.	8	1.9
➤ Not specified	68	16.4
Total	415	100.0
Q.42. Which of the following would be a good alternative to help reduce crime by youths?		
➤ Treat violator as adult	191	46.0
➤ Increase penalties for offenders	112	27.0
➤ Increase recreational facilities	111	26.7
➤ Not specified	1	0.2
Total	415	100.0

Table 11

Q. 38. Who should be responsible for setting a curfew?

When respondents were asked who should be held responsible for curfew, the majority of the respondents (59.0 percent) said the parents, while 32.8 percent thought the government should be responsible.

Q. 39. Would a youth curfew in the city help reduce crime against youths?

When respondents were asked if a youth curfew would help reduce crime against youths, the majority of the respondents (62.4 percent) said yes, while 22.9 percent said they did not know if it would help. The remaining 14.5 percent said that youth curfew would not help reduce crime against youths.

Q. 40. If a curfew is put in place in Charleston, do you think a violator's parent/guardian should be held accountable?

When the respondents were asked if a curfew were put in place who would be held accountable, the responses were evenly divided among the different categories. 37.8 percent said that the parents and violators should be held accountable for the curfew, whereas 32.8 percent said that the violator should be held accountable. Finally, 28.7 percent felt that the parent/guardian should be held accountable.

Q. 41. At what time should the curfew start?

The majority of the respondents (71.8 percent) thought the curfew should start between 9:00 and 12:00, while 16.4 percent of the respondents did not specify any time. 10.3 percent of the respondents said the curfew should start between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. Only 1.4 percent thought the curfew should begin between 12:30 and 3:00 a.m.

Q.42. Which of the following would be a good alternative to help reduce crime by youths?

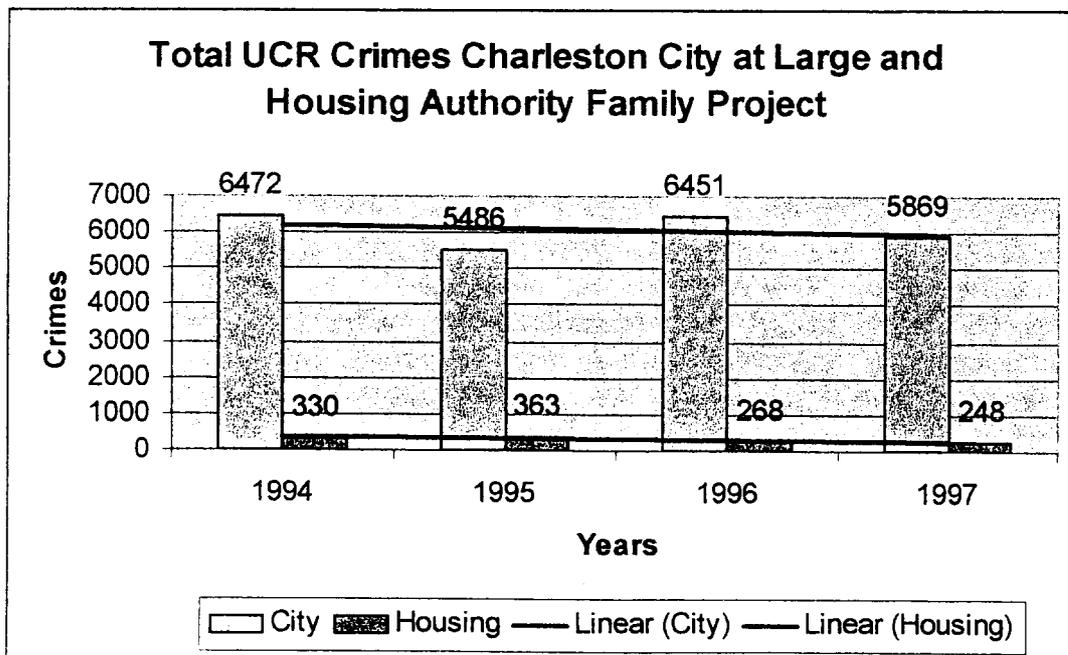
When respondents were asked what would be a good alternative to reduce crime in youths, 46.0 percent said the violator's needed to be treated as adults, while 27.0 percent said the need to increase penalties for offenders. 26.7 percent of the respondents said recreational facilities needed to be increased to help reduce crime by youths.

B. Secondary Data Analysis

Secondary data was collected from the Uniform Crime Reporting reports starting from 1994 to 1999. These UCR data were analyzed as follows:

**Table 12: Total UCR Part I Crimes
Charleston City at Large and Housing Authority Family Project**

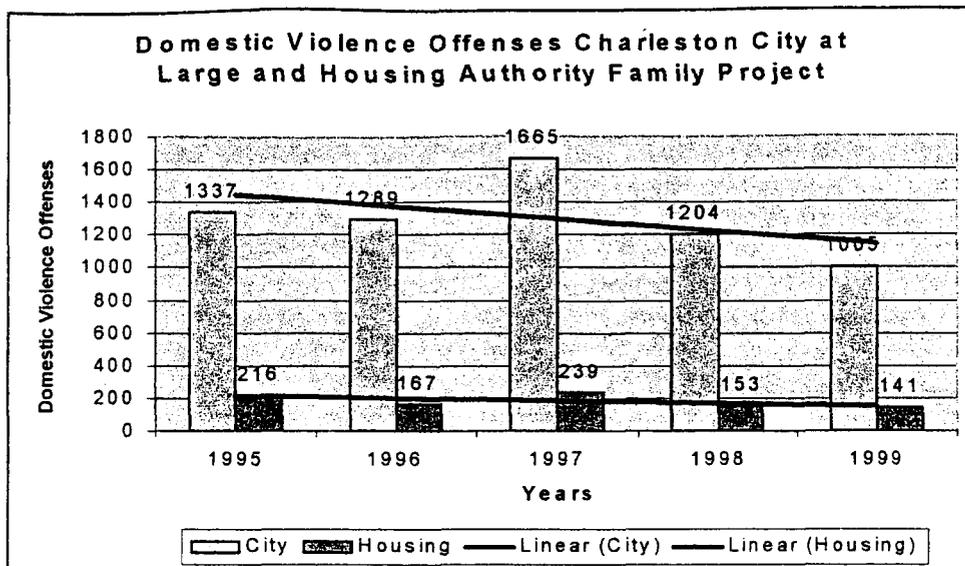
	1994	1995	1996	1997
City at Large	6,472	5,486	6,451	5,869
Annual Percent change		(-15.2%)	17.6%	(-9.0%)
Total Change		(-15.2%)	(-0.3%)	(-9.3%)
Charleston Housing				
Orchard Manor	131	132	110	83
Littlepage Terrace	34	54	18	19
Washington Manor	60	65	60	57
South Park Village	20	24	11	11
Hillcrest Village	13	6	6	8
Oakhurst Village	7	12	11	8
Lee Terrace	16	19	14	11
Lippert Terrace	3	7	4	3
Jarrett Terrace	1	3	1	1
Carrol Terrace	24	18	15	10
Dorchester Road	21	23	18	37
Total Charleston Housing	330	363	268	248
% crimes out Total City	5%	6.6%	4.2%	4.2%
Annual Percent Change		10.6%	(-26.2%)	(-7.5%)
Total Change		10.6%	(-18.8)	(-24.8%)



Looking at table 12, the data suggests that between 4.2% to 6.6% of the total crime committed in Charleston between 1994 to 1997 were committed in Charleston Housing Authority Family Projects. However, if we compare the trend of the crimes between Charleston city at large and Charleston Housing Authority Family Projects, the total change of UCR crime between 1994 and 1997 were -9.3% as compared to -24.8% respectively. Such findings appear to suggest that community policing in the Charleston Housing Authority Projects have a positive effective in reducing crimes.

**Table 13: Domestic Violence Offenses
Charleston City at Large and Housing Authority Family Project**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
City at Large	1,337	1,289	1,665	1,204	1,005
Annual Percent change		(-3.5%)	29.0%	(-27.7%)	(-16.5%)
Total Change		(-3.5%)	24.5%	(-9.9%)	(-24.8%)
Charleston Housing					
Orchard Manor	78	49	77	41	31
Littlepage Terrace	38	23	23	22	18
Washington Manor	38	39	70	54	46
South Park Village	18	7	15	16	11
Hillcrest Village	10	2	9	3	3
Oakhurst Village	10	6	13	4	4
Lee Terrace	7	9	13	0	5
Lippert Terrace	0	0	0	0	0
Jarrett Terrace	0	1	0	0	0
Carrol Terrace	1	6	2	0	0
Dorchester Road	16	25	17	13	23
Total	216	167	239	153	141
% Domestic Violence Out Total City	16.1%	13%	14.3%	12.7%	14%
Annual Percent change		(-22.7%)	43.1%	(-36%)	(-7.8%)
Total Change		(-22.7%)	10.6%	(-29.2%)	(-34.7%)



Looking at table 13, the data suggests that between 12.7.% to 16.1% of the total domestic violence offenses committed in Charleston between 19945to 1999 were committed in Charleston Housing Authority Family Projects. However, if we compare the trend of the crimes between Charleston city at large and Charleston Housing Authority Family Projects, the total change of UCR crime between 1994 and 1997 were -24.8% as compared to -34.78% respectively. Such findings appear to suggest that community policy in the Charleston Housing Authority Projects has a positive effective to reduce domestic violence offenses.

**Table 14:UCR Part I Crime in Charleston Public Housing
Selected Offenses January 1993 through December 1994**

	Orchard Manor	Washington Manor	Littlepage	South Park	Hillcrest	Oakhurst Village	Total	%
Murder	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	0.31%
Sexual Assault	7	1	5	2	1	2	18	1.40%
Sexual Abuse	2	2	0	0	1	3	8	0.62%
Robbery & Attempts	17	12	6	1	0	0	36	2.79%
Malicious wounding	47	4	11	4	3	1	70	5.43%
Battery and/or Assault	266	26	78	41	23	19	453	35.12%
Burglary & Attempts	102	14	15	12	12	7	162	12.56%
B and E and Attempts	16	5	1	0	0	1	23	1.78%
Larceny	79	70	33	12	11	8	213	16.51%
Motor Vehicle Theft	23	2	2	3	4	4	38	2.95%
Arson	4	2	2	1	0	0	9	0.70%
Vandalism	95	23	23	29	20	8	198	15.35%
Brandishing	24	6	6	2	3	4	45	3.49%
Other Weapon Violations	5	4	4	0	0	0	13	1.01%

From the above data, it is very clear that the major offenses committed between 1993 and 1994 were battery and/or assault (35.12%), followed by larceny (16.51%), vandalism (15.35%), burglary & attempts (12.56%), malicious wounding (5.43%), brandishing (3.49%), and motor vehicle theft. It is important that community policing in partnership with Housing Authorities, and domestic violence advocates develop a program that would address these problems.

V. Summary and Conclusions

A study of knowledge and attitudes of respondents towards community policing in Charleston is the first systematic comprehensive survey to date in West Virginia. Nearly 415 Charleston respondents responded out of 605 randomly selected sample with a response rate of 69%. The survey sample consists of six Charleston public housings: Washington Manor, Littlepage Terrace, Orchard Manor, Hillcrest Village, Okahurst Village, and SouthPark Village. The survey provided valuable information about the knowledge and attitudes of Charleston public housing towards community policing.

The following summarizes the results of the knowledge and attitudes of Charleston public housing residents towards community policing:

- The sample respondents appear to reflect the demographic characteristics of the Charleston public housing residents. Generally, the majority of respondents to the survey were female, white and African American, single, and full or part time employed. The average ages of respondents were between 18 –50 years old, and education level among these were: GED, high school, and some college. The locations of the respondents were evenly distributed among the Charleston public housing. The Annual incomes of the majority respondents were less than 20,000 dollars (see table 1).
- The survey asked a variety of questions intended to measure Charleston public housing residents' feelings of safety in their neighborhood. According to the above data, 89.1 percent of the respondents said that they are safe during the daytime, while 75.4 percent of the public housing residents felt they were safe at night. However,

compared to a few years ago around 20% of respondents felt a lot more unsafe now. Such increases of fear will need to be discussed (see table 2).

- 44.1 percent of the respondents felt no difference in safety over the past few years, although 33.0 percent said they feel safer now. This attitude may be attributed to Charleston's adoption of the community-policing program in 1991. About 1/3 of the respondents felt an increase in safety over the past few years, so the community-policing program has had a positive impact on them. However, public opinion surveys performed between 1982 and 1996 demonstrated that in the last 3 years of the period, the proportion of Americans perceiving crime as the most important problem has increased by an average of 900 percent compared to the first 12 years of the same period (Maguire & Pastore, 1996). This finding suggests that the safety of the community needs to be discussed and addressed by the police community program (see table 2).
- When asked what the worst and bad crime in the neighborhood was, involvement of children in drugs (64.4 percent), drug dealers attacks (62.7 percent), random shooting (54.7 percent), and crime against children (53.3 percent), were considered the worst and bad types of threats of crime in their neighborhood. Robbery (51.8 percent), living alone with no protection (47.9 percent), breaking into apartment or home (47.7 percent), and getting hurt (46.7 percent) were reported as problems as well. These findings suggest, that even though the majority (89.1 percent) of the respondents feels safe during day time and 35.2 percent feels safe during night time, there is still threats of crime in their area that posed the greatest danger to be addressed (see table 3).

- When asked what would you consider to be the worst and bad crime in your area, drugs (80.5 percent), public drinking (74.4 percent), loud music (70.1 percent), and carrying guns (70.1 percent) were considered the worst or bad problem in their area. In addition, child abuse (60.2 percent), shootings (59.0 percent), and prostitution (52.5 percent) were reported as a problem. These data revealed several important findings surrounding Charleston public housing residents' experiences with crime. The Charleston community policing program needs to give serious attention to these crimes (see table 4).
- When asked about the sentencing of criminals, 41.7 percent thought the courts were too lenient. This information may show the frustration of the Charleston respondents. More than likely, they want their community safe and this is why they feel the way they do. This is in agreement with another study, which showed that over 80 percent of respondents in the United States think that sentences are too lenient (Flanagan & Longmire, 1996). (see table 5).
- When asked about the reporting of crimes, over three-fourths (84.5 percent) thought it was extremely important. Reporting of crime can be drastically improved with community policing. One of the main qualities of community policing is to involve the community in keeping their city safe. With the help from the Charleston public housing residents, more crimes can be reported and the reaction by police can be more swift (see table 5).
- When asked why citizens in your area do not report crimes, 60.2 percent of respondents felt it is because of fear of retaliation or it did no good anyway to report.

The community policing needs to work on public relations, in order to create an atmosphere of confidence (see table 5).

- Nearly two-thirds, 64.3 percent of the respondents said that the police were either “very responsive” or “somewhat responsive” to the crimes and over two-third, 67.5 percent said that the police were either “very helpful” or “somewhat helpful. Other Studies such as the SCAN program in Miami and the residents of Monrovia in community policing, support this survey finding. For instance, Even though the Charleston community policing and other studies clearly show that there are major threats and problem of crimes in their area, the Charleston residents feel that the police reaction to the problem of crime is very responsive and helpful. Such finding should be use by Charleston community policing department as an opportunity to create a greater partnership with the community (see table 6).
- When Charleston public housing residents were asked to rate the Charleston Police’s performance, whether they have respect for the residents, and how they perceive the police in terms of safety for the community, the majority of respondents, 70.9 percent, 49.0 percent, and 49.0 percent respectively were generally pleased with the Charleston Police Department. When respondents were asked whether police should concentrate on crime control, not on issues such as neighborhood decay or community relations, the majority of the respondents, 58.1 percent either strongly agreed or agreed with this statement as compared to 23.1 percent of the respondents who either disagreed or agreed with it. When Charleston respondents were asked about the importance of communication as compared to the need for a gun and badge,

68.5 percent agrees communication is important. These findings clearly indicate that the Charleston Police's performance with regards to the police's respect and sensitivity for the residents are considered very important (see table 6).

- When asked their response to crime or perception of crime, 25.1 percent of the respondents had stayed in at night followed by adopting other actions to prevent crime in their areas (15.2%), and requesting better lighting in their neighborhood, and taking a friend along with them, both with 11.1 percent. Again when they were asked which of the following crime happened against you in the last couple of years, the majority of the respondents, 59.0 percent reported that no crimes were committed against them, followed by 9.4 and 7.0 percent of the respondents who reported that theft and vandalism crimes were committed against them. Such findings need to be discussed with the Charleston community policing and neighborhood watch to deal with the actual crimes they face (see table 7).
- When respondents were asked whether there has been a change in the policing approach by the Charleston Police Department, 50.9 percent felt Charleston has either made a difference in crime prevention and reduction or have noticed a positive change in the way crime is handle in the areas as compared to 22.2 percent who felt they don't believe it had made any difference or are not aware of the change and crime has gotten worse in the area. Of all city respondents, 38.1 percent believed that citizens a have strong role to play in the prevention and resolution of crimes followed by 19.8 percent of the respondents who believed that citizens have a somewhat limited role to play. When the Charleston respondents were asked about the

community policing truth, 32.5 percent responded community policing is an excellent tool for preventing and reducing crime. Again 43.4 percent of Charleston respondents felt that the building of a very strong partnership between respondents, the police and other government could help solve the problem of crime and disorder. 63.1 percent of all Charleston respondents agreed that technology is important, but citizens involvement is much more important for crime prevention and resolution.

In short, in the mind of the citizen of Charleston, partnership and citizen participation is a critical element in the prevention and resolution of crime (see table 8).

- 45.3 percent of all respondents described themselves as reasonably optimistic about the Charleston community policing. When asked, which of the following do you believe you need to do (or not do) to realize the goals of a peaceful and relatively less crime free environment, 30.4 percent do not believe contribution through taxes is necessary, 21.6 percent of the respondents are willing to be volunteers for 5-10 hours a week followed by 17.6 percent of the respondents who are willing to participate in committees (see table 9).
- When asked how they feel about the youth crime rate for the city of Charleston, 68.5 percent responded that either it is too high or high compared to 24.3 percent who responded as normal or below normal. 53.7 percent of all respondents felt that youth involved in criminal activities become victims of criminal acts because of their age as compared to 42.7 percent who responded no. The overwhelming majority (85.1 percent) responded that youths are more likely to be victims of criminal acts during nighttime hours. About 29.9 percent of the people surveyed feel that youth crime rate

is too high. This can be attributed to many different factors, of which may include peer pressure, moral values, and poor communication (see table 10).

- When respondents were asked who should be held responsible for curfew, the majority, 59.0 percent said the parents and 32.8 percent said the government. When respondents were asked if a youth curfew would help reduce crime against youths, the majority of the respondents 62.4 percent said yes, while 14.5 percent said no. The other 22.9 percent said they did not know if it would help. When respondents to the survey were asked who should be held accountable if a curfew was to be put in place, 33.8 percent said it should be the parent and the violator. 32.8 percent said the violator should be held accountable and 28.7 percent said it should be the parent/guardian. The majority of the respondents, (71.8 percent) thought the curfew should start between 9:00 and 12:00. Only .2 percent thought the curfew should begin at 1:00 a.m. When respondents were asked what would be a good alternative to reduce crime in youths, 46.0 percent said the violators needed to be treated as adults, 27.0 percent said the need to increase penalties for offenders, and 26.7 percent said recreational facilities needed to be increased (see table 11).

It is very clear from the above findings that curfew could be used as a means to reduce crime in Charleston.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the study of knowledge and attitudes of public housing respondents towards community policing in Charleston clearly reflects the concern of the public housing residents and public housing authority. As a result, the Charleston housing

authority has developed the five-year Drug Elimination Plan (2000-2004), which is based upon a two-tiered approaches, security and prevention. The two major goals to be reached through these programs are:

1. *To prevent and reduce the incidents of crime and drug related crime, violence and vandalism and create a safer environment for the residents of Charleston public housing.*
2. *Prevent and reduce youth and adult resident attraction to and use of drugs.*

As researchers, we believe that this five year plan, the action steps and outcomes, address the concerns of the findings. However, a good plan can not produce a good result without the active participation of the residents, housing authority, and community-policing department. In addition, they need to have an annual evaluation to see whether the outcomes are achieved or not. Based on these evaluations, they need to adjust the plan.

In addition to the above plan, and based on the community-policing practices being implemented throughout the U.S and their analysis, the primary research conducted in Charleston and the history of community policing in Charleston and its demographics, social environment and crime history; the following are some of the recommendations:

- The findings show that the Charleston respondents don't feel safe in their neighborhood. There are many factors associated with fear or safety such as the sensational reporting of crime, general sense of vulnerability, signs of physical and social decay. The Charleston community policing strategy needs to focus on increasing security, which would reduce fear-such as foot patrol. In addition, the

continuous partnership and interaction between Charleston community policing and the neighborhood organization through focused programs will definitely help in reducing fear in Charleston. In summary, the success of these particular programs of Charleston community policing (1) “would make fear reduction an important objective, and (2) would concentrate on improving the quantity and quality of contacts between citizens and police at all levels of the department.” (Pate, 1987). Such a strategy has been successful in reducing fear in Houston and Newark among others cities. Such shift in strategy for Charleston community policing would contribute to the reduction of fear.

- When they were asked about the threat of crime in their neighborhood, the Charleston public housing resident’s survey revealed that involvement of children in drugs, drug dealer attacks, random shooting, and crime against children were the worst and bad threats of crime in their neighborhood. However, when asked what would be considered to be the worst and bad crime in their area, drugs, public drinking, loud music, and carrying guns were their responses. Given these findings, Charleston community policing needs to considered programs such as Citizens Engaged in Anti-Crime Effort (CEACE) and Patrol in Residential Neighborhood. The CEACE program was initiated in West Covina, California to educate the public about crime problems. Under The CEACE plan, programs were conducted in burglary, child molestation, drugs, youth safety and juvenile law. Residential burglary was identified as one of the main crimes and as a result the Neighborhood Saturation program sent burglary prevention letters to each home in target areas, explaining how teams of

police and citizens would start working together to distribute booklets on home security, arrange security checks, and develop Operation ID. They also developed neighborhood-meeting programs wherein residents hosted meetings at their homes and police officers participated (Trojanowicz, 1983). Adopting a program on the style of CEACE, which aims to control criminal activities of burglary and theft, is likely to find support from the Charleston respondents. Second, the need to consider a program like Patrols in Residential Neighborhoods: A community-policing program from Kalamazoo, Michigan, whose objective was to prevent crime, detect and apprehend criminals and improve community relations. The program reduced residential burglaries, increased crime reporting to the police, and improved community relations.

- Based on the response of the Charleston respondents, drugs, public drinking, loud music, carrying guns, child abuse, shooting, and prostitution were reported to be the worst or bad crime in their area. The reduction of these crimes should be a priority. Some of the recommendations should include a public health model which includes three phases- (1) to promote a healthy partnership between the citizens and the community policing; (2) to prevent crime using individuals and organizations that have a whole range of educational programs; (3) to maintain a safety environment which includes initiatives to improve the Police community performance and bringing criminals to justice. In response to the respondents concern about these specific crimes, the Charleston community policing should develop strategies that will help

the prevention, detection, and accurate presentation of Charleston community policing performance.

- The partnership approach with local communities and neighborhoods, together with improved local communication, are a very important element toward establishing trust between the community policing and Charleston respondents.
- Educational programs such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), Public Awareness, and Ongoing Reinforcement Programs related to prevention are important tools to be considered for adoption in Charleston.
- The survey findings showed that young people are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crimes, and they are particularly vulnerable as victims of criminal activities and abuses. The Charleston community policing should continue to cooperate with school, local communities, and other agencies to address the problem of juvenile offending and to promote good behaviors.
- The survey also showed that carrying guns and the short sentencing of criminals by courts were among the concerns of Charleston respondents. Nationally, 76 percent of Americans in a recent poll favored stricter gun-control laws. Besides, over 80 percent of respondents in the national survey thought that sentences are too lenient. Such findings need to be examined and be debated to develop appropriate responses.
- Nearly two thirds (64.3 percent) of Charleston respondents said that police were either very responsive or somewhat responsive to the crimes, and 67.5 percent said that the police were either very helpful or somewhat helpful. Such findings should be used by Charleston community policing department as an opportunity to create a

greater partnership with the community, so that the respondents feel comfortable to report crime in their neighborhood. Some programs that have been implemented in other states with good results are:

1. **Community Police Liaison:** This effective program was started by Winston-Salem in North Carolina, where it provides a 24 hour a day liaison between the police and the community to prevent crime. Another goal of this program was to change the image of the police, so that they would be viewed as friendly and trusted officers. The strategy was to set up a Community Services Unit, which investigated and dealt with the matters of youth crime and delinquency and as a proactive effort also work in the recreational facilities used by children (Trojanowicz, 1983).

43.3 percent of the respondents stated that the building of a strong partnership between public housing residents, police and government bodies would help solve problems of crime and disorder. This also augurs well for the implementation of the above strategy in the Charleston area.

2. **Community Crime Prevention:** The goal of this Salt Lake City, Utah, program was to develop a comprehensive crime prevention program and to develop meaningful communication and rapport between police and the community. The strategy of this program was the set up of an Advisory council as well as a Businessman's Executive Council to develop and implement preventive downtown foot patrol, a crime prevention center throughout the city and special staff training. Some of the highlights of this program were walk-in service for the

community at the Crime Prevention Center, which also served as the headquarters for the community and as a clearing house for the officers' speaker's bureau. This opened a new link between the police and the community and fostered better relations (Trojanowicz, 1983).

3. **Community Sector Team Policing-Personalized Patrol:** This program was used in Cincinnati, Ohio. One of the goals of this program was to strengthen the relations between the police and the public. The Community Sector Team Policing was an experimental program providing 24-hour daily service. According to this program teams were assigned to neighborhood needs with mandatory specific training designed to promote citizen-police contact (Trojanowicz,1983).
 4. **Volunteer Aid Police:** Launched in Maricopa County, Arizona, the goal of this program was to involve interested and qualified citizen volunteers in some of the critical functions of law enforcement. Under this program recruited volunteers without a criminal record assisted in crime watches, prisoner transportation etc. This promoted a greater cooperation between the police and the community (Trojanowicz,1983).
- The vast majority of public housing residents of Charleston believed that the youth crime rate is too high. Citizens also agree that youths become involved in criminal activities because of their age (53.7 percent) and that criminal activities take place more during the nighttime than during the day (85.1 percent). Public housing residents of Charleston stated that parents should be the ones to establish curfew for

their children (59.0 percent) and hold that a youth curfew would reduce the rate of youth crime (62.4 percent). Almost one-third (32.8 percent) of the respondents agree that curfew violators and their parents should be held accountable for their wrong. 46.0 percent of the respondents stated that a good alternative to help reduce crime by youths should be to treat them as adults. Charleston residents indicated that an appropriate time for setting a curfew would be 11:00 p.m. (23.4 percent), with 10:00 p.m. as the second most popular choice.

It appears that youth crime in Charleston is a real problem and needs to be addressed. Recently, the Charleston City Council has introduced a curfew after a study was done by WVSAC about the need for a curfew in Charleston (Berhie, 1999). Such careful introduction of a curfew hopefully will help reduce the youth crime in Charleston.

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Appendix 1: Charleston UCR Data from 1989 to 1999

CRIMES	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Larceny Theft	4466	4102	4354	4529	4238	4070	3526	4041	3606	3447	2912
Annual Percent change		-8.20%	6.10%	4.00%	-6.40%	-4.00%	-13.40%	14.60%	-10.76%	-4.41%	-15.52%
Total Change		-8.20%	-2.50%	1.40%	-5.10%	-8.90%	-21.00%	-9.50%	-19.26%	-22.82%	-34.80%
Percent Change Since CPD				4.00%	-2.70%	-6.50%	-19.00%	-7.20%	-17.18%	-20.83%	-33.12%
Breaking and Entering	1297	1174	1365	1308	1295	1194	908	1036	1140	1169	1000
Annual Percent change		-9.50%	16.30%	-4.20%	-1.00%	-7.80%	-24.00%	14.10%	10.04%	2.54%	-14.46%
Total Change		-9.50%	5.20%	0.80%	-0.20%	-7.90%	-30.00%	-20.10%	-12.10%	-9.87%	-22.90%
Percent Change Since CPD				-4.20%	-5.10%	-12.50%	-33.50%	-24.10%	-16.48%	-14.36%	-26.74%
Motor Vehicle Thefts	412	279	419	468	454	311	390	456	498	568	487
Annual Percent change		-32.30%	50.20%	11.70%	-3.00%	-31.50%	25.40%	16.90%	9.21%	14.06%	-14.26%
Total Change		-32.30%	1.70%	13.60%	10.20%	-24.50%	-5.30%	10.70%	20.87%	37.86%	18.20%
Percent Change Since CPD				11.70%	8.40%	-25.80%	-6.90%	8.80%	18.85%	35.56%	16.23%
Robberies	260	179	264	251	290	225	287	248	251	215	187
Annual Percent change		-31.20%	47.50%	-4.90%	15.50%	-22.40%	27.60%	-13.60%	1.21%	-14.34%	-13.02%
Total Change		-31.20%	1.50%	-3.50%	11.50%	-13.50%	10.40%	-4.60%	-3.46%	-17.31%	-28.08%
Percent Change Since CPD				-4.90%	9.80%	-14.80%	8.70%	-6.10%	-4.92%	-18.56%	-29.17%
Felonious Assaults	175	280	377	518	412	327	316	302	331	312	309
Annual Percent change		60.00%	34.60%	37.40%	-20.50%	-20.60%	-3.40%	-4.40%	9.60%	-5.74%	-0.96%
Total Change		60.00%	115.40%	196.00%	135.40%	86.90%	80.60%	72.60%	89.14%	78.29%	76.57%
Percent Change Since CPD				37.40%	9.30%	-13.30%	-16.20%	-19.90%	-12.20%	-17.24%	-18.04%
Rapes	45	41	46	39	51	40	47	26	36	35	37
Annual Percent change		-8.90%	12.20%	-15.20%	30.80%	-21.60%	17.50%	-44.70%	38.46%	-2.78%	5.71%
Total Change		-8.90%	2.20%	-13.30%	13.30%	-11.10%	4.40%	-42.20%	-0.20	-0.22	-0.18
Percent Change Since CPD				-15.20%	10.90%	-13.00%	2.20%	-43.50%	-21.74%	-23.91%	-19.57%
Murders	9	8	12	6	16	6	9	7	5	7	8
Annual Percent change		-11.10%	50.00%	-50.00%	166.70%	-62.50%	50.00%	-22.20%	-28.57%	40.00%	14.29%
Total Change		-11.10%	33.30%	-33.30%	77.80%	-33.30%	0.00%	-22.20%	-44.44%	-22.22%	-11.11%
Percent Change Since CPD				-50.00%	33.30%	-50.00%	-25.00%	-41.70%	-58.33%	-41.67%	-33.33%

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