

# Survey Results

## WHAT DO WE WANT (AND WHAT ARE WE GETTING) FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ?

Comparing the general public's expectations and  
perceptions with crime victims' experiences

### SELECTED FIGURES:

Statewide Surveys of the  
Public and Crime Victims  
in Connecticut, Delaware,  
Maine, Massachusetts,  
Vermont, New Hampshire,  
New Jersey, New York and  
Rhode Island

### CONDUCTED FOR:

Council of State  
Governments/Eastern  
Regional Conference



nan, Ronca and  
alas, Inc.

SE DATE:  
IT 10, 1999

178251

## PREFACE

In a region-wide meeting in November 1997, Republican and Democratic state lawmakers, criminal justice policymakers, and judges across the region voiced similar frustrations: despite falling crime rates, the passage of state policies, laws, or constitutional amendments designed to guarantee victims certain rights and services, and dramatic increases in state and local funding for criminal justice-related efforts, the public, crime victims, and victim-advocacy organizations were complaining that the criminal justice system still failed to meet their needs. Key criminal justice officials in each of the nine states agreed that a survey of the public and victims in their states would improve their understanding of the public and victims' perspectives on the current state of the criminal justice system.

Consequently, the officers of the Criminal Justice Board of Directors of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference commissioned a regional survey of the public and crime victims in nine northeastern states. The survey was conducted by Schulman, Ronca and Bucuvalas, Inc. (SRBI), a national public opinion research organization, in November 1998. A total of 4,000 adults were interviewed by telephone, including statewide samples of the adult population of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. The telephone interviews averaged eighteen minutes in length.

The survey results indicate that despite plunging crime rates, a substantial majority of the public would like to see the criminal justice system changed dramatically. When asked whether they liked the idea of totally revamping the way the criminal justice system works or if the present system works well enough the way it is, three-quarters of the public preferred totally revamping the way the criminal justice system works.

The survey results suggest some reasons why the public wants to see wholesale changes made to the criminal justice system. The public -- and crime victims -- want a broader set of outcomes from sentencing than are currently available in the criminal justice system. Furthermore, the outcomes most important to the public are often not realized by sentences currently imposed on offenders. Both the public and crime victims also believe that victims and their families should be provided certain rights, opportunities and services as part of the criminal justice process. Only a minority, however, believe that crime victims usually get these rights in their state. Thus, it should not be surprising that those persons who have been involved in the criminal justice system as a crime victim are not very satisfied with the criminal justice process.

The highlights of the full survey report are presented in the attached graphs and charts.

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## FIGURE 1 STUDY DESIGN AND METHODS

SURVEY CONDUCTED BY SCHULMAN, RONCA & BUCUVALAS, INC.

RANDOM DIGIT DIALING (RDD) SAMPLE OF TELEPHONE  
HOUSEHOLDS

ALLOCATION OF COMPLETED SAMPLE:

CONNECTICUT	400
DELAWARE	400
MAINE	400
MASSACHUSETTS	400
NEW HAMPSHIRE	400
NEW JERSEY	400
NEW YORK (UPSTATE)	400
NEW YORK (METRO)	400
RHODE ISLAND	400
VERMONT	400
 TOTAL	 4,000

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEWERS IN  
A FULLY MONITORED CENTRAL TELEPHONE INTERVIEWING  
FACILITY USING COMPUTER ASSISTED TELEPHONE  
INTERVIEWING

INTERVIEW PERIOD: October 21 - November 29, 1998

AVERAGE INTERVIEW LENGTH: 18.0 MINUTES

WEIGHTING FOR DISPROPORTIONATE SAMPLING IN TOTAL  
ESTIMATES

EXPECTED MAXIMUM SAMPLING ERROR FOR ESTIMATES:

STATE ESTIMATES (N=400):            $\pm$  4.9 percentage points @  
95% confidence level

REGIONAL ESTIMATES (N=4,000)  $\pm$  1.5 percentage points @  
95% confidence level

**FIGURE 2**  
**Participation Rate**  
**(by state)**

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Completes</b>	<b>Participation Rate</b>
Connecticut	400	78.9%
Delaware	401	78.3%
Maine	404	82.1%
Massachusetts	400	77.3%
New Hampshire	403	78.5%
New Jersey	400	74.4%
New York - Metro	400	83.9%
New York - Rest of state	401	77.9%
Rhode Island	403	75.7%
Vermont	403	79.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,015</b>	<b>78.5%</b>

**FIGURE 3****Like/Dislike Revamping Way Criminal Justice System Works (by state)**

Q38: A number of states are considering significant changes in the way the criminal justice system works. Without knowing any specific details, do you like the idea of totally revamping the way the system works or do you feel the present system works well enough the way it is?

Base: Total population

Review on Revamping	Total N=4,015	STATE								
		CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
Like revamping whole system	75%	79%	78%	81%	75%	76%	77%	74%	79%	71%
Works well enough the way it is	16%	12%	14%	11%	16%	17%	16%	18%	13%	16%
Not sure/ Refused	8%	9%	8%	9%	9%	7%	7%	9%	7%	12%

**FIGURE 4**  
**Revamping the Criminal Justice System**  
**(by demographics)**  
Northeast Region

Q38: A number of States are considering significant changes in the way the criminal justice system works. Without knowing any specific details, do you like the idea of totally revamping the way the system works, or do you feel the present system works well enough the way it is?

Base: Total population

		BASE	Revamp Entire System	Works Well Enough As Is	Not Sure/ Refuse
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,015</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>GENDER</b>	<b>Men</b>	1,924	72%	20%	8%
	<b>Women</b>	2,091	79%	12%	9%
<b>AGE</b>	<b>18-29</b>	787	72%	22%	7%
	<b>30-49</b>	1,838	77%	15%	8%
	<b>50-64</b>	772	81%	11%	7%
	<b>65+</b>	527	70%	18%	11%
<b>RESIDENCE</b>	<b>Urban</b>	1,059	73%	19%	11%
	<b>Suburban</b>	2,064	77%	15%	9%
	<b>Rural</b>	892	75%	17%	3%
<b>RACE</b>	<b>White</b>	3,244	77%	15%	7%
	<b>Black</b>	322	76%	15%	9%
	<b>Hispanic</b>	208	69%	24%	12%
	<b>Other</b>	170	66%	25%	9%
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Less than High School</b>	333	61%	30%	9%
	<b>High School Graduate</b>	1,293	78%	15%	7%
	<b>Some College</b>	1,024	79%	14%	8%
	<b>College Graduate</b>	1,321	75%	15%	10%



**FIGURE 5**  
**Feeling of Safety on the Streets Compared to 15 Years Ago**  
**(by state)**

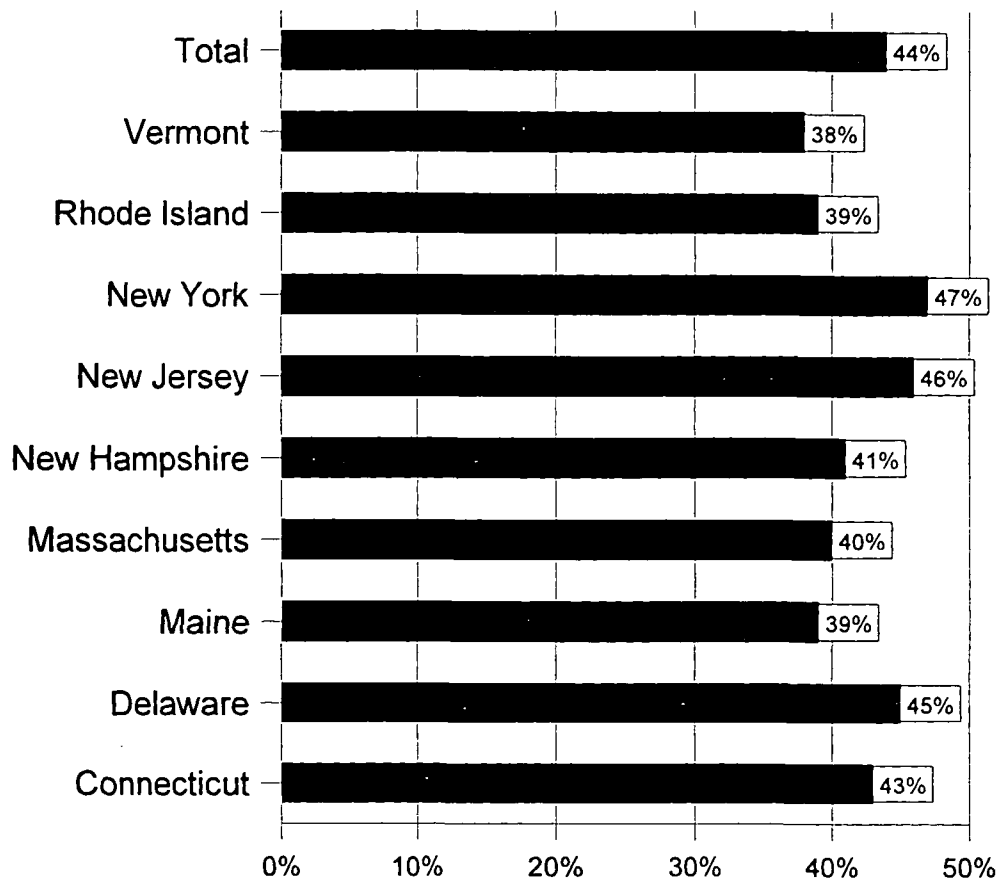
Q1: Compared to 15 years ago, do you feel safer on the streets now, not as safe now, or about as safe now as 15 years ago?

Base: Total population

Unweighted N=4,015

	Safer Now	Not as Safe Now	About as Safe Now	Not Sure/ Refused
TOTAL	15%	49%	32%	3%
Connecticut	10%	53%	34%	4%
Delaware	6%	69%	23%	2%
Maine	8%	47%	43%	2%
Massachusetts	10%	53%	34%	3%
New Hampshire	9%	52%	37%	2%
New Jersey	13%	55%	29%	3%
New York Metro	28%	37%	32%	3%
Rest of New York State	10%	52%	33%	4%
Rhode Island	11%	57%	30%	3%
Vermont	9%	46%	42%	3%

**FIGURE 6**  
**Victim of Any Violence**  
**(by state)**

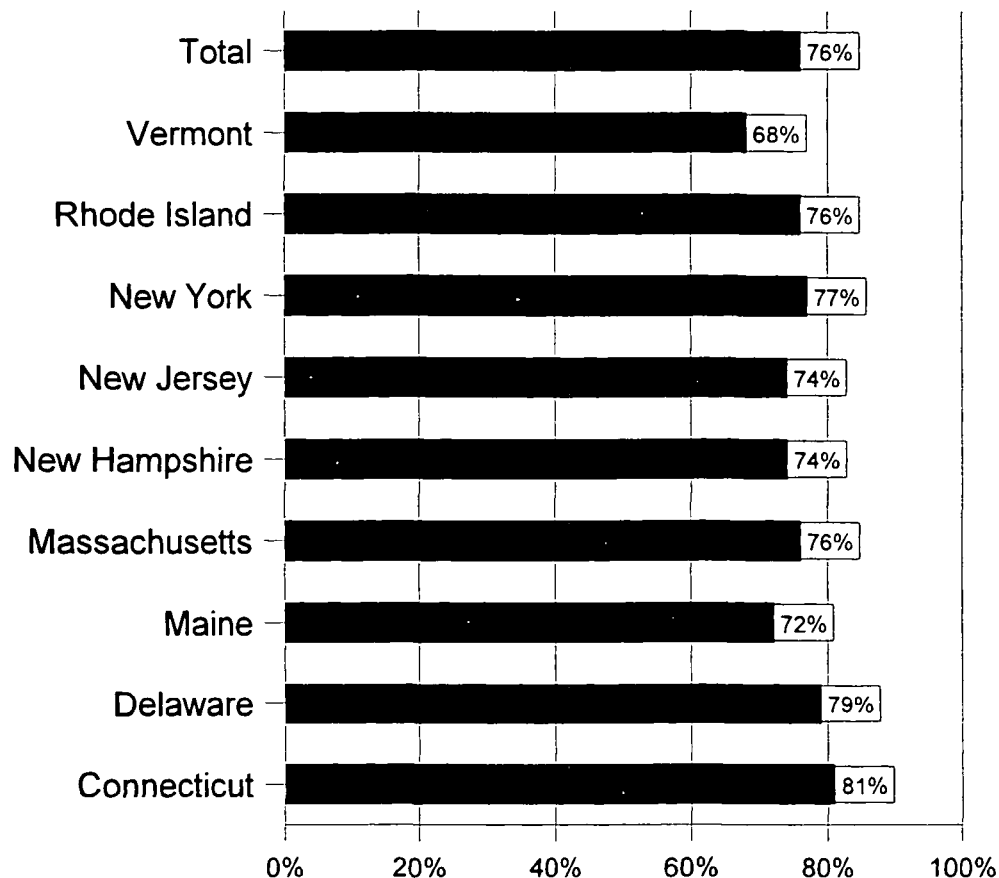


- Q5: Has anyone ever robbed or tried to rob you with a gun, knife or some other weapon?
- Q6: Aside from robbery, has anyone ever physically attacked you with a gun, knife or other weapon?
- Q7: Has anyone ever physically attacked you without a weapon, but with intent to seriously harm you?
- Q8: Has anyone ever threatened to attack or seriously harm you?
- Q9: Has anyone ever forced you or tried to force you to have sex against your will (including persons you know, or family members, as well as strangers)?
- Q10: Aside from what you have already told me, have you ever been the victim of any other violence or threat of violence, including injury by a drunken driver, regardless of whether you feel it was a crime?

Base: Total population

Unweighted N=4,015

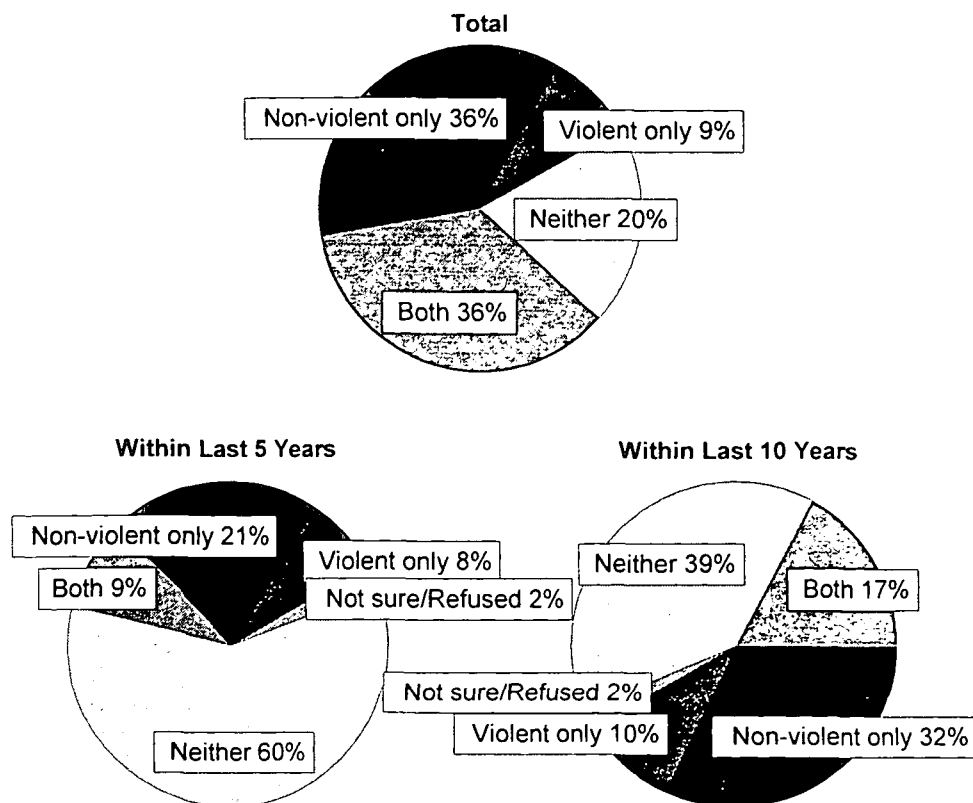
**FIGURE 7**  
**Victim of Any Non-Violent Crime**  
**(by state)**



- Q11. Has anyone ever broken into your home, regardless of whether they actually stole anything?
- Q12. Has anyone ever stolen something from your home, regardless of whether they actually broke in?
- Q13. Has anyone ever deliberately damaged your home, its contents or other property of yours through vandalism or arson?
- Q14. Has anyone ever stolen your car or motor vehicle?
- Q15. Has anyone ever stolen anything from your car, your office, your locker or somewhere else away from home when you were not present?
- Q16. Has anyone ever cheated or defrauded you out of money or property?
- Q17. Aside from what you have already told me, have you ever been the victim of any other non-violent crime, including stalking?

Base: Total population  
 Unweighted N=4,015

**FIGURE 8**  
**Exposure to Crime**  
 (Northeast Region)



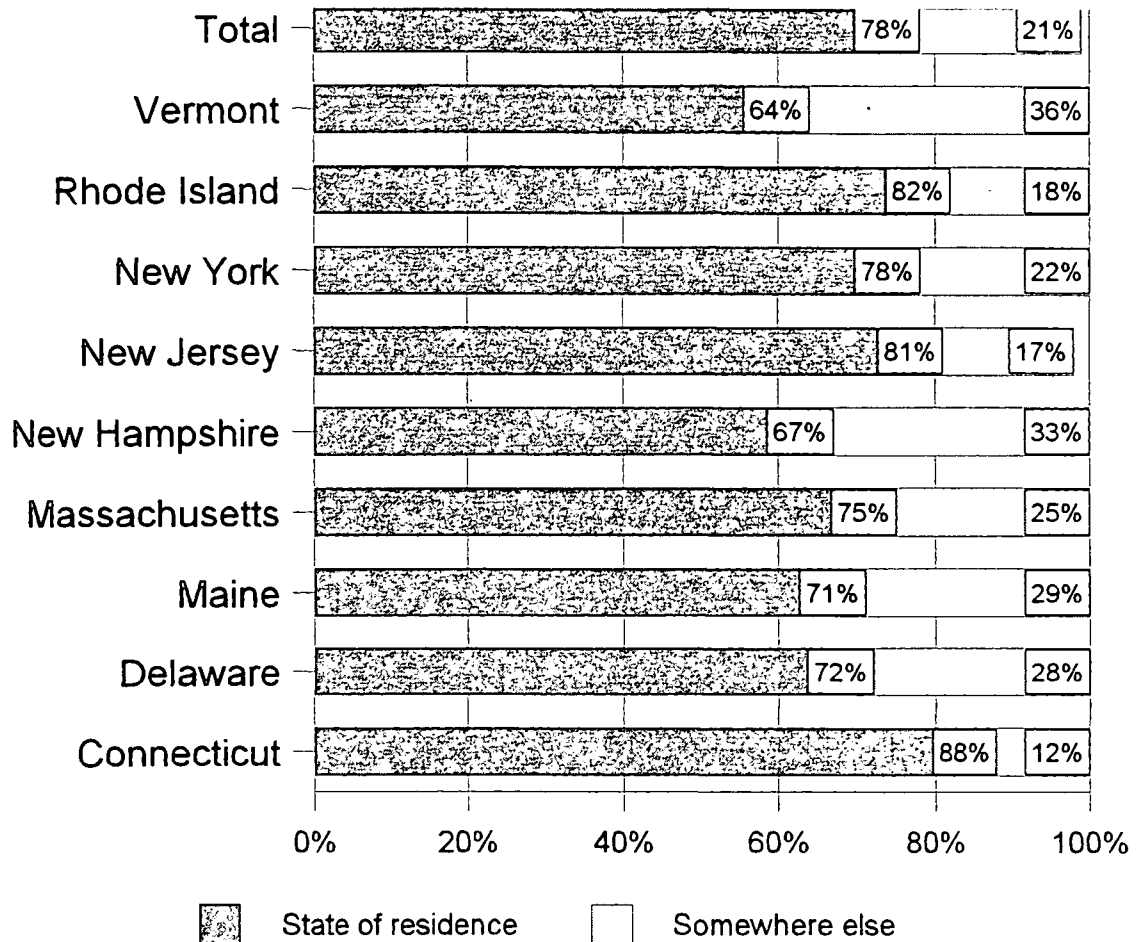
Q47: When was the most recent time that you were a victim of one of these violent crimes?

Q52: When was the most recent time that you were a victim of one of these non-violent crimes?

Base: Total population

Unweighted N=4,015

**FIGURE 9**  
**Location of Most Recent Crime**  
**(by state)**

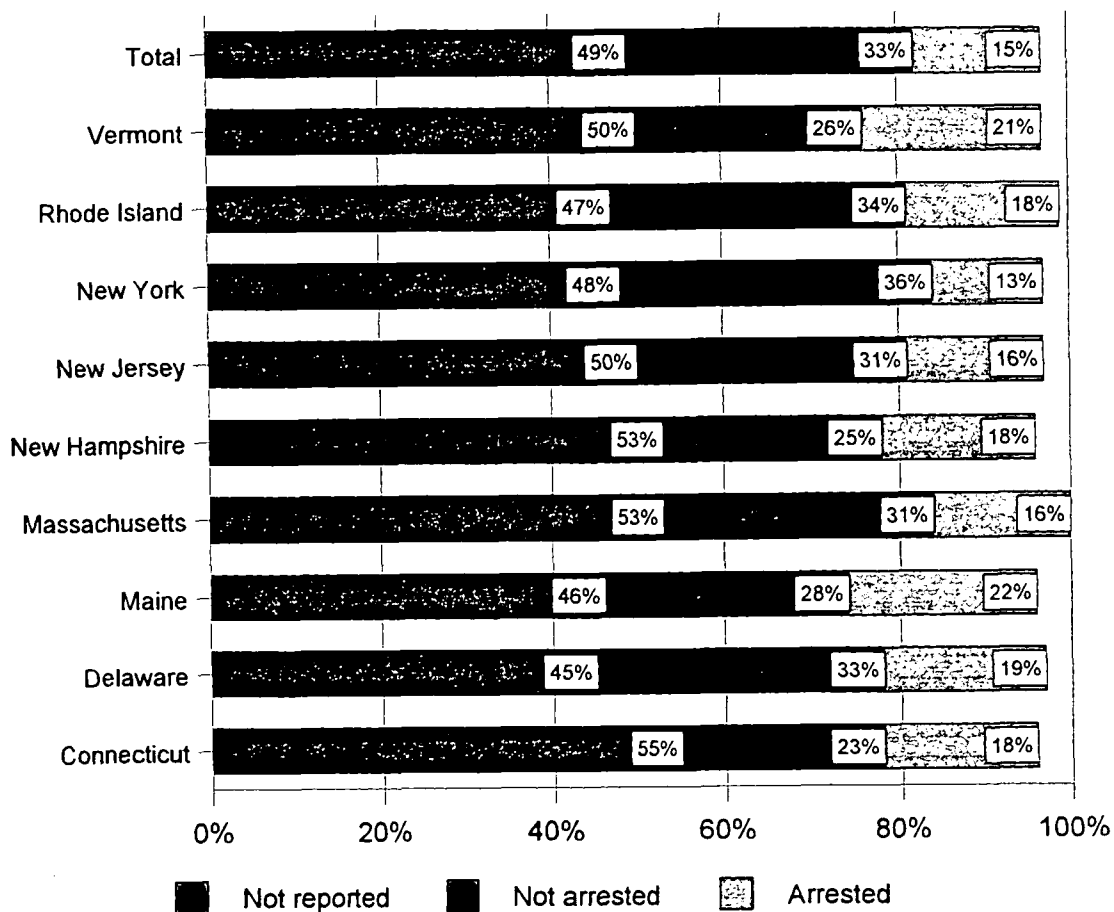


Q63c: Did it happen in [state of residence] or somewhere else?

Base: Victims of crimes with arrest in past 10 years

Unweighted N=483

**FIGURE 10**  
**Disposition of Most Recent Violent Crime**  
**(by state)**



Q49a: Did you report it to the police?

Q49b: Was anyone ever arrested for that crime?

Base: Victim of a violent crime within the past 10 years

Unweighted N=1,012

**FIGURE 11**  
**Reasons for Not Reporting Crime (by type of violent crime)**  
Northeast Region

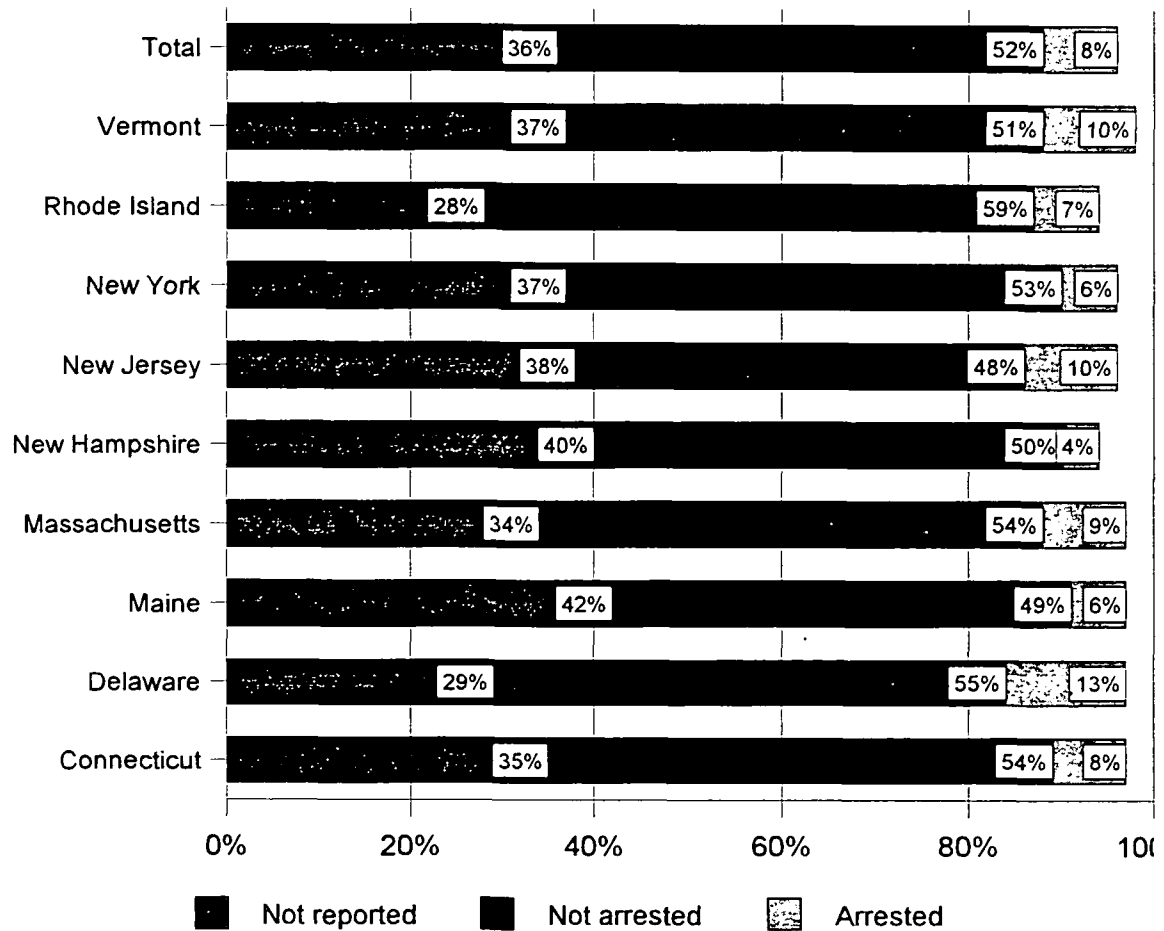
Q49c: Why didn't you report it to the police?

Base: Victims of a violent crime within the past 10 years who did not report most recent crime to police

Unweighted N=493

REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING CRIME	Type of Violent Crime				
	Robbery or attempted robbery N=52	Physical attack with weapon N=40	Physical attack without weapon N=139	Threatened with violence N=238	Sexual assault or threatened sexual assault N=43
Didn't think it was serious enough	30%	21%	30%	44%	18%
Police wouldn't think it was serious enough; Wouldn't want to bother	20%	15%	17%	12%	11%
Situation resolved; Worked it out ourselves (verbally)	9%	7%	9%	8%	1%
Afraid of reprisal by person/others	—	18%	6%	4%	21%
Offender was a family member	9%	1%	6%	3%	7%
Not clear if it was a crime or that harm was intended	2%	—	4%	4%	17%
Did not want other people to know	5%	8%	6%	3%	16%
Fear of being treated hostilely by police, lawyers or others in the justice system	3%	6%	2%	7%	1%
Lack of proof that incident happened	6%	1%	3%	2%	5%
Did not want family to know	—	2%	2%	2%	11%
Defended myself; protected myself from offender (physically)	7%	4%	1%	2%	—
Did not know how to report	5%	7%	—	2%	1%
Offender was a friend or acquaintance	—	—	1%	2%	3%
Reported incident to employer; My company took care of it	—	4%	2%	2%	—
Other	8%	—	9%	6%	7%
Not sure/Don't know	3%	14%	8%	5%	1%
Refused	4%	—	1%	2%	4%

**FIGURE 12**  
**Disposition of Most Recent Non-Violent Crime**  
**(by state)**



Q54a: Was that reported to the police?

Q54b: Was anyone ever arrested for that crime?

Base: Victim of a non-violent crime within the past 10 years

Unweighted N=1,924



**FIGURE 13**  
**Reasons for Not Reporting Crime (by type of non-violent crime)**  
Northeast Region

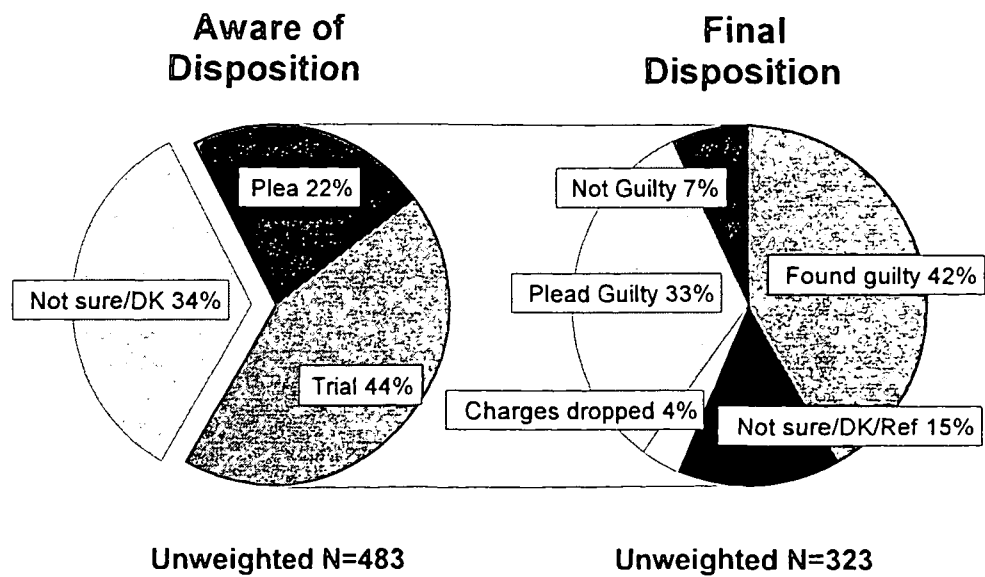
Q54c: Why didn't you report it to the police?

Base: Victims of a non-violent crime within the past 10 years who did not report most recent crime to police

Unweighted N=681

REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING CRIME	Type of Non-Violent Crime						
	Breaking and entering N=109	Burglary or House theft N=102	Vandalism or Arson N=103	Car theft N=113	Theft N=104	Fraud N=102	Other N=100
Didn't think it was serious enough	13%	30%	38%	56%	41%	27%	21%
Police wouldn't think it was serious enough; Wouldn't want to bother	12%	10%	22%	14%	18%	6%	16%
Situation resolved; Worked it out ourselves (verbally)	12%	8%	3%	—	2%	9%	7%
Afraid of reprisal by person or others	1%	2%	4%	12%	1%	3%	—
Offender was a family member	16%	11%	5%	11%	4%	5%	7%
Not clear if it was a crime or that harm was intended	2%	3%	3%	—	2%	5%	6%
Did not want other people to know	5%	2%	4%	7%	1%	1%	—
Fear of being treated hostilely by police, lawyers or others in the justice system	1%	—	—	12%	—	6%	—
Lack of proof that incident happened	18%	13%	10%	—	16%	8%	7%
Did not want family to know	3%	1%	—	—	1%	4%	—
Defended myself; protected myself from offender (physically)	—	1%	—	—	—	—	—
Did not know how to report	2%	1%	1%	—	1%	9%	—
Offender was a friend or acquaintance	7%	7%	6%	—	2%	—	3%
Reported incident to employer; My company took care of it	—	—	—	—	1%	3%	—
Other	3%	6%	2%	1%	7%	11%	7%
Not sure/Don't know	3%	6%	5%	1%	6%	3%	18%
Refused	6%	—	—	9%	—	1%	7%

**FIGURE 14**  
**Disposition of Case**  
(Northeast Region)



Q67a: Did the case go to trial?

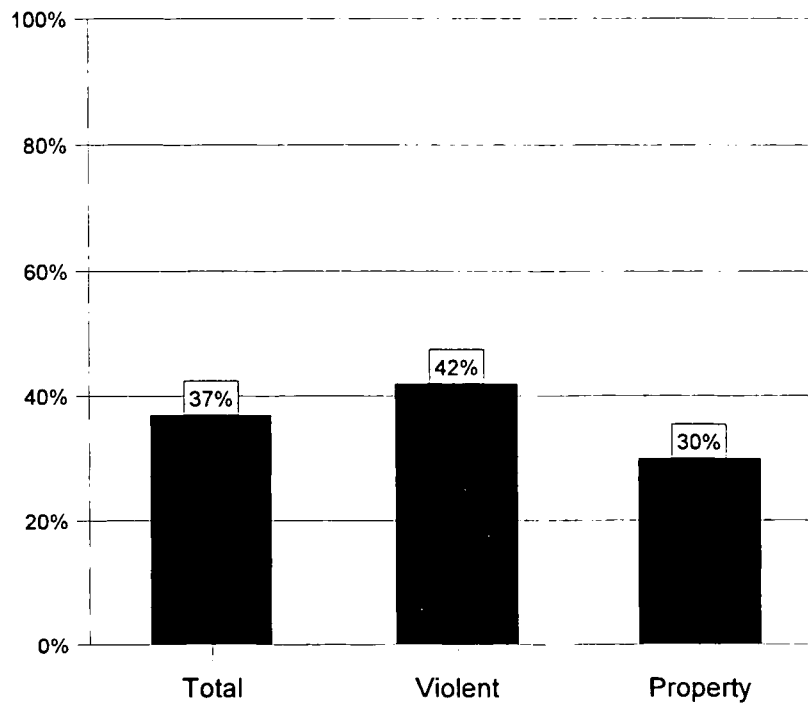
Q67b: Did the defendant enter a plea?

Q67c: What was it [the plea]?

Q74a: What was the outcome of the trial?

Base: Victims of crimes with arrests in past 10 years

**FIGURE 15**  
**Told Of Rights as a Crime Victim**  
**(by type of crime)**  
 Northeast Region



Q64a: Did anyone tell you or your family about your rights as a crime victim, such as what you would be notified about or how you could participate in prosecution, sentencing or corrections decisions?

Base: Victim of a crime with an arrest in last 10 years

Unweighted N=483

**Who Informed Victim About Rights as a Victim**  
**(by type of crime)**  
 Northeast Region

Q64b: Who informed you of your rights as a victim?

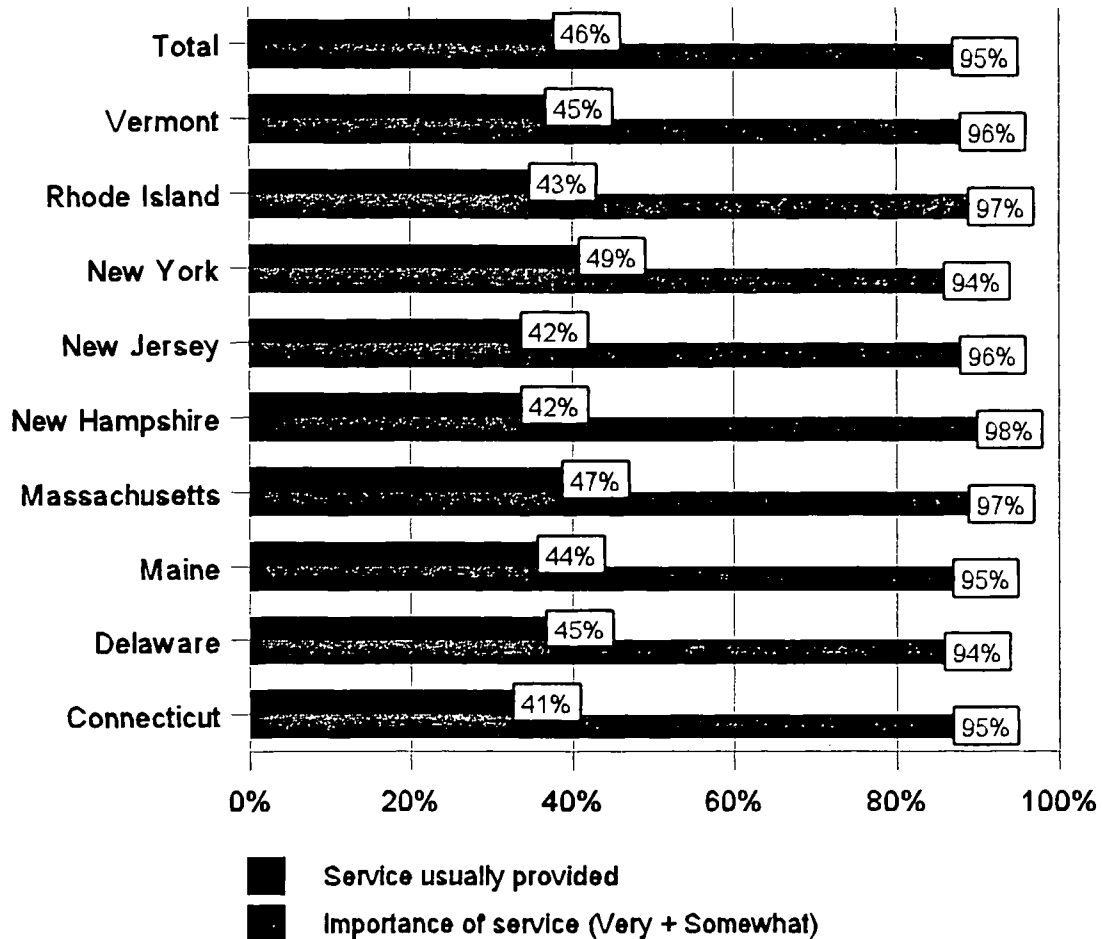
Base: Informed of rights as a crime victim

	Total	Violent	Property
<i>Unweighted N</i>	177	110	67
Police	54%	49%	64%
Prosecutor	20%	22%	17%
Victim/Witness Advocate	15%	17%	10%
Judge	4%	7%	*
Other	5%	5%	4%
Not Sure/Don't Know	2%	*	5%

\* Less than .5%

**FIGURE 16**

**Public's Impression: Importance of Notifying Victim Whether Offender Was Arrested vs. Frequency This Service Is Provided (by state)**



Q29: Based on what you know or have heard, are crime victims in this state usually ...

a: ...Informed whether or not anyone was arrested in his/her case?

Base: Total population

Unweighted N=4,015

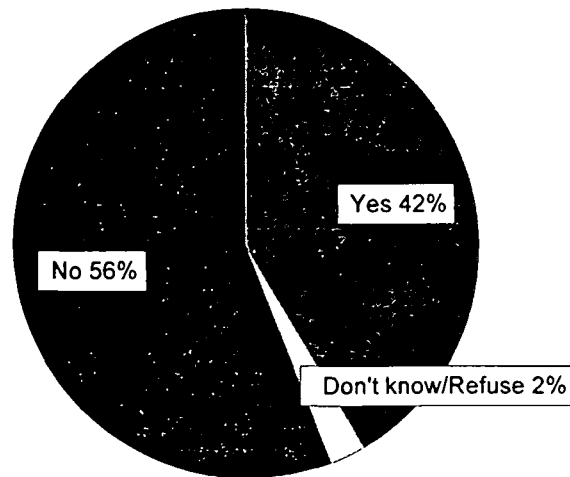
Q44: I'm going to read you some statements about victims' rights. For each statement, please tell me how important you think it is. How important do you think it is that a victim or his/her family ...

a: ...Be informed whether or not anyone was arrested in his/her case?

Base: Total population (half sample was asked question)

Unweighted N=2,010

**FIGURE 17**  
**Victim Kept Informed About Police Investigation**  
(Northeast Region)

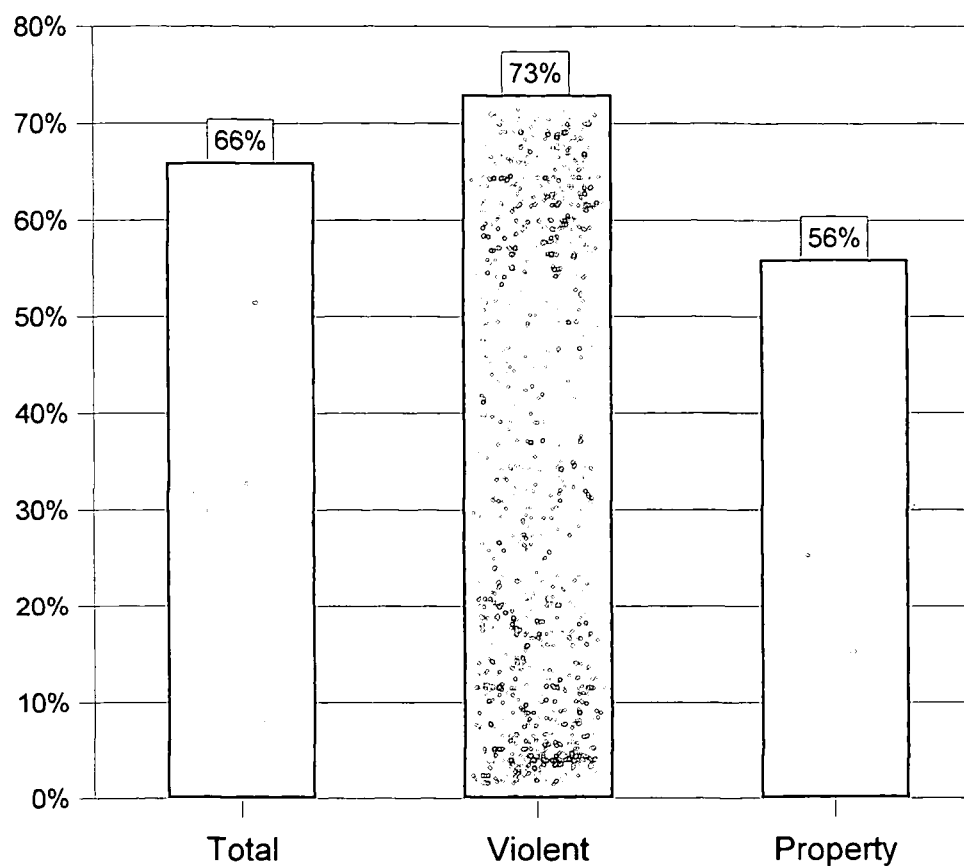


Q65: Did you feel that you or your family were kept informed about the progress of the police investigation?

Base: Victims of crimes with arrests in the past 10 years  
Unweighted N=483

How Victim Learned of Arrest	
Q66: How did you learn that someone had been arrested? Base: Victims of crimes with arrests in the past 10 years Unweighted N=483	Percent
Police	49%
Prosecutor's office	5%
Victim/witness advocate	3%
Courts	2%
Media	7%
Saw them arrested	14%
Friends or neighbors	9%
Other	4%
Didn't find out	4%
Not sure/Don't know/Refused	3%

**FIGURE 18**  
**Victim Informed in Advance of Trial Date**  
**(by type of crime)**  
Northeast Region

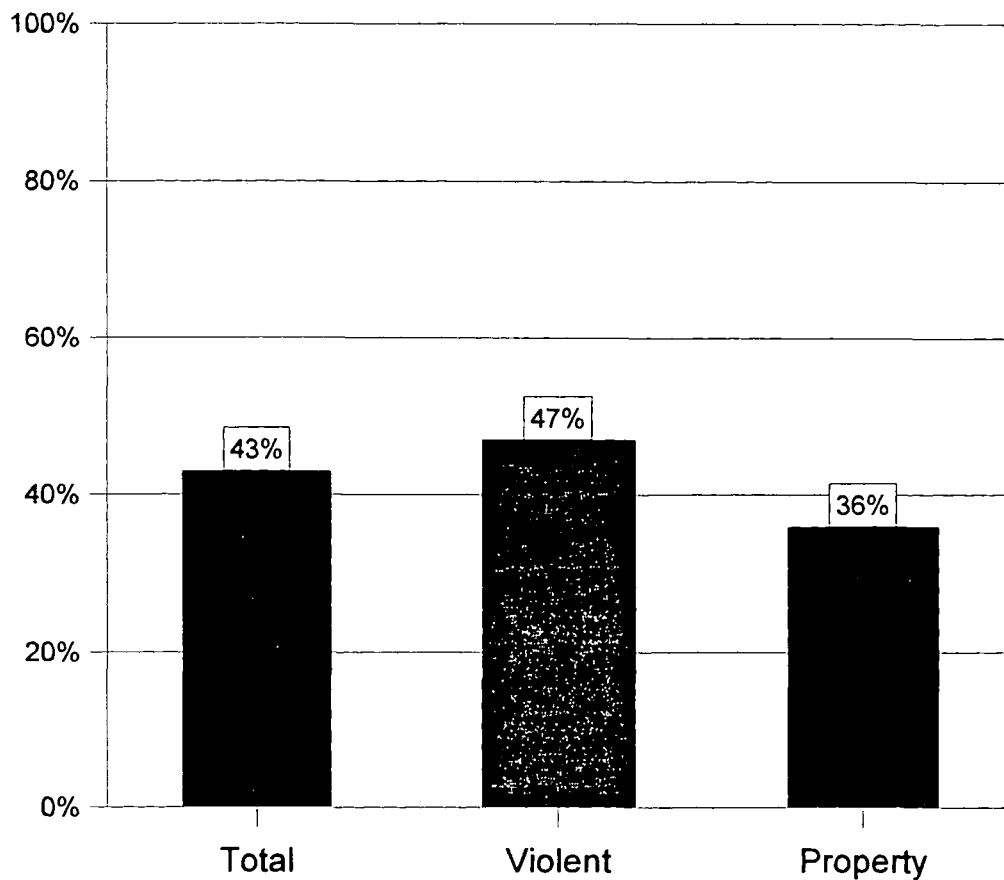


Q68: Were you or your family informed, in advance, about the date and place that the trial was scheduled to be held?

Base: Case went to trial

Unweighted N=224

**FIGURE 19**  
**Victim Told of Postponements or Continuances**  
**(by type of crime)**  
Northeast Region



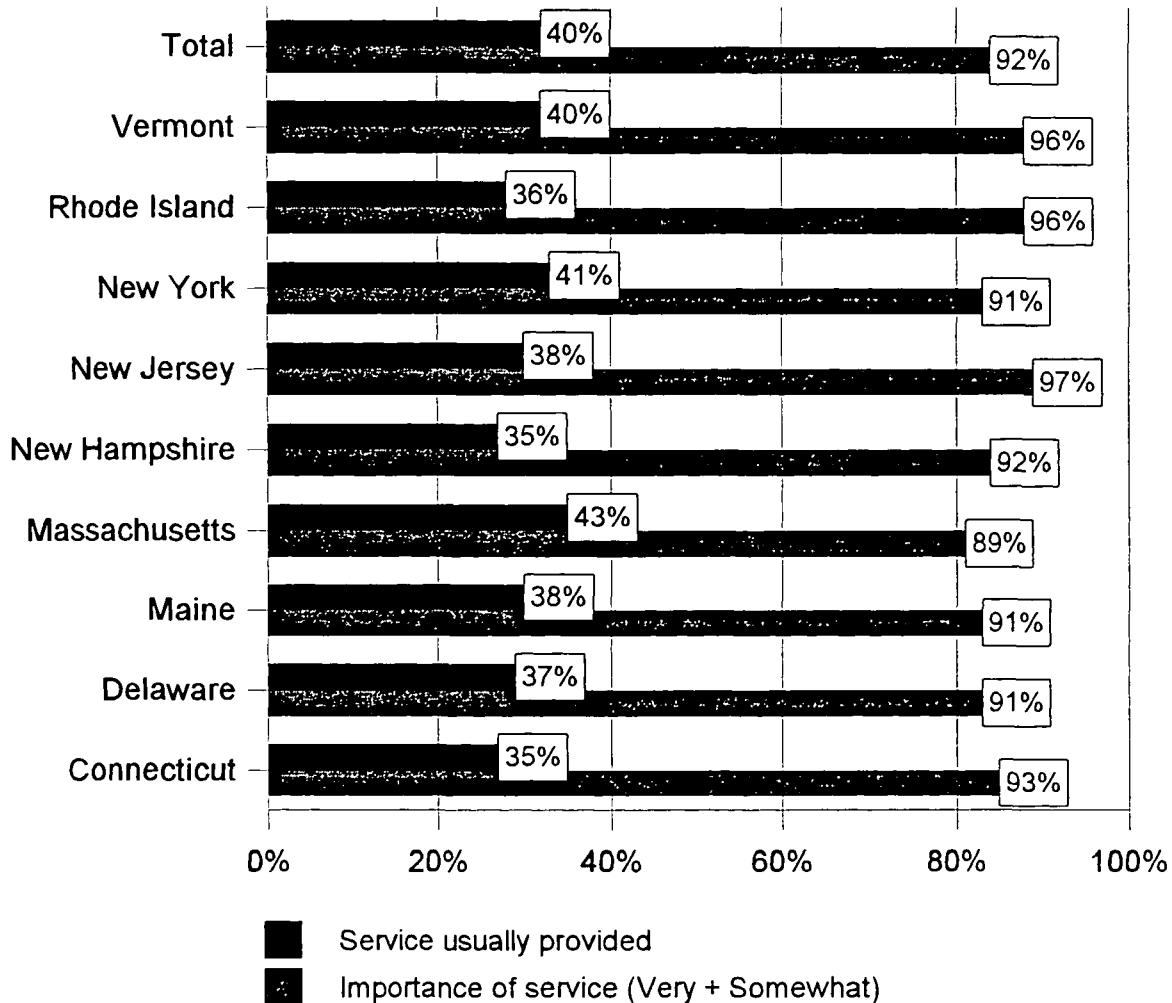
Q71: Were you or your family informed of all postponements or continuances which rescheduled the trial date?

Base: Case went to trial

Unweighted N=224

**FIGURE 20**

**Public's Impression: Importance of Victim Being Able to Discuss Case with Prosecutor vs. Frequency This Service Is Provided (by state)**



Q29: Based on what you know or have heard, are crime victims in this state usually ...  
f: ...Able to discuss his/her case with the prosecutor?

Base: Total population

Unweighted N=4,015

Q44: I'm going to read you some statements about victims' rights. For each statement, please tell me how important you think it is. How important do you think it is that a victim or his/her family ...

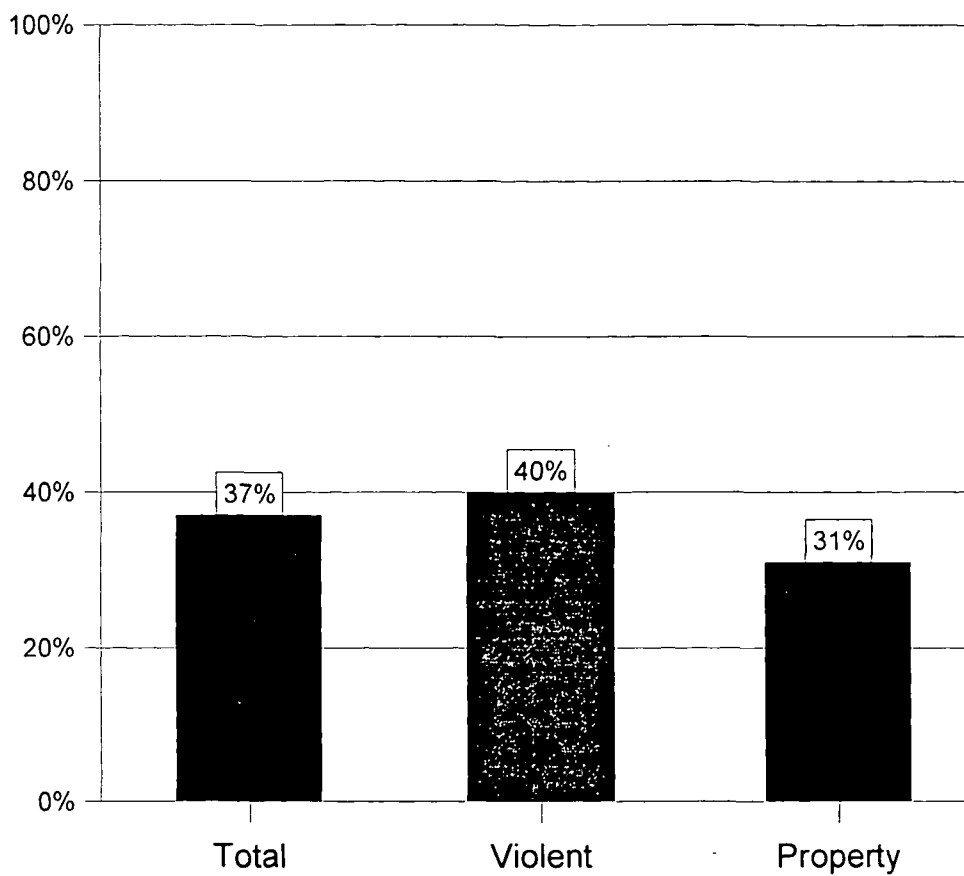
f: ...Be able to discuss his/her case with the prosecutor?

Base: Total population (half sample was asked question)

Unweighted N=2,010



**FIGURE 21**  
**Victim Informed of Right to Discuss Case with**  
**Prosecutor (by type of crime)**  
Northeast Region

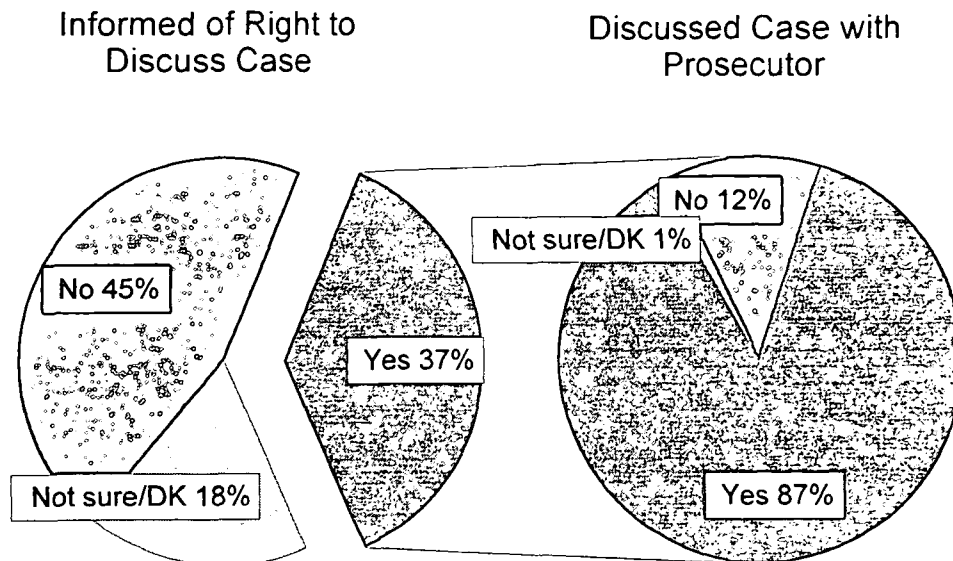


Q69a: Were you or your family told that you had the right to discuss the case with the prosecutor, either before or during the trial?

Base: Case went to trial

Unweighted N=224

**FIGURE 22**  
**Victim Aware of Right to Discuss Case with Prosecutor/**  
**Victim Actually Discussed Case with Prosecutor**  
 (Northeast Region)



Q69a: Were you or you family told that you had the right to discuss the case with the prosecutor, either before or during the trial?

Base: Case went to trial

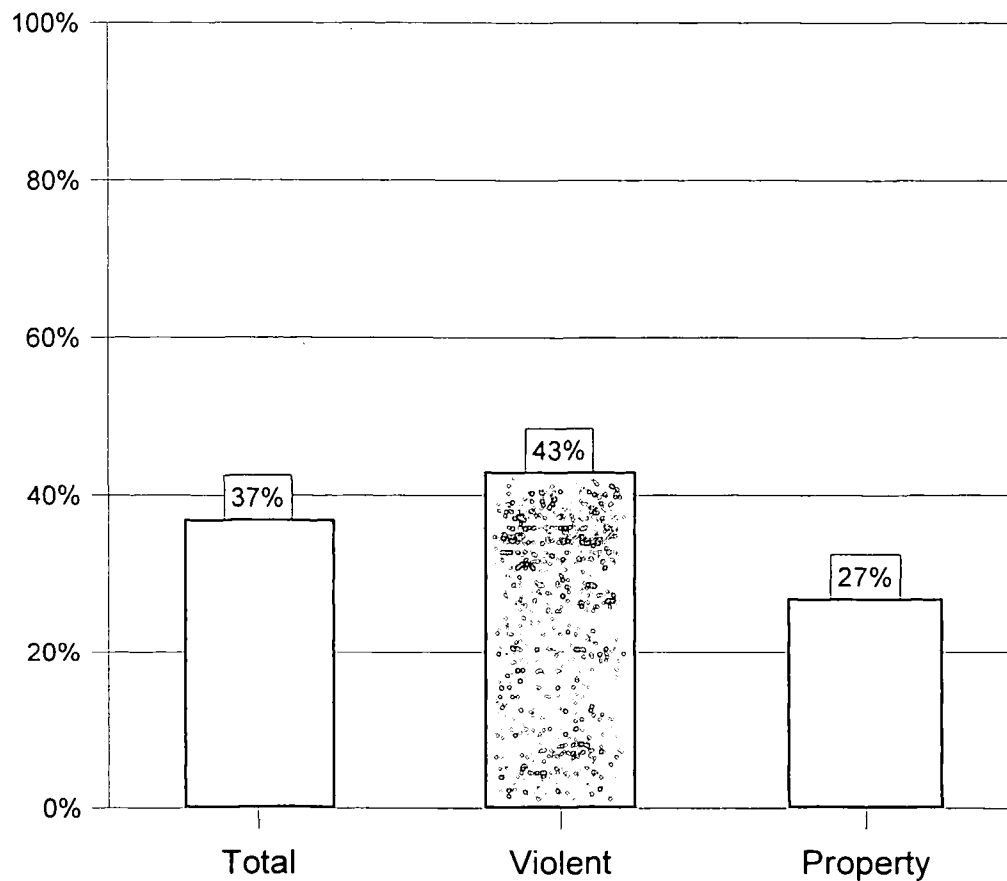
Unweighted N=224

Q69b: Did you or your family discuss the case with the prosecutor?

Base: Told of right to discuss case with the prosecutor

Unweighted N=85

**FIGURE 23**  
**Victim Felt Prosecutor Took Opinion into Account**  
**(by type of crime)**  
Northeast Region

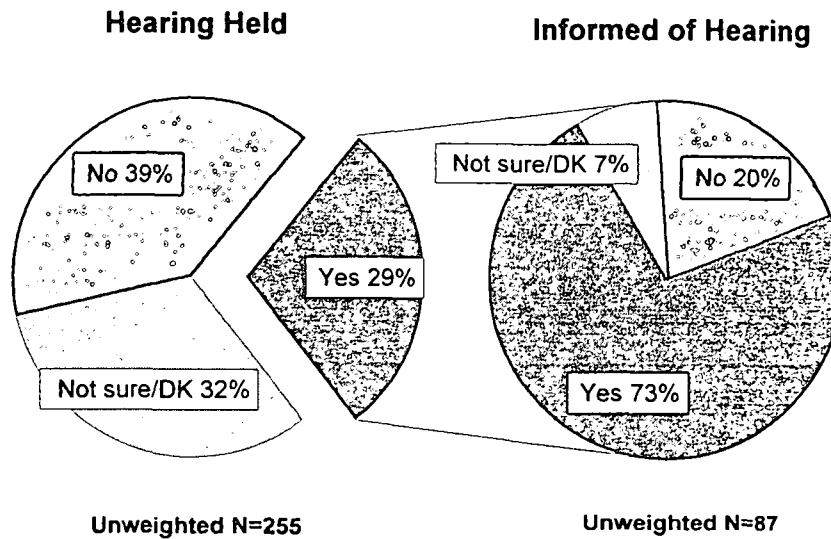


Q72: Do you believe that your opinion was taken into account by the prosecutor when decisions were made about the case?

Base: Case went to trial

Unweighted N=224

**FIGURE 24**  
**Victim Informed of Sentence Hearing**  
(Northeast Region)



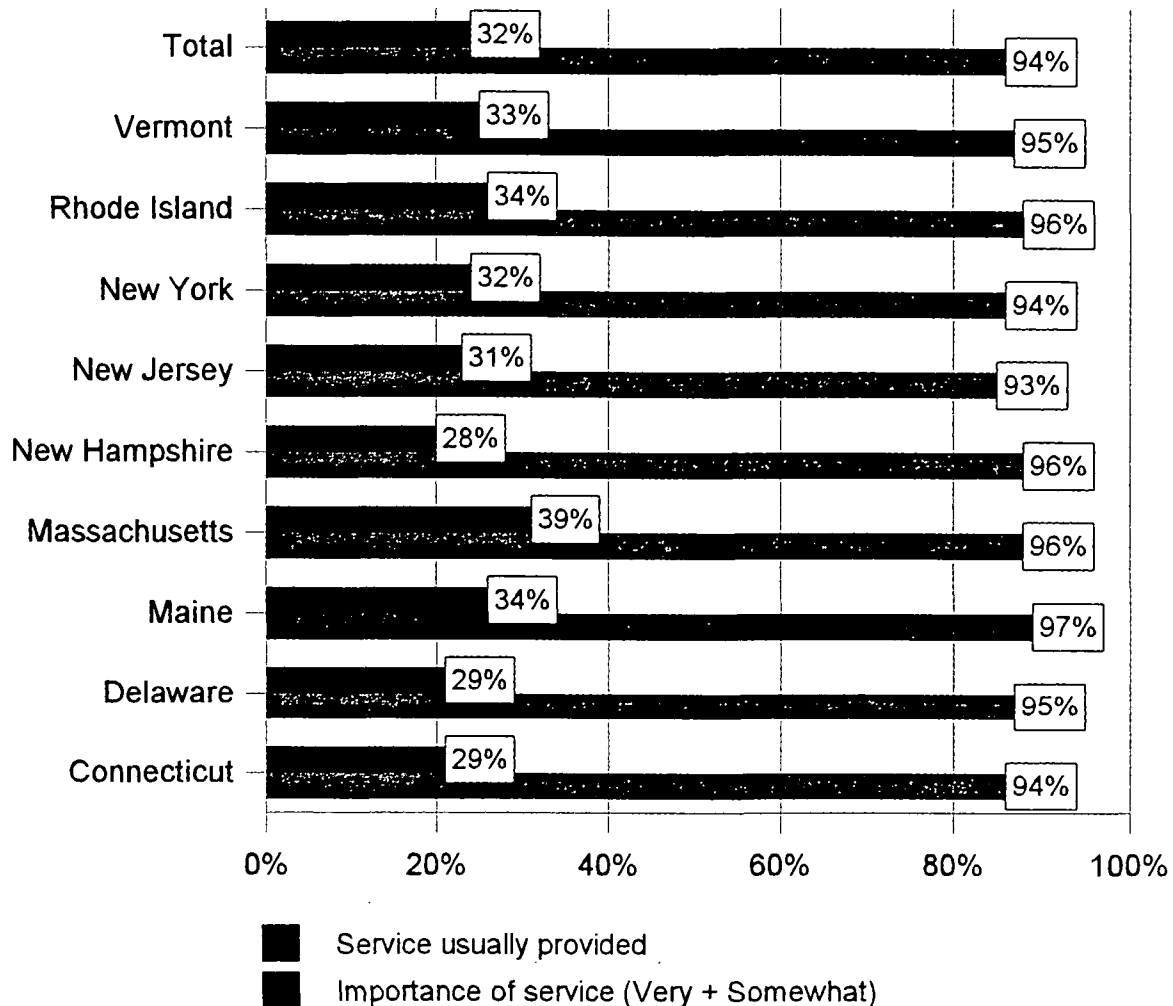
Q75a: Did the court hold a separate hearing to decide what sentence should be given to the defendant?

Q75b: Were you or your family informed about the hearing?

Base: Defendant pled or was found guilty

**FIGURE 25**

**Public's Impression: Importance of Victim Being Informed in Advance of Offender's Parole or Other Release vs. Frequency This Victim Service Is Provided (by state)**



Q29: Based on what you know or have heard, are crime victims in this state usually ...  
i: ...Informed, in advance, of parole or other release of the offender?

Base: Total population

Unweighted N=4,015

Q44: I'm going to read you some statements about victims' rights. For each statement, please tell me how important you think it is. How important do you think it is that a victim or his/her family ...

i: ...Be informed, in advance, of parole or other release of the offender?

Base: Total population (half sample was asked question)

Unweighted N=2,010

**FIGURE 26**

### Public's Impression: Number of Persons Currently in Prison Compared to 15 Years Ago (by state)

Q34: Based on what you know or have heard, would you say that the number of persons in prison now is more than it was 15 years ago, less than 15 years ago or is it about the same?

Base: Total population

Amount in Jail Now	Total N=4,015	STATE								
		CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
More now	85%	88%	92%	89%	85%	89%	89%	83%	88%	90%
Fewer now	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
About the same	7%	7%	3%	5%	8%	6%	5%	8%	6%	4%
Not sure/ Refused	5%	4%	2%	5%	5%	3%	4%	6%	4%	3%

**FIGURE 27**

### Public's Impression: Percentage of Sentence Violent Criminals Spend in Jail Compared to 15 Years Ago (by state)

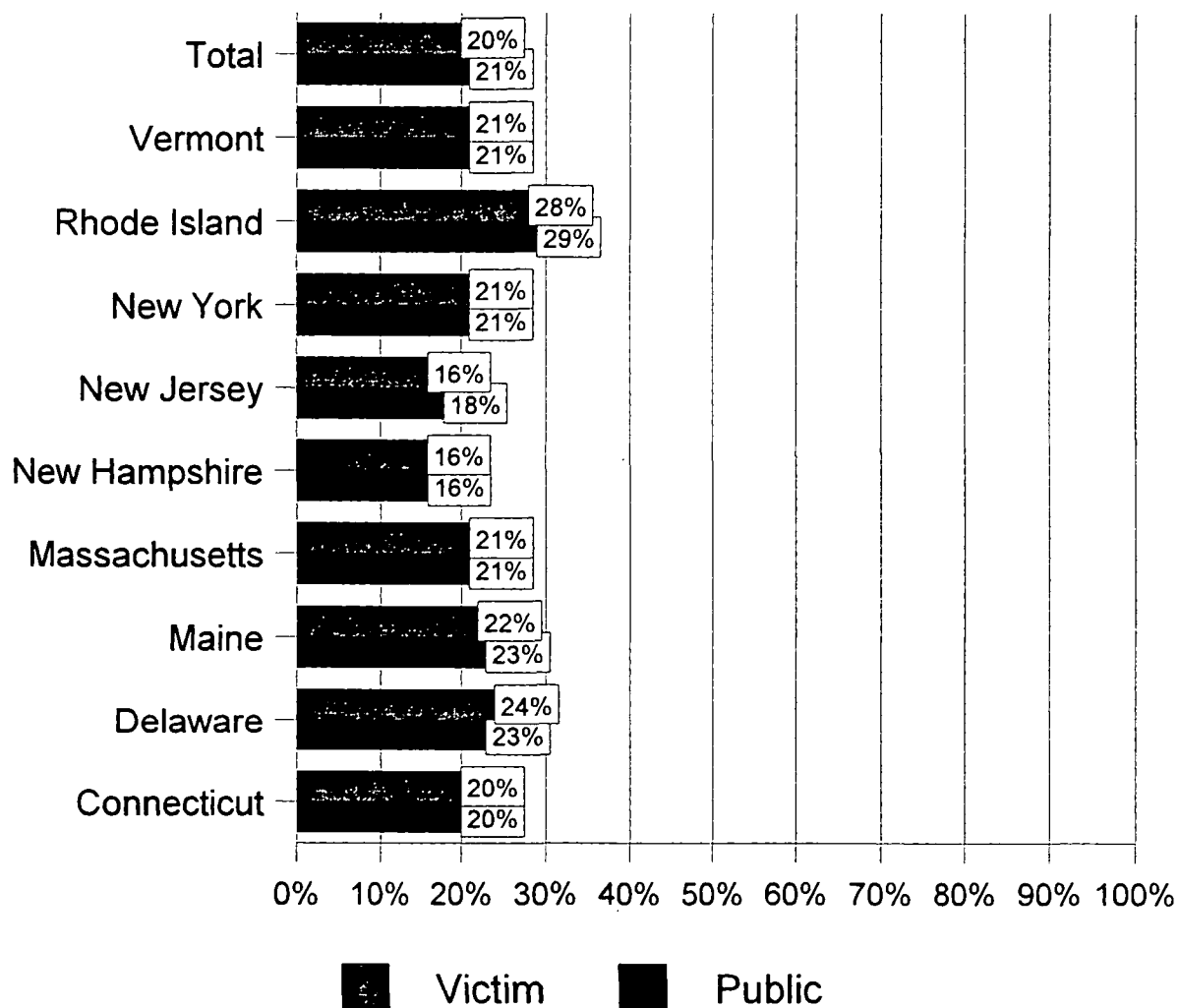
Q35: Based on what you know or have heard, do you think that persons sent to jail for committing violent crimes spend more of their sentence in jail now than 15 years ago, less of their sentence in jail now or is it about the same?

Base: Total population

Amount Spend Sentence in Jail Now	Total N=4,015	CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
More of sentence in jail	18%	19%	18%	11%	18%	14%	17%	19%	13%	13%
Less of sentence in jail	56%	62%	61%	66%	55%	59%	58%	53%	62%	61%
About the same	17%	12%	14%	14%	18%	18%	16%	18%	17%	15%
Not sure/ Refused	9%	7%	7%	9%	10%	9%	9%	10%	9%	11%

**FIGURE 28**

**Victims' Opinion vs. Public's Opinion: Crime Victims in State Usually Reimbursed for Costs of Crime (by state)**



Q29j: Based on what you know or have heard, are crime victims in this state usually reimbursed for loss of money, property or other costs as a result of the crime?

Base: Total population

Unweighted N=4,015

**FIGURE 29**

## Outcomes Public Desires for Burglar Who Stole to Support Drug Habit (by state)

Q21a: Suppose someone broke into your home while you and your family were gone and stole from you to support their drug habit? What would you want to happen to the offender?

OUTCOMES	Total N=4,015	STATE								
		CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
Go to jail	72%	75%	71%	74%	71%	75%	75%	71%	70%	71%
Put in drug treatment	57%	55%	59%	61%	59%	60%	57%	56%	58%	62%
Pay back or Replace	47%	47%	48%	55%	50%	56%	48%	45%	53%	54%
Personally acknowledge responsibility	41%	41%	42%	50%	44%	47%	41%	39%	44%	47%
Strict supervised probation	39%	40%	37%	45%	42%	44%	40%	36%	38%	42%
Pay for your medical & counseling expenses	38%	42%	41%	49%	39%	46%	37%	36%	42%	45%
Community service	37%	39%	38%	43%	42%	43%	37%	33%	37%	42%
Pay a fine	32%	31%	36%	40%	32%	41%	37%	29%	34%	38%
None of these	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	*
Not sure/ Refused	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%

\* Less than 0.5%



**FIGURE 30****Most Important Outcome Public Desires for Burglar Who Stole to Support Drug Habit (by state)**

Q21a: Suppose someone broke into your home while you and your family were gone and stole from you to support their drug habit? What would you want to happen to the offender?

Q21b: IF MORE THAN ONE PENALTY GIVEN: Which of these would be most important to you?

Base: Total population

MOST IMPORTANT	Total N=4,015	STATE								
		CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
Go to jail	38%	35%	38%	33%	33%	35%	39%	40%	36%	31%
Not go to jail	59%	63%	59%	64%	66%	62%	57%	57%	62%	66%
Put in drug treatment	24%	24%	20%	23%	29%	22%	24%	23%	22%	24%
Pay back or Replace	20%	23%	22%	23%	22%	25%	19%	19%	25%	24%
Strict supervised probation	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	4%	6%	5%	8%	6%
Personally acknowledge responsibility	4%	3%	6%	5%	4%	6%	4%	4%	5%	6%
Community service	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	3%
Pay a fine	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
None of these	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Not sure/ Refused	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%	3%	4%	3%	2%	3%

**FIGURE 31**

# Outcomes Public Desires for Person Who Swindles Elderly Person Out of Life Savings (by state)

Q24a: Suppose someone swindled an elderly neighbor out of their life savings? What would you want to happen to the offender?

Base: Asked of half sample

OUTCOMES	Total N=2,005	STATE								
		CT N=117	DE N=190	ME N=189	MA N=194	NH N=207	NJ N=215	NY N=421	RI N=210	VT N=202
Go to jail	71%	67%	77%	74%	73%	73%	71%	70%	74%	67%
Pay back or Replace	67%	68%	67%	77%	68%	72%	70%	65%	66%	74%
Pay for any pain or suffering	44%	40%	46%	54%	47%	47%	41%	44%	44%	50%
Personally acknowledge responsibility	43%	37%	41%	49%	48%	43%	41%	42%	39%	48%
Strict supervised probation	37%	34%	43%	47%	42%	39%	39%	35%	31%	41%
Community service	36%	33%	36%	48%	38%	41%	37%	35%	34%	47%
Pay a fine	38%	30%	41%	49%	43%	44%	39%	36%	35%	45%
None of these	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	-	1%	1%	*	*
Not sure/ Refused	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	*	2%

\* Less than 0.5%

**FIGURE 32**

## Most Important Outcome Public Desires for Person Who Swindles Elderly Person Out of Life Savings (by state)

Q24a: Suppose someone swindled an elderly neighbor out of their life savings? What would you want to happen to the offender?

Q24b: IF MORE THAN ONE PENALTY GIVEN: Which of these would be most important to you?

Base: Asked of half sample

MOST IMPORTANT	Total N=2,005	STATE								
		CT N=177	DE N=190	ME N=189	MA N=194	NH N=207	NJ N=215	NY N=421	RI N=210	VT N=202
Go to jail	38%	32%	37%	34%	38%	40%	37%	41%	35%	29%
Not go to jail	59%	66%	62%	64%	59%	58%	59%	56%	63%	66%
Pay back or Replace	43%	49%	45%	51%	42%	45%	46%	41%	44%	46%
Pay for any pain or suffering	5%	4%	5%	5%	6%	4%	4%	5%	7%	7%
Personally acknowledge responsibility	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	4%
Strict supervised probation	3%	4%	4%	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	5%	2%
Community service	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	-	4%
Pay a fine	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
None of these	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	*	1%	1%	2%	*
Not sure/Refused	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	2%	5%

\* Less than 0.5%

### FIGURE 33

#### Outcomes Public Desires for Non-Addicted Drug User Selling Illegal Drugs for Profit (by state)

Q23a: Suppose an adult, who uses drugs but is not an addict, was selling small amounts of illegal drugs on a street corner in your neighborhood for profit? What would you want to happen to the offender?

Base: Total population

PENALTIES	Total N=4,015	STATE								
		CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
Go to jail	69%	64%	73%	63%	70%	69%	70%	70%	66%	68%
Put in drug treatment	37%	36%	38%	44%	40%	40%	38%	35%	36%	43%
Strict supervised probation	39%	38%	40%	41%	46%	41%	35%	39%	38%	44%
Personally acknowledge responsibility	39%	39%	38%	48%	44%	40%	38%	38%	37%	45%
Community service	37%	40%	36%	42%	43%	39%	36%	35%	36%	43%
Pay a fine	38%	38%	37%	47%	42%	39%	37%	35%	39%	44%
None of these	2%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Not sure/ Refused	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%

**FIGURE 34**

# **Most Important Outcome Public Desires for Non-Addicted Drug User Selling Illegal Drugs for Profit (by state)**

Q23a: Suppose an adult, who uses drugs but is not an addict, was selling small amounts of illegal drugs on a street corner in your neighborhood for profit? What would you want to happen to the offender?

Q23b: IF MORE THAN ONE PENALTY GIVEN: Which of these would be most important to you?

Base: Total population

MOST IMPORTANT	Total N=4,015	STATE								
		CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
Go to jail	54%	51%	58%	47%	55%	53%	59%	54%	52%	49%
Not go to jail	43%	46%	39%	49%	43%	43%	38%	43%	46%	47%
Put in drug treatment	13%	14%	14%	14%	13%	13%	11%	14%	15%	14%
Strict super- vised probation	11%	10%	9%	12%	14%	11%	8%	11%	12%	13%
Personally acknowledge responsibility	7%	8%	5%	9%	5%	7%	8%	6%	6%	9%
Community service	6%	8%	4%	4%	6%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Pay a fine	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%	3%	4%	4%	6%	4%
None of these	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Not sure/ Refused	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	2%	4%

**FIGURE 35**

**Alternatives Approved by Public for Person Convicted of Selling Drugs to Support Drug Habit (by state)**

Q26: Which, if any, of the following programs would you consider instead of prison for someone convicted of selling illegal drugs to earn money to support a drug habit? Instead of prison, would you approve or not approve of...?

Base: Total population

Program (Full text below)	Total Percent Approve N=4,015	STATE								
		CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
a. Community Service	65%	69%	68%	70%	67%	63%	61%	65%	70%	71%
b. Strict Probation	82%	84%	77%	84%	84%	80%	78%	83%	80%	85%
c. Halfway House	72%	77%	73%	73%	71%	72%	70%	73%	67%	75%
d. Day Reporting Centers	52%	51%	50%	52%	53%	48%	52%	52%	49%	57%
e. Home Confinement	56%	54%	61%	57%	56%	57%	55%	56%	62%	60%
f. Residential Treatment Program	62%	66%	57%	63%	64%	67%	60%	60%	60%	66%

**Community service** where offenders must do unpaid work such as painting a church or school, or building a park for kids.

**Strict probation** where the offender must attend drug treatment counseling, have mandatory drug testing and see a probation officer once a week.

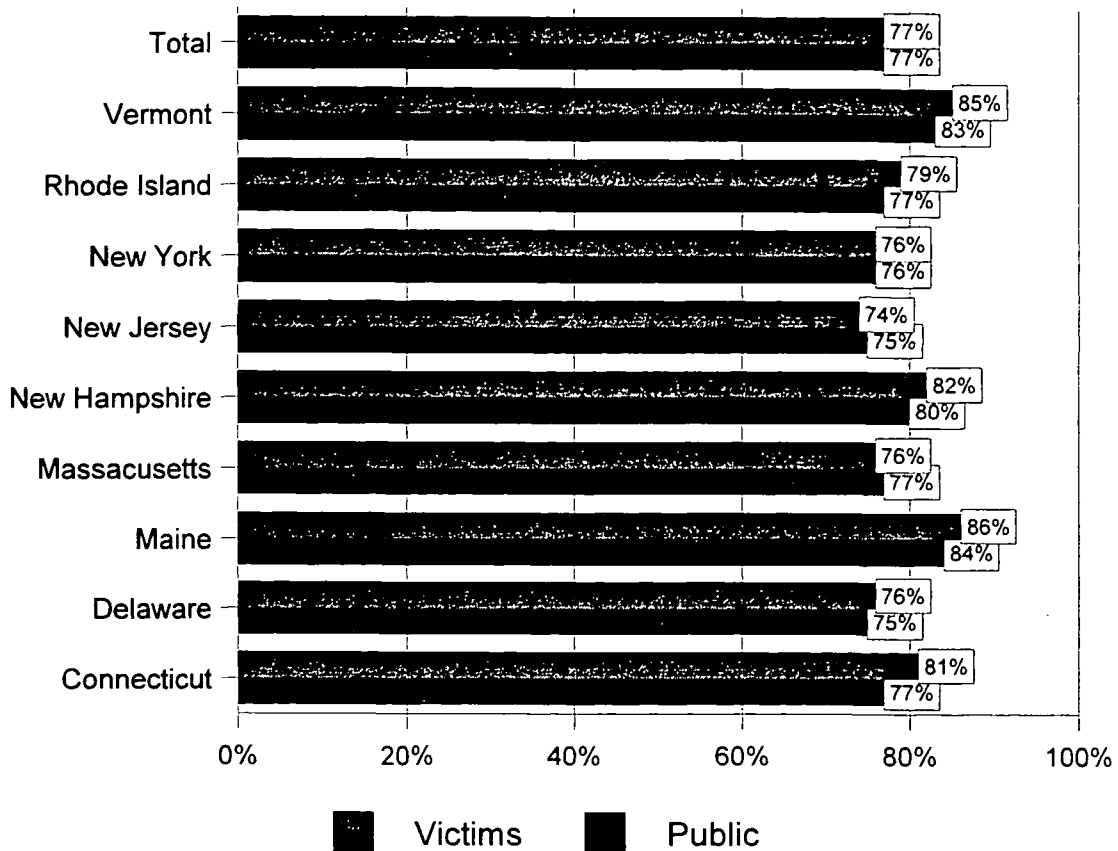
**Halfway house** where offenders are locked in at night, and participate in mandatory drug treatment programs, but go to work or school during the day.

**Day report centers** where offenders must report in person each morning and where their activities are monitored throughout the day, but they go home at night.

**Home confinement** where offenders must remain at home under electronic monitoring except when they are allowed to leave for work, school or specified emergencies.

**Residential treatment centers** where offender lives around-the-clock, cannot go to school or work during the day and participates in an intensive drug treatment program.

**FIGURE 36**  
**Percentage of Public Who Says it is Important to Provide**  
**Victims Opportunity to Talk to Offender (by state)**



Q28: In some communities, the victim has the opportunity, if he or she wants, to talk to the offender about why the offender committed the crime and whether the offender accepts the consequences of what he or she did. How important do you think it is to offer this kind of service to victims?

Base: Total population

Unweighted N= 4,015

# **FIGURE 37** **Attitudes Regarding Community Boards For Non-Violent Crimes** **(by state)**

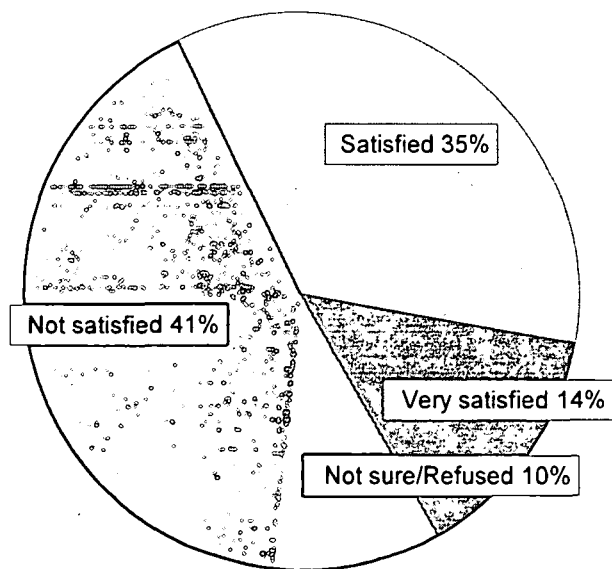
Q27: In some communities, members of the community — ordinary citizens — rather than the courts decide what types of community service or penalties should be imposed upon offenders who have committed non-violent offenses such as burglary, auto theft or vandalism. Does this sound like a good idea or bad idea to you?

Base: Total population

VIEW ON COMMUNITY BOARD	Total N=4,015	STATE								
		CT N=400	DE N=401	ME N=404	MA N=400	NH N=403	NJ N=400	NY N=801	RI N=403	VT N=403
Good idea	58%	60%	55%	60%	57%	54%	63%	56%	63%	62%
Bad idea	34%	34%	38%	30%	35%	39%	31%	36%	31%	28%
Depends	5%	4%	3%	5%	6%	4%	5%	4%	3%	6%
Not sure/ Refused	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%



**FIGURE 38**  
**Victim Satisfaction with Outcome of Case**  
(Northeast Region)



Q81: How satisfied were you with the outcome of the case?

Base: Victims of crimes with arrests in the past 10 years

Unweighted N=483

**FIGURE 39**  
**Least Satisfying Aspect of Way Case Handled**  
**(by type of case)**

Q82: What, if anything, was least satisfying about the way this case was handled?

Base: Victims of crimes with arrests in the past 10 years

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Property</b>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	483	274	209
Sentence/Punishment (Net)	19%	24%	13%
Communication/Notification Problem (Net)	19%	17%	22%
Kept victim uninformed/Did not notify	14%	12%	16%
No restitution (Net)	3%	2%	4%
Court/Case problems (Net)	10%	12%	8%
Slow court or case process/Took too long	6%	6%	5%
Victim issues (i.e., poor treatment, no input, live in fear) (Net)	8%	8%	8%
Case handled poorly	4%	4%	3%
All other mentions	5%	6%	5%
No problems	4%	3%	6%
No answer/Don't know/Refused	30%	27%	34%

### About the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference

The Council of State Governments (CSG) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that serves all three branches of state government. CSG's income is derived from five sources: 1) annual dues paid by each state and member jurisdiction; 2) donations from the private sector; 3) federal grants; 4) foundational grants; and 5) secretariat group fees.

Founded in 1933, CSG has a long history of providing state leaders with the resources to develop and implement effective public policy and programs. Owing to its regional structure and its constituency--which includes state legislators, judges, and executive branch officials--CSG is a unique organization.

CSG's Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) includes the ten northeastern states from Delaware to Maine, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Provinces of Quebec and Nova Scotia. In late 1995, CSG/ERC leaders established a Criminal Justice Board of Directors, which comprises state legislative leaders, judges, prosecutors, corrections officials, juvenile justice agency directors, and crime victim advocates. Collectively, they represent a cross-section of the senior-level state officials who shape criminal justice policy in the Northeast.

### About Schulman, Ronca, and Bucuvalas, Inc.

Schulman, Ronca, & Bucuvalas, Inc. (SRBI) is a national survey research organization, with its headquarters in New York City, and offices in Washington, D.C., Long Branch, New Jersey, and Fort Myers, Florida. The firm specializes in public policy re-search, market research and media research. SRBI conducts more than 300 surveys each year for a broad range of public and private clients on an even broader range of topics.

SRBI has three telephone research facilities with more than 200 computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) stations. The firm has a professional staff of 80 and a support staff of approximately 400 interviewers, coders, and data processing personnel. The senior staff at SRBI has nearly 25 years of experience in the design, conduct, analysis, and reporting of crime victim surveys. Indeed, SRBI's experience in surveys of victimization and crime reporting is so broad as to be unique among commercial research organizations.

SRBI's experience surveying victims of sexual assault is particularly impressive. For example, in 1983, John Boyle, Ph.D. designed one of the first telephone surveys of general populations to estimate the prevalence of rape and other forms of sexual assault. In 1989, Dr. Boyle conducted a survey among a national sample of 4,000 women regarding their experience with sexual assault, other forms of violence and traumatic events, substance abuse and/or abuse, and other indicators of psychological distress, including past and current PTSD. These women were re-interviewed in 1990 and 1991. The findings of this study were published as Rape in America, which remains a landmark study.

## *Acknowledgments*

This survey could not have been conducted without funding support provided from several organizations: National Institute of Justice (a division of the U.S. Department of Justice); The Center on Crime, Communities & Culture of the Open Society Institute, and the Drug Policy Foundation.

The Criminal Justice Board of Directors for the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference is particularly grateful to more than 100 state legislators, judges, prosecutors, criminal justice agency officials, survivors of crime, and victim service providers from across the Northeast. They helped to design the survey questionnaire, reviewed, and edited countless drafts before it was finally approved.

Lastly, the Board is indebted to the Office for Victims of Crime of the US Department of Justice. OVC officials provided considerable technical and financial assistance to plan and organize a two-day regional conference, during which bipartisan teams of criminal justice policymakers and victim advocates from each state discussed the survey results and developed specific plans to improve the criminal justice system in their respective states.

## *A note about terminology used in the survey*

Members of the public often do not distinguish between terms (such as “jail” or “prison”), which, in the criminal justice system, have distinct meanings. Accordingly, to ensure the respondent understood the question, terms used in the survey, such as “prosecutor,” “judge,” or “jail,” were used even though they might not reflect the precise person, place, or event to which the question referred.

Similarly, respondents often provided answers, which might not accurately reflect the proceeding that took place. In particular, some crime victims stated that their case went to “trial,” where, in reality, there may have only been specific hearings, which, in fact, do not constitute a trial. Nevertheless, because this survey was developed in part to describe crime victims’ perceptions of the criminal justice system, we did not attempt to discern whether the case in fact went to trial.



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