



# **Boston: Public attitudes about crime**

A National Crime Survey report

46235

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**Law Enforcement  
Assistance Administration**

**National Criminal Justice Information  
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**No. SD-NCS-C-20, NCJ-46235  
June 1979**

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and Statistics Service**

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** This report was prepared for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration by the Bureau of the Census. In the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, general supervision was supplied by Charles R. Kindermann, assisted by Dawn D. Nelson and Patsy A. Klaus. Collection and processing of data for the attitude survey were conducted in the Bureau of the Census under the general supervision of Marvin M. Thompson, Demographic Surveys Division, assisted by Linda R. Murphy and Robert L. Goodson. The report was prepared in the Crime Statistics Analysis Staff under the general supervision of Robert P. Parkinson. Adolfo L. Paez directed and edited the report. The analysis was performed by Marshall M. DeBerry, Jr. A technical review of the report was done by Louis E. Williams, Statistical Methods Division, under the general supervision of Dennis J. Schwanz.

**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data**

**United States. National Criminal Justice Information  
and Statistics Service.**

**Boston: public attitudes about crime.**

**(A National crime survey report; no. SD-NCS-C-20)**

**1. Crime and criminals—Massachusetts—Boston—Public  
opinion. 2. Boston—Police opinion. 3. Public opinion—Massa-  
chusetts—Boston. I. Title. II. Series.**

**HV6795.B7U55 1979 301.15'43'364974461 77-4116**

## Preface

Since early in the 1970's, victimization surveys have been carried out under the National Crime Survey (NCS) program to provide insight into the impact of crime on American society. As one of the most ambitious efforts yet undertaken for filling some of the gaps in crime data, the surveys, carried out for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, are supplying the criminal justice community with new information on crime and its victims, complementing data resources already on hand for purposes of planning, evaluation, and analysis. Based on representative sampling of households and commercial establishments, the program has had two major elements, a continuous national survey and separate surveys in 26 central cities across the Nation.

Based on a scientifically designed sample of housing units within each jurisdiction, the city surveys had a twofold purpose: the assessment of public attitudes about crime and related matters and the development of information on the extent and nature of residents' experiences with selected forms of criminal victimization. The attitude questions were asked of the occupants of a random half of the housing units elected for the victimization survey. In order to avoid biasing respondents' answers to the attitude questions, this part of the survey was administered before the victimization questions. Whereas the attitude questions were asked of persons age 16 and over, the victimization survey applied to individuals age 12 and over. Because the attitude questions were designed to elicit personal opinions and perceptions as of the date of the interview, it was not necessary to associate a particular time frame with this portion of the survey, even though some queries made reference to a period of time preceding the survey. On the other hand, the victimization questions referred to a fixed time frame—the 12 months preceding the month of interview—and respondents were asked to recall details concerning their experiences as victims of one or more of the following crimes, whether completed or attempted: rape, personal robbery, assault, personal larceny, burglary, household lar-

ceny, and motor vehicle theft. In addition, information about burglary and robbery of businesses and certain other organizations was gathered by means of a victimization survey of commercial establishments, conducted separately from the household survey. A previous publication, *Criminal Victimization Surveys in Boston* (1977), provided comprehensive coverage of results from both the household and commercial victimization surveys.

Attitudinal information presented in this report was obtained from interviews with the occupants of 4,513 housing units (8,188 residents age 16 and over), or 89.8 percent of the units eligible for interview. Results of these interviews were inflated by means of a multistage weighting procedure to produce estimates applicable to all residents age 16 and over and to demographic and social subgroups of that population. Because they derived from a survey rather than a complete census, these estimates are subject to sampling error. They also are subject to response and processing errors. The effects of sampling error or variability can be accurately determined in a carefully designed survey. In this report, analytical statements involving comparisons have met the test that the differences cited are equal to or greater than approximately two standard errors; in other words, the chances are at least 95 out of 100 that the differences did not result solely from sampling variability. Estimates based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases were considered unreliable and were not used in the analysis of survey results.

The 37 data tables in Appendix I of this report are organized in a sequence that generally corresponds to the analytical discussion. Two technical appendixes and a glossary follow the data tables: Appendix II consists of a facsimile of the survey questionnaire (Form NCS 6), and Appendix III supplies information on sample design and size, the estimation procedure, reliability of estimates, and significance testing, it also contains standard error tables.

### IMPORTANT

We have provided an evaluation sheet at the end of this publication. It will assist us in improving future reports if you complete and return it at your convenience. It is postage-paid and needs no stamp.

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## Crime and attitudes

During the 1960's, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice observed that "What America does about crime depends ultimately upon how Americans see crime. . . . The lines along which the Nation takes specific action against crime will be those that the public believes to be the necessary ones." Recognition of the importance of societal perceptions about crime prompted the Commission to authorize several public opinion surveys on the matter.<sup>1</sup> In addition to measuring the degree of concern over crime, those and subsequent surveys provided information on a variety of related subjects, such as the manner in which fear of crime affects people's lives, circumstances engendering fear for personal safety, members of the population relatively more intimidated by or fearful of crime, and the effectiveness of criminal justice systems. Based on a sufficiently large sample, moreover, attitude surveys can provide a means for examining the influence of victimization experiences upon personal outlooks. Conducted periodically in the same area, attitude surveys distinguish fluctuations in the degree of public concern; conducted under the same procedures in different areas, they provide a basis for comparing attitudes in two or more localities. With the advent of the National Crime Survey (NCS) program, it became possible to conduct large-scale attitudinal surveys addressing these and other issues, thereby enabling individuals to participate in appraising the status of public safety in their communities.

Based on data from a 1974 attitudinal survey, this report analyzes the responses of Boston residents to questions covering four topical areas: crime trends, fear of crime, residential problems and lifestyles, and local police performance. Certain questions, relating to household activities, were asked of only one person per household (the "household respondent"), whereas others were administered to all persons age 16 and over ("in-

dividual respondents"), including the household respondent. Results were obtained for the total measured population and for several demographic and social subgroups.

Conceptually, the survey incorporated questions pertaining to behavior as well as opinion. Concerning behavior, for example, each respondent for a household was asked where its members shopped for food and other merchandise, where they lived before moving to the present neighborhood, and how long they had lived at that address. Additional questions asked of the household respondent were designed to elicit opinions about the neighborhood in general, about the rationale for selecting that particular community and leaving the former residence, and about factors that influenced shopping practices. None of the questions asked of the household respondent raised the subject of crime. Respondents were free to answer at will. In contrast, most of the individual attitude questions, asked of all household members age 16 and over, dealt specifically with matters relating to crime. These persons were asked for viewpoints on subjects such as crime trends in the local community and in the Nation, chances of being personally attacked or robbed, neighborhood safety during the day or at night, the impact of fear of crime on behavior, and the effectiveness of the local police. For many of these questions, response categories were predetermined and interviewers were instructed to probe for answers matching those on the questionnaire.

Although the attitude survey has provided a wealth of data, the results are opinions. For example, certain residents may have perceived crime as a growing threat or neighborhood safety as deteriorating, when, in fact, crime had declined and neighborhoods had become safer. Furthermore, individuals from the same neighborhood or with similar personal characteristics and/or experiences may have had conflicting opinions about any given issue. Nevertheless, people's opinions, beliefs, and perceptions about crime are important because they may influence behavior, bring about changes in certain routine activities, affect household security measures, or result in pressures on local authorities to improve police services.

The relationship between victimization experiences and attitudes is a recurring theme in the analytical section of this report. Information concerning such experiences was gathered with separate questionnaires, Forms NCS 3 and 4, used in

<sup>1</sup>President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, February 1967, pp. 49-53.

administering the victimization component of the survey. Victimization survey results appeared in *Criminal Victimization Surveys in Boston (1977)*, which also contains a detailed description of the survey-measured crimes, a discussion of the limitations of the central city surveys, and facsimiles of Forms NCS 3 and 4. For the purpose of this report, individuals who were victims of the following crimes, whether completed or attempted, during the 12 months prior to the month of the interview were considered "victimized": rape, personal robbery, assault, and personal larceny. Similarly, members of households that experienced one or more of three types of offenses—burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft—were categorized as victims. These crimes are defined in the glossary. Persons who experienced crimes other than those measured by the program, or who were victimized by any of the relevant offenses outside of the 12-month reference period, were classified as "not victimized." Limitations inherent in the victimization survey—that may have affected the accuracy of distinguishing victims from nonvictims—resulted from the problem of victim recall (the differing ability of respondents to remember crimes) and from the phenomenon of telescoping (the tendency of some respondents to recount incidents occurring outside, usually before, the appropriate time frame). Moreover, some crimes were sustained by victims outside of their city of residence; these may have had little or no effect in the formation of attitudes about local matters.

Despite the difficulties in distinguishing precisely between victims and nonvictims, it was deemed important to explore the possibility that being a victim of crime, irrespective of the level of seriousness or the frequency of occurrence, has an impact on behavior and attitudes. Adopting a simple dichotomous victimization experience variable—victimized and not victimized—for purposes of tabulation and analysis also stemmed from the desirability of attaining the highest possible degree of statistical reliability, even at the cost of using these broad categories. Ideally, the victim category should have distinguished the type or seriousness of crimes, the recency of the events, and/or the number of offenses sustained.<sup>2</sup> Such a procedure seemingly would have yielded more refined measures of the effects of crime upon atti-

tudes. By reducing the number of sample cases on which estimates were based, however, such a subcategorization of victims would have weakened the statistical validity of comparisons between the victims and nonvictims.

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<sup>2</sup>Survey results presented in this report contain attitudinal data furnished by the victims of "series victimizations" (see glossary).

## Summary

This report examines the perceptions and opinions of Boston residents concerning four general topics—crime trends, fear of crime, residential problems and lifestyles, and local police performance. The findings show that for each of those subject areas, viewpoints on specific issues sometimes contradicted one another in ways suggestive of the possibility that, in many instances, personal concerns about the crime problem were not well founded and that the threat of crime did not exert great influence over activity patterns. Thus, although a 62 percent majority of persons thought that their chances of being victimized were greater than in the past and a 44 percent plurality believed that neighborhood crime was trending upward, only 8 percent characterized their vicinities as more or much more dangerous than others in the Boston metropolitan area. And, although an appreciable number of respondents (16 percent) reached no judgment concerning the direction of neighborhood crime, nearly everyone had an opinion about crime in the Nation and a vast majority thought that it had been on the rise. This latter impression could not, however, be attributed solely to the influence of the news media, as about half of all persons felt that the seriousness of the crime problem was not portrayed accurately by newspapers and television.

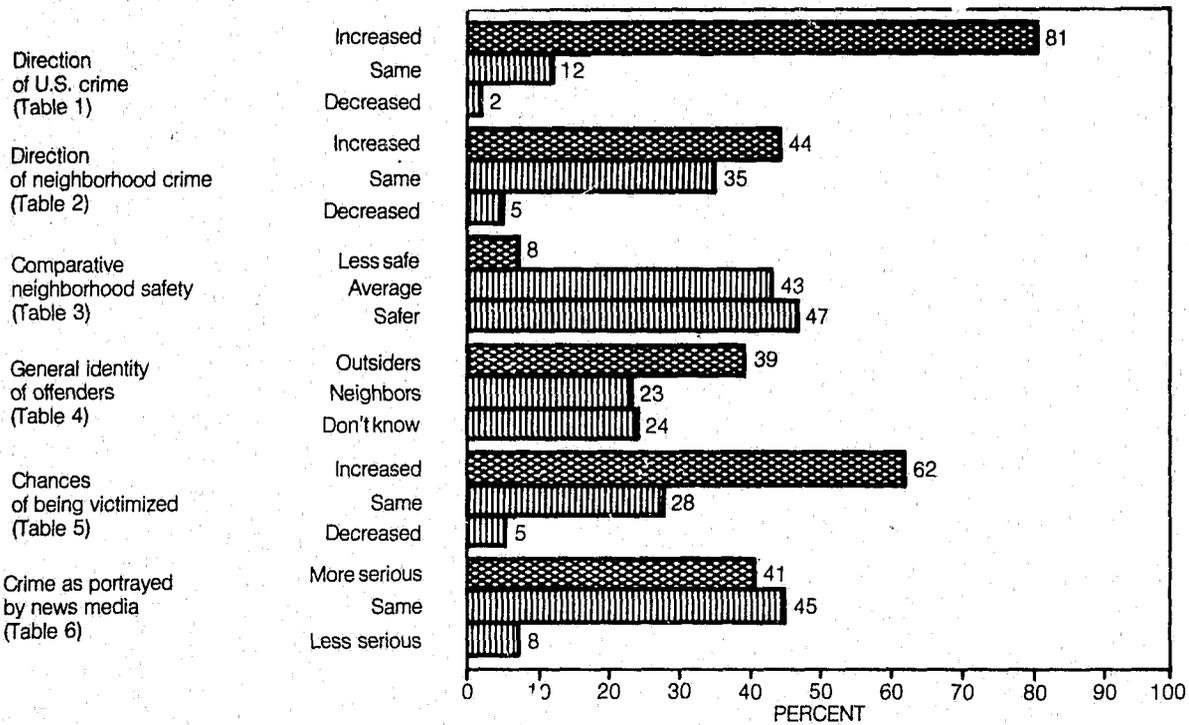
An inconsistency in opinions also emerged from questions about the fear of crime. Despite the prevalence of a sense of personal security in one's neighborhood, a majority of respondents felt that other individuals, including neighbors, had limited or changed their activities because of crime. The pattern of answers to the three questions on activity changes generally reinforced other survey findings, namely those concerning crime trends and safety from crime. In general, there was more widespread concern about rising crime or over the effects of crime when the queries were impersonal or couched in relatively abstract terms. Nevertheless, 45 percent of all residents indicated they had personally altered their activities.

That respondents were not overly preoccupied with crime was also borne out by the survey's

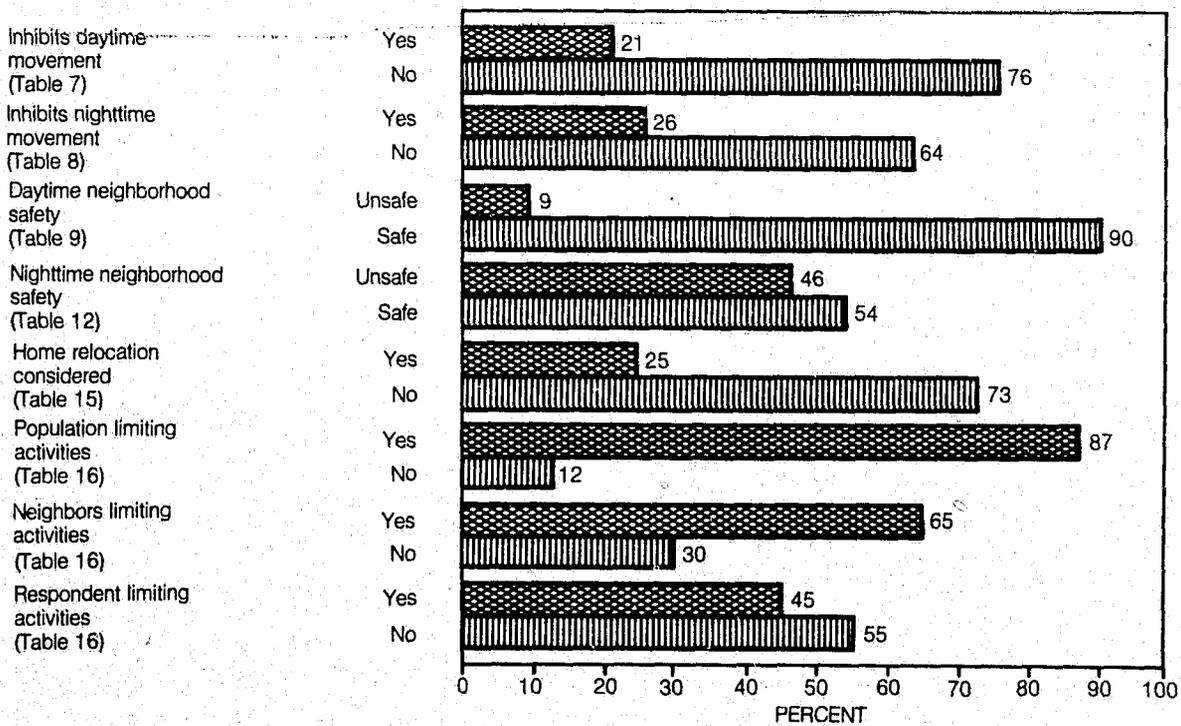
lead series of questions, which made no reference to crime. Responses to these indicated that relatively few short-term residents of the city had left their former neighborhoods because of crime or moved to a new one because they perceived it to be safe from crime. And, crime had affected the shopping and entertainment practices of only a nominal proportion of individuals. Among the minority of persons who found fault with their neighborhoods, environmental deterioration vied with crime as the major concern.

Given their apprehension over crime trends and the risk of personal victimization, Bostonians could reasonably have been expected to share a low regard for the effectiveness of the local police. Such, however, was not the case. Only a fraction of them rated the police performance as poor. Nevertheless, a large majority of the city's residents thought that the job being done by the police could be improved, particularly insofar as certain operational practices were concerned.

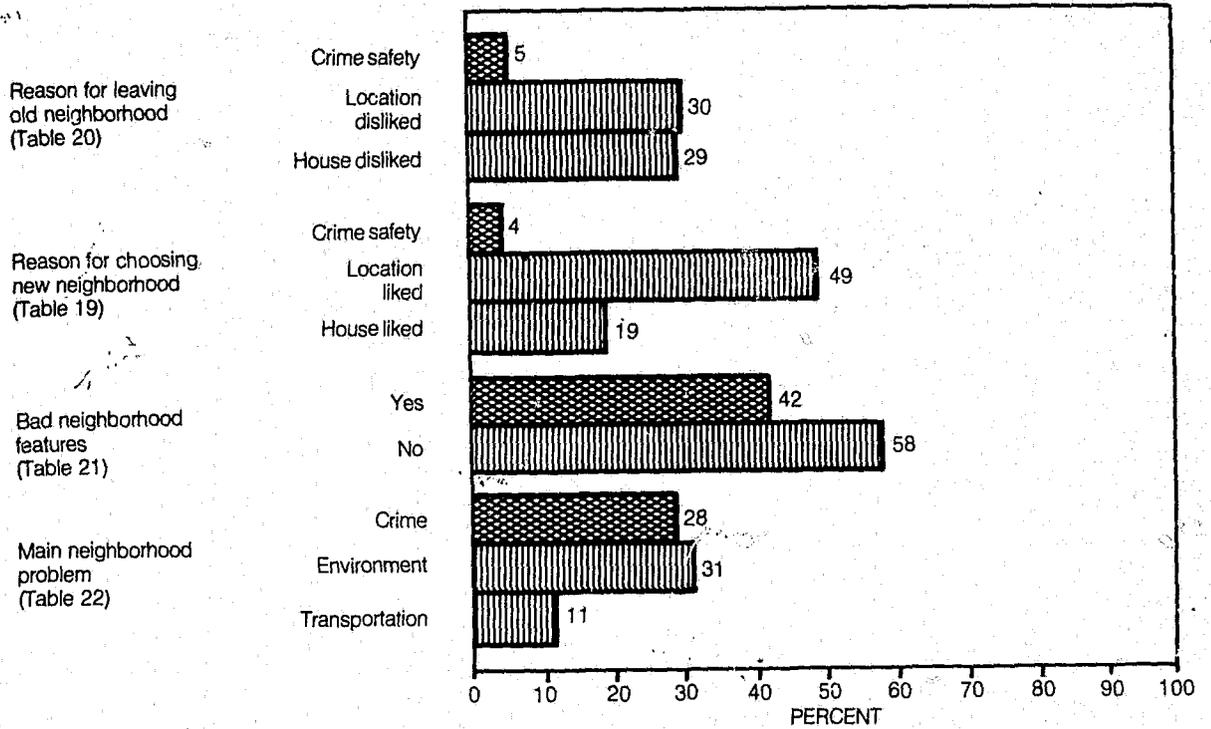
**Chart A. Summary findings about crime trends**



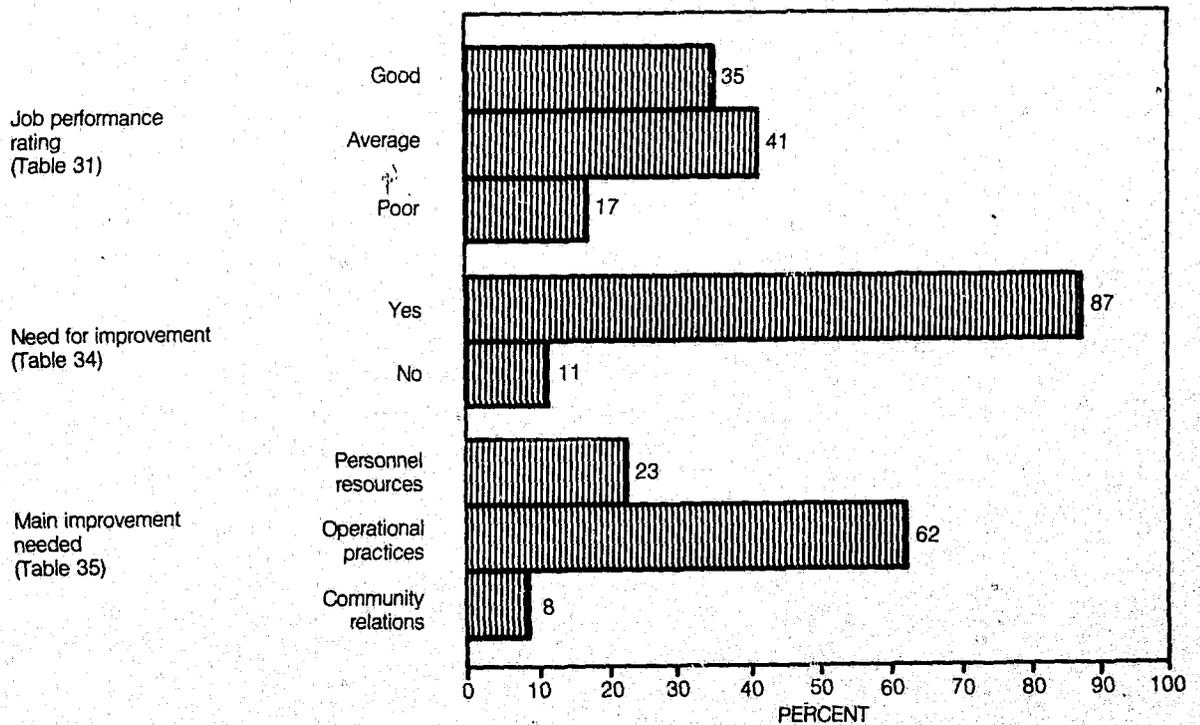
**Chart B. Summary findings about fear of crime**



**Chart C. Summary findings about residential problems**



**Chart D. Summary findings about police performance**



## Crime trends

This section of the report deals with the perceptions of Boston residents with respect to national and community crime trends, personal safety, and the accuracy with which newspapers and television were thought to be reporting the crime problem. The findings were drawn from Data Tables 1 through 6, found in Appendix I. The relevant questions, appearing in the facsimile of the survey instrument (Appendix II), are 9a, 9c, 10a, 12, 15a, and 15b; each question was asked of persons age 16 and over.

### U. S. crime trends

Boston residents age 16 and over were asked whether they thought that crime in the United States had increased, decreased, or remained the same during the recent past. Four-fifths shared the belief that crime had risen nationally, with 12 percent replying that it had remained stable and only 2 percent indicating that it had declined. For all groups examined, a majority clearly felt that the Nation had experienced an upswing in crime. Response differences among the various sectors of the population generally were inconsequential, even when statistically significant. To illustrate, only about 3 percentage points separated the relative number of victims and nonvictims who thought that crime was increasing.

### Neighborhood crime trends

When queried about neighborhood crime trends, fewer than half of Bostonians (44 percent) perceived that there had been an increase. Some 35 percent thought that the incidence of crime had remained unchanged, whereas only 5 percent believed it had declined. Far more residents disclaimed knowledge about a trend in neighborhood crime than did so about national crime (16 vs. 5 percent); many persons, especially those under age 35, attributed this to the fact that they had recently arrived in the area.

As in the matter of national crime, there were few consequential response differences among demographic subgroups. However, half the persons who had been victimized in 1973 by one or more of the crimes measured by the National Crime Survey were of the opinion that neighborhood crime had increased, compared to 41 percent of nonvictims; the latter were more likely to feel that crime was unchanged.

Despite the existence of an appreciable number of residents who believed that neighborhood crime had increased, relatively few Bostonians (8 percent) felt that their vicinities were more or much more dangerous by comparison to others in the metropolitan area. A plurality (47 percent) considered their neighborhoods less or much less dangerous, and 43 percent regarded them as average. Differences of opinion between the two largest racial groups were rather pronounced, in that a far higher proportion of blacks (61 percent) than whites (39) assessed the crime problem in the area of their homes as average. Conversely, whites were considerably more likely than blacks (51 vs. 28 percent) to think of their neighborhoods as less or much less dangerous than others. For the variables other than race, the magnitude of response variations was far less extreme, if not statistically insignificant.

### Who are the offenders?

Persons who indicated that "outsiders" were the perpetrators of most offenses made up the largest group of respondents (39 percent).<sup>3</sup> "People living here" were identified as the offenders by some 23 percent of all persons, whereas outsiders and nearby residents alike were blamed by 11 percent.

Owing to the element of personal experience with crime, the victimization variable perhaps yielded the most interesting results to the question about places where offenders lived. Not only was the percentage of persons victimized who gave such information 10 points higher than that for nonvictims, but victims identified the offenders as

<sup>3</sup>Excluding the 28 percent of respondents who for various reasons did not offer information on places where offenders lived, it was found that a slight majority—54 percent—believed that the perpetrators were persons living outside the neighborhood.

neighboring people relatively more often than nonvictims (28 vs. 19 percent). However, marked differences also were evident according to race. Whites were considerably more likely than blacks to blame outsiders for local crime (41 vs. 29 percent). Blacks, on the other hand, were somewhat more inclined than whites to ascribe it either to neighboring residents (25 vs. 22 percent) or to "insiders and outsiders" alike (17 vs. 10 percent). Some 31 percent of individuals age 16-24 thought that people living in the vicinity were the main committers of crime. For older persons, however, there was a decline with age in the proportion of those who held that impression; among the elderly (age 65 and over), only 12 percent thought that the persons who were committing crimes lived in the neighborhood. It appeared that higher proportions of "I don't know" responses attended increased age, although not all differences were statistically significant.

### **Chances of personal victimization**

The prevailing opinion that neighborhoods were relatively safe from crime failed to be translated into a widespread belief that one's risk of personal victimization had declined or remained unchanged. On the contrary, a distinct majority of Boston residents (62 percent) perceived that their chances of personal attack or robbery had risen in the recent past. Twenty-eight percent thought that their chances had remained the same, and 5 percent felt they had diminished.

Varying percentages of members of the population groups studied felt that their chances of being victimized had risen, with the contrast according to race perhaps being the most noteworthy. Whereas about half of the black community felt that the chances were greater, the figure among whites was 65 percent. The response difference between the sexes amounted to some 6 percentage points, with women being more apprehensive than men about the threat of crime. By age, it is interesting to note that there was no significant difference between the proportions of elderly individuals and of young persons (age 16-24) who felt that the chances had risen. With a response rate of 65 percent, persons age 25-64 were more likely than either the younger or older groups to indicate they faced a greater danger of criminal attack. As

might be anticipated, persons who had been victimized during the 12 months preceding the interview were more apt than those who had not (68 vs. 58 percent) to state that victimization posed an increased danger.

### **Crime and the media**

With respect to the accuracy of news media coverage of crime, few Bostonians (8 percent) judged the reporting as exaggerated. The largest group (45 percent) felt that the problem was just about as serious as depicted, although an appreciable number (41 percent) indicated that it was more serious. Differences of opinion on the matter among the population groups studied were minor, even when statistically significant. For instance, the distributions of answers by persons in the youngest and eldest age groups varied by only about 6 percentage points for each response category.

### **Fear of crime**

Among other things, results covered thus far have shown that many residents of Boston believed crime had increased over the years leading up to the survey, and, in addition, felt their own chances of being attacked or robbed had risen. Whether or not they feared for their personal safety is a matter treated in this section of the report. Also examined is the impact of the fear of crime on activity patterns and on considerations regarding changes of residence. Survey questions 11a, 11b, 11c, 13a, 13b, 16a, 16b, and 16c—all asked of persons age 16 and over—and Data Tables 7 through 18 are referenced here.

### **Crime as a deterrent to mobility**

When asked if there were parts of the Boston metropolitan area they wished or needed to enter either during the day or at night but were fearful of doing so because of crime, relatively few residents answered "yes." About one-fifth of them did so with respect to daytime and one-fourth of

them about nighttime. A majority of residents indicated they did not feel intimidated by crime to the extent that their physical mobility had been constrained.<sup>4</sup>

Whites were more likely than blacks to express reluctance to move about freely during the day, but there was no significant difference between the two groups concerning nighttime. Although relatively more women than men expressed fear about daytime movement there was no significant difference between the percentages of persons of opposite sex who answered affirmatively to the question about nighttime, although women were considerably more likely than men to leave this question unanswered. Victims were more apt than nonvictims to admit they feared moving about the metropolitan area when the need or wish arose, either in the day or at night. Unexpectedly, however, persons age 65 and over were less inclined than younger ones (16-64 as a group) to say they feared visiting other sectors of the area at night (16 vs. 27 percent). This seeming paradox probably stemmed from the nature of the relevant survey questions.

### Neighborhood safety

Nine in 10 Bostonians felt that their neighborhoods were free of crime to the extent that they felt at least reasonably safe when out alone during daytime hours. In fact, a small majority (53 percent) felt very safe. Relatively few perceived that their vicinities were very or somewhat unsafe (2 and 7 percent, respectively). With respect to the neighborhood situation at night, far fewer persons sensed that they were at least reasonably safe when out alone, although a majority (54 percent) still subscribed to this view; the remainder was about equally divided between those who felt somewhat or very unsafe.

Notwithstanding the magnitude of differences between response distributions for the two queries, an overall pattern of answers was evident: for either time frame, males or whites were more likely than females or blacks to feel at least reasonably safe, and there was a tendency toward a diminution with increased age in the extent to which persons agreed with the prevailing view-

<sup>4</sup>It should be emphasized that questions 13a and 13b made reference to places in the metropolitan area where the respondent *needed* or *desired* to enter. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that high risk places, those most highly feared, were excluded from consideration by many respondents. Had the questions applied unconditionally to all sectors of the area, the pattern of responses no doubt would have differed.

point. Crosstabulation of the sex, race, and age variables generally confirmed these relationships, despite a weakening in statistical significance as the groups in question became smaller. Thus, whereas virtually all white males age 16-19 said they were at least reasonably safe when out alone in their neighborhoods during daytime, a relatively high proportion of elderly black females (26 percent) felt somewhat or very *unsafe* under similar circumstances. For the question about nighttime, the contrast was even more dramatic. Eighty-six percent of the white male teenagers chose "safe," whereas four-fifths of elderly black women picked "unsafe." Even though certain response items were significantly different from one another from a strictly statistical point, the distribution of answers given by victims and nonvictims was quite similar. Curiously, however, victimized persons were slightly more likely than those not victimized to indicate they felt very safe when out alone in the surrounding area during daytime.

### Crime as a cause for moving away

Amounting to 46 percent of all Boston residents age 16 and over, those who had said they felt somewhat or very unsafe when out alone in their neighborhoods during the daytime and/or at night were asked if the danger had caused them seriously to consider moving elsewhere. One-fourth of this group indicated they had thought of leaving, but the majority said they had not. Males,<sup>5</sup> blacks, or victims were more likely than their respective counterparts to have contemplated moving, as were persons between the ages of 20 and 49 by comparison to those age 16-19 or 50 and over.

### Crime as a cause for activity modification

As a means for gauging any possible effects of the fear of crime on behavior in general, Bostonians were asked if they thought that the problem had caused other people, as well as themselves, to limit or change their patterns of activity in recent years. With respect to the population at large, 87

<sup>5</sup>Based on responses shown in Data Table 15, this observation is somewhat misleading because the source question was asked only of persons who said they felt unsafe during daytime and/or nighttime. Totalling 46 percent of the relevant population, individuals who were asked the question included 27 percent of all males, contrasted with 61 percent of all females. Thus, 11 percent of the total population age 16 and over—including 8 percent of males and 14 percent of females—said they had seriously considered moving.

percent of the residents were of the opinion that modifications had taken place. A smaller majority (65 percent) felt that such was also the case among their neighbors, and 45 percent indicated they personally had done so. Differences in the extent to which victims and nonvictims shared these opinions were nominal, even when statistically significant.

For the questions concerning people in general and neighbors, response distributions for the demographic groups examined varied by only a few percentage points from the average for all residents; in many instances, apparent intergroup response differences were statistically insignificant. For the item concerning the respondent personally, however, interesting and more substantial differences emerged. Women were far more likely than men (54 vs. 34 percent) to say they had changed their lifestyles because of the threat of crime, and there was a tendency among increasingly older persons to have done likewise. At the extremes, 34 percent of youngsters age 16-19 responded "yes," compared with 58 percent of the elderly. Response differences according to race were less marked than those by sex or age—only 5 percentage points separated the relative numbers of whites and blacks who answered affirmatively, with the latter having the higher figure. Examination of results based on a crosstabulation of the three demographic variables revealed, therefore, that the sharper response contrasts were between men and women and among persons of differing age rather than between the races. To illustrate, white females age 16-19 were about three times as likely as white males of the same age to say they personally had altered their activities because of crime, whereas three-fifths of women age 65 and over, irrespective of race, indicated they had done so.

## **Residential problems and lifestyles**

The initial attitude survey questions were designed to gather information about certain specific behavioral practices of Boston householders and to explore perceptions about a wide range of community problems, one of which was crime. As indicated in the section entitled "Crime and Attitudes," certain questions were asked of only one

member of each household, known as the household respondent. Information gathered from such persons is treated in this section of the report and found in Data Tables 19 through 26; the pertinent data were based on survey questions 2a through 7b. In addition, the responses to questions 8a through 8f, relating to certain aspects of personal lifestyle, also are examined in this section; the relevant questions were asked of all household members age 16 and over, including the household respondent, and the results are displayed in Data Tables 27 through 30. As can be seen from the questionnaire, and unlike the procedure used in developing the information discussed in the two preceding sections of this report, the questions that served as a basis for the topics covered here did not reveal to respondents that the development of data on crime was the main purpose of the survey.

## **Neighborhood problems and selecting a home**

Among respondents for households that had occupied the same address for 5 years or less at the time of the interview, only about 1 in 20 indicated that the threat of crime had been the main cause for leaving the former residence or that a presumed safety from crime had prompted them to select the current dwelling. Representing 55 percent of the city's households, these short-term residents were more likely to indicate that the need for a more convenient location (i.e., proximity to jobs, relatives, shops, schools, etc.) was the most important consideration in deciding where to live. Twenty-six percent cited this as the chief reason for leaving the former residence, and 38 percent said it was the main motive for occupying the present one. On the basis of the socioeconomic variables examined, differences in the extent to which subgroups cited the influence of crime were negligible and/or statistically insignificant.

All household respondents, regardless of their length of occupancy, were queried about the possible existence of undesirable neighborhood characteristics. A 58 percent majority indicated they were satisfied with conditions. Among those who were dissatisfied, victims were relatively more numerous than nonvictims by an appreciable margin, 53 to 35 percent. Interestingly, members of families with annual incomes of \$25,000 or more were likelier than those in the lower brackets to

be displeased with at least one aspect of the surrounding area.

As a proportion of those householders who found one or more faults with the neighborhood, appreciable numbers felt that crime was the vicinity's most serious shortcoming or cited environmental problems, such as noise, trash, and overcrowding.<sup>6</sup> Victims were somewhat more apt than nonvictims (32 vs. 24 percent) to be troubled by crime, whereas the reverse was true with respect to environmental concerns (28 vs. 33 percent). Of the income groups studied, those in the lowest category (less than \$3,000 per annum) were the likeliest to regard crime as the main neighborhood problem. It should be pointed out, however, that a substantial number of all respondents (18 percent) alluded to the influx of "bad elements" or to the presence of "problem neighbors"—responses possibly associated with the occurrence of antisocial, if not criminal, activities in the vicinity.

### **Food and merchandise shopping practices**

Given the finding that some 24,000 Boston householders felt that crime was their leading neighborhood problem, the next battery of questions was a key component of the survey, for it was designed to determine the extent to which crime might have affected certain routine activities, such as shopping for food or other goods. The lead question on grocery shopping distinguished between persons who usually shopped in the neighborhood (77 percent) and those who did not (23). The following question focused on the latter group, and it determined that only 2 percent—members of scarcely 1,000 households—were deterred by crime from shopping in the vicinity. In fact, for most population subgroups, the volume of sample cases was too small to yield statistically reliable estimates of those whose shopping practices were influenced by crime. It is of interest to note, however, that blacks or persons who had been victimized were less likely than whites or nonvictims, respectively, to do their major food shopping in the neighborhood, as were individuals in the lowest income group by

<sup>6</sup>There was no statistically significant difference between the percent of persons who chose "crime" (28 percent) and those who picked "environmental problems" (31 percent). As a proportion of all householders, respondents who selected crime as the main neighborhood problem amounted to about 11 percent and those citing environmental issues represented 13 percent.

comparison with those having incomes of \$3,000 or more. The absence of foodstores or the inadequacy or high prices of existing ones were reasons often given for grocery shopping outside the neighborhood, although answers were not recorded for many respondents (23 percent), including a disproportionately large number of persons in the lowest income group.

The question about shopping for goods other than food was intended to distinguish between those who patronized clothing and general merchandise stores in Boston's downtown shopping district and those who shopped elsewhere (i.e., in stores situated within residential areas or in the suburbs). Downtown shoppers outnumbered the others by about 7 percentage points. Blacks were more likely than whites to shop downtown (58 vs. 50 percent), and a relatively high proportion (62 percent) of persons in the uppermost income group did likewise. Once again, the intimidating effects of crime were far from widespread: 4 percent of those who customarily shopped in neighborhood or suburban stores indicated that crime was the main obstacle to their shopping downtown.

### **Entertainment practices**

The inquiry into evening entertainment was intended to detect any possible association between perceptions about crime and yet another facet of life. Unlike the preceding questions, however, the series on entertainment was asked of all persons age 16 and over and did not relate to a neighborhood context. The initial questions determined that about half of all residents had not changed the frequency with which they went out to dinner, theaters, and the like during the recent past; 16 percent went out more often and 33 percent less frequently. Responses offered by this latter group revealed that women, blacks, or persons who had been victimized were somewhat more likely than their respective counterparts to have curtailed the frequency with which they went out. So, too, were individuals age 25-34 or 65 and over in relation to the four remaining age groups. Of the total number of those who stated they had reduced their evening entertainment activities, some 13 percent, or approximately 19,700 persons, ascribed this chiefly to their fear of crime. Women (17 percent) and persons age 50 and over (24) were disproportionately represented in the group. The largest share of responses came from persons

who attributed their restrictions in entertainment mainly to financial circumstances (26 percent).

The second half of the questions on evening entertainment concerned the customary location of establishments patronized. Most Bostonians (63 percent) indicated they remained within the city, and about 23 percent said they usually went to suburban restaurants, theaters, and other public facilities in the suburbs; 13 percent went to both areas with equal frequency. Whites were much more likely than blacks (26 vs. 7 percent) to travel to the suburbs, and persons age 35 and over were more inclined than younger individuals to do likewise. When asked about motives for usually going outside the city, 11 percent of all those who did so (or about 7,700 persons), maintained it was because of crime within the city. Personal convenience or preference for facilities were cited by 53 percent.

## Local police performance

Following the series of questions concerning neighborhood safety and crime as a deterrent to personal mobility, individuals age 16 and over were asked to assess the overall performance of the local police and to suggest ways, if any, in which police effectiveness might be improved. Data Tables 31 through 37, derived from survey questions 14a and 14b, contain the results on which this discussion is based.

### Are they doing a good, average, or poor job?

Coming toward the end of queries that obliged respondents to assess the extent and consequences of crime, the questions about police performance could reasonably be expected to have revealed a substantial amount of cynicism on the part of the city's residents. Such, however, was not the case, as 3 in 4 Bostonians rated the quality of police work as no lower than average. Those who characterized it as poor made up 17 percent. Although the age or victimization status variables yielded some interesting response differences, contrasts according to race perhaps were the most provocative. By margins of about 2 to 1, blacks were more likely than whites to give "poor" ratings and whites were more apt than blacks to as-

sign "good" ratings. Response variations between persons of opposite sex were minor.

The pattern of police appraisal with respect to age was quite distinct: there was a tendency for older persons to rate police performance as good rather than average or poor. Slightly over half of all persons age 65 and over gave "good" ratings, compared with 22 percent of those age 16-19. Conversely, 23 percent of individuals in the youngest group and only 8 percent in the eldest said "poor." Higher proportions of victims than nonvictims gave "average" or "poor" ratings, whereas relatively more nonvictims than victims assigned "good" ones (39 vs. 28 percent).

Although the response variations between persons of opposite sex were inconsequential, those based on a joint usage of the race and age variables were noteworthy. For each of the six corresponding age groups, higher proportions of whites than of blacks said that police performance had been good and lower proportions indicated it had been poor. As a result, therefore, the response contrasts were sharpest between young blacks and elderly whites: 7 percent of black youths age 16-19 gave "good" ratings and 45 percent "poor" ones, compared with 56 and 8 percent, respectively, for whites age 65 and over.

### How can the police improve?

Despite the overall favorable performance evaluations given the police, a vast majority of persons (87 percent) felt that the force's effectiveness could be improved in one or more ways. Blacks were somewhat more likely than whites to hold that view, as were victims by comparison with nonvictims.

When asked to identify those aspects of the police mission that needed improvement, a 62 percent majority of Bostonians identified measures relating to operational practices, with revisions in deployment (i.e., the need for more officers in certain areas of the city or at certain times) being the most common specific item (39 percent).<sup>7</sup> Twenty-three percent wanted improve-

<sup>7</sup>For much of this discussion, the eight specific response items covered in Question 14b were combined into three categories, as follows: *community relations*: (1) "Be more courteous, improve attitude, community relations" and (2) "Don't discriminate." *Operational practices*: (1) "Concentrate on more important duties, serious crime, etc.;" (2) "Be more prompt, responsive, alert"; (3) "Need more traffic control"; and (4) "Need more policemen of particular type (foot, car) in certain areas or at certain times." And, *personnel resources*: (1) "Hire more policemen" and (2) "Improve training, raise qualifications or pay, recruitment policies."

ments in the area of personnel resources, mainly by augmenting the force (19 percent). Eight percent called for better police-community relations, chiefly through improved public behavior by force members (7 percent).

Men and women were in fundamental agreement as to the manner for improving the work of the police. The specific measure on which they differed most sharply concerned police readiness and response time. Women were more likely than men (20 vs. 13 percent) to suggest a need for improvement in this facet of police operations. There was also an overall similarity in the responses of victims and nonvictims, except that the latter were appreciably more likely (43 vs. 33 percent) to say that deployment changes were needed.

Examination of the responses of blacks and of younger persons—population groups that were relatively less generous in their ratings of police performance—gave insight to the reasoning behind their assessments. The area of widest disagreement between blacks and whites concerned community relations. Blacks were far likelier than whites (18 vs. 6 percent) to indicate that these should be strengthened. Whites, on the other hand, were more inclined to state that the police personnel situation needed improvement. Differences in the extent of both these viewpoints applied irrespective of age. The call by blacks for improved police-community relations was strongest among individuals age 16-24, regardless of gender, whereas the interest on the part of whites in an upgrading of police personnel centered chiefly among both males and females age 35 and over.

## Appendix I

### Survey data tables

The 37 statistical data tables in this appendix present the results of the Boston attitudinal survey conducted early in 1974. They are organized topically, generally paralleling the report's analytical discussion. For each subject, the data tables consist of cross-tabulations of personal (or household) characteristics and the relevant response categories. For a given population group, each table displays the percent distribution of answers to a question.

All statistical data generated by the survey are estimates that vary in their degree of reliability and are subject to variances, or errors, associated with the fact that they were derived from a sample survey rather than a complete enumeration. Constraints on interpretation and other uses of the data, as well as guidelines for determining their reliability, are set forth in Appendix III. As a general rule, however, estimates based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases have been considered unreliable. Such estimates, qualified by footnotes to the data tables, were not used for analytical purposes in this report.

Each data table parenthetically displays the size of the group for which a distribution of responses was calculated. As with the percentages, these base figures are estimates. On tables showing the answers of individual respondents (Tables 1-18 and 27-37), the figures reflect an adjustment based on an independent post-Census estimate of the city's resident population. For data from household respondents (Tables 19-26), the bases were generated solely by the survey itself.

A note beneath each data table identifies the question that served as source of the data. As an expedient in preparing tables, certain response categories were reworded and/or abbreviated. The questionnaire facsimile (Appendix II) should be consulted for the exact wording of both the questions and the response categories. For questionnaire items that carried the instruction "Mark all that apply," thereby enabling a respondent to furnish more than a single answer, the data tables

reflect only the answer designated by the respondent as being the most important one rather than all answers given.

The first six data tables were used in preparing the "Crime Trends" section of the report. Tables 7-18 relate to the topic "Fear of Crime"; Tables 19-30 cover "Residential Problems and Lifestyles"; and the last seven tables display information concerning "Local Police Performance."

**Table 1. Direction of crime trends in the United States**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Increased	Same	Decreased	Don't know	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	80.8	11.5	2.0	5.4	0.3
Sex						
Male (202,100)	100.0	80.2	11.8	2.4	5.3	0.3
Female (258,800)	100.0	81.3	11.3	1.6	5.5	0.3
Race						
White (379,400)	100.0	81.9	11.1	1.9	4.8	0.3
Black (71,100)	100.0	78.0	12.6	2.8	6.4	10.2
Other (10,500)	100.0	63.7	16.9	10.5	18.4	10.5
Age						
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	76.3	15.6	3.4	4.4	10.3
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	76.9	15.7	2.5	4.6	10.3
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	82.2	11.7	1.9	4.0	10.2
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	82.3	9.8	1.2	6.6	10.1
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	83.9	8.6	1.7	5.5	10.3
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	81.7	8.6	1.8	7.3	10.5
Victimization experience						
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	79.6	11.9	1.7	6.4	0.4
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	82.9	10.9	2.5	3.7	10.1

NOTE: Data based on question 10a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

1 Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 2. Direction of crime trends in the neighborhood**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Increased	Same	Decreased	Haven't lived here that long	Don't know	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	44.4	34.6	4.5	7.2	9.0	0.3
Sex							
Male (202,100)	100.0	44.3	35.3	5.1	7.7	7.3	0.3
Female (258,800)	100.0	44.5	34.1	4.0	6.8	10.4	0.3
Race							
White (379,400)	100.0	45.4	34.6	3.8	7.1	8.8	0.3
Black (71,100)	100.0	39.6	34.4	8.2	7.6	10.1	10.1
Other (10,500)	100.0	40.5	36.1	13.6	8.3	11.5	10.0
Age							
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	40.0	37.0	6.8	9.1	6.8	10.2
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	41.2	33.4	3.9	14.6	6.8	10.2
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	43.0	35.0	4.0	10.9	6.9	10.2
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	46.9	33.6	5.0	3.8	10.2	0.5
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	47.6	35.7	4.4	2.1	10.0	10.3
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	46.5	33.8	3.6	2.1	13.8	10.3
Victimization experience							
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	41.0	37.0	4.3	6.6	10.9	0.3
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	50.1	30.7	4.9	8.2	5.9	10.2

NOTE: Data based on question 9a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

1 Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 3. Comparison of neighborhood crime with other metropolitan area neighborhoods**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Much more dangerous	More dangerous	About average	Less dangerous	Much less dangerous	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	1.2	7.0	42.9	39.2	8.1	1.6
Sex							
Male (202,100)	100.0	1.1	7.4	40.6	41.2	8.5	1.1
Female (258,800)	100.0	1.2	6.6	44.6	37.7	7.9	2.0
Race							
White (379,400)	100.0	1.1	6.8	39.3	42.1	9.2	1.4
Black (71,100)	100.0	1.7	7.4	60.5	25.2	2.9	2.4
Other (10,500)	100.0	2.0	8.7	50.0	31.3	4.5	3.6
Age							
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	1.2	8.7	41.7	40.0	7.0	1.4
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	1.0	8.7	44.0	37.5	7.3	1.5
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	1.5	9.0	42.7	38.2	6.9	1.6
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	1.3	6.0	45.9	37.2	8.6	0.9
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	0.8	4.3	41.1	42.7	9.5	1.6
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	1.2	5.3	40.9	40.5	9.2	2.9
Victimization experience							
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	0.9	5.4	43.0	40.5	8.3	1.9
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	1.7	9.6	42.6	37.1	7.8	1.1

NOTE: Data based on question 12. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 4. Place of residence of persons committing neighborhood crimes**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	No neighborhood crime	People living here	Outsiders	Equally by both	Don't know	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	2.6	22.7	38.8	10.7	24.1	1.2
Sex							
Male (202,100)	100.0	2.6	23.7	40.3	11.5	20.9	1.1
Female (258,800)	100.0	2.6	21.9	37.7	10.0	26.5	1.3
Race							
White (379,400)	100.0	2.8	22.3	40.9	9.6	23.4	1.0
Black (71,100)	100.0	1.8	25.4	28.7	17.0	25.2	1.8
Other (10,500)	100.0	10.5	19.4	32.4	7.2	37.9	2.6
Age							
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	1.5	31.5	38.1	14.3	13.6	1.0
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	1.5	30.6	34.4	10.5	22.1	0.9
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	1.8	26.7	36.4	10.8	23.0	1.3
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	2.3	21.2	39.0	12.1	24.0	1.4
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	4.0	15.6	41.5	10.0	27.5	1.4
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	4.2	11.5	44.6	7.1	31.5	1.1
Victimization experience							
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	3.2	19.4	38.4	10.7	27.0	1.3
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	1.6	28.2	39.6	10.5	19.1	1.0

NOTE: Data based on question 9c. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 5. Change in the chances of being attacked or robbed**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Going up	Same	Going down	No opinion	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	61.7	28.3	5.1	4.7	0.3
Sex						
Male (202,100)	100.0	58.1	31.5	6.0	4.2	0.3
Female (258,800)	100.0	64.5	25.8	4.4	5.1	0.2
Race						
White (379,400)	100.0	64.5	26.6	4.6	4.1	0.2
Black (71,100)	100.0	49.4	35.6	8.0	6.7	10.3
Other (10,500)	100.0	41.9	42.3	4.7	11.1	10.0
Age						
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	55.6	35.3	6.5	2.4	10.1
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	58.9	31.4	7.0	2.7	10.1
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	63.6	28.3	4.2	3.7	10.2
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	65.3	24.8	4.5	5.1	10.3
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	65.3	24.4	3.7	6.3	10.3
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	58.1	28.5	5.3	7.5	10.6
Victimization experience						
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	58.1	30.1	5.2	6.2	0.3
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	67.6	25.3	4.9	2.1	10.1

NOTE: Data based on question 15a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.**Table 6. Seriousness of crime problem relative to what newspapers and television report**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Less serious	Same	More serious	No opinion	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	8.3	44.9	40.7	5.7	0.4
Sex						
Male (202,100)	100.0	10.5	43.6	40.0	5.5	0.4
Female (258,800)	100.0	6.6	46.0	41.3	5.8	0.4
Race						
White (379,400)	100.0	8.3	45.3	41.2	4.9	0.4
Black (71,100)	100.0	8.9	42.5	40.6	7.5	10.5
Other (10,500)	100.0	5.8	49.0	25.9	19.4	10.0
Age						
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	12.0	48.2	36.3	3.5	10.0
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	11.9	44.6	39.4	3.8	10.3
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	8.9	47.6	38.4	4.7	10.4
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	6.3	44.1	43.1	6.0	0.5
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	5.9	43.7	43.6	6.4	10.4
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	5.8	41.8	42.3	9.5	0.6
Victimization experience						
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	7.9	45.5	38.9	7.3	0.5
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	9.0	44.0	43.9	3.0	10.2

NOTE: Data based on question 15b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 7. Fear of going to parts of the metropolitan area during the day**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Yes	No	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	20.5	75.8	3.7
<b>Sex</b>				
Male (202,100)	100.0	17.6	80.3	2.1
Female (258,800)	100.0	22.7	72.3	5.0
<b>Race</b>				
White (379,400)	100.0	21.4	74.4	4.2
Black (71,100)	100.0	17.0	81.0	2.0
Other (10,500)	100.0	10.5	89.5	10.0
<b>Age</b>				
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	14.8	82.3	2.8
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	18.3	79.4	2.3
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	19.0	77.9	3.1
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	23.8	72.5	3.8
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	25.7	69.0	5.2
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	18.8	76.1	5.1
<b>Victimization experience</b>				
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	18.3	78.0	3.7
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	24.1	72.1	3.8

NOTE: Data based on question 13a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 8. Fear of going to parts of the metropolitan area at night**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Yes	No	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	25.5	63.5	11.0
<b>Sex</b>				
Male (202,100)	100.0	25.3	67.4	7.3
Female (258,800)	100.0	25.5	60.5	14.0
<b>Race</b>				
White (379,400)	100.0	26.0	62.4	11.6
Black (71,100)	100.0	24.2	67.4	8.4
Other (10,500)	100.0	13.5	79.0	7.5
<b>Age</b>				
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	28.1	59.2	12.7
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	30.9	59.4	9.7
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	27.4	62.8	9.8
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	26.8	62.3	10.9
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	22.6	64.7	12.8
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	16.1	73.0	10.9
<b>Victimization experience</b>				
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	21.5	67.9	10.6
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	32.1	56.1	11.7

NOTE: Data based on question 13b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

**Table 9. Neighborhood safety when out alone during the day**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	53.1	37.3	7.2	2.2	0.4
Sex						
Male (202,100)	100.0	65.0	29.4	4.4	0.8	0.3
Female (258,800)	100.0	43.7	43.4	9.3	3.2	0.4
Race						
White (379,400)	100.0	56.3	35.1	6.5	1.7	0.4
Black (71,100)	100.0	37.5	47.5	10.2	4.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
Other (10,500)	100.0	41.1	45.9	10.4	<sup>1</sup> 2.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
Age						
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	63.4	31.9	3.8	1.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	61.8	32.8	4.3	1.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	58.5	33.9	5.7	1.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	52.5	37.6	7.7	1.9	<sup>1</sup> 0.3
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	46.2	41.6	8.2	3.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.4
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	36.4	45.5	13.2	3.8	0.1
Victimization experience						
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	52.1	38.2	7.2	2.1	0.4
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	54.8	35.8	7.1	2.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.2

NOTE: Data based on question 11b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

### Table 10. Neighborhood safety when out alone during the day

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Not available
<b>Sex and age</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
16-19 (22,700)	100.0	77.6	20.8	1.3	10.3	10.0
20-24 (38,200)	100.0	73.9	23.8	2.0	10.1	10.2
25-34 (41,100)	100.0	72.7	23.7	3.3	10.3	10.0
35-49 (38,200)	100.0	62.6	32.2	4.1	10.6	10.5
50-64 (36,700)	100.0	56.2	35.1	6.1	2.0	10.6
65 and over (25,200)	100.0	43.9	42.6	10.5	2.1	10.9
<b>Female</b>						
16-19 (28,100)	100.0	51.9	40.7	5.8	1.6	10.0
20-24 (46,600)	100.0	52.0	40.1	6.2	1.6	10.1
25-34 (48,700)	100.0	46.5	42.5	7.8	2.8	10.3
35-49 (44,500)	100.0	43.8	42.1	10.9	2.9	10.3
50-64 (48,700)	100.0	38.7	46.6	9.8	4.7	10.2
65 and over (42,300)	100.0	31.9	47.2	14.8	4.9	1.2
<b>Race and age</b>						
<b>White</b>						
16-19 (41,100)	100.0	66.4	30.1	3.0	10.6	10.0
20-24 (69,200)	100.0	64.7	31.0	3.6	10.6	10.2
25-34 (69,100)	100.0	64.8	29.2	4.8	1.2	10.1
35-49 (64,400)	100.0	58.0	33.7	6.5	1.4	10.4
50-64 (73,400)	100.0	49.0	40.4	7.4	2.8	10.5
65 and over (62,200)	100.0	37.7	44.8	12.9	3.4	1.2
<b>Black</b>						
16-19 (8,600)	100.0	51.4	38.1	7.4	13.1	10.0
20-24 (14,000)	100.0	49.0	40.7	7.6	12.7	10.0
25-34 (18,500)	100.0	35.6	51.4	9.1	3.3	10.6
35-49 (15,500)	100.0	32.4	50.9	12.2	4.2	10.4
50-64 (10,100)	100.0	29.7	49.7	12.0	8.6	10.0
65 and over (4,400)	100.0	18.6	54.6	17.9	18.9	10.0

NOTE: Data based on question 11b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 11. Neighborhood safety when out alone during the day

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Not available
Race, sex, and age						
White						
Male						
16-19 (18,500)	100.0	81.7	17.7	10.6	10.0	10.0
20-24 (31,700)	100.0	76.4	21.9	1.5	10.0	10.2
25-34 (33,200)	100.0	75.4	21.1	3.3	10.3	10.0
35-49 (30,500)	100.0	64.9	30.9	3.5	10.2	10.6
50-64 (31,600)	100.0	58.7	33.4	5.6	1.6	10.7
65 and over (22,800)	100.0	45.8	42.1	9.6	11.5	11.0
Female						
16-19 (22,600)	100.0	53.9	40.2	4.9	11.0	10.0
20-24 (37,500)	100.0	54.8	38.7	5.4	11.1	10.2
25-34 (35,900)	100.0	55.0	36.7	6.2	2.0	10.1
35-49 (33,900)	100.0	51.9	36.2	9.3	2.5	10.2
50-64 (41,800)	100.0	41.7	45.7	8.8	3.6	10.3
65 and over (39,400)	100.0	33.0	46.4	14.8	4.6	1.3
Black						
Male						
16-19 (3,800)	100.0	63.1	30.6	14.8	11.5	10.0
20-24 (5,800)	100.0	62.3	31.7	15.0	11.0	10.0
25-34 (6,700)	100.0	59.9	36.9	13.2	10.0	10.0
35-49 (6,400)	100.0	55.3	34.1	7.7	12.9	10.0
50-64 (4,100)	100.0	43.3	42.4	10.3	14.0	10.0
65 and over (1,800)	100.0	21.6	50.4	18.8	19.2	10.0
Female						
16-19 (4,800)	100.0	42.2	44.0	9.6	14.3	10.0
20-24 (8,200)	100.0	39.6	47.1	9.4	13.9	10.0
25-34 (11,900)	100.0	22.0	59.5	12.4	5.2	10.9
35-49 (9,100)	100.0	16.1	62.7	15.4	5.2	10.6
50-64 (6,000)	100.0	20.3	54.7	13.2	11.8	10.0
65 and over (2,600)	100.0	16.4	57.6	17.4	18.7	10.0

NOTE: Data based on question 11b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 12. Neighborhood safety when out alone at night**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	16.7	37.0	22.8	23.1	0.5
Sex						
Male (202,100)	100.0	26.8	45.6	17.4	9.8	0.5
Female (258,800)	100.0	8.8	30.3	27.0	33.5	0.5
Race						
White (379,400)	100.0	17.6	37.2	22.8	21.9	0.5
Black (71,100)	100.0	12.0	35.6	22.4	29.7	10.4
Other (10,500)	100.0	15.1	39.2	25.7	19.9	10.0
Age						
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	23.5	38.8	20.6	16.9	10.1
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	22.1	41.7	21.0	15.1	10.1
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	18.3	41.7	22.1	17.6	10.2
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	15.8	38.0	23.2	22.6	0.5
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	12.8	33.2	25.4	28.0	0.6
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	8.4	26.8	23.8	39.4	1.5
Victimization experience						
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	16.1	38.0	22.1	23.2	0.7
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	17.7	35.3	23.9	22.9	10.2

NOTE: Data based on question 11a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.  
 \*Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

### Table 13. Neighborhood safety when out alone at night

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Not available
<b>Sex and age</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
16-19 (22,700)	100.0	41.2	44.8	9.6	4.4	10.0
20-24 (38,200)	100.0	34.8	48.3	13.2	3.4	10.3
25-34 (41,100)	100.0	30.4	49.0	14.8	5.8	10.0
35-49 (38,200)	100.0	23.1	48.5	17.0	10.7	10.6
50-64 (36,700)	100.0	18.8	44.5	23.0	13.0	10.6
65 and over (25,200)	100.0	13.0	33.5	27.4	24.7	11.4
<b>Female</b>						
16-19 (28,100)	100.0	9.3	34.1	29.4	27.0	10.2
20-24 (46,600)	100.0	11.7	36.3	27.4	24.6	10.0
25-34 (48,700)	100.0	8.2	35.6	28.3	27.6	10.3
35-49 (44,500)	100.0	9.4	28.9	28.4	32.9	10.4
50-64 (48,700)	100.0	8.2	24.6	27.2	39.3	10.7
65 and over (42,300)	100.0	5.7	22.9	21.7	48.1	1.6
<b>Race and age</b>						
<b>White</b>						
16-19 (41,100)	100.0	24.2	38.5	20.7	16.4	10.1
20-24 (69,200)	100.0	22.9	41.7	21.6	13.6	10.2
25-34 (69,100)	100.0	20.9	42.5	21.6	14.8	10.2
35-49 (64,400)	100.0	17.2	39.5	22.2	20.6	10.5
50-64 (73,400)	100.0	13.5	33.8	26.0	26.0	0.6
65 and over (62,200)	100.0	8.9	26.7	23.5	39.3	1.7
<b>Black</b>						
16-19 (8,600)	100.0	21.6	38.8	18.2	21.4	10.0
20-24 (14,000)	100.0	19.6	41.0	18.0	21.3	10.0
25-34 (18,500)	100.0	9.0	39.1	24.3	27.4	10.3
35-49 (15,500)	100.0	8.9	31.9	25.1	33.4	10.7
50-64 (10,100)	100.0	8.0	29.3	21.2	40.5	11.0
65 and over (4,400)	100.0	1.3	25.2	29.8	43.7	10.0

NOTE: Data based on question 11a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

### Table 14. Neighborhood safety when out alone at night

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Not available
<b>Race, sex, and age</b>						
<b>White</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
16-19 (18,500)	100.0	41.8	44.0	10.2	4.1	10.0
20-24 (31,700)	100.0	34.8	49.1	13.2	2.6	10.0
25-34 (33,200)	100.0	32.2	48.0	14.1	5.7	10.0
35-49 (30,500)	100.0	23.7	50.0	15.2	10.4	10.8
50-64 (31,600)	100.0	19.6	43.8	23.5	12.5	10.5
65 and over (22,800)	100.0	13.6	33.2	27.1	24.6	11.5
<b>Female</b>						
16-19 (22,600)	100.0	9.8	34.1	29.3	26.5	10.2
20-24 (37,500)	100.0	12.8	35.5	28.8	23.0	10.0
25-34 (35,900)	100.0	10.4	37.5	28.5	23.3	10.3
35-49 (33,900)	100.0	11.4	30.2	28.5	29.8	10.2
50-64 (41,800)	100.0	8.8	26.3	27.9	36.3	10.6
65 and over (39,400)	100.0	6.1	23.0	21.4	47.7	1.7
<b>Black</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
16-19 (3,800)	100.0	41.3	47.6	14.8	16.3	10.0
20-24 (5,800)	100.0	36.9	40.0	14.7	8.3	10.0
25-34 (6,700)	100.0	21.1	54.1	18.5	6.2	10.0
35-49 (6,400)	100.0	19.1	43.0	24.5	13.4	10.0
50-64 (4,100)	100.0	13.1	47.6	23.6	14.4	11.3
65 and over (1,800)	100.0	13.2	32.7	30.8	33.4	10.0
<b>Female</b>						
16-19 (4,800)	100.0	16.0	31.8	28.9	33.3	10.0
20-24 (8,200)	100.0	7.4	41.6	20.4	30.6	10.0
25-34 (11,900)	100.0	12.1	30.6	27.5	39.3	10.5
35-49 (9,100)	100.0	11.8	24.0	25.6	47.5	11.1
50-64 (6,000)	100.0	14.4	16.6	19.6	58.5	10.9
65 and over (2,600)	100.0	10.0	19.9	29.1	51.0	10.0

NOTE: Data based on question 11a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 15. Neighborhood dangerous enough to consider moving elsewhere**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Yes	No	Not available
All persons (212,300)	100.0	24.7	72.6	2.7
<b>Sex</b>				
Male (55,400)	100.0	30.2	67.1	2.7
Female (156,900)	100.0	22.8	74.6	2.7
<b>Race</b>				
White (170,200)	100.0	24.0	73.4	2.6
Black (37,300)	100.0	29.8	67.1	3.1
Other (4,800)	100.0	12.0	85.9	2.1
<b>Age</b>				
16-19 (19,100)	100.0	21.6	75.2	3.2
20-24 (30,800)	100.0	29.2	68.3	2.6
25-34 (35,800)	100.0	29.9	67.0	3.2
35-49 (38,000)	100.0	25.6	71.2	3.1
50-64 (45,800)	100.0	20.6	77.3	2.1
65 and over (42,800)	100.0	22.1	75.5	2.4
<b>Victimization experience</b>				
Not victimized (131,300)	100.0	21.5	75.7	2.8
Victimized (81,000)	100.0	30.0	67.5	2.5

NOTE: Data based on question 11c. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 16. Limitation or change in activities because of fear of crime**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	People in general			People in neighborhood				Personal			
		Yes	No	Not available	Total	Yes	No	Not available	Total	Yes	No	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	86.6	12.0	1.5	100.0	64.6	30.0	5.4	100.0	45.0	54.5	0.4
<b>Sex</b>												
Male (202,100)	100.0	85.9	12.8	1.2	100.0	63.1	32.4	4.5	100.0	33.5	66.1	0.4
Female (258,800)	100.0	87.0	11.3	1.7	100.0	65.8	28.0	6.1	100.0	54.0	45.5	0.5
<b>Race</b>												
White (379,400)	100.0	87.4	11.4	1.2	100.0	64.7	30.1	5.3	100.0	44.4	55.2	0.4
Black (71,100)	100.0	84.0	14.0	1.9	100.0	64.9	29.5	5.6	100.0	49.2	50.4	0.4
Other (10,500)	100.0	74.2	17.4	8.4	100.0	61.6	28.4	9.9	100.0	39.9	59.6	0.5
<b>Age</b>												
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	81.3	17.4	1.3	100.0	60.2	36.5	3.3	100.0	33.5	66.3	0.2
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	83.5	16.0	0.6	100.0	57.7	37.2	5.1	100.0	35.4	64.6	0.0
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	84.5	13.9	1.5	100.0	60.7	33.2	6.2	100.0	39.2	60.3	0.5
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	88.7	10.0	1.3	100.0	69.4	26.4	4.1	100.0	48.1	51.5	0.4
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	91.5	6.9	1.6	100.0	71.9	21.6	6.5	100.0	54.7	44.8	0.5
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	88.1	9.1	2.8	100.0	66.8	26.5	6.6	100.0	57.5	41.5	1.0
<b>Victimization experience</b>												
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	85.7	12.3	1.9	100.0	63.4	31.1	5.5	100.0	44.6	54.8	0.5
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	87.9	11.3	0.7	100.0	66.7	28.0	5.2	100.0	45.7	54.1	0.3

NOTE: Data based on questions 16a, 16b, and 16c. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 17. Personal limitation or change in activities  
because of fear of crime**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Yes	No	Not available
<b>Sex and age</b>				
<b>Male</b>				
16-19 (22,700)	100.0	18.0	82.0	±0.0
20-24 (38,200)	100.0	21.6	78.4	±0.0
25-34 (41,100)	100.0	28.0	71.8	±0.3
35-49 (38,200)	100.0	39.0	60.4	±0.6
50-64 (36,700)	100.0	42.4	56.8	±0.8
65 and over (25,200)	100.0	52.9	46.2	±0.9
<b>Female</b>				
16-19 (28,100)	100.0	46.0	53.6	±0.4
20-24 (46,600)	100.0	46.7	53.3	±0.0
25-34 (48,700)	100.0	48.6	50.6	±0.8
35-49 (44,500)	100.0	55.9	43.8	±0.3
50-64 (48,700)	100.0	64.0	35.7	±0.3
65 and over (42,300)	100.0	60.2	38.8	1.0
<b>Race and age</b>				
<b>White</b>				
16-19 (41,100)	100.0	33.3	66.6	±0.1
20-24 (69,200)	100.0	35.0	65.0	±0.0
25-34 (69,100)	100.0	36.5	63.0	±0.5
35-49 (64,400)	100.0	47.1	52.4	±0.5
50-64 (73,400)	100.0	53.5	46.0	±0.5
65 and over (62,200)	100.0	57.4	41.7	0.9
<b>Black</b>				
16-19 (8,600)	100.0	36.4	63.1	±0.5
20-24 (14,000)	100.0	37.4	62.6	±0.0
25-34 (18,500)	100.0	49.7	49.7	±0.6
35-49 (15,500)	100.0	54.4	45.6	±0.0
50-64 (10,100)	100.0	63.2	35.8	±1.0
65 and over (4,400)	100.0	59.1	39.6	±1.3

NOTE: Data based on question 16c. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

± Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 18. Personal limitation or change in activities because of fear of crime**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Yes	No	Not available
<b>Race, sex, and age</b>				
<b>White</b>				
<b>Male</b>				
16-19 (18,500)	100.0	15.8	84.2	10.0
20-24 (31,700)	100.0	20.9	79.1	10.0
25-34 (33,200)	100.0	26.3	73.4	10.3
35-49 (30,500)	100.0	39.5	59.7	10.8
50-64 (31,600)	100.0	41.7	57.6	10.7
65 and over (22,800)	100.0	52.9	46.6	10.5
<b>Female</b>				
16-19 (22,600)	100.0	47.5	52.3	10.2
20-24 (37,500)	100.0	47.0	53.0	10.0
25-34 (35,900)	100.0	46.0	53.3	10.7
35-49 (33,900)	100.0	53.9	45.3	10.3
50-64 (41,800)	100.0	62.5	37.3	10.3
65 and over (39,400)	100.0	60.0	38.9	1.1
<b>Black</b>				
<b>Male</b>				
16-19 (3,800)	100.0	27.2	72.8	10.0
20-24 (5,800)	100.0	25.1	74.9	10.0
25-34 (6,700)	100.0	36.4	63.6	10.0
35-49 (6,400)	100.0	37.9	62.1	10.0
50-64 (4,100)	100.0	48.3	50.5	11.2
65 and over (1,800)	100.0	57.8	39.1	13.0
<b>Female</b>				
16-19 (4,800)	100.0	43.6	55.4	11.0
20-24 (8,200)	100.0	46.2	53.8	10.0
25-34 (11,900)	100.0	57.2	41.9	10.9
35-49 (9,100)	100.0	66.0	34.0	10.0
50-64 (6,000)	100.0	73.5	25.7	10.8
65 and over (2,600)	100.0	60.0	40.0	10.0

NOTE: Data based on question 16c. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 19. Most important reason for selecting present neighborhood**

(Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

Household characteristic	Total	Always lived in neighborhood	Neighborhood characteristics	Good schools	Safe from crime	Lack of choice	Right price	Location	Characteristics of house	Other and not available
All households (114,500)	100.0	7.0	10.5	0.8	4.2	14.2	10.8	37.7	7.8	7.1
Race										
White (87,900)	100.0	7.6	10.1	1.0	4.1	10.6	11.5	40.9	7.2	7.0
Black (23,600)	100.0	4.9	11.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.4	4.4	27.3	9.1	25.4	10.2	6.9
Other (3,100)	100.0	4.3	15.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	<sup>1</sup> 3.0	14.2	<sup>1</sup> 3.0	41.3	<sup>1</sup> 7.5	<sup>1</sup> 11.4
Annual family income										
Less than \$3,000 (25,100)	100.0	3.8	7.7	1.8	4.0	19.6	8.9	43.1	4.1	7.0
\$3,000-\$7,499 (30,300)	100.0	6.9	11.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.3	4.9	17.1	13.2	32.9	8.4	4.9
\$7,500-\$9,999 (11,000)	100.0	8.4	8.6	<sup>1</sup> 1.3	<sup>1</sup> 3.6	9.2	11.0	43.3	8.0	6.6
\$10,000-\$14,999 (17,000)	100.0	7.7	12.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.2	2.7	9.4	13.6	38.1	8.8	7.1
\$15,000-\$24,999 (9,900)	100.0	9.1	10.8	<sup>1</sup> 0.8	<sup>1</sup> 3.1	4.8	13.0	40.4	9.3	8.8
\$25,000 or more (2,600)	100.0	<sup>1</sup> 6.5	22.5	<sup>1</sup> 1.6	<sup>1</sup> 6.3	<sup>1</sup> 3.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	37.1	<sup>1</sup> 11.4	<sup>1</sup> 11.4
Not available (18,800)	100.0	8.6	10.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.5	5.0	15.7	6.9	33.3	9.5	9.7
Victimization experience										
Not victimized (65,600)	100.0	7.2	9.3	0.9	4.3	14.5	9.8	37.4	8.0	8.4
Victimized (48,900)	100.0	6.6	12.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.7	4.0	13.7	12.1	38.0	7.6	5.3

NOTE: Data based on question 2a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to households in the group.  
<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 20. Most important reason for leaving former residence**

(Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

Household characteristic	Total	Location	Characteristics of house	Wanted better house	Wanted cheaper house	Forced out	Living arrangements changed	Influx of bad elements	Crime	Neighborhood characteristics	Other and not available
All households (114,500)	100.0	25.6	11.8	11.5	5.9	8.4	17.5	1.4	5.0	4.6	8.3
Race											
White (87,900)	100.0	28.9	10.9	9.2	6.1	7.2	18.5	1.8	4.9	4.3	8.1
Black (23,600)	100.0	13.5	14.9	19.3	5.8	12.7	14.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.2	5.2	6.0	8.4
Other (3,100)	100.0	23.8	12.9	17.0	<sup>1</sup> 3.1	<sup>1</sup> 8.5	14.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	<sup>1</sup> 4.2	<sup>1</sup> 3.0	13.0
Annual family income											
Less than \$3,000 (25,100)	100.0	43.5	6.0	8.8	6.5	7.8	13.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.9	3.5	2.7	7.1
\$3,000-\$7,499 (30,300)	100.0	20.9	12.6	10.7	7.6	10.4	15.6	<sup>1</sup> 1.3	6.4	6.1	8.3
\$7,500-\$9,999 (11,000)	100.0	19.9	12.3	12.3	6.7	7.1	22.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.9	4.7	4.9	8.9
\$10,000-\$14,999 (17,000)	100.0	19.4	15.2	15.7	5.8	6.4	20.4	<sup>1</sup> 2.1	3.8	4.0	7.2
\$15,000-\$24,999 (9,900)	100.0	20.7	15.1	17.7	<sup>1</sup> 2.6	<sup>1</sup> 3.1	21.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.4	5.8	6.3	7.0
\$25,000 or more (2,600)	100.0	32.3	11.3	<sup>1</sup> 11.4	<sup>1</sup> 1.6	<sup>1</sup> 6.5	24.1	<sup>1</sup> 1.6	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	<sup>1</sup> 1.6	<sup>1</sup> 9.6
Not available (18,800)	100.0	20.0	13.1	9.0	4.5	11.2	18.0	2.3	6.3	4.8	10.7
Victimization experience											
Not victimized (65,600)	100.0	24.2	12.4	11.8	6.3	8.8	16.0	1.7	4.5	4.3	10.0
Victimized (48,900)	100.0	27.6	10.9	11.2	5.5	7.7	19.5	1.0	5.7	5.1	5.9

NOTE: Data based on question 4a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to households in the group.  
<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 21. Whether or not there are undesirable neighborhood characteristics**

(Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

Household characteristic	Total	Yes	No	Not available
All households (208,300)	100.0	41.5	58.0	0.4
<b>Race</b>				
White (169,900)	100.0	41.2	58.4	0.4
Black (35,300)	100.0	43.6	55.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
Other (4,100)	100.0	35.0	63.8	<sup>1</sup> 1.0
<b>Annual family income</b>				
Less than \$3,000 (36,100)	100.0	46.2	53.6	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
\$3,000-\$7,499 (54,200)	100.0	40.9	59.8	<sup>1</sup> 0.3
\$7,500-\$9,999 (18,600)	100.0	45.5	54.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
\$10,000-\$14,999 (33,400)	100.0	40.6	59.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
\$15,000-\$24,999 (18,500)	100.0	43.3	56.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.4
\$25,000 or more (5,700)	100.0	55.5	44.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
Not available (41,900)	100.0	34.6	64.0	1.4
<b>Victimization experience</b>				
Not victimized (132,500)	100.0	35.2	64.2	0.5
Victimized (75,800)	100.0	52.5	47.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.4

NOTE: Data based on question 5a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to households in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 22. Most important neighborhood problem**

(Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

Household characteristic	Total	Traffic, parking	Environmental problems	Crime	Public transportation	Inadequate schools, shopping	Influx of bad elements	Problems with neighbors	Other and not available
All households (86,500)	100.0	9.3	30.6	27.6	1.2	3.0	4.6	13.7	10.0
<b>Race</b>									
White (69,700)	100.0	10.8	29.4	28.3	1.4	1.8	5.0	13.5	9.8
Black (15,400)	100.0	2.9	35.1	25.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.6	8.4	3.2	14.4	10.1
Other (1,400)	100.0	<sup>1</sup> 2.8	40.6	<sup>1</sup> 18.9	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	<sup>1</sup> 6.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	<sup>1</sup> 15.4	<sup>1</sup> 16.1
<b>Annual family income</b>									
Less than \$3,000 (16,700)	100.0	5.8	30.2	35.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.8	2.7	3.4	12.2	9.8
\$3,000-\$7,499 (22,200)	100.0	6.3	32.4	26.6	<sup>1</sup> 1.6	4.6	3.6	14.6	10.2
\$7,500-\$9,999 (8,500)	100.0	12.0	27.2	22.1	<sup>1</sup> 1.2	<sup>1</sup> 2.8	7.4	15.7	11.4
\$10,000-\$14,999 (13,600)	100.0	12.3	28.0	28.0	<sup>1</sup> 1.7	<sup>1</sup> 2.0	4.4	15.9	7.8
\$15,000-\$24,999 (8,000)	100.0	12.7	34.7	22.3	<sup>1</sup> 1.1	<sup>1</sup> 2.6	<sup>1</sup> 3.7	12.0	10.8
\$25,000 or more (3,200)	100.0	20.1	28.1	25.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	<sup>1</sup> 1.4	<sup>1</sup> 4.0	<sup>1</sup> 9.3	<sup>1</sup> 12.0
Not available (14,500)	100.0	9.2	31.1	26.7	<sup>1</sup> 1.0	2.8	6.6	12.6	10.1
<b>Victimization experience</b>									
Not victimized (46,700)	100.0	9.5	32.9	24.3	1.0	3.5	4.5	15.0	9.4
Victimized (39,800)	100.0	9.0	28.0	31.5	1.5	2.5	4.7	12.2	10.6

NOTE: Data based on question 5a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to households in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 23. Whether or not major food shopping done in the neighborhood**

(Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

Household characteristic	Total	Yes	No	Not available
All households (208,300)	100.0	76.8	22.6	0.6
Race				
White (168,900)	100.0	78.6	20.8	0.6
Black (35,300)	100.0	67.6	31.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.7
Other (4,100)	100.0	80.8	17.0	<sup>1</sup> 2.2
Annual family income				
Less than \$3,000 (36,100)	100.0	69.7	28.9	1.4
\$3,000-\$7,499 (54,200)	100.0	80.3	19.6	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
\$7,500-\$9,999 (18,600)	100.0	75.9	23.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
\$10,000-\$14,999 (33,400)	100.0	77.6	22.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.3
\$15,000-\$24,999 (18,500)	100.0	77.8	21.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.7
\$25,000 or more (5,700)	100.0	74.1	25.9	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
Not available (41,900)	100.0	78.1	20.9	1.0
Victimization experience				
Not victimized (132,500)	100.0	78.9	20.6	0.5
Victimized (75,800)	100.0	73.1	26.1	0.8

NOTE: Data based on question 6a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to households in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 24. Most important reason for not doing major food shopping in the neighborhood**

(Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

Household characteristic	Total	No neighborhood stores	Inadequate stores	High prices	Crime	Not available
All households (47,000)	100.0	24.1	30.6	20.1	2.1	23.0
Race						
White (35,200)	100.0	22.0	30.4	18.0	2.8	26.7
Black (11,200)	100.0	30.9	29.4	26.8	<sup>1</sup> 0.4	12.4
Other (700)	100.0	<sup>1</sup> 18.8	<sup>1</sup> 56.5	<sup>1</sup> 18.8	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	<sup>1</sup> 5.8
Annual family income						
Less than \$3,000 (10,400)	100.0	14.6	16.0	15.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	53.9
\$3,000-\$7,499 (10,600)	100.0	22.1	33.7	25.5	<sup>1</sup> 1.8	16.9
\$7,500-\$9,999 (4,400)	100.0	29.6	33.0	23.9	<sup>1</sup> 2.3	11.2
\$10,000-\$14,999 (7,400)	100.0	30.4	37.2	17.5	5.5	9.3
\$15,000-\$24,999 (4,000)	100.0	26.3	36.1	22.7	<sup>1</sup> 3.3	11.6
\$25,000 or more (1,500)	100.0	20.1	42.8	28.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.0	<sup>1</sup> 8.6
Not available (8,800)	100.0	29.5	32.6	16.8	<sup>1</sup> 2.2	18.9
Victimization experience						
Not victimized (27,200)	100.0	25.0	30.8	17.9	2.4	23.9
Victimized (19,800)	100.0	22.8	30.3	23.2	<sup>1</sup> 1.8	21.8

NOTE: Data based on question 6a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to households in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 25. Preferred location for general merchandise shopping**

(Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

Household characteristic	Total	Suburban or neighborhood	Downtown	Not available
All households (208,300)	100.0	44.5	51.6	3.9
Race				
White (168,900)	100.0	46.9	49.6	3.5
Black (35,300)	100.0	36.0	58.1	5.8
Other (4,100)	100.0	18.8	75.9	<sup>1</sup> 5.3
Annual family income				
Less than \$3,000 (36,100)	100.0	42.9	53.5	3.7
\$3,000-\$7,499 (54,200)	100.0	43.6	52.9	3.5
\$7,500-\$9,999 (18,600)	100.0	46.3	51.7	<sup>1</sup> 2.1
\$10,000-\$14,999 (33,400)	100.0	45.9	49.6	4.6
\$15,000-\$24,999 (18,500)	100.0	48.2	49.9	<sup>1</sup> 1.9
\$25,000 or more (5,700)	100.0	34.1	62.2	<sup>1</sup> 3.7
Not available (41,900)	100.0	45.0	49.2	5.8
Victimization experience				
Not victimized (132,500)	100.0	44.2	52.0	3.8
Victimized (75,800)	100.0	45.0	50.9	4.0

NOTE: Data based on question 7a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to households in the group.

<sup>1</sup> Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 26. Most important reason for usually doing general merchandise shopping in the suburbs (or neighborhood) or downtown**

(Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

Type of shopper and household characteristic	Total	Better parking	Better transportation	More convenient	Better selection, more stores	Crime in other location	Better store hours	Better prices	Prefer stores, location, etc.	Other and not available
<b>Suburban (or neighborhood) shoppers</b>										
All households (92,700)	100.0	6.6	3.6	50.7	8.7	4.1	0.6	10.0	8.8	6.8
<b>Race</b>										
White (79,200)	100.0	6.9	4.0	51.4	8.6	4.3	0.7	8.8	8.6	6.8
Black (12,700)	100.0	4.2	1.5	46.2	9.1	3.2	0.3	17.8	10.3	7.4
Other (800)	100.0	12.2	0.0	57.9	12.3	0.0	0.0	11.6	6.0	0.0
<b>Annual family income</b>										
Less than \$3,000 (15,500)	100.0	2.2	4.3	53.5	8.2	2.1	0.3	13.1	10.4	5.8
\$3,000-\$7,499 (23,600)	100.0	5.3	3.2	56.6	8.0	3.3	0.6	10.9	6.6	5.5
\$7,500-\$9,999 (8,600)	100.0	4.5	3.4	48.0	9.0	3.3	0.6	13.2	12.4	5.6
\$10,000-\$14,999 (15,300)	100.0	8.8	3.0	48.9	10.6	7.4	0.3	8.3	8.2	4.4
\$15,000-\$24,999 (8,900)	100.0	12.2	2.4	44.6	11.3	4.4	1.9	7.3	10.9	4.8
\$25,000 or more (2,000)	100.0	17.5	2.2	56.5	6.6	2.1	0.0	4.3	8.5	2.1
Not available (18,800)	100.0	7.1	4.9	46.2	7.1	4.5	0.8	8.3	8.0	13.2
<b>Victimization experience</b>										
Not victimized (58,500)	100.0	6.4	3.8	52.6	8.4	4.3	0.6	8.6	8.7	6.6
Victimized (34,100)	100.0	6.9	3.3	47.5	9.1	3.8	0.8	12.6	8.9	7.2
<b>Downtown shoppers</b>										
All households (107,500)	100.0	0.1	7.2	31.9	34.7	0.3	0.7	12.3	9.2	3.6
<b>Race</b>										
White (83,900)	100.0	0.1	7.9	33.4	35.0	0.3	0.7	10.3	9.1	3.2
Black (20,500)	100.0	0.2	5.1	23.0	34.6	0.0	0.6	21.2	10.4	4.9
Other (3,100)	100.0	0.0	4.3	50.7	28.8	0.0	1.5	7.5	2.9	4.3
<b>Annual family income</b>										
Less than \$3,000 (19,300)	100.0	0.0	8.3	32.6	30.6	0.8	0.7	13.3	10.0	3.7
\$3,000-\$7,499 (28,700)	100.0	0.0	7.5	29.9	34.2	0.2	0.6	16.0	8.1	3.5
\$7,500-\$9,999 (9,600)	100.0	0.5	7.2	29.5	40.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	8.1	3.5
\$10,000-\$14,999 (16,500)	100.0	0.0	7.4	35.2	37.2	0.5	1.1	8.9	8.4	1.1
\$15,000-\$24,999 (9,200)	100.0	1.0	6.5	33.4	34.7	0.0	0.4	8.6	12.7	2.8
\$25,000 or more (3,600)	100.0	0.0	4.8	49.8	34.5	0.0	0.0	7.2	2.5	1.1
Not available (20,600)	100.0	0.0	6.5	28.8	35.1	0.0	1.2	11.9	10.4	6.2
<b>Victimization experience</b>										
Not victimized (68,900)	100.0	0.1	6.7	31.8	34.1	0.3	1.0	12.5	9.7	3.7
Victimized (38,600)	100.0	0.1	8.3	32.1	35.9	0.2	0.2	11.8	8.2	3.2

NOTE: Data based on question 7b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to households in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 27. Change in the frequency with which persons went out for evening entertainment**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	More	Same	Less	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	16.1	51.0	32.6	0.2
Sex					
Male (202,100)	100.0	17.0	52.1	30.6	0.3
Female (258,800)	100.0	15.4	50.2	34.2	0.2
Race					
White (379,400)	100.0	17.0	51.3	31.6	0.2
Black (71,100)	100.0	12.0	49.3	38.2	0.6
Other (10,500)	100.0	13.9	51.2	34.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
Age					
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	42.6	35.4	22.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	27.4	38.6	33.8	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	16.9	46.2	36.6	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	8.2	60.2	31.1	0.5
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	6.4	60.9	32.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	3.1	60.8	36.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
Victimization experience					
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	13.2	55.4	31.1	0.3
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	21.0	43.6	35.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.1

NOTE: Data based on question 8b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 28. Most important reason for increasing or decreasing the frequency with which persons went out for evening entertainment**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Type of change in frequency and population characteristic	Total	Money	Places to go, etc.	Convenience	Own health	Transportation	Age	Family	Activities, etc.	Crime	Want to, etc.	Other and not available
<b>Persons going out more often</b>												
All persons (74,300)	100.0	13.4	26.9	5.5	0.6	2.9	8.9	11.0	6.3	10.4	16.3	7.7
<b>Sex</b>												
Male (34,400)	100.0	15.3	22.8	5.6	10.2	3.3	10.1	8.0	8.5	10.2	17.1	8.9
Female (39,900)	100.0	11.8	30.5	5.4	10.9	2.5	7.8	13.6	4.5	10.7	15.7	6.7
<b>Race</b>												
White (64,300)	100.0	14.2	27.3	6.0	0.6	2.9	8.2	10.6	6.7	10.4	15.2	8.0
Black (8,500)	100.0	9.3	20.6	11.9	10.0	13.2	14.1	14.6	4.8	10.6	24.4	6.7
Other (1,500)	100.0	13.4	47.6	14.3	10.0	10.0	17.9	11.6	10.0	13.5	21.8	10.0
<b>Age</b>												
16-19 (21,600)	100.0	8.3	30.2	3.8	10.0	3.7	25.3	2.0	6.0	10.2	12.6	7.8
20-24 (23,200)	100.0	15.3	30.2	7.4	10.0	3.2	4.4	5.2	5.8	10.4	20.1	8.1
25-34 (15,200)	100.0	21.5	25.7	6.8	10.0	11.4	10.3	12.6	8.3	10.0	17.3	5.9
35-49 (6,700)	100.0	11.8	18.7	11.6	10.9	11.7	10.8	34.7	7.6	10.0	13.7	8.4
50-64 (5,500)	100.0	9.1	16.1	16.0	11.0	14.0	10.0	34.2	14.1	12.1	16.2	17.1
65 and over (2,100)	100.0	12.8	20.7	12.9	14.6	12.9	10.0	20.9	13.1	13.0	14.8	14.6
<b>Victimization experience</b>												
Not victimized (38,100)	100.0	11.4	25.9	4.5	10.9	3.3	9.0	11.4	7.4	10.6	17.6	8.1
Victimized (36,200)	100.0	15.5	28.1	6.5	10.2	2.5	8.7	10.7	5.2	10.3	15.0	7.3
<b>Persons going out less often</b>												
All persons (150,500)	100.0	25.6	5.4	0.9	5.5	1.8	6.7	14.5	11.5	13.1	7.4	7.5
<b>Sex</b>												
Male (61,800)	100.0	30.1	4.4	0.9	4.4	1.3	8.2	11.4	15.8	7.5	8.4	7.7
Female (88,600)	100.0	22.4	6.1	0.9	6.4	2.2	5.7	16.7	8.6	17.0	6.7	7.4
<b>Race</b>												
White (119,700)	100.0	26.4	5.3	0.8	5.6	2.0	7.6	14.5	11.5	12.8	6.1	7.3
Black (27,200)	100.0	22.6	5.4	11.2	5.0	11.4	2.9	14.6	11.1	15.1	11.9	8.8
Other (3,600)	100.0	22.0	15.8	10.0	17.5	10.0	15.9	14.2	15.1	19.0	16.0	14.6
<b>Age</b>												
16-19 (11,200)	100.0	18.0	10.2	10.5	10.5	13.0	1.1	10.3	29.5	8.1	9.8	9.0
20-24 (28,700)	100.0	30.8	9.8	10.8	10.2	11.4	10.4	19.8	19.0	4.9	6.9	6.1
25-34 (32,900)	100.0	32.4	5.5	10.9	11.0	1.5	1.5	22.5	13.1	5.0	9.6	7.0
35-49 (25,800)	100.0	32.1	3.5	11.3	5.1	2.2	3.7	14.8	10.2	13.2	8.0	5.9
50-64 (27,700)	100.0	22.8	3.2	10.6	7.5	2.4	8.4	8.7	5.0	24.2	8.3	8.9
65 and over (24,300)	100.0	10.0	2.2	11.0	18.5	11.3	24.9	5.9	11.3	23.5	2.2	9.3
<b>Victimization experience</b>												
Not victimized (89,800)	100.0	24.0	4.9	0.9	7.2	2.2	8.8	15.3	9.8	13.5	6.7	6.7
Victimized (60,600)	100.0	28.0	6.1	0.8	3.1	1.3	3.5	13.4	14.0	12.7	8.4	8.7

NOTE: Data based on question 8b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.  
<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 29. Places usually visited for evening entertainment**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Inside city	Outside city	About equal	Not available
All persons (312,300)	100.0	63.4	23.1	13.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
Sex					
Male (148,400)	100.0	63.4	23.2	13.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
Female (164,000)	100.0	63.4	23.1	13.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
Race					
White (262,600)	100.0	60.6	26.0	13.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
Black (44,500)	100.0	77.7	7.2	15.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
Other (5,200)	100.0	80.4	13.2	<sup>1</sup> 6.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
Age					
16-19 (44,800)	100.0	74.4	14.7	10.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
20-24 (76,200)	100.0	71.3	16.0	12.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
25-34 (72,200)	100.0	67.0	19.5	13.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
35-49 (53,400)	100.0	55.6	30.6	13.8	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
50-64 (47,100)	100.0	47.9	35.7	16.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
65 and over (18,600)	100.0	52.6	33.6	13.8	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
Victimization experience					
Not victimized (178,800)	100.0	62.2	24.3	13.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
Victimized (135,500)	100.0	65.0	21.6	13.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.1

NOTE: Data based on question 8d. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 30. Most important reason for usually seeking evening entertainment inside or outside the city**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Type of place and population characteristic	Total	Convenience, etc.	Parking, traffic	Crime in other place	More to do	Prefer facilities	Other area more expensive	Friends, relatives	Other and not available
<b>Persons entertained inside city</b>									
All persons (198,000)	100.0	56.2	0.4	0.3	13.2	18.4	0.9	7.9	2.7
<b>Sex</b>									
Male (94,000)	100.0	56.4	0.4	0.2	13.6	18.2	1.2	7.0	3.1
Female (104,000)	100.0	55.9	0.4	0.5	12.8	18.7	0.6	8.7	2.4
<b>Race</b>									
White (159,300)	100.0	55.6	0.3	0.3	13.4	19.7	0.4	7.5	2.8
Black (34,600)	100.0	56.5	0.7	0.5	12.6	14.2	3.2	9.8	2.5
Other (4,200)	100.0	76.0	0.0	0.0	19.1	15.1	1.2	15.8	12.8
<b>Age</b>									
16-19 (33,400)	100.0	60.5	0.3	0.2	14.5	13.2	0.7	8.2	2.4
20-24 (54,300)	100.0	55.8	0.3	0.3	17.6	17.3	0.6	5.9	2.1
25-34 (48,400)	100.0	52.4	0.6	0.1	13.5	23.4	0.5	7.0	2.5
35-49 (29,700)	100.0	55.1	0.0	0.4	11.1	18.8	2.1	9.2	3.3
50-64 (22,500)	100.0	59.3	0.7	1.0	6.7	17.6	1.2	9.7	3.7
65 and over (9,800)	100.0	58.4	0.0	0.6	13.7	18.6	0.0	14.4	4.3
<b>Victimization experience</b>									
Not victimized (111,200)	100.0	56.3	0.4	0.5	12.3	17.5	1.1	9.1	2.8
Victimized (86,800)	100.0	56.0	0.4	0.2	14.3	19.6	0.6	6.3	2.5
<b>Persons entertained outside city</b>									
All persons (72,300)	100.0	26.6	13.2	10.6	4.4	26.0	2.5	11.7	5.0
<b>Sex</b>									
Male (34,400)	100.0	27.3	15.1	9.3	4.1	25.6	2.5	9.8	6.2
Female (37,900)	100.0	25.9	11.4	11.9	4.6	26.4	2.5	13.5	3.9
<b>Race</b>									
White (68,400)	100.0	27.3	13.6	11.0	4.2	25.3	2.5	11.5	4.5
Black (3,200)	100.0	15.6	3.1	5.1	10.1	35.2	1.5	15.8	13.7
Other (700)	100.0	0.0	16.1	0.0	0.0	53.7	0.0	14.4	16.2
<b>Age</b>									
16-19 (6,600)	100.0	28.9	2.7	9.5	15.9	22.7	1.7	20.9	7.7
20-24 (12,200)	100.0	26.5	10.3	3.7	6.5	28.5	3.3	15.4	5.9
25-34 (14,100)	100.0	23.0	16.8	9.5	4.5	28.9	2.4	11.1	3.8
35-49 (16,300)	100.0	29.8	12.7	13.3	5.2	25.9	3.8	6.2	3.1
50-64 (16,800)	100.0	25.4	16.5	14.2	2.6	25.7	1.9	7.7	5.9
65 and over (6,200)	100.0	27.0	14.3	11.3	1.0	19.1	0.0	21.6	15.6
<b>Victimization experience</b>									
Not victimized (43,400)	100.0	28.7	12.7	11.1	5.4	22.9	2.3	12.0	4.9
Victimized (28,900)	100.0	23.4	14.0	9.9	2.9	30.7	2.7	11.3	5.3

NOTE: Data based on question 8e. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.  
<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 31. Opinion about local police performance**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know	Not available
All persons (461,000)	100.0	34.8	40.6	17.4	6.8	0.4
Sex						
Male (202,100)	100.0	33.8	41.5	19.0	5.4	0.3
Female (258,800)	100.0	35.6	39.9	16.2	7.9	0.5
Race						
White (379,400)	100.0	38.1	40.4	14.6	6.4	0.4
Black (71,100)	100.0	18.0	41.4	32.2	7.8	±0.4
Other (10,500)	100.0	28.2	43.9	16.7	11.2	±0.0
Age						
16-19 (50,800)	100.0	21.6	49.4	23.4	5.5	±0.1
20-24 (84,800)	100.0	23.5	47.1	21.8	7.1	±0.5
25-34 (89,800)	100.0	26.2	43.9	23.2	6.4	±0.1
35-49 (82,700)	100.0	36.4	40.2	17.4	5.4	0.6
50-64 (85,400)	100.0	46.1	36.4	10.3	6.6	0.6
65 and over (67,500)	100.0	54.0	27.4	8.4	9.5	±0.5
Victimization experience						
Not victimized (288,800)	100.0	38.7	38.8	14.1	7.9	0.4
Victimized (172,200)	100.0	28.2	43.6	23.0	4.9	0.3

NOTE: Data based on question 14a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 32. Opinion about local police performance**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know	Not available
<b>Sex and age</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
16-19 (22,700)	100.0	21.6	48.4	25.4	4.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
20-24 (38,200)	100.0	22.0	49.8	22.3	5.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
25-34 (41,100)	100.0	26.3	42.7	25.1	5.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
35-49 (38,200)	100.0	38.0	38.5	17.7	5.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.8
50-64 (36,700)	100.0	47.6	36.1	10.7	5.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.3
65 and over (25,200)	100.0	48.6	33.5	12.0	5.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
<b>Female</b>						
16-19 (28,100)	100.0	21.6	50.1	21.8	6.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
20-24 (46,600)	100.0	24.8	44.9	21.4	8.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.7
25-34 (48,700)	100.0	26.2	45.0	21.6	7.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
35-49 (44,500)	100.0	35.0	41.6	17.1	5.8	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
50-64 (48,700)	100.0	44.9	36.6	10.1	7.6	<sup>1</sup> 0.8
65 and over (42,300)	100.0	57.2	23.8	6.3	12.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
<b>Race and age</b>						
<b>White</b>						
16-19 (41,100)	100.0	24.8	50.9	19.2	4.9	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
20-24 (69,200)	100.0	26.0	48.5	18.5	6.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
25-34 (69,100)	100.0	30.3	43.6	20.4	5.6	<sup>1</sup> 0.1
35-49 (64,400)	100.0	39.8	40.4	14.2	5.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
50-64 (73,400)	100.0	48.1	35.5	9.0	6.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
65 and over (62,200)	100.0	55.5	26.5	7.9	9.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
<b>Black</b>						
16-19 (8,600)	100.0	6.5	40.0	44.8	8.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
20-24 (14,000)	100.0	11.8	40.9	37.8	9.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.4
25-34 (18,500)	100.0	12.3	45.3	34.1	8.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.3
35-49 (15,500)	100.0	22.7	40.0	29.7	6.4	<sup>1</sup> 1.1
50-64 (10,100)	100.0	32.4	40.8	20.2	6.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
65 and over (4,400)	100.0	34.9	37.0	17.8	10.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.0

NOTE: Data based on question 14a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

Table 33. Opinion about local police performance

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know	Not available
Race, sex, and age	100					
White						
Male						
16-19 (18,500)	100.0	25.6	49.7	20.8	4.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
20-24 (31,700)	100.0	23.8	51.3	18.7	5.9	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
25-34 (33,200)	100.0	29.5	42.9	22.8	4.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.2
35-49 (30,500)	100.0	41.2	37.5	15.7	5.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
50-64 (31,600)	100.0	49.1	35.6	9.5	5.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.4
65 and over (22,800)	100.0	50.3	32.7	11.2	5.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
Female						
16-19 (22,600)	100.0	24.3	51.8	17.9	5.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.3
20-24 (37,500)	100.0	27.9	46.0	18.4	7.0	<sup>1</sup> 0.8
25-34 (35,900)	100.0	31.1	44.2	18.2	6.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
35-49 (33,900)	100.0	38.5	43.1	12.8	5.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
50-64 (41,800)	100.0	47.4	35.5	8.7	7.7	<sup>1</sup> 0.8
65 and over (39,400)	100.0	58.6	23.0	6.0	11.9	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
Black						
Male						
16-19 (3,800)	100.0	3.2	39.8	49.4	<sup>1</sup> 7.6	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
20-24 (5,800)	100.0	12.5	41.8	41.4	<sup>1</sup> 4.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
25-34 (6,700)	100.0	12.4	42.4	36.9	8.3	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
35-49 (6,400)	100.0	23.9	44.5	26.0	<sup>1</sup> 3.6	<sup>1</sup> 2.0
50-64 (4,100)	100.0	35.9	39.3	19.6	<sup>1</sup> 5.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
65 and over (1,800)	100.0	33.0	35.9	24.9	<sup>1</sup> 6.1	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
Female						
16-19 (4,800)	100.0	9.2	40.1	41.2	9.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.0
20-24 (8,200)	100.0	11.3	40.2	35.3	12.6	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
25-34 (11,900)	100.0	12.3	46.9	32.5	7.9	<sup>1</sup> 0.5
35-49 (9,100)	100.0	21.9	36.8	32.3	8.4	<sup>1</sup> 0.6
50-64 (6,000)	100.0	30.0	41.9	20.7	<sup>1</sup> 6.5	<sup>1</sup> 0.9
65 and over (2,600)	100.0	36.3	37.7	<sup>1</sup> 12.8	<sup>1</sup> 13.2	<sup>1</sup> 0.0

NOTE: Data based on question 14a. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 34. Whether or not local police performance needs improvement**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Yes	No	Not available
All persons (427,800)	100.0	87.0	10.5	2.5
<b>Sex</b>				
Male (190,700)	100.0	87.2	10.1	2.7
Female (237,200)	100.0	86.9	10.8	2.3
<b>Race</b>				
White (353,300)	100.0	86.6	11.2	2.2
Black (65,200)	100.0	89.5	6.3	4.2
Other (9,400)	100.0	86.5	12.8	10.6
<b>Age</b>				
16-19 (47,900)	100.0	89.9	7.5	2.6
20-24 (78,400)	100.0	90.0	7.3	2.8
25-34 (83,900)	100.0	91.1	6.1	2.8
35-49 (77,700)	100.0	87.0	10.0	3.1
50-64 (79,200)	100.0	82.3	15.2	2.6
65 and over (60,700)	100.0	81.6	17.6	0.8
<b>Victimization experience</b>				
Not victimized (264,600)	100.0	85.6	12.5	1.9
Victimized (163,200)	100.0	89.4	7.2	3.4

NOTE: Data based on question 14b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 35. Most important measure for improving local police performance**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Most important measure	All persons (313,000)	Sex		Race			Age						Victimization experience	
		Male (142,400)	Female (170,500)	White (257,800)	Black (49,200)	Other (6,000)	16-19 (35,400)	20-24 (58,600)	25-34 (65,500)	35-49 (58,000)	50-64 (56,900)	65 and over (38,600)	Not victimized (185,600)	Victimized (127,300)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Personnel resources</b>														
Total	22.8	24.4	21.4	23.7	16.5	33.3	19.1	20.8	19.6	23.8	27.1	26.7	23.2	22.2
More police	18.8	19.3	18.4	19.6	12.9	32.4	16.4	15.1	14.4	19.3	24.6	24.8	19.9	17.3
Better training	4.0	5.2	3.0	4.1	3.6	10.8	2.7	5.7	5.1	4.6	2.4	2.0	3.3	4.9
<b>Operational practices</b>														
Total	62.4	59.1	65.2	63.2	60.0	50.1	59.4	61.0	61.7	62.5	63.9	66.6	64.4	59.6
Focus on more important duties, etc.	5.7	6.4	5.0	6.2	3.9	10.0	7.8	8.8	6.6	4.0	3.4	3.5	5.2	6.4
Greater promptness, etc.	17.0	12.8	20.4	14.4	30.1	16.8	18.4	20.1	21.5	16.1	13.5	9.6	15.6	19.0
Increased traffic control	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	10.3	10.8	11.0	1.9	0.9	10.5	10.4	10.4	1.0	0.8
More police certain areas, times	38.9	38.8	38.9	41.6	25.6	32.4	32.2	30.2	32.6	41.9	46.4	53.0	42.6	33.4
<b>Community relations</b>														
Total	8.4	9.0	7.8	6.4	18.3	13.0	14.8	12.6	10.3	7.4	3.3	1.9	6.9	10.4
Courtesy, attitudes, etc.	7.0	7.6	6.4	5.8	12.6	10.1	11.9	10.4	8.5	6.8	2.4	1.7	5.5	9.1
Don't discriminate	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.5	5.7	12.8	2.9	2.2	1.8	10.6	0.9	10.2	1.4	1.4
Other	6.4	7.4	5.4	6.6	5.2	13.7	6.7	5.6	8.4	6.2	5.7	4.8	5.4	7.7

NOTE: Data based on question 14b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 36. Most important measure for improving local police performance**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Personnel resources	Operational practices	Community relations	Other
<b>Sex and age</b>					
Male					
16-19 (15,700)	100.0	19.9	57.2	15.6	0.8
20-24 (27,500)	100.0	23.0	58.1	13.1	5.8
25-34 (30,100)	100.0	20.9	58.2	10.8	10.1
35-49 (37,400)	100.0	25.9	57.7	8.0	8.4
50-64 (24,400)	100.0	29.6	60.0	3.6	6.7
65 and over (17,300)	100.0	27.0	65.3	2.7	5.0
Female					
16-19 (19,800)	100.0	18.4	61.2	14.1	6.3
20-24 (31,100)	100.0	18.9	63.6	12.1	5.5
25-34 (35,400)	100.0	18.6	64.6	9.8	7.0
35-49 (30,500)	100.0	22.0	66.8	6.9	4.3
50-64 (32,400)	100.0	25.1	66.8	3.1	5.0
65 and over (21,400)	100.0	26.4	67.7	11.2	4.6
<b>Race and age</b>					
White					
16-19 (28,700)	100.0	20.6	61.3	11.3	6.8
20-24 (47,700)	100.0	21.8	62.2	10.0	6.0
25-34 (51,200)	100.0	21.6	60.3	8.7	9.3
35-49 (46,000)	100.0	24.4	64.0	5.3	6.3
50-64 (48,800)	100.0	27.1	64.9	2.0	6.0
65 and over (35,400)	100.0	26.4	67.1	1.5	4.9
Black					
16-19 (6,100)	100.0	12.4	48.9	31.6	7.2
20-24 (9,800)	100.0	16.1	55.7	24.1	4.1
25-34 (13,200)	100.0	12.9	66.4	16.0	4.7
35-49 (10,300)	100.0	19.0	58.4	16.1	6.5
50-64 (7,100)	100.0	22.4	61.3	11.6	14.7
65 and over (2,700)	100.0	20.7	70.0	14.8	14.4

NOTE: Data based on question 14b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

**Table 37. Most important measure for improving local police performance**

(Percent distribution of responses for the population age 16 and over)

Population characteristic	Total	Personnel resources	Operational practices	Community relations	Other
Race, sex, and age					
White					
Male					
16-19 (12,900)	100.0	21.4	58.8	11.8	7.9
20-24 (21,400)	100.0	24.5	63.2	11.6	0.7
25-34 (24,900)	100.0	22.3	57.8	9.1	10.7
35-49 (22,300)	100.0	26.0	59.3	6.1	8.7
50-64 (21,200)	100.0	28.9	60.9	3.0	7.2
65 and over (15,600)	100.0	26.7	66.0	2.6	4.8
Female					
16-19 (15,900)	100.0	19.9	63.3	11.0	15.9
20-24 (25,000)	100.0	20.6	64.5	9.2	15.7
25-34 (26,300)	100.0	20.9	62.6	8.4	18.0
35-49 (23,800)	100.0	23.0	68.4	4.5	14.0
50-64 (27,500)	100.0	25.8	68.0	11.2	15.1
65 and over (19,800)	100.0	26.3	68.1	10.7	15.0
Black					
Male					
16-19 (2,700)	100.0	13.5	46.6	35.3	14.5
20-24 (4,400)	100.0	22.2	50.7	24.3	12.8
25-34 (4,700)	100.0	14.0	60.2	19.1	16.7
35-49 (4,500)	100.0	23.3	52.3	17.4	16.9
50-64 (2,700)	100.0	29.2	57.3	19.4	14.0
65 and over (1,300)	100.0	21.1	69.9	10.0	19.0
Female					
16-19 (3,500)	100.0	11.4	50.6	28.7	19.2
20-24 (5,400)	100.0	11.2	59.9	23.7	15.1
25-34 (8,500)	100.0	12.1	70.0	14.3	13.6
35-49 (5,800)	100.0	15.7	63.3	15.0	15.3
50-64 (4,300)	100.0	18.1	63.8	13.0	15.1
65 and over (1,400)	100.0	20.3	70.3	19.4	10.0

NOTE: Data based on question 14b. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Figures in parentheses refer to population in the group.

<sup>1</sup>Estimate, based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases, is statistically unreliable.

## Survey instrument

Form NCS 6, the attitude survey instrument, contains two batteries of questions. The first of these, covering items 1 through 7, was used to elicit data from a knowledgeable adult member of each household (i.e., the household respondent). Questions 8 through 16 were asked directly of each household member age 16 and over, including the household respondent. Unlike the procedure followed in the victimization component of the survey, there was no provision for proxy responses on behalf of individuals who were absent or incapacitated during the interviewing period.

Data on the characteristics of those interviewed, as well as details concerning any experiences as victims of the measured crimes, were gathered with separate instruments, Forms NCS 3 and 4, which were administered immediately after NCS 6. Following is a facsimile of the latter questionnaire; supplemental forms were available for use in households where more than three persons were interviewed. Facsimiles of Forms NCS 3 and 4 have not been included in this report, but can be found in *Criminal Victimization Surveys in Boston, 1977*.



**INDIVIDUAL ATTITUDE QUESTIONS - Ask each household member 16 or older**

**KEYER - BEGIN NEW RECORD**

337 Line number Name

338 8a. How often do you go out in the evening for entertainment, such as to restaurants, theaters, etc.?  
 1  Once a week or more  
 2  Less than once a week - more than once a month  
 3  About once a month  
 4  2 or 3 times a year  
 5  Less than 2 or 3 times a year or never

b. Do you go to these places more or less now than you did a year or two ago?  
 1  About the same - SKIP to Check Item A  
 2  More  
 3  Less  
 Why? Any other reason? (Mark all that apply)

340 1  Money situation  
 2  Places to go, people to go with  
 3  Convenience  
 4  Health (own)  
 5  Transportation  
 6  Age  
 7  Family reasons (marriage, children, parents)  
 8  Activities, job, school  
 9  Crime or fear of crime  
 10  Want to, like to, enjoyment  
 11  Other - Specify

(If more than one reason)  
 c. Which reason would you say is the most important?  
 Enter item number

CHECK ITEM A Is box 1, 2, or 3 marked in 8a?  
 No - SKIP to 9a  Yes - ASK 8d

d. When you do go out to restaurants or theaters in the evening, is it usually in the city or outside of the city?  
 342 1  Usually in the city  
 2  Usually outside of the city  
 3  About equal - SKIP to 9a

e. Why do you usually go (outside the city/in the city)? Any other reason? (Mark all that apply)  
 343 1  More convenient, familiar, easier to get there, only place available  
 2  Parking problems, traffic  
 3  Too much crime in other place  
 4  More to do  
 5  Prefer (better) facilities (restaurants, theaters, etc.)  
 6  More expensive in other area  
 7  Because of friends, relatives  
 8  Other - Specify

(If more than one reason)  
 f. Which reason would you say is the most important?  
 344 Enter item number

9a. Now I'd like to get your opinions about crime in general. Within the past year or two, do you think that crime in your neighborhood has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?  
 345 1  Increased  
 2  Decreased  
 3  Same - SKIP to c  
 4  Don't know - SKIP to c  
 5  Haven't lived here that long - SKIP to c

b. Were you thinking about any specific kinds of crimes when you said you think crime in your neighborhood has (increased/decreased)?  
 346  No Yes - What kinds of crimes?  
 [ ] [ ]

c. How about any crimes which may be happening in your neighborhood - would you say they are committed mostly by the people who live here in this neighborhood or mostly by outsiders?  
 347 1  No crimes happening in neighborhood  
 2  People living here  
 3  Outsiders  
 4  Equally by both  
 5  Don't know

10a. Within the past year or two do you think that crime in the United States has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?  
 348 1  Increased  
 2  Decreased  
 3  Same  
 4  Don't know

b. Were you thinking about any specific kinds of crimes when you said you think crime in the U.S. has (increased/decreased)?  
 349  No Yes - What kinds of crimes?  
 [ ] [ ]

11a. How safe do you feel or would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood AT NIGHT?  
 350 1  Very safe  
 2  Reasonably safe  
 3  Somewhat unsafe  
 4  Very unsafe

b. How about DURING THE DAY - how safe do you feel or would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood?  
 351 1  Very safe  
 2  Reasonably safe  
 3  Somewhat unsafe  
 4  Very unsafe

CHECK ITEM B Look at 11a and b. Was box 3 or 4 marked in either item?  
 Yes - ASK 11c  No - SKIP to 12

11c. Is the neighborhood dangerous enough to make you think seriously about moving somewhere else?  
 352  No - SKIP to 12  
 Yes - Why don't you? Any other reason? (Mark all that apply)  
 353 1  Can't afford to  
 2  Can't find other housing  
 3  Relatives, friends nearby  
 4  Convenient to work, etc.  
 5  Plan to move soon  
 6  Health or age  
 7  Other - Specify

(If more than one reason)  
 d. Which reason would you say is the most important?  
 354 Enter item number

12. How do you think your neighborhood compares with others in this metropolitan area in terms of crime? Would you say it is -  
 355 1  Much more dangerous?  
 2  More dangerous?  
 3  About average?  
 4  Less dangerous?  
 5  Much less dangerous?

13a. Are there some parts of this metropolitan area where you have a reason to go or would like to go DURING THE DAY, but are afraid to because of fear of crime?  
 356  No Yes - Which section(s)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 ← Number of specific places mentioned

b. How about AT NIGHT - are there some parts of this area where you have a reason to go or would like to go but are afraid to because of fear of crime?  
 357  No Yes - Which section(s)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 ← Number of specific places mentioned

13b. How about AT NIGHT - are there some parts of this area where you have a reason to go or would like to go but are afraid to because of fear of crime?  
 358  No Yes - Which section(s)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 ← Number of specific places mentioned

14a. Would you say, in general, that your local police are doing a good job, an average job, or a poor job?  
 360 1  Good  
 2  Average  
 3  Poor  
 4  Don't know - SKIP to 15a

b. In what ways could they improve? Any other ways? (Mark all that apply)  
 361 1  No improvement needed - SKIP to 15a  
 2  Hire more policemen  
 3  Concentrate on more important duties, serious crime, etc.  
 4  Be more prompt, responsive, alert  
 5  Improve training, raise qualifications or pay, recruitment policies  
 6  Be more courteous, improve attitude, community relations  
 7  Don't discriminate  
 8  Need more traffic control  
 9  Need more policemen of particular type (foot, car) in certain areas or at certain times  
 10  Don't know  
 11  Other - Specify

(If more than one way)  
 c. Which would you say is the most important?  
 362 Enter item number

15a. Now I have some more questions about your opinions concerning crime. Please take this card. (Hand respondent Attitude Flashcard, NCS-574) Look at the FIRST set of statements. Which one do you agree with most?  
 363 1  My chances of being attacked or robbed have GONE UP in the past few years  
 2  My chances of being attacked or robbed have GONE DOWN in the past few years  
 3  My chances of being attacked or robbed haven't changed in the past few years  
 4  No opinion

b. Which of the SECOND group do you agree with most?  
 364 1  Crime is LESS serious than the newspapers and TV say  
 2  Crime is MORE serious than the newspapers and TV say  
 3  Crime is about as serious as the newspapers and TV say  
 4  No opinion

16a. Do you think PEOPLE IN GENERAL have limited or changed their activities in the past few years because they are afraid of crime?  
 365 1  Yes 2  No

b. Do you think that most PEOPLE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD have limited or changed their activities in the past few years because they are afraid of crime?  
 366 1  Yes 2  No

c. In general, have YOU limited or changed your activities in the past few years because of crime?  
 367 1  Yes 2  No

INTERVIEWER - Continue interview with this respondent on NCS-3

## Technical information and reliability of the estimates

Survey results contained in this publication are based on data gathered during early 1974 from persons residing within the city limits of Boston, including those living in certain types of group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. Nonresidents of the city, including tourists and commuters, did not fall within the scope of the survey. Similarly, crewmembers of merchant vessels, Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks, and institutionalized persons, such as correctional facility inmates, were not under consideration. With these exceptions, all persons age 16 and over living in units designated for the sample were eligible to be interviewed.

Each interviewer's first contact with a unit selected for the survey was in person, and, if it were not possible to secure interviews with all eligible members of the household during the initial visit, interviews by telephone were permissible thereafter. Proxy responses were not permitted for the attitude survey. Survey records were processed and weighted, yielding results representative both of the city's population as a whole and of various sectors within the population. Because they are based on a sample survey rather than a complete enumeration, the results are estimates.

### Sample design and size

Estimates from the survey are based on data obtained from a stratified sample. The basic frame from which the attitude sample was drawn—the city's complete housing inventory, as determined by the 1970 Census of Population and Housing—was the same as that for the victimization survey. A determination was made that a sample roughly half the size of the victimization sample would yield enough attitudinal data on which to base reliable estimates. For the purpose of selecting the victimization sample, the city's housing units were distributed among 105 strata on the basis of various characteristics. Occupied units, which comprised the majority, were grouped into 100 strata defined by a combination of the following characteristics: type of tenure (owned or rented); number of household members (five categories); household income (five categories); and race of head of household (white or other than white).

Housing units vacant at the time of the Census were assigned to an additional four strata, where they were distributed on the basis of rental or property value. A single stratum incorporated group quarters.

To account for units built after the 1970 Census, a sample was drawn, by means of an independent clerical operation, of permits issued for the construction of residential housing within the city. This enabled the proper representation in the survey of persons occupying housing built after 1970.

In order to develop the half sample required for the attitude survey, each unit was randomly assigned to 1 of 12 panels, with units in the first 6 panels being designated for the attitude survey. This procedure resulted in the selection of 6,217 housing units. During the survey period, 1,192 of these units were found to be vacant, demolished, converted to nonresidential use, temporarily occupied by nonresidents, or otherwise ineligible for both the victimization and attitude surveys. At an additional 512 units visited by interviewers it was impossible to conduct interviews because the occupants could not be reached after repeated calls, did not wish to participate in the survey, or were unavailable for other reasons. Therefore, interviews were taken with the occupants of 4,513 housing units, and the rate of participation among units qualified for interviewing was 89.8 percent. Participating units were occupied by a total of 8,998 persons age 16 and over, or an average of about two residents of the relevant ages per unit. Interviews were conducted with 8,188 of these persons, resulting in a response rate of 91.0 percent among eligible residents.

### Estimation procedure

Data records generated by the attitude survey were assigned either of two sets of final tabulation weights, one for the records of individual respondents and another for those of household respondents. In each case, the final weight was the product of two elements—a factor of roughly twice the weight used in tabulating victimization data estimates and a ratio estimation factor. The following steps determined the tabulation weight for personal victimization data and were, therefore, an integral part of the estimation procedure for attitude data gathered from individual respondents: (1) a basic weight, reflecting the selected unit's probability of being included in the sample;

(2) a factor to compensate for the subsampling of units, a situation that arose in instances where the interviewer discovered many more units at the sample address than had been listed in the decennial Census; (3) a within-household noninterview adjustment to account for situations where at least one but not all eligible persons in a household were interviewed; (4) a household noninterview adjustment to account for households qualified to participate in the survey but from which an interview was not obtained; (5) a household ratio estimate factor for bringing estimates developed from the sample of 1970 housing units into adjustment with the complete Census count of such units; and (6) a population ratio estimate factor that brought the sample estimate into accord with post-Census estimates of the population age 12 and over and adjusted the data for possible biases resulting from undercoverage or overcoverage of the population.

The household ratio estimation procedure (step 5) achieved a slight reduction in the extent of sampling variability, thereby reducing the margin of error in the tabulated survey results. It also compensated for the exclusion from each stratum of any households already included in samples for certain other Census Bureau programs. The household ratio estimator was not applied to interview records gathered from residents of group quarters or of units constructed after the Census. For household victimization data (and attitude data from household respondents), the final weight incorporated all of the steps described above except the third and sixth.

The ratio estimation factor, second element of the final weight, was an adjustment for bringing data from the attitude survey (which, as indicated, was based on a half sample) into accord with data from the victimization survey (based on the whole sample). This adjustment, required because the attitude sample was randomly constructed from the victimization sample, was used for the age, sex, and race characteristics of respondents.

### **Reliability of estimates**

As previously noted, survey results contained in this report are estimates. Despite the precautions taken to minimize sampling variability, the estimates are subject to errors arising from the fact that the sample employed was only one of a large number of possible samples of equal size that could have been used applying the same sample design and selection procedures.

Estimates derived from different samples may vary somewhat; they also may differ from figures developed from the average of all possible samples, even if the surveys were administered with the same schedules, instructions, and interviewers.

The standard error of a survey estimate is a measure of the variation among estimates from all possible samples and is, therefore, a gauge of the precision with which the estimate from a particular sample approximates the average result of all possible samples. The estimate and its associated standard error may be used to construct a confidence interval, that is, an interval having a prescribed probability that it would include the average result of all possible samples. The average value of all possible samples may or may not be contained in any particular computed interval. However, the chances are about 68 out of 100 that a survey-derived estimate would differ from the average result of all possible samples by less than one standard error. Similarly, the chances are about 90 out of 100 that the difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error; about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be 2.0 times the standard error; and 99 out of 100 chances that it would be less than 2.5 times the standard error. The 68 percent confidence interval is defined as the range of values given by the estimate minus the standard error and the estimate plus the standard error; the chances are 68 in 100 that the average value of all possible samples would fall within that range. Similarly, the 95 percent confidence interval is defined as the estimate plus or minus two standard errors.

In addition to sampling error, the estimates presented in this report are subject to nonsampling error, chiefly affecting the accuracy of the distinction between victims and nonvictims. A major source of nonsampling error is related to the ability of respondents to recall whether or not they were victimized during the 12 months prior to the time of interview. Research on recall indicates that the ability to remember a crime varies with the time interval between victimization and interview, the type of crime, and, perhaps, the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondent. Taken together, recall problems may result in an understatement of the "true" number of victimized persons and households, as defined for the purpose of this report. Another source of nonsampling error pertaining to victimization experience involves telescoping, or bringing within the appro-

appropriate 12-month reference period victimizations that occurred before or after the close of the period.

Although the problems of recall and telescoping probably weakened the differentiation between victims and nonvictims, these would not have affected the data on personal attitudes or behavior. Nevertheless, such data may have been affected by nonsampling errors resulting from incomplete or erroneous responses, systematic mistakes introduced by interviewers, and improper coding and processing of data. Many of these errors also would occur in a complete census. Quality control measures, such as interviewer observation and a reinterview program, as well as edit procedures in the field and at the clerical and computer processing stages, were utilized to keep such errors at an acceptably low level. As calculated for this survey, the standard errors partially measure only those random nonsampling errors arising from response and interviewer errors; they do not, however, take into account any systematic biases in the data.

Regarding the reliability of data, it should be noted that estimates based on zero or on about 10 or fewer sample cases have been considered unreliable. Such estimates are identified in footnotes to the data tables and were not used for purposes of analysis in this report. For Boston, a minimum weighted estimate of 400 was considered statistically reliable, as was any percentage based on such a figure.

### **Computation and application of the standard error**

For survey estimates relevant to either the individual or household respondents, standard errors displayed on tables at the end of this appendix can be used for gauging sampling variability. These errors are approximations and suggest an order of magnitude of the standard error rather than the precise error associated with any given estimate. Table I contains standard error approximations applicable to information from individual respondents and Table II gives errors for data derived from household respondents. For percentages not specifically listed in the tables, linear interpolation must be used to approximate the standard error.

To illustrate the application of standard errors in measuring sampling variability, Data Table 1 in this report shows that 80.8 percent of all Boston residents age 16 and over (461,000 persons) be-

lieved crime in the United States had increased. Two-way linear interpolation of data listed in Table I would yield a standard error of about 0.5 percent. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated percentage of 80.8 would be within 0.5 percentage points of the average result from all possible samples; i.e., the 68 percent confidence interval associated with the estimate would be from 80.3 to 81.3. Furthermore, the chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimated percentage would be roughly within 1 percentage point of the average for all samples; i.e., the 95 percent confidence interval would be about 79.8 to 81.8 percent. Standard errors associated with data from household respondents are calculated in the same manner, using Table II.

In comparing two sample estimates, the standard error of the difference between the two figures is approximately equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard errors of each estimate considered separately. As an example, Data Table 12 shows that 26.8 percent of males and 8.8 percent of females felt very safe when out alone in the neighborhood at night, a difference of 18.0 percentage points. The standard error for each estimate, determined by interpolation, was about 0.8 (males) and 0.5 (females). Using the formula described previously, the standard error of the difference between 26.8 and 8.8 percent is expressed as  $\sqrt{(0.8)^2 + (0.5)^2}$ , which equals approximately 1.0. Thus, the confidence interval at one standard error around the difference of 18.0 would be from 17.0 to 19.0 (18.0 plus or minus 1.0) and at two standard errors from 16.0 to 20.0. The ratio of a difference to its standard error defines a value that can be equated to a level of significance. For example, a ratio of about 2.0 (or more) denotes that the difference is significant at the 95 percent confidence level (or higher); a ratio ranging between about 1.6 and 2.0 indicates that the difference is significant at a confidence level between 90 and 95 percent; and a ratio of less than about 1.6 defines a level of confidence below 90 percent. In the above example, the ratio of the difference (18.0) to the standard error (1.0) is equal to 18.0, a figure well above the 2.0 minimum level of confidence applied in this report. Thus, it was concluded that the difference between the two proportions was statistically significant. For data gathered from household respondents, the significance of differences between two sample estimates is tested by the same procedure, using standard errors in Table II.

**Table I. Individual respondent data: Standard error approximations  
for estimated percentages**

(68 chances out of 100)

Base of percent	Estimated percent of answers by individual respondents					
	1.0 or 99.0	2.5 or 97.5	5.0 or 95.0	10.0 or 90.0	25.0 or 75.0	50.0
100	8.3	13.0	18.1	24.9	36.0	41.5
250	5.2	8.2	11.4	15.8	22.7	26.3
500	3.7	5.8	8.1	11.1	16.1	18.6
1,000	2.6	4.1	5.7	7.9	11.4	13.1
2,500	1.7	2.6	3.6	5.0	7.2	8.3
5,000	1.2	1.8	2.6	3.5	5.1	5.9
10,000	0.8	1.3	1.8	2.5	3.6	4.2
25,000	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.6	2.3	2.6
50,000	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.9
100,000	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3
250,000	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8
500,000	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6

NOTE: The standard errors in this table are applicable to information in Data Tables 1-18 and 27-37.

**Table II. Household respondent data: Standard error approximations  
for estimated percentages**

(68 chances out of 100)

Base of percent	Estimated percent of answers by household respondents					
	1.0 or 99.0	2.5 or 97.5	5.0 or 95.0	10.0 or 90.0	25.0 or 75.0	50.0
100	6.7	10.5	14.6	20.1	29.0	33.5
250	4.2	6.6	9.2	12.7	18.4	21.2
500	3.0	4.7	6.5	9.0	13.0	15.0
1,000	2.1	3.3	4.6	6.4	9.2	10.6
2,500	1.3	2.1	2.9	4.0	5.8	6.7
5,000	0.9	1.5	2.1	2.8	4.1	4.7
10,000	0.7	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.9	3.4
25,000	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.8	2.1
50,000	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.5
100,000	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.1
250,000	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7

NOTE: The standard errors in this table are applicable to information in Data Tables 19-26.

## Glossary

**Age**—The appropriate age category is determined by each respondent's age as of the last day of the month preceding the interview.

**Annual family income**—Includes the income of the household head and all other related persons residing in the same household unit. Covers the 12 months preceding the interview and includes wages, salaries, net income from business or farm, pensions, interest, dividends, rent, and any other form of monetary income. The income of persons unrelated to the head of household is excluded.

**Assault**—An unlawful physical attack, whether aggravated or simple, upon a person. Includes attempted assault with or without a weapon. Excludes rape and attempted rape, as well as attacks involving theft or attempted theft, which are classified as robbery.

**Burglary**—Unlawful or forcible entry of a residence, usually, but not necessarily, attended by theft. Includes attempted forcible entry.

**Central city**—The largest city of a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA).

**Community relations**—Refers to question 14b (ways of improving police performance) and includes two response categories: "Be more courteous, improve attitude, community relations" and "Don't discriminate."

**Downtown shopping area**—The central shopping district of the city where the respondent lives.

**Evening entertainment**—Refers to entertainment available in public places, such as restaurants, theaters, bowling alleys, nightclubs, bars, ice cream parlors, etc. Excludes club meetings, shopping, and social visits to the homes of relatives or acquaintances.

**General merchandise shopping**—Refers to shopping for goods other than food, such as clothing, furniture, housewares, etc.

**Head of household**—For classification purposes, only one individual per household can be the head person. In husband-wife households, the husband arbitrarily is considered to be the head. In other households, the head person is the individual so regarded by its members; generally, that person is the chief breadwinner.

**Household**—Consists of the occupants of separate living quarters meeting either of the following criteria: (1) Persons, whether present or temporarily absent, whose usual place of residence is the

housing unit in question, or (2) Persons staying in the housing unit who have no usual place of residence elsewhere.

**Household attitude questions**—Items 1 through 7 of Form NCS 6. For households that consist of more than one member, the questions apply to the entire household.

**Household larceny**—Theft or attempted theft of property or cash from a residence or its immediate vicinity. Forcible entry, attempted forcible entry, or unlawful entry are not involved.

**Household respondent**—A knowledgeable adult member of the household, most frequently the head of household or that person's spouse. For each household, such a person answers the "household attitude questions."

**Individual attitude questions**—Items 8 through 16 of Form NCS 6. The questions apply to each person, not the entire household.

**Individual respondent**—Each person age 16 and over, including the household respondent, who participates in the survey. All such persons answer the "individual attitude questions."

**Local police**—The police force in the city where the respondent lives at the time of the interview.

**Major food shopping**—Refers to shopping for the bulk of the household's groceries.

**Measured crimes**—For the purpose of this report, the offenses are rape, personal robbery, assault, personal larceny, burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft, as determined by the victimization component of the survey. Includes both completed and attempted acts that occurred during the 12 months prior to the month of interview.

**Motor vehicle theft**—Stealing or unauthorized taking of a motor vehicle, including attempts at such acts. Motor vehicles include automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, and any other motorized vehicles legally allowed on public roads and highways.

**Neighborhood**—The general vicinity of the respondent's dwelling. The boundaries of a neighborhood define an area with which the respondent identifies.

**Nonvictim**—See "Not victimized," below.

**Not victimized**—For the purpose of this report, persons not categorized as "victimized" (see below) are considered "not victimized."

**Offender**—The perpetrator of a crime.

**Operational practices**—Refers to question 14b (ways of improving police performance) and includes four response categories: "Concentrate on

more important duties, serious crime, etc.”; “Be more prompt, responsive, alert”; “Need more traffic control”; and “Need more policemen of particular type (foot, car) in certain areas or at certain times.”

**Personal larceny**—Theft or attempted theft of property or cash, either with contact (but without force or threat of force) or without direct contact between victim and offender.

**Personnel resources**—Refers to question 14b (ways of improving police performance) and includes two response categories: “Hire more policemen” and “Improve training, raise qualifications or pay, recruitment policies.”

**Race**—Determined by the interviewer upon observation, and asked only about persons not related to the head of household who were not present at the time of interview. The racial categories distinguished are white, black, and other. The category “other” consists mainly of American Indians and/or persons of Asian ancestry.

**Rape**—Carnal knowledge through the use of force or the threat of force, including attempts. Statutory rape (without force) is excluded. Includes both heterosexual and homosexual rape.

**Rate of victimization**—See “Victimization rate,” below.

**Robbery**—Theft or attempted theft, directly from a person, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon.

**Series victimizations**—Three or more criminal events similar, if not identical, in nature and incurred by a person unable to identify separately the details of each act, or, in some cases, to recount accurately the total number of such acts. The term is applicable to each of the crimes measured by the victimization component of the survey.

**Suburban or neighborhood shopping areas**—Shopping centers or districts either outside the city limits or in outlying areas of the city near the respondent’s residence.

**Victim**—See “Victimized,” below.

**Victimization**—A specific criminal act as it affects a single victim, whether a person or household. In criminal acts against persons, the number of victimizations is determined by the number of victims of such acts. Each criminal act against a household is assumed to involve a single victim, the affected household.

**Victimization rate**—For crimes against persons, the victimization rate, a measure of occurrence among population groups at risk, is computed

ed on the basis of the number of victimizations per 1,000 resident population age 12 and over. For crimes against households, victimization rates are calculated on the basis of the number of victimizations per 1,000 households.

**Victimized**—For the purpose of this report, persons are regarded as “victimized” if they meet either of two criteria. (1) They personally experienced one or more of the following criminal victimizations during the 12 months prior to the month of interview: rape, personal robbery, assault, or personal larceny. Or, (2) they are members of a household that experienced one or more of the following criminal victimizations during the same time frame: burglary, household larceny, or motor vehicle theft.

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Boston: Public Attitudes About Crime  
NCJ-46235, SD-NCS-C-20

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