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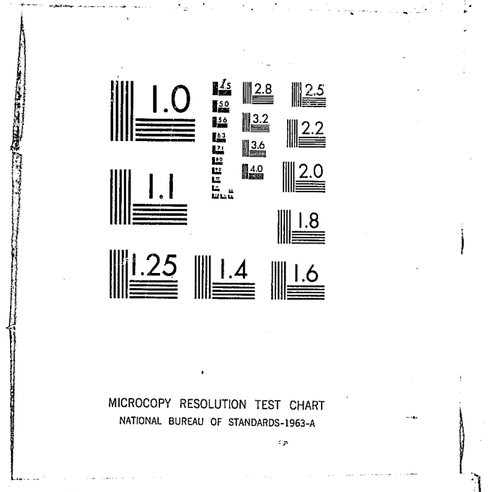

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PUBLIC ATTITUDES ABOUT CRIME AND THE POLICE IN REGINA

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ACQUISITIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements	i.
Table Of Contents	ii.
List Of Tables	iv.
List Of Figures	v.
CHAPTER I	
Introduction	1
A. Background To The Study	1
B. What Is Zone Policing	2
C. Organization Of The Report	4
CHAPTER II	
The Study	5
A. Questionnaire Construction And Administration	5
B. Method Of Drawing The Sample	6
C. The Characteristics Of The Sample	9
D. Problems Of Representativeness	14
CHAPTER III	
Crime And Contact With The Police In Regina	22
A. Crime In Regina	22
B. Contact With The Police In Regina	32
CHAPTER IV	
Public Attitudes	40
A. Fear Of Crime	40
B. The Seriousness Of Crime And Measures Required To Cope With Crime	46
C. Communication With The Public	52
D. Police Powers	56
E. Adequacy Of Law Enforcement	61
F. The Scope Of Police Services	65
G. Police Competence	70
H. Integrity Of The Police	74
I. Attitudes Towards Natives	79
J. Comments	83

Page

CHAPTER V

Public And Police Attitudes Compared 85

A. The Seriousness Of The Crime Problem 85
B. The Quality Of Police-Community Communications 86
C. Attitudes Towards Persons Of Indian Ancestry 87

CHAPTER VI

Summary And Conclusions 89

A. Summary Of Findings 89
B. Some Implications For Zone Policing 94
C. Concluding Comments 102

References 104

Appendix A 106

Appendix B 107

Appendix C 130

LIST OF TABLES

Page

Table 1 Sample Size By Zone 8

Table 2 Educational Attainment Of Respondents 10

Table 3 Income Of Respondents' Households 11

Table 4 Respondents' Type Of Residence 13

Table 5 Percentage Distribution Of Crimes Reported By Respondents 23

Table 6 Hour Of The Day Respondents Believed They Had Been Victimized 26

Table 7 Reasons Respondents Gave For Not Reporting Crime To The Police 28

Table 8 Action Taken By Police After Crime Was Reported 29

Table 9 Victimization Data For The Previous Six Months By Zone 31

Table 10 Contacts With Regina City Police In Previous Six Months 34

Table 11 Contacts With The Regina City Police In The Previous Six Months For Reasons Other Than A Charge Or Arrest 36

Table 12 Action Taken By Police During Most Recent Official Contact 37

Table 13 Fear Of Crime 42

Table 14 The Seriousness Of Crime And Measures Required To Cope With Crime 47

Table 15 Communication With The Public 53

Page

Table 16 Police Powers 57

Table 17 Adequacy Of Law Enforcement 62

Table 18 The Scope Of Police Services 66

Table 19 Police Competence 71

Table 20 The Integrity Of The Police 75

Table 21 Attitudes Towards Natives 80

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure I Geographic Distribution Of Respondents 7

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background To The Study

In the summer of 1978 the Chief of Police appointed a steering committee to study the feasibility of adopting a system of zone policing in the city of Regina. In collaboration with representatives of the Regina City Policemen's Association, the committee undertook an examination of the philosophical assumptions underlying the zone policing model, discussed the implications of the program with various government officials, and visited cities where zone policing was in operation. As a result of the committee's investigation, it was recommended that a system of zone policing be adopted in Regina.

On March 1st, 1979 two members of the Regina Police Department were appointed to examine the implications, for research, planning and training, of implementing zone policing. It became evident that some method of evaluating the effectiveness of zone policing should be considered. In particular, it seemed important to monitor any changes in job satisfaction among members of the Department, and any changes in public attitudes towards the police that resulted from the implementation of the new policing strategy.

In order to monitor job satisfaction and public attitudes it was decided that two surveys should be conducted prior to the introduction of zone policing. The first survey would

measure job satisfaction among the police, the second would measure public attitudes towards the police. These surveys would constitute baseline data. By surveying a second time after the implementation of zone policing, it would be possible to determine whether or not any changes had occurred.

This report describes the results of the study on public attitudes towards crime and the Regina Police Force. The results of the survey on job satisfaction are described in a separate report entitled Job Satisfaction In The Regina Police Department. It should be borne in mind that the present document sets out baseline data. The intention is to repeat the survey so that public attitudes before and after the implementation of zone policing can be compared.

B. What Is Zone Policing?

Since some readers will not be familiar with the concept of zone policing, a brief description of this model and a discussion of how it differs from traditional policing strategies is felt to be appropriate.

There are two ultimate objectives of zone policing: (a) an improvement in police services and (b) a corresponding improvement in the level of job satisfaction experienced by police personnel. Zone policing is directed towards restructuring the organization and operation of the police force. Instead of the traditional, call-oriented enforcement approach, the emphasis is on prevention and service to the community.

In zone policing, a team of police officers is posted to a particular geographic area and they provide police services in that area around the clock. By way of contrast, conventional policing usually envisions one large catchment area. Each shift is responsible for policing the entire area for a prescribed period of time and is then replaced by another shift.

Wasson (1975) defines team policing as encompassing six key elements: (1) Stable geographic assignment; (2) Decentralized authority; (3) Emphasis on community relations; (4) Emphasis on crime prevention; (5) Improvement of internal police department communications; and (6) Reduction of over-all reliance on the use of police department specialists, particularly those in centralized detective units. Analogously, Sherman, Milton and Kelly (1973) have identified a number of operational elements and organizational supports that distinguish zone policing from the more conventional patrol concept. The three operational elements are: (1) Geographic stability of the patrol (i.e. permanent assignment of police to small neighborhoods); (2) Maximum interaction among team members, including close internal communication among all officers assigned to an area during a 24-hour period; and (3) Maximum communication among team members and the community. The key organizational supports are: (1) Unity of supervision; (2) Lower-level flexibility in policy-making; (3) Unified delivery of services; and (4) combined investigative and patrol functions.

Courtis (1974) has succinctly characterized the occupational insularity associated with the traditional police role. He notes that the police, as a group, are highly cohesive, isolated, and enmeshed in tension-producing interactions with citizenry. Zone policing has been perceived as a method of improving police-community relations and, concomitantly, reducing police insularity and citizen alienation.

C. Organization Of The Report

This report consists of six chapters. Chapter I (Introduction) has provided the background to the study, including a description of the zone policing model. Chapter II (The Study) discusses how the data collection instrument was developed and administered, and how the data were analyzed. This chapter also contains a detailed description of the study sample and a discussion of the representativeness of the sample. Chapter III (Crime And Contact With The Police In Regina) describes the volume of crime and the nature of contacts with the police as reported by those who participated in the study. Chapter IV (Public Attitudes) describes the findings of the study with respect to public attitudes about crime and the police. Chapter V (Public And Police Attitudes Compared) compares and contrasts some attitudes of the public with those of the police. Chapter VI (Summary And Conclusions) summarizes the findings of the study and examines some implications of these findings.

Chapter II

THE STUDY

The investigation of public attitudes towards crime and the police in Regina entailed the administration of a questionnaire to a sample of Regina citizens. In this chapter the design and administration of the questionnaire are discussed and the characteristics of the sample are described.

A. Questionnaire Construction And Administration

Items for the survey instrument were suggested by police personnel and by consultants to the project. In addition, a sizeable literature, discussing the measurement of public attitudes, was reviewed. Questions which had proved useful in studying police attitudes were also included. Initially, several hundred potential questionnaire items were generated. The wording and ordering of these items were the subject of lengthy discussions among the research team. Gradually, ambiguous and irrelevant questions were excluded and the instrument was reduced to a manageable length.

During the week of August 2nd to 9th, the questionnaire was pretested on thirty Regina citizens. An examination of the completed questionnaires and a discussion with the pretest respondents led to a few modifications of the instrument.

Those selected to participate in the study received a letter from the Chief of Police (see Appendix A) advising

them they were being asked to complete a questionnaire (see Appendix B) which would be dropped off to their residence by a member of the research team. A few days later, a member of the research team contacted the respondent to arrange a suitable time for dropping off the questionnaire. When the questionnaire was delivered, arrangements were made to pick it up when completed. The questionnaires were delivered and picked up between August 14th and September 20th, 1979.

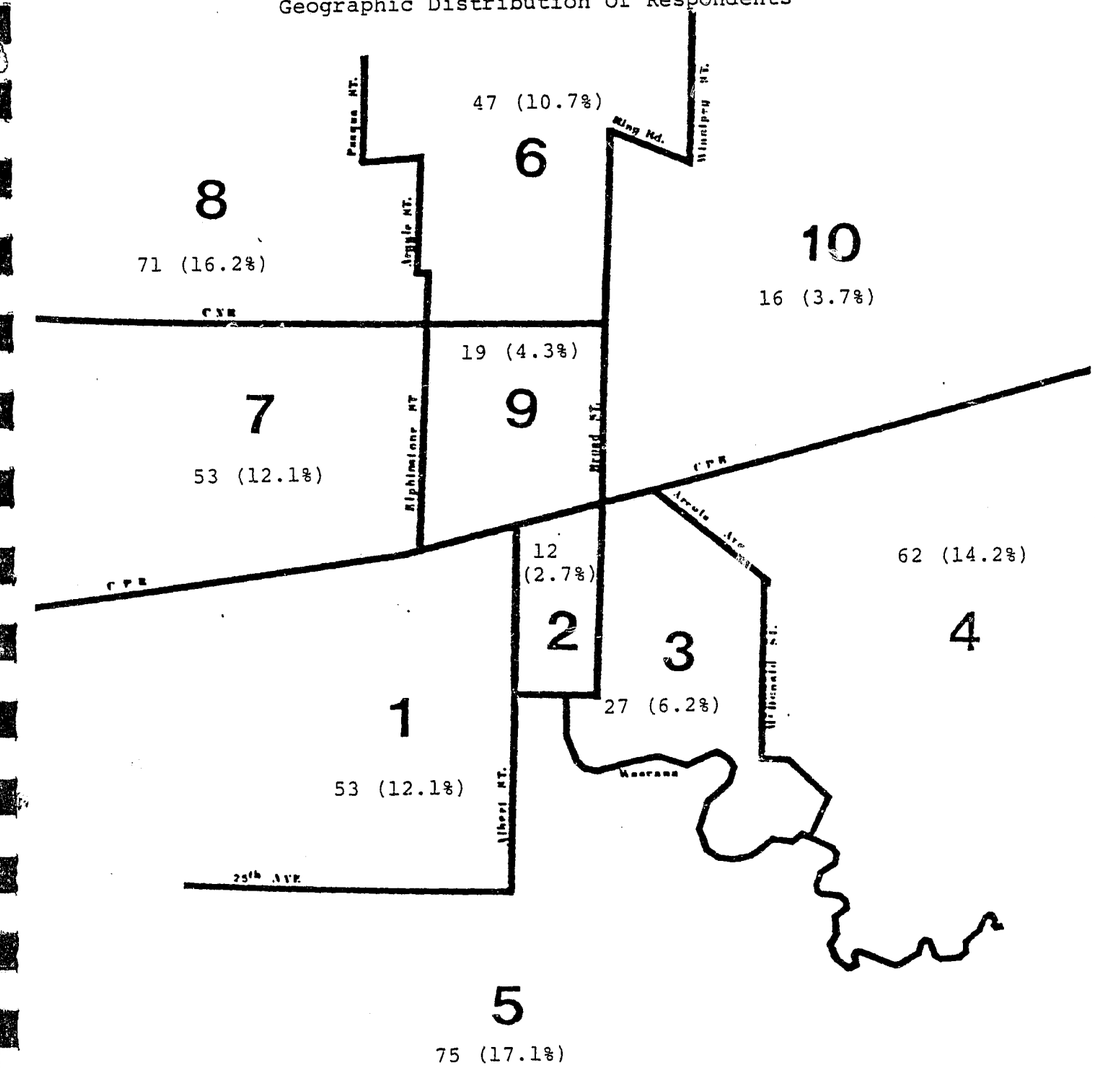
B. Method Of Drawing The Sample

The sample was drawn from the 1978 Henderson Directory for Regina. This directory lists the names of residents, over eighteen years of age, by street number. Every 76th name was chosen, resulting in a sample of 576. Some of those whose names were listed in the directory had moved while others had apparently been listed incorrectly. Of the original 576 individuals selected for inclusion in the study, questionnaires were actually dropped off to 552 persons. In some cases, a member of a family, other than the one specifically chosen from the Henderson Directory, completed the questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires were received back from 438 of the 552 respondents (this is a return rate of almost 80%). Figure I shows how the respondents were distributed throughout the city and Table 1 shows the relationship between the sample size and the population base from which they were drawn.

FIGURE I

Geographic Distribution Of Respondents



Missing: 3

TABLE 1

Sample Size By Zone

Area	Sample Size	Population Base	Sampling Ratio
Regina	438	162,978	1:372
Zone 1	53	19,032	1:359
Zone 2	12	4,695	1:391
Zone 3	27	12,504	1:463
Zone 4	62	25,000	1:403
Zone 5	75	26,711	1:356
Zone 6	47	15,384	1:327
Zone 7	53	20,413	1:385
Zone 8	71	25,000	1:352
Zone 9	19	7,160	1:377
Zone 10	16	7,079	1:442
Missing	3	------	-----

C. The Characteristics Of The Sample

The characteristics of the sample will be discussed under the following headings: (1) Demographic Characteristics; (2) Education, Income And Occupation; and (3) Living Arrangements.

1. Demographic Characteristics

Of the 438 respondents, 196 (44.7%) indicated they were male, 235 (53.7%) indicated they were female, and 7 (1.6%) did not respond. The vast majority of all respondents (313 or 71.5%) were married. Sixty-nine respondents (15.8%) reported being single. Nearly 5% of respondents were widowed, and the remainder were either separated or divorced.

The average age of respondents was 42.2 years. The youngest respondent was 16 and the oldest respondent was 86. About one-third of the sample was under 30.

A number of racial and ethnic origins were represented in the sample. A third of the sample indicated they were English. Over 20% indicated they were German. About 10% were Scottish, and there were nearly equal numbers of Irish and Ukranians. Only three respondents (0.7%) indicated an Indian ancestry.

2. Education, Income And Occupation

Table 2 sets out the educational attainment of the respondents while Table 3 sets out the income of the respondents' households. Most of the respondents had received some

TABLE 2

Educational Attainment
Of Respondents

	Number	Percent
Grade 8 or less	50	11.4
Some high school	89	20.3
Completed high school	97	22.1
Some technical, trade or professional school	36	8.2
Completed technical, trade or professional school	48	11.0
Some university or college	50	11.4
Completed university or college	44	10.0
Post graduate training	15	3.4
Missing	9	2.1

TABLE 3

Income Of Respondents'
Households

	Number	Percent
Less than $ 5,000	12	2.7
$ 5,000 to $ 9,999	28	6.4
$10,000 to $14,999	52	11.9
$15,000 to $19,999	62	14.2
$20,000 to $24,999	74	16.9
$25,000 to $29,999	58	13.2
$30,000 to $34,999	41	9.4
$35,000 to $39,999	24	5.5
$40,000 to $44,999	17	3.9
$45,000 to $49,999	7	1.6
$50,000 or greater	17	3.9
Missing	46	10.5

high school education, and a substantial number had completed high school and gone on for some type of post-secondary education. Nearly half the respondents reported the total yearly income of their household to be between fifteen and thirty thousand dollars. Only one in five respondents reported household earnings of less than fifteen thousand dollars, while nearly one in four respondents reported household earnings in excess of thirty thousand dollars.

The Blishen (1961) scale was used to code the occupational status of respondents. This scale is based on the average education and income associated with various occupations. The average score obtained by respondents was 46.53. This indicates the typical respondent was employed in either a "white collar" occupation or in a supervisory "blue collar" occupation. Thirty-one respondents (7.1%) indicated they owned their own business.

Of the 438 respondents, 321 (73.3%) were employed. There were 59 (13.5%) housewives, 33 (7.5%) retired persons, and 4 (0.9%) students. Only 11 persons (2.5%) indicated they were unemployed and looking for work.

3. Living Arrangements

Table 4 indicates the type of residence in which respondents reported living. The vast majority of respondents (368 or 84.0%) resided in single family dwellings. There were 11 occupants of multiple family dwellings and 51 apartment

TABLE 4

Respondents' Type Of Residence

	Number	Percent
Single Family Dwelling	368	84.0
Duplex, Condominium, etc.	11	2.5
Apartment	51	11.6
Mobile Home	2	.5
Other (eg. Hotel, YMCA, YWCA)	0	0.0
Missing	6	1.4

dwellers. Although there were two respondents residing in mobile homes, no one reported residing in a hotel or motel.

A high degree of geographic stability was evident in the sample. On average, residents reported they had resided in their current neighborhood for over ten years. The typical respondent also reported residing in Regina for over twenty years. Over 40% of the respondents had moved to Regina from rural Saskatchewan.

Over 80% of the respondents reported living with their immediate family while 47 respondents (10.7%) reported living alone. Only 5 respondents indicated they were living with more distant relatives or with friends.

D. Problems Of Representativeness

Provided a sample has been drawn correctly, over 400 respondents from a population of about 160,000 provides an adequate means for generalizing about the entire population. National opinion polls, for example, frequently sample just over 1000 persons from a population in excess of twenty million. In the present study, the large sample means that the margin of error in the findings presented will generally be quite small. Some anomalies in the sample for this study are evident, however, and these are discussed in this section.

The theory of representative sampling requires that every member of the population have an equal probability of being selected for the sample. Only in this way can the sample be

representative, and it is only when a representative sample is drawn that findings based on the sample can be validly generalized to the entire population.

One means of checking to see whether or not the sample is representative involves comparing the characteristics of the sample with those of the larger population. Of course, data respecting the larger population is not always readily available. Statistics Canada (1978:1973), in their census tract data, however, do provide some figures that can be usefully compared with those based on the characteristics of our sample. These figures pertain to sex; marital status; age; ethnicity; education; occupational status; employment; type of dwelling; living arrangements; and geographic stability.

1. Sex

In our sample 45% of the respondents were male. Statistics Canada census figures indicate 48% of Regina residents over the age of 15 are male. Thus, it appears males are slightly underrepresented in our sample while females are slightly overrepresented.

2. Marital Status

In our sample 71.5% of respondents were married while 15.8% were single. Statistics Canada census figures indicate 63.6% were married or separated and 27.9% were single. Thus, it appears married persons are overrepresented in our sample

while single persons are underrepresented.

3. Age

Statistics Canada census figures indicate the average age of persons in Regina falls into the 45 to 54 age group. In our sample the average age was 42.2 years. Thus, it appears younger persons are somewhat overrepresented in our sample while older persons are somewhat underrepresented.

4. Ethnicity

Recent estimates of the number of persons of Indian ancestry residing in Regina have been between twenty and thirty thousand. This is between twelve and nineteen percent of the total Regina population. In our sample, however, only three respondents, accounting for less than one percent of the sample, indicated an Indian ancestry. Thus, the sample seriously underrepresents persons of Indian ancestry.

5. Education

In our sample 11.4% of the respondents indicated they had grade 8 or less. The corresponding figure for the Regina population provided by Statistics Canada is 19%. In our sample 11.4% had completed some university while 13.4% had completed university. Corresponding figures for the Regina population provided by Statistics Canada are 9.1% and 7.0%. Thus, the

sample underrepresents those without much education while it overrepresents those with advanced education.

6. Occupational Status

In 1973 Statistics Canada reported that 60% of the labor force in Regina was in managerial, administrative, clerical, sales, service, and construction trades. Fourty percent of the most commonly reported occupations were "white" and "blue" collar jobs. While these data can not be compared directly with occupational status as used in the present study, the Statistics Canada figures are not inconsistent with the figures computed from the sample.

7. Employment

In our sample 11 individuals, representing 2.5% of the sample, reported they were unemployed and looking for work. This finding is generally consistent with government reports that Saskatchewan in general, and Regina in particular, have rates of unemployment well below the national average.

8. Type Of Dwelling

In our sample 84% of the respondents indicated they resided in single family dwellings while 12% reported residing in apartments. Figures for the Regina population provided by Statistics Canada indicate 67% reside in single family dwel-

lings while 24% reside in apartments. Thus, our sample over-represents persons residing in single family dwellings while persons residing in apartments are underrepresented.

9. Living Arrangements

In our sample over 80% of the respondents said they resided with their immediate family while 11% reported living alone. Corresponding figures for the Regina population provided by Statistics Canada reveal 66% reside with their immediate family while 14% live alone. Thus, our sample under-represents persons living alone and overrepresents persons living with their immediate families.

10. Geographic Stability

The typical respondent in our sample reported residing in Regina for twenty years. On average, respondents indicated they had resided in their present neighborhood for over ten years. Figures provided by Statistics Canada, while they can not be compared directly, indicate that 77% of those interviewed had either resided in the same dwelling or within the same geographic area occupied five years earlier. Both the figures from our sample and those provided by Statistics Canada indicate that about half the residents of Regina had moved to Regina from other areas of Saskatchewan.

11. Some Implications

We have seen in this section that the sample drawn for the present study is not representative of the larger Regina population. While minor problems were observed with respect to sex, age, and marital status, more major difficulties were observed with ethnicity and with some variables indicative of social class (eg. education and type of dwelling). Persons of Indian ancestry and those who might be characterized as "working class" are underrepresented.

The problems with respect to the representativeness of the sample can be chiefly attributed to two facts. First, the Henderson Directory was used to draw the sample and, secondly, not all the questionnaires were completed and returned.

The Henderson Directory does not provide a complete and accurate picture of the Regina population. The poor, who may not have telephones, and those whose telephone numbers are unlisted may be excluded. Individuals and groups who move frequently are also more likely to be excluded from the Directory. Finally, it is often difficult to provide a complete picture when more than one family resides in the same dwelling. These facts mean that not every person in the population had an equal chance of being selected to participate in the study. The poor (and this includes a very large proportion of the Native community), in particular, were less likely to have their names listed in the Directory from which the sample was drawn.

Some 100 persons who received questionnaires did not complete and return them. If the characteristics of those who failed to complete the questionnaire were identical to those of respondents who did complete the questionnaire, this would not pose a problem. However, it is unlikely that this is the case. That women, married persons, and those with better education are overrepresented may, in part, be explained by the selective return of the questionnaires. Women, and especially married women, are more likely to be at home and, in this sense, are more likely to complete and return the questionnaire. Those who are literate in English would also complete and return the questionnaire more frequently than persons who could not read or write English. This problem may well be part of the reason so few persons of Indian ancestry were included in the sample. Another possible explanation for the low number of respondents who indicated Indian ancestry is that they may have been reluctant to identify their actual ethnicity, given the police sponsorship of the survey.

The findings from the present study can only be generalized to those segments of the Regina population which are represented in the study sample. While the study sample is representative in many respects, it tends to be slightly biased in favor of the "well-to-do". This is not nearly as serious a problem, however, as the ethnic makeup of the sample. Because of the discrepancy between the proportion of persons of Indian ancestry in the sample and the proportion in the total Regina

population, the sample does not adequately represent the experiences and attitudes of the Native community. This critical deficiency is one we shall continue to point out in succeeding pages.

Chapter III

CRIME AND CONTACT WITH THE POLICE IN REGINA

The questionnaire administered to the sample contained a number of items to determine whether or not the respondents had been victimized by crime, as well as to guage the amount of contact the respondents had had with the police. We felt that this information, while valuable in itself, might help explain attitudes towards crime and the police. This chapter presents the findings with respect to the victimization questions and the questions about police contacts. In the next chapter the relationships between these variables and public attitudes are explored.

It should be borne in mind that the problems of representativeness discussed in the previous chapter are relevant here. The findings in this chapter and throughout the remainder of the report must be interpreted in light of the characteristics of the particular sample selected for this study.

A. Crime In Regina

1. The Number Of Victims And The Types Of Crime

Of the 438 respondents, 74 (16.9%) indicated they had personally been victimized by crime in the previous six months. Table 5 sets out the percentage distribution of crimes by the type of offence. As can be seen from this table, most of the

TABLE 5

Percentage Distribution Of Crimes Reported By Respondents

		Percent Of Total Offences
1.	Theft Of Goods Under $200	26.0%
2.	Breaking And Entering	20.8%
3.	Vandalism	15.6%
4.	Hit And Run	9.4%
5.	Threats	8.3%
6.	Theft Of Goods Over $200	5.2%
7.	Auto Theft	3.1%
8.	Other	11.6%
	Total	100.0%

offences were property crimes and a large number of these appeared to be relatively minor offences such as theft of goods under $200.00. Violent crimes, or crimes against the person, were reported much less frequently. Although 8.3% of the offences related to threats, only three assaults were reported and no one reported rape, attempted rape, murder, attempted murder, or indecent acts.

In addition to the 74 respondents who reported they had been victimized, 97 respondents (22.1%) reported a member of their household, relative, neighbor or friend had been victimized in the previous six months. In all, 171 respondents (39.0%) indicated they, or someone they knew personally, had been victimized in the previous six months.

2. Alcohol And Drugs

Respondents who had been victimized were asked to indicate whether alcohol and/or drugs had played some part in the crime. Fourteen percent of the respondents felt alcohol had been a consideration, while three percent felt drugs had been a factor. Eighty-three percent indicated alcohol or drugs were not factors, or that they didn't know whether substance-use was involved.

3. Where The Crimes Were Committed

Fourty of the victims (54.1%) reported the crime had been committed in their residence or on their property. Twenty-

seven respondents (36.5%) reported they had been victimized in a public place, such as a hotel or on the street. Only three respondents reported the crime had been committed in the residence or on the property of a friend, relative or neighbor.

4. Hour Of The Day

Respondents were asked to report, to the best of their knowledge, what hour of the day the crime occurred. Table 6 summarizes these answers. One-third of the respondents who answered reported they were victimized between 10:00 P.M. and 1:59 A.M. An additional 20% reported being victimized in the early morning between 2:00 and 5:59 A.M. From 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. the number of incidents reported was noticeably lower.

5. The Relationship Between Offender And Victim

Respondents were asked if they had any knowledge of the person who had victimized them. About a third of the respondents indicated they did not know who had victimized them. Half the respondents said the offender was a complete stranger. Nearly 20% of the respondents said they did know the offender. With the exception of three cases, these latter respondents indicated they had been victimized by a neighbor.

6. Involvement Of The Police

Of the 74 respondents who indicated they had been victim-

TABLE 6

Hour Of The Day Respondents
Believed They Had Been Victimized

	Number	Percent
02:00 A.M. - 05:59 A.M.	12	20.0%
06:00 A.M. - 09:59 A.M.	6	10.0%
10:00 A.M. - 01:59 P.M.	9	15.0%
02:00 P.M. - 05:59 P.M.	7	11.7%
06:00 P.M. - 09:59 P.M.	6	10.0%
10:00 P.M. - 01:59 A.M.	20	33.3%
Missing	14	----
Total	74	100.0%

ized in the previous six months, 46 (66.7%) reported the crime to the police while 23 (33.3%) did not. Five respondents did not answer this question. The reasons given by the 23 respondents who did not report the crime to the police are given in Table 7. As can be seen from this table, the most common reason stated for not reporting a crime was the victim's feeling that the offence was too minor to bother with. Four respondents (17.4%) indicated they did not report the offence because they felt the police would not do anything about it anyway.

The fourty-six respondents who reported the crime to the police were also asked what immediate action the police took (see Table 8). In over half the cases the police provided information or assistance of one form or another. In 20% of the cases no action was needed or taken. In a small number of situations (3.7%) respondents said there was no response to the call. Other actions included making arrests, giving warnings, and referring problems to other agencies.

7. Events Since The Crime Was Reported To Police

Respondents who reported a crime to the police were asked what had happened since they made the report. The vast majority of respondents (33 or 84.6%) indicated they had not been informed of police progress while only a few (6 or 15.4%) said they had been kept informed.

Respondents were asked if they had received any compensa-

TABLE 7

Reasons Respondents Gave For
Not Reporting Crime To The Police

	Number	Percent
1. I couldn't be bothered since it was a minor offence.	13	56.5%
2. The police wouldn't do anything anyway.	4	17.4%
3. I did not want the offender to be harmed or punished.	1	4.4%
4. I was afraid harm would come to me if I reported it.	1	4.4%
5. I didn't want to get involved with the police and the courts.	1	4.4%
6. By the time I had calmed down, I thought it was too late to report it.	1	4.4%
7. Other	2	8.7%
Total	23	100.0%

TABLE 8

Action Taken By Police
After Crime Was Reported

	Percent
1. Provided information	25.9%
2. Provided assistance	25.9%
3. Made an arrest	7.4%
4. Corrected dangerous situation	3.7%
5. Warning given	3.7%
6. Referred to another agency	7.7%
7. No response to call	3.7%
8. No action needed or taken	20.4%
9. Other	5.6%
Total	100.0%

tion for the crime. Half said they had not. Of those who had received some form of compensation, over 80% had been compensated by their own insurance companies. Only two victims said they had received redress from the offender.

Respondents were also asked if they knew what had happened to the offender. Over three-quarters of the respondents indicated they did not know. Of those who did know, six reported the offender had not been charged and three said the offender had been tried and convicted.

8. Some Characteristics Of The Victims

Those who reported they had been victimized in the last six months were different in important respects from others in the sample. Table 9 shows how the respondents who reported being victimized were distributed geographically about the city of Regina. The areas hardest hit by crime would appear to be Areas 1, 7 and 9 (see map on page 7). These areas border the downtown business district to the north and west. These areas also generally contain the older housing in the city and in some, like the warehouse district, conditions have deteriorated in recent years. On average, one in four respondents in these areas reported being victimized while, in the remainder of the city, the average was one in eight.

Table 9 also sets out the geographic distribution of those respondents who had not personally been victimized but who reported a member of their household, a relative, a friend or

TABLE 9

Victimization Data
For The Previous Six Months
By Zone*

	Respondents Who Reported Being Victimized	Total Number Of Respondents	Percent	Respondents Who Reported Someone They Knew Had Been Victimized	Total Number Of Respondents	Percent
Zone 1	17	53	32.1%	14	53	26.4%
Zone 2	2	12	16.7%	2	12	16.7%
Zone 3	3	27	11.1%	6	27	22.2%
Zone 4	8	62	12.9%	12	62	19.4%
Zone 5	8	75	10.7%	16	75	21.3%
Zone 6	7	47	14.9%	13	47	27.7%
Zone 7	11	53	20.8%	4	53	7.5%
Zone 8	11	71	15.5%	21	71	29.6%
Zone 9	5	19	26.3%	4	19	21.1%
Zone 10	1	16	6.3%	5	16	31.3%
Missing	1	3	----	--	3	----
Total	74	438	16.9%	97	438	22.1%

* See map on page 7.

a neighbor had been victimized in the previous six months. On average, just over one in five respondents reported they knew someone who had been victimized. In some areas of the city, however, the figure approached a third of the respondents while, in other areas of the city, the figure was one in six or less.

Victims were more likely to be single, widowed or separated while those who did not report being victimized were more likely to be married ($r = -.079$, $p < .052$). This suggests that married persons are less susceptible to crime while persons who live alone are more susceptible.

Victims were, on average, better educated than those who did not report being victimized ($r = .085$, $p < .040$). Of course, education is only one element in overall occupational status, income and lifestyle. Better educated respondents might be expected to have more material possessions and in this sense they would be more likely to be the victims of theft or vandalism.

B. Contact With The Police In Regina

Respondents were asked a variety of questions concerning the amount and type of police contact they, and others close to them, had experienced in the previous six months. In this section answers to these questions are discussed.

1. Police Contacts Related To Charges And Arrests

Respondents were asked if members of their household, relatives, friends or neighbors had had contacts with the police in the previous six months. Respondents were also asked if they had any experience with the police themselves. The findings are set out in Table 10.

As can be seen from this table, contact with the Regina City Police related to a laying of a charge was quite limited. Thirty-two respondents (7.6%) indicated a charge had been laid against a member of their household in the previous six months. A similar number indicated charges had been laid against friends. Only 18 respondents (4.2%) said they themselves had been charged. One respondent reported he had been arrested.

2. Other Police Contacts

Contact with the police for reasons other than a charge or an arrest appear to be quite common. As can be seen from Table 10, 92 respondents (22.2%) said members of their household had come into contact with the police in the previous six months. Over one-third of the respondents (152 or 35.7%) said they themselves had experienced such contacts with the police in the previous six months.

Respondents who indicated they had had some official contact with the Regina City Police in the previous six months, for some reason other than a charge or an arrest, were asked to indicate the reason for the contact and the action taken by the

TABLE 10

Contacts With Regina City Police
In Previous Six Months

	Charge Laid		Arrest Made		Other Official Contact	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
1. Members of respondent's household	388 (92.4%)	32 (7.6%)	415 (99.0%)	4 (1.0%)	323 (77.8%)	92 (22.2%)
2. Relatives not living with respondent	392 (96.6%)	14 (3.4%)	407 (99.3%)	3 (0.7%)	352 (92.6%)	30 (7.9%)
3. Friends	369 (90.9%)	37 (9.1%)	399 (97.1%)	12 (2.9%)	342 (90.7%)	35 (9.3%)
4. Neighbours	388 (95.8%)	17 (4.2%)	404 (98.3%)	7 (1.7%)	348 (91.6%)	32 (8.4%)
5. Self	406 (95.8%)	18 (4.2%)	426 (99.8%)	1 (0.2%)	274 (64.3%)	152 (35.7%)

police. As indicated in Table 11, the most common reasons given for this type of police contact were related to the operation of motor vehicles. A third of the respondents indicated they had come into contact with the police for a traffic violation or in relation to a traffic accident. Other common reasons included the reporting of a dangerous, suspicious or annoying situation (17.5%); reporting being a witness to a crime (4.9%); and requesting information (11.2%) or assistance (10.5%).

Respondents who indicated they had experienced some official contact with the Regina City Police in the previous six months were asked to report the action taken by the police. Cases where a criminal charge was laid against the respondent or where the respondent was arrested were excluded from this analysis since these cases were dealt with earlier. As indicated in Table 12, the most common actions of the police included filling out a report (27.3%), providing information (21.7%), and issuing a traffic ticket (19.3%). Other less frequently reported actions included issuing a traffic warning; referring the problem to another agency; and correcting a dangerous, suspicious or annoying situation. Ten percent of the respondents indicated no action on the part of the police was needed or taken.

TABLE 11

Contacts With The Regina City Police
In The Previous Six Months
For Reasons Other Than A
Charge Or Arrest

	Number	Percent
1. Request for information	16	11.2%
2. Request for assistance	15	10.5%
3. Reported dangerous, suspicious or annoying situation	25	17.5%
4. Reported being a victim of crime	20	14.0%
5. As a witness to a crime	7	4.9%
6. For a traffic violation or in a traffic accident	48	33.6%
7. Other	12	8.4%
8. Missing	9	----
Total	152	100.0%

TABLE 12

Action Taken By Police During
Most Recent Official Contact*

	Percent
1. Filled out a report	27.3%
2. Provided information	21.7%
3. Issued a traffic ticket	19.3%
4. Other	31.7%
Total	100.0%

* Excludes cases where the respondent was arrested or where criminal charges were laid against the respondent.

3. Some Characteristics Of Those Who Came Into Contact With The Police

As with the victims of crime, those who reported coming into contact with the police were different in important respects from those who reported no police contacts. Contacts with the police, for reasons other than a charge or an arrest, were correlated with whether or not the respondent was employed ($r = .152$, $p < .001$), the education of the respondent ($r = .161$, $p < .001$), and his or her occupational status ($r = .094$, $p < .026$). It should be recalled that the major reasons for this type of contact had to do with reporting of information to the police, requesting the help or assistance of the police, and instances relating to the operation of motor vehicles (see Table 11, page 36). The findings suggest that "lower-class" respondents are less likely to report these kinds of contacts with the police than are "middle-class" respondents. It is interesting to note, however, that occupational status is negatively associated with being charged by the police. "Lower-class" respondents were more likely to report being charged than were "middle-class" respondents ($r = .085$, $p < .040$).

Male respondents ($r = .139$, $p < .002$) and those who reported they did not live alone ($r = -.098$, $p < .022$) were also more likely to have contacts with the police not related to a charge or arrest. The greater involvement with the police reported by men may reflect both the fact that men have traditionally assumed responsibility for communicating with the police on

behalf of their families, and also the fact that men are more frequently involved in unlawful activity and, thus, are more frequently the subject of police investigations. That those who live alone have less frequent contact with the police may indicate this group is more isolated from some activities in the larger community. This may be particularly true of the elderly.

It is interesting to note the close relationship that exists between being victimized by crime and coming into contact with the police ($r = .318$, $p < .001$). Moreover, those who were charged or arrested by the police were also more likely to report they were victimized in the previous six months. These findings suggest there may be considerable overlap among the "victims" and the "victimizers".

Chapter IV

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

In this chapter the findings respecting public attitudes towards crime and the police are presented. Respondents were asked to react to some 75 statements about crime and the police by indicating whether they: 'strongly agreed'; 'agreed'; 'disagreed'; or 'strongly disagreed'. Responses to the questions were the subject of a factor analysis. This statistical procedure permitted the grouping of questions along various dimensions of public attitudes. Nine such dimensions were identified and each of these will be discussed in a separate section in this chapter.

The items which converged around the nine dimensions of public attitudes were used to create simple additive scales. This technique involves adding the scores of all the relevant items together to create a total score for each respondent on each dimension. This score can then be used to investigate the relationship between respondents' characteristics and experiences and their attitudes. One scale was created for each of the nine dimensions of public attitudes identified in the factor analysis. The method of creating these scales is set out in Appendix C.

A. Fear Of Crime

Eight questionnaire items concerned whether or not respondents feared being victimized by crime. These items

are set out in Table 13. Some of the items (see items 1 through 4) concerned the extent to which respondents felt safe living in Regina. Other items (see items 5 through 8) referred to behavioral manifestations of fear and the public's conception of the role of the police in reducing fear.

As Table 13 indicates, about a third of the sample indicated they worried a lot about becoming a victim of crime. Only 6% of the sample reported being afraid to walk alone in their neighborhood during the day while about a third reported they were afraid to walk alone at night. Although many respondents reported feeling safe in their own neighborhood, only 4% of the sample could agree that a person could walk alone anywhere in Regina without fear of crime.

In terms of behavioral manifestations of fear, one in six respondents reported fear of crime had led them to change or limit their normal activities in some way, and 6% of the respondents agreed their neighborhood was so dangerous they would like to move. Most respondents seem to feel that the police have a role to play in reducing the fear of crime. Half indicated that more police officers were needed in their neighborhoods and an equal number said they would feel safer if police walked around in their neighborhood.

The eight items in Table 13 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was created in such a way that high scores would be associated with a fear of crime while low scores would be associated with an absence of fear.

TABLE 13

Fear Of Crime

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. I worry a lot about becoming a victim of crime.	27 (6.2%)	127 (29.3%)	244 (56.4%)	35 (8.1%)	433 (100%)
2. I usually feel reasonably safe walking alone in my neighborhood during the day.	148 (34.2%)	260 (60.0%)	18 (4.2%)	7 (1.6%)	433 (100%)
3. I usually feel reasonably safe walking alone in my neighborhood at night.	36 (8.3%)	259 (59.8%)	98 (22.6%)	40 (9.2%)	433 (100%)
4. A person can walk alone anywhere in Regina without fear of crime.	8 (1.8%)	10 (2.3%)	177 (40.7%)	240 (55.2%)	435 (100%)
5. I have limited or changed my activities in the past year because of fear of crime.	10 (2.3%)	66 (15.2%)	262 (60.5%)	95 (21.9%)	433 (100%)
6. My neighborhood is dangerous enough that I would like to move somewhere else.	6 (1.4%)	18 (4.2%)	262 (60.5%)	147 (33.9%)	433 (100%)
7. We need more police officers in this neighborhood.	30 (7.1%)	168 (39.8%)	219 (51.9%)	5 (1.2%)	422 (100%)
8. I would be safer if police walked around in my neighborhood.	53 (12.4%)	185 (43.2%)	176 (41.1%)	14 (3.3%)	428 (100%)

N = number of respondents

The analysis indicates that the fear of crime is associated with a number of socio-demographic variables and also with variables respecting victimization and police contacts. Among the socio-demographic variables, both sex and marital status were significantly correlated with fear of crime. Women were significantly more likely to report they feared crime ($r = .188$, $p < .001$). Single and married respondents had lower scores than widowed, separated or divorced respondents ($F = 2.81$, $p < .017$). The living situation of respondents was also important. Scores were lower among those who reported living with their immediate family and higher among those who reported living alone, with relatives, or with friends ($r = .119$, $p < .009$). Fear of crime was significantly lower among respondents who reported living in single family dwellings, when compared with those who reported living in a duplex, apartment or condominium ($r = .149$, $p < .001$). Moreover, there were significant differences in the fear of crime associated with the area of the city in which respondents lived ($F = 4.71$, $p < .001$). By far the greatest fear of crime was reported by respondents in Area 2 (see map on page 7). Somewhat less fear was reported by respondents in Areas 3, 7, 9 and 10. Still less fear was reported by respondents in Areas 1, 4, 6 and 8. The least fear was reported by respondents in Area 5.

The fear of crime was associated with the social class of respondents. Respondents who reported higher incomes

(r = .182, p<.001), those who were better educated (r = .193, p<.001) and those who reported working in jobs with higher occupational status (r = .117, p<.009) were less likely to fear crime.

A number of variables related to victimization and police contacts were also associated with the fear of crime. If respondents had been victimized by crime (r = .138, p<.003) or if they had friends who had been victimized (r = .085, p <.051), they were more likely to report fear of crime. Among the victims, those who reported they had a personal relationship with the person who victimized them were more likely to score high on the scale (r = .195, p<.054). Interestingly, victims who had been compensated were significantly less likely to be afraid of crime, when compared with victims who had not been compensated (r = .456, p<.002).

Police contacts, other than for a charge or arrest, were important in accounting for fear of crime, but the reason for the contact seemed to determine the nature of the relationship. If the reason for the contact was to report being a victim of crime or to report a dangerous, suspicious or annoying situation, or if the event was related to a request for information or assistance, then respondents' scores were higher than if the contact was related to a traffic violation, traffic accident, or a routine traffic check (F = 1.96, p< .050).

Taken together, these findings suggest that many Regina

citizens fear being a victim of crime. Fear appears to be more evident among the segment of the community which is most vulnerable to crime; particularly women, those not living with their immediate families, and those who reside in apartments or multiple unit dwellings close to the downtown area. Among those who are high in social status, the fear of crime is not as acute. This may reflect perceptions about the hardship that might accompany crime, since those high in social status would likely be able to cope with the consequences of crime, particularly property crimes. Consistent with this interpretation, compensation appears to reduce the fear of crime. It is also likely, however, that some segments of the community are better able than others to avoid environments where there is a high probability of being victimized, thus reducing fear of crime.

Among individual respondents, fear of crime was associated with being victimized in the previous six months. Among the victims, fear was heightened if some personal relationship existed between the victim and the victimizer. Because neighbors were most frequently singled out in cases where the offender was known to the victim, the findings suggest the fear of crime is greatest in areas where there is a high probability of being victimized by a neighbor.

The fear of crime is also closely related to the area of the city in which respondents reported residing. Of course, this variable is closely associated with type of housing, social class, and other factors. Yet it is somewhat puzzling that respondents in Area 2, the downtown core area, reported

the greatest fear of crime while the respondents in the zones bordering the downtown core (Areas 1, 7 and 9) report being victimized the most. This suggests there is not a simple relationship between the fear of crime and the probability of being victimized. In the downtown area the visibility of the police, the visible measures for deterring crime adopted by many businesses, and other factors may heighten the fear of residents who live in that area. In other words, there may well be environmental conditions which heighten or lessen the fear of crime and which are independent of the actual volume of crime in a given area.

B. The Seriousness Of Crime And Measures Required To Cope With Crime

Unlike the items discussed in the previous section which concentrated on subjective feelings of safety or fear, the eleven items discussed in this section concentrate on public opinions about the extent of the crime problem and the appropriate measures for dealing with crime (see Table 14). Some of these items (see items 1 through 4) deal with the extent of crime and the nature of criminals. Other items (see items 5 through 8) concern perceptions about the appropriate treatment of offenders. The final three items (see items 9 through 11) have to do with views about the public's role in coping with crime.

As indicated in Table 14, nearly three-quarters of the

TABLE 14

The Seriousness Of Crime And Measures Required To Cope With Crime

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. Crime in Regina is more serious than newspapers, radio and television let on.	94 (22.2%)	210 (49.6%)	110 (26.0%)	9 (2.1%)	423 (100%)
2. Most criminals have criminal personalities.	17 (4.0%)	169 (40.0%)	218 (51.7%)	18 (4.3%)	422 (100%)
3. If the police do not treat suspects with authority, people will start thinking the police are weak.	63 (14.7%)	216 (50.2%)	134 (31.2%)	17 (4.0%)	430 (100%)
4. If it were not for the threat of punishment, crime would be out of control in our society.	191 (44.4%)	184 (42.8%)	49 (11.4%)	6 (1.4%)	430 (100%)
5. There is too much emphasis on the rights of offenders.	77 (18.1%)	207 (40.6%)	133 (31.2%)	9 (2.1%)	426 (100%)
6. The police are too lenient with juvenile offenders.	63 (15.1%)	165 (39.5%)	177 (42.3%)	13 (3.1%)	418 (100%)
7. Convicted offenders should get longer sentences.	126 (30.4%)	216 (52.0%)	62 (14.9%)	11 (2.7%)	415 (100%)
8. Capital punishment should be brought back.	171 (40.2%)	162 (38.1%)	57 (13.4%)	35 (8.2%)	425 (100%)
9. The public should take more responsibility for crime control programs in their neighborhoods.	99 (23.2%)	291 (68.1%)	31 (7.3%)	6 (1.4%)	427 (100%)

TABLE 14 (Continued)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
10. The public should be allowed to possess any weapon they feel necessary for their own protection.	24 (5.6%)	69 (16.1%)	204 (47.6%)	132 (30.8%)	429 (100%)
11. If someone I knew was interested in becoming a police officer, I would strongly recommend it.	66 (15.8%)	272 (64.9%)	76 (18.1%)	5 (1.2%)	419 (100%)

N = number of respondents

respondents felt crime in Regina was more serious than portrayed in the media. Nearly half the respondents felt most criminals had criminal personalities, while two-thirds indicated police had to treat suspects with authority if they were not to be seen as weak. Nearly 90% of respondents felt it was the threat of punishment that kept crime from getting out of control in society.

Many respondents favored harsher treatment of offenders. Two-thirds of the sample said they felt there was too much emphasis on the rights of offenders. Over half said the police were too lenient with juvenile offenders. Eight out of ten respondents felt convicted offenders should receive longer sentences and nearly 80% favored the reinstatement of capital punishment.

While over 90% of the respondents felt the public should be more involved in crime control programs in their neighborhoods, less than one in four respondents felt the public should be able to possess any weapon for protection. Eight in ten respondents felt law enforcement was of high enough priority that they would strongly recommend police work if they knew someone who was interested.

The eleven items in Table 14 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was constructed in such a way that high scores would be associated with the view that crime is a matter of grave concern and serious measures are required to combat it, while low scores would be associated

with the view that crime problems are not so serious and extreme measures to combat it are not required.

The analysis indicates that views about the seriousness of crime are associated with respondents' socio-demographic characteristics. Respondents who were high in terms of occupational status ($r = .192$, $p < .001$), those who had larger incomes ($r = .165$, $p < .001$), and those who reported more education ($r = .289$, $p < .001$) were less likely to perceive crime and criminals as a serious problem. Respondents who had lived in Regina longer ($r = .148$, $p < .002$), and those who reported residing in their present neighborhoods longer ($r = .162$, $p < .001$) were more likely to emphasize the seriousness of crime. Respondents who reported owning a business were also more likely to underscore the seriousness of crime ($r = .132$, $p < .006$).

Views about the seriousness of crime and criminals were also associated with police contacts. The more often friends ($r = .348$, $p < .032$) or neighbors ($r = .393$, $p < .026$) came into contact with the police, the more respondents were inclined to perceive crime and criminals as a serious problem. Among respondents who had themselves been victimized, those who reported the crime to the police were less likely than those who didn't to score low on the scale ($r = .254$, $p < .028$). If the respondents knew who had victimized them, they were more likely to score high ($r = .275$, $p < .050$).

Taken together, the findings would seem to indicate many Regina citizens perceive crime to be a serious problem. Most

seem to believe the exercise of authority and the use of punishment are needed to deter crime and that offenders, because of their unique personality makeup, are not deterred in the same way as most others. Given these views, it is not surprising most respondents felt harsher treatment of offenders was appropriate and that the community needed to be more involved in measures to cope with crime.

The respondents who believed crime and criminals were a serious problem shared many characteristics in common with those who feared crime. In fact, there was a high correlation between the scores on the two scales ($r = .357$, $p < .001$). Respondents who scored high in terms of occupational status, for example, were less likely to be alarmed. As with the fear of crime, this is probably related to how respondents viewed their abilities to cope with the consequences of crime. If crime was prevalent in the respondent's community; that is, if friends and neighbors had come into contact with the police, if the respondent had been victimized by a neighbor or had reported a crime to the police, then the crime problem was perceived to be more serious than if these events had not occurred. Once again, however, there was no simple relationship between being victimized by crime and viewing the crime problem as serious. In fact, respondents in areas hardest hit by crime were not those who scored highest on the seriousness scale. Once again, other environmental factors seem to play a part in shaping respondents' perceptions.

C. Communication With The Public

The first two sections concerned public perceptions about crime. Beginning with this section, we turn to an examination of public perceptions about the police. Five questionnaire items focused on the quality of communication between the police and the public, and on the public's desire to improve communication (see Table 15). Three of these items (see items 1 through 3) concerned the public's perception of police efforts to communicate while the remaining two items (see items 4 and 5) had to do with the public's interest in improving communication.

As shown in Table 15, over 50% of the respondents felt the police did not receive adequate training in dealing with the public. Two-thirds felt the police were not doing an adequate job informing the public about police roles and objectives, and an equal number felt the police did not spend enough time educating the public about how to reduce crime.

Most respondents expressed interest in improving communication. Over 80% felt meetings between the police and the public would be beneficial. Two-thirds reported they were interested in knowing police officers on a first-name basis.

The five items in Table 15 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was created in such a way that high scores would be associated with positive perceptions concerning the state of communication between the police and the public while low scores would be associated with negative perceptions.

TABLE 15

Communication With The Public

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. Police receive enough training on how to deal with people.	14 (3.4%)	178 (43.7%)	189 (46.4%)	26 (6.4%)	407 (100%)
2. The police don't do a very good job of informing the public about police roles and objectives.	35 (8.3%)	237 (56.3%)	143 (34.0%)	6 (1.4%)	421 (100%)
3. The police do not spend enough time educating the public on how to reduce crime.	33 (7.7%)	266 (62.4%)	120 (28.2%)	7 (1.6%)	426 (100%)
4. Regular meetings between the police and the people in my neighborhood would be a good thing.	58 (13.7%)	287 (67.7%)	76 (17.9%)	3 (0.7%)	424 (100%)
5. I know, or would like to get to know, police officers on a first-name basis.	32 (7.6%)	241 (57.0%)	141 (33.3%)	9 (2.1%)	423 (100%)

N = number of respondents

The analysis indicates that the more contacts the respondent reported with the police, the more likely he or she was to feel that communication between the police and the public needed to be improved ($r = .133$, $p < .005$). Similarly, those respondents who knew others who had been victimized ($r = .094$, $p < .042$) or others who had had contacts with the police ($r = .144$, $p < .005$) were more likely to voice the need for better communication.

The need for better communication was also associated with a number of respondent characteristics. Respondents with higher incomes ($r = .115$, $p < .017$), those with better education ($r = .280$, $p < .001$), and employed as opposed to unemployed respondents ($r = .110$, $p < .017$) were more likely to feel better communication was desirable. Respondents who had lived in Regina for a long time ($r = .173$, $p < .001$) and those who had resided in their neighborhoods for a long time, however, were generally more positive about the state of communication between the police and the public.

The zones in which respondents resided also proved to be important ($F = 2.37$, $p < .013$). The need for better communication was most frequently identified by respondents in Area 2 (see map on page 7). Somewhat less emphasis was placed on the need for better communication by respondents in Areas 3, 7, 9 and 10. Still less emphasis was evident among those from Areas 1, 5, 6 and 8, while those in Area 4 appeared most satisfied with the state of communication.

Taken together, the findings indicate many respondents were concerned about the quality of communication between the police and the public. Most respondents appeared to feel the police need more training on how to deal with people and a substantial number seemed to feel the police could do much more by way of public education. A vast majority of respondents advocated strategies for bringing the public more closely in touch with police work.

Not all respondents expressed the same concerns. Respondents who had been in contact with the police and who knew others who had been in contact with the police were more likely to identify problems in communication. This finding can be interpreted in two ways. It may mean contact with the police makes respondents more aware of the need for better communication. It may also mean, on the other hand, that contact with the police is associated with experiences with crime and these experiences lead respondents to feel more needs to be done to cope with crime. For these respondents, improved communication may be seen as one way of coping with crime.

Interestingly, the emphasis placed on improving communication was closely associated with the characteristics of respondents. There was no direct relationship between the volume of crime in a particular area and the need expressed by respondents for better communication. However, areas of the city containing many respondents of high social status emphasized the need for better communication, while areas containing many

respondents who were long-time residents of Regina and long-time residents of their neighborhoods placed much less emphasis on improving communication. Perceptions about the quality of communication may be very closely tied to respondents' views about the importance of public involvement and good communication.

D. Police Powers

Eight questionnaire items concerned public perceptions about the extent of police powers (see Table 16). Most of these questions (see items 1 through 6) had to do with the latitude given the police in law enforcement and whether or not this power ought to be increased or decreased. Two related items (see items 7 and 8) concerned the right of the police to strike and the public's knowledge about how to bring a complaint against the police.

As can be seen from Table 16, over 90% of the respondents could not agree with the statement that the police have too much authority and should have their powers strictly limited. Only one-third of the sample felt police should be able to search private property whenever they want. Interestingly, nearly three out of ten respondents would be strongly opposed to this practice. Respondents were about equally divided on the question of whether or not the police should have the power to search those persons they stop. Nearly three-quarters of the respondents felt the police should have the right to

TABLE 16

Police Powers

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. The police have too much authority and should have their powers strictly controlled.	4 (0.9%)	29 (6.9%)	329 (77.8%)	61 (14.4%)	423 (100%)
2. Police should be able to search private property whenever they feel the need to.	35 (8.1%)	124 (28.8%)	151 (35.1%)	120 (27.9%)	430 (100%)
3. Police should have the right to frisk or search you if they stop you.	11 (2.5%)	170 (39.4%)	186 (43.1%)	65 (15.0%)	432 (100%)
4. Police should have the right to stop you anywhere and ask you to identify yourself by giving your name and address.	67 (15.6%)	241 (56.0%)	92 (21.4%)	30 (7.0%)	430 (100%)
5. When a person is being disrespectful or abusive to the police, that person deserves to be knocked around.	23 (5.4%)	120 (28.1%)	217 (50.8%)	67 (15.7%)	427 (100%)
6. The police should be able to use any method they think necessary to combat crime.	41 (9.6%)	151 (35.4%)	151 (35.4%)	84 (19.7%)	427 (100%)
7. Police should have the right to strike.	23 (5.4%)	121 (28.5%)	175 (41.2%)	106 (24.9%)	425 (100%)
8. Procedures for bringing a complaint against the police are widely known.	7 (1.6%)	68 (15.7%)	288 (66.7%)	69 (16.0%)	432 (100%)

N = number of respondents

stop people and ask for identification. Surprisingly, a third of the respondents agreed that when a person was disrespectful or abusive to the police, that person deserved to be knocked around. Nearly half the respondents felt the police should be able to use any method to combat crime, although one in five respondents would be strongly opposed to this practice.

On two related questions, two-thirds of the respondents felt the police should not have the right to strike,while less than one in five respondents could agree that procedures for bringing a complaint against the police were well known.

The eight items in Table 16 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was created in such a way that high scores would be associated with the view that police powers should be limited while low scores would be associated with the view that police powers should be broadened.

The analysis indicates that respondents wishing to place limits on police powers were significantly different from other respondents in several important respects. Respondents wanting to limit police powers were more often single, divorced or separated, while those wishing to see police powers broadened were more often married or widowed. Geographic mobility was also important. Respondents who had lived in Regina for longer periods of time ($r = .176$, $p < .001$) and those who reported residing in their present neighborhood for longer periods ($r = .188$, $p < .001$) were more likely to endorse a broadening of police powers. Respondents living alone were more

prepared than other respondents to see a broadening of police powers ($r = .102$, $p < .022$). Respondents working in positions with higher occupational status ($r = .180$, $p < .001$), those with higher incomes ($r = .185$, $p < .001$), and those with more education ($r = .280$, $p < .001$) were more likely to express concerns about a widening of police powers.

Differences in opinion were also associated with the area in which respondents lived. Those most concerned with the extent of police powers resided in Areas 1, 5, 6 and 8 (see map on page 7). Somewhat less concern was voiced by respondents in Areas 4, 7 and 9, while the advocates of greater police powers were more likely to be from Areas 2, 3 or 10.

Opinions concerning police powers were also associated with respondents' previous contacts with the police. Those respondents who said that relatives ($r = .090$, $p < .044$), friends ($r = .174$, $p < .001$) or neighbors ($r = .163$, $p < .001$) had been victimized in the previous six months were more likely to want limits on police powers. Similarly, if members of the respondent's household ($r = .095$, $p < .033$), relatives ($r = .102$, $p < .029$), friends ($r = .097$, $p < .036$), or neighbors ($r = .103$, $p < .027$) had had contact with the police for reasons other than a charge or arrest, the respondent was more likely to feel limits should be placed on the powers of the police.

Taken together, the findings suggest there is a wide diversity of opinion on the question of whether or not police powers should be broadened. While respondents felt the police

did not have too much authority at present, they were nonetheless reluctant to give the police blanket powers to search persons or property or to use any method to combat crime. Two out of three respondents would deny the police the right to strike.

The data also indicate quite clearly that those who are most vulnerable to crime are more prepared to see a broadening of police powers. Not surprisingly, respondents who were afraid of being victimized ($r = .113$, $p < .012$) and those who underscored the seriousness of crime ($r = .402$, $p < .001$) were more likely to advocate an expansion of police powers.

Only one in six respondents could agree that procedures for bringing a complaint about the abuse of police powers were well known. This finding is consistent with those in the previous section which showed communication to be a problem insofar as the respondents were concerned. Interestingly, a negative relationship existed between scores on the communication and police powers scales ($r = -.155$, $p < .002$). This indicates that respondents who expressed greatest concern about the quality of communication were least likely to endorse an increase in police powers. It would seem that, in respondent's minds, communication and trust are closely related. When the respondent views communication as being fairly positive, he or she is also more likely to trust the police with greater powers.

The negative relationship between scores on the two scales

may also help to explain why respondents who reported they, and others close to them, had experienced many police contacts were less likely to endorse a broadening of police powers. While those affected by crime want police to have adequate powers, it was shown in an earlier section that police contacts were associated with a more negative view about the quality of police-community communications. Respondents who feel communication is a problem are less likely to advocate an increase in the powers of the police.

E. Adequacy Of Law Enforcement

Five questionnaire items focused on the adequacy of law enforcement (see Table 17). These items concerned whether or not the police were perceived by the public as wasting time on matters not related to law enforcement (see items 1 through 4) and whether or not service to the public was affected (see item 5). The public's perception of how police use their time and priorize their activities is an element common to all five items in Table 17.

Only one in five respondents felt the police spend too much time on duties not related to law enforcement. However, three in ten respondents felt there was too much emphasis on traffic and traffic enforcement. Over 90% of the respondents could not agree that the police spend too much time on counselling activities. About one in four respondents agreed the police spend too much time riding around in cars. Over 85% of

TABLE 17

Adequacy Of Law Enforcement

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. The police spend too much time on duties not directly concerned with law enforcement.	7 (1.7%)	80 (19.9%)	297 (73.9%)	18 (4.5%)	402 (100%)
2. The police spend too much time on traffic and traffic enforcement.	26 (6.1%)	91 (21.5%)	283 (66.9%)	23 (5.4%)	423 (100%)
3. With all the counselling police officers do, there is hardly any time left over for law enforcement.	3 (0.7%)	33 (8.1%)	345 (85.0%)	25 (6.2%)	406 (100%)
4. Police spend too much time riding around in their cars.	19 (4.5%)	92 (21.9%)	287 (68.3%)	22 (5.2%)	420 (100%)
5. Police tend to ignore you and your problems when you call them.	4 (0.9%)	53 (12.5%)	321 (75.5%)	47 (11.1%)	425 (100%)

N = number of respondents

the sample could not agree the police ignored the problems of those who called them for help.

The five items set out in Table 17 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was created in such a way that high scores would be associated with concerns about the effectiveness of police law enforcement activities while low scores would be associated with the view that police law enforcement activities were adequate.

The analysis indicates opinions about the emphasis the police place on law enforcement are very much associated with the type of neighborhood in which one lives. Respondents who reported neighbors had been charged by the police in the previous six months were more likely to feel the police were spending too much time on activities not related to law enforcement ($r = .101$, $p < .021$). The number of charges laid against neighbors was also significant ($r = .729$, $p < .001$). Similarly, the number of times neighbors were arrested ($r = .974$, $p < .001$), the number of times neighbors had been in contact with the police for reasons other than a charge or arrest ($r = .780$, $p < .001$), and the number of times neighbors had been victimized ($r = .439$, $p < .002$) were associated with the view that more emphasis should be placed on law enforcement. Among those respondents who had had contact with the police for some reason other than a charge or arrest, the need for greater emphasis on law enforcement was more frequently cited in instances where the police had given a traffic warn-

ing or issued a ticket or had responded by referring a problem to another agency, than in instances where they actually corrected a dangerous situation, made an arrest, or completed a report ($F = 2.29$, $p < .027$).

The respondents' opinions about the need for greater emphasis on law enforcement were also associated with a number of personal characteristics. Older respondents were more likely to emphasize the need for law enforcement ($r = .198$, $p < .001$), as were those respondents who owned a business ($r = .116$, $p < .013$). Respondents living in single family dwellings were less inclined to think the police were wasting their time if they were not involved in law enforcement than were respondents living in apartments, duplexes or condominiums ($r = .093$, $p < .037$).

Taken together, the findings suggest there is a good deal of satisfaction with the amount of emphasis the police currently place on law enforcement activities. Most respondents seem to feel the police are quite effective in this area. Some diversity of opinion was evident, however. Respondents residing in neighborhoods with a crime problem were more likely to emphasize the law enforcement role of the police. In addition, those respondents who perceived themselves as most vulnerable to crime, by virtue of being old, owning a business, or living in an urban rather than a suburban area, tended to place greater emphasis on law enforcement activities. The strong relationship between scores on this scale and scores on the

seriousness ($r = .156$, $p < .002$) and fear of crime ($r = .198$, $p < .001$) scales bears out this correlation.

Interestingly, those respondents who had come into contact with the police in relation to the operation of a motor vehicle thought the police weren't spending enough time on law enforcement. These respondents, especially those who received a traffic ticket, probably don't view the issuing of a ticket as law enforcement. No doubt they wish the police had been involved in some activity other than traffic enforcement.

Scores on the scale respecting adequacy of law enforcement were correlated with scores on the scales discussed in previous sections. As already noted, respondents who said they were afraid of crime and those who underscored the seriousness of crime were more likely to feel law enforcement services were inadequate. On the other hand, respondents who had positive perceptions about the quality of police-community communications ($r = .236$, $p < .001$) and those who were prepared to see a broadening of police powers ($r = .137$, $p < .005$) also rated the police highly in terms of their law enforcement services.

F. The Scope Of Police Services

Eight questionnaire items concerned the public's perception of the scope of police services (see Table 18). These items asked whether or not the respondent felt satisfied with the range of services offered by the police. Some of the items (see items 1 and 2) had to do with "response time" of the

TABLE 18

The Scope Of Police Services

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. Police always respond promptly when called.	14 (3.4%)	253 (60.8%)	130 (31.3%)	19 (4.6%)	416 (100%)
2. Police give adequate protection to me and those I care about.	21 (5.0%)	335 (79.4%)	62 (14.7%)	4 (0.9%)	422 (100%)
3. Police are respectful to people like myself.	99 (22.9%)	300 (69.4%)	30 (6.9%)	3 (0.7%)	432 (100%)
4. Police are concerned about your problems when they come to your home.	35 (8.3%)	333 (78.5%)	50 (11.8%)	6 (1.4%)	424 (100%)
5. Police in this neighborhood are willing to help with problems other than solving crime.	33 (7.9%)	304 (72.4%)	69 (16.4%)	14 (3.3%)	420 (100%)
6. Where I live the police don't get to know us or our problems.	39 (9.3%)	245 (58.2%)	132 (31.4%)	5 (1.2%)	421 (100%)
7. Police can count on co-operation from the social agencies.	13 (3.3%)	294 (74.2%)	81 (20.5%)	8 (2.0%)	396 (100%)
8. The R.C.M.P. do a better job than the Regina City Police.	14 (3.7%)	63 (16.6%)	276 (72.6%)	27 (7.1%)	380 (100%)

N = number of respondents

police and the level of protection provided to the public. Other items (see items 3 through 6) focused on the sensitivity of the police to citizens' problems. The final two items (see items 7 and 8) concerned the ability of the police to mobilize support from other agencies, and the quality of services provided by the R.C.M.P. in comparison to the Regina City Police. All these questions reflect the public's view about the scope of services they feel the police are able to provide.

As can be seen from Table 18, some concern was expressed about the ability of the police to respond promptly when called. One-third of the sample could not agree the police responded promptly. Some 85% of the respondents reported, however, that the police provided an adequate level of protection to the public.

Concerning the sensitivity of the police to public problems, over 90% of the respondents indicated the police were respectful. In a similar vein, nearly 90% of the respondents said the police were concerned about their problems when they came to their homes. Eight in ten respondents agreed the police were willing to help with problems other than solving crime, although over two-thirds of the sample agreed the police didn't get to know them or their problems.

Over 75% of the respondents agreed the police were able to mobilize the resources of social agencies. Only one in five respondents felt the R.C.M.P. would be able to do a better job than the Regina Police Department.

The eight items in Table 18 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was constructed in such a way that high scores would be associated with a perception of the police as having a broad scope in the delivery of services, whereas low scores would be associated with a perception of the police as being quite narrow in the range of services they provided.

The analysis indicates perceptions about the scope of police services are very much related to the type and frequency of contacts with the police. Respondents who reported that members of their households ($r = .119$, $p < .018$), friends ($r = .126$, $p < .014$), and neighbors ($r = .086$, $p < .048$) had been victimized by crime were more likely to see the police as having limited scope in the delivery of police services. The number of times relatives ($r = .313$, $p < .043$) or neighbors ($r = .384$, $p < .010$) had been victimized, and the number of times members of the respondent's household ($r = .421$, $p < .020$) or neighbors had been charged by the police were also important. Police contacts for purposes other than a charge or an arrest, whether they were with the respondent ($r = .311$, $p < .006$) or with friends of the respondent ($r = .138$, $p < .009$), also proved to be correlated with perceptions about the scope of police services. Among respondents who had had contacts with the police, attitudes were more positive if the police corrected a dangerous situation, made an arrest, or completed a report, than if they issued a traffic warning or a ticket ($F = 4.05$, $p < .001$).

Respondents' views concerning the scope of police services were also related to several socio-demographic variables. Respondents who had lived in Regina for a long time ($r = .135$, $p < .007$), those who had lived in their neighborhood longer ($r = .131$, $p < .009$), those who were married ($r = .132$, $p < .008$), and those who lived with their immediate family ($F = 3.02$, $p < .011$) were more likely to view the scope of police services in a positive light. The area in which respondents resided was also important (see map on page 7). Respondents from Area 2 had the most critical views while respondents from Areas 3, 5, 7 and 10 were somewhat less critical. Respondents in Areas 1, 4, 6 and 9 were still more positive while respondents in Area 8 had the most favorable views.

Taken together, the findings indicate the respondents generally held positive views about the range of services provided by the police. Two exceptions may be noted. First, some respondents expressed concern about the amount of time the police took to respond to calls. This question requires further exploration. It is unclear whether respondents experienced unnecessary delays or whether even a quick response to a request for help seems slow in the event of an emergency. Secondly, many respondents agreed the police didn't get to know "us or our problems". This appears to be another dimension of the problems with respect to communication that have been discussed previously.

As with some of the other scales, views about the scope

of police services appeared to be very much related to the type of neighborhood in which respondents lived and the personal characteristics of respondents associated with vulnerability to crime. Respondents who indicated they, and those in their immediate surroundings, had needed to rely on the police frequently were more likely to be critical of the police. Those respondents who, by virtue of their marital status and living situation, were less vulnerable to crime, were more likely to perceive the scope of police services in a positive light.

Scores with respect to the scope of police services were correlated with scores on a number of other scales. Respondents who reported they were afraid of crime were more likely to perceive the scope of police services as being quite limited ($r = .198$, $p < .001$). Those who viewed communications in a positive light ($r = .176$, $p < .001$), those who felt law enforcement services were adequate ($r = .513$, $p < .001$), and those who advocated an expansion of police powers ($r = .362$, $p < .001$) were more likely to be satisfied with the scope of police services. There was no relationship between opinions about the scope of police services and the perceived seriousness of the crime problem.

G. Police Competence

Seven questionnaire items focused on the extent to which the police were perceived as competent or incompetent by the public (see Table 19). These items dealt with a variety of

TABLE 19

Police Competence

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. The police spend too much time catching criminals and not enough time preventing crime.	13 (3.1%)	92 (22.1%)	275 (65.9%)	37 (8.9%)	417 (100%)
2. If a person has a criminal record the police never leave them alone.	6 (1.4%)	73 (17.3%)	325 (77.0%)	18 (4.3%)	422 (100%)
3. It is not the fault of the police that courts sometimes fail to convict offenders.	155 (35.6%)	258 (59.3%)	19 (4.4%)	3 (0.7%)	435 (100%)
4. The public doesn't understand what police work is all about.	74 (17.1%)	295 (68.3%)	61 (14.1%)	2 (0.5%)	432 (100%)
5. Police drive too fast when responding to calls.	6 (1.4%)	36 (8.4%)	330 (76.7%)	58 (13.5%)	430 (100%)
6. In social situations, once I learn someone is a police officer I tend to treat them differently.	5 (1.2%)	70 (16.2%)	286 (66.4%)	70 (16.2%)	431 (100%)
7. We should throw out all the present police and hire new ones.	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	197 (45.7%)	232 (53.8%)	431 (100%)

N = number of respondents

subjects from the emphasis police placed on monitoring criminals (see items 1 through 3), to perceptions about the difficulty of police work and the ability of the police to do their job (see items 4 through 7).

As can be seen from Table 19, few respondents believed too much emphasis was placed on monitoring criminals. Only one in four respondents felt not enough time was spent on crime prevention. About one in five agreed that if a person has a criminal record the police never leave them alone. Over 90% of the respondents felt the courts' failure to convict offenders was not due to the incompetence of the police.

Eight out of ten respondents indicated the public doesn't understand what police work is all about. Over 90% could not agree the police drive too fast when responding to calls. Only one in six respondents said they were inclined to treat police officers differently in social situations, and support for the view that all the present police should be replaced by new ones was virtually nonextant.

The seven items in Table 19 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was constructed in such a way that high scores would be associated with perceptions of the police as competent while low scores would be associated with perceptions of the police as incompetent.

The analysis indicates respondents' views about the competence of the police are associated with police contacts. The number of times neighbors had been charged ($r = .610$, $p < .002$)

or arrested ($r = .726$, $p < .051$) by the police, and the number of times neighbors were reported to have been in contact with the police for reasons other than a charge or arrest ($r = .600$, $p < .002$) were associated with a negative view of police competence. Similarly, if the respondent had been arrested ($r = .113$, $p < .013$) he or she was less likely to view the police as competent. Older respondents ($r = .111$, $p < .014$), those who were employed ($r = .086$, $p < .045$), and those who had lived in Regina longer ($r = .119$, $p < .009$) tended to view the police more positively.

Taken together, the findings indicate respondents generally held positive opinions about the way police exercised their authority. There was some indication, however, that respondents' opinions about the courts might be more critical. In addition, there was some public recognition of the difficulty of police work. Moreover, few respondents acknowledged treating the police differently. This suggests an absence of negative stereotypes on the part of the public.

Generally speaking, the public's respect for the competence of the police was independent of the characteristics of the respondents or the area of the city where respondents lived. While there was some tendency for more established citizens to score high on the scale, these relationships were weak. Thus, respect for police competence appears to be fairly universal. The one exception was among respondents who reported their friends or neighbors, or they themselves, had been charged or

arrested by the police.

Scores on the police competence scale were correlated with scores on the other scales. Not surprisingly, those who viewed the police as competent tended to have positive views concerning the broadening of police powers ($r = .231$, $p < .001$), the adequacy of law enforcement services ($r = .482$, $p < .001$), and the scope of police services ($r = .332$, $p < .001$). Respondents who underscored the seriousness of crime were more likely to be critical of the competence of the police ($r = .178$, $p < .001$). There was no relationship between scores on the scale respecting police competence and scores on either the fear of crime or quality of communication scales.

H. Integrity Of The Police

The final dimension of public attitudes towards the police concerned the public's perception of the integrity of the police. The questionnaire contained ten items in this general area. Some items (see items 1 through 5) asked whether the police showed favoratism or whether they provided equal and fair treatment, while other items (see items 6 through 10) concerned the public's view about police corruption and unethical police practices.

As Table 20 indicates, nearly 40% of the respondents agreed those who could afford good lawyers had less to worry about from the police than those who could not. Ten percent of the sample agreed police beat up people they don't like, and

TABLE 20

The Integrity Of The Police

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. People who know the ropes and have money to afford good lawyers don't really have anything to worry about from the police.	37 (8.6%)	134 (31.0%)	228 (52.8%)	33 (7.6%)	432 (100%)
2. Police beat up people they don't like.	9 (2.1%)	36 (8.4%)	259 (60.4%)	125 (29.1%)	429 (100%)
3. Generally speaking, all people are treated the same by the police.	16 (3.7%)	226 (52.7%)	158 (36.8%)	29 (6.8%)	429 (100%)
4. Police are as concerned with crimes against the ordinary citizen as with those against businesses.	34 (8.0%)	327 (76.6%)	63 (14.8%)	3 (0.7%)	427 (100%)
5. Police are more interested in making arrests than in seeing that justice is done.	10 (2.3%)	74 (17.3%)	291 (68.1%)	52 (12.2%)	427 (100%)
6. The police cover up their own wrongdoings.	26 (6.4%)	168 (41.3%)	190 (46.7%)	23 (5.7%)	407 (100%)
7. When the police do something wrong they do a good job investigating it and correcting the problem themselves.	17 (4.3%)	286 (73.0%)	79 (20.2%)	10 (2.6%)	392 (100%)
8. Being a police officer has a bad effect on a person.	9 (2.1%)	36 (8.4%)	279 (65.3%)	103 (24.1%)	427 (100%)

TABLE 20 (Continued)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
9. Police use unfair methods to get information.	6 (1.5%)	44 (10.8%)	323 (79.6%)	33 (8.1%)	406 (100%)
10. Police seldom engage in brutality towards suspects.	27 (6.7%)	295 (73.7%)	69 (17.2%)	9 (2.2%)	400 (100%)

N = number of respondents

over 40% could not agree all people are treated the same by the police. Most respondents (some 75%) believed the police were as concerned with crimes against the ordinary citizen as with those against businesses, and an equal number could not agree the police were more concerned with arrests than they were with justice.

Nearly half the respondents agreed the police covered up their own wrongdoings, but over 75% felt the police do a good job investigating and correcting problems themselves. Only 10% of the sample felt police work had a bad effect on people while 90% could not agree the police are forced into using unfair methods to get information. However, one in five respondents disagreed that the police seldom engage in brutality towards suspects.

The ten items in Table 20 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was constructed in such a way that high scores would be associated with the view that the police did not possess much integrity while low scores would be associated with the view that the police did possess integrity.

The analysis indicates respondents were more likely to be suspect of the integrity of the police if they reported having friends who had been victimized ($r = .103$, $p < .032$) or if they had come into contact with the police for some reason other than a charge or arrest ($r = .098$, $p < .038$). A more positive view of the integrity of the police was reported by older respondents ($r = .114$, $p < .018$) and those who had lived in their

present neighborhood longer (r = .130, p<.008).

Taken together, the findings indicate a wide diversity of opinion on the question of police integrity. Many respondents felt this was a problem area, however. Nearly 40% felt the police show favoritism towards those who "know the ropes and have money to afford good lawyers". Furthermore, over half the respondents questioned whether all people are treated the same by the police. Nearly half felt the police covered up their own wrongdoings, and one in five could not agree the police seldom engage in brutality. These opinions may or may not bear a relation to reality, but the findings do indicate the public has questions about the integrity of the police.

Interestingly, opinions about the integrity of the police were largely independent of client characteristics and experiences with the police. There were a few weak relationships indicating more established citizens and those with fewer contacts were more positive in their opinions. Generally speaking, however, the findings suggest concern about the integrity of the police is evident in all segments of the community.

Scores on the scale respecting police integrity were correlated with scores on a number of other scales. Those who had positive views respecting the integrity of the police were more likely to endorse a broadening of police powers (r = .358, p<.001), to be satisfied with the adequacy of law enforcement services (r = .513, p<.001), to be satisfied with the scope of

police services (r = .534, p .001), and to view the competence of the police in a positive light (r = .557, p .001). Respondents who were satisfied with the quality of police-community communications were also more likely to view the police as possessing integrity (r = .149, p .001). Respondents who feared crime, however, were more likely to express concerns about the integrity of the police.

I. Attitudes Towards Natives

Estimates of the number of persons of Indian ancestry residing in Regina have been as high as 30,000 or one-fifth of the total population. Crime among persons of Indian ancestry has been the subject of much discussion in Regina and, moreover, whereas the Native population in the province is less than 15% of the total population, incarcerated persons of Indian ancestry constitute some 60% of all those incarcerated in the province. A substantial number of these are committed from Regina. Therefore, it was felt important to guage public attitudes regarding crime and persons of Indian ancestry.

As Table 21 indicates, while there is a diversity of opinion respecting persons of Indian ancestry, many respondents clearly hold negative attitudes. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents could not agree most Natives respect the law. Only one in five respondents agreed Natives were basically hardworking. Nearly half agreed most Natives go out of their way to make the job of the police more difficult. Four out of ten

TABLE 21

Attitudes Towards Natives

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total N
1. Most Natives respect the law.	5 (1.2%)	163 (38.5%)	176 (41.6%)	79 (18.7%)	423 (100%)
2. Natives are basically hardworking.	3 (0.7%)	89 (21.6%)	231 (56.1%)	89 (21.6%)	412 (100%)
3. Most Natives go out of their way to make the job of the police more difficult.	47 (11.4%)	152 (36.8%)	201 (48.7%)	13 (3.1%)	413 (100%)
4. Natives don't help each other.	26 (6.3%)	133 (32.1%)	223 (53.9%)	32 (7.7%)	414 (100%)
5. The importance of Native culture and history is really exaggerated.	53 (12.5%)	166 (39.2%)	167 (39.5%)	37 (8.7%)	423 (100%)
6. Natives should not be allowed to drink.	35 (8.2%)	86 (20.2%)	270 (63.5%)	34 (8.0%)	425 (100%)
7. All things considered, the best place for Natives is on reservations.	60 (14.3%)	105 (24.9%)	212 (50.4%)	44 (10.5%)	421 (100%)
8. Natives should have more responsibility for providing police services to Natives.	55 (13.0%)	289 (68.2%)	63 (14.9%)	17 (4.0%)	424 (100%)
9. We should have more Natives on the police force.	67 (15.8%)	279 (66.0%)	58 (13.7%)	19 (4.5%)	423 (100%)

N = number of respondents

respondents agreed Natives don't help each other. Half the respondents believed the importance of Native culture and history was exaggerated.

In terms of concrete action, nearly a third of the respondents believed Natives should not be allowed to drink, and nearly four out of ten agreed the best place for Natives is on reservations. There was support for more police officers of Indian ancestry: over 80% of the respondents agreed Natives should have more responsibility for providing police services to Natives, and an equal number felt there should be more persons of Indian ancestry on the police force.

The nine items in Table 21 were used to construct a simple additive scale. The scale was created in such a way that high scores would be associated with positive attitudes towards Natives (eg. that Natives respect the law, are hardworking, don't obstruct the police, etc.) while low scores would be associated with negative attitudes.

The analysis indicates attitudes towards Natives were more positive among respondents who were better educated ($r = .287$, $p < .001$), had higher incomes ($r = .118$, $p < .016$), and worked at jobs with higher occupational status ($r = .177$, $p < .001$). Attitudes were more positive among older respondents ($r = .141$, $p < .003$), however, respondents who had lived in Regina longer expressed more negative attitudes ($r = .167$, $p < .001$). Attitudes were also more negative among respondents who reported they owned a business ($r = .104$, $p < .024$).

Attitudes towards Natives were also associated with crime and police related experiences. Respondents who had been charged by the police had more negative attitudes ($r = .092$, $p < .041$). Those who reported members of their household ($r = .118$, $p < .014$) or neighbors ($r = .107$, $p < .028$) had had contacts with the police for reasons other than a charge or an arrest were generally more positive in their attitudes. Among the victims of crime, those who had received some form of compensation showed more positive attitudes ($r = .298$, $p < .041$) while those who said they knew who victimized them expressed more negative attitudes ($r = .297$, $p < .037$).

Taken together, the findings indicate a diversity of opinion exists respecting persons of Indian ancestry and the law. Some negative views were expressed and it seems some respondents have adopted an extreme view. This is evidenced in the number of respondents who felt persons of Indian ancestry should be confined to reservations and should not be allowed to drink. In contrast, however, there was a substantial amount of support for more fully involving persons of Indian ancestry in policing.

Negative attitudes towards persons of Indian ancestry were most frequently expressed by respondents who were most likely to come into contact with the Native community in a negative context. "Lower-class" respondents, more established residents of Regina, those who owned a business, those who had been in touch with the police because of a problem, and victims who

knew who had victimized them were all more likely to hold negative views. In contrast, those who were least likely to have come into contact with the Native community in a negative context were more positive in their views.

Scores on the scale respecting attitudes towards Natives were associated with scores on a number of other scales. Those who feared crime ($r = .292$, $p < .001$) and those who regarded crime to be a serious problem ($r = .470$, $p < .001$) were more likely to hold negative attitudes. Those who advocated the limiting of police powers ($r = .185$, $p < .001$), those who perceived the police as providing adequate law enforcement services ($r = .151$, $p < .001$), those who were satisfied with the scope of police services ($r = .144$, $p < .009$), and those who felt the police possessed integrity ($r = .113$, $p < .022$) were more likely to have positive attitudes. Thus, attitudes towards the Native community seem to be closely related to perceptions about the threat posed by crime and this, in turn, is bound up with perceptions about the ability of the police to cope with crime.

J. Comments

The last section of the questionnaire invited comments on the general theme of police-community relations. This was an "open-ended" question which permitted respondents to make any comments they wanted. This section discusses these comments.

Of the 438 respondents, 158 (36.1%) made comments. The most frequent comments included:

a. Generally positive remarks concerning the Regina Police Department (44 respondents, 16.3%);

b. Generally positive remarks about the prospects for zone policing (37 respondents, 13.7%);

c. Comments advocating stricter legislation and police enforcement (25 respondents, 9.3%);

d. Comments pointing out that certain police actions are inappropriate and should be controlled (16 respondents, 5.9%); and

e. Comments emphasizing the need for more police (16 respondents, 5.9%).

The comments indicate there is a wide variety of opinions and concerns. On the whole, however, one can detect a generally positive view of the performance of the police, coupled with a feeling that more needs to be done to prevent or control crime. These comments, then, are generally consistent with the findings reported earlier.

Chapter V

PUBLIC AND POLICE ATTITUDES COMPARED

In the introduction to this report, it was indicated a study of job satisfaction and attitudes towards work had been conducted in the Regina Police Department. Several of the items contained in the questionnaire distributed to the police were similar or identical to some of the items contained in the survey instrument for the present study. This fact permits the comparison of police and public responses to determine in what ways the public and the police hold similar or different views respecting crime and law enforcement.

The comparison of public and police responses to similar or identical questions is discussed in three sections: the seriousness of the crime problem; the quality of police-community communications; and attitudes towards persons of Indian ancestry.

A. The Seriousness Of The Crime Problem

Seven questions concerning the seriousness of crime and the measures necessary to cope with crime were asked both the police and the public. Police officers were significantly more likely to agree that most criminals have criminal personalities. Police were also more likely to agree there is too much emphasis on the rights of offenders. In a similar vein, the police were more likely to agree convicted offenders should get longer sentences. Police officers were also more likely

than the public to feel counselling activities interferred with the law enforcement role of the police.

The public were more likely than the police to agree that if it were not for the threat of punishment, crime would be out of control in our society. The public also felt more strongly than the police that it is necessary to treat suspects with authority, lest they think the police are weak. The police and the public shared similar views on whether or not the police should be able to use any method they think necessary to combat crime.

These findings would seem to indicate the police feel more strongly about the extent to which offenders are incorrigible. The police also seem to place greater emphasis on their law enforcement role. The public, on the other hand, seem to have a somewhat more pessimistic view of "human nature" since they feel more strongly that the threat of punishment and the use of authority are needed to cope with crime and offenders. On the question of police powers, a variety of opinions were expressed, however, the public's view did not differ significantly from that of the police.

B. <u>The Quality Of Police-Community Communications</u>

The police and the public were asked four questions about the quality of police-community communications. The public was more likely to agree the police don't receive enough training on how to deal with people than the police were to

agree they hadn't received enough training in this area. In addition, while the police agreed they were treated differently in social situations, the public disagreed they treated the police differently. There were no differences between the responses of either group on the question of public understanding of police operations. The police and the public also agreed the police don't do a very good job informing the public about police roles and objectives.

The findings indicate the public perceives more of a problem in terms of the preparation of the police for public service responsibilities than do the police themselves. In addition, the police tend to exaggerate the extent to which the public views them as "different". There is, however, substantial agreement that the public doesn't understand police work and that the police don't do a very good job of trying to rectify this situation.

C. <u>Attitudes Towards Persons Of Indian Ancestry</u>

Nine identical questions concerning persons of Indian ancestry were asked both the police and the public. With the exception of one question, in every instance the public expressed more positive attitudes than the police. The public was more willing to agree most Natives respect the law and that Natives are basically hardworking. The public was less willing to agree Natives should not be allowed to drink, that the best place for Natives is on reservations, that Natives don't help

each other, and that the importance of Native culture and history are exaggerated. There was a diversity of opinion concerning whether or not Natives go out of their way to make the job of the police more difficult, however, there was no substantial difference between the responses of the police and those of the public.

The public also had more positive views on the question of greater Native involvement in policing. Compared with the police, the public was more likely to agree Natives should have more responsibility for providing police services to Natives and that there should be more Natives on the police force.

The findings indicate the public is generally more positive in its attitudes towards persons of Indian ancestry when compared with the police. As indicated earlier in this report, and also in the report concerning the attitudes of the police, those who hold negative views are more likely to come into contact with the Native community in a negative context. The differences in opinion between the police and the public might well be a function of the fact that the police are more likely to encounter these negative situations. It could also, however, be related to police recruitment practices, police training, or the process of socialization into the police role.

Chapter VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study was undertaken to establish baseline data respecting public attitudes towards crime and the police. The intent is to conduct a similar survey after the implementation of zone policing so that the effects on public attitudes can be monitored. Although this report represents only the first stage of this larger study, nonetheless, it has been possible to describe respondents' experiences and their views on a variety of subjects. In this final chapter these experiences and views are summarized and some implications are examined.

A. Summary Of Findings

It is beyond the scope of this concluding chapter to give a detailed summary of all the findings contained in the body of the report. No attempt will be made to provide an exhaustive account of all the findings. Rather, some findings which deserve special emphasis will be highlighted here. This discussion is organized into three sections which correspond to the chapter titles in the body of the report where the detailed findings are reported.

1. Crime And Contact With The Police In Regina

A survey of 438 residents of Regina, selected at random, revealed that 74 (16.9%) had been victimized by crime in the

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1 OF 2

previous six months. In addition to these 74 respondents, 97 (22.1%) reported a member of their household, a relative, a friend or a neighbor had been victimized in the previous six months. Thus, 39.0% of the respondents had either been victimized themselves or knew someone who had been victimized, while 61.0% of the respondents did not personally know anyone who had been victimized.

The vast majority of offences reported by respondents were property offences and many of these were minor offences such as theft of goods under $200.00 or vandalism. Most respondents reported the crimes were committed in their residence or on their property, and between 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. One in five victims said they personally knew who had victimized them and, in most cases, they identified a neighbor.

Of the 74 victims, one-third did not report the crime to the police. The most common reason given for not reporting was that the crime was too minor to bother with, and the second most common reason was a feeling that the police wouldn't do anything anyway. Among victims who did make a report to the police, 85% had not been kept posted on the progress the police were making on their case. A similar number said they had no idea what happened to the offender. Half the victims who filed a report received compensation for the crime and, in 80% of these cases, compensation was paid by the victim's insurance company.

The analysis indicated the probability of being victimized

by crime varied according to the area of the city in which the respondent lived; marital status; and social status.

Respondents were also asked about the amount and type of police contact they, and others close to them, had experienced in the previous six months. The data revealed contacts for the purposes of a charge or arrest were quite rare, but contacts for other purposes occurred frequently. Common reasons for this type of contact included requesting information or assistance, reporting a situation requiring police intervention, and reporting being a victim of crime. The most common reason for this type of police contact, however, was for a traffic violation.

Police contacts were more frequently reported by respondents who were high in social status; male; living alone; and those who had been victimized by crime in the previous six months.

2. Public Attitudes

Many respondents were afraid they would become victims of crime. Respondents who perceived themselves as being most vulnerable to crime, by virtue of their living situation, were the most afraid. While those who had been victimized in the past expressed greater concern about being victimized again, the areas of the city with highest crime rates were not the areas where respondents expressed the greatest concern.

Many respondents perceived crime to be a serious problem

in Regina. Furthermore, most respondents advocated grave steps to combat crime, including harsher treatment of offenders. In addition, many respondents also pointed out the need for community involvement in preventing crime.

A majority of respondents felt there was a problem in the quality of communication between the police and the public. Respondents felt the police needed better preparation in order to be more effective in dealing with the public. There was also a widespread feeling that the police could do more by way of public information and education. A majority of the respondents expressed a desire to be more fully involved in combating and preventing crime.

A diversity of opinion was expressed on the subject of police powers and, in addition, there was some support for the granting of blanket police authority to use any method to combat crime. Most respondents, however, did not feel the police currently have too much power although information available to the public, concerning procedures for bringing a complaint against the police, was felt to be inadequate.

The vast majority of respondents were satisfied with the level of law enforcement services provided by the Regina Police Department. Moreover, there was a broad consensus that the police were successful in providing a range of police services and not simply law enforcement services. Furthermore, the majority of respondents expressed the view that the Regina Police constitute a competent force.

Some concerns were raised relating to the integrity of the police. Some respondents felt the police gave preferential treatment to certain segments of the community and they questioned whether everyone received equal treatment. A number of respondents felt the police engaged in brutality towards suspects. Many respondents also felt the police cover up their own wrongdoings, and some were concerned about the ability of the police to investigate and correct problems on their own.

Most respondents held negative stereotypes about the Native community and a substantial number were given to extreme solutions such as prohibiting drinking and confining persons of Indian ancestry to reservations. Probably for a variety of reasons, however, there was a substantial amount of support for the suggestion that persons of Indian ancestry be more fully involved in the delivery of police services.

3. Police And Public Attitudes Compared

Some items contained in a questionnaire distributed to members of the Regina Police Department were also included in the survey instrument used in the present study. Therefore, police and public responses to similar or identical questions could be compared.

Concerning opinions about the seriousness of crime, the police seemed to feel more strongly than the public that many criminals were incorrigible. They were also more likely to emphasize the law enforcement role of the police. The public,

on the other hand, seemed to feel more strongly that "authority" and "punishment" were necessary for coping with crime.

Concerning communication between the police and the public, the public feels more strongly than the police that police training on how to deal with people is inadequate. Both agree, however, that the police don't do enough to educate the public and that the public doesn't have a good understanding of what police work entails. Many police officers seemed to feel stigmatized by the public, however, most citizens reported they did not discriminate against the police in social situations.

A substantial proportion of both the police and public samples were made up of individuals with negative stereotypes about the Native community. Among the public, however, attitudes were somewhat more positive while, among the police, attitudes were somewhat more negative. Both groups favored greater involvement of persons of Indian ancestry in the delivery of police services.

B. Some Implications For Zone Policing

The findings of this study have implications for the manner in which zone policing is implemented. Given the experiences of the respondents and the concerns they have expressed, it is possible to conceive of ways in which zone policing could make conditions better or worse. Attention must be paid to these experiences and concerns if the likelihood of a successful implementation is to be maximized.

1. Crime And Concern About It

While there can be no question that crime is a serious problem in Regina, as elsewhere, it must be noted that the volume of crime reported by our respondents is considerably lower than we expected on the basis of reports in the media and on the basis of respondents' expressed concerns about crime. When one considers that nearly two-thirds of the respondents did not personally know a single individual who had been victimized in the previous six months, the widespread expressions of fear and anxiety seem incongruous. This is especially true when it is remembered the majority of offences reported by respondents were minor property offences which, in many cases, were not even reported to the police.

Our findings show the geographic zones in the city with the highest rates of crime were not the zones where respondents reported the greatest fear or where respondents were most inclined to underscore the seriousness of crime. These findings confirm those in a recent survey by Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (1979) wherein it was documented that citizens living in the innercity areas of Regina were more concerned about crime than citizens in twenty-two other Canadian cities. These concerns cannot be accounted for on the basis of the volume of crime in Regina. Therefore, it appears there is no simple, direct relationship between "amount of fear" and "amount of crime". It also suggests the amount of fear can be disproportionate to the probability of being

victimized and that other factors in the environment can serve to heighten or lessen the fear of crime, even while the volume of crime does not change.

It must be acknowledged that heightened fear of crime serves many positive functions. Citizens who are concerned are more likely to take steps to reduce the probability of being victimized. In addition, the police are better able to mobilize support for crime prevention and other programs. Yet fear and concern about the seriousness of crime do lead to changes in both lifestyle and attitudes about crime and criminals. If these changes lose touch with the reality of the crime problem, then the amount of fear and the steps taken to cope with crime may become inappropriate.

The reorganization of the Regina Police Department to implement a system of zone policing may have the anticipated consequence of raising even further the public's concern about the crime problem. If the "visibility" of the police is one factor which contributes to public concern, then zone policing may well have this impact. Thus, it is necessary to ask how much fear and concern about crime is productive and how zone policing will affect the level of public concern. A careful consideration of the factors which influence public opinion about crime and careful planning to ensure that public concern is channelled in useful directions is essential.

2. The Potential Of Zone Policing To Facilitate Innovative Criminal Justice Programming

Most of the crimes reported by the citizens who participated in the study were property offences and many were of a minor variety. In some 20% of the cases the victim actually knew the offender on a personal basis. Taken together, this would seem to suggest the potential of innovative restitution programs that would divert selected offenders from the formal criminal justice system.

Restitution and victim compensation programs seem all the more important when it is remembered that only half the victims in our sample received any form of compensation. Only two victims reported they were compensated by the person who victimized them. The fact that there is some overlap between those who are victimized and those who victimize others also suggests that restitution programs may have widespread applicability. It should also be remembered that the compensation of victims is a concrete way in which to reduce the fear of crime.

The reorganization of the Regina Police Department to implement a system of zone policing will create a unique opportunity to develop innovative restitution and victim compensation programs. Such programs can only come to fruition with the full cooperation of criminal justice agencies in both the private and public sectors. Discussions should begin now to determine how the opportunities presented by zone policing

can best be taken advantage of.

Innovative programs of the kind suggested above, in addition to aiding victims of crime in a substantial way, could also have other impacts. In particular, victims would be better informed about the progress made on their cases and they would know what happened to the person or persons who victimized them. This improvement in the feeding back of information to the public would likely have a positive effect on public attitudes towards criminal justice agencies, including the police.

3. The Need For Improved Communication

At several points in the discussion of the results we have had occasion to point out the public's desire for better communication with its Police Force. Sometimes concerns have surfaced as criticisms of the police, while other times they have been manifested in the public's desire to be more fully informed and involved. While the degree of concern and the desire for greater participation varied somewhat from respondent to respondent and from one area of the city to another, the need for better communication appeared to be one of the few areas where most citizens felt significant improvement could occur.

Opinions about the quality of police-community communications were not unrelated to other opinions about the police. On the contrary, those who perceived a communication problem were likely to be generally critical of the police, while those who perceived the quality of police-community communications to

be quite good were generally positive in their opinions about the police. But opinions about the quality of communication were also related to fear of crime and views about the seriousness of crime.

It is beyond the scope of this report to discuss all the ways in which communication could be improved. Certainly, one of the objectives of zone policing is to effect just such an improvement in police-community relations. But other mechanisms for providing information and fostering public participation should also be explored. These need not be inconsistent with the zone policing strategy and, in fact, a number of programs, such as local police-liason committees and the use of the media, might actually compliment and strengthen zone policing. The problem of communication appears to be so central to sustaining positive opinions about criminal justice agencies that careful consideration of these and related issues should receive high priority.

Quite a few respondents expressed concerns about the ability of the police to provide equal treatment for all citizens. Some felt the police were inclined to cover up their own wrongdoings and were not in the best position to investigate and correct their own problems. These views were closely related to opinions about the quality of communication. When communication was viewed in a positive light, respondents were more likely to see the police as possessing integrity. These findings suggest that improved communication, while an

important goal in and of itself, might also have the effect of improving the police image and reducing public concern about crime.

4. Crime Prevention

Crime in Regina is not a random phenomenon. Its occurrence is associated with certain geographic areas and certain times of the day. Not every citizen is equally vulnerable. Some, by virtue of their living situation, are more likely to be victimized. Moreover, some citizens are better able to cope with the consequences of crime if they are victimized while, for others, the effects of crime are traumatic.

A recognition of these facts has obvious implications for the deployment of police manpower. Perhaps more importantly, however, the facts suggest which segments of the community are most in need of information, education and involvement. This, in turn, can suggest ways in which the police and the public can collaborate, through community-based crime prevention strategies, to reduce crimes.

5. The Involvement Of Persons Of Indian Ancestry In The Criminal Justice System

A report produced for the Directors General of federal government departments in Saskatchewan suggested this province could experience an increase in racial tensions over the next twenty-five years (Svenson, 1979). A recent survey, conducted

by the Canadian Institute Of Public Opinion, concluded that a majority of Canadians feel there will be an increase in racial problems over the next five years (Regina Leader-Post, 1979A). The findings presented in this report must be viewed in the larger context provided by these other studies.

While there appears to be a great diversity of opinion, many respondents clearly hold negative stereotypes about the Native community. Some felt Natives were largely responsible for the crime problem and should be dealt with in a punitive fashion. The closer respondents were to the crime problem, the more likely they were to express negative opinions. Racial strife is a complex problem requiring multi-faceted solutions. Yet, as recent experiences in Toronto indicate, the role of the police is especially important. For this reason, measures to ensure the rights and interests of minority groups are protected ought to be given high priority by the police. Such measures might include a more visible mechanism for bringing complaints against the police, the establishment of special liason committees, and the hiring of more persons of Indian ancestry as police officers.

In light of some of the negative comments expressed by the respondents, it was somewhat surprising that most advocated a greater Native involvement in policing. The majority of respondents not only supported the idea of Natives being more involved in policing the Native community, but they also felt more Natives should be hired to serve in the Regina Police

Department. These findings suggest a program, specifically designed to attract persons of Indian ancestry into policing, would have the support of the public. While such a program might lead to alterations in some of the traditional requirements for police work, any disadvantages from these changes would be more than offset by greater Native involvement in policing.

The sample for this study, as pointed out earlier, vastly underrepresented persons of Indian ancestry. For this reason, we have not been able to report the opinions of this important segment of the community. One suspects their perspective on crime and the police would be different in important respects from the perspective of the respondents who were included in this study. This is a major deficiency of the study. Careful consideration should be given to supplementing the present findings with a further investigation, targeted specifically at persons of Indian ancestry.

C. Concluding Comments

A recent survey, conducted by the Canadian Institute Of Public Opinion (Regina Leader-Post, 1979B), suggests the number of persons approving of the way the police conduct their duties has declined in the West over the last years. It is clear from the findings presented in this report, however, that the vast majority of Regina citizens have positive opinions about the Regina Police Department. While specific concerns

were voiced, and while there was some consensus that communication could be improved, the weight of the evidence suggests the police command the respect and admiration of the public. Unfortunately, no comparative data is available and, therefore, it is not known whether respect for the police is higher in Regina than respect for the police in other cities. Until a further survey is conducted, after the implementation of zone policing, it is also impossible to assess whether opinions are getting more positive or more negative over time.

Since widespread public support for the police already exists in the community, the implementation of zone policing can proceed from this basis. Zone policing should be seen as a way of building on this support and expanding its base in the community. For this to occur, however, special attention will need to be focused on developing mechanisms to ensure police-community collaboration. Such collaboration is not only the foundation upon which strategies for coping with crime must be built but, more importantly, it is a key to improving the quality of life in the community.

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APPENDICES

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE

A. HUGET
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 196
REGINA, SASK.
S4P 2Z8

YOUR FILE_____

OUR FILE_____

TELEPHONE 569-3333
AREA CODE 306

This summer the Regina Police Department is conducting a study of police-community relations. We are interested in knowing:

(1) How often citizens come into contact with the police;
(2) The reasons for the contact;
(3) Citizens' views about the quality of police services.

To assist us in this project, we have at random selected a number of Regina residents, such as yourself, whom we hope will participate by providing the information necessary to complete the study.

As you are no doubt aware, the crime problem in Regina is frequently discussed and citizens often express opinions in this regard. Your participation in the study will require the completion of a questionnaire which can be completed in about 20 minutes, at your convenience. The questionnaire will be delivered to your home and picked up by a member of the Research staff.

We would very much appreciate your participation and wish to assure you that any information provided on the questionnaire is strictly confidential and available only to the Research staff. In this regard we ask that you NOT sign your name to the questionnaire.

Within the next few days, and as a follow-up to this letter, a member of the Research team will be in contact with you. In the meantime, however, if you have any questions, please feel free to call the Special Projects Office at 569-3333, extension 244 or 246. We would ask that you also contact this office should there be any error in your name or address.

We look forward to your participation in this important study and thank you for your cooperation.

Yours truly,

A Huget

Chief of Police

RESIDENTIAL SURVEY

INSTRUCTIONS

In the last few days you received a letter from the Chief of Police advising you that your name had been selected to participate in a study of police-community relations. Attached is the questionnaire. It will take approximately twenty minutes to complete. While the study is completely voluntary, we certainly hope you will agree to participate.

Because we are not able to talk with every citizen, it is very important that we get a complete picture of your experiences and opinions. Therefore, please follow the instructions carefully and answer every question that applies to you.

Your answers are COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL. No police personnel will have access to the questionnaires. The questionnaires will be seen only by the research team and, following the study, all the questionnaires will be destroyed. Please DO NOT write your name on the questionnaire.

Thank you for your co-operation. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our Special Projects Office at 569-3333, extension 244 or 246. Our research staff will make arrangements to pick up your completed questionnaire in a couple of days.

I. TO BEGIN WITH, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT CRIME AND POLICING IN REGINA.

FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU STRONGLY AGREE, AGREE, DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE. (CHECK ONLY ONE)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Most criminals have criminal personalities.	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. People who know the ropes and have money to afford good lawyers don't really have anything to worry about from the police.	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Procedures for bringing a complaint against the police are widely known.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. If a person has a criminal record the police never leave them alone.	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Police in this neighbourhood are willing to help with problems other than solving crime.	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. I usually feel reasonably safe walking alone in my neighbourhood during the day.	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. Police should be able to search private property whenever they feel the need to.	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. Police are respectful to people like myself.	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
9. When a person is being disrespectful or abusive to the police, that person deserves to be knocked around.	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. Being a police officer has a bad effect on a person.	☐	☐	☐	☐
11. Police beat up people they don't like.	☐	☐	☐	☐
12. The police spend too much time on duties not directly concerned with law enforcement.	☐	☐	☐	☐
13. The police should be able to use any method they think necessary to combat crime.	☐	☐	☐	☐
14. Convicted offenders should get longer sentences.	☐	☐	☐	☐
15. Where I live the police don't get to know us or our problems.	☐	☐	☐	☐
16. Crime in Regina is more serious than newspapers, radio and television let on.	☐	☐	☐	☐
17. Capital punishment should be brought back.	☐	☐	☐	☐
18. Police should have the right to strike.	☐	☐	☐	☐
19. A person can walk alone anywhere in Regina without fear of crime.	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
20. If the police do not treat suspects with authority, people will start thinking the police are weak.	☐	☐	☐	☐
21. The public should take more responsibility for crime control programs in their neighborhoods.	☐	☐	☐	☐
22. I worry a lot about becoming a victim of crime.	☐	☐	☐	☐
23. Police are more interested in making arrests than in seeing that justice is done.	☐	☐	☐	☐
24. The police spend too much time catching criminals and not enough time preventing crime.	☐	☐	☐	☐
25. The police cover up their own wrongdoings.	☐	☐	☐	☐
26. The public should be allowed to possess any weapon they feel necessary for their own protection.	☐	☐	☐	☐
27. If someone I knew was interested in becoming a police officer, I would strongly recommend it.	☐	☐	☐	☐
28. If it were not for the threat of punishment, crime would be out of control in our society.	☐	☐	☐	☐
29. I would be safer if police walked around in my neighborhood.	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
30. Police are concerned about your problems when they come to your home.	☐	☐	☐	☐
31. Police give adequate protection to me and those I care about.	☐	☐	☐	☐
32. Seat-belt legislation is worthwhile.	☐	☐	☐	☐
33. When the police do something wrong they do a good job investigating it and correcting the problem themselves.	☐	☐	☐	☐
34. My neighborhood is dangerous enough that I would like to move somewhere else.	☐	☐	☐	☐
35. Police can count on co-operation from the social agencies.	☐	☐	☐	☐
36. The R.C.M.P. do a better job than the Regina City Police.	☐	☐	☐	☐
37. The police spend too much time on traffic and traffic enforcement.	☐	☐	☐	☐
38. There is too much emphasis on the rights of offenders.	☐	☐	☐	☐
39. Police use unfair methods to get information.	☐	☐	☐	☐
40. With all the counselling police officers do, there is hardly any time left over for law enforcement.	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
41. Police spend too much time riding around in their cars.	☐	☐	☐	☐
42. We should throw out all the present police and hire new ones.	☐	☐	☐	☐
43. The police are too lenient with juvenile offenders.	☐	☐	☐	☐
44. Police seldom engage in brutality towards suspects.	☐	☐	☐	☐
45. I have limited or changed my activities in the past year because of fear of crime.	☐	☐	☐	☐
46. I usually feel reasonably safe walking alone in my neighborhood at night.	☐	☐	☐	☐
47. Generally speaking, all people are treated the same by the police.	☐	☐	☐	☐
48. The public doesn't understand what police work is all about.	☐	☐	☐	☐
49. Police tend to ignore you and your problems when you call them.	☐	☐	☐	☐
50. Police receive enough training on how to deal with people.	☐	☐	☐	☐
51. The police have too much authority and should have their powers strictly controlled.	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
52. Police drive too fast when responding to calls.	☐	☐	☐	☐
53. We need more police officers in this neighborhood.	☐	☐	☐	☐
54. In social situations, once I learn someone is a police officer I tend to treat them differently.	☐	☐	☐	☐
55. Police should have the right to frisk or search you if they stop you.	☐	☐	☐	☐
56. Police always respond promptly when called.	☐	☐	☐	☐
57. Regular meetings between the police and the people in my neighborhood would be a good thing.	☐	☐	☐	☐
58. Police are as concerned with crimes against the ordinary citizen as with those against businesses.	☐	☐	☐	☐
59. The police don't do a very good job of informing the public about police roles and objectives.	☐	☐	☐	☐
60. It is not the fault of the police that courts sometimes fail to convict offenders.	☐	☐	☐	☐
61. Police should have the right to stop you anywhere and ask you to identify yourself by giving your name and address.	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
62. The police do not spend enough time educating the public on how to reduce crime.	☐	☐	☐	☐
63. I know, or would like to get to know, police officers on a first-name basis.	☐	☐	☐	☐

II. AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS A LOT OF INTEREST IN NATIVES AND THE LAW. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE EXAMPLES OF OPINIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED ON THIS MATTER IN THE PAST.

FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU STRONGLY AGREE, AGREE, DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE. (CHECK ONLY ONE)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
64. Most Natives respect the law.	☐	☐	☐	☐
65. Natives should have more responsibility for providing police services to Natives.	☐	☐	☐	☐
66. Natives should not be allowed to drink.	☐	☐	☐	☐
67. Natives are basically hardworking.	☐	☐	☐	☐
68. Most Natives go out of their way to make the job of the police more difficult.	☐	☐	☐	☐
69. All things considered, the best place for Natives is on reservations.	☐	☐	☐	☐
70. We should have more Natives on the police force.	☐	☐	☐	☐
71. Natives don't help each other.	☐	☐	☐	☐
72. The importance of Native culture and history is really exaggerated.	☐	☐	☐	☐
73. Natives tend to get harder treatment from the police.	☐	☐	☐	☐

III. NOW, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT VICTIMS OF CRIME.

74. To your knowledge, have any of the following persons been a victim of crime in the last six months? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	1 No	2 Yes		
Member(s) of your household	☐	☐	→	About how many times? ☐☐
Relative(s) not living with you	☐	☐	→	About how many times? ☐☐
Friend(s)	☐	☐	→	About how many times? ☐☐
Neighbor(s)	☐	☐	→	About how many times? ☐☐

75. Have you been a victim of crime in the last six months?

1 ☐ No

2 ☐ Yes → About how many times ☐☐

' IF YOU ANSWERED NO, SKIP '
' TO THE TOP OF PAGE 122. '
' IF YOU ANSWERED YES, '
' CONTINUE WITH THE '
' QUESTIONS BELOW. '

76. Thinking now of the most recent time you were victimized, check the items that best describe the kind of crime involved. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

01 ☐ Breaking and entering
02 ☐ Vandalism
03 ☐ Auto Theft
04 ☐ Theft of goods over $200.00
05 ☐ Theft of goods under $200.00
06 ☐ Assault

07 ☐ Rape or attempted rape
08 ☐ Murder or attempted murder
09 ☐ Arson
10 ☐ Indecent acts
11 ☐ Hit and run
12 ☐ Threats
13 ☐ Fraud and/or forgery
14 ☐ Other - Specify _____

_____

77. To your knowledge, was the offender under the influence of: (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

1 ☐ Alcohol
2 ☐ Drugs
3 ☐ Don't Know

78. Where did the crime take place? (CHECK ONLY ONE)

1 ☐ In my home or on my property
2 ☐ In the home or on the property of a friend, relative or neighbour
3 ☐ In a public place (for example, on the street or in a hotel)
4 ☐ Other - Specify _____

79. To the best of your knowledge, what hour of the day did this crime take place?

_____

80. To the best of your knowledge, was the person who victimized you: (CHECK ONLY ONE)

1 ☐ A family member(s)
2 ☐ A friend(s)
3 ☐ A neighbour(s)
4 ☐ An acquaintance(s)
5 ☐ A complete stranger(s)
6 ☐ Other - Please describe _____
_____
7 ☐ Don't Know

81. Did you report this crime to the police?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

IF YOU ANSWERED YES, SKIP TO THE TOP OF PAGE 120. IF YOU ANSWERED NO, CONTINUE WITH QUESTION 82 AT THE TOP OF PAGE 119.

82. What was the main reason you didn't call the police? (CHECK ONLY ONE)

1 ☐ The police wouldn't do anything anyway
2 ☐ I couldn't be bothered since it was a minor offence
3 ☐ I did not want the offender to be harmed or punished
4 ☐ I was afraid harm would come to me if I reported it
5 ☐ I didn't want to get involved with the police and the courts
6 ☐ By the time I had calmed down, I thought it was too late to report it
7 ☐ I didn't want the crime to be publicly known
8 ☐ Other - Please describe _____
_____

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH THE QUESTIONS AT THE TOP OF PAGE 122.

83. What immediate action did the police take after you reported the crime? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 01 ☐ Provided information
- 02 ☐ Provided assistance
- 03 ☐ Corrected dangerous situation
- 04 ☐ Arrest made
- 05 ☐ Warning given
- 06 ☐ Ticket issued
- 07 ☐ Referred to another agency
- 08 ☐ No response to call
- 09 ☐ No action needed or taken
- 10 ☐ Other- Specify _____

_____

84. Since reporting the crime, have you been kept informed of police progress?

- 1 ☐ No
- 2 ☐ Yes

85. Have you received any compensation for the crime?

- 1 ☐ No
- 2 ☐ Yes →
  - 3 ☐ Own Insurance
  - 4 ☐ Offender paid for damages
  - 5 ☐ Government
  - 6 ☐ Other - Specify _____

_____

86. Do you know what has happened to the offender?

- 1 ☐ No
- 2 ☐ Yes →
  - 3 ☐ Has not been charged
  - 4 ☐ Trial pending
  - 5 ☐ Tried but not convicted
  - 6 ☐ Tried and convicted
  - 7 ☐ Other - Specify _____

_____

CONTINUE
TOP OF PAGE 122.

IV. NEXT, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT EXPERIENCES PEOPLE YOU KNOW MAY HAVE HAD WITH THE REGINA CITY POLICE, AS WELL AS ANY EXPERIENCES YOU MAY PERSONALLY HAVE HAD. PLEASE ANSWER EVERY QUESTION AS BEST YOU CAN.

87. To your knowledge, have any of the following persons been charged with an offence by the Regina City Police in the last six months? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	1 No	2 Yes	
Member(s) of your household	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Relative(s) not living with you	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Friend(s)	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Neighbour(s)	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐

88. To your knowledge, have any of the following persons been arrested by the Regina City Police in the last six months? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	1 No	2 Yes	
Member(s) of your household	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Relative(s) not living with you	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Friend(s)	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Neighbour(s)	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐

89. To your knowledge, have any of the following persons had official contact with the Regina City Police in the last six months for any reason other than a charge or an arrest? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	1 No	2 Yes	
Member(s) of your household	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Relative(s) not living with you	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Friend(s)	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐
Neighbour(s)	☐	☐	→ About how many times? ☐☐

90. Have you been charged with any offence by the Regina City Police in the last six months?

1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes → About how many times? ☐☐

91. Have you been arrested by the Regina City Police in the last six months?

1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes → About how many times? ☐☐

92. Have you had any official contact with the Regina City Police in the last six months for any reason other than a charge or an arrest?

1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes → About how many times? ☐☐

IF YOU ANSWERED NO, SKIP TO THE TOP OF PAGE 125. IF YOU ANSWERED YES, CONTINUE WITH THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

93. Check the item that best describes the reason for your most recent official contact reasons other than a charge or an arrest. (CHECK ONLY ONE ITEM)

01 ☐ Request for information
02 ☐ Request for help or assistance
03 ☐ Reported dangerous, suspicious or annoying situation

04 ☐ Reported being victim of a crime

05 ☐ As a witness to a crime

06 ☐ As a suspect in a crime

07 ☐ In an impaired driver check

08 ☐ For a traffic violation

09 ☐ In a traffic accident

10 ☐ Other - Specify _____

_____

94. Thinking now of your most recent official contact with the Regina City Police, for reasons other than a charge or an arrest, please check the items that best describe the action taken by the police. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

1 ☐ Issued a traffic warning

2 ☐ Issued a traffic ticket

3 ☐ Referred problem to another agency

4 ☐ Filled out a report

5 ☐ Made an arrest

6 ☐ Corrected a dangerous, suspicious or annoying situation

7 ☐ Provided information

8 ☐ Did not take any action

9 ☐ Other - Please Describe _____

_____

_____

PLEASE CONTINUE
WITH THE QUESTIONS
AT THE TOP OF PAGE 125.

V. NOW THAT WE KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR OPINIONS OF THE POLICE, YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH CRIME AND YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE POLICE, TO FINISH OFF WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR OWN BACKGROUND.

95. What type of residence do you live in? (CHECK ONLY ONE)

1 ☐ Single Family house

2 ☐ Duplex, Condominium, etc.

3 ☐ Apartment

4 ☐ Mobile Home

5 ☐ Hotel, YMCA, YWCA, etc.

96. How long have you lived in this neighbourhood? (If less than six months, check here ☐).

☐☐ Years

97. How long have you lived in Regina?

☐☐ Years

98. Where did you live just before coming to Regina? (For example: Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan or Thompson, Manitoba). (If you have always lived in Regina, check here ☐).

_____

99. Are you presently employed?

1 ☐ Yes

2 ☐ No → 3 ☐ Looking for work

4 ☐ Housewife

5 ☐ Retired

6 ☐ Student

7 ☐ Other - Specify _____

_____

100. What kind of work do you do, or did you do in the past? Please be as specific as possible. (For example: sales clerk for Simpsons-Sears, or carpenter for Crown Construction Co., etc.).

_____

_____

101. Do you own a business?

1 ☐ Yes

2 ☐ No

102. Are you:

1 ☐ Male

2 ☐ Female

103. Are you:

1 ☐ Single

2 ☐ Married

3 ☐ Common-law

4 ☐ Widowed

5 ☐ Separated

6 ☐ Divorced

104. Do you live alone?

1 ☐ Yes

2 ☐ No → 3 ☐ With immediate family (spouse, children and/or parents)

4 ☐ With other relative(s)

5 ☐ With friend(s)

6 ☐ Other - Specify _____

_____

105. What was the approximate total income (before taxes) of all members of this household last year, including income from wages, pensions, insurance, etc.? (CHECK ONE)

01 ☐ Less than $5000

02 ☐ $ 5,000 to $ 9,999

03 ☐ $10,000 to $14,999

04 ☐ $15,000 to $19,999

05 ☐ $20,000 to $24,999

06 ☐ $25,000 to $29,999

07 ☐ $30,000 to $34,999

08 ☐ $35,000 to $39,999

09 ☐ $40,000 to $44,999

10 ☐ $45,000 to $49,999

11 ☐ $50,000 or greater

106. What year were you born?

☐☐☐☐

107. What is your racial or ethnic origin? (CHECK ONLY ONE)

01 ☐ English

02 ☐ French

03 ☐ German

04 ☐ Hungarian

05 ☐ Registered Indian

06 ☐ Non-Status Indian or Metis

07 ☐ Italian

08 ☐ Scottish

09 ☐ Ukranian

10 ☐ Other - Specify _____

108. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (CHECK ONLY ONE)

1 ☐ Grade 8 or less

2 ☐ Some high school

3 ☐ Completed high school

4 ☐ Some technical, trade or professional school

5 ☐ Completed technical, trade or professional school

6 ☐ Some university or college

7 ☐ Completed university or college

8 ☐ Post graduate training

109. The Regina City Police are going to implement a program where the police are regularly assigned to local neighbourhoods so that they can get to know the people in their area and understand their problems. What effect do you think a program of this type would have in your neighbourhood? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

01 ☐ Improve communication between the police and the public

02 ☐ Better police-community relations

03 ☐ Improve police services

04 ☐ Community participation in police policy-making decisions

05 ☐ Crime will be reduced

06 ☐ Police officers will develop a sense of personal responsibility for the people they serve

07 ☐ Police will only have more opportunities to harass certain individuals or groups they don't like

08 ☐ Police will be more likely to take bribes

09 ☐ Don't know

10 ☐ Other - Specify _____

_____

_____

WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US. YOU MAY USE THE BACK OF THE SHEET IF NECESSARY.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN HELPING US TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE CITIZENS OF REGINA FEEL ABOUT CRIME AND ABOUT THEIR POLICE. PLEASE PLACE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED, SEAL IT, AND GIVE IT TO THE RESEARCH STAFF MEMBER WHEN HE/SHE RETURNS.

APPENDIX C

Scale Construction*

	Scale	Constructed From
1.	Fear of Crime	V6+V19+V22(-)+V29(-)+V34(-)+V45(-)+V46+V53(-)
2.	Seriousness of Crime	V1(-)+V14(-)+V16(-)+V17(-)+V20(-)+V21(-)+V26(-)+V27(-)+V28(-)+V38(-)+V43(-)
3.	Communication with the Public	V50+V57(-)+V59(-)+V62(-)+V63(-)
4.	Police Powers	V3+V7+V9+V13+V18+V51(-)+V55+V61
5.	Adequacy of Law Enforcement	V12(-)+V37(-)+V40(-)+V41(-)+V49(-)
6.	Scope of Police Services	V5(-)+V8(-)+V15+V30(-)+V31(-)+V35(-)+V36+V56(-)
7.	Police Competence	V4+V24+V42+V48(-)+V52+V54+V60(-)
8.	Integrity of the Police	V2(-)+V10(-)+V11(-)+V23(-)+V25(-)+V33+V39(-)+V44+V47+V58
9.	Attitudes Towards Natives	V64(-)+V65(-)+V66+V67(-)+V68+V69+V70(-)+V71+V72

* Variable numbers correspond to questionnaire item numbers (see Appendix B). Unless indicated by "(-)", variables have been scored in a positive direction.

END