

Criminal Victimization Experiences, Fear of Crime, Perceptions of Risk,
and Opinion of Criminal Justice Agents among a Sample of Kentucky Residents

Kentucky Justice Cabinet

Office of the Secretary

Final Report (DRAFT)

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May 2004

SUMMARY

In this study, we used telephone interviews with a sample of Kentucky residents to collect data relating to four major outcome variables of interest. These variables included: (1) fear of criminal victimization; (2) perceived risk of criminal victimization; (3) opinions of criminal justice agents; and (4) self-reported victimization experiences for various offenses organized by property crime, violent crime, and sexual crime categories.

In an effort to make the sample as representative of the state as possible, we used quotas according to race, gender, and geographic location (rural, suburban, and urban). Despite the fact that the survey response rate was 26.15 percent (N=1,991), comparisons of the demographic profile of respondents with the state profile revealed many similarities. Nevertheless, the sample was not perfectly representative for education and income (the sample contained greater proportions of persons with higher educations and incomes) and age (the sample also contained a lower proportion of persons aged 18-24 years as well as a lower proportion of those 66 years and over). Although we feel we made every effort to make the sample representative of the state, we believe caution is still warranted in generalizing the findings of this study to the state as a whole. The findings can be generalized to the state population only to the extent that survey respondents display characteristics similar to those of the population.

In general, the majority of respondents were either somewhat or very satisfied with the various criminal justice agencies included in the survey, and overall, expressed greater satisfaction with the police than with other agencies. Over half of the respondents thought that crime levels in their communities had not changed over the past year, but nearly one in four indicated that there was an area within one mile of their homes where they would be afraid to walk alone at night. More respondents were fearful of property crime than violent crime

although relatively few respondents (under 20 percent) indicated that fear of crime had kept them from doing things they wanted to do. The activities the respondents most commonly avoided due to fear of victimization included walking/running/riding a bike at night and going places alone. On the other hand, a majority of respondents said they had engaged in defensive activities to guard against victimization. The most common of these were installing outside security lights and door bolts. Over one in four respondents had obtained firearms during the past year due to fear of crime. Most respondents did not rate their perceived risk of criminal victimization as being high. In general, the highest levels of perceived risk were associated with the crimes of theft and burglary, but even for those crimes, the average risk ratings were under 4 on a 10-point risk scale.

For every crime type included on the survey, the vast majority of respondents said they had not been victimized during the past year. Respondents were far more likely to have been victimized by property crime than violent crime in the past 12 months. The most commonly reported types of victimization included vandalism, breaking and entering (or an attempt at such), and theft. When respondents were asked about their lifetime victimization experiences with sexual assault, over 13 percent (including over 18 percent of female respondents) indicated that someone had forced or attempted to force them into some kind of unwanted sexual activity. Furthermore, over 11 percent (including almost 22 percent of female respondents) indicated that someone had forced or attempted to force them to have sex. For every type of crime included in the survey, some persons had been victimized multiple times.

For each crime type, a substantial minority (and, in some instances, a majority) of those who had been victimized did not report all their victimizations to the police. Crimes most commonly reported included attacks with a weapon, motor vehicle theft, robbery, burglary, and

vandalism. For other crimes, less than half of those who had been victimized reported their victimizations to the police. The most common reasons for not reporting victimizations to the police included beliefs that the police should not be bothered with minor victimizations and beliefs that the police either would not, or could not, do anything to help.

In the case of simple and aggravated assaults, persons who reported having been victimized most often said that the offender was a stranger. However, for the other crimes, the offender was more likely to be a family member, someone well known to the victim, and/or a casual acquaintance.

The design of this study also allowed a number of demographic comparisons. Compared to men, women were more fearful of crime, more likely to perceived themselves at risk of victimization, more likely to believe crime had increased in the last year, and more likely to be victims of sex crimes. Compared to non-whites, whites expressed more positive attitudes toward criminal justice agencies, as did respondents from urban or suburban areas. Respondents from rural areas were more likely to believe that crime had increased over the past year. When compared with non-graduates, college graduates expressed less fear of crime, were less likely to see themselves at risk of victimization, displayed higher opinions of criminal justice agents, and were less likely to be victimized by sex crimes across their lifetimes. In comparison to unmarried respondents, those who were married were less fearful of walking alone at night and less likely to be victimized by all crimes, except for lifetime sexual victimization. People with lower incomes (i.e., below \$40,000 annually) were more fearful of crime, displayed higher perceptions of risk, evidenced lower perceptions of criminal justice, were more likely to think crime had increased, and were more likely to be the victims of both violent and sex crimes. Compared to non-victims, respondents who had been victimized by crime were more fearful of

crime, saw themselves at higher risk of victimization, and had lower perceptions of criminal justice agents. Victims of a particular crime category were more likely to be victims of other categories as well. Respondents who reported liberal political ideologies expressed greater fear of crime and lower perceptions of criminal justice, compared to those having more conservative ideologies. Finally, this study yielded some counterintuitive findings with regard to age. Consistent with what one would expect based on prior research, younger respondents were less likely to think crime had increased and were more likely to be victims of property, violent, and sex crimes. However, persons aged 36-50 were more fearful of crime than those over 50, perceived themselves as being at greater risk than those 18-35, and were more likely to have experienced sexual victimization in their lifetimes.

INTRODUCTION

Since the 1970s, a substantial body of literature has developed in the United States and other nations on the subject of criminal victimization. Broadly construed, this literature includes surveys of self-reported incidents of victimization for various crime categories as well as surveys of fear of crime, perceptions of victimization risk, and perceptions of criminal justice agents among the public. With national research suggesting that only about one-third of all crime is reported to the police via official arrest and crime data, such surveys have become an important component of the information used by criminal justice agencies and lawmakers in developing policy and determining funding priorities. The present research incorporates these topics into a survey of a sample of Kentucky residents.

In 1999, the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council collaborated with a regional university to conduct a baseline statewide victimization mail survey. The survey consisted of questions in three areas: (1) attitudes regarding the criminal justice system, (2) fear of crime, and (3) victimization within the past year. Self-administered surveys were sent to a random sample of 18,000 Kentucky residents, and approximately 4000 surveys were returned. Following the issuance of a final report by the primary university researcher in December 1999, Council staff conducted additional analyses of the data that compared results to national findings and highlighted policy implications.

In 2003, the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council, in collaboration with the State Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and the Public University Research Consortium (PURC), submitted a research announcement for academic researchers in the PURC network to assist in telephone survey development and data collection for another statewide crime victimization study. On June 17, 2003, the Center for Criminal Justice Education and Research (CCJER) located within

the College of Justice and Safety at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) submitted a proposal and was shortly thereafter awarded the contract.

The initial research announcement stated that once all telephone interviews were completed, the database would be forwarded to the SAC for data analysis and report preparation. When the SAC Research Coordinator position was vacated during the data collection phase, the contract with EKU was amended to allow the CCJER to analyze the data and submit a written report.

SUMMARY OF PRIOR LITERATURE

Fear of Crime and Victimization in the United States

Even though the crime rate has declined dramatically since 1992 as measured by both police (Federal Bureau of Investigation 1993; Federal Bureau of Investigation 2003) and victimization data (United States Department of Justice 2003), many citizens remain wary, perhaps fearful, of violent crime. In the United States, many people argue that crime, and fear associated with crime, represent two of society's greatest problems.

From its inception, the General Social Survey (GSS), a national survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center, has asked respondents the following question: "Is there any area right around here--that is, within a mile--where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?" In 2002, 32 percent of respondents answered yes, a smaller percentage responding affirmatively than in any year since 1972 (Maguire and Pastore 2003: 132-133). Nevertheless, one in three Americans still remain fearful of walking alone in their neighborhood at night, despite dramatic reductions in violent crime.

This concern about crime often has a striking effect in the lives of people. In fact, some scholars argue that fear of crime is a more severe problem than crime itself (Clemente and Kleiman 1976). Fearful individuals may not travel at night, may avoid certain areas that they consider "dangerous," and may engage in myriad other avoidance behaviors and adaptive strategies. Further, they may develop anger, hostility, and stereotypes toward the perceived source of their fears.

Until very recently, fear of crime was most often measured with a single item indicator. Ferraro and LaGrange (1987) determined that more than 40 percent of the studies they reviewed used a single item indicator of fear of crime. They argued, however, that fear of crime cannot be accurately measured in this manner. One measure commonly used in fear of crime research is the GSS question listed above. Ferraro (1995) and Ferraro and LaGrange (1987) suggest that there are at least two problems with this measure: (1) the question is a single-item indicator and the reliability of the indicator is unknown; (2) the question does not specify "fear of what," which may cause the question to measure something other than fear of crime.

Due to the aforementioned criticism levied at research that used single item indicators to measure fear of crime, other fear of crime researchers have incorporated questions asking about specific crimes to measure fear. These questions often ask respondents how "afraid" they are of situations such as "having someone break into your home while you are away," "being raped or sexually assaulted," and "being murdered" (LaGrange et al., 1992: 330) and often combine these measures into fear of criminal victimization indexes. In the vast majority of studies using these strategies, the fear of criminal victimization indices had reliability coefficients of .70 or above, indicating that they were reliable measures of fear (May 2001).

Criticisms notwithstanding, then, the most well accepted measurement of fear of crime appears to be multi-item indices assessing respondent fears of specific crimes, using words such as "fear" and "afraid."

In general, researchers using the aforementioned measurement techniques determine that: (1) females are more fearful of criminal victimization than males; (2) Blacks are more fearful of criminal victimization than Whites; (3) individuals with lower levels of education and income have higher levels of fear of criminal victimization than their counterparts with higher levels of education and income; (4) individuals who have been victimized by crime are more fearful of criminal victimization than those who have not; and (5) as age increases, fear of criminal victimization typically increases (see May, 2001 for review).

Perceived Risk versus Fear of Crime

Another recent critique of research in the area of fear of crime concerns inattention to the distinction between an individual's fear of criminal victimization and that same individual's perceived risk of victimization. Investigation into the distinction between perceived risk and fear of criminal victimization resulted from the persistent finding that women and the elderly are more fearful of criminal victimization than their younger and male counterparts, despite the fact that the elderly and women are much less likely to be victimized by crime (LaGrange and Ferraro 1989; Warr 1984).

Ferraro and LaGrange (1987) and Ferraro (1995) demonstrate that measures of risk of criminal victimization are often mistaken for measures of fear of crime. They argue that questions such as that used by the GSS to measure fear or "How safe do you feel or would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood at night?" (the question used by the National Crime Survey (NCVS) to measure fear) are asking people to appraise their victimization risk, not their

actual fear of crime. Furthermore, just because someone doubts that they will be victimized by crime does not mean that they are unafraid of crime. In the same manner, an elevated sense of perceived risk does not automatically lead to heightened levels of fear (LaGrange and Ferraro 1987).

Ferraro (1995) argued that many researchers confound fear and risk in their research and attempted to explicate the distinction between the two phenomena. He argued that fear is an emotional response, while risk involves a cognitive judgment. Thus, these phenomena are not interchangeable and must be measured individually. Ferraro argued that many researchers not only fail to make the distinction between fear of crime and perceived risk, they also fail to measure risk of criminal victimization at all. He cited several studies that have measured risk and argued that there are two basic approaches to measuring risk. One is to examine official crime statistics to provide an official or "objective" risk assessment (Janson and Ryder 1983). Another is to ask respondents to evaluate their own risk of victimization. Ferraro called this method "perceived risk" and cited several studies that have used it (LaGrange and Ferraro 1989; Warr and Stafford 1983).

The Gallup organization annually queries the American public regarding how likely they think they are to be victimized by crime (arguably, a measure of individual perceptions of risk of victimization). Americans were most likely to feel that they would: (1) have their home burglarized when they were not there and (2) have their cars stolen or broken into. Less than one in five were at least occasionally concerned that they would be raped or murdered (Maguire and Pastore 2003).

Consequences of Fear of Crime

Fear, depending on its intensity, is experienced as apprehension, uneasiness, uncertainty, or complete insecurity. One has the feeling that one lacks safety, a feeling of danger and impending disaster. One feels a threat to one's very existence, whether physically or psychologically (Izard 1977). As such, some individuals may change their day-to-day activities based on their fear of crime. For example, they may refuse to leave their house after dark, completely avoid speaking to strangers when they do go out, or refuse to walk alone (even in daylight).

On the other hand, there may be another group of people who, while still fearful of victimization, refuse to change their behaviors based on that fear. These individuals may adopt a proactive approach to fear by taking steps to alleviate it. A limited number of studies have attempted to examine the actions people take because of their fear of criminal victimization. These actions are generally grouped into two categories: avoidance behaviors and defensive behaviors (Ferraro 1995).

Avoidance behaviors, or limitations people put on their activity as a result of fear, are commonly referred to as "constrained behaviors" (Liska, Sanchirico, and Reed 1988; Ferraro 1995). Constrained behaviors include avoiding unsafe areas at night (the most common form of behavioral adaptation to fear or perceived risk of crime), avoiding unsafe areas during the day, and limiting or changing other daily activities (Ferraro 1995).

Whereas with constrained behavior, individuals place limitations on their conduct (e.g. avoiding unsafe areas), defensive behaviors involve an individual's rational decision to perform some type of action to allay their fear of crime. There is a wide array of defensive behaviors an

individual could possibly choose (e.g. installing security systems, buying a watchdog, purchasing a gun).

Again, the Gallup organization regularly asks Americans about the types of avoidance and defensive behaviors in which they engage. Their polls suggest that almost half (43 %) of respondents avoid going to certain places or neighborhoods because of a concern about crime, while one in three have a dog for protection, one in four have had a burglar alarm installed in their home, and one in five respondents have bought a gun for protection inside their home. One in ten have carried a gun for protection outside the home due to their concern over crime (Maguire and Pastore 2003).

Opinions of the Criminal Justice System

Most people have a great deal of confidence in the police-- data from national surveys suggest that three in five citizens (61 %) have "...a great deal/quite a lot" of confidence in police (Maguire and Pastore 2003). Almost half (47 %) have that same confidence in the United States Supreme Court. Typically, however, people react more favorably to police than courts (Roberts and Stalans 1997). While age and race significantly impact people's view of the police, these variables have little to do with people's view of the courts. Further, confidence in the criminal justice system has little to do with fear of crime, victimization history, or perceptions of crime (Roberts and Stalans 1997).

While numerous authors have examined confidence in the police and confidence in the criminal justice system in general (see Roberts and Stalans 1997 for review), scant research exists that examines confidence in local prosecutors, public defenders, jails, community corrections programs, or prisons. As such, further exploration of predictors of confidence in these agencies is needed.

Additionally, Americans have also been regularly queried regarding their opinion about changes in the rate of crime in their area. In 2002, for example, approximately one in three respondents (37 percent) to a Gallup poll concerning this topic suggested that crime in their area was going up, while approximately the same percentage (34 percent) agreed that crime was going down in their area. One in four respondents (24 percent) felt that crime had stayed about the same (Maguire and Pastore 2003).

Victimization Experiences

Annually, the Bureau of Justice Statistics conducts a household survey of approximately 50,000 households regarding their victimization experiences. This report, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) begun in 1972 to provide more detailed information on victims of crime in the United States, provides the most comprehensive data about victims available (United States Department of Justice 2003). Data from 2002 reflect the following: (1) victimization rates for both property and violent crimes were the lowest since the NCVS began in 1973; (2) approximately half of all violent crime victimizations and two in five property crime victimizations were reported to the police; and (3) the property crime victimization rate was over six times higher than the violent crime victimization rate (Rennison and Rand 2003).

Additionally, the NCVS data examine demographic traits of victims as well. The NCVS results annually determine that: (1) with the exception of victimization by rape, males are more likely to be victimized by both property and violent crime than females; (2) household income has an inverse relationship with violent victimization experience—in other words, residents of households with lower annual incomes are more likely to be victimized by violent crime than residents of households with higher annual incomes; (3) unmarried respondents are more likely to be victimized by violent crime than married respondents; (4) among adults, younger

respondents are more likely to be victimized by violent crime than older respondents; and (5) urban households are more likely to be victimized by property crime than suburban or rural households (Rennison and Rand 2003). These patterns have remained consistent since the inception of the survey.

Importance of this Study in Kentucky

While the aforementioned studies have regularly queried United States citizens regarding their perceptions of risk, opinions of the criminal justice system, and their fear of criminal victimization and the consequences of that fear, minimal research has examined these topics with a sample of Kentucky residents. It is possible that the rural nature of Kentucky (with only two metropolitan areas), its largely White population, and its Southern heritage may help make the perceptions and experiences of its residents distinct from those of other states and/or the nation as a whole. Thus, the findings from this study should provide legislators, policy makers, and other officials revealing information about Kentucky.

RESEARCH METHOD

Sampling

The population targeted for this project was the state of Kentucky. In order for the survey to be representative of the state, the survey contained three demographic quotas: race, gender and rural/suburban/urban location. The rural/suburban/urban quota was pre-coded in the telephone sample obtained from the Survey Sampling Institute (SSI); therefore, a question did not have to be asked of the respondent pertaining to that variable. The other two demographic questions were the first questions asked of respondents once they agreed to participate in the survey. After a quota became full, the computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system

automatically notified the interviewer. At that point, the interviewer would ask the respondent three filler criminal justice related questions, thank them, and terminate the interview.

SSI generated the telephone sample used in this survey via a random digit dial procedure meant to yield a true probability sample. The statewide representative sample of Kentucky households with unlisted and listed telephone numbers was of sufficient size to accomplish approximately 2,000 completed telephone interviews intended to provide results that could be interpreted at a 95% confidence level with a 2.6 percent error margin.

Survey Instrument

Two meetings with Kentucky Justice Cabinet and Kentucky Criminal Justice Council representatives were held to design and construct the survey instrument. An initial meeting with a Justice Cabinet representative on July 31, 2003 was conducted to initiate the development of a survey draft and to establish survey quotas and interviewer protocols. Following this meeting, a draft of the survey was presented by the CCJER team in a formal presentation to the Council's Executive Committee and Data Advisory Team on September 9, 2003. Feedback from this meeting was utilized to revise the survey. Additional drafts of the survey were submitted via email to this same group for further review. This group approved a final version of the survey on September 23, 2003. The instructions provided for interviewers and the survey instrument itself appear in Appendices A and B, respectively.

Data Collection

The CCJER lab utilized seven interviewing stations to conduct the telephone interviews. For this project, a total of 20 interviewers were hired and trained to complete interviews, and a total of 13 interviewers actively worked on this project. Surveying began on September 30, 2003 and was completed on November 24, 2003. The interviewers logged a total of 958.8 hours on the interviewing system to complete 1,991 interviews.

The interviewers made a total of 51,176 telephone calls to potential respondents around the state of Kentucky. A total of 15,954 numbers were resolved. Table 1 below describes how these numbers were resolved.

Table 1. Resolution of Phone Interviews

Resolution:	Frequency:
Completed interview	1991
Refused to start interview	5517
Language problems	48
Terminated during interview	106
Non-working number	3527
Non-residential number	2068
User resolved (fax, quota full)	1806
Maximum number of attempts made	891

It can be seen from Table 1 that a total of 1,991 interviews were completed after establishing contact with 7,614 respondents. Of the 7,614 respondents, 5,517 refused to start the interview, and 106 terminated the interview before it was completed. Hence, a final response rate of 26.15 percent was achieved.

The response rate is a clear limitation of this study. The most conservative and safest strategy (and the one recommended by the research team) is to say that findings from the sample can be generalized to the population of the state only to the extent that the population possesses characteristics similar to those found in the sample. It is certainly possible that persons with particular characteristics (e.g., prior victimization experiences) were systematically more likely to complete the interviews. We do know from the data in Table 1 that, by far, the most common reason for non-responding was a refusal to begin the interview.

On the other hand, recent research (Curtin, Presser, and Singer 2000; Keeter, Miller, Kohut, Groves, and Presser 2000) suggests that small response rates do not necessarily indicate larger biases. To illustrate, in Keeter et al's. randomized experimental study utilizing telephone

surveys, the two experimental groups had very different response rates (60.6% versus 36.0%). However, only 14 of 91 variables showed significant substantive differences. Although high response rates are better than low ones, continuing research efforts are being made to determine the conditions under which non-response seriously biases survey estimates.

There were a total of 36,113 call attempts made in which the telephone number was not resolved through the interviewing process. Table 2 below describes the status of these numbers.

Table 2. Non-Resolution of Phone Interviews

Status:	Frequency:
No answer	17987
Busy	5281
Scheduled callback	1835
Dialer Nuisance (Answering Machine, etc.)	11010

On average, one telephone number was dialed 3.29 times to get a completed interview.

Comparison of Sample to Population

Table 3 shows the degree to which the sample's demographical profile is similar to the state's demographic characteristics, according to the 2000 census. As mentioned earlier, the survey contained three demographic quotas: race, gender, and rural/suburban/urban location. However, during the interviews, additional demographical questions were asked of the respondents. With the exception of education and income, and to a lesser extent age, the sample's demographic profile is very similar to the state profile. When compared to the state, the sample displays greater levels of education and income.

Although these differences are a limitation, there are four reasons why we thought these two dissimilarities were not of great enough concern to merit weighting of the variables: (1) the units of analyses for the sample and the 2000 census data are different (see notes at the bottom of

Table 3), thus introducing the opportunity for less similarity; (2) given existing trends, such as those found in examining improvements in education and income between the 1990 and 2000 census for Kentucky (United States Bureau of Census, 1990; United States Bureau of Census, 2000), the state's education and income profile has most likely slightly improved in the four years since the 2000 census was conducted, thus making the sample and 2000 census data more similar; (3) the missing data in the sample, which the reported census data does not have, contains data that could make the two more similar (as well as dissimilar); and (4) the percent differences between the sample and 2000 census data are not significant (i.e., do not exceed 20 percent) for any demographic category. Since our sample matched very closely the 2000 census data by utilizing quota sampling, we felt that weighting would not significantly improve any estimates.

Table 3. Comparison of Sample and Population Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Variable	Sample (Frequency & %)	*Population 2000 Census (Frequency & %)
Gender		
Male	1015 (48.5)	1,975,368 (48.9)
Female	1072 (51.3)	2,066,401 (51.1)
Missing Data	5 (.2)	
Race		
White	1865 (89.2)	3,678,740 (91.0)
Black	159 (7.6)	311,000 (7.7)
Other	57 (2.7)	96,581 (2.4)
Missing Data	10 (.5)	
Is there any area within 1 mile of your home where you are afraid to walk at night?		
Yes	507 (24.2)	NA
No	1529 (73.1)	
Missing Data	55 (2.7)	
Marital Status**		
Married	1247 (59.6)	1,844,628 (57.3)
Widowed	114 (5.5)	231,630 (7.2)
Divorced	268 (12.8)	353,637 (11.0)
Separated	48 (2.3)	57,237 (1.8)
Never Married	307 (14.7)	730,035 (22.7)
Missing Data	107 (5.1)	

Table 3. Comparison of Sample and Population Demographic Characteristics (cont'd)

Demographic Variable	Sample (Frequency & %)	*Population 2000 Census (Frequency & %)
Age		
18-24	201 (9.6)	401,858 (13.4)
25-35	434 (20.6)	632,494.2 (21.0)
36-45	458 (22.0)	637,074 (21.2)
46-55	383 (18.4)	539,033.2 (17.9)
56-65	282 (13.6)	361,716.4 (12.0)
66 and over	207 (9.5)	432,219.4 (14.4)
Missing Data	126 (6.0)	
Education***		
No high school diploma	151 (7.2)	685,000 (25.9)
High school Diploma or GED	560 (26.8)	888,277 (33.6)
Vocational Program	87 (4.2)	
Some College	378 (18.1)	490,170 (18.5)
Two-year College Degree	169 (8.1)	129,481 (4.9)
College Graduate	406 (19.4)	271,418 (10.3)
Some Graduate or Professional	233 (11.1)	182,051 (6.9)
Missing Data	107(5.1)	
Income****		
Less than \$10,000	138 (6.6)	220,692 (13.9)
\$10,001-\$20,000	235 (11.2)	256,494 (16.1)
\$20,001-\$30,000	250 (12.4)	232,489 (14.6)
\$30,001-\$40,000	249 (12.0)	197,200 (12.4)
\$40,001-\$50,000	207 (9.9)	174,456 (11.0)
\$50,001-\$75,000	339 (16.2)	274,530 (17.2)
Over \$75,000	341 (16.3)	235,878 (14.8)
Missing Data	332 (15.9)	
Political Beliefs		
Very Conservative	303 (14.5)	
Somewhat Conservative	559 (26.7)	
Moderate	622 (29.7)	
Somewhat Liberal	287 (13.7)	
Very Liberal	128 (6.1)	
Missing Data	192 (9.2)	

* Due to the differences in the manner in which some of the demographical data were categorized, some of the categorical data were interpolated.

** Data collected from the 2000 census included respondents age 15 and over; data for the sample came from respondents age 18 and over.

*** Sample used respondents 18 years and older; 2000 census used respondents 25 years and older

**** Income for 2000 census taken from total number of households in Kentucky

SURVEY RESULTS

With some exceptions, to achieve more logical groupings of information, we present the study's findings in this section according to the order that items appeared in the survey instrument.

Table 4. Citizen Satisfaction with Criminal Justice System Components

	Very Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Don't Know		Somewhat Dissatisfied		Very Dissatisfied	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
In general, how satisfied are you with...										
Police who serve your community	649	31.0	1040	49.7	24	1.1	205	9.8	148	7.1
Jail that serves your community	454	21.7	865	41.4	296	14.2	223	10.7	209	10.0
Prosecutors in your local court system	336	16.1	951	45.5	281	13.4	281	13.4	204	9.8
Adult court system that serves your community	297	14.2	957	45.8	224	10.7	351	16.8	225	10.8
The prison system in Kentucky	266	12.7	880	42.1	313	15.0	354	16.9	231	11.0
Public defenders in your local court system	260	12.4	907	43.4	443	21.2	263	12.6	174	8.3
Juvenile courts that serve your community	237	11.3	749	35.8	451	21.6	344	16.5	265	12.7
Community-oriented corrections program that serves your community	227	10.9	868	41.5	405	19.4	324	15.5	215	10.3

Respondents were first asked to indicate their satisfaction with various criminal justice agencies in their community (see Table 4). Four in five respondents (80.7 percent) were either somewhat or very satisfied with the police who served their community. For each of the other agencies, approximately three in five respondents were either somewhat satisfied or very

satisfied with the agency's performance. Nevertheless, only for police and jail were more than one in five respondents very satisfied. Respondents were most dissatisfied with the court system and the community-oriented corrections programs in their communities. With the exception of the police, at least one in ten (and sometimes one in five) respondents did not have an opinion about the criminal justice component under study, indicating a greater need for awareness regarding criminal justice issues among a substantial minority of Kentucky residents.

Respondents were asked to rate the change in crime in their community in the past 12 months. The results presented in Table 5 indicate that over half of the respondents stated that crime had stayed the same in their community, while 14.1 percent said it had increased and 28.9 percent stated that it had decreased.

Table 5. Perceptions of Crime Change in the Past 12 Months

	Greatly Decreased		Somewhat Decreased		Stayed the Same		Somewhat Increased		Greatly Increased	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
During the Past 12 months, has crime in your community...	49	2.3	247	11.8	1067	51.0	455	21.8	149	7.1

Respondents were also asked if there was "...any area within one mile of your home where you are afraid to walk alone at night?" One in four (24.2 percent) responded yes to this question. To further explore that perception, respondents were then asked to indicate whether fear of crime had prevented them from engaging in certain behaviors and were also asked to indicate how fearful they were of six specific crimes. The responses to these items are presented in Table 6.

The results presented in Table 6 indicate that fear of crime has had very little impact on the behavior of the vast majority of respondents (77.5 percent), although more than 1 in 20

respondents strongly agree that fear of crime has prevented them from doing things they want to do. By the same token, nearly half (49.6%) of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreed to being afraid that someone will break into their homes, just over 40 percent strongly or somewhat agreed to being afraid of having money/possessions taken, and close to a third (30.6%) expressed at least some fear of being attacked with a weapon.

Table 6. Impact of Fear of Crime on Behavior and Fear of Specific Crimes.

	Strongly Agree		Somewhat Agree		Somewhat Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
I am afraid someone will break into my house while I am away	394	18.8	643	30.8	427	20.4	561	26.8
I am afraid of having my money/possessions taken from me	285	13.6	556	26.6	466	22.3	722	34.5
I am afraid of being attacked by someone with a weapon	209	10.0	431	20.6	549	26.3	841	40.2
I am afraid to go out at night because I might become a victim of crime	190	9.1	328	15.7	481	23.0	1030	49.3
I am afraid of being raped or sexually assaulted	142	6.8	268	12.8	442	21.1	1176	56.2
I am afraid of being murdered	124	5.9	228	10.9	468	22.4	1207	57.7
Fear of crime has prevented me from doing things I want to do	119	5.7	291	13.9	734	35.1	886	42.4

Respondents (n=410) who indicated that fear of crime had prevented them from doing the things they wanted to do were queried regarding activities they had avoided because of their fear of crime. Of those 410 respondents, 355 provided multiple responses. The responses are presented in Table 7. Approximately two in five (39.0 percent) of those who avoided activities

had avoided walking, running, or riding their bike at night because of fear of crime, while less than half that many (17.2 %) had avoided going places alone because of fear of crime. Smaller numbers had avoided shopping, traveling where they left the house unattended, and going to certain parts of the town where they lived.

Table 7. Activities Avoided Because of Fear of Crime

Activity	N	%
Walking/running/riding bike @ night	139	39.2
Going places alone	61	17.2
Shopping	37	10.4
Traveling/leaving house unattended	36	10.1
Going to certain parts of town/downtown	34	9.6
General fear of crime	26	7.3
Going to the park	20	5.6
Enjoying entertainment activities	17	4.8
Being outside in neighborhood at night	15	4.2
Driving at night	15	4.2
Doing errands	14	2.5
Outdoor activities	13	3.7
Letting kids play/walk alone	12	3.4
Parking	12	3.4
Leaving doors unlocked	7	2.0
Leaving car unattended	7	2.0
Other	7	2.0
Attending large, public functions	6	1.7
Walking dog	3	0.8
Moving to a new city/town	2	0.6

*The percentages do not total 100% because some respondents provided more than one response.

Respondents were also asked to respond yes or no to a series of questions that asked them about “defensive behaviors” they had engaged in during the past 12 months. The results of those queries are presented in Table 8. Almost two in five respondents (39.7 %) had placed outside security lights at their home because of their fear of crime, while over one in three (36.8 %) had added door bolts. Interestingly, over one in four (25.9 %) had purchased a gun due to their fear of crime, while almost that many (24.9 %) had installed extra door locks. Smaller percentages

had acquired guard dogs (19.7 %), timers (18.7 %), window guards (16.5 %), and burglar alarms (12.5 %). Nevertheless, approximately one in three (31.4 %) had not placed any items in their homes due to fear of criminal victimization.

Table 8. Defensive Behaviors Due to Fear of Crime

Items placed in home in the last 12 months	YES	
	Frequency	%
Outside Security Lights	806	39.7
Door Bolts	747	36.8
Guns	525	25.9
Extra Door Locks	505	24.9
Guard Dogs	400	19.7
Automatic Timers/Electronic Timers	379	18.7
Window Guards	335	16.5
Burglar Alarms	253	12.5
Police Department Identification Stickers	245	12.1
Did Not Place Items in Home	638	31.4
Refused to Answer	60	3.0
Missing	61	3.0

*Total respondents on this question was 2,030

Respondents were asked to rate the likelihood that they would be victimized by a wide variety of crimes in the upcoming year. The responses to those questions are presented in Table 9. Respondents felt they were most likely to be victimized by theft without force and burglary; almost one in five respondents rated the likelihood of theft (18.8 %) and burglary (18.2 %) occurring as a 6 or above, indicating they felt theft and burglary were more likely than not. Motor vehicle theft was perceived as next most likely to occur, followed by robbery and assault without a weapon, assault with a weapon, and rape, respectively.

Table 9. Perceptions of Risk of Criminal Victimization

<i>On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being not at all likely and 10 being very likely, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen to you in the next 12 months.</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>% Greater than 5</i>
Someone stealing items belonging to you without use of force	3.89	18.8
Someone breaking into your home and taking something or attempting to take something	3.65	18.2
Someone stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you	3.39	16.4
Someone threatening you with their fists, feet, or other bodily attack	2.90	10.3
Someone taking or attempting to take something from you by force or threat of force	2.88	10.3
Someone beating you or attacking you with a club, knife, gun, or other weapon	2.64	9.0
Someone forcing you or attempting to force you to have sexual intercourse with them against your will	2.10	6.5

*Divided by sum of non-missing responses

Respondents were next asked about their victimization experiences in the past 12 months; responses to those questions appear in Table 10. For every crime category, the vast majority of respondents (80.2 % or more) had not been victimized by the crime in question. Respondents indicated that they were most often victims of vandalism (15.5 % of the respondents had property that they owned damaged or destroyed in the past 12 months). Approximately one in ten (8.8 %) respondents had someone either break into, or attempt to break into, their house or some other building on their property in the past 12 months, while approximately that same number (7.9 %) had something stolen from them that was not due to a burglary or a robbery. Less than one in 30 (3.4 %) had someone steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle that belonged to them in the past 12 months while approximately one in 50 respondents had been hit, attacked, or beaten by someone without a weapon (2.3 %) or had someone attempt to force them or force them into unwanted sexual activity (2.1 %) in the past 12 months. Approximately one in 100 respondents had: (a) someone force or attempt to force them to have sex (1.2 %); (2) been

attacked by someone with a weapon (1.1 %); and (3) someone attempt to take something from them by use of force or threat of force in the past 12 months (1.1%).

Respondents were also asked about their lifetime experience with rape and other sexual activity. For more than one in ten respondents (13.5 %), at some point in their life, someone had forced or attempted to force them into some type of unwanted sexual activity (touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.), while approximately the same number (11.2 %) had been forced or had experienced an attempt to be forced to have sex at some point in their lives. When the responses were broken down by gender, the results are even more startling, as one in five females (21.8 %) had someone attempt to force or force them to have sex at some point in their lives, while an equally alarming percentage (18.5 %) had someone force or try to force them into some type of unwanted sexual activity.

For each victimization experience, respondents who had been victimized were also asked whether they reported all of their victimizations by that type of crime to the police. In each case, a substantial minority (and, in some cases, a majority) of those who had been victimized by crime did not report all of their victimizations to the police. Respondents were most likely to have reported all instances of attacks with a weapon (77.3 %), which is probably due to the seriousness of the offense and the injury that it brings. A majority of respondents also indicated that they had reported all of their motor vehicle theft victimizations (69.4 %), robbery victimizations (68.2 %), and burglary victimizations (65.6 %) to the police. Only one in three respondents, however, reported all of their assault without weapon victimization experiences (35.4 %), while a similar percentage reported all attempted or completed rape experiences (34.6 %). Alarmingly, less than one in seven respondents (15.9 %) reported all of their forced unwanted sexual activities. These reporting percentages were approximately the same when considering lifetime victimization experiences with rape and sexual assault.

Table 10. Victimization Experiences

	YES		NO		Reported All Crimes to Police	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
During the past 12 months, did anyone...						
Intentionally damage or destroy property owned by you or someone else in your household	325	15.5	1676	80.2	187	57.5
Break into, or try to break into, your house or some other building on your property intending to commit a crime?	183	8.8	1816	86.8	120	65.6
Was anything else stolen from you (other than the incidents already reported)?	165	7.9	1833	87.7	71	43.0
Steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you	72	3.4	1933	92.4	50	69.4
Did anyone hit, attack, or beat you by using their hands, fists, feet, or other bodily attack (not including attacks with weapons)?	48	2.3	1951	93.3	17	35.4
Did anyone force you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?	44	2.1	1944	93.0	7	15.9
Attempt to take something directly from you by using force or threat of force, such as a stick up or mugging?	22	1.1	1980	94.7	15	68.2
Has anyone made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?	26	1.2	1969	94.2	9	34.6
Did anyone attack you with a knife, gun, club, or another weapon other than hands, fists, or feet?	22	1.1	1978	94.6	17	77.3
Has anyone ever...	N	%	N	%	N	%
Made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?	235	11.2	1756	84.0	69	29.4
<i>Females</i>	198	18.5	820	76.5	59	29.8
<i>Males</i>	37	3.6	936	92.2	10	27.0
Forced you or attempted to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?	283	13.5	1701	81.3	45	15.9
<i>Females</i>	234	21.8	780	72.8	41	17.5
<i>Males</i>	49	4.8	921	90.7	4	8.2

* Respondents who stated they had been rape or attempted rape victims in the past 12 months (26) and those victims of forced unwanted sexual activity or attempted forced unwanted sexual activity in the in the past 12 months (44), data are unavailable on whether they reported all their victimizations for crimes of a sexual nature in their lifetime. As such, the percentage of victims who reported all their victimizations may be larger than the percentage reported in the table if any of those victims reported all their lifetime sexual victimization experiences.

Respondents who reported being victimized in the past 12 months were also asked the number of victimizations that had occurred in that time period. Responses are presented in Table 11.

Table 11. Incidents of Criminal Victimization Among Victimized Respondents

During the past 12 months, did anyone...	Number Yes	% Of Sample	Number of Incidents	Number reported to Police
Steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you	72	3.4	85	66
Intentionally damage or destroy property owned by you or someone else in your household	325	15.5	524	313
Break into, or try to break into, your house or some other building on your property intending to commit a crime?	183	8.8	306	188
Attempt to take something directly from you by using force or threat of force, such as a stick up or mugging?	22	1.1	32	19
Was anything else stolen from you (other than the incidents already reported)?	165	7.9	271	130
Did anyone attack you with a knife, gun, club, or another weapon other than hands, fists, or feet?	22	1.1	25	21
Did anyone hit, attack, or beat you by using their hands, fists, feet, or other bodily attack (not including attacks with weapons)?	48	2.3	216	122
Has anyone made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?	26	1.2	57	17
Did anyone force you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?	44	2.1	227	159

Table 11. Incidents of Criminal Victimization Among Victimized Respondents (cont'd)

Has anyone ever...*	Number Yes	% of Sample	Number of Incidents	Number reported to Police
Made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?	209	10.0	481	152
Forced you or attempted to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?	239	11.4	802	208

* Respondents who indicated they had been victims of either of these crimes in the past 12 months are not included in this table.

In every category in Table 11, there were some individuals who were victimized more than once. The 325 persons who reported that someone had damaged or destroyed their property reported a total of 524 incidents of such victimization. Similarly, the 209 respondents who reported that someone had (at some point in the respondent's life) made or tried to make them have sex by using force or threat of harm reported 481 such incidents, while the 239 who said that someone had forced them or attempted to force them into unwanted sexual activity reported 802 lifetime incidents.

After being asked about their victimization experiences, respondents were asked if they had reported all of the victimizations to the police and, if not, what was the *most important reason* why they did not report their most recent incident to the police. These responses are presented in Table 12. Over one in four respondents (27.7%) stated that the offense was minor or not important enough to report to the police, while a slightly smaller percentage (18.5) stated that they didn't think the police would do anything to help. Slightly over one in ten respondents (11.1 %) did not report their most recent victimization to the police because they didn't think the police could do anything to help. Almost one in ten (9.9 %) did not report their most recent victimization to the police because they

were afraid of reprisal by the offender. The results presented in Table 12 reflect various other reasons why the victims did not report their victimization experiences to the police.

Table 12. Reasons for Not Reporting Victimization

Reason	Frequency	Percent
Offense was minor and not important enough to report to police	135	27.7
Didn't think police would do anything to help	90	18.5
Didn't think police could do anything to help	54	11.1
Afraid of reprisal by Offender	48	9.9
Didn't want to get offender in trouble with law	35	7.2
Handled situation on my own or by someone else	26	5.3
Was too young	24	4.9
Other	20	4.1
Didn't want to get involved with police- too inconvenient	17	3.5
Embarrassed/Felt it was my own fault/Didn't want anyone to know	16	3.3
Missing	22	4.5

For four of the victimization experiences, respondents who had been victimized by that crime were asked about the characteristics of the offender who was responsible for the victimization. The responses to that series of questions are presented in Table 13. With the exception of victimization by an offender with a weapon and victimization by an offender without a weapon (where the offender was most likely to be a stranger), the offender was more likely to be a family member, a person well known to the victim, and/or a casual acquaintance of the victim. Victims of rape over their lifetime were most likely to have been victimized by a casual acquaintance (23.0 % of those who responded about the nature of their relationship with the offender), followed closely by a family member (19.6 %) and a person well known to the victim (19.1 %).

Table 13. Offender Characteristics in Most Recent Victimization

	Offender Characteristic															
	Family Member		Spouse or Former Spouse		Intimate Partner		Person Well Known to Victim		Stranger		Casual Acquaintance		Did not see Offender		Missing	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		N
During the past 12 months...																
Did anyone attack you with a knife, gun, club, or another weapon other than hands, fists, or feet?	2	9.1	0	0.0	1	4.5	2	9.1	14	63.7	2	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Did anyone hit, attack, or beat you by using their hands, fists, feet, or other bodily attack (not including attacks with weapons)?	4	8.3	3	6.3	4	8.3	10	20.8	17	35.4	10	20.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Has anyone made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?	3	11.5	4	15.4	1	3.8	6	23.1	4	15.4	8	30.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Did anyone force you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?	1	2.3	2	4.5	3	6.8	10	22.7	5	11.4	20	45.5	2	4.5	1	2.3
Has anyone ever...																
made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?	46	19.6	27	11.5	18	7.7	45	19.1	41	17.4	54	23.0	3	1.3	1	0.4
Forced you or attempted to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?	43	15.2	25	8.8	19	6.7	64	22.6	33	11.7	89	31.4	5	1.8	5	2.1

Respondents who had been attacked by someone with a weapon were asked what type of weapon was used. The responses to those questions are presented in Table 14. One in three respondents (36.4 %) indicated that the weapon used was a knife, while slightly over one in four respondents (27.3 %) indicated that the weapon used was a club or bat. Three respondents (13.6 %) indicated that the weapon used was a gun, while almost one in four respondents (22.7 %) indicated that the weapon used was a weapon other than a gun, knife, club, or bat.

Table 14. Weapons Used in Criminal Victimization

Weapon Used in Attack	Victims Attacked with a Weapon in Last 12 months	
	Frequency	Percent
Gun	3	13.6
Knife	8	36.4
Club or Bat	6	27.3
Other	5	22.7
Total	22	100.0

The results presented in Table 15 reflect differences on demographic factors known from previous research to predict responses on three outcome measures: (1) fear of criminal victimization, (2) perceptions of risk of criminal victimization, and (3) opinion of criminal justice agencies. For each of the three outcome variables, summated indexes were created using respondents' answers to the individual questions pertaining to fear, perceived risk, and opinion of criminal justice agencies respectively; higher scores are indicative of greater fear, greater perceived risk, and higher opinions of criminal justice agencies. The items used to develop these indexes, and the index reliabilities, are presented in Appendix C. These items were drawn from a number of studies at both the state and national level and were modified based on responses from the aforementioned meeting with the Criminal Justice Council's Executive Committee and Data Advisory Team. Due to the large sample size, an alpha level of .01 (versus a conventional .05 level) was used to evaluate all statistical tests in this study. A .01 level is more conservative and helps guard against the likelihood of a Type I error.

Table 15. Comparison of Mean Differences in Fear of Criminal Victimization, Perceptions of Risk, and Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

Variable	N	Fear of Crime (Range = 7-28)		Perceptions of Risk (Range = 7- 70)		Opinion of Criminal Justice Agents (Range = 5-20)	
		Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
Male	1015	11.76	.130	18.93	10.65	22.32	4.40
Female	1072	15.39***	.174	23.27***	14.04	22.15	4.07
White	1865	13.55	5.24	20.97	12.68	22.43**	4.10
Nonwhite	216	14.21	5.18	22.86	12.54	20.49	4.95
Rural	1056	13.77	5.34	21.47	12.97	21.90	4.39
Suburban/Urban	1035	13.46	5.13	20.84	12.39	22.56***	4.03
College Graduate or Above	639	12.79	4.62	19.42	10.39	22.88***	3.85
Less than College Graduate	1345	14.03***	5.49	22.00***	13.59	22.02	4.37
Married	1247	13.46	5.05	20.86	12.22	22.46	4.17
Not Married	737	13.89	5.58	21.75	13.46	22.00	4.35
\$40,000 or Less	872	14.39***	5.68	22.50***	13.79	22.00	4.41
More than \$40,000	887	12.81	4.70	19.54	10.78	22.67**	4.05
Not a Property Victim	1458	12.79	4.87	18.96	11.57	22.69***	4.12
Property Victim	537	15.86***	5.59	27.05***	13.68	21.19	4.36
Not a Violence Victim	1925	13.50	5.19	20.74	12.40	22.37***	4.21
Violence Victim	77	16.66***	5.90	30.94***	15.58	20.27	4.47
Not a Sexual Crime Victim	1622	12.88	4.84	19.73	11.81	22.55***	4.15
Sexual Crime Victim	369	16.93***	5.75	27.54***	14.42	21.10	4.44
** p <.01 (t-test)							
*** p<.001 (t-test)							
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation
Conservative- 1		13.34 ³	5.24	20.81	13.03	22.61 ³	4.40
Moderate- 2		13.69	5.19	21.27	12.55	22.30	4.11
Liberal- 3		14.19 ¹	5.36	22.09	12.44	21.77 ¹	4.10
18 to 35- 1		13.60	5.13	20.04 ²	11.78	22.42	4.14
36 to 50- 2		14.07 ³	5.30	22.23 ¹	13.06	22.29	4.43
Over 50- 3		13.13 ²	5.27	21.21	13.11	22.18	4.16

¹ Signifies that this group is significantly different than Group 1 (ANOVA)

² Signifies that this group is significantly different than Group 2 (ANOVA)

³ Signifies that this group is significantly different than Group 3 (ANOVA)

The responses presented in Table 15 indicate the following:

1. Females were significantly more fearful of criminal victimization and were significantly more likely to perceive themselves at risk of victimization than males. There were no statistically significant gender differences in levels of satisfaction with the criminal justice agencies under study.
2. Non-white respondents expressed a lower level of satisfaction with the criminal justice agencies under study here than Whites.
3. Rural residents expressed a lower level of satisfaction with the criminal justice agencies under study here than residents from suburban and urban areas.
4. College graduates were significantly less fearful of criminal victimization and were significantly less likely to perceive themselves at risk of victimization than respondents who had not graduated college. Additionally, college graduates were less dissatisfied with the criminal justice agencies under study here than respondents who had not graduated college.
5. Respondents whose household incomes were less than \$40,000 per year were significantly more fearful of criminal victimization and were significantly more likely to perceive themselves at risk of victimization than respondents whose household incomes were greater than \$40,000 per year. Additionally, respondents whose household incomes were more than \$40,000 per year were significantly more likely to be satisfied with the criminal justice agencies under study here than their counterparts with lower household incomes.
6. Victims of property, violent, and sexual crimes were significantly more fearful of criminal victimization and were significantly more likely to perceive themselves at risk of victimization than respondents who had not been victimized by those crimes. Additionally, victims of all three types of crime were significantly more likely to express dissatisfaction with the criminal justice agencies under study here than their counterparts who had not been victimized by these crimes.

7. Liberals were significantly more fearful of criminal victimization than conservatives.

Liberals were also significantly more likely to express dissatisfaction with the criminal justice agencies under study here than conservatives.

8. Respondents over the age of 50 were significantly less fearful of criminal victimization than those 36 to 50. Additionally, those respondents aged 36 to 50 had significantly higher levels of perceived risk than those 18 to 35. There were no statistically significant age differences in respondent satisfaction with the criminal justice agencies under study here.

The responses presented in Table 16 compare: (1) mean demographic differences in responses to the question asking Kentucky citizens their perception of changes in crime in their area in the past 12 months and (2) demographic differences in agreement with a statement asking respondents if they were afraid to walk at night in any area within one mile of their home.

Table 16. Comparison of Mean Differences in Change in Crime in the Community and Fear of Walking Within One Mile of Respondent's Home

Variable	N	Crime Changes in the Past 12 Months (Range = 1-5)		Afraid at Night in Areas Within One Mile of Respondent's Home			
		Mean	Std. Dev.	Yes	%	No	%
Male	964	3.08	.80	124	12.5	867	87.5
Female	1003	3.33***	.87	383	36.7***	662	63.3
White	1775	3.22	.87	460	25.1	1375	74.9
Nonwhite	192	3.08	.84	47	23.4	154	76.6
Rural	995	3.30***	.87	258	25.2	766	74.8
Suburban/Urban	972	3.12	.81	249	24.6	763	75.4
College Grad or Above	628	3.14	.75	153	24.0	485	76.0
Less than College Grad	1318	3.24	.89	339	25.2	1006	74.8
Married	1228	3.18	.83	280	22.5	966	77.5
Not Married	716	3.26	.87	211	28.6**	526	71.4
\$40,000 or Less	853	3.30***	.90	254	29.1***	618	70.9
More than \$40,000	878	3.13	.79	172	19.4	714	80.6
Not a Property Victim	1432	3.11	.79	303	20.6	1165	79.4
Property Victim	532	3.47***	.93	192	35.8***	344	64.2
Not a Violence Victim	1886	3.20	.84	464	24.1	1460	75.9
Violence Victim	75	3.48	1.02	30	39.0**	47	61.0
Not a Sex Crime Victim	1587	3.14	.82	325	20.0	1296	80.0
Sex Crime Victim	364	3.47***	.92	166	45.0***	203	55.0
Conservative- 1	849	3.17	.87	202	23.5	659	76.5
Moderate- 2	611	3.23	.84	157	25.2	465	74.8
Liberal- 3	406	3.26	.82	109	26.3	306	73.7
18 to 35- 1	628	3.12 ^{2,3}	.79	138	21.8	496	78.2
36 to 50- 2	664	3.25 ¹	.88	184	27.4	487	72.6
Over 50- 3	637	3.24 ¹	.86	164	24.9	495	75.1

** p < .01 (t-test and chi-square)

*** p < .001 (t-test and chi-square)

¹ Signifies that this group is significantly different than Group 1 (ANOVA)

² Signifies that this group is significantly different than Group 2 (ANOVA)

³ Signifies that this group is significantly different than Group 3 (ANOVA)

The data in Table 16 suggest that:

1. Females were significantly more likely than males to think that crime had increased in their community in the past 12 months. Additionally, females were significantly more likely than males to agree that there was an area within one mile of their home where they were afraid to walk at night.

2. Rural residents were significantly more likely than suburban and urban residents to think that crime had increased in their community in the past 12 months.

3. Unmarried respondents were significantly more likely than married respondents to agree that there was an area within one mile of their home where they were afraid to walk at night.

4. Respondents whose household incomes were less than \$40,000 were significantly more likely than respondents whose household incomes were more than \$40,000 to think that crime had increased in their community in the past 12 months. Additionally, respondents whose household incomes were less than \$40,000 were significantly more likely than their counterparts with higher household incomes to agree that there was an area within one mile of their home where they were afraid to walk at night.

5. Victims of property and sexual crimes were significantly more likely than respondents who had not been victimized to think that crime had increased in their community in the past 12 months. Additionally, victims of the all three crimes were significantly more likely than respondents who had not been victimized to agree that there was an area within one mile of their home where they were afraid to walk at night.

6. Respondents who were 18 to 35 were significantly less likely than either those 36 to 50 or those over the age of 50 to feel that crime had increased in their community in the past 12 months.

The results presented in Table 17 compare demographic differences in victimization by property crime and by nonsexual, violent crime (see Appendix D for discussion of categorization techniques).

Table 17. Comparison of Differences in Victimization by Property and Violent Crime

Variable	Victim of Property Crime				Victim of Violent Crime			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
Male	256	26.1	723	73.9	47	4.8	930	95.2
Female	281	27.4	745	72.6	30	2.9	995	97.1
White	482	26.6	1327	73.4	69	3.8	1739	96.2
Nonwhite	55	28.1	141	71.9	8	4.1	186	95.9
Rural	271	27.0	734	73.0	39	3.9	966	96.1
Nonrural	266	26.6	734	73.4	38	3.8	959	96.2
College Graduate or Above	155	24.3	484	75.7	17	2.7	622	97.3
Less than College Graduate	379	28.2	966	71.8	59	3.8	1286	96.2
Married	308	24.7	939	75.3	31	2.5	1216	97.5
Not Married	226	30.7**	511	69.3	45	6.1***	692	93.9
\$40,000 or Less	257	29.5	615	70.5	46	5.3**	826	94.7
More than \$40,000	227	25.6	660	74.4	25	2.8	862	97.2
Not a Violent Crime Victim	488	25.4	1437	74.6				
Violent Crime Victim	49	63.6***	28	36.4	---	---	---	---
Not a Sexual Crime Victim	373	23.0	1249	77.0	42	2.6	1580	97.4
Sexual Crime Victim	163	44.2***	206	55.8	34	9.2***	335	90.8
Conservative	216	25.1	646	74.9	25	2.9	837	97.1
Moderate	172	27.7	450	72.3	27	4.3	595	95.7
Liberal	124	29.9	291	70.1	17	4.1	398	95.9
18 to 35	220	34.6***	415	65.4	37	5.8***	598	94.2
36 to 50	192	28.6***	479	71.4	25	3.7	646	96.3
Over 50	119	18.1	540	81.9	13	2.0	646	98.0

** p <.01 (chi-square test)

*** p<.001 (chi-square test)

The data in Table 17 suggest that:

1. Unmarried respondents were significantly more likely to be victims of both property and violent crimes in the past 12 months than married respondents.
2. Respondents whose household incomes was less than \$40,000 were significantly more likely to be victims of violent crime than their counterparts with higher household incomes.
3. Respondents who had been victimized by a violent crime in the past 12 months were significantly more likely to also be victims of property crime in the past 12 months, compared with their counterparts who had not been victimized by violent crime.

4. Respondents who had been victimized by a sexual crime in their lifetimes were significantly more likely to be victims of both property and violent crimes in the past 12 months than their counterparts who had not been victimized by sexual crimes.

5. Respondents aged 18 to 35 and respondents 36 to 50 were significantly more likely than respondents over the age of 50 to have been victimized by a property crime in the past 12 months. Respondents aged 18 to 35 were significantly more likely than respondents over 50 to have been victimized by a violent crime in the past 12 months.

The data presented in Table 18 present demographic differences in victimization by a sexual crime in the past 12 months and victimization by a sexual crime in the respondent's lifetime (see Appendix E for categorization techniques).

Table 18. Comparison of Differences in Victimization by Sexual Crime

Variable	Victim of Sexual Crime in Past 12 Months				Victim of Sexual Crime in Lifetime			
	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
Male	10	1.0	965	99.0	69	7.1	904	92.9
Female	45	4.4***	975	95.6	300	29.5***	718	70.5
White	47	2.6	1755	97.4	333	18.5	1466	81.5
Nonwhite	8	4.1	185	95.9	36	18.8	156	81.3
Rural	31	3.1	970	96.9	207	20.7	793	79.3
Nonrural	24	2.4	970	97.6	162	16.3	829	83.7
College Graduate or Above	11	1.7	627	98.3	97	15.3	539	84.7
Less than College Graduate	44	3.3	1300	96.7	270	20.1**	1073	79.9
Married	22	1.8	1224	98.2	217	17.4	1027	82.6
Not Married	33	4.5***	703	95.5	150	20.4	585	79.6
\$40,000 or Less	36	4.1	836	95.9	195	22.4	677	77.6
More than \$40,000	14	1.6***	872	98.4	145	16.4**	740	83.6
Not a Violent Crime Victim	39	2.0	1880	98.0	335	17.5	1580	82.5
Violent Crime Victim	16	21.1***	60	78.9	34	44.7***	42	55.3
Not a Property Crime Victim	17	1.2	1442	98.8	206	14.2	1249	85.8
Property Crime Victim	38	7.1***	498	92.9	163	30.4***	373	69.6
Conservative	20	2.3	842	97.7	138	16.0***	723	84.0
Moderate	12	1.9	609	98.1	112	18.1	507	81.9
Liberal	22	5.3**	393	94.7	103	24.8	312	75.2
18 to 35	27	4.3**	608	95.7	128	20.2**	507	79.8
36 to 50	22	3.3**	647	96.7	150	22.4***	519	77.6
Over 50	6	0.9	653	99.1	87	13.3	569	86.7

** p <.01 (chi-square test)

*** p<.001 (chi-square test)

The results presented in Table 18 suggest that:

1. Females were significantly more likely than males to have been a victim of a sexual crime in the past 12 months and in their lifetime.
2. Respondents who had not graduated college were significantly more likely than respondents who had graduated college to have been victimized by a sexual crime in their lifetime.
3. Unmarried respondents were significantly more likely to have been victimized by a sexual crime in the past 12 months than married respondents.

4. Respondents reporting incomes of \$40,000 or less were significantly more likely than those with higher incomes to have been victimized by a sex crime in the past 12 months as well as in their lifetimes.

5. Violent and property crime victims were significantly more likely than respondents who had not been victimized by property or violent crimes in the past 12 months to also have been victimized by a sexual crime, both in the past 12 months and in their lifetime.

6. Respondents who identified themselves as liberals were significantly more likely than either moderates or conservatives to have been a victim of a sexual crime in the past 12 months.

7. Respondents who were over the age of 50 were significantly less likely than respondents aged 18 to 35 and 36 to 50 to be victimized by a sexual crime in the past 12 months and over their lifetime.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we examined victimization experiences of Kentucky citizens as well as their perceptions of risk of criminal victimization, their fear of criminal victimization, and their satisfaction with criminal justice agencies in Kentucky. Based on comparison of the findings from this study to those performed both nationally and regionally, in the vast majority of cases, the Kentucky residents who responded to this survey are much like their counterparts from other areas of the United States.

In Kentucky as in other areas, residents express greater satisfaction with the police than other criminal justice agencies. Four in five respondents were at least somewhat satisfied with the police who serve their community. This is probably due to the visibility of the police in their efforts to combat crime and the greater likelihood that the average citizen will have had an interaction (and in many cases, a positive one) with the police. Respondents were less satisfied with the other criminal justice agencies, although in each case, at least half of the respondents were somewhat or very satisfied with the criminal justice agency at hand. The extensive amount of missing data (one in five respondents answered "don't know" when asked their opinion of the public defenders, the juvenile court, and community oriented

corrections programs) may be partly responsible for the lower levels of satisfaction with these agencies. These findings point to the fact that many citizens are unaware of the nature of most criminal justice agencies in their area.

Respondents in Kentucky are also concerned about victimization from crime, particularly property crimes. Approximately half the respondents were at least somewhat afraid that their house would be burglarized while they were away, while two in five were at least somewhat afraid that their money or possessions would be taken from them. Respondents were less fearful of victimization by violent crime, although at least one in six either somewhat or strongly agreed that they were afraid of being murdered or raped. Almost one in three agreed that they were afraid of being attacked by someone with a weapon. Despite these somewhat surprising levels of fear, less than one in five respondents indicated that their fear of crime had prevented them from doing things they wanted to do.

Of those activities that respondents avoided because of fear of crime, the most prevalent activity (walking/running/riding bike at night) was one that many individuals, whether fearful or not, do not engage in regularly anyway. The finding that almost one in five respondents indicated that they avoided going places alone because their fear of crime, coupled with the fact that one in ten respondents avoided shopping or leaving their house unattended, indicates that for a small percentage of Kentucky residents, fear of crime is an invasive emotion that prevents them from engaging in behaviors they might otherwise have engaged in were it not for fear.

The responses from this study regarding “defensive behaviors” (i.e., behaviors in which respondents engaged because of fear of crime) are revealing as well. Only one in three respondents stated that they had not placed any items in their homes due to fear of crime; thus, almost two in three respondents in this survey have engaged in some defensive behavior due to their fear of crime. The most prevalent of these behaviors was placing outside security lights in their home, as approximately two in five respondents stated they had done so in the past 12 months. Almost as many respondents had

installed door bolts as well. A startling number (25.9 %) stated that they had obtained a gun during the past 12 months due to their fear of crime. While it may be that the respondent's referent for time was greater than 12 months, it is still somewhat alarming that one in four of the Kentucky residents who responded to this survey has a firearm in their home primarily due to fear of crime. Approximately one in four had also installed extra door locks in their home, while one in five had obtained a guard dog.

One possible explanation for this pattern of findings (i.e., rather high levels of fear coupled with low levels of avoidance and relatively high levels of defensive behavior) is that when defensive measures are taken in reaction to fear, these have the effect of making people feel more secure and hence less likely to avoid activities they might otherwise have avoided had defensive measures not been initiated. If, in fact, a sense of perceived security accompanies defensive behaviors, this might also help explain the relatively low levels of perceived risk of victimization found in this study (see Ferraro 1995 for discussion of this phenomenon).

Despite the substantial minority of respondents who had engaged in either avoidance or defensive behaviors due to their fear of criminal victimization, the vast majority of the respondents do not feel that their chance of victimization by crime is very high. Less than one in five respondents felt that the likelihood of being victimized by any crime was higher than 6 on a 10-point scale, and the mean scores for each of those variables indicate that the typical respondent thought their chance of victimization was less than four on a ten-point scale and, in most cases, less than three. As such, the typical Kentucky resident who responded to this survey does not perceive a great likelihood of criminal victimization by any crime.

As stated previously, it is not safe to assume that the results of this study generalize to the population of Kentucky due to the low response rate obtained from the sample. It is reasonable to suppose that persons with particular characteristics (e.g., those having victimization experiences) were systematically more likely to agree to be interviewed and thus more likely to appear in the sample under

study here. For this reason, caution is warranted when comparing data from this study with national victimization trends reflected in the NCVS. Another important difference between the current study and the NCVS is that while the respondent herself/himself was the unit of analysis in this research, national studies typically employ households as the unit of analysis. Moreover, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) uses a panel design across a three-year period, as opposed to the cross-sectional method used in this study. Finally, due in part to the aforementioned modifications suggested by the Criminal Justice Council's Executive Committee and Data Advisory Team, the questions asked in this study (while very similar) are not identical to those used in national studies.

With these caveats in mind, the results of this study indicate that the vast majority of respondents *had not* been victimized by crime in the past 12 months. Following national trends, respondents were far more likely to be victimized by property crime than violent crime. However, the numbers presented here seem to indicate slightly higher victimization rates than those uncovered in the NCVS conducted each year (Klaus, 2004). Approximately 1 in 100 respondents had been raped; nationally, 0.1 percent of households were victimized by rape in 2002. Approximately 1 in 100 respondents had been robbed; 0.4 percent of households nationally experienced robbery in 2002. Approximately 1 in 100 respondents had been attacked with a weapon; nationally, 0.7 percent of households experienced an assault with a weapon in 2002. Slightly more than one in 50 respondents was attacked by someone without a weapon in the past 12 months; nationally, 2.2 percent of households experience a simple assault. Approximately 1 in 50 respondents were forced into some type of unwanted sexual activity other than sexual intercourse; the NCVS has no comparable questions.

For property crime victimizations among respondents in this study, direct comparisons with national data are not as clear. For motor vehicle theft, 1 in 33 respondents had been victims of motor vehicle theft (3.4 % compared to 0.8 % of households nationally), while approximately 1 in 13 had been a victim of a burglary (8.8 % compared to 2.4 % of households nationally). Vandalism was the most

common victimization among the respondents in this study (15.5 per 100 compared to 4.9 % of households nationally). In each case, the percentage of respondents in this sample who had been victimized by the property crime in question is higher than the percentage of households victimized by that crime nationally. On the other hand, approximately 1 in 13 respondents had been victims of theft of items other than motor vehicles (7.9 % of respondents); this rate was lower than that found using national data (9.9 % of households nationally).

Thus, the respondents in this sample were generally victimized at higher rates than respondents nationally, a finding consistent with the concern that persons who had not been victimized may have been systematically less likely to complete the survey. Despite this, the vast majority of the respondents had not been victimized by any crime in the past 12 months.

Respondents were also asked about their lifetime sexual victimization experience. An alarmingly high number (11.2 %) indicated that, over the course of their lifetime, someone had forced to tried to force them to have sex; an equally alarming number (13.5 %) had someone force or attempt to force them into other unwanted sexual activity as well. Most of these victims were women, although one in 33 of the rape victims and one in 20 of the victims of other unwanted sexual activity were males. These numbers closely mirror the findings among most studies in this area that 20 percent of women and between three and five percent of men will experience forced, unwanted sexual activity at some point in their lifetime (see National Violence Against Women website- <http://www.vawprevention.org/> - for a number of studies citing comparable percentages on this topic).

The respondents in this study also were reluctant to report their victimization experiences to criminal justice agents. Two in three respondents reported all of their burglary and motor vehicle victimizations to the police, an act often necessitated to insure reimbursement for victimization by the insurance company, as most homeowner or motor vehicle theft claims require a police report. Additionally, four in five respondents reported all of those attacks in which respondents were victimized

by offenders using a weapon, and almost seven in ten reported all their victimization experiences where they were robbed or mugged. With the exception of vandalism (slightly over half reported all their vandalism victimizations), for the other crimes in question, less than half the respondents reported all their victimization experiences. For sexual victimizations (both in the past 12 months and in the lifetime), no more than one in three victims (34.6 %) reported all their victimization experiences. This finding will be dealt with in greater detail below.

When asked why they failed to report their victimization experiences, the most prevalent responses were as follows: (1) their victimization experience was minor and the respondent did not want to bother the police; (2) the respondent did not feel the police would do anything to help; and (3) the respondent did not feel the police could do anything to help. These findings are somewhat surprising, given the earlier finding that the vast majority of respondents agreed that the police were doing a good job in their community. Each of the responses reflects a lack of confidence in the police to solve the victimization experience, whether it be that the respondent feels the police are too busy to be bothered by their perceived "minor" victimization experience or whether the respondent lacks faith that the police can assist them with their victimization experience. As such, it is important for Kentucky criminal justice agencies, particularly police agencies, to continually emphasize to the public that their job is not just to solve crime, but also to assist citizens in whatever capacity they can. Evidently, many victims in Kentucky do not report their victimization experiences to police and, as such, are unaware of a wide variety of programs available to help victims (whether financially, psychologically, or emotionally) in many jurisdictions. Police agencies are typically aware of these services and often work closely with these victims' agencies. As such, it is important that the average citizen be educated regarding these programs prior to victimization; as such, even if the police cannot solve the victimization, they are cognizant of the victimizations so they can help the victim in any way they can and, at the same time, be more mindful of the victimizations that go on in their community.

The respondents also revealed that the victim-offender relationship in the victimization incidents uncovered in this study match national patterns (U.S. Department of Justice, 2003). For assault with a weapon and assault without a weapon, the most likely offender was a stranger; for each of the sexual crimes, whether in the past 12 months or in their lifetime, the victim was far more likely to know the offender than to be victimized by a stranger. As such, it is important to continue to emphasize to Kentucky residents that rape and sexual assault are not only those crimes committed by strangers, but include forced, unwanted sexual activities between relatives, friends, and casual acquaintances as well.

The design of this study allowed an opportunity to examine demographic differences in a number of perceptual, contextual, and experiential variables. For the most part, the relationships revealed in this sample match those found among respondents throughout the United States. Women were more fearful of criminal victimization, more afraid to walk alone in their neighborhood at night, more likely to perceive themselves to be at risk of victimization, more likely to think that crime had increased in the past 12 months, and more likely to be victims of sexual crimes, both in the last 12 months and in their lifetimes.

There are two justifications available in the literature for the gender differences in these areas (see May 2001 for review of these justifications). First, some authors attribute this differential fear of (and concern about) crime among females to their socialization experiences in the United States. From a very young age, girls are often socialized that they are different than boys. Horseplay and aggressive behavior among boys is often accepted among both parents and teachers; when females engage in these behaviors, they are often dissuaded from continuing in that behavior. Additionally, expressions like the "man of the house" and "take it like a man" indicate that the culture of the United States widely accepts that men should be protectors and able to stand alone in the face of difficulties, such as crime victimization. Women, on the other hand, are often socialized that they are the "weaker" gender and need the protection of criminal justice agencies and other "males" to protect themselves from crime.

Whether real or imagined, this perception is engrained in many females from a very young age and often shapes their perceptions regarding these issues as adults.

Many authors have suggested a more targeted argument regarding this topic, arguing that the “shadow of sexual assault” explains female’s differential fear and concern with crime (see May 2001 for discussion). The “shadow of sexual assault” argument suggests that any victimization experience, or experience with crime for that matter, is viewed through the lens of sexual assault for females. Thus, whereas men think of a robbery as someone taking something from them by force, women think of robbery as someone taking something from them by force, with a possibility that the robber will then rape them.

No matter what the explanation, women are more fearful of criminal victimization, more likely to perceive themselves at risk of victimization, and more concerned about crime in general than men among these Kentucky respondents and throughout the United States.

While whites were more likely than nonwhites to agree that the criminal justice agencies in Kentucky are doing a good job, race had very little impact on either perceptions or experiences with crime in Kentucky in any other areas. This is likely due to the fact that the so many Kentucky residents are white, rural, and of low socioeconomic status. As such, whether white or nonwhite, Kentuckians have similar daily activities and experiences. Consequently, racial differences in perceptions and experiences surrounding crime appear to be less than those found nationally and in other regions.

For many of the same reasons, there were few significant differences between rural and urban respondents in this sample. Residents from suburban or urban areas had higher opinions of criminal justice agencies than their rural counterparts, while rural residents were more likely to feel that crime had increased in the past 12 months in their area. Again, given the fact that there are few truly “urban” areas in Kentucky, this lack of significant differences is to be expected.

Education, on the other hand, had a significant influence on many of the topics at hand. College graduates were less fearful of crime, less likely to perceive themselves at risk of victimization, more likely to rate the criminal justice agencies higher, and less likely to be victims of sexual crimes in their lifetimes. These differences in perception can be explained, at least in part, by the greater likelihood that college graduates will be better informed regarding their likelihood of victimization by crime, the operation of criminal justice agencies, and the facts regarding crime rather than the myths often perpetuated by the media. Differences in experience with sexual crimes over the life course may be due to lifestyle and/or subcultural differences between those having and those lacking college educations.

Married respondents were less fearful of walking in their neighborhood at night and less likely to be victimized by all the crimes in question (except for lifetime victimization by a sex crime). These differences are probably due to the different lifestyles of married and unmarried respondents, including place of residence. For the most part, unmarried respondents engage in activities that expose them to risk of criminal victimization (i.e., going to bars, staying out late, using drugs) at greater rates than married respondents and are more likely to reside in areas with greater rates of victimization.

Income had a significant impact on perceptions of and experiences with crime in this sample as well. Respondents whose income was less than \$40,000 were more fearful of crime and more fearful at night in areas around their homes, perceived themselves to be more at risk of crime, had lower opinions of criminal justice agencies, were more likely to feel that crime had increased in their community, and were more likely to be victimized by both violent and sexual crimes than their counterparts with incomes higher than \$40,000. Again, these findings match national research that suggests that individuals with lower household incomes are more likely to be victimized by violent crime and more likely to have higher fear of crime and perceptions of risk as well (see May 2001 for review).

The relationship between types of victimization experiences and perceptions of crime and criminal justice agencies was not surprising either. Victims of property, violent, and sexual crime were

more fearful of crime and being alone at night in their neighborhood, more likely to perceive themselves at risk of crime, and less likely to have a high opinion of criminal justice agencies. Victims of property and sex crimes were more likely to feel that crime had increased in their community in the past 12 months. Additionally, for each victimization experience, being a victim of another type of crime had a strong influence on the likelihood of victimization by a separate type of crime (e.g., respondents who had been victimized by property crimes were more likely to be victims of violent and sexual crime than individuals who had not been victimized by property crimes). Again, these findings are probably attributed to the lifestyles of these individuals. Many of these victims may engage in activities that expose them to greater risk of victimization (see discussion of unmarried respondents above) and, as such, are more likely to be victimized, realize that fact, and are more fearful of victimization because of that lifestyle.

Political ideology had little impact on any of the variables at hand. Respondents who stated they were either somewhat liberal or very liberal had higher fear of crime levels and lower confidence in the criminal justice agencies than their conservative counterparts; it could be that one of these findings explains the other, as the liberal respondents' higher fear of crime may be due to the lack of confidence they have in the criminal justice agencies. Interestingly, those respondents who stated that they had more liberal political ideologies were more likely to have been victimized by sexual crimes than either their moderate or conservative counterparts, both in the past 12 months and in their lifetime. Again, this finding is probably due to one or more of the relationships discussed earlier, as political ideology does not occur in a vacuum. Female respondents typically are more liberal in their political ideology, as are younger, nonrural, unmarried, and college educated respondents. As such, it is possible that one of the relationships that predicted victimization by sexual crimes above (e.g., being unmarried or female) is largely responsible for this association as well.

Finally, the most surprising findings revealed in this study have to do with the impact of age on the perceptions of and experiences with crime among Kentucky residents. Typically, the relationship between age and many of the variables at hand is linear. In other words, younger people are typically less fearful of crime, more likely to perceive themselves at risk of criminal victimization, less likely to have a positive opinion of criminal justice agencies, less likely to feel that crime has increased in their communities, and more likely to be victims of all types of crime than older respondents. Among this sample of respondents, this was clearly not the case. As expected, younger respondents were less likely to feel that crime had increased in their community in the past 12 months and more likely to be victims of property, violent, and sexual crimes in the past 12 months. Nevertheless, respondents aged 36 to 50 were more fearful than those over 50, had higher levels of perceived risk than those 18 to 35, and were more likely to have experienced sexual victimization in their lifetime. As the lifetime sexual victimization experience is a cumulative variable (in other words, the longer you live—all other things being equal, which of course they are not—the more likely you are to experience sexual victimization), it may be that the finding is a product of the measurement of the variable.

The relationship between age and fear of crime and perceptions of risk, however, is more perplexing and is the most counterintuitive finding in this study. Both of these findings directly contradict the available literature (see May 2001 for review) that suggests that younger respondents are less fearful of crime than their older counterparts but are more likely to perceive themselves at risk than their older counterparts. Additionally, multivariate linear regression results not presented here indicate that, after controlling for all the demographic factors, age had a statistically significant negative association with fear of crime, indicating that younger respondents were significantly more fearful than older respondents. In the multivariate models, age had a nonsignificant association with perceptions of risk.

There are a number of possible explanations for this finding. First, it is possible that the low response rate to the telephone interview may have resulted in a biased sample, particularly in the area of age. It could be that, among those 36 to 50 years of age, only those respondents with the highest levels of fear of criminal victimization and perceptions of risk of victimization responded to the telephone interview while those with lower levels from that age group refused to participate. As such, the respondents in that age group in this sample may not be representative of their counterparts in the state when it comes to these variables. Secondly, it is possible that the association between both fear of crime and perceptions of risk and age may be mediated by another demographic or contextual variable (e.g., race, gender, victimization experience) that skews the relationship between age and those variables. These variables may or may not be measured in this study. Whatever the explanation, this is one of the most unexpected findings of this study and requires further exploration to unravel the nature of the finding.

Despite the fact that most the Kentucky residents surveyed do not feel they have a very high likelihood of victimization by crime, and, in reality, are not victimized by crime, for a substantial minority of Kentucky residents, fear of crime influences both the behaviors that people avoid and the activities in which people engage in their daily lives. While less than one in five respondents agreed that fear of crime had prevented them from doing things they wanted to do, at least one in ten respondents avoided going to certain parts of town, traveling or leaving their house unattended, shopping, going places alone, or walking/running/riding a bicycle at night. As such, fear of crime does constrain the behaviors of a number of Kentucky respondents. Additionally, a substantial minority of respondents had actively pursued options to reduce their fear of crime such as installing security lights, door bolts, extra locks, and obtaining firearms and guard dogs.

Thus, it seems important that Kentucky residents be made aware of the facts regarding crime and the efforts that Kentucky criminal justice agencies are engaging in to reduce the likelihood of crime victimization. As such, special attention needs to be paid to educating citizens of: (1) the fact that, in all likelihood, the vast majority of citizens in Kentucky will not be victimized by a crime, particularly a violent crime; (2) the reasonable precautions citizens can take to reduce their likelihood of criminal victimization (whether sexual or nonsexual); (3) lifestyle and other activities that can actually increase the probability of victimization; and (4) a realistic understanding of the operations of criminal justice agencies, including non-police agencies. Additionally, far greater efforts need to be made to convince Kentucky residents that any victimization, no matter how trivial in their minds, is important to the police and should be reported as soon as possible.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION SHEET
Kentucky Criminal Justice Council Crime Victimization Telephone Poll

IF RESPONDENT WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY IS:

The purpose of this study is to look at Kentucky residents' experiences with crime, victimization, and attitudes about the criminal justice system.

IF RESPONDENT IS CURIOUS ABOUT WHO IS SPONSORING THE SURVEY:

This survey is being sponsored by the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council and is being conducted by Eastern Kentucky University.

IF RESPONDENT WANTS TO KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SURVEY AND WANTS TO TALK TO HIM:

Dr. James Wells is the primary Investigator on this project. I am sure he will be happy to talk with you. With your permission, I can give him your telephone number and have him give you a call. What would be a convenient time for him to reach you?

IF RESPONDENT IS HESITANT ABOUT RESPONDING OR ASKS HOW YOU GOT HIS OR HER NUMBER:

Your number was selected at random by a computer, which means that every telephone number has an equal chance of being selected, and it is strictly by chance that your telephone number was one selected. Because of this, it is important that I talk to you because you are a part of a scientifically selected sample of people in your area of Kentucky. We do not know, nor do we want to know your name or address.

IF RESPONDENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY/ANNONYMITY:

The information you give me will be anonymous and will be used for statistical purposes only. Your answers will never be connected with your telephone number. Your answers will be used only in combination with answers from other survey participants whose identity is also anonymous. This method assures that no individual responses can ever be identified. Because of the nature of the studies Eastern Kentucky University conducts for various agencies, we are very careful to protect the anonymity of all our survey participants.

IF RESPONDENT IS CONCERNED THAT YOU'RE SELLING SOMETHING:

The Kentucky Criminal Justice Council sponsors this project and responses are only being used to understand Kentucky residents' experiences with crime and victimization. I assure you that this survey is for informational purposes only, and not attached to anything being sold.

IF RESPONDENT REQUESTS A COPY OF THE RESULTS:

The Justice Cabinet will make results of this poll available on their website. For more information about when this report will be available, please contact Faith Hartlidge at the Justice Cabinet at (502) 564-0341.

IF RESPONDENT STATES HE/SHE IS ON THE "NO-CALL" LIST:

The No-call list pertains only to telemarketers or people trying to gain information for profit or sell you something. Our purpose is only to gain your opinions and experiences about crime and victimization in Kentucky; the purpose of our call does not fall under the jurisdiction of the no-call list. Any information will be used for statistical purposes only.

IF RESPONDENT WANTS TO KNOW WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION:

This information is NOT given to any law enforcement agency; therefore, any information you give us concerning unreported victimization will remain confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only. We have no way to associate this interview with your personal information (such as name or address)

IF RESPONDENT WANTS TO KNOW WHO TO REPORT A CRIME TO:

To report a crime or victimization, you will need to contact your local law enforcement agency or the Kentucky State Police at 1-800-222-5555.

IF RESPONDENT WANTS TO KNOW HOW LONG THEY HAVE TO REPORT A CRIME IN KENTUCKY:

For a felony offense, there are no time limits on when the crime must be reported, of course, it is always better to report the crime as soon as it occurs. For misdemeanor offenses, there is a one-year time frame in which the crime must be reported to the authorities (this include Domestic Violence offenses).

HELPFUL HINTS:

- ❖ To move back to previous screen type: SHIFT "6" then enter.
- ❖ To terminate/end a telephone interview type the word "TERM" and enter.
- ❖ If someone refused to answer the "YES" "NO" questions, simply hit the code for yes, which will take you to an open ended, screen then type "RF" for refused.

Appendix B

My name is YOUR NAME, an interviewer with Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. May I speak with a person in the home who is 18 years of age or older?

REASONS TO CALL-BACK

REASONS NOT TO CALL-BACK

01 No answer

12 Non-working number

02 Busy

13 Non-residential number

03 Call-back

14 Language problem

04 Number-change

15 Fax/Modem/Electronic Device

05 Answering machine

06 Not 18 years

PRESS ENTER IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE ON THE LINE

INTRODUCTION:

INTERVIEWER: IF HAVE SOMEONE 18 OR OLDER ON THE PHONE:

My name is YOUR NAME, an interviewer with Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. We are conducting a survey about various issues dealing with crime victimization and attitudes about Kentucky's criminal justice system. I want to assure you that this survey is voluntary and your answers will be completely anonymous--please do not even tell me your name. This interview will take approximately 5 - 8 minutes. Would you be willing to participate in the survey?

01 YES

02 NO

D1

What is the respondents' gender?

01 MALE

02 FEMALE

D2

For demographic purposes only, could you please tell me your race/ethnicity?

01 White/Caucasian

02 African-American

03 Other

IF RESPONDENT MENTIONS OTHER RACE BESIDES THE FIRST TWO CHOICES, SPECIFY WHICH RACE BY TYPING RESPONSE IN (e.g.,Hispanic/Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander/Oriental, etc.)

Next, I would like to ask you a few questions regarding your attitudes toward the criminal justice system in Kentucky?

A1

In general, how satisfied are you with the police who serve your community?

- 01 Very dissatisfied
- 02 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 03 Somewhat satisfied
- 04 Very satisfied
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

A2

In general, how satisfied are you with the adult court system that serves your community?

- 01 Very dissatisfied
- 02 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 03 somewhat satisfied
- 04 Very satisfied
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

A3

In general, how satisfied are you with the prosecutors in your local court system?

- 01 Very dissatisfied
- 02 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 03 somewhat satisfied
- 04 Very satisfied
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

A4

In general, how satisfied are you with the public defenders in your local court system?

- 01 Very dissatisfied
- 02 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 03 somewhat satisfied
- 04 Very satisfied
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

A5

In general, how satisfied are you with the juvenile courts that serve your community?

- 01 Very dissatisfied
- 02 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 03 somewhat satisfied
- 04 Very satisfied
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

A6

In general, how satisfied are you with the jail that serves your community?

- 01 Very dissatisfied
- 02 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 03 somewhat satisfied
- 04 Very satisfied
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

A7

In general, how satisfied are you with the community-oriented corrections programs (such as probation, parole, and other such programs) in your community?

- 01 Very dissatisfied
- 02 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 03 somewhat satisfied
- 04 Very satisfied
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

A8

In general, how satisfied are you with the prison system in Kentucky?

- 01 Very dissatisfied
- 02 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 03 somewhat satisfied
- 04 Very satisfied
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

F1

INTERVIEWER READ: Now I am going to ask you some questions about your perceptions of crime in your community.

Is there any area within one mile of your home where you are afraid to walk alone at night?

- 01 No
- 02 Yes
- 03 Don't Know
- 04 Refused to Answer

Please indicate whether you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree with the following statements:

F2

In the past twelve months, fear of crime has prevented me from doing things I would like to do.

- 01 Strongly Disagree
- 02 Disagree
- 03 Agree
- 04 Strongly Agree
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

F2A

IF RESPONDENT AGREES WITH QUESTION, ASK:

Please state any activities that fear of crime has prevented you from doing in the past 12 months.

INTERVIEWER READ: Now I'm going to ask you about your feelings about some specific crimes.

F3

I am afraid of being raped or sexually assaulted.

- 01 Strongly disagree
- 02 Somewhat disagree
- 03 Somewhat agree
- 04 Strongly agree
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

F4

I am afraid of being attacked by someone with a weapon.

- 01 Strongly disagree
- 02 Somewhat disagree
- 03 Somewhat agree
- 04 Strongly agree
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

F5

I am afraid of having my money/possessions taken from me.

- 01 Strongly disagree
- 02 Somewhat disagree
- 03 Somewhat agree
- 04 Strongly agree
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

F6

I am afraid to go out at night because I might become a victim of crime.

- 01 Strongly disagree
- 02 Somewhat disagree
- 03 Somewhat agree
- 04 Strongly agree
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

F7

I am afraid of being murdered.

- 01 Strongly disagree
- 02 Somewhat disagree
- 03 Somewhat agree
- 04 Strongly agree
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

F8

I am afraid that someone will break into my house while I'm away.

- 01 Strongly disagree
- 02 Somewhat disagree
- 03 Somewhat agree
- 04 Strongly agree
- 05 Don't Know
- 06 Refused to Answer

F9

I am going to read a list of items that people place in their homes for security reasons. Please indicate with either a yes or no if you have placed any of the items in your home in last 12 months.

- 01 Burglar alarms
- 02 Door Bolts
- 03 Extra Door Locks
- 04 Window Guards
- 05 Police Department Identification Stickers
- 06 Guard Dogs
- 07 Outside Security Lights
- 08 Automatic Timers/Electronic Timers
- 09 Guns
- 10 Other
- 11 NO ITEMS WERE PLACED IN HOME
- 12 Refused to Answer

F10

What other device(s) have you placed in your home?

On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being not at all likely and 10 being very likely, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen to you in the next 12 months?

F11

Someone breaking into your home and taking something or attempting to take something.

01 1 Not at all likely

02 2

03 3

04 4

05 5

06 6

07 7

08 8

09 9

10 10 Very Likely

11 Don't Know

12 Refused to Answer

F12

Someone stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you.

01 1 Not at all likely

02 2

03 3

04 4

05 5

06 6

07 7

08 8

09 9

10 10 Very Likely

11 Don't Know

12 Refused to Answer

F13

Someone stealing items that belong to you without using force.

01 1 Not at all likely

02 2

03 3

04 4

05 5

06 6

07 7

08 8

09 9

10 10 Very Likely

11 Don't Know

12 Refused to Answer

F14

Someone taking or attempting to take something from you by force or threat of force.

01 1 Not at all likely

02 2

03 3

04 4

05 5

06 6

07 7

08 8

09 9

10 10 Very Likely

11 Don't Know

12 Refused to Answer

F15

Someone beating you or attacking you with a club, knife, gun or other weapon.

01 1 Not at all likely

02 2

03 3

04 4

05 5

06 6

07 7

08 8

09 9

10 10 Very Likely

11 Don't Know

12 Refused to Answer

F16

Someone threatening you with their fists, feet, or other bodily attack.

01 1 Not at all likely

02 2

03 3

04 4

05 5

06 6

07 7

08 8

09 9

10 10 Very Likely

11 Don't Know

12 Refused to Answer

F17

Someone forcing you or attempting to force you to have sexual intercourse with them against your will.

01 1 Not at all likely

02 2

03 3

04 4

05 5

06 6

07 7

08 8

09 9

10 10 Very Likely

11 Don't Know

12 Refused to Answer

F18

Over the past 12 months, do you believe that crime in your community has:

01 Greatly decreased

02 Somewhat decreased

03 Stayed the same

04 Somewhat increased

05 Greatly increased

06 Don't Know

07 Refused to Answer

I would now like to ask you some questions regarding whether or not you have been a victim of crime in the past 12 months.

V1

During the past 12 months, did anyone steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you such as a car, truck, motorcycle, or snowmobile.

01 No

02 Yes

V1A

How many times did this occur?

V1B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V2

During the past 12 months, did anyone intentionally damage or destroy property owned by you or someone else in your household?

01 No

02 Yes

V2A

How many times did this occur?

V2B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V3

During the past 12 months, did anyone break into, or try to break into, your house or some other building on your property intending to commit a crime?

01 No

02 Yes

V3A

How many times did this occur?

V3B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V4

During the past 12 months, did anyone take or attempt to take something directly from you by using force or threat of force, such as a stick-up or mugging?

01 No

02 Yes

V4A

How many times did this occur?

V4B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V5

During the past 12 months, was anything else stolen from you (other than the incidents already mentioned)?

01 No

02 Yes

V5A

How many times did this occur?

V5B

How many of these incidents did you report to police?

V6

During the past 12 months, did anyone attack you with a knife, gun, club, or another weapon other than hands, fists, or feet?

01 No

02 Yes

V6A

How many times did this occur?

V6B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V6C

What type of weapon or weapons were used in the attack(s)?

01 Gun

02 Knife

03 Club

04 Other

V6D

What other type of weapon was used in the attack(s)?

V6E

Was the most recent incident done by:

- 01 A family member
- 02 A spouse or former spouse
- 03 An intimate partner
- 04 A person or people who are well known to you, other than those listed above
- 05 A stranger
- 06 A casual acquaintance
- 07 I did not see the person who committed the crime
- 08 Don't Know
- 09 Refused to Answer

V7

During the past 12 months, did anyone hit, attack, or beat you by using their hands, fists, or feet or other bodily attack (not including attacks with weapons).

- 01 No
- 02 Yes
- 03 Refused to answer

V7A

How many times did this occur?

V7B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V7C

Was the most recent incident done by:

- 01 A family member
- 02 A spouse or former spouse
- 03 An intimate partner
- 04 A person or people who are well known to you, other than those listed above
- 05 A stranger
- 06 A casual acquaintance
- 07 I did not see the person who committed the crime
- 08 Don't Know
- 09 Refused to Answer

We understand that incidents involving unwanted sexual acts are often difficult to talk about. However, we think it is important to find out the amount of sexual abuse in the state. Thus, the following questions deal with this issue.

V8

During the past 12 months, has anyone made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?

01 NO

02 Yes

03 Refused to Answer

V8A

How many times did this occur?

V8B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V8C

Was the most recent incident done by:

01 A family member

02 A spouse or former spouse

03 An intimate partner

04 A person or people who are well known to you, other than those listed above

05 A stranger

06 A casual acquaintance

07 I did not see the person who committed the crime

08 Don't Know

09 Refused to Answer

V9

Has anyone **EVER** made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?

01 NO

02 Yes

03 Refused to Answer

V9A

How many times did this occur?

V9B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V10

During the past 12 months, did anyone force you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?

01 No

02 Yes

V10A

How many times did this occur?

V10B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

V10C

Was the most recent incident done by:

01 A family member

02 A spouse or former spouse

03 An intimate partner

04 A person or people who are well known to you, other than those listed above

05 A stranger

06 A casual acquaintance

07 I did not see the person who committed the crime

08 Don't Know

09 Refused to Answer

V11

Has anyone **EVER** forced you or attempted to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?

01 No

02 Yes

V11A

How many times did this occur?

V11B

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?

FINALLY WE HAVE JUST A FEW MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT
YOU THAT WILL HELP US IDENTIFY DIFFERENCES IN OPINIONS ABOUT
CRIME
IN KENTUCKY.

D3

What is your current marital status?

- 01 Married
- 02 Widowed
- 03 Divorced
- 04 Separated
- 05 Never Married
- 06 Don't Know
- 07 Refused to Answer

D4

What is your current age?

D5

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 01 Less than 8th grade
- 02 Finished some high school
- 03 High school diploma or GED
- 04 Vocational program
- 05 Some college
- 06 2-year college degree program
- 07 4-year college degree program
- 08 Graduate or Professional degree program
- 09 Refused to Answer

D6

I AM NOW GOING TO READ YOU A LIST OF INCOME CATEGORIES. PLEASE STOP ME WHEN I GET TO THE ONE THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 2002.

- 01 Less than \$5,000
- 02 \$5,000 - \$10,000
- 03 \$10,001 - \$15,000
- 04 \$15,001 - \$20,000
- 05 \$20,001 - \$30,000
- 06 \$30,001 - \$40,000
- 07 \$40,001 - \$50,000
- 08 \$50,001 - \$75,000
- 09 Over \$75,000
- 10 Don't Know
- 11 Refused to Answer

D7

Which of the following best describes your current political beliefs?

- 01 Very Conservative
- 02 Somewhat Conservative
- 03 Moderate
- 04 Somewhat Liberal
- 05 Very Liberal
- 06 Don't Know
- 07 Refused to Answer

We appreciate your time for doing this survey, thank you.

Appendix C

Fear of Criminal Victimization Scale

To construct the fear of criminal victimization scale, responses to seven statements were summed. These statements were as follows:

- I am afraid of being raped or sexually assaulted.
- I am afraid of being attacked by someone with a weapon.
- I am afraid of having my money/possessions taken from me.
- I am afraid to go out at night because I might become a victim of a crime.
- I am afraid of being murdered.
- I am afraid that someone will break into my house while I'm away.
- In the past 12 months, fear of crime has prevented me from doing things I would like to do.

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with each statement using one of four categories of agreement (Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree, Strongly Disagree). Strongly Agree was coded as 4 while strongly disagree was coded as 1. Cronbach's alpha for the scale was .873.

Perceptions of Risk Index

To construct the perceptions of risk index, responses to seven questions were summed. Respondents were asked to indicate "on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being not at all likely and 10 being very likely, how likely do you think that it is..." whether the following events would happen to them in the next 12 months.

- Someone breaking into your home and taking something or attempting to take something.
- Someone stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you.
- Someone stealing items that belong to you with using any force.
- Someone taking or attempting to take something from you by force or threat of force.
- Someone beating you or attacking you with a club, knife, gun, or other weapon.
- Someone threatening you with their fists, feet, or other bodily attack.
- Someone forcing you or attempting to force you to have sexual intercourse with them against your will.

Cronbach's alpha for the index was .891.

Opinion of Criminal Justice Agents Index

To construct the opinion of criminal justice agents index, responses to eight questions were summed. Respondents were asked to indicate "In general, how satisfied are you with..."

The police who serve your community.

The adult court system that serves your community.

The prosecutors in your local court system.

The public defenders in your local court system.

The juvenile courts that serve your community.

The jail that serves your community.

The community oriented corrections program (such as probation, parole, and other such programs) in your community.

As these variables had an inordinate amount of missing data (20 percent or more for three of the variables), to insure continuity across the scale, we substituted missing data with the mean score for each of the indicators in question. As such, our estimate for this scale may be more conservative than if the data were not missing. Cronbach's alpha for the scale was .811.

Crime Changes in the Past 12 Months

Respondents were asked the following:

"Over the past 12 months, do you believe that crime in your community has: greatly decreased (1), somewhat decreased (2), stayed the same (3), somewhat increased (4), or greatly increased (5)."

Fear of Crime in Respondent's Neighborhood

Respondents were asked the following:

Is there any area within one mile of your home where you are afraid to walk alone at night. Yes (coded 1) and No (0).

Appendix D

Property Victimization Experience

To create the property victimization experience variable, respondents were asked if they had been victimized by four property offenses in the past year. The wording for the questions was as follows:

During the past 12 months, did anyone:

- (a) steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you such as a car, truck, motorcycle, or snowmobile
- (b) intentionally damage or destroy property owned by you or someone else in your household.
- (c) break into, or try to break into, your house or some other building on your property intending to commit a crime.
- (d) was anything else stolen from you (other than those incidents already mentioned)

Any respondent answering "yes" to any of the four questions was coded (1) as a property victim; all others were coded (0).

Violent Victimization Experience

To create the violent victimization experience variable, respondents were asked if they had been victimized by three nonsexual violent offenses in the past year. The wording for the questions was as follows:

During the past 12 months, did anyone:

- (a) take or attempt to take something directly from you by using force or threat of force, such as a stick-up or mugging?
- (b) attack you with a knife, gun, club, or another weapon other than hands, fists, or feet?
- (c) hit, attack, or beat you by using their hands, fists, or feet or other bodily attack (not including attacks with weapons).

Any respondent answering "yes" to any of the three questions was coded (1) as a victim; all others were coded (0).

Appendix E

12-Month Sexual Victimization Experience

To create the sexual victimization in the last 12 months variable, respondents were asked if they had been victimized by two sexual offenses in the past year. The wording for the questions was as follows:

During the past 12 months:

- (a) has anyone made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?
- (b) did anyone force you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?

Any respondent answering "yes" to either of the two questions was coded (1) as a victim; all others were coded (0).

Lifetime Sexual Victimization Experience

To create the lifetime sexual victimization experience variable, respondents were asked if they had ever been victimized by two sexual offenses. The wording for the questions was as follows:

Has anyone **ever**:

- (a) made or tried to make you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you?
- (b) forced you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?

Any respondent answering "yes" to either of the two questions was coded (1) as a victim; all others were coded (0).

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