



CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION

A Research Report*

**Perceptions of Safety and Crime in
Rural Nebraska**

2003 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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Executive Summary

There is a common perception that rural areas are generally safer compared to urban areas. However, many changes are occurring in rural Nebraska. Increased media attention has been given to methamphetamine use in rural areas of the state. Given all that, how safe do rural Nebraskans feel? Do they believe crime has increased in their community? Do their opinions differ by their region, size of their community or their occupation?

This report details 3,087 responses to the 2003 Nebraska Rural Poll, the eighth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about personal safety. For all questions, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, i.e., comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Over one-third of rural Nebraskans walk alone at night and let their children walk to school alone.*** Thirty-seven percent generally walk alone at night and 34 percent let their children walk to school alone. Less than one-third of rural Nebraskans generally do the following: let their children walk downtown alone (32%), leave their house unlocked when they leave (27%), leave their keys in their car (24%) and leave their house unlocked at night (20%).
- ***Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to do each of the items listed above.*** As an example, 52 percent of the persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people let their children walk downtown alone. But, only 16 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more allow their children to do so.
- ***Most rural Nebraskans believe that rural areas are generally safer than urban areas.*** Sixty-nine percent believe that the threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas. And, 60 percent think more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer.
- ***Most rural Nebraskans rely on their neighbors to help watch their property when they are away.*** Seventy-two percent agree that when they are away from home, they count on their neighbors to watch their property.
- ***The majority of rural Nebraskans believe that drugs are a problem in their community.*** Seventy-six percent agree with this statement.
- ***Over one-half of rural Nebraskans say that crime has increased in their community compared to five years ago.*** Fifty-eight percent agree that crime has increased in their community.
- ***Persons living in or near the largest communities in the state are more likely than the***

persons living in or near the smaller communities to agree that crime has increased in their community. Seventy-three percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree that crime has increased in their community compared to five years ago. However, only 44 percent of the persons living in communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 share this opinion.

- ***Residents of the South Central region are more likely than persons living in different areas of the state to say that various crimes are problems in their community.*** Residents of this region are most likely to agree that crime has increased in their community compared to five years ago. And, they are the regional group most likely to say that the following types of crime are a problem in their community: theft, drugs and violent crime.
- ***Persons living in or near the largest communities in the state are more likely than the persons living in or near the smaller communities to say that various crimes are a problem in their community.*** The persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than the persons living in or near smaller communities to say that theft, drugs, juvenile delinquency and violent crime are problems in their community. As an example, 44 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree that violent crime is a problem in their community. In contrast, only six percent of the persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people agree.
- ***Some rural Nebraskans have made changes to their behavior because of a concern about crime.*** Twenty-nine percent have limited the times and places they will go by themselves and 24 percent have improved their home security. Only five percent have purchased a hand gun and one percent have enrolled in a self-defense class.
- ***Females are more likely than males to have limited the times or places they will go by themselves.*** Forty-two percent of females have made such limitations, compared to only 16 percent of males.
- ***Younger persons are more likely than older persons to have moved to a different community or neighborhood because of a concern about crime.*** Ten percent of the persons age 19 to 29 have made such a move, compared to only three percent of the persons over the age of 50.

Introduction

Many people believe that rural areas are generally safer than urban areas. In a study of new residents in Nebraska conducted in 1996, one of the top reasons given for moving to the state was “looking for a safer place to live.”¹ This belief is confirmed when examining the 2001 statistics from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (the latest available at this time). According to this report, crime increased 10 percent in Omaha and six percent in Lincoln in 2001. But cities with populations between 5,000 and 99,999 had only a two percent increase that year; cities with less than 5,000 people had a four percent increase and county areas actually reported a 6% decline in crimes.

However, many changes are occurring in rural Nebraska. A common problem that is gaining more attention as of late is the use of methamphetamine in rural areas. A 2000 report from the National Institute of Justice showed that there were few rural-urban differences in the use of methamphetamine in Nebraska.² And, meth users in the rural areas were more likely to be involved in selling it and had more prior offenses than those in Omaha.

Given all that, how safe do rural Nebraskans feel? Do they believe crime in their community has increased over the years?

¹ Source: “New Residents to Nebraska: Who Are They and Why Are They Here?”, Center for Rural Community Revitalization and Development Working Paper.

² Source: “Drugs in the Heartland: Methamphetamine Use in Rural Nebraska,” Research in Brief by the National Institute of Justice.

What types of safety precautions have they taken in the last five years? Do their responses to these questions differ by their region, size of their community or occupation? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

The 2003 Nebraska Rural Poll is the eighth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans’ perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about personal safety issues.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 3,087 responses from Nebraskans living in the 87 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in February and March to approximately 6,500 randomly selected households.

Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, taxes, personal safety and regional cooperation. This paper reports only results from the personal safety portion of the survey.

A 48% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project director approximately seven days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to the entire sample approximately seven days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 14 days of the original

mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

The average respondent is 55 years of age. Seventy-three percent are married (Appendix Table 1³) and sixty-nine percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 47 years and have lived in their current community 32 years. Fifty-three percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000.

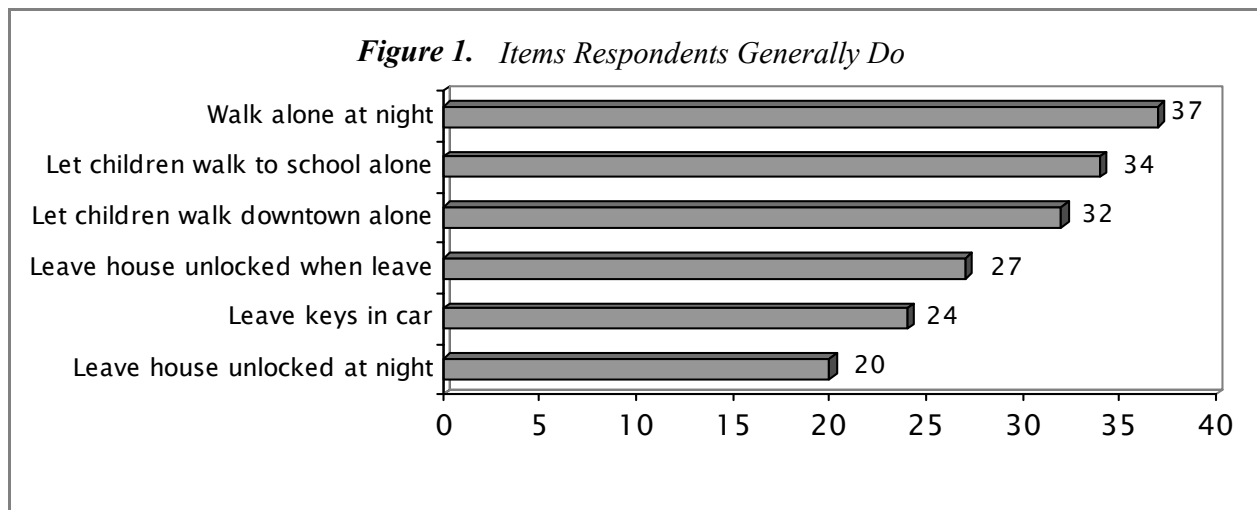
Fifty-four percent of the respondents reported their approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, for 2002 was below \$40,000. Thirty-three percent reported incomes over \$50,000. Ninety-three percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Sixty-nine percent were employed in 2002 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis.

Twenty-five percent are retired. Thirty-six percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Twelve percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. The employed respondents who do not work in their home or their nearest community reported having to drive an average of 29 miles, one way, to their primary job.

Personal Safety

To get a sense of how safe residents feel in their community or area, they were asked if they generally do any of the following items: leave their house unlocked at night, leave their house unlocked when they leave, leave their keys in their car, walk alone at night, let their children walk downtown alone, and let their children walk to school alone. Over one-third of rural Nebraskans walk alone at night and let their children walk to school alone (Figure 1).



³ Appendix Table 1 also includes demographic data from previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire non-metropolitan population of Nebraska (using 2000 U.S. Census data).

Certain groups are more likely than others to do these items. Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near the larger communities to do each of these items (Appendix Table 2). For instance, 52 percent of the persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people let their children walk downtown alone. But, only 16 percent of the persons living in or near communities with 10,000 people or more allow their children to walk downtown alone.

Persons living in the North Central region of the state are more likely than persons living elsewhere to do each of the items. Forty-five percent of the persons living in the North Central region let their children walk to school alone, compared to only 29 percent of the persons living in the South Central region of the state (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region).

In general, persons between the ages of 40 and 49 are more likely than persons of different ages to do each of the items listed. As an example, 27 percent of the persons between 40 and 49 years of age leave their house unlocked at night. Only 13 percent of the persons age 65 and older do so.

When comparing responses by gender, males are more likely than females to do each of the items listed. Statistically significant differences by marital status are detected in the responses to four of the items. Married persons are the group most likely to leave their house unlocked when they leave and to leave their keys in their car. The respondents who have never married are the group most likely to walk alone at night. Persons who are divorced or

separated are the group most likely to leave their house unlocked at night.

Persons with higher educational levels are more likely than persons with less education to leave their house unlocked when they leave, to leave their keys in their car, and to walk alone at night. Persons with a high school diploma are the education group most likely to let their children walk downtown alone.

When comparing responses by occupation, farmers and ranchers are the group most likely to leave their house unlocked at night, to leave their house unlocked when they leave, and to leave their keys in their car. The skilled laborers are the group most likely to walk alone at night.

Differences by household income are present for only one item. Persons with higher incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to walk alone at night.

To further assess how safe rural Nebraskans feel in their community, they were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with various statements (see Table 1). More than one-half of rural Nebraskans believe that rural areas are generally safer than urban areas. Specifically, they believe that the threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas (69%) and that more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer (60%). Trust also runs high in rural areas as 72 percent of rural Nebraskans say that when they are away from home, they count on their neighbors to watch their property. However, 76 percent also believe that drugs are a problem in their community.

Table 1. Agreement with Statements on Safety in Community

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
The threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas.	2%	13%	17%	54%	15%
I feel safer in my community today than I did five years ago.	7	49	27	15	2
Crime has increased in my community compared to 5 years ago.	3	16	23	44	14
I believe more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer.	2	15	23	49	11
Theft or burglary is a problem in my community.	4	27	23	38	8
Drugs are a problem in my community.	1	7	16	51	25
Juvenile delinquency is a problem in my community.	2	18	30	38	12
Violent crime is a problem in my community.	8	47	23	16	5
When I am away from home, I count on my neighbors to watch my property.	2	16	10	56	16

Differences in agreement with these statements are detected by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Persons living in the Panhandle are more likely than persons living in different parts of the state to believe that the threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas. Seventy-four percent of the Panhandle residents believe that rural areas are less vulnerable to terrorism, compared to 65

percent of the Northeast residents. Other groups most likely to believe that the threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas include: persons with higher household incomes, persons between the ages of 30 and 64, males, persons with higher educational levels, married respondents and persons with sales occupations.

Persons living in or near communities with

populations ranging from 500 to 9,999 are more likely than the persons living in or near communities of different sizes to agree that they feel safer in their community today than they did five years ago. Approximately 19 percent of the persons living in or near these mid-sized communities agree with that statement. However, only 14 percent of the persons living in or near communities with more than 10,000 persons share this opinion.

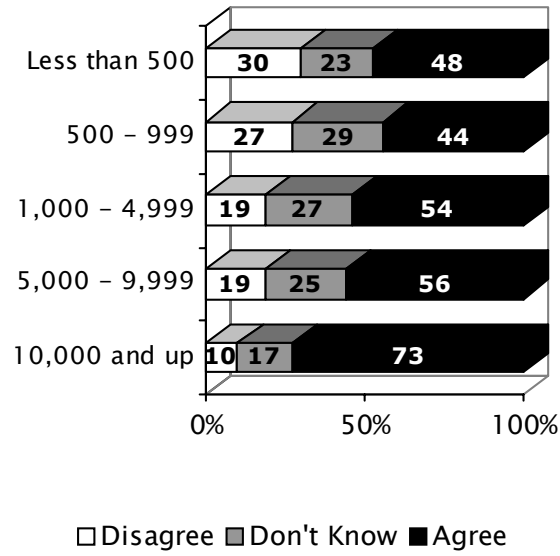
Other groups more likely to feel safer in their community today than they did five years ago include: residents of both the Panhandle and Southeast region of the state, older persons, males, and persons with lower educational levels.

When asked if crime has increased in their community compared to five years ago, differences of opinion occur by community size, region, age and marital status. Persons living in or near the largest communities are the group most likely to agree that crime has increased in their community (Figure 2). Seventy-three percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree that crime has increased in their community, compared to only 44 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999.

Other groups most likely to agree that crime has increased in their community compared to five years ago include: residents of the South Central region of the state, persons between the ages of 40 and 64, and the married respondents.

Agreement with the statement, “I believe more people will move to rural areas in the next 10 years because they believe rural areas are safer” differed by every

Figure 2. "Crime Has Increased in My Community Compared to Five Years Ago" by Community Size



characteristic examined, except gender. Persons with sales occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to agree with this statement. Sixty-seven percent of the persons working in sales agree with this statement, compared to 55 percent of the manual laborers or the persons working in professional, technical or administrative occupations.

The persons who are divorced or separated are the marital group most likely to agree that more people will move to rural areas in the next 10 years. Sixty-three percent of the divorced/separated respondents believe this will occur, compared to 53 percent of the persons who have never married. Other groups most likely to agree with the statement include: persons living in or near the smallest communities, residents of the Panhandle and North Central regions, persons with the lowest household incomes,

the older respondents, and persons with lower levels of education.

Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than the persons living in or near the smaller communities to believe that theft or burglary is a problem in their community. Sixty-four percent of the persons living in or near communities with 10,000 people or more agree that theft is a problem in their community. However, only 32 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 share this opinion.

Regional differences are also detected. Persons living in the South Central region of the state are more likely than persons living elsewhere to agree that theft is a problem in their community (Figure 3). Fifty-three percent of the South Central residents agree

with this statement. Only 37 percent of the North Central residents agree that theft is a problem there.

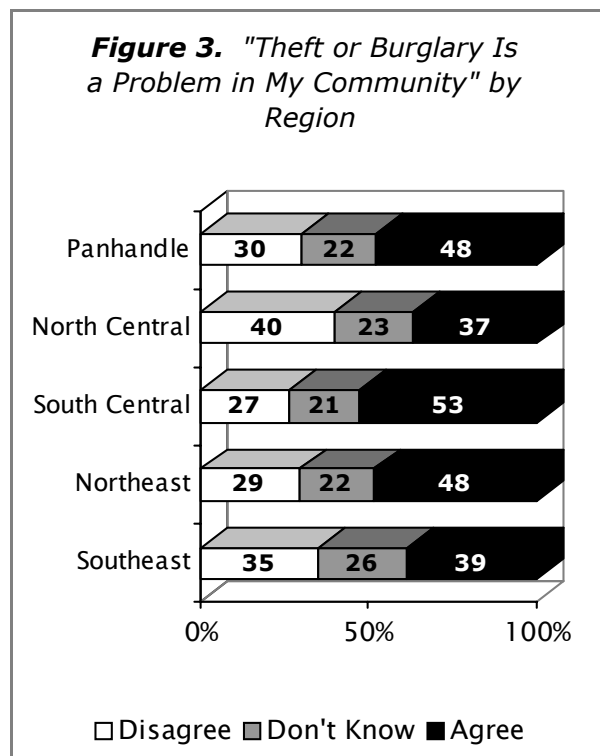
The other groups most likely to agree that theft is a problem in their community include persons between the ages of 40 and 64 and the divorced/separated respondents.

When asked if drugs are a problem in their community, persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely to agree that they are compared to persons living in or near the smaller communities. Eighty-seven percent of the persons living in or near communities with 10,000 or more people agree that drugs are a problem in their community. In contrast, only 56 percent of the persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people agree.

Persons working in administrative support positions are more likely than persons with different occupations to agree that drugs are a problem in their community. Eighty-six percent of the persons with administrative support occupations agree with this statement, compared to 69 percent of the manual laborers.

Other groups most likely to agree that drugs are a problem include: residents of the South Central region, persons with higher household incomes, persons between the ages of 40 and 64, respondents with higher educational levels and both the divorced/separated and married persons.

As was the case when asked about other types of crime in their community, the persons living in or near the larger communities are again more likely than the persons living in or near smaller



communities to agree that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community. Sixty-six percent of the persons living in or near the largest communities say that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community, compared to only 33 percent of the persons living in or near communities with less than 1,000 people.

The younger respondents are more likely than the older respondents to believe juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community. Fifty-eight percent of the persons age 19 to 29 agree with this statement. Only 41 percent of the persons age 65 and older share this opinion.

When comparing responses by occupation, the persons with professional, technical or administrative occupations are the group most likely to agree with the statement. Fifty-seven percent of the professionals agree that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community, compared to 40 percent of the farmers or ranchers.

Other groups most likely to agree with the statement include: residents of the Panhandle, persons with higher household incomes, respondents with higher educational levels and the persons who have never married.

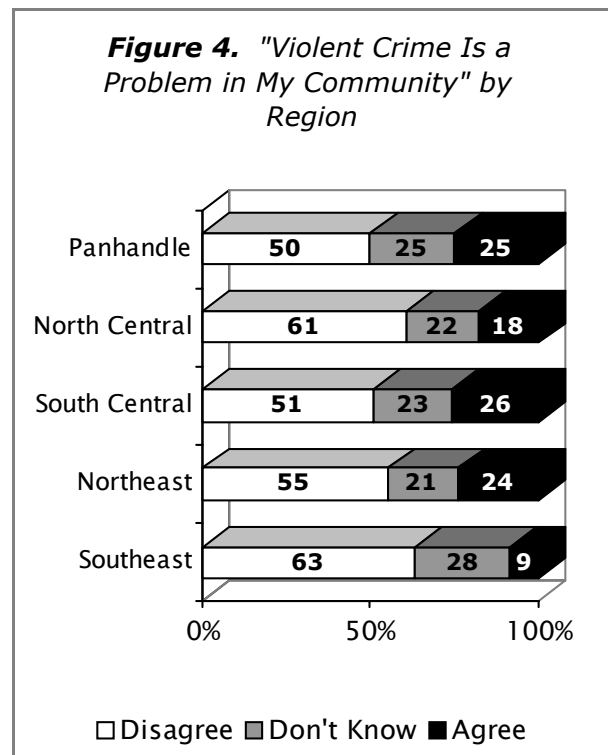
Some groups are more likely than others to think that violent crime is a problem in their community. Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than the persons living in or near the smallest communities to view this as a problem. Forty-four percent of the persons living in or near the communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree that violent crime is a problem in their community, compared to only six percent of the persons living in or

near communities with less than 500 people.

When comparing the responses by region, respondents living in the South Central, Panhandle, and Northeast regions are more likely than the persons living in other regions of the state to believe violent crime is a problem in their community (Figure 4). Approximately 24 percent of the persons living in the three regions mentioned above agree with this statement, compared to only nine percent of the persons living in the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to believe violent crime is a problem in their community include older persons and the divorced or separated respondents.

The last statement in this section asked respondents if they count on their neighbors to watch their property when they are away from home. Farmers and ranchers are the



occupation group most likely to agree with this statement. Eighty percent of the farmers or ranchers agree that they count on their neighbors to watch their property while they are away. However, only 59 percent of the manual laborers do so.

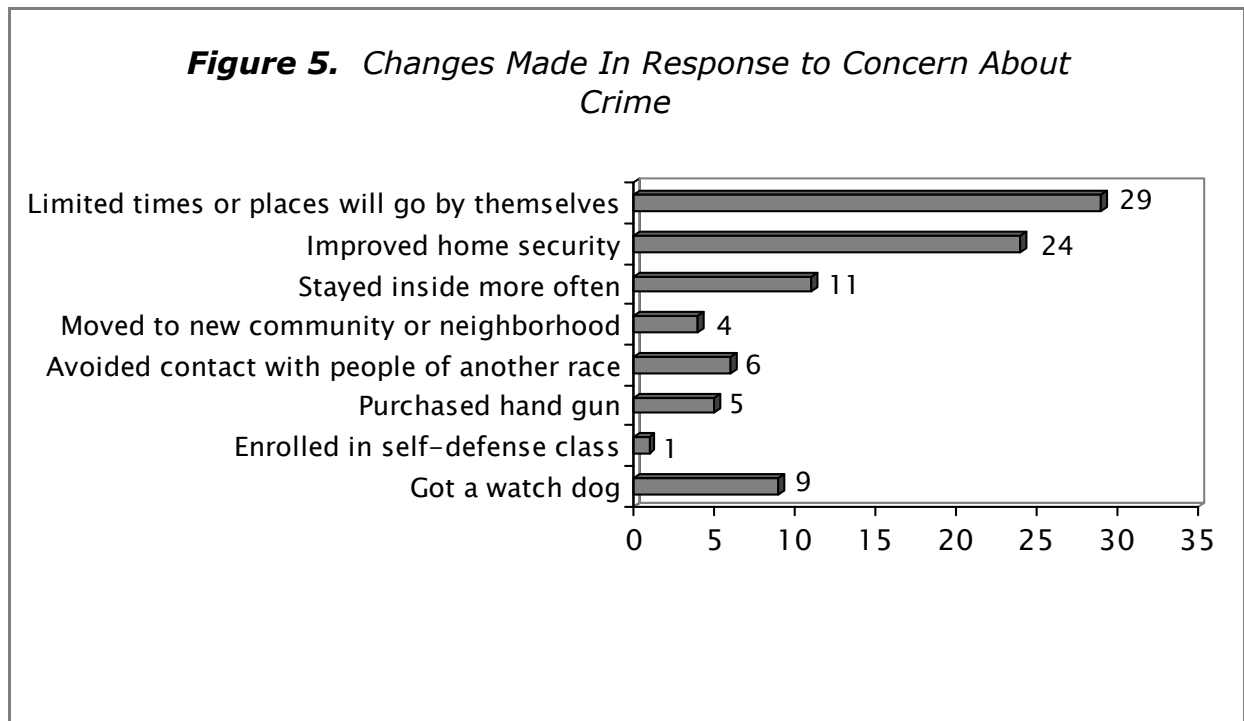
When comparing responses by marital status, both the married and widowed respondents are more likely to agree with this statement. Approximately 74 percent of these two groups agree with this statement, compared to 60 percent of the persons who have never married.

The other groups most likely to count on their neighbors to watch their property include: persons with higher household incomes, older respondents, males and persons with the highest educational levels. Comparisons by region reveal that the residents of the Southeast region are the group *least* likely to agree with this

statement.

After finding out how respondents view crime in their community, they were asked if they have changed any of their behaviors as a result of their concerns. The specific question asked, “Which of the following items have you done in the last five years because you were concerned about crime?” Very few of the respondents have made such adjustments in their behavior. However, more than 20 percent have limited the places or times they will go by themselves and have improved their home security (Figure 5).

Some groups are more likely than others to have made several of these changes. Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than the persons living in or near the smaller communities to have done the following: limited the times or places they will go by



themselves, improved their home security, stayed inside their house more often and avoided contact with people of another race.

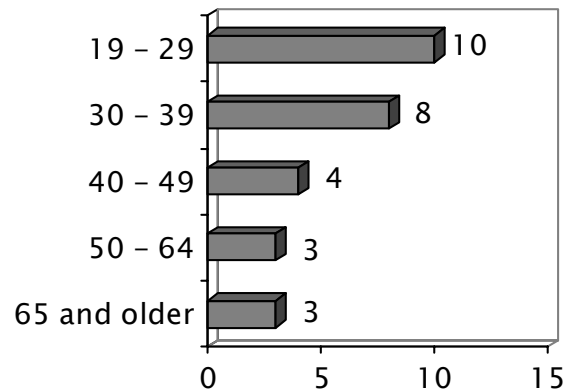
Residents of the Northeast region are more likely than the persons living in different regions of the state to have limited the times or places they will go by themselves and avoided contact with people of another race. Panhandle residents, however, are the regional group most likely to have enrolled in a self-defense class.

Statistically significant differences by household income occur on only one item. Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to have stayed inside their house more often.

Females are more likely than males to have limited the times or places they will go by themselves. Forty-two percent of the females had made such limitations, compared to only 16 percent of the males. Females are also more likely than males to have stayed inside their house more often. Males, however, are more likely than females to have purchased a hand gun.

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to have stayed inside their house more often. However, younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to have moved to a different community or neighborhood (Figure 6). Ten percent of the persons age 19 to 29 had moved because of a concern about crime, compared to only three percent of the persons over the age of 50. The younger respondents are also more likely than the older persons to have purchased a hand gun, enrolled in a self-defense class and to have gotten a watch dog.

Figure 6. Moved to a Different Community or Neighborhood Because of Crime by Age



The widowed persons are more likely than the other marital status groups to have limited the times or places they will go by themselves and to have stayed inside their house more often.

When comparing responses by education, the persons with less education are more likely than persons with more education to have improved their home security and to have stayed inside their house more often. The persons with some college, though, are the group most likely to have gotten a watch dog.

Persons with administrative support occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to have limited the times or places they will go by themselves. Thirty-seven percent of the persons with administrative support positions did limit when and where they would go, compared to only 17 percent of the farmers or ranchers. The skilled laborers

are more likely than the other occupation groups to have improved their home security. The manual laborers are the group most likely to have stayed inside their house more often and the farmers and ranchers are most likely to have purchased a hand gun. Persons with professional or administrative support occupations are the groups most likely to have enrolled in a self-defense class.

the majority of rural Nebraskans have not made changes in their behavior as a result. The two most common responses to their concern about crime include limiting the times and places they will go by themselves and improving their home security. Very few had made such drastic changes as purchasing a hand gun, staying inside more often or avoiding contact with people of another race.

Conclusion

Many rural Nebraskans still feel safe enough in their community or area to walk alone at night, to let their children walk to school alone and to let their children walk downtown alone. Persons living in or near the smaller communities are more likely than those living in or near the larger communities to do all of the items listed.

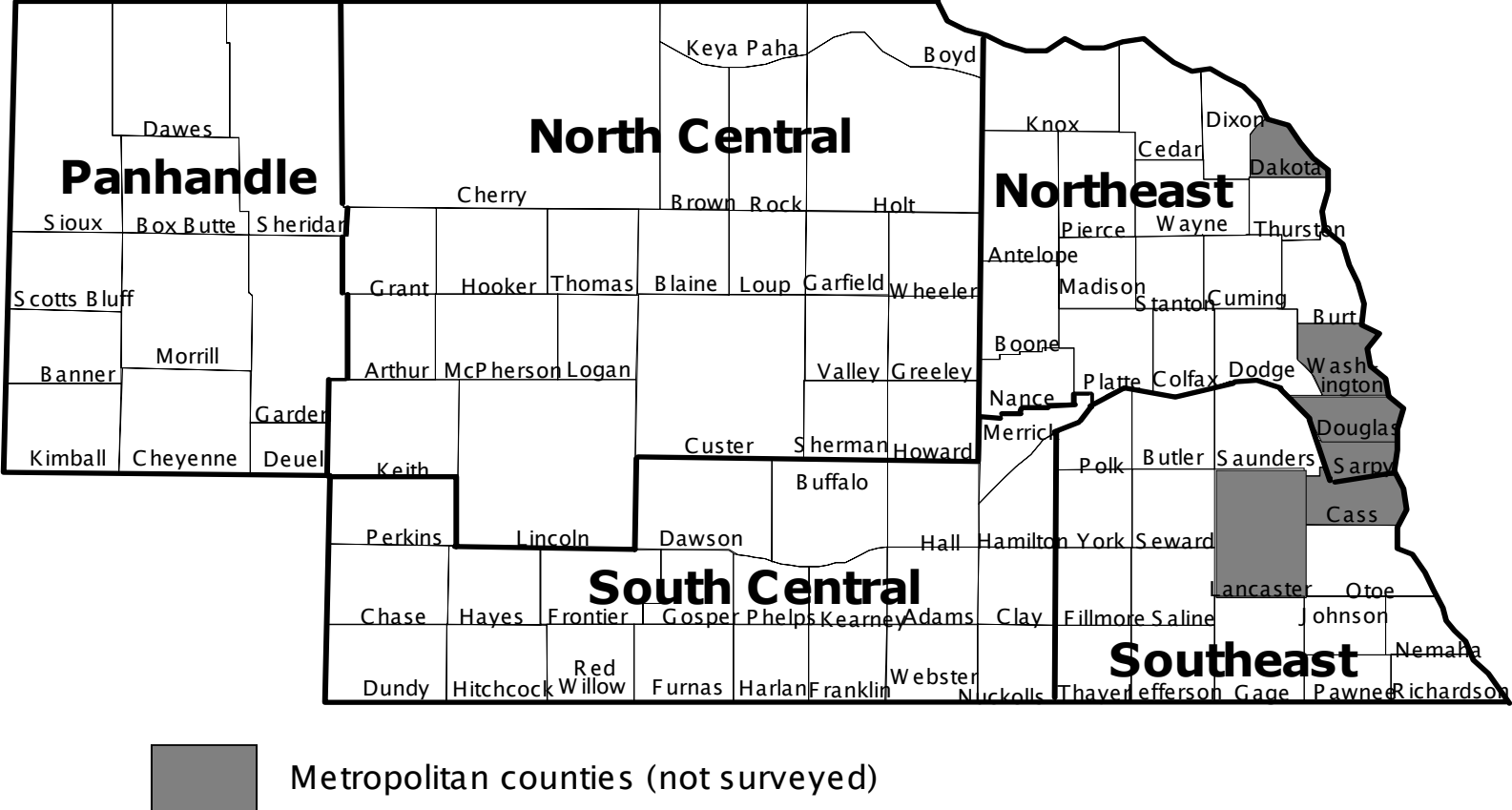
Most rural Nebraskans also feel that rural areas are generally safer than urban areas. Most feel the threat of terrorism is lower in rural areas and many believe that more people will move to rural areas in the future because they think they are safer.

Trust also remains high in the rural areas. Most rural Nebraskans say they count on their neighbors to watch their property while they are away. But, most also agree that crime has increased in their community compared to five years ago. Drugs are especially viewed as a problem in most communities.

People living in or near the larger communities and residents of the South Central region are the most likely to believe crime is a problem in their community.

However, despite their increased concerns,

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 2000 Census

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	2000
	Poll	Poll	Poll	Poll	Poll	Census
Age : ¹						
20 - 39	18%	16%	17%	20%	21%	33%
40 - 64	51%	51%	49%	54%	52%	42%
65 and over	32%	32%	33%	26%	28%	24%
Gender: ²						
Female	51%	36%	37%	57%	31%	51%
Male	49%	64%	63%	43%	69%	49%
Education: ³						
Less than 9 th grade	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	7%
9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma)	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%	10%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	34%	32%	35%	34%	36%	35%
Some college, no degree	23%	25%	26%	28%	25%	25%
Associate degree	11%	10%	8%	9%	9%	7%
Bachelors degree	16%	16%	13%	15%	15%	11%
Graduate or professional degree	9%	10%	8%	9%	8%	4%
Household income: ⁴						
Less than \$10,000	8%	8%	9%	3%	8%	10%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	14%	15%	16%	10%	15%	16%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	16%	17%	20%	15%	18%	17%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	16%	17%	16%	19%	18%	15%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	13%	14%	14%	17%	15%	12%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	11%	11%	9%	15%	9%	10%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	11%	9%	8%	11%	8%	9%
\$75,000 or more	11%	10%	8%	11%	10%	11%
Marital Status: ⁵						
Married	73%	73%	70%	95%	76%	61%
Never married	7%	6%	7%	0.2%	7%	22%
Divorced/separated	9%	9%	10%	2%	8%	9%
Widowed/widower	11%	12%	14%	4%	10%	8%

¹ 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

² 2000 Census universe is total non-metro population.

³ 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

⁴ 2000 Census universe is all non-metro households.

⁵ 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 15 years of age and over.

Appendix Table 2. Items Respondents Generally Do by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.

<i>Which of the following do you generally do?</i>						
	<i>Leave your house unlocked at night</i>	<i>Leave your house unlocked when you leave</i>	<i>Leave your keys in your car</i>	<i>Walk alone at night</i>	<i>Let your children walk downtown alone*</i>	<i>Let your children walk to school alone*</i>
	<i>Percent circling each item</i>					
Community Size	(n = 3006)	(n = 3005)	(n = 3005)	(n = 3006)	(n = 933)	(n = 933)
Less than 500	34	39	42	43	52	37
500 - 999	30	35	35	45	44	43
1,000 - 4,999	23	34	30	42	38	39
5,000 - 9,999	18	27	18	39	31	33
10,000 and up	9	15	9	28	16	28
<i>Chi-square Significance</i>	P ² = 162.87 (.000)	P ² = 130.35 (.000)	P ² = 245.23 (.000)	P ² = 59.12 (.000)	P ² = 70.17 (.000)	P ² = 12.54 (.014)
Region	(n = 3069)	(n = 3068)	(n = 3068)	(n = 3069)	(n = 978)	(n = 978)
Panhandle	21	31	24	42	36	39
North Central	28	36	34	42	39	45
South Central	16	25	20	33	27	29
Northeast	19	25	21	33	29	34
Southeast	21	27	25	42	33	32
<i>Chi-square Significance</i>	P ² = 25.26 (.000)	P ² = 22.43 (.000)	P ² = 35.53 (.000)	P ² = 26.14 (.000)	P ² = 7.93 (.094)	P ² = 11.56 (.021)
Individual Attributes:						
Income Level	(n = 2765)	(n = 2764)	(n = 2764)	(n = 2765)	(n = 882)	(n = 882)
Under \$20,000	19	26	22	30	34	34
\$20,000 - \$39,999	22	29	26	35	38	39
\$40,000 - \$59,999	22	29	25	42	27	31
\$60,000 and over	20	30	25	47	32	38
<i>Chi-square Significance</i>	P ² = 3.51 (.319)	P ² = 2.54 (.468)	P ² = 2.50 (.476)	P ² = 46.45 (.000)	P ² = 6.95 (.073)	P ² = 3.75 (.290)
Age	(n = 3084)	(n = 3083)	(n = 3083)	(n = 3084)	(n = 981)	(n = 981)
19 - 29	23	33	29	48	5	9
30 - 39	21	35	30	43	24	30
40 - 49	27	33	31	48	40	40
50 - 64	22	26	23	41	43	46
65 and older	13	21	17	21	16	24
<i>Chi-square Significance</i>	P ² = 55.49 (.000)	P ² = 45.59 (.000)	P ² = 55.15 (.000)	P ² = 154.04 (.000)	P ² = 58.09 (.000)	P ² = 36.98 (.000)
Gender	(n = 3031)	(n = 3030)	(n = 3030)	(n = 3031)	(n = 935)	(n = 935)
Male	23	30	29	48	37	38
Female	17	25	19	26	28	31
<i>Chi-square Significance</i>	P ² = 13.69 (.000)	P ² = 6.25 (.013)	P ² = 40.94 (.000)	P ² = 158.05 (.000)	P ² = 8.76 (.003)	P ² = 4.96 (.028)

Appendix Table 2 continued.

<i>Which of the following do you generally do?</i>						
	<i>Leave your house unlocked at night</i>	<i>Leave your house unlocked when you leave</i>	<i>Leave your keys in your car</i>	<i>Walk alone at night</i>	<i>Let your children walk downtown alone*</i>	<i>Let your children walk to school alone*</i>
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 3031)	(n = 3030)	(n = 3030)	(n = 3031)	(n = 936)	(n = 936)
Married	21	29	26	38	31	34
Never married	21	28	19	49	25	19
Divorced/separated	24	27	23	44	44	46
Widowed	10	18	11	19	40	40
<i>Chi-square Significance</i>	P ² = 26.74 (.000)	P ² = 17.30 (.001)	P ² = 40.76 (.000)	P ² = 64.34 (.000)	P ² = 6.03 (.110)	P ² = 6.94 (.074)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 3020)	(n = 3019)	(n = 3019)	(n = 3020)	(n = 934)	(n = 934)
No H.S. diploma	15	19	17	28	16	32
H.S. diploma	20	26	22	30	39	35
Some college	20	29	26	38	34	38
Bachelors/grad degree	21	31	25	48	25	30
<i>Chi-square Significance</i>	P ² = 4.26 (.235)	P ² = 15.73 (.001)	P ² = 8.41 (.038)	P ² = 64.26 (.000)	P ² = 14.42 (.002)	P ² = 4.84 (.184)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1985)	(n = 1985)	(n = 1985)	(n = 1985)	(n = 824)	(n = 824)
Sales	18	28	23	47	33	38
Manual laborer	24	23	21	38	34	25
Prof/tech/admin	20	30	24	47	31	37
Service	16	27	18	36	21	37
Farming/ranching	44	49	53	48	40	33
Skilled laborer	31	29	30	51	39	39
Admin support	27	28	26	39	35	38
<i>Chi-square Significance</i>	P ² = 76.64 (.000)	P ² = 43.36 (.000)	P ² = 112.34 (.000)	P ² = 24.28 (.001)	P ² = 10.24 (.175)	P ² = 5.24 (.631)

* For these two items, only the respondents with children under 19 years of age living in their home are included in the tables.

Appendix Table 3. Agreement with Safety Statements By Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.

	<i>The threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas.</i>				<i>I feel safer in my community today than I did five years ago.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Community Size	(n = 2915)				(n = 2906)			
Less than 500	14	15	71		52	32	16	
500 - 999	16	14	71		51	30	19	
1,000 - 4,999	14	18	69		54	27	19	
5,000 - 9,999	18	17	66	P ² = 8.87	53	27	20	P ² = 34.51
10,000 and up	16	16	68	(.353)	63	23	14	(.000)
Region	(n = 2964)				(n = 2954)			
Panhandle	15	11	74		57	24	20	
North Central	12	16	72		53	32	15	
South Central	17	16	67		56	26	18	
Northeast	16	19	65	P ² = 18.21	61	25	15	P ² = 22.03
Southeast	14	17	70	(.020)	51	30	20	(.005)
Individual Attributes:								
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2699)				(n = 2693)			
Under \$20,000	17	24	60		52	30	18	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	16	16	68		53	28	19	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	16	13	72	P ² = 64.57	58	26	16	P ² = 10.94
\$60,000 and over	12	10	79	(.000)	60	26	15	(.090)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2978)				(n = 2969)			
19 - 29	15	18	68		53	34	13	
30 - 39	16	14	71		53	32	15	
40 - 49	16	14	70		61	23	15	
50 - 64	17	14	70	P ² = 34.11	60	23	17	P ² = 40.83
65 and older	13	22	65	(.000)	49	31	20	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2935)				(n = 2927)			
Male	12	13	75	P ² = 54.46	52	29	19	P ² = 18.21
Female	19	19	62	(.000)	60	25	16	(.000)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2925)				(n = 2917)			
No H.S. diploma	21	32	47		46	34	20	
High school diploma	16	21	63		54	27	20	
Some college	15	14	71	P ² = 107.58	58	27	15	P ² = 17.79
Bachelors or grad degree	13	9	79	(.000)	58	27	15	(.007)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2935)				(n = 2927)			
Married	14	14	71		57	26	16	
Never married	18	15	67		52	28	21	
Divorced/separated	17	19	64	P ² = 46.96	55	31	14	P ² = 12.61
Widowed	17	28	55	(.000)	50	28	22	(.050)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1960)				(n = 1954)			
Sales	13	9	78		62	22	16	
Manual laborer	14	22	64		58	27	15	
Prof./technical/admin	15	12	74		60	26	14	
Service	18	18	65		58	26	17	
Farming/ranching	14	14	73		52	34	15	
Skilled laborer	21	9	70	P ² = 35.71	58	26	16	P ² = 12.98
Admin. support	20	12	68	(.001)	60	22	18	(.528)

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	<i>Crime has increased in my community compared to five years ago.</i>				<i>I believe more people will move to rural areas in the next 10 years because they believe rural areas are safer.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<u>Community Size</u>	(n = 2906)				(n = 2915)			
Less than 500	30	23	48		14	23	64	
500 - 999	27	29	44		15	21	64	
1,000 - 4,999	19	27	54		14	23	63	
5,000 - 9,999	19	25	56	P ² = 169.37	21	21	58	P ² = 21.51
10,000 and up	10	17	73	(.000)	19	24	57	(.006)
<u>Region</u>	(n = 2955)				(n = 2963)			
Panhandle	20	25	55		19	17	64	
North Central	24	27	49		14	21	65	
South Central	16	19	65		18	23	59	
Northeast	15	24	61	P ² = 43.70	16	26	58	P ² = 15.54
Southeast	21	24	55	(.000)	16	24	60	(.049)
<u>Individual Attributes:</u>								
<u>Income Level</u>	(n = 2689)				(n = 2698)			
Under \$20,000	18	28	54		12	26	62	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	18	22	60		15	24	62	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	20	20	60	P ² = 12.13	19	22	59	P ² = 30.36
\$60,000 and over	17	21	61	(.059)	23	20	58	(.000)
<u>Age</u>	(n = 2970)				(n = 2978)			
19 - 29	16	34	50		22	22	56	
30 - 39	20	24	55		23	19	59	
40 - 49	20	20	60		20	20	60	
50 - 64	19	20	61	P ² = 24.89	17	23	60	P ² = 56.49
65 and older	17	26	58	(.002)	10	28	62	(.000)
<u>Gender</u>	(n = 2927)				(n = 2936)			
Male	19	24	58	P ² = 0.49	17	23	60	P ² = 1.03
Female	18	23	59	(.784)	16	23	61	(.598)
<u>Education</u>	(n = 2918)				(n = 2926)			
No H.S. diploma	20	28	52		10	27	63	
High school diploma	20	23	57		11	24	65	
Some college	17	21	62	P ² = 11.03	18	22	61	P ² = 71.33
Bachelors or grad degree	18	25	57	(.087)	25	23	52	(.000)
<u>Marital Status</u>	(n = 2928)				(n = 2937)			
Married	19	22	59		17	22	61	
Never married	15	30	54		23	25	53	
Divorced/separated	18	24	58	P ² = 13.75	14	23	63	P ² = 22.59
Widowed	16	28	57	(.033)	12	31	57	(.001)
<u>Occupation</u>	(n = 1956)				(n = 1958)			
Sales	17	18	65		16	17	67	
Manual laborer	17	26	57		12	33	55	
Prof./technical/admin	19	22	59		25	20	55	
Service	19	24	58		16	22	62	
Farming/ranching	18	23	60		14	22	64	
Skilled laborer	19	22	59	P ² = 7.77	20	16	64	P ² = 48.16
Admin. support	21	23	56	(.901)	22	21	57	(.000)

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	<i>Theft or burglary is a problem in my community.</i>				<i>Drugs are a problem in my community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<u>Community Size</u>	(n = 2881)				(n = 2904)			
Less than 500	43	21	36		21	23	56	
500 - 999	44	24	32		13	26	61	
1,000 - 4,999	37	28	36		7	16	78	
5,000 - 9,999	30	23	47	P ² = 218.72	7	12	81	P ² = 235.49
10,000 and up	18	18	64	(.000)	4	9	87	(.000)
<u>Region</u>	(n = 2927)				(n = 2951)			
Panhandle	30	22	48		9	14	78	
North Central	40	23	37		10	19	72	
South Central	27	21	53		7	12	81	
Northeast	29	22	48	P ² = 47.02	7	17	76	P ² = 29.22
Southeast	35	26	39	(.000)	11	19	71	(.000)
<u>Individual Attributes:</u>								
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2669)				(n = 2686)			
Under \$20,000	27	27	46		9	22	69	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	33	21	46		8	15	77	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	30	22	48	P ² = 18.05	8	12	80	P ² = 34.08
\$60,000 and over	35	18	47	(.006)	8	11	80	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2942)				(n = 2966)			
19 - 29	34	27	40		9	20	71	
30 - 39	36	21	42		10	16	74	
40 - 49	31	21	48		9	9	81	
50 - 64	29	21	50	P ² = 15.86	7	14	80	P ² = 47.94
65 and older	30	25	45	(.044)	8	21	71	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2899)				(n = 2923)			
Male	32	22	46	P ² = 1.63	9	14	77	P ² = 3.94
Female	30	23	46	(.442)	8	17	76	(.140)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2891)				(n = 2914)			
No H.S. diploma	31	27	42		9	23	68	
High school diploma	31	24	45		10	18	73	
Some college	30	21	48	P ² = 5.98	8	15	77	P ² = 26.01
Bachelors or grad degree	32	21	47	(.426)	7	12	81	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2900)				(n = 2924)			
Married	33	21	46		9	14	77	
Never married	29	27	44		9	21	70	
Divorced/separated	24	23	53	P ² = 21.32	7	15	78	P ² = 35.45
Widowed	26	28	46	(.002)	5	25	70	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1947)				(n = 1953)			
Sales	33	21	46		6	14	80	
Manual laborer	28	27	45		11	20	69	
Prof./technical/admin	32	21	47		6	12	82	
Service	31	20	49		8	12	80	
Farming/ranching	33	25	41		10	15	75	
Skilled laborer	28	21	51	P ² = 15.66	11	15	74	P ² = 24.17
Admin. support	42	17	41	(.335)	6	8	86	(.044)

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	<i>Juvenile delinquency is a problem in my community.</i>				<i>Violent crime is a problem in my community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Community Size	(n = 2881)				(n = 2866)			
Less than 500	36	31	33		72	21	6	
500 - 999	30	36	33		74	19	7	
1,000 - 4,999	21	35	44		65	26	9	
5,000 - 9,999	17	29	54	P ² = 249.80	60	25	15	P ² = 513.73
10,000 and up	10	24	66	(.000)	34	22	44	(.000)
Region	(n = 2929)				(n = 2909)			
Panhandle	17	24	59		50	25	25	
North Central	26	27	46		61	22	18	
South Central	18	29	53		51	23	26	
Northeast	18	34	48	P ² = 37.93	55	21	24	P ² = 82.83
Southeast	22	34	44	(.000)	63	28	9	(.000)
Individual Attributes:								
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2670)				(n = 2652)			
Under \$20,000	18	36	46		51	27	22	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	20	29	51		57	24	19	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	19	27	54	P ² = 24.81	56	23	21	P ² = 19.08
\$60,000 and over	23	23	54	(.000)	60	18	23	(.004)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2944)				(n = 2923)			
19 - 29	12	30	58		56	25	19	
30 - 39	21	28	51		61	20	19	
40 - 49	21	23	57		57	21	21	
50 - 64	21	28	51	P ² = 68.15	57	21	22	P ² = 26.08
65 and older	19	40	41	(.000)	51	29	21	(.001)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2901)				(n = 2881)			
Male	21	29	50	P ² = 1.86	55	24	21	P ² = 1.32
Female	19	31	50	(.394)	56	22	22	(.517)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2894)				(n = 2874)			
No H.S. diploma	16	42	42		47	30	23	
High school diploma	20	33	47		54	26	20	
Some college	20	29	52	P ² = 24.94	55	23	22	P ² = 24.08
Bachelors or grad degree	20	26	54	(.000)	61	18	21	(.001)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2903)				(n = 2882)			
Married	22	29	49		58	21	21	
Never married	15	25	60		52	30	18	
Divorced/separated	15	31	55	P ² = 35.92	49	25	26	P ² = 24.65
Widowed	15	41	44	(.000)	48	30	22	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1946)				(n = 1938)			
Sales	18	35	48		60	23	17	
Manual laborer	24	26	51		51	29	20	
Prof./technical/admin	19	24	57		59	20	22	
Service	19	25	56		55	22	23	
Farming/ranching	26	33	40		63	24	13	
Skilled laborer	18	29	54	P ² = 31.10	56	18	26	P ² = 23.25
Admin. support	22	24	54	(.005)	60	20	20	(.056)

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

<i>When I am away from home, I count on my neighbors to watch my property.</i>				
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>			
Community Size	(n = 2911)			
Less than 500	18	12	70	
500 - 999	17	9	74	
1,000 - 4,999	18	13	70	
5,000 - 9,999	20	8	72	P ² = 15.53
10,000 and up	17	8	75	(.050)
Region	(n = 2959)			
Panhandle	21	7	72	
North Central	18	9	73	
South Central	17	10	73	
Northeast	15	10	74	P ² = 16.14
Southeast	20	13	67	(.040)
Individual Attributes:				
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2696)			
Under \$20,000	20	12	69	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	18	11	71	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	18	9	74	P ² = 13.82
\$60,000 and over	16	7	77	(.032)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2974)			
19 - 29	27	9	64	
30 - 39	22	8	70	
40 - 49	21	12	68	
50 - 64	16	10	74	P ² = 35.22
65 and older	13	11	76	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2933)			
Male	16	11	74	P ² = 8.90
Female	20	10	70	(.012)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2923)			
No H.S. diploma	17	10	74	
High school diploma	17	12	71	
Some college	19	10	71	P ² = 12.81
Bachelors or grad degree	18	8	75	(.046)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2932)			
Married	17	9	74	
Never married	26	13	60	
Divorced/separated	21	17	62	P ² = 37.66
Widowed	16	9	75	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1955)			
Sales	21	10	69	
Manual laborer	28	13	59	
Prof./technical/admin	17	7	76	
Service	23	10	67	
Farming/ranching	11	10	80	
Skilled laborer	16	12	73	P ² = 44.32
Admin. support	24	9	68	(.000)

Appendix Table 4. Safety Precautions Taken in Last Five Years by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.

<i>Which of the following items have you done in the last five years because you were concerned about crime?</i>								
	<i>Limited the times or places you will go by yourself</i>	<i>Improved your home security</i>	<i>Stayed inside your house more often</i>	<i>Moved to a different community or neighborhood</i>	<i>Avoided contact with people of another race</i>	<i>Purchased a hand gun</i>	<i>Enrolled in a self-defense class</i>	<i>Got a watchdog</i>
	<i>Percent circling each item</i>							
Community Size	(n = 2843)	(n = 2840)	(n = 2839)	(n = 2840)	(n = 2840)	(n = 2840)	(n = 2840)	(n = 2840)
Less than 500	24	24	8	2	6	8	2	12
500 - 999	19	23	7	3	3	5	1	10
1,000 - 4,999	26	21	9	4	4	4	1	8
5,000 - 9,999	26	21	9	4	4	5	1	9
10,000 and up	37	29	15	5	8	5	1	9
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	P ² = 52.38 (.000)	P ² = 17.91 (.001)	P ² = 31.46 (.000)	P ² = 7.99 (.092)	P ² = 21.62 (.000)	P ² = 5.94 (.204)	P ² = 0.66 (.956)	P ² = 4.63 (.328)
Region	(n = 2895)	(n = 2892)	(n = 2891)	(n = 2892)	(n = 2892)	(n = 2892)	(n = 2892)	(n = 2892)
Panhandle	19	21	9	4	4	5	4	7
North Central	24	20	9	3	4	7	2	10
South Central	32	25	13	5	7	5	1	9
Northeast	33	27	11	3	7	5	0*	9
Southeast	28	24	9	5	3	5	1	9
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	P ² = 29.85 (.000)	P ² = 9.13 (.058)	P ² = 8.30 (.081)	P ² = 2.40 (.662)	P ² = 17.67 (.001)	P ² = 2.60 (.627)	P ² = 25.44 (.000)	P ² = 2.68 (.612)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 2626)	(n = 2624)	(n = 2624)	(n = 2624)	(n = 2624)	(n = 2624)	(n = 2624)	(n = 2624)
Under \$20,000	32	23	18	4	7	5	2	10
\$20,000 - \$39,999	29	24	10	4	5	5	1	10
\$40,000 - \$59,999	26	26	8	3	6	7	2	9
\$60,000 and over	27	22	7	5	7	6	1	9
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	P ² = 6.71 (.082)	P ² = 3.32 (.345)	P ² = 43.70 (.000)	P ² = 3.50 (.321)	P ² = 2.59 (.459)	P ² = 3.89 (.274)	P ² = 2.49 (.478)	P ² = 0.18 (.981)
Gender	(n = 2864)	(n = 2861)	(n = 2860)	(n = 2861)	(n = 2861)	(n = 2861)	(n = 2861)	(n = 2861)
Male	16	25	8	4	8	8	1	9
Female	42	23	13	4	4	2	1	9
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	P ² = 225.31 (.000)	P ² = 2.46 (.126)	P ² = 18.83 (.000)	P ² = 0.36 (.564)	P ² = 25.61 (.000)	P ² = 54.94 (.000)	P ² = 0.57 (.499)	P ² = 0.26 (.650)

Appendix Table 4 Continued.

<i>Which of the following items have you done in the last five years because you were concerned about crime?</i>								
	<i>Limited the times or places you will go by yourself</i>	<i>Improved your home security</i>	<i>Stayed inside your house more often</i>	<i>Moved to a different community or neighborhood</i>	<i>Avoided contact with people of another race</i>	<i>Purchased a hand gun</i>	<i>Enrolled in a self-defense class</i>	<i>Got a watchdog</i>
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2909)	(n = 2906)	(n = 2905)	(n = 2906)	(n = 2906)	(n = 2906)	(n = 2906)	(n = 2906)
19 - 29	33	20	13	10	8	8	3	13
30 - 39	30	23	13	8	6	4	2	11
40 - 49	26	23	8	4	7	7	2	12
50 - 64	29	26	9	3	5	6	1	9
65 and older	30	24	14	3	5	3	0*	5
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	P ² = 5.00 (.287)	P ² = 4.89 (.299)	P ² = 23.42 (.000)	P ² = 42.31 (.000)	P ² = 7.81 (.099)	P ² = 16.21 (.003)	P ² = 14.00 (.007)	P ² = 26.67 (.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2866)	(n = 2863)	(n = 2862)	(n = 2863)	(n = 2863)	(n = 2863)	(n = 2863)	(n = 2863)
Married	27	24	9	4	6	5	1	9
Never married	25	20	11	5	7	6	2	7
Divorced/separated	30	23	15	4	6	7	2	12
Widowed	42	27	20	5	3	4	1	8
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	P ² = 28.74 (.000)	P ² = 3.68 (.299)	P ² = 41.25 (.000)	P ² = 1.48 (.687)	P ² = 5.31 (.150)	P ² = 3.31 (.346)	P ² = 2.46 (.482)	P ² = 3.84 (.279)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2853)	(n = 2850)	(n = 2849)	(n = 2850)	(n = 2850)	(n = 2850)	(n = 2850)	(n = 2850)
No H.S. diploma	33	28	21	2	6	3	0	6
H.S. diploma	27	26	12	3	6	6	1	9
Some college	30	25	9	5	6	6	1	11
Bachelors/grad degree	29	19	8	4	5	5	2	7
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	P ² = 4.26 (.235)	P ² = 13.05 (.005)	P ² = 31.23 (.000)	P ² = 6.30 (.098)	P ² = 1.26 (.739)	P ² = 2.27 (.518)	P ² = 5.10 (.164)	P ² = 8.41 (.038)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1910)	(n = 1910)	(n = 1909)	(n = 1910)	(n = 1910)	(n = 1910)	(n = 1910)	(n = 1910)
Sales	31	22	5	3	5	3	0	6
Manual laborer	26	26	13	5	9	7	1	13
Prof/tech/admin	29	23	7	4	5	6	2	9
Service	30	26	10	5	5	5	0	11
Farming/ranching	17	18	4	0*	8	10	1	15
Skilled laborer	21	33	7	6	8	8	1	10
Admin support	37	21	9	4	6	0	2	9
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	P ² = 25.26 (.001)	P ² = 16.32 (.022)	P ² = 14.77 (.039)	P ² = 13.23 (.067)	P ² = 7.98 (.335)	P ² = 22.63 (.002)	P ² = 23.11 (.002)	P ² = 10.87 (.144)

0* = Less than 1 percent.

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