



NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

A Research Report

Perceptions of Crime and Safety in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska

2014 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

Rebecca Vogt
Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel
Randolph Cantrell
Bradley Lubben

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Executive Summary

There is a common perception that rural areas are generally safer compared to urban areas. Furthermore, state crime rates in smaller communities showed a smaller increase over the past year than did rates in larger communities. However, many changes are occurring in rural Nebraska. Given all that, how worried are rural Nebraskans about crime in their community? Do they believe crime has increased in their community? Have these perceptions changed over the past eleven years? Do their opinions differ by their region, the size of their community or other demographic characteristics? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,943 responses to the 2014 Nebraska Rural Poll, the nineteenth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about crime. Trends for some of the questions are examined by comparing data from the 2003 Rural Poll to this year's results. In addition, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, income level, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Most rural Nebraskans are not worried or not very worried about either crime in their community or about personally being a victim of crime.*** Just over one-half (51%) of rural Nebraskans are not worried or not very worried about crime in their community. And, over six in ten rural Nebraskans (63%) are not worried or not very worried about personally being a victim of crime. Sixteen percent of rural Nebraskans are worried or very worried about crime in their community and 12 percent are very worried or worried about personally being a victim of crime.
- ***Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be worried or very worried about crime in their community.*** Almost one-quarter (22%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more are worried or very worried about crime in their community. In comparison, only 10 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 share this concern. Furthermore, most persons living in or near communities with populations less than 10,000 are not worried or not very worried about crime in their community.
- ***Most rural Nebraskans rely on their neighbors to help watch their property when they are away.*** Approximately two-thirds of rural Nebraskans (66%) agree that when they are away from home, they count on their neighbors to watch their property.
- ***Rural Nebraskans are less likely to believe various crimes are a problem in their community today than they did in 2003.*** For example, 65 percent of rural Nebraskans this year agree that drugs are a problem in their community. In 2003, 76 percent agreed with that statement. And, the proportion agreeing that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community declined from 51 percent in 2003 to 40 percent this year. Furthermore, the proportion of rural Nebraskans who feel safer in their community today than they did five years ago increased from 17 percent in 2003 to 21 percent this year.

- ***Fewer rural Nebraskans this year believe that more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer.*** In 2003, 60 percent of rural Nebraskans agreed with that statement, compared to 40 percent this year. And, the proportion of rural Nebraskans who count on their neighbors to watch their property when they are away from home declined from 71 percent in 2003 to 66 percent this year.
- ***Persons living in or near the largest communities in the state are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say that various crimes are a problem in their community.*** Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say that theft, drugs, juvenile delinquency, violent crime and gang activity are problems in their community. As an example, 79 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree that drugs are a problem in their community. In contrast, only 42 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people agree.
- ***Residents of the Panhandle region are more likely than persons living in different areas of the state to say that various crimes are problems in their community.*** Panhandle residents are the regional group most likely to say that the following types of crime are a problem in their community: drugs, juvenile delinquency, and violent crime. Over three-quarters (76%) of Panhandle residents agree that drugs are a problem in their community, compared to 57 percent of residents of the North Central region.
- ***Most rural Nebraskans believe the crime situation in their community has remained about the same during the past few years.*** Almost seven in ten rural Nebraskans (69%) believe the situation has remained about the same. Just over one-quarter (26%) believe the crime situation has changed for the worse and only five percent believe it has changed for the better.
- ***Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to believe that the crime situation in their community has changed for the worse in the past few years.*** Approximately one-third (33%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more believe the crime situation has changed for the worse during the past few years; however, only 17 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 share this opinion.
- ***Some rural Nebraskans have made changes to their behavior in the last five years because of a concern about crime.*** Over four in ten rural Nebraskans (44%) left their residence lights on at night, one-third (33%) have improved their home security in the last five years, 31 percent said they have a gun for protection because of a concern about crime, 27 percent have a dog for protection and one-quarter (25%) have limited the places or times they will go by themselves.
- ***Not many rural Nebraskans have experienced theft or vandalism during the past six months.*** However, over two in ten rural Nebraskans (22%) reported that someone trespassed on their property during the past six months.

Introduction

There is a common perception that rural areas are generally safer than urban areas. Furthermore, state crime rates in smaller communities showed a smaller increase over the past year than did rates in larger communities. Given all that, how worried are rural Nebraskans about crime in their community? Do they believe crime has increased in their community? Have these perceptions changed over the past eleven years? Do their opinions differ by their region, the size of their community or other demographic characteristics? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,943 responses to the 2014 Nebraska Rural Poll, the nineteenth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about personal safety.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,943 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.¹ A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in April to 6,813 randomly selected households, including an oversample of 500 Hispanic households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster,

¹ In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added this year because of a joint Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha that ensures all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, successful communities, personal safety and employment. This paper reports only results from the personal safety section.

A 29% 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.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2010 U.S. Census and the 2008 - 2012 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus two percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2010).

The average age of respondents is 51 years. Sixty-eight percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 69 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 42 years and have lived in their current community 27 years. Fifty-five percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-six percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Thirty-four percent of the respondents report their 2013 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Fifty-four percent report incomes over \$50,000.

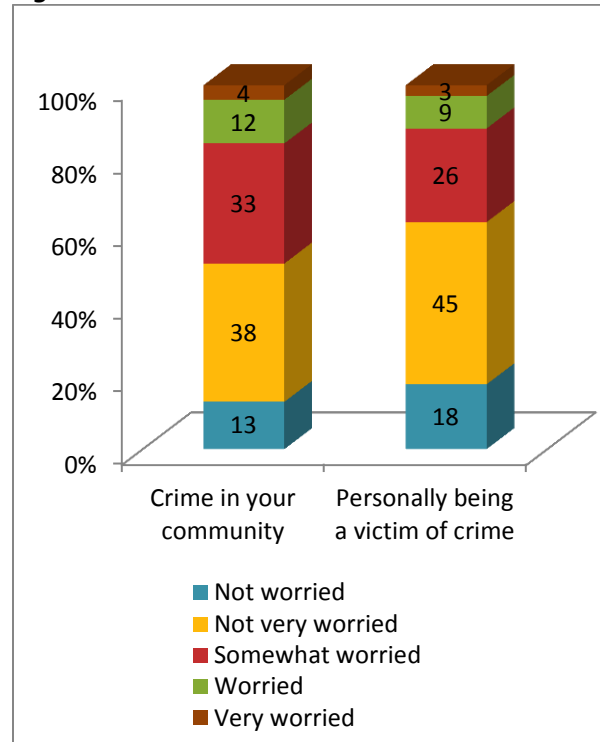
Sixty-nine percent were employed in 2013 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis.

Twenty-one percent are retired. Thirty-nine percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Twelve percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Personal Safety

Most rural Nebraskans are not worried or not very worried about either crime in their community or about personally being a victim of crime. Just over one-half (51%) of rural Nebraskans are not worried or not very worried about crime in their community (Figure 1). And, over six in ten rural Nebraskans (63%) are not worried or not very worried about personally being a victim of crime. Sixteen percent of rural Nebraskans are worried or very worried about

Figure 1. Worries About Crime

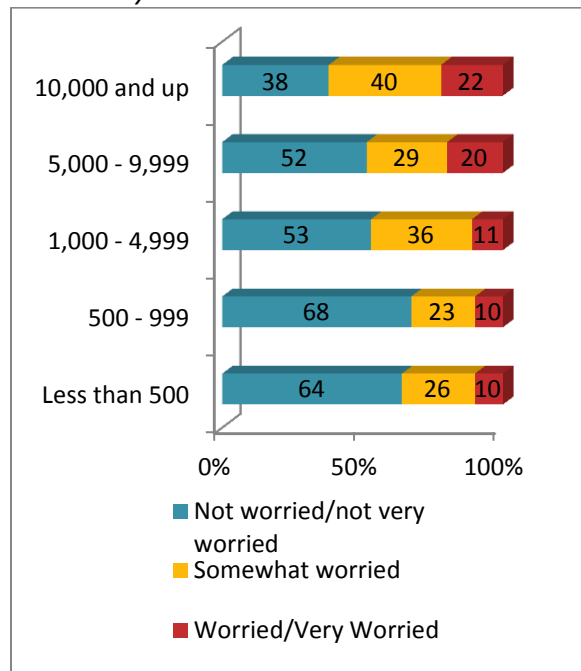


crime in their community and 12 percent are very worried or worried about personally being a victim of crime.

The level of worry about crime was examined by the region in which the respondent lived, the size of their community and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). Many differences are noted.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be worried or very worried about crime in their community. Almost one-quarter (22%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more are worried or very worried about crime in their community (Figure 2). In comparison, only 10 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 share this concern. Furthermore, most persons living in or near communities with populations

Figure 2. Worried about Crime in Community by Community Size



less than 10,000 are not worried or not very worried about crime in their community. Persons living in or near the larger communities are also more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be worried or very worried about personally being a victim of crime.

Persons living in the North Central region of the state are *less* likely than residents of other regions of the state to be worried or very worried about crime in their community (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Only nine percent of North Central residents are worried or very worried about crime in their community, compared to approximately 20 percent of residents of both the Panhandle and Southeast regions. The North Central residents are also the regional group *least* likely to be worried or very worried about personally being a victim of crime.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to be worried or very worried about crime in their community. Persons age 30 to 49 are the groups *least* likely to be worried or very worried about personally being a victim of crime.

Other groups most likely to be worried or very worried about both crime in their community and personally being a victim of crime include persons with household incomes under \$60,000, persons with lower education levels and persons without children in their household. Persons who have lived in their community for more than five years are more likely than newcomers to the community to be worried or very worried about crime in their community.

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 (Table 1). Most rural Nebraskans (68%) believe that the threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas. However, only 40 percent of rural Nebraskans believe more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer. Trust also runs high in rural areas as two-thirds (66%) of rural Nebraskans say that when they are away from home, they count on their neighbors to watch their property.

However, many rural Nebraskans think certain crimes are an issue in their community. Only 21 percent of rural Nebraskans feel safer in their community today than they did five years ago. And, approximately two-thirds (65%) believe that drugs are a problem in their community. Four in ten rural Nebraskans (40%) agree that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community and just over one-third (37%) think

Table 1. Agreement with Statements on Safety in Community, 2014

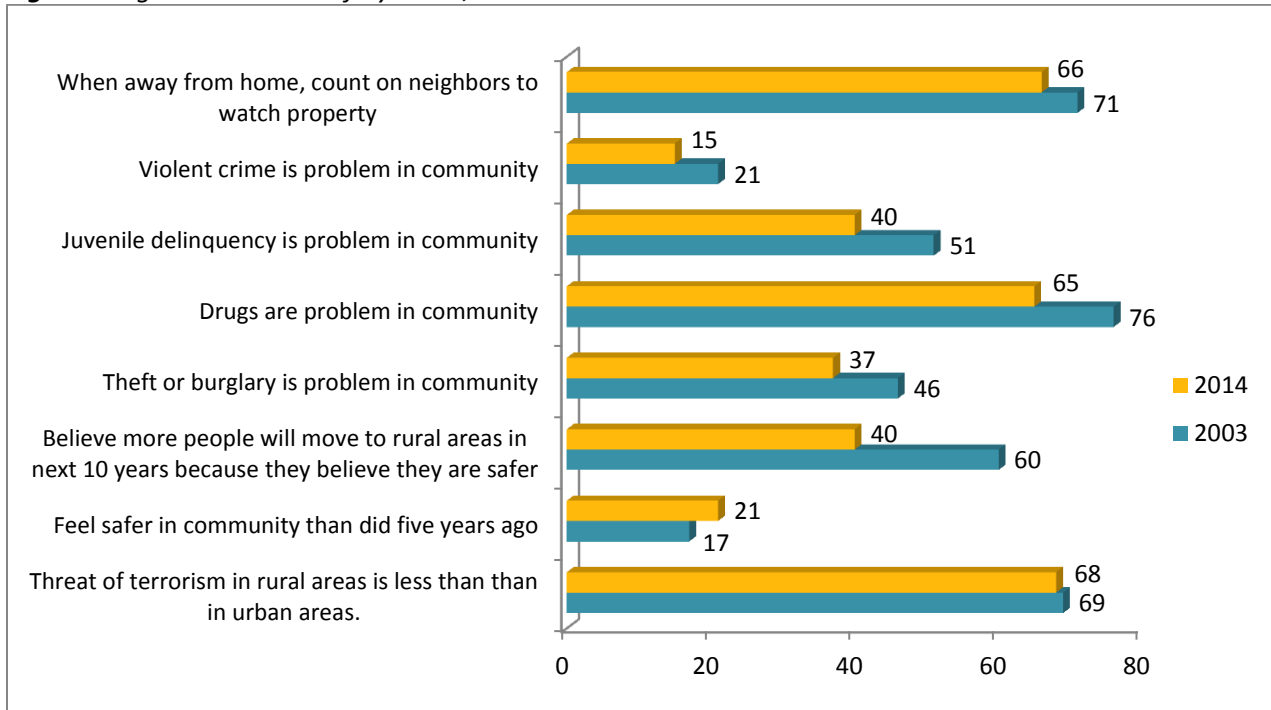
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
The threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas.	4%	11%	18%	49%	19%
I feel safer in my community today than I did five years ago.	5	33	41	19	3
I believe more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer.	6	21	33	35	5
Theft or burglary is a problem in my community.	11	30	22	31	6
Drugs are a problem in my community.	4	10	21	45	20
Juvenile delinquency is a problem in my community.	6	20	35	30	10
Violent crime is a problem in my community.	19	45	22	11	4
Gang activity is a problem in my community.	29	34	25	9	3
When I am away from home, I count on my neighbors to watch my property.	7	17	11	49	17

theft or burglary is a problem in their community. Fewer rural Nebraskans believe violent crime (15%) and gang activity (13%) are a problem in their community.

Most of these questions were also asked in the 2003 Rural Poll. In general, rural Nebraskans are less likely to believe various crimes are a problem in their community today than they did in 2003. For example, 65 percent of rural Nebraskans this year agree that drugs are a problem in their community. In 2003, 76 percent agreed with that statement. And, the proportion agreeing that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community

declined from 51 percent in 2003 to 40 percent this year. Furthermore, the proportion of rural Nebraskans who feel safer in their community today than they did five years ago increased from 17 percent in 2003 to 21 percent this year. However, fewer rural Nebraskans this year believe that more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer. In 2003, 60 percent of rural Nebraskans agreed with that statement, compared to 40 percent this year. And, the proportion of rural Nebraskans who count on their neighbors to watch their property when they are away from

Figure 3. Agreement with Safety Items, 2003 and 2014



home declined from 71 percent in 2003 to 66 percent this year.

Differences in agreement with these statements are detected by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to believe that the threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas. Approximately 72 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 5,000 agree that rural areas are less vulnerable to terrorism, compared to 62 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

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 under the age of

65, males, persons with higher educational levels, and newcomers to the community.

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999 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. One-quarter (25%) of the persons living in or near these mid-sized communities agree with that statement. However, only 18 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 the North Central region, persons over the age of 30, both persons with the highest and lowest educational levels, persons without children in their household, and newcomers to the community.

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 characteristic examined, except gender and community size.

Panhandle residents are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to agree that more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer. Almost one-half (47%) of Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to 37 percent of North Central residents.

Other groups most likely to agree with the statement include: persons with mid-level household incomes, the older respondents, persons with lower levels of education, persons without children in their household, and persons who have lived in their community for more than five years.

Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than the persons living in or near smaller communities to believe that theft or burglary is a problem in their community. Almost one-half (49%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree that theft is a problem in their community. However, only 22 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 both the North Central and Northeast regions are *less* likely than persons living in other regions of the state to agree that theft is a problem in their community.

The other groups most likely to agree that theft is a problem in their community include older

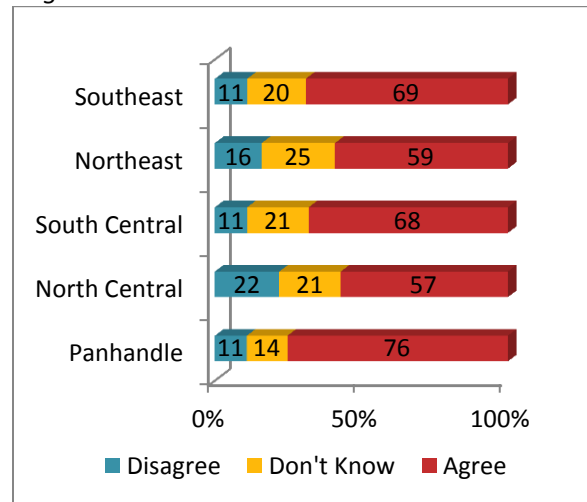
persons, persons with lower education levels and persons who have lived in their community for five years or more.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that drugs are a problem in their community. Almost eight in ten persons (79%) living in or near communities with 10,000 or more people agree that drugs are a problem in their community. In contrast, only 42 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people agree.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents in other regions of the state to agree that drugs are a problem in their community. Over three-quarters (76%) of Panhandle residents believe drugs are a problem in their community, compared to 57 percent of residents of the North Central region (Figure 4).

Other groups most likely to agree that drugs are a problem include: persons with higher household incomes, persons between the ages

Figure 4. Drugs are a Problem in Community by Region



of 50 and 64, and persons who have lived in their community for more than five years.

As was the case when asked about other types of crime in their community, persons living in or near the larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community. Over one-half (56%) of persons living in or near the largest communities say that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community, compared to approximately 20 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to think that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community. Just over one-half (53%) of Panhandle residents agree that juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community, compared to only 27 percent of residents of the North Central region.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to think juvenile delinquency is a problem in their community.

Some groups are more likely than others to agree that violent crime is a problem in their community. Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near the smallest communities to view this as a problem. Just over one-quarter (26%) of 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 persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people.

When comparing the responses by region, Panhandle residents are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to believe violent crime is a problem in their community. Just under one-quarter (23%) of Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to only 11 percent of persons living in the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to believe violent crime is a problem in their community include older persons, persons with lower education levels, and persons without children in their household.

Residents of larger communities are more likely than residents of smaller communities to agree that gang activity is a problem in their community. Over one-quarter (28%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree with that statement, compared to approximately three percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 5,000.

Residents of both the South Central and Northeast regions are more likely than persons living elsewhere in the state to agree that gang activity is a problem in their community. Approximately 17 percent of residents of these two regions agree with this statement, compared to four percent of residents of both the North Central and Southeast regions.

Other groups most likely to agree that gang activity is a problem in their community include: older persons, persons with lower education levels, persons without children in their household, and persons who have lived in their community for more than five years.

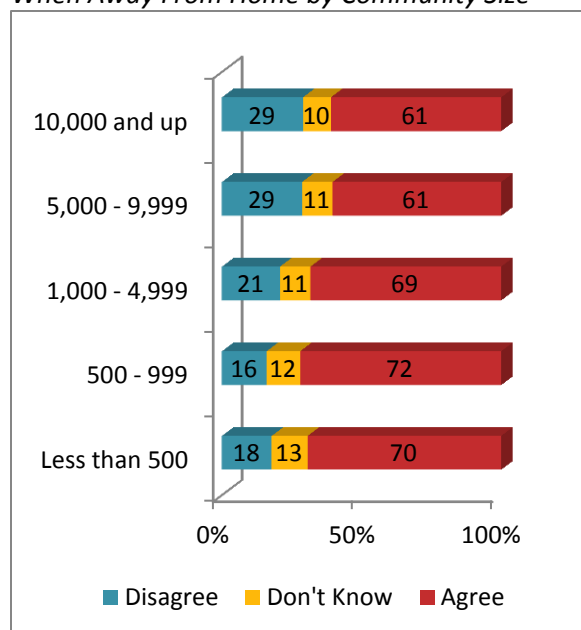
The last statement in this section asked respondents if they count on their neighbors to

watch their property when they are away from home. Persons living in or near the smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to do so. Seventy-two percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 agree with this statement, compared to 61 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more (Figure 5).

Panhandle residents and residents of the Southeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to count on their neighbors to watch their property when they are away. Approximately 70 percent of the residents of these two regions agree with this statement, compared to 61 percent of South Central residents.

The other groups most likely to count on their neighbors to watch their property include:

Figure 5. Count on Neighbors to Watch Property When Away From Home by Community Size



persons with higher household incomes, older respondents, males, persons without children in their household, and persons who have lived in their community for more than five years.

Next, respondents were asked how the crime situation in their community has changed in the past few years. Most rural Nebraskans believe the crime situation in their community has remained about the same during the past few years. Almost seven in ten rural Nebraskans (69%) believe the situation has remained about the same (Figure 6). Just over one-quarter (26%) believe the crime situation has changed for the worse and only five percent believe it has changed for the better.

The perceptions of the change in their community crime situation differ by community size, region and many individual characteristics (Appendix Table 4). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to believe the crime situation in their community has changed for the worse during the past few years. Approximately one-third (33%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more believe the crime

Figure 6. Change in Crime Situation in Community Over Past Few Years

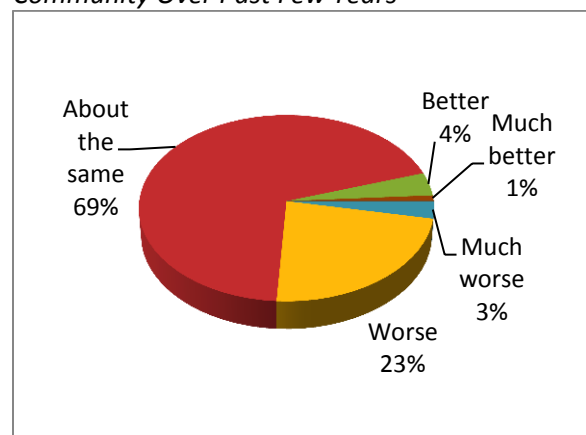
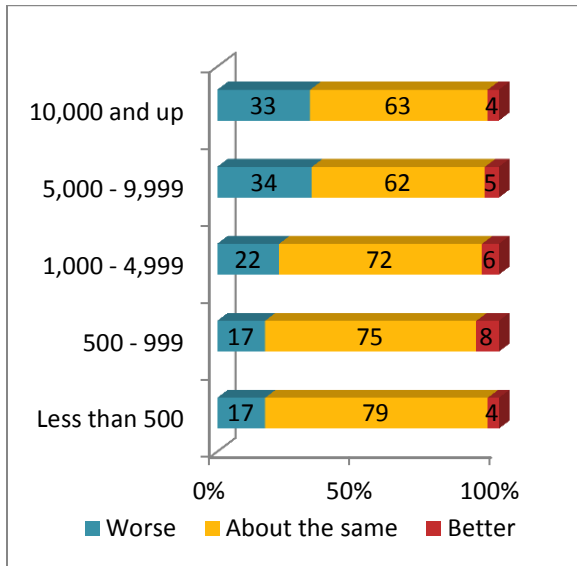


Figure 7. Perceived Change in Community Crime Situation During Past Few Years by Community Size



situation has changed for the worse during the past few years; however, only 17 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 share this opinion (Figure 7).

Residents of both the Panhandle and Southeast regions are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to believe the crime situation in their community has changed for the worse during the past few years. At least one-third of residents of these two regions believe the crime situation has changed for the worse. In comparison, only 21 percent of residents of both the North Central and Northeast regions believe the crime situation in their community has changed for the worse during the past few years.

Other groups most likely to believe the crime situation in their community has changed for the worse during the past few years include: older persons, persons with less education,

persons without children in their household, and persons who have lived in their community for more than five years.

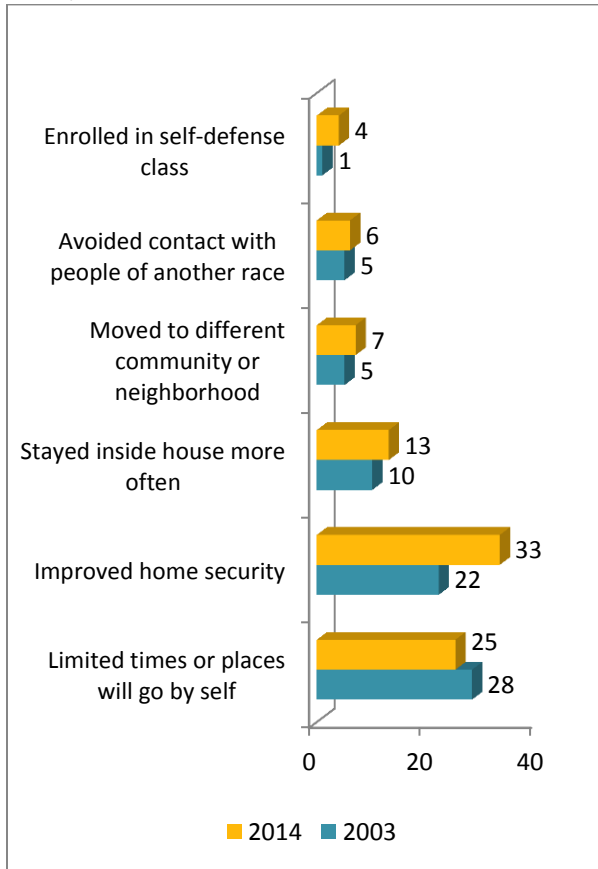
After finding out how respondents view crime in their community, they were asked if they have changed any of their behaviors as a result of their concerns. The specific question asked, “Which of the following items have you done in the last five years because you were concerned about crime?” Some rural Nebraskans have made such adjustments in their behavior. One-third (33%) of rural Nebraskans have improved their home security in the last five years and one-quarter (25%) have limited the places or times they will go by themselves (Figure 8).

This question was also asked in 2003. Although most of these items haven’t changed much over those 11 years, the proportion of rural Nebraskans who improved their home security because they were concerned about crime increased from 22 percent in 2003 to 33 percent this year.

A few new items were added to the list this year. Over four in ten rural Nebraskans (44%) left their residence lights on at night, just over three in ten (31%) said they have a gun for protection because of a concern about crime and 27 percent have a dog for protection.

Some groups are more likely than others to have made several of these changes (Appendix Table 5). 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, moved to a different community or

Figure 8. Safety Precautions Taken in Last Five Years, 2003 and 2014



neighborhood, avoided contact with people of another race, and left residence lights on at night. As an example, 41 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more have improved their home security in the last five years because they were concerned about crime. In comparison, approximately 27 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 5,000 have improved their home security in the last five years.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than persons living in different regions of the state to have limited the times or places they will go by themselves and moved to a

different community or neighborhood. Panhandle residents, however, are the regional group most likely to have improved their home security, to have a gun for protection and to have left residence lights on at night. Residents of both the North Central and Southeast regions are the regional groups *least* likely to have stayed inside their house more often and to have avoided contact with people of another race.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to have limited the times or places they will go by themselves, stayed inside their house more often and avoided contact with people of another race. Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to have a gun for protection and to have left residence lights on at night.

Females are more likely than males to have limited the times or places they will go by themselves. One-third (33%) of females have made such limitations, compared to only 15 percent of males. Females are also more likely than males to have stayed inside their house more often, moved to a different community or neighborhood, have a dog for protection and left residence lights on at night. Males, however, are more likely than females to have a gun for protection.

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to have done the following in the last five years: limited the times or places they will go by themselves, improved their home security and stayed inside their house more often. However, younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to have moved to a different community or neighborhood and to have a dog for protection. Persons age 30 to 64 are the age groups most likely to have a gun for

protection and to have left residence lights on at night.

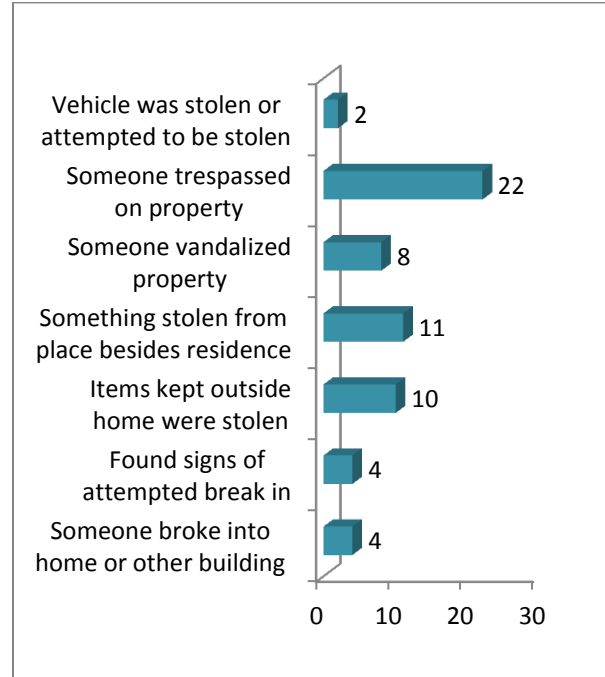
When comparing responses by education, the persons with less education are more likely than persons with more education to have done the following: limited the times or places they will go by themselves, improved their home security and stayed inside their house more often. The persons with some college education, though, are the group most likely to have avoided contact with people of another race and to have a dog for protection.

Persons with children in their household are more likely than persons without children in their household to have moved to a different community or neighborhood and to have a dog for protection.

Long-term community residents are more likely than newcomers to the community to have improved their home security, to have a gun for protection and to have a dog for protection. Newcomers are more likely than long-term residents to have moved to a different community or neighborhood.

Finally, respondents were asked about their experience with crime. Specifically, they were asked if various items had happened to them during the past six months. Not many rural Nebraskans have experienced theft or vandalism during the past six months. However, over two in ten rural Nebraskans (22%) reported that someone trespassed on their property during the past six months (Figure 9). Approximately one in ten rural Nebraskans have had something belonging to them taken from another place besides their residence or had items kept outside their home stolen. Less than one in ten rural Nebraskans have had someone break into their home or other building on their

Figure 9. Experience with Crime During Past Six Months



property, found signs of an attempted break in, had someone vandalize their property or had a vehicle stolen or attempted to be stolen.

Experiences with crime differ by the size of community and other individual attributes (Appendix Table 6). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have experienced the following during the past six months: found a door jimmied, a lock forced or other signs of an attempted break in; items kept outside the home were stolen, such as a bicycle, garden hose or lawn furniture; and someone vandalized their property. For example, approximately 13 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more had items kept outside their home stolen during the past six months, compared to six percent of persons living in or

near communities with populations less than 500.

Panhandle residents and residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to have had their property vandalized during the past six months. Approximately 10 percent of the residents of these two regions have had their property vandalized, compared to five percent of residents of the North Central region.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to have found signs of an attempted break in and had items kept outside the home stolen during the past six months. Persons age 40 to 64 are the age group most likely to have had something belonging to them or a member of their household taken from a place besides their residence.

Persons with some college education are the education level group most likely to have had someone trespass on their property during the past six months. Persons with the lowest education level are more likely than persons with higher levels of education to have had a vehicle stolen or attempted to be stolen during the past six months.

Persons with children in their household are more likely than persons without children in their household to have had items kept outside their home stolen during the past six months. Fourteen percent of persons with children in their household have had items stolen from outside their home, compared to eight percent of persons without children in their household.

Long-term community residents are more likely than newcomers to the community to have experienced the following during the past six

months: had items kept outside the home stolen, had something belonging to a household member stolen from place besides residence, had someone vandalize their property and had someone trespass on their property.

Conclusion

Most rural Nebraskans are not worried or not very worried about either crime in their community or about personally being a victim of crime. However, persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be worried or very worried about crime. Furthermore, most persons living in or near communities with populations less than 10,000 are not worried or not very worried about crime in their community.

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. This is especially true in smaller communities.

Although many rural Nebraskans view various crimes as a problem in their community, they are less likely to believe many of these crimes are a problem today than they did in 2003. People living in or near the larger communities and Panhandle residents are the most likely to believe crime is a problem in their community.

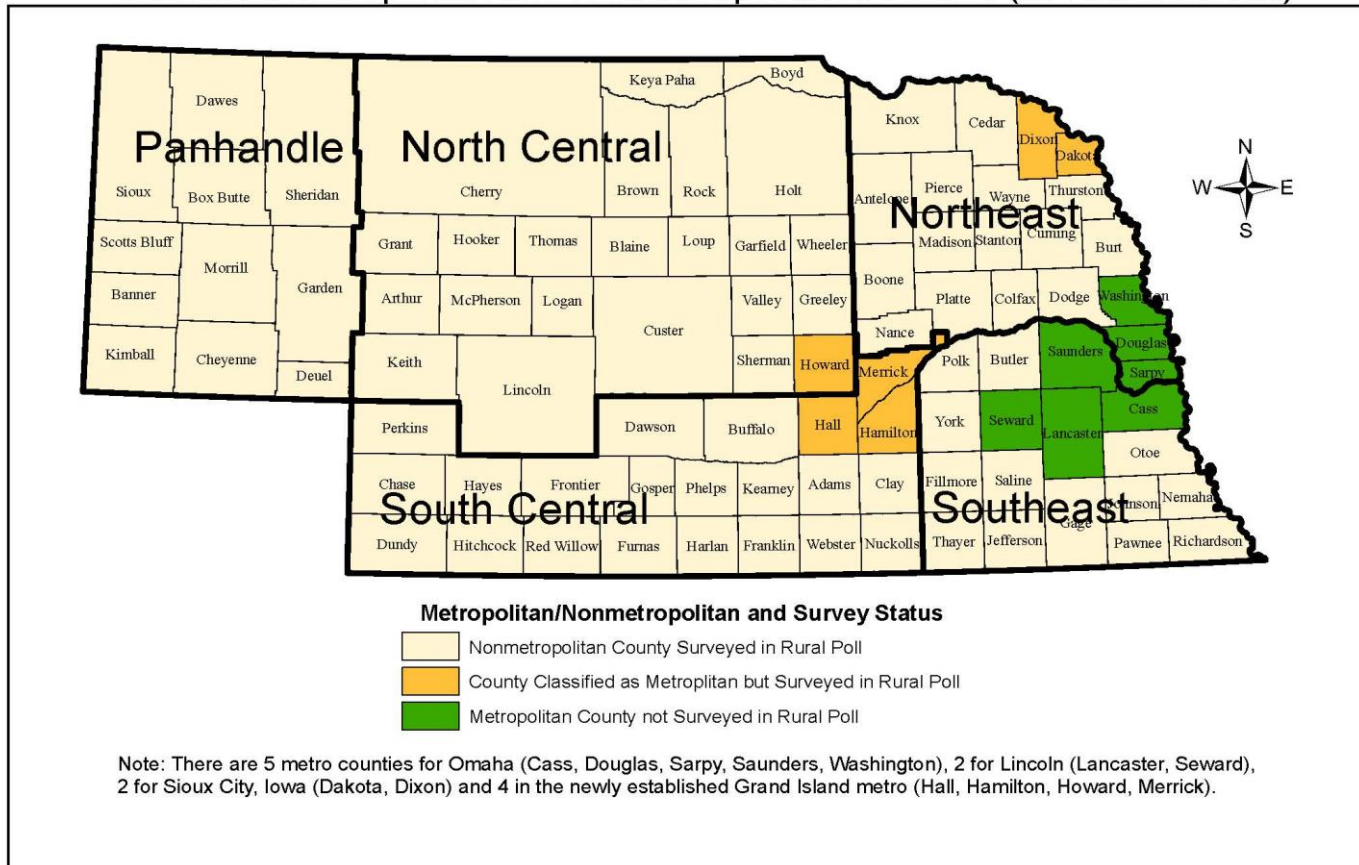
Most rural Nebraskans believe the crime situation in their community has remained about the same during the past few years. Very few feel it has changed for the better and just over one-quarter believe it has changed for the worse. And, few rural Nebraskans have experienced various crimes during the past six months. Persons living in or near the larger communities are more likely than persons living

in or near smaller communities to believe the crime situation in their community has changed for the worse in the past few years.

The majority of rural Nebraskans have not made changes in their behavior as a result of their concern about crime. The most common responses made during the last five years because of their concern about crime include leaving residence lights on at night, improving their home security, having a gun for protection, having a dog for protection and limiting the times and places they will go by themselves.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Nebraska Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties (2013 Definitions)



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13
 Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents¹ Compared to 2010 Census and 2008 – 2012 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska*

	2014 Poll	2013 Poll	2012 Poll	2011 Poll	2010 Poll	2009 Poll	2008 - 2012 ACS
Age : ²							
20 - 39	32%	31%	31%	31%	32%	32%	30.7%
40 - 64	46%	44%	44%	44%	44%	44%	45.6%
65 and over	23%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	23.7%
Gender: ³							
Female	57%	51%	61%	60%	59%	57%	50.9%
Male	43%	49%	39%	40%	41%	43%	49.1%
Education: ⁴							
Less than 9 th grade	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	4.7%
9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma)	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	7.3%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	18%	23%	22%	26%	25%	26%	34.3%
Some college, no degree	23%	25%	25%	23%	25%	25%	26.2%
Associate degree	16%	15%	15%	16%	14%	15%	10.0%
Bachelors degree	24%	22%	24%	19%	20%	20%	12.6%
Graduate or professional degree	16%	12%	11%	12%	11%	10%	5.0%
Household Income: ⁵							
Less than \$10,000	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6.0%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7%	7%	10%	10%	10%	9%	12.6%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	8%	13%	11%	13%	13%	13%	12.6%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	14%	10%	10%	14%	12%	13%	11.9%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	12%	15%	12%	11%	13%	12%	10.5%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	13%	10%	13%	12%	11%	13%	9.8%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	13%	11%	14%	12%	13%	14%	11.3%
\$75,000 or more	29%	29%	25%	22%	23%	21%	25.2%
Marital Status: ⁶							
Married	68%	70%	70%	66%	71%	68%	62.4%
Never married	12%	12%	10%	14%	9%	10%	16.9%
Divorced/separated	12%	9%	11%	11%	11%	11%	12.4%
Widowed/widower	8%	9%	10%	10%	9%	11%	8.3%

¹ Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

² 2010 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

³ 2010 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

⁴ 2008-2012 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

⁵ 2008-2012 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

⁶ 2008-2012 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

Appendix Table 2. Worries About Crime by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>How worried are you about the following items?</i>				
<i>Crime in your community</i>				
	<i>Not Worried/ Not Very Worried</i>	<i>Somewhat Worried</i>	<i>Worried/Very Worried</i>	<i>Significance</i>
Total	51	33	16	
<i>Percentages</i>				
Community Size		(n = 1796)		
Less than 500	64	26	10	$\chi^2 = 97.27^*$ (.000)
500 - 999	68	23	10	
1,000 - 4,999	53	36	11	
5,000 - 9,999	52	29	20	
10,000 and up	38	40	22	
Region		(n = 1861)		
Panhandle	47	34	19	$\chi^2 = 29.52^*$ (.000)
North Central	63	29	9	
South Central	49	33	18	
Northeast	50	36	14	
Southeast	47	32	21	
Income Level		(n = 1706)		
Under \$20,000	51	32	17	$\chi^2 = 18.23^*$ (.006)
\$20,000 - \$39,999	49	33	18	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	45	34	21	
\$60,000 and over	56	32	12	
Age		(n = 1869)		
19 - 29	57	27	16	$\chi^2 = 46.21^*$ (.000)
30 - 39	62	28	10	
40 - 49	55	34	12	
50 - 64	45	36	20	
65 and older	43.	37	20	
Gender		(n = 1824)		
Male	54	30	16	$\chi^2 = 6.89^*$ (.032)
Female	49	36	16	
Education		(n = 1811)		
H.S. diploma or less	45	35	21	$\chi^2 = 66.00^*$ (.000)
Some college	44	36	20	
Bachelors or grad degree	62	29	9	
Children in Household		(n = 1496)		
No children in household	48	33	19	$\chi^2 = 13.72^*$ (.001)
Children in household	56	31	13	
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1654)		
Five years or less	65	26	9	$\chi^2 = 28.05^*$ (.000)
More than five years	48	34	17	

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

<i>How worried are you about the following items?</i>				
<i>Personally being a victim of crime</i>				
	<i>Not Worried/ Not Very Worried</i>	<i>Somewhat Worried</i>	<i>Worried/Very Worried</i>	<i>Significance</i>
Total	63	26	12	
		<i>Percentages</i>		
Community Size		(n = 1785)		
Less than 500	71	22	7	
500 - 999	72	24	5	
1,000 - 4,999	70	22	8	$\chi^2 = 74.48^*$
5,000 - 9,999	60	24	16	(.000)
10,000 and up	51	32	17	
Region		(n = 1849)		
Panhandle	59	26	15	
North Central	70	24	6	
South Central	61	24	15	$\chi^2 = 22.61^*$
Northeast	62	27	11	(.004)
Southeast	62	29	9	
Income Level		(n = 1695)		
Under \$20,000	58	31	12	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	60	25	15	$\chi^2 = 17.55^*$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	59	28	14	(.007)
\$60,000 and over	68	23	9	
Age		(n = 1857)		
19 - 29	67	21	13	
30 - 39	70	22	9	
40 - 49	69	23	9	$\chi^2 = 30.67^*$
50 - 64	56	31	13	(.000)
65 and older	58	28	14	
Gender		(n = 1815)		
Male	67	22	11	$\chi^2 = 13.95^*$
Female	59	29	12	(.001)
Education		(n = 1800)		
H.S. diploma or less	55	30	15	
Some college	58	27	15	$\chi^2 = 53.01^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	72	21	7	(.000)
Children in Household		(n = 1491)		
No children in household	61	26	14	$\chi^2 = 9.36^*$
Children in household	65	26	9	(.009)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1643)		
Five years or less	74	16	11	$\chi^2 = 19.02^*$
More than five years	61	27	12	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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>
Total	15	18	68		38	41	21	
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Community Size		(n = 1788)				(n = 1795)		
Less than 500	12	16	72		37	42	21	
500 - 999	9	18	73		34	43	22	
1,000 - 4,999	13	13	74		32	43	25	
5,000 - 9,999	16	21	63	$\chi^2 = 30.90^*$	38	41	22	$\chi^2 = 19.14^*$
10,000 and up	19	19	62	(.000)	44	38	18	(.014)
Region		(n = 1850)				(n = 1850)		
Panhandle	16	18	66		42	37	21	
North Central	17	17	66		33	42	25	
South Central	14	20	66		38	41	21	
Northeast	12	18	71	$\chi^2 = 8.82$	34	45	21	$\chi^2 = 15.54^*$
Southeast	17	15	68	(.358)	44	39	17	(.049)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1699)				(n = 1701)		
Under \$20,000	18	27	55		36	42	22	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	14	25	60		36	44	20	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	15	18	67	$\chi^2 = 83.66^*$	40	41	19	$\chi^2 = 5.11$
\$60,000 and over	12	9	79	(.000)	37	40	23	(.529)
Age		(n = 1855)				(n = 1859)		
19 - 29	13	18	70		27	56	18	
30 - 39	11	16	73		31	45	24	
40 - 49	16	14	70		36	42	22	
50 - 64	16	16	68	$\chi^2 = 22.80^*$	49	32	20	$\chi^2 = 62.92^*$
65 and older	16	24	60	(.004)	38	39	23	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1816)				(n = 1820)		
Male	13	14	73	$\chi^2 = 19.77^*$	36	42	22	$\chi^2 = 2.28$
Female	16	20	64	(.000)	40	40	21	(.320)
Education		(n = 1799)				(n = 1804)		
H.S. diploma or less	16	31	53		38	38	25	
Some college	16	18	66	$\chi^2 = 95.63^*$	42	41	17	$\chi^2 = 16.52^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	12	9	78	(.000)	34	43	23	(.002)
Children in Household		(n = 1488)				(n = 1491)		
No children in hh	17	16	68	$\chi^2 = 3.61$	42	36	23	$\chi^2 = 25.84^*$
Children in household	14	19	68	(.164)	33	49	19	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1646)				(n = 1649)		
Five years or less	8	17	75	$\chi^2 = 12.82^*$	23	41	36	$\chi^2 = 52.52^*$
More than five years	16	17	67	(.002)	41	41	18	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	<i>I believe more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer.</i>				<i>Theft or burglary 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>							
Total	27	33	40		41	22	37	
Community Size	(n = 1792)				(n = 1781)			
Less than 500	23	33	44		55	20	26	
500 - 999	30	30	40		59	20	22	
1,000 - 4,999	24	34	42		44	25	32	
5,000 - 9,999	34	30	36	$\chi^2 = 13.17$	33	24	43	$\chi^2 = 106.85^*$
10,000 and up	29	34	37	(.106)	30	21	49	(.000)
Region	(n = 1853)				(n = 1844)			
Panhandle	26	28	47		37	20	43	
North Central	30	33	37		55	20	25	
South Central	30	30	40		34	23	43	
Northeast	22	38	40	$\chi^2 = 19.69^*$	44	25	32	$\chi^2 = 48.85^*$
Southeast	27	35	38	(.012)	37	22	40	(.000)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 1700)				(n = 1692)			
Under \$20,000	24	36	39		41	24	35	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	19	38	44		41	23	37	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	26	33	41	$\chi^2 = 32.69^*$	38	22	40	$\chi^2 = 5.13$
\$60,000 and over	34	29	37	(.000)	44	21	35	(.527)
Age	(n = 1858)				(n = 1851)			
19 - 29	35	37	29		45	29	27	
30 - 39	37	27	37		53	17	29	
40 - 49	28	34	38		40	22	38	
50 - 64	24	32	44	$\chi^2 = 56.20^*$	36	20	44	$\chi^2 = 48.48^*$
65 and older	17	36	47	(.000)	36	24	40	(.000)
Gender	(n = 1817)				(n = 1808)			
Male	28	30	41	$\chi^2 = 3.87$	41	23	36	$\chi^2 = 1.28$
Female	26	35	39	(.144)	41	21	38	(.526)
Education	(n = 1805)				(n = 1795)			
H.S. diploma or less	17	37	46		39	22	39	
Some college	22	36	42	$\chi^2 = 74.08^*$	38	24	39	$\chi^2 = 10.75^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	38	28	34	(.000)	46	20	34	(.029)
Children in Household	(n = 1491)				(n = 1484)			
No children in hh	25	32	43	$\chi^2 = 11.72^*$	41	21	38	$\chi^2 = 3.92$
Children in household	31	34	35	(.003)	42	24	34	(.141)
Yrs Lived in Community	(n = 1647)				(n = 1641)			
Five years or less	44	25	31	$\chi^2 = 42.95^*$	52	24	24	$\chi^2 = 26.79^*$
More than five years	24	34	42	(.000)	38	22	40	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	<i>Drugs are a problem in my community.</i>				<i>Juvenile delinquency 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>
Total	14	21	65		26	35	40	
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Community Size		(n = 1793)				(n = 1782)		
Less than 500	31	27	42		48	32	20	
500 - 999	28	28	44		42	37	21	
1,000 - 4,999	9	24	67		25	39	36	
5,000 - 9,999	9	15	76	$\chi^2 = 218.13^*$	18	37	46	$\chi^2 = 223.25^*$
10,000 and up	7	15	79	(.000)	12	31	56	(.000)
Region		(n = 1853)				(n = 1843)		
Panhandle	11	14	76		18	30	53	
North Central	22	21	57		36	37	27	
South Central	11	21	68		21	34	46	
Northeast	16	25	59	$\chi^2 = 44.07^*$	27	37	36	$\chi^2 = 52.85^*$
Southeast	11	20	69	(.000)	29	33	38	(.000)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1702)				(n = 1693)		
Under \$20,000	20	27	53		27	40	34	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	16	23	61		25	35	40	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	14	18	68	$\chi^2 = 27.64^*$	22	32	46	$\chi^2 = 11.33$
\$60,000 and over	11	18	71	(.000)	28	32	40	(.079)
Age		(n = 1860)				(n = 1850)		
19 - 29	21	22	57		29	39	32	
30 - 39	19	24	57		24	32	44	
40 - 49	11	21	68		31	33	37	
50 - 64	12	16	72	$\chi^2 = 38.05^*$	23	32	45	$\chi^2 = 24.00^*$
65 and older	11	24	66	(.000)	23	39	38	(.002)
Gender		(n = 1818)				(n = 1809)		
Male	14	22	64	$\chi^2 = 2.05$	23	38	38	$\chi^2 = 8.75^*$
Female	14	19	67	(.358)	27	32	41	(.013)
Education		(n = 1804)				(n = 1794)		
H.S. diploma or less	16	23	62		22	42	36	
Some college	14	21	65	$\chi^2 = 5.72$	27	30	43	$\chi^2 = 15.93^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	13	19	68	(.221)	26	35	40	(.003)
Children in Household		(n = 1492)				(n = 1482)		
No children in hh	13	21	67	$\chi^2 = 3.36$	25	34	41	$\chi^2 = 3.58$
Children in household	16	22	63	(.186)	29	34	37	(.167)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1648)				(n = 1640)		
Five years or less	19	26	55	$\chi^2 = 19.05^*$	28	33	38	$\chi^2 = 1.19$
More than five years	13	19	69	(.000)	25	33	41	(.553)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	<i>Violent crime is a problem in my community.</i>				<i>Gang activity 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>							
Total	63	22	15		63	25	13	
Community Size	(n = 1792)				(n = 1786)			
Less than 500	77	17	6		82	15	3	
500 - 999	80	15	5		84	14	2	
1,000 - 4,999	72	19	8		77	20	3	
5,000 - 9,999	60	21	19	$\chi^2 = 172.62^*$	58	29	13	$\chi^2 = 357.85^*$
10,000 and up	46	28	26	(.000)	37	35	28	(.000)
Region	(n = 1854)				(n = 1846)			
Panhandle	57	21	23		56	33	12	
North Central	71	17	12		75	21	4	
South Central	61	24	16		58	24	18	
Northeast	63	22	15	$\chi^2 = 20.36^*$	58	25	17	$\chi^2 = 82.31^*$
Southeast	66	22	11	(.009)	74	23	4	(.000)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 1702)				(n = 1697)			
Under \$20,000	58	27	16		58	31	11	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	60	22	19		65	22	13	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	60	25	15	$\chi^2 = 25.71^*$	62	27	12	$\chi^2 = 10.80$
\$60,000 and over	70	16	14	(.000)	66	21	13	(.095)
Age	(n = 1857)				(n = 1853)			
19 - 29	65	25	9		71	24	5	
30 - 39	77	11	13		78	16	6	
40 - 49	67	22	11		66	22	12	
50 - 64	61	21	18	$\chi^2 = 58.35^*$	57	25	18	$\chi^2 = 85.52^*$
65 and older	53	27	20	(.000)	51	32	17	(.000)
Gender	(n = 1817)				(n = 1813)			
Male	63	21	16	$\chi^2 = 1.71$	62	26	13	$\chi^2 = 1.75$
Female	64	22	14	(.426)	64	23	13	(.417)
Education	(n = 1805)				(n = 1799)			
H.S. diploma or less	52	26	22		54	31	16	
Some college	59	26	15	$\chi^2 = 65.35^*$	63	26	11	$\chi^2 = 26.98^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	74	15	12	(.000)	69	20	12	(.000)
Children in Household	(n = 1491)				(n = 1490)			
No children in hh	62	22	16	$\chi^2 = 10.84^*$	61	26	14	$\chi^2 = 12.61^*$
Children in household	70	18	12	(.004)	69	21	10	(.002)
Yrs Lived in Community	(n = 1650)				(n = 1647)			
Five years or less	64	24	12	$\chi^2 = 3.09$	68	27	5	$\chi^2 = 15.12^*$
More than five years	64	20	15	(.213)	63	24	14	(.001)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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>Know</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>			
Total	23	11	66	
Community Size	(n = 1796)			
Less than 500	18	13	70	
500 - 999	16	12	72	
1,000 - 4,999	21	11	69	
5,000 - 9,999	29	11	61	$\chi^2 = 29.36^*$
10,000 and up	29	10	61	(.000)
Region	(n = 1859)			
Panhandle	19	9	72	
North Central	23	14	63	
South Central	29	10	61	
Northeast	20	14	67	$\chi^2 = 26.83^*$
Southeast	21	8	70	(.001)
Individual Attributes:				
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 1706)			
Under \$20,000	24	16	60	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	29	12	60	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	22	10	68	$\chi^2 = 16.39^*$
\$60,000 and over	22	10	68	(.012)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1863)			
19 - 29	38	16	46	
30 - 39	32	10	58	
40 - 49	21	7	72	
50 - 64	18	12	71	$\chi^2 = 94.68^*$
65 and older	16	10	74	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1822)			
Male	20	12	69	$\chi^2 = 12.51^*$
Female	27	10	63	(.002)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1809)			
H.S. diploma or less	18	18	64	
Some college	25	10	65	$\chi^2 = 37.17^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	26	7	67	(.000)
<i>Children in Household</i>	(n = 1497)			
No children in hh	20	9	71	$\chi^2 = 33.44^*$
Children in household	29	14	57	(.000)
<i>Yrs Lived in Community</i>	(n = 1652)			
Five years or less	32	14	54	$\chi^2 = 17.07^*$
More than five years	23	10	67	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4. Change in Community Crime Situation by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

Has the crime situation in your community changed in the past few years for the better, has it remained about the same, or has it changed for the worse?				
	<u>Worse</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>Better</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Total	26	69	5	
	<i>Percentages</i>			
Community Size		(n = 1779)		
Less than 500	17	79	4	
500 - 999	17	75	8	
1,000 - 4,999	22	72	6	$\chi^2 = 53.20^*$
5,000 - 9,999	34	62	5	(.000)
10,000 and up	33	63	4	
Region		(n = 1840)		
Panhandle	36	62	3	
North Central	21	75	4	
South Central	25	70	4	$\chi^2 = 34.81^*$
Northeast	21	72	7	(.000)
Southeast	33	62	5	
Income Level		(n = 1687)		
Under \$20,000	23	74	3	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	23	70	7	$\chi^2 = 9.12$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	28	67	5	(.167)
\$60,000 and over	27	69	4	
Age		(n = 1848)		
19 - 29	18	79	3	
30 - 39	17	77	6	
40 - 49	26	68	6	$\chi^2 = 43.23^*$
50 - 64	32	64	4	(.000)
65 and older	31	64	5	
Gender		(n = 1805)		
Male	25	69	6	$\chi^2 = 4.20$
Female	27	69	4	(.122)
Education		(n = 1790)		
H.S. diploma or less	30	62	8	
Some college	28	68	4	$\chi^2 = 22.15^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	23	74	4	(.000)
Children in Household		(n = 1481)		
No children in household	29	66	5	$\chi^2 = 11.52^*$
Children in household	22	72	6	(.003)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1637)		
Five years or less	15	79	6	$\chi^2 = 18.90^*$
More than five years	28	67	5	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5. 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>Have a gun for protection</i>	<i>Enrolled in a self-defense class</i>	<i>Have a dog for protection</i>	<i>Left residence lights on at night</i>
Total	25	33	13	7	6	31	4	27	44
	<i>Percent circling "yes" for each item</i>								
Community Size	(n = 1782)	(n = 1786)	(n = 1782)	(n = 1783)	(n = 1779)	(n = 1765)	(n = 1781)	(n = 1783)	(n = 1787)
Less than 500	19	27	7	3	4	35	2	24	34
500 - 999	15	28	8	6	8	34	5	35	39
1,000 - 4,999	18	27	9	3	3	30	5	27	37
5,000 - 9,999	22	32	15	7	5	35	3	20	42
10,000 and up	38	41	20	12	10	28	4	29	56
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 82.6^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 34.7^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 49.6^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 45.5^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 28.6^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 7.6 (.106)$	$\chi^2 = 6.4 (.168)$	$\chi^2 = 13.7^* (.008)$	$\chi^2 = 55.3^* (.000)$
Region	(n = 1845)	(n = 1849)	(n = 1845)	(n = 1846)	(n = 1844)	(n = 1829)	(n = 1844)	(n = 1846)	(n = 1851)
Panhandle	27	40	14	8	8	43	4	30	49
North Central	19	28	9	2	4	28	4	24	36
South Central	29	29	16	11	8	31	3	28	47
Northeast	26	37	15	7	7	30	5	27	43
Southeast	20	30	9	2	4	25	4	25	44
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 15.3^* (.004)$	$\chi^2 = 16.3^* (.003)$	$\chi^2 = 15.7^* (.003)$	$\chi^2 = 38.5^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 9.6^* (.049)$	$\chi^2 = 19.4^* (.001)$	$\chi^2 = 4.2 (.381)$	$\chi^2 = 4.1 (.398)$	$\chi^2 = 12.6^* (.013)$
Individual Attributes:									
Income Level	(n = 1692)	(n = 1696)	(n = 1697)	(n = 1694)	(n = 1690)	(n = 1679)	(n = 1694)	(n = 1694)	(n = 1698)
Under \$20,000	30	32	23	6	10	22	3	22	41
\$20,000 - \$39,999	24	29	18	9	7	26	3	24	36
\$40,000 - \$59,999	29	38	15	7	7	32	4	30	48
\$60,000 and over	20	31	7	6	4	35	4	28	46
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 13.7^* (.003)$	$\chi^2 = 7.3 (.064)$	$\chi^2 = 44.0^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 2.2 (.540)$	$\chi^2 = 9.5^* (.023)$	$\chi^2 = 17.3^* (.001)$	$\chi^2 = 1.8 (.624)$	$\chi^2 = 7.1 (.070)$	$\chi^2 = 14.0^* (.003)$
Gender	(n = 1812)	(n = 1814)	(n = 1810)	(n = 1811)	(n = 1808)	(n = 1794)	(n = 1809)	(n = 1809)	(n = 1815)
Male	15	33	9	5	7	41	5	21	37
Female	33	32	17	8	6	24	3	31	49
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 77.6^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 0.6 (.229)$	$\chi^2 = 22.9^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 3.8^* (.030)$	$\chi^2 = 0.5 (.260)$	$\chi^2 = 60.4^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 6.1^* (.010)$	$\chi^2 = 25.1^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 24.2^* (.000)$

Which of the following items have you done in the last five years because you were concerned about crime?

	<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>Have a gun for protection</i>	<i>Enrolled in a self-defense class</i>	<i>Have a dog for protection</i>	<i>Left residence lights on at night</i>
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1851)	(n = 1856)	(n = 1851)	(n = 1852)	(n = 1848)	(n = 1834)	(n = 1852)	(n = 1850)	(n = 1856)
19 - 29	24	24	13	13	7	24	2	32	33
30 - 39	17	30	7	11	5	35	7	28	44
40 - 49	22	30	14	5	6	31	5	31	49
50 - 64	26	39	14	4	5	34	4	28	50
65 and older	34	36	17	4	7	28	3	18	40
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 28.0^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 24.1^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 15.3^* (.004)$	$\chi^2 = 39.9^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 2.6 (.633)$	$\chi^2 = 12.4^* (.014)$	$\chi^2 = 13.4^* (.009)$	$\chi^2 = 23.1^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 27.6^* (.000)$
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1797)	(n = 1800)	(n = 1797)	(n = 1797)	(n = 1794)	(n = 1780)	(n = 1796)	(n = 1797)	(n = 1801)
H.S. diploma or less	31	37	20	7	7	29	2	25	39
Some college	27	36	17	7	10	33	4	34	46
Bachelors/grad degree	19	27	6	6	2	29	4	22	44
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 21.1^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 15.5^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 51.2^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 1.0 (.603)$	$\chi^2 = 37.9^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 3.8 (.150)$	$\chi^2 = 3.4 (.183)$	$\chi^2 = 27.9^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 4.8 (.090)$
<i>Children in Household</i>	(n = 1486)	(n = 1491)	(n = 1489)	(n = 1491)	(n = 1488)	(n = 1476)	(n = 1489)	(n = 1490)	(n = 1492)
No children in hh	24	34	11	4	5	34	4	22	43
Children in hh	23	32	13	11	7	31	5	37	46
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 0.55 (.248)$	$\chi^2 = 0.60 (.235)$	$\chi^2 = 1.98 (.093)$	$\chi^2 = 26.0^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 2.89 (.057)$	$\chi^2 = 2.44 (.066)$	$\chi^2 = 1.02 (.191)$	$\chi^2 = 41.8^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 1.32 (.137)$
<i>Years Lived in Community</i>	(n = 1639)	(n = 1643)	(n = 1642)	(n = 1642)	(n = 1637)	(n = 1624)	(n = 1639)	(n = 1639)	(n = 1645)
Five years or less	24	25	11	17	5	25	3	18	40
More than five years	25	34	14	5	6	32	4	29	45
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 0.1 (.385)$	$\chi^2 = 8.0^* (.003)$	$\chi^2 = 1.8 (.106)$	$\chi^2 = 52.2^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 0.2 (.380)$	$\chi^2 = 5.4^* (.011)$	$\chi^2 = 0.8 (.244)$	$\chi^2 = 14.6^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 2.5 (.063)$

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 6. Experience with Crime by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.

<i>Have any of the following items happened during the past six months?</i>							
	<i>Someone broke into your apartment/home, garage, or another building on your property</i>	<i>Found a door jimmied, a lock forced or other signs of an attempted break in</i>	<i>Items kept outside your home were stolen, such as a bicycle, garden hose or lawn furniture</i>	<i>Something belonging to you or any member of your household was taken from a vehicle, place of business, or other place besides your residence</i>	<i>Someone vandalized your property</i>	<i>Someone trespassed on your property</i>	<i>A vehicle was stolen or attempted to be stolen from you or any member of your household</i>
	<i>Percent circling "yes" for each item</i>						
Total	4	4	10	11	8	22	2
Community Size	(n = 1795)	(n = 1794)	(n = 1797)	(n = 1794)	(n = 1792)	(n = 1788)	(n = 1793)
Less than 500	5	3	6	7	5	21	1
500 - 999	4	1	9	14	7	22	1
1,000 - 4,999	4	3	8	8	6	20	1
5,000 - 9,999	5	7	14	9	8	27	2
10,000 and up	3	6	13	15	12	23	1
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 3.1 (.546)$	$\chi^2 = 19.4^* (.001)$	$\chi^2 = 18.8^* (.001)$	$\chi^2 = 21.2^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 21.7^* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 5.3 (.262)$	$\chi^2 = 0.9 (.918)$
Region	(n = 1857)	(n = 1860)	(n = 1860)	(n = 1860)	(n = 1857)	(n = 1850)	(n = 1858)
Panhandle	5	5	15	11	10	27	1
North Central	4	3	9	10	5	19	1
South Central	3	5	10	12	11	20	2
Northeast	4	4	9	9	7	23	1
Southeast	5	4	9	12	7	25	2
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 3.6 (.465)$	$\chi^2 = 3.8 (.432)$	$\chi^2 = 6.5 (.165)$	$\chi^2 = 3.1 (.542)$	$\chi^2 = 11.5^* (.021)$	$\chi^2 = 7.1 (.131)$	$\chi^2 = 2.9 (.580)$
Individual Attributes:							
Income Level	(n = 1704)	(n = 1704)	(n = 1704)	(n = 1704)	(n = 1702)	(n = 1697)	(n = 1704)
Under \$20,000	6	9	16	10	7	23	1
\$20,000 - \$39,999	5	5	13	12	8	21	3
\$40,000 - \$59,999	4	4	11	9	11	26	1
\$60,000 and over	3	3	7	12	7	22	1
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 6.8 (.080)$	$\chi^2 = 17.7^* (.001)$	$\chi^2 = 15.7^* (.001)$	$\chi^2 = 2.9 (.409)$	$\chi^2 = 8.1^* (.043)$	$\chi^2 = 3.8 (.284)$	$\chi^2 = 13.2^* (.004)$

Have any of the following items happened during the past six months?

	<i>Someone broke into your apartment/home, garage, or another building on your property</i>	<i>Found a door jimmied, a lock forced or other signs of an attempted break in</i>	<i>Items kept outside your home were stolen, such as a bicycle, garden hose or lawn furniture</i>	<i>Something belonging to you or any member of your household was taken from a vehicle, place of business, or other place besides your residence</i>	<i>Someone vandalized your property</i>	<i>Someone trespassed on your property</i>	<i>A vehicle was stolen or attempted to be stolen from you or any member of your household</i>
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1822)	(n = 1821)	(n = 1823)	(n = 1821)	(n = 1819)	(n = 1815)	(n = 1822)
Male	3	4	9	10	7	23	1
Female	4	4	11	11	9	22	1
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 2.2 (.084)$	$\chi^2 = 0.3 (.340)$	$\chi^2 = 1.6 (.115)$	$\chi^2 = 0.4 (.297)$	$\chi^2 = 1.2 (.158)$	$\chi^2 = 0.4 (.276)$	$\chi^2 = 0.01 (.555)$
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1866)	(n = 1867)	(n = 1866)	(n = 1867)	(n = 1862)	(n = 1859)	(n = 1865)
19 - 29	2	5	9	7	8	22	2
30 - 39	4	4	10	10	4	19	1
40 - 49	4	3	13	15	9	24	1
50 - 64	4	5	10	13	11	25	2
65 and older	5	4	8	9	7	20	2
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 6.5 (.166)$	$\chi^2 = 2.0 (.737)$	$\chi^2 = 5.3 (.259)$	$\chi^2 = 18.2* (.001)$	$\chi^2 = 14.8* (.005)$	$\chi^2 = 6.9 (.140)$	$\chi^2 = 1.1 (.897)$
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1810)	(n = 1808)	(n = 1811)	(n = 1808)	(n = 1806)	(n = 1803)	(n = 1807)
H.S. diploma or less	6	5	11	11	8	18	3
Some college	4	5	12	11	10	26	1
Bachelors/grad degree	4	3	8	11	7	21	1
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 3.1 (.214)$	$\chi^2 = 3.5 (.175)$	$\chi^2 = 5.8 (.055)$	$\chi^2 = 0.01 (.994)$	$\chi^2 = 3.9 (.145)$	$\chi^2 = 11.1* (.004)$	$\chi^2 = 11.2* (.004)$
<i>Children in Household</i>	(n = 1497)	(n = 1495)	(n = 1497)	(n = 1496)	(n = 1494)	(n = 1491)	(n = 1495)
No children in hh	4	4	8	12	9	21	2
Children in hh	4	3	14	12	8	25	1
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 0.01 (.518)$	$\chi^2 = 1.24 (.164)$	$\chi^2 = 15.24* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 0.02 (.474)$	$\chi^2 = 0.60 (.247)$	$\chi^2 = 2.57 (.062)$	$\chi^2 = 1.21 (.186)$
<i>Years Lived in Community</i>	(n = 1651)	(n = 1651)	(n = 1652)	(n = 1651)	(n = 1650)	(n = 1644)	(n = 1651)
Five years or less	3	5	6	7	4	12	2
More than five years	4	4	11	12	9	25	2
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 0.5 (.312)$	$\chi^2 = 0.5 (.290)$	$\chi^2 = 7.1* (.004)$	$\chi^2 = 5.9* (.008)$	$\chi^2 = 7.9* (.002)$	$\chi^2 = 24.1* (.000)$	$\chi^2 = 0.8 (.262)$

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