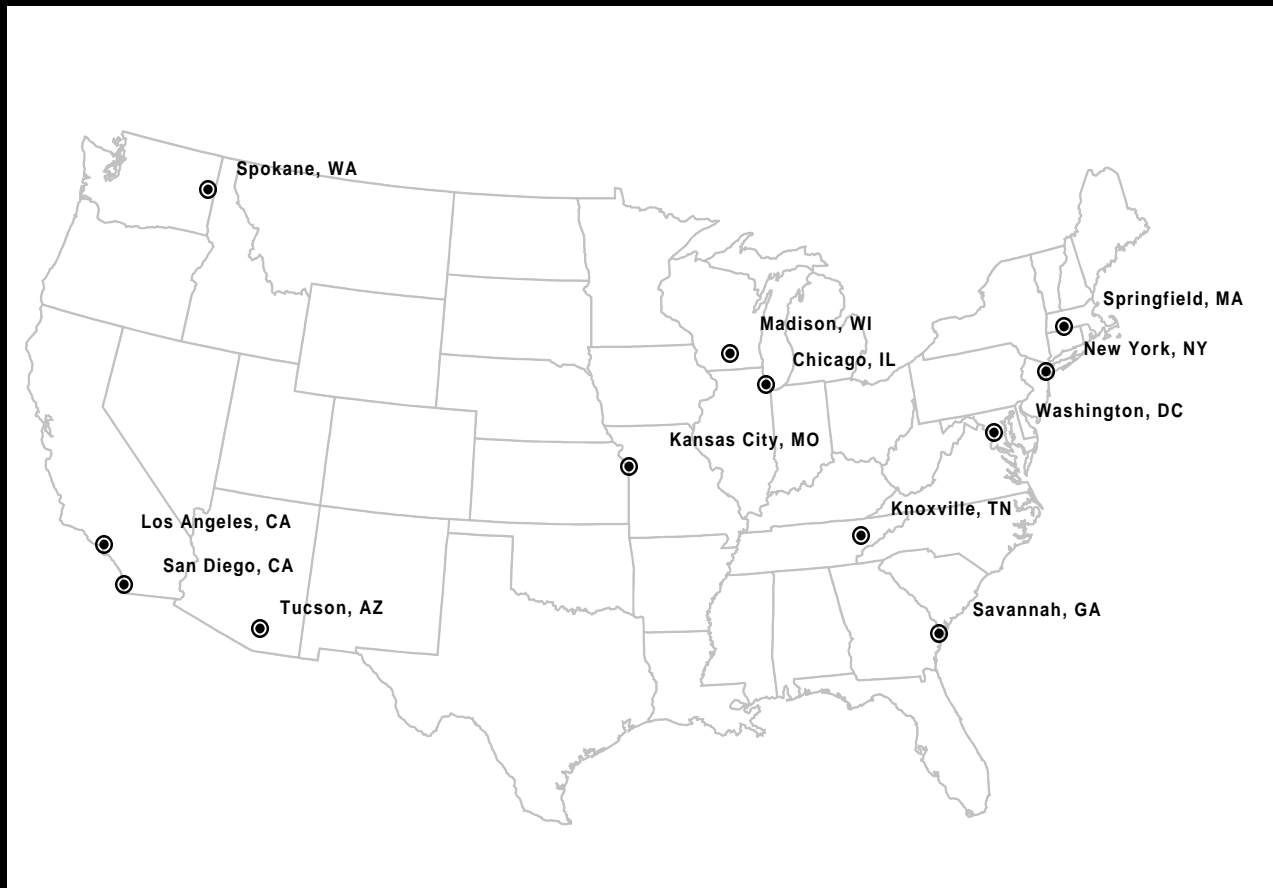




**Bureau of  
Justice Statistics**

**Office of Community  
Oriented Policing Services**

# **Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998**



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# Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998

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**Bureau of Justice Statistics**  
*and the*  
**Office of Community Oriented  
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Data presented in this report can be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. An electronic version of this report and other reports are available from the BJS Internet page: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

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## Foreword

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This publication is a report on criminal victimization and citizen perceptions in 12 cities across the United States. The findings reported are the result of a joint effort between the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to supplement the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) with questions related to community policing.

This project was designed to assess the use of Random Digit Dialing (RDD) Telephone Methodology at the local level using the NCVS and community attitude questions. The results presented here are intended to serve as a basis for new studies and improved methodologies.

The NCVS has been providing national statistics on criminal victimization for more than 20 years and continues to be the primary source for data on the characteristics of criminal victimizations that have occurred across the Nation. The NCVS collects information on both victimizations reported to the police and those that were not reported.

In response to informational demands from the law enforcement community, BJS and the COPS Office initiated the groundbreaking effort to collect city-level information on criminal victimizations, perceptions, and satisfaction with local police. Questions on these topics were added to the NCVS and piloted in 12 cities.

As the community policing philosophy continues to be adopted by law enforcement agencies across the country, agencies have become more interested in using surveys as a tool to solicit feedback and community participation, both of which are critical to community policing efforts. Surveys may be used to foster a relationship between the community and law enforcement. They can also be used to evaluate the impact of activities and programs on community perceptions and satisfaction levels, enhance service delivery by evaluating satisfaction levels, or facilitate better information exchange on community concerns.

The goal of this project is to develop a survey instrument and methodology that may be used by law enforcement agencies to collect information on criminal victimizations, citizen attitudes toward the police, their willingness to report crimes to the police, and the impact of different community policing strategies and tactics on crime and neighborhood conditions.

One of the most significant results of this project is the demonstration of the benefits of collecting this type of information at the local level. To assist local agencies to administer community surveys, BJS and the COPS Office have developed a desktop survey software package. The software is available to local law enforcement agencies seeking to collect victimization and community information from citizens in their jurisdictions.

This Windows-based software can be ordered by contacting the BJS Clearinghouse at 1-800-732-3277 or by e-mail [ASKBJS@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:ASKBJS@ojp.usdoj.gov)

We believe this data collection effort has initiated a new opportunity to support law enforcement. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Bureau of the Census, police departments in the 12 participating cities, those who supplied questions or provided comments on the supplemental survey questions, and all the people who responded to the survey.

Joseph E. Brann  
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## Highlights

### Victimization

For the first time in 20 years, BJS conducted city-level surveys on crime victimization. These city surveys, different from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), used Random Digit Dialing (RDD) to contact households. Unlike the NCVS, findings from these surveys do not represent national estimates.

Among the 12 cities surveyed, violent crime victimization rates ranged from 60 to 85 per 1,000 residents age 12 or older. Nationally, the 1997 violent crime victimization rate in urban areas was 51 per 1,000 residents.

Nationally, black residents in urban areas have experienced a higher rate of violent crime than urban whites. This was also the case in a majority of the 12 cities surveyed.

In each of the cities, victims said that less than half of the violent crimes involved a weapon. In most of the cities, less than half of the violent crimes were reported to the police.

The percentage of violent crimes in which the offender was a stranger to the victim ranged from 42% in Tucson to 74% in Los Angeles.

#### Violent victimization and property crime rates in 12 cities, 1998

	Violent victimization rate per 1,000 residents 12 or older	Property crimes per 1,000 households
Chicago, IL	68	433
Kansas City, MO	61	331
Knoxville, TN	70	314
Los Angeles, CA	65	347
Madison, WI	70	322
New York, NY	85	260
San Diego, CA	63	308
Savannah, GA	81	445
Spokane, WA	67	411
Springfield, MA	78	365
Tucson, AZ	82	432
Washington, DC	60	445
NCVS urban areas	51	310

### Community attitudes

Overall, about 80% or more of the residents in each of the 12 cities said they were satisfied with the quality of life in their neighborhood.

The percentage of residents in each city who said they were fearful of crime in their neighborhood ranged from 20% to 48%. Ten percent or less in each city said they were "very fearful" of neighborhood crime.

In 11 of the cities, a third or more of the residents said they were fearful of becoming a victim of street crime. Residents fearful of street crime most frequently cited assault with a gun and robbery as the street crimes they most feared.

About a quarter to a half of the residents among the 12 cities said they were aware that a serious crime had occurred in their neighborhood in the past 12 months.

In general, those aware of such crimes identified a range of crimes such as theft of personal property, burglary, auto theft, gun crimes, and the open sale or use of drugs as having occurred in their neighborhood.

Citizens said they were most likely to find out about neighborhood crimes through conversations with their neighbors or from the media. Residents across the 12 cities were generally less likely to have gained their information about local crime from the police.

#### Percent of residents fearful of neighborhood crime, 1998

Chicago, IL	48%
Kansas City, MO	33
Knoxville, TN	30
Los Angeles, CA	44
Madison, WI	20
New York, NY	42
San Diego, CA	30
Savannah, GA	33
Spokane, WA	32
Springfield, MA	45
Tucson, AZ	40
Washington, DC	48

Survey question: "How fearful are you about crime in your neighborhood? Are you very fearful, somewhat fearful, not very fearful, or not at all fearful?"

Percents reported combine "very fearful" and "somewhat fearful."

#### Using sample data

Since the data in this report came from a sample, a sampling error (standard error) is associated with each reported number. All differences discussed in the text are statistically significant at or above the 95%-confidence level. **As displayed in figure 1, the reader is cautioned that some apparent differences between and among the cities are not statistically significant.** All stated differences in the text are tested at the 95%-confidence level. Standard error tables for selected estimates are provided in Appendix II.

## Citizen actions to prevent neighborhood crime

While neighborhood watch meetings were not widely attended, most respondents in each city said they relied on neighbors to watch out for each other.

Residents fearful of street crime across the 12 cities most frequently said that to protect themselves they avoided certain areas, going out at night, or going out alone. About a quarter to a third of residents fearful of street crime in each of the cities said they had made an effort to get to know the police in their neighborhood.

Another frequently cited security measure was the use of automatic lighting around the house. In several cities about a third of the residents kept a weapon inside the home for security.

In 6 cities at least a fifth of the residents kept a weapon in their home for self defense.

### Percent of residents who kept a self-defense weapon in their home, 1998

Chicago, IL	13%
Kansas City, MO	27
Knoxville, TN	39
Los Angeles, CA	20
Madison, WI	13
New York, NY	8
San Diego, CA	17
Savannah, GA	34
Spokane, WA	30
Springfield, MA	14
Tucson, AZ	31
Washington, DC	7

Question: "In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things to protect yourself from crime in the home, in a direct response to you or your family's fear of crime." See table 25 for complete list of response categories.

## Attitudes toward the police and community policing

About 30% or more of the residents in each city said they had some level of contact with the police in the past 12 months.

A majority of nearly 80% or more of the residents in each city were satisfied with the police in their neighborhood.

In each of the 12 cities, residents fearful of neighborhood crime were less likely to be satisfied with their local police than those who were not fearful of crime in their neighborhood.

Likewise, satisfaction with the local police was more widespread among those who had not experienced a violent crime than those who had.

Citizen familiarity with the term *community policing* varied among the 12 cities. About 25% of the citizens in Savannah expressed familiarity, as did 60% or more of those in Chicago, Madison, Springfield, and Washington, D.C.

At least 40% of the residents in each city thought the police practiced community policing in their neighborhood.

### Percent of residents who said police are doing community policing, 1998

Chicago, IL	67%
Kansas City, MO	52
Knoxville, TN	42
Los Angeles, CA	50
Madison, WI	47
New York, NY	51
San Diego, CA	57
Savannah, GA	48
Spokane, WA	54
Springfield, MA	64
Tucson, AZ	46
Washington, DC	53

Question: "Community policing involves police officers working with the community to address the causes of crime in an effort to reduce problems themselves and the associated fear, through a wide range of activities. Based on this definition, do you think police in your neighborhood practice community policing?"

## About the 12-city survey

BJS surveyed everyone age 12 or older in a representative sample of approximately 800 households in each city. Questions about the neighborhood and community policing were asked only of residents age 16 or older.

The Census Bureau used Random Digit Dialing (RDD) methodology to contact sampled households. Phone lists were developed based on zip codes and city boundary information. This method is different from the NCVS.

Interviews were conducted during February, March, April, and May of 1998 from Census Bureau telephone call centers in Hagerstown, MD, and Tucson, AZ.

In addition to the standard questions from the NCVS, respondents were asked new questions about their neighborhood and local police. The survey used a 12-month reference period.

Violent crime findings from the city surveys can be compared to crime reported to the police as published in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). (See page 8.)

### Number of survey respondents, 1998

	Total households	Persons age 12 or older interviewed
Chicago, IL	790	1,124
Kansas City, MO	798	1,162
Knoxville, TN	756	1,198
Los Angeles, CA	844	1,121
Madison, WI	731	1,162
New York, NY	744	1,059
San Diego, CA	791	1,131
Savannah, GA	766	1,245
Spokane, WA	801	1,239
Springfield, MA	771	1,231
Tucson, AZ	813	1,233
Washington, DC	722	1,013
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,327</b>	<b>13,918</b>

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## Introduction

For the first time in 20 years, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) sponsored city-level crime victimization surveys. The Census Bureau conducted the surveys. The National Institute of Justice provided funding for the city survey in Washington, DC, as part of its research support to the District of Columbia Revitalization Initiative.

The 12 cities are listed below:

- Chicago, Illinois
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Knoxville, Tennessee
- Los Angeles, California
- Madison, Wisconsin
- New York, New York
- San Diego, California
- Savannah, Georgia
- Spokane, Washington
- Springfield, Massachusetts
- Tucson, Arizona
- Washington, D.C.

Cities selected for the survey project had police departments that represented varying stages in the development of community policing. The project surveyed sampled households residing within the selected cities' jurisdictional limits to account for the area served by the local police department. The survey did not capture victimizations experienced by those who lived outside the city limits but that may have occurred within the city. It does include victimizations reported by city residents which may have occurred outside the city limits. Respondents were asked about their experiences with crime over the past 12 months.

The Nation's law enforcement community has increasingly requested city-level information regarding crime victimizations and citizen attitudes. BJS and COPS undertook this study to examine how NCVS questions could be administered at a local level using the RDD methodology. The purposes of the project were to collect baseline data on city-level violent crime, to measure fear of crime and community attitudes toward neighborhoods and police, and to test the RDD methodology. This project explored how to use telephone surveys to provide needed information to police departments, citizens, and the criminal justice research community.



## Violent crime

### Residents age 12 or older in the 12 cities reported similar rates of violent victimizations.

City ranked by population

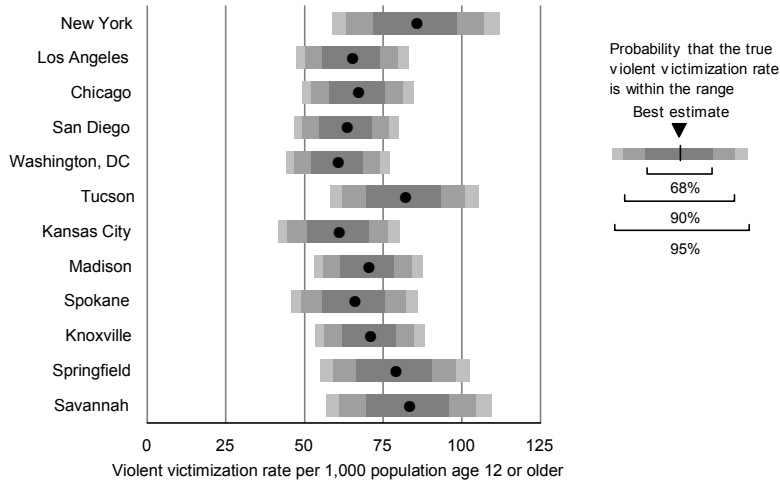


Figure 1

The data from the surveys in each city are based on a sample of households. Therefore, the rates and numbers from each survey are estimates and are not exact. Figure 1 shows the violent victimization rate for each city: Each bar shows the range within which the true victimization rate is likely to fall for that city, and the dot represents the best estimate, the most likely value for the rate in each city. There is a greater likelihood that the true rate will fall near the best estimate, and the bars reflect that likelihood: The darker the bar segment, the greater the likelihood.

Even though the best estimates of the victimization rates differ between the cities, the bars overlap, meaning that it is possible that the actual numbers are the same. Therefore the differences in the rates between cities may be too small to be statistically significant.

For example, the 68% probability ranges for violent crime rates in Washington, D.C., and Tucson do not overlap, indicating that the rates are statistically different for these cities at a 68% confidence level. However, at the more likely levels of 90% or 95% of probability

the rates in these two cities are not statistically different; the ranges do overlap. Likewise, at the 95% level none of the cities surveyed had a violent crime rate significantly different from any of the other cities.

For additional information about estimates from victimization sample surveys, see *Displaying Violent Crime Trends Using Estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 167881).

## City-wide crime rates

### Violent crime

The violent crime rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older ranged from 60 to 85 across the 12 surveyed cities.

In general the patterns and characteristics of violent crime found in the 12 cities did not differ greatly from those found among all urban areas surveyed in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)\*.

The 1997 violent crime rate for all urban areas across the Nation as measured by NCVS was 51 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

Overall, black residents in the 12 cities experienced violent victimizations at a rate of 99 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. The violent crime rate for all white residents in the 12 cities was 61 per 1,000 (table 1).

### Property crime

The property crime rate per 1,000 households was 326 for all 12 cities compared to the NCVS urban property crime rate of 310 per 1,000.

In the aggregate, black households in the 12 cities experienced property crime at a higher rate than white households. In total, 387 per 1,000 black households compared to 311 per 1,000 white households were victims of property crime.

Among the 12 cities, the difference in property crime victimization rates between white and black households varied. In Los Angeles black households had a property crime victimization rate of 503 per 1,000 households, compared to 308 per 1,000 white households.

\*Source: BJS, *Criminal Victimization 1997*, NCJ 173385, December 1998.

In Washington, DC, whites had a property crime victimization rate of 513 per 1,000 compared to 383 per 1,000 black households.

### Crimes reported to the police

Across all 12 cities, 35% of violent crimes and property crimes were reported to the police (table 2).

**Table 1. Criminal victimization in 12 cities, by race of victim, 1998**

	Total population age 12 or older	Violent crime <sup>a</sup> rates per 1,000 persons			Property crime <sup>b</sup> rates per 1,000 households		
		All <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	All <sup>c</sup>	White	Black
Total	14,167,416	75	61	99	326	311	387
Chicago	2,237,203	68	66	50	433	394	478
Kansas City	366,351	61	58	58	331	293	465
Knoxville	138,066	70	70	--	314	316	295
Los Angeles	2,954,058	65	62	114	347	308	503
Madison	164,987	70	75	--	322	327	395
New York	6,116,941	85	55	123	260	255	311
San Diego	982,314	63	64	--	308	300	416
Savannah	112,349	81	75	91	445	437	440
Spokane	156,428	67	60	--	411	398	953
Springfield	122,501	78	69	85	365	349	468
Tucson	380,067	82	78	--	432	425	425
Washington, DC	436,151	60	52	67	445	513	383
NCVS urban, 1997		51			310		

-- Fewer than 10 cases reported in survey.

<sup>a</sup>Violent crimes include rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault (aggravated and simple).

<sup>b</sup>Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft (personal larceny without contact and household larceny).

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons or household heads who are American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, and of unknown race.

**Table 2. Victimization reported to the police in 12 cities, 1998**

	Total population age 12 or older	Violent crimes <sup>a</sup>		Property crimes <sup>b</sup>	
		Number <sup>c</sup> (in 1,000s)	Percent reported to police	Number (in 1,000s)	Percent reported to police
Total	14,167,416	1,056	35%	2,369	34%
Chicago	2,237,203	152	38	489	37
Kansas City	366,351	22	44	66	45
Knoxville	138,066	10	41	23	43
Los Angeles	2,954,058	191	34	523	33
Madison	164,987	12	36	28	37
New York	6,116,941	521	32	815	29
San Diego	982,314	62	36	151	28
Savannah	112,349	9	40	24	47
Spokane	156,428	10	31	33	38
Springfield	122,501	10	58	21	41
Tucson	380,067	31	42	86	44
Washington, DC	436,151	26	50	109	41

<sup>a</sup>Violent crimes include rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault (aggravated and simple).

<sup>b</sup>Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft (personal larceny without contact and household larceny).

<sup>c</sup>Does not include cases where reporting to police was unknown.

Within most cities the percentage of crimes reported to police did not differ significantly between violent crime and property crime. Similarly across the Nation about a third of the crimes measured by the NCVS were reported to law enforcement authorities, according to the victims.

*Gender of victim*

In general, the rate of violent crime for men age 12 or older was higher than the rate for women. Overall in the cities surveyed, about 93 per 1,000 men and 59 per 1,000 women were victims of violent crime (table 3).

Men were victims of violent crime at over twice the rate of women in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

**Using sample data**

Since the data in this report came from a sample, a sampling error (standard error) is associated with each reported number. All differences discussed in the text are statistically significant at or above the 95%-confidence level. **As displayed in figure 1, the reader is cautioned that some apparent differences between and among the cities are not statistically significant.** All stated differences in the text are tested at the 95%-confidence level. Standard error tables for selected estimates are provided in Appendix II.

**Table 3. Violent victimization rates in 12 cities, by gender of victim, 1998**

	Total population age 12 or older	Estimated number of violent victimizations	Rate of violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
			Total	Male	Female
Total	14,167,413	1,056,327	75	93	59
Chicago	2,237,202	152,136	68	97	43
Kansas City	366,352	22,263	61	74	50
Knoxville	138,065	9,634	70	88	53
Los Angeles	2,954,058	191,189	65	89	39
Madison	164,988	11,615	70	75	66
New York	6,116,940	521,469	85	100	75
San Diego	982,313	61,844	63	69	57
Savannah	112,349	9,130	81	94	70
Spokane	156,428	10,470	67	71	63
Springfield	122,500	9,502	78	69	84
Tucson	380,067	30,992	82	101	63
Washington, DC	436,151	26,083	60	83	39

Note: Violent crimes include rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault (aggravated and simple).

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*Age of victim*

Although persons ages 12-19 in the 12 cities were 12% of the population surveyed, they were victims of 26% of the violent crime (not shown in a table). The oldest group, age 50 or older, made up 29% of the population but suffered 9% of the violent victimizations. The remaining age groups, 20-34 and 35-49, both experienced violent crimes at levels consistent with their proportion of the population.

Victimization experiences among the different age groups in each of the 12 cities were similar to that found by NCVS among the different age groups across the Nation.

*Weapon use*

The 12-city survey questionnaire asked the victims of violent crime for information about any weapons used during the incident.

Violent crime victims in the 12 cities said the offender had a weapon in at least 20% of the incidents — ranging to 46% in Savannah (table 4).

**Table 4. Percent of violent victimizations in which a weapon was used in 12 cities, 1998**

	Estimated number of violent victimizations of residents age 12 or older	Percent of violent victimizations in which the offender—	
		Had a weapon	Did not have a weapon
Total	937,454*	36%	64%
Chicago	139,338	22	78
Kansas City	20,018	20	80
Knoxville	8,484	41	59
Los Angeles	166,106	38	62
Madison	10,871	32	68
New York	462,166	41	59
San Diego	52,903	27	74
Savannah	8,443	46	54
Spokane	8,965	26	74
Springfield	8,508	34	66
Tucson	26,673	27	73
Washington, DC	24,979	36	64

Note: "Weapon" refers to a gun or knife, or something used as a weapon, such as a bottle or wrench. Violent victimizations include rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault (aggravated and simple).  
\*Total number does not include victimizations in which the victim could not determine whether a weapon was present.

**Table 5. Violent victimizations committed by strangers and nonstrangers in 12 cities, 1998**

	Estimated number of violent victimizations of residents age 12 or older	Percent of violent victimizations	
		Involving strangers	Involving non-strangers
Total	989,986	64%	36%
Chicago	143,587	67	33
Kansas City	20,644	47	53
Knoxville	9,361	50	50
Los Angeles	181,892	74	26
Madison	10,985	62	38
New York	483,006	62	38
San Diego	60,260	63	37
Savannah	8,656	58	42
Spokane	9,607	54	46
Springfield	9,179	53	47
Tucson	28,492	42	58
Washington, DC	24,317	67	33

Note: Violent crimes include rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault (aggravated and simple). Table does not include victimizations in which the victim could not determine the number of offenders or whether the offender(s) was a stranger or known by the victim.

*Victim-offender relationship*

Victims of violent crime were asked to describe any prior relationship they may have had with the offender such as being a family member, spouse, intimate, nonrelative, or stranger.

Among the total population in the 12 cities surveyed, victims of violent crime were more likely to have been victimized by a stranger than by a nonstranger. The percentage of violent victimizations in which the offender was a stranger ranged from 42% in Tucson to 74% in Los Angeles (table 5).

In the smaller cities (populations below 200,000) the percentage of violent victimizations committed by a stranger was below the aggregate level for all 12 cities.

Black victims of violent crimes reported similar percentages of incidents involving strangers and known offenders. Overall, white victims were more often victimized by a stranger (table 6).

**Table 6. Violent victimizations committed by strangers or nonstrangers in 12 cities, by race of victim, 1998**

	White victims age 12 or older			Black victims age 12 or older		
	Estimated number of violent victimizations	Involving strangers	Involving non-strangers	Estimated number of violent victimizations	Involving strangers	Involving non-strangers
Total	493,494	68%	32%	329,319	48%	52%
Chicago	78,731	63	37	36,347	52	48
Kansas City	14,244	57	43	--	--	--
Knoxville	8,607	51	49	--	--	--
Los Angeles	111,358	77	23	49,254	64	36
Madison	11,022	62	38	--	--	--
New York	170,099	73	27	209,224	43	57
San Diego	47,524	63	37	--	--	--
Savannah	4,746	55	45	4,118	61	39
Spokane	8,570	54	46	--	--	--
Springfield	5,880	64	36	2,191	31	69
Tucson	23,612	40	60	--	--	--
Washington, DC	9,101	82	18	14,371	58	42

Note: Violent crimes include rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault (aggravated and simple). Table does not include victimizations in which the victim could not determine the number of offenders or whether the offender(s) was/were stranger(s) or known by the victim. -- Fewer than 10 cases reported in survey.

*Race of offender*

Annual findings from the NCVS have indicated that most violent crimes across the Nation involve victims and offenders of the same race. This pattern was also the case in nearly all the 12 cities where data permitted analysis.

Overall, white victims of violent crime committed by a single offender most frequently identified whites as their offenders. In most of the cities, white victims reported at least half of the single-offender violent crime incidents were committed by whites.

Black victims of violent crime committed by a single offender, most often identified the offender as also being black. Across all 12 cities 84% of single-offender incidents committed against a black victim were committed by a black offender (table 7).

**Table 7. Single-offender violent victimizations, by perceived race of offender in 12 cities, 1998**

	Estimated number of single-offender violent victimizations	White victims age 12 or older				Black victims age 12 or older			
		White offender	Black offender	Other offender	Unknown	White offender	Black offender	Other offender	Unknown
Total	727,826	59%	22%	15%	3%	6%	84%	7%	3%
Chicago	115,355	41	31	22	6	5	70	17	7
Kansas City	16,533	69	23	5	3	--	--	--	--
Knoxville	8,568	70	25	3	2	--	--	--	--
Los Angeles	134,988	67	13	21	0	8	78	14	0
Madison	9,394	77	15	6	2	--	--	--	--
New York	339,065	63	26	9	2	4	90	3	3
San Diego	43,802	55	20	13	11	--	--	--	--
Savannah	6,343	50	47	3	0	7	88	5	0
Spokane	6,818	78	3	17	2	--	--	--	--
Springfield	5,692	50	33	15	2	21	65	11	4
Tucson	20,702	68	4	28	0	--	--	--	--
Washington, DC	20,566	38	47	12	3	0	85	4	11

Note: Violent crimes include rape/sexual assault, robbery, and assault (aggravated and simple). Zero indicates no cases in sample. Table does not include victimizations in which the victim could not determine the number of offenders or whether the offender(s) was/were stranger(s) or known by the victim. -- Fewer than 10 cases reported in the survey.

## Measuring local violent crime

Citizen surveys provide a useful tool to collect crime victimization data. The 12-city survey was designed to obtain total violent crime estimates. The survey used the current National Criminal Victimization Survey (NCVS) questionnaire with a series of supplemental questions measuring the residents' attitudes toward crime, their neighborhood, and local police activities.

Another source of crime data is the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) based on crimes that are known to the police.

Each year through the UCR program, the FBI presents crime statistics for the Nation as a whole as well as for cities. These data are

compiled from monthly law enforcement reports or individual crime incident records.

The 12-city local victimization survey collected data for all victimizations, whether reported to the police or not. The UCR data are only incidents reported to the police. NCVS data are collected only from residents age 12 or older; UCR data are for victims of all ages.

To compare the UCR and NCVS data, only the NCVS incidents that the respondents said were reported to the police were used. To adequately compare NCVS findings with the UCR, common crime definitions have to be used as well.

Violent crime data from the NCVS comparable to UCR crimes include rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Because of differences in methodological procedures, the NCVS and UCR data are not strictly comparable, but the table does show generally similar results.

Overall, the violent crime rate for robbery and aggravated assault reported in the 12-city survey is similar to that found in the UCR. There were some differences in the two reported crime rates for each city. The UCR violent crime rate was higher than the city-level survey rate in Chicago and Springfield, while in Savannah and Madison the UCR rate was lower.

### Violent crime measures in the 12 cities, 1997-98

	Rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults reported to the police per 1,000 persons <sup>a</sup>		Total robberies, rapes, and aggravated assaults reported to the police		Crimes reported to the police			
	City-level survey	1997 UCR	City-level survey	1997 UCR	Robbery <sup>a</sup>		Aggravated assault	
					City-level survey	1997 UCR	City-level survey	1997 UCR
All 12 cities	14	15	206,099	253,031	75,893	104,146	122,444	143,574
Tucson	13	10	5,618	5,066	1,518	1,446	3,607	3,329
Los Angeles	12	16	38,962	55,962	16,464	20,506	20,267	34,043
San Diego	10	8	10,912	9,722	4,237	2,604	4,635	6,734
Savannah	19	8	2,356	1,146	521	620	1,539	465
Chicago <sup>b,c</sup>	10	22	22,773	61,808	13,112	25,289	8,213	36,519
Kansas City, MI	13	19	4,779	8,469	1,559	2,711	2,931	5,341
Springfield, MA <sup>d</sup>	24	31	2,962	4,637	1,137	473	1,583	4,078
New York	17	13	105,050	92,093	30,808	44,707	74,242	45,229
Knoxville	16	8	2,233	1,486	1,125	545	1,031	844
Spokane	7	7	1,457	1,383	393	406	655	871
Madison	13	4	2,199	854	522	340	1,677	433
Washington, DC	15	20	6,798	10,405	4,497	4,499	2,064	5,688

Note: Violent crimes include rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults which were reported to the police.

NCVS urban violent crime rate for 1997 was 51 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

<sup>a</sup>UCR robbery includes commercial robberies. In 1997 approximately 75% of robberies known to the police were residential robberies.

<sup>b</sup>Complete data were not available for the State of Illinois; therefore it was necessary that their crime counts be estimated.

<sup>c</sup>Forcible rape figures furnished by the State-level UCR program administered by the Illinois Department of State Police were not in accordance with national UCR guidelines. Therefore, the figures were excluded from the forcible rape category.

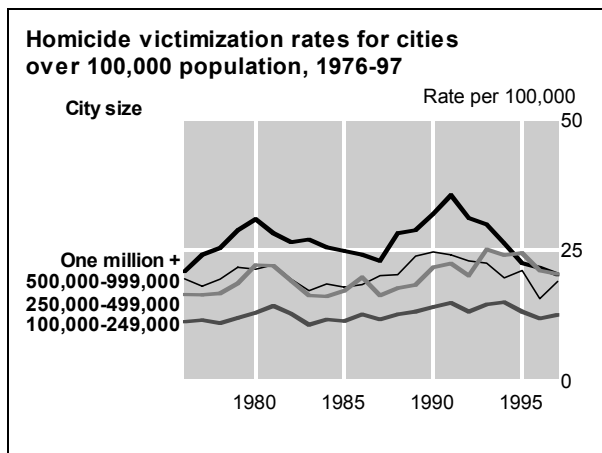
<sup>d</sup>Due to reporting changes or annexations, UCR figures are not comparable to previous years.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States 1997*.

## Homicide rates for 12 cities, 1985-97

Nationally, the homicide rate rose in the late 1980's and early 1990's to a peak of 9.8 per 100,000 persons in 1991. By 1997 the rate had declined to 6.8 per 100,000 persons.

During the 1990's 10 of the 12 cities experienced a decrease in the murder rates per 100,000 persons.



	Murder rate per 100,000												
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Chicago	22.2	24.8	22.9	22.0	24.8	30.6	32.9	33.1	30.3	33.1	30.0	28.6	27.4
Kansas City	20.5	25.9	29.5	29.9	31.8	27.8	30.8	34.0	35.1	32.3	24.0	23.2	22.1
Knoxville	9.1	16.4	11.4	12.0	15.0	15.1	20.9	20.6	8.2	13.9	11.0	13.2	10.8
Los Angeles	24.4	25.6	24.3	21.6	25.5	28.2	28.9	30.3	30.5	23.8	24.5	20.3	16.3
Madison	2.3	1.8	3.4	3.4	3.9	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.0	2.0	2.5	0.5	1.5
New York	19.3	22.0	23.0	25.8	25.8	30.7	29.3	27.1	26.5	21.3	16.1	13.4	10.5
San Diego	9.7	10.1	9.2	13.4	11.0	12.2	14.7	12.7	11.5	9.7	7.9	6.8	5.7
Savannah	26.3	19.1	16.0	12.6	13.5	24.0	42.0	16.0	23.3	20.0	18.8	15.0	18.1
Spokane	5.1	5.6	9.1	5.7	5.1	4.5	3.8	6.4	6.8	3.6	11.7	7.5	5.4
Springfield	11.9	4.0	5.3	6.7	4.6	8.3	8.3	8.3	13.0	10.3	12.7	8.0	6.0
Tucson	8.4	10.3	6.1	8.1	--	7.4	5.8	9.9	10.3	8.4	14.4	9.7	10.3
Washington, DC	23.5	31.0	36.2	59.5	71.9	77.8	80.6	75.2	78.5	70.0	65.0	73.1	56.9
	Percent change in rate 1985-97		Percent change in rate 1990-97										
Chicago	23.4%		-10.5%										
Kansas City	7.8		-20.5										
Knoxville	18.7		-28.5										
Los Angeles	-33.2		-42.2										
Madison	-34.8		-6.3										
New York	-45.6		-65.8										
San Diego	-41.2		-53.3										
Savannah	-31.2		-24.6										
Spokane	5.9		20.0										
Springfield	-49.6		-27.7										
Tucson	22.6		39.2										
Washington, DC	142.1		-26.9										

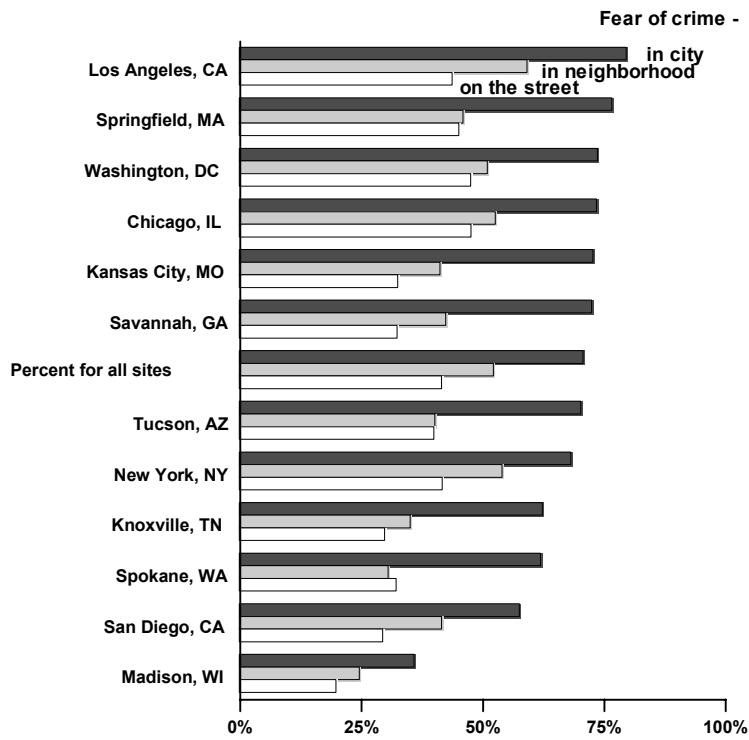
-- Did not report.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States 1985-97*.



## Community perceptions

Percent of residents who said they were fearful of crime in their city or neighborhood, or of being a victim of street crime, 1998



**Population age 16 or older in 12 cities, by race, 1998**

The survey questions on community attitudes were asked only of those residents age 16 or older. City populations differed in size and racial composition. The number of residents age 16 or older varied from about 100,000 to more than 5 million. The proportion of the black population in the 12 cities ranged from 2% in Spokane to 53% in Washington, D.C:

	Total	Percent of total population age 16 or older		
		White	Black	Other*
Total	13,252,672	61%	23%	16%
Chicago	2,085,056	57	32	11
Kansas City	349,260	74	21	5
Knoxville	130,144	90	8	2
Los Angeles	2,810,891	63	14	22
Madison	157,983	91	4	6
New York	5,661,180	55	28	17
San Diego	925,803	76	6	18
Savannah	104,495	58	39	3
Spokane	145,476	93	2	5
Springfield	110,791	71	21	8
Tucson	359,000	83	4	13
Washington, DC	412,593	41	53	6

\*Includes Asian, Pacific Islander and American Indian, Aleut, and Eskimo.

**Community attitudes**

*The neighborhood*

About 80% or more of the residents in each of the 12 cities said they were satisfied with the quality of life in their neighborhood. Few residents, 6% or less in any of the 12 cities, were “very dissatisfied” with their neighborhood (table 8).

**Table 8. Residents in 12 cities, by degree of satisfaction with the quality of life in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents age 16 or older					
		Satisfied			Dissatisfied		
		Total	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Total	Dis-satisfied	Very dis-satisfied
Total	12,577,831	83%	26%	57%	17%	13%	4%
Chicago	1,983,510	81	22	59	19	14	5
Kansas City	343,658	90	36	55	10	7	3
Knoxville	122,785	93	44	49	8	6	1
Los Angeles	2,730,287	82	27	55	18	14	3
Madison	152,422	96	55	41	4	3	1
New York	5,242,943	81	21	60	19	13	6
San Diego	911,275	94	45	49	6	5	2
Savannah	98,293	88	29	59	12	10	2
Spokane	142,410	91	37	54	9	7	1
Springfield	104,039	80	20	59	20	14	6
Tucson	352,640	89	31	58	11	8	2
Washington, DC	393,569	79	26	53	21	17	4

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.

Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Question: “How satisfied are you with the quality of life in your neighborhood? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?”

Less than half the residents in each of the cities were fearful of crime in their neighborhood (table 9). Fewer than 1 in 10 in each of the cities said they were “very fearful.”

Residents who said they were very or somewhat fearful of crime in their neighborhood were asked if their level of fear had changed at all over the past 12 months (table 10).

The majority of residents who were fearful of crime said their fear of neighborhood crime had not changed over the past 12 months. Each of the 12 cities generally had few residents (10% or less) who thought their fear of crime had decreased over the past year.

**Table 9. Residents in 12 cities, by degree of fear of neighborhood crime, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents age 16 or older					
		Fearful			Not fearful		
		Total	Very fearful	Somewhat fearful	Total	Not very fearful	Not at all fearful
Total	12,597,016	42%	7%	35%	58%	37%	22%
Chicago	1,985,495	48	9	39	52	34	18
Kansas City	343,285	33	4	28	67	43	25
Knoxville	122,814	30	3	27	70	41	29
Los Angeles	2,761,158	44	8	36	56	36	20
Madison	152,269	20	1	19	80	46	34
New York	5,236,728	42	7	35	58	36	22
San Diego	907,779	30	3	27	71	44	27
Savannah	97,239	33	5	28	68	39	29
Spokane	142,194	32	3	30	68	39	28
Springfield	105,135	45	9	36	55	34	20
Tucson	353,347	40	5	35	60	37	23
Washington, DC	389,573	48	7	40	52	34	18

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Question: “How fearful are you about crime in your neighborhood? Are you very fearful, somewhat fearful, not very fearful, or not at all fearful?”

**Table 10. Residents in 12 cities who expressed fear of neighborhood crime, by whether their level of fear had changed, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Total percent	In the previous 12 months fear of crime in neighborhood —		
			Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Total	5,210,677	100%	19%	8%	73%
Chicago	941,366	100	25	8	68
Kansas City	110,958	100	25	6	69
Knoxville	36,783	100	34	4	61
Los Angeles	1,202,378	100	18	6	76
Madison	30,125	100	24	8	68
New York	2,173,941	100	15	10	75
San Diego	266,251	100	19	9	72
Savannah	31,219	100	23	6	71
Spokane	45,586	100	31	7	62
Springfield	47,128	100	41	3	57
Tucson	140,334	100	26	7	67
Washington, DC	184,608	100	15	10	75

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Asked only of those who indicated they were “somewhat fearful” or “very fearful” of crime in their neighborhood. Question: “Over the past 12 months, have your fears increased, decreased, or stayed the same?”

*Neighborhood crime*

Between a quarter and a half of the residents in the 12 cities indicated that a serious crime had occurred in their neighborhood over the past 12 months. About 10% in each city said they were not aware of the crime situation in their neighborhood. In Chicago, New York, and Washington, DC, over 40% said they were aware of a serious crime that had taken place in their neighborhood (table 11).

Residents who said they were aware of serious crimes in their neighborhood were asked to identify the types of serious crimes which had occurred in their neighborhood over the past 12 months. Overall, the same proportion of all residents (about 20%) identified theft of personal property, burglary, auto theft, violent attacks, and gun crimes as the types of crimes which had occurred in their neighborhood (table 12).

**Table 11. Residents in 12 cities who said serious crime had occurred in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents		
		Reporting serious crime	Not reporting serious crime	Not aware of crime
Total	11,918,619	39%	50%	11%
Chicago	1,909,191	43	46	11
Kansas City	329,112	32	57	11
Knoxville	118,901	28	62	10
Los Angeles	2,581,393	33	53	13
Madison	149,970	29	64	7
New York	4,909,999	43	47	10
San Diego	872,268	32	57	11
Savannah	95,515	27	64	9
Spokane	139,095	32	57	12
Springfield	101,425	36	56	8
Tucson	342,385	31	55	14
Washington, DC	369,365	50	44	7

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
Question: "To the best of your knowledge, have any serious crimes occurred in your neighborhood in the past 12 months?"

**Table 12. Types of crime which residents said occurred in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all residents who identified a type of serious crime which had occurred in their neighborhood								
		Open drug sales	Open drug use	Auto theft	Theft/property	Burglary	Violent attacks	Gun crime	Sexual assault	Murder
Total	12,844,374	16%	14%	19%	21%	20%	19%	19%	9%	15%
Chicago	2,025,146	19	15	21	26	25	24	26	11	21
Kansas City	339,739	9	8	13	20	20	11	11	4	7
Knoxville	128,081	7	6	8	16	17	7	7	5	5
Los Angeles	2,725,774	13	10	17	17	18	14	17	5	11
Madison	155,411	7	7	4	14	13	12	11	7	5
New York	5,462,528	18	17	20	21	21	22	19	12	16
San Diego	910,853	10	10	16	17	16	13	12	5	8
Savannah	103,766	9	7	10	15	15	9	10	3	9
Spokane	141,797	10	8	8	19	18	11	10	4	8
Springfield	108,368	17	14	17	18	17	17	14	10	19
Tucson	349,234	10	7	11	19	18	11	13	3	7
Washington, DC	393,677	22	17	26	32	27	24	27	12	19

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of respondents age 16 or older represents the largest category. The total number of respondents varies by each response category. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses. Asked only of those residents who said they knew of serious crimes which had occurred in their neighborhood in the past 12 months. Question: "Which of the following types of serious crimes do you know to have occurred in your neighborhood in the past 12 months — people openly selling drugs, people openly using drugs, auto theft, theft of personal property, breaking and entering to steal personal property, violent physical attacks, crimes committed with guns, sexual assault/rape, murder."

About a fifth of all the residents in Chicago, Springfield, and Washington, D.C. said they were aware of a murder in their neighborhood. One of the serious crimes which people said they were least aware of was sexual assault.

Residents in the 12 cities who said they were aware of serious crimes in their neighborhood were asked how they found out about these crimes.

In most of the cities residents primarily received information about serious neighborhood crime either from attending a community meeting or from the media. Few residents said they became aware of serious crime from the police (table 13).

Among all residents in each city, about two-thirds or more said they were well-informed about crimes which occurred in their neighborhood (table 14).

**Table 13. Sources of information for residents in 12 cities on serious crimes that had occurred in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all residents who identified sources of information on serious neighborhood crime					
		Resident was victim or knew victim	Witnessed crime	Neighborhood meeting	Police	Media	Other ways
Total	13,252,673	5%	7%	20%	4%	16%	5%
Chicago	2,085,055	6	7	23	4	19	5
Kansas City	349,260	4	4	20	4	11	4
Knoxville	130,143	6	3	17	2	10	2
Los Angeles	2,810,892	4	6	17	5	10	5
Madison	157,985	3	3	14	2	19	3
New York	5,661,180	5	7	22	4	17	5
San Diego	925,803	4	5	16	3	13	5
Savannah	104,494	5	5	15	2	9	2
Spokane	145,476	5	4	17	3	13	4
Springfield	110,792	4	5	18	2	22	4
Tucson	359,001	5	5	17	3	10	5
Washington, DC	412,592	6	8	29	7	23	6

Note: Estimated number of respondents age 16 or older represents largest category. "Other ways" include "received information through a public kiosk/terminal or by visiting a police substation."  
Residents could provide more than one source of information.  
Asked only of those residents who said they knew the type of serious crimes which had occurred in their neighborhood in the past 12 months.  
Question: "How did you find out about these crimes?"

**Table 14. Residents in 12 cities, by whether they considered themselves well informed about crime in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Residents age 16 or older	
	Estimated number	Percent well-informed about crime
Total	11,921,692	65%
Chicago	1,898,138	63
Kansas City	327,390	73
Knoxville	117,730	80
Los Angeles	2,602,552	65
Madison	144,760	76
New York	4,943,781	62
San Diego	845,649	70
Savannah	93,999	79
Spokane	134,994	76
Springfield	101,724	75
Tucson	338,095	70
Washington, DC	372,880	69

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
Question: "Overall, do you think you are well-informed of crime which occurs in your neighborhood?"

**Neighborhood conditions**

The 12-city survey asked residents about a series of conditions and activities which may have existed in

their neighborhood. Residents said a variety of conditions existed in their neighborhood (table 15). These conditions included abandoned buildings and cars, poor lighting, trash,

and empty lots. At least a fifth of the residents in each city mentioned “poor lighting” as a condition which existed in their neighborhood.

**Neighborhood activities**

Residents were also asked about various activities which may have been present in their neighborhood.

Residents frequently said panhandling, vandalism, loitering and public drinking/drug use existed in their neighborhood (table 16). In three cities about half said there was loitering in their neighborhood.

**Table 15. Residents in 12 cities who identified conditions which existed in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all residents age 16 or older who identified —					
		Abandoned cars/buidlings	Rundown buildings	Poor lighting	Overgrown shrubs/trees	Trash	Empty lots
Total	12,696,240	22%	21%	27%	18%	23%	19%
Chicago	2,008,041	28	28	23	18	26	25
Kansas City	344,544	17	19	29	19	18	19
Knoxville	123,236	12	14	24	23	13	21
Los Angeles	2,763,084	20	18	29	23	16	19
Madison	151,562	9	10	27	19	14	10
New York	5,305,779	23	21	25	14	30	18
San Diego	906,290	11	11	27	20	11	14
Savannah	98,425	16	17	22	19	15	18
Spokane	142,270	18	17	28	22	15	21
Springfield	104,572	26	28	27	21	22	19
Tucson	354,785	18	19	50	26	17	27
Washington, DC	393,652	34	30	29	23	30	18

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of respondents age 16 or older represents largest category. The total number of respondents varies by each response category. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

Question: “Do any of the following conditions or activities exist in your neighborhood — abandoned cars and/or buildings, rundown/neglected buildings, poor lighting, overgrown shrubs/trees, trash, empty lots?”

**Table 16. Residents in 12 cities who identified activities which existed in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all residents age 16 or older who identified —							Transients/homeless sleeping on street
		Public drinking or drug use	Public drug sales	Vandalism or graffiti	Prostitution	Pan-handling/begging	Loitering	Truancy	
Total	12,696,240	29%	24%	40%	10%	35%	43%	28%	29%
Chicago	2,008,041	35	30	47	14	41	50	29	26
Kansas City	344,544	18	14	18	5	9	20	19	5
Knoxville	123,236	11	9	17	4	8	13	14	7
Los Angeles	2,763,084	24	20	42	12	39	36	24	35
Madison	151,562	19	10	25	2	11	24	20	8
New York	5,305,779	33	28	42	10	36	52	33	31
San Diego	906,290	19	13	33	7	28	31	21	27
Savannah	98,425	19	16	15	5	13	24	19	9
Spokane	142,270	18	12	29	4	9	16	19	6
Springfield	104,572	25	22	27	7	13	31	29	7
Tucson	354,785	20	14	50	3	25	26	24	22
Washington, DC	393,652	35	31	29	12	46	51	23	32

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category. The total number of respondents varies by each response category. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

Question: “Do any of the following conditions or activities exist in your neighborhood — illegal public drinking/public drug use, public drug sales, vandalism or graffiti, prostitution, panhandling/begging, loitering/hanging out, truancy/youth skipping school, transients/homeless sleeping on benches, streets?”

**Table 17. Residents in 12 cities who said a condition/activity made them feel less safe in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Residents age 16 or older	
	Estimated number of residents	Percent of residents
Total	13,079,428	30%
Chicago	2,068,756	36
Kansas City	344,883	20
Knoxville	129,673	17
Los Angeles	2,773,663	33
Madison	157,241	17
New York	5,561,217	29
San Diego	922,216	22
Savannah	104,178	20
Spokane	143,562	20
Springfield	109,860	24
Tucson	354,856	30
Washington, DC	409,323	35

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Asked only of those who identified a condition or activity that existed in their neighborhood. Questions: "Do any of the conditions you just mentioned make you feel less safe in your neighborhood?"

Residents who identified a neighborhood condition or activity were asked if any of these conditions or activities made them feel less safe in their neighborhood, and if so, which one impacted their feeling of safety the most.

Not all the residents felt that the existence of these specific conditions or activities affected their perception of public safety. For example, between 17% and 36% of all the residents in each city said the conditions or activities made them feel less safe (table 17). Across the cities, public drug use, loitering and poor lighting were among the conditions that affected residents' sense of safety (table 18).

Residents in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Tucson who had identified a condition frequently said transients and the homeless sleeping in public were problems that made them feel less safe (not shown in table). Few respondents in any of the 12 cities mentioned abandoned cars, trash, abandoned buildings, overgrown trees, or empty lots as most affecting their feeling of safety.

**Table 18. Residents in 12 cities who identified activities or conditions that made them feel less safe, by which most affected their feeling of safety, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents who identified a condition or an activity which most affected their safety					
		Poor lighting	Open drinking and drug use	Open drug sales	Vandalism	Loitering	Other*
Total	3,594,640	8%	15%	17%	8%	21%	33%
Chicago	678,739	5	13	22	11	24	24
Kansas City	62,586	28	14	14	11	13	20
Knoxville	19,858	23	9	16	14	12	21
Los Angeles	844,194	9	12	10	14	16	41
Madison	25,546	20	17	13	7	14	28
New York	1,481,001	4	18	19	--	26	30
San Diego	188,931	21	11	8	12	12	35
Savannah	18,939	13	16	18	--	20	30
Spokane	26,073	17	16	16	17	11	22
Springfield	23,917	13	19	23	7	21	16
Tucson	96,310	22	11	9	15	11	33
Washington, DC	128,546	9	15	22	--	20	33

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from table. Asked only of those who identified a condition/activity that existed in their neighborhood and said it affected their feeling of safety. The total number of respondents varies by each response category. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

--Fewer than 10 respondents.

Question: "Which one of the conditions just mentioned affects your feeling of safety the most?"

\*\*Other\* includes prostitution, panhandling, truancy, transients/homeless sleeping in public, abandoned cars, rundown buildings, overgrown trees, and trash.

**Residents' attitudes toward their city**

Residents were asked about the conditions of their city and about their perceived risk of becoming a victim of street crime in the city.

A majority of the residents in each of the 12 cities said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the quality of life in the city. This ranged from 56% in Los Angeles to 95% in Madison (table 19).

About a third or more of the residents in Madison (46%) and San Diego (32%) said they were "very satisfied" with the quality of life in their city.

The percentage of residents expressing dissatisfaction with the quality of life in their city varied, ranging from 6% in Madison to 44% in Los Angeles. However, in many of the cities fewer residents were satisfied with the quality of life in their city as compared to the quality of life in their neighborhood.

**Table 19. Residents in 12 cities, by degree of satisfaction with the quality of life in their city, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of satisfaction with quality of life					
		Satisfied			Dissatisfied		
		Total	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Total	Dis-satisfied	Very dis-satisfied
Total	12,395,789	69%	12%	58%	31%	24%	7%
Chicago	1,975,488	68	13	56	32	26	6
Kansas City	337,584	70	11	59	30	23	7
Knoxville	121,924	85	28	57	15	13	2
Los Angeles	2,710,225	56	7	50	44	33	11
Madison	152,124	95	46	48	6	5	1
New York	5,114,424	72	9	63	28	22	6
San Diego	900,796	90	32	58	10	8	2
Savannah	97,114	71	13	58	29	22	7
Spokane	140,965	81	21	60	19	17	2
Springfield	102,836	57	4	53	43	35	9
Tucson	353,262	78	17	61	22	17	4
Washington, DC	389,047	59	8	50	41	32	10

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 Question: "How satisfied are you with the quality of life in your city? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?"



**Table 20. Residents in 12 cities, by degree of fear of crime in their city, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents	Percent of residents age 16 or older					
		Fearful			Not fearful		
		Total	Very fearful	Somewhat fearful	Total	Not very fearful	Not at all fearful
Total	12,440,671	71%	18%	53%	29%	21%	8%
Chicago	1,970,708	74	20	54	27	19	8
Kansas City	337,094	73	17	56	27	22	6
Knoxville	121,960	62	12	51	38	28	9
Los Angeles	2,737,851	80	24	56	20	14	7
Madison	151,352	36	2	34	64	51	13
New York	5,142,188	68	17	51	32	22	10
San Diego	894,738	58	9	49	42	35	8
Savannah	96,190	73	18	55	27	19	8
Spokane	141,827	62	10	52	38	30	8
Springfield	104,175	77	23	53	23	16	7
Tucson	352,353	70	15	56	30	23	7
Washington, DC	390,235	74	21	53	26	18	8

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
 Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 Question: "How fearful are you about crime in your city?  
 Are you very fearful, somewhat fearful, not very fearful, or not at all fearful?"

More than half of the residents in 11 cities were "somewhat fearful" or "very fearful" of crime in their city (table 20). In each of the cities a higher proportion of residents said they were fearful of crime in their city than in their respective neighborhoods.

In most of the 12 cities, about three-quarters of the residents who were fearful of crime in their city said their level of fear about crime in the city had remained about the same over the past 12 months. Few, ranging from 2% to 11%, indicated that their level of fear had decreased (table 21).

**Table 21. Residents in 12 cities who expressed fear of crime in their city, by whether their level of fear had changed, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	In the previous 12 months fear of crime in city —			
		Total percent	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Total	8,745,982	100%	18%	8%	75%
Chicago	1,441,581	100	20	5	75
Kansas City	244,534	100	22	4	75
Knoxville	75,988	100	33	2	65
Los Angeles	2,153,598	100	20	6	74
Madison	54,352	100	24	4	73
New York	3,490,565	100	13	11	76
San Diego	515,038	100	16	6	78
Savannah	68,996	100	21	4	75
Spokane	87,685	100	42	3	56
Springfield	79,417	100	40	2	58
Tucson	247,269	100	29	2	69
Washington, DC	286,959	100	13	7	80

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
 Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 Asked only of those who said they were very fearful or somewhat fearful of crime in their city.  
 Question: "Over the last 12 months, have your fears increased, decreased, or stayed the same?"

**Table 22. Residents in 12 cities who said they were afraid of becoming a victim of street crime in their city, 1998**

	<u>Residents age 16 or older</u>	
	Estimated number	Percent with fear of street crime
Total	12,446,470	52%
Chicago	1,971,332	53
Kansas City	337,128	41
Knoxville	121,693	35
Los Angeles	2,689,497	60
Madison	149,992	25
New York	5,217,814	53
San Diego	885,545	42
Savannah	96,103	43
Spokane	139,116	31
Springfield	102,943	47
Tucson	347,141	41
Washington, DC	388,166	51

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
Question: "Are you afraid of becoming a victim of street crime in the city?"

When residents were asked if they were afraid of becoming a victim of street crime, except for Madison residents, about a third or more said they were fearful of becoming a victim of street crime (table 22).

Respondents who said they were afraid of becoming a victim of street crime were then asked to identify the type of street crime they feared the most. Overall, robbery and assault with a gun/deadly force were the street crimes most frequently mentioned among all the residents (table 23).

**Table 23. Residents in 12 cities, by the type of street crime they most feared, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all persons who identified a type of crime they most feared				
		Robbery	Physical assault	Assault with gun	Sexual assault	Murder
Total	12,420,723	14%	4%	16%	6%	6%
Chicago	1,956,384	16	3	14	7	7
Kansas City	336,979	14	4	13	4	3
Knoxville	123,821	11	3	10	4	2
Los Angeles	2,604,976	14	5	23	5	8
Madison	155,059	9	4	4	4	--
New York	5,269,927	14	3	14	8	6
San Diego	894,077	12	6	12	4	3
Savannah	98,451	15	3	11	3	3
Spokane	140,868	8	5	9	3	3
Springfield	104,914	12	5	10	5	8
Tucson	343,746	10	4	16	4	3
Washington, DC	391,521	18	2	18	3	5

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
Asked only of those who said they were afraid of becoming a victim of street crime in their city.  
--Fewer than 10 respondents.  
Question: "What type of street crime are you most afraid of — robbery, someone stealing from you, physical assault that does not involve a gun (non-domestic violence), assault with a gun, someone hurting you with a deadly weapon, sexual assault/rape, murder?"

**Table 24. Residents in 12 cities fearful of street crime, by actions they took to protect themselves from crime outside their home, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents fearful of street crime who —				
		Carried a self-defense warning device	Carried a self-defense weapon	Avoided certain routes and areas	Avoided going out at night	Avoided going out alone
Total	6,509,867	10%	14%	44%	49%	48%
Chicago	1,039,490	13	22	48	51	48
Kansas City	138,885	14	23	37	45	48
Knoxville	42,575	16	23	40	46	46
Los Angeles	1,622,136	10	17	45	52	47
Madison	37,427	9	11	44	39	40
New York	2,784,226	8	8	44	48	47
San Diego	371,845	11	14	33	43	48
Savannah	40,929	12	29	40	51	54
Spokane	43,489	14	23	41	46	48
Springfield	47,863	11	14	46	53	59
Tucson	141,634	14	28	40	48	49
Washington, DC	199,368	12	14	51	48	49

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category. Total number of respondents varies by each response category. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses. Asked only of those residents who said they were afraid of becoming a victim of street crime. Question: "Here are some things people do to avoid becoming a victim of crime that takes place outside the home. In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things — you carry a self-defense warning device such as a whistle or alarm, you carry a self-defense weapon (includes knife, gun, club, mace, stun-gun), you no longer take certain routes or go into certain areas in your neighborhood, you avoid going out at night, you avoid going out alone?"

Those residents who said they were afraid of becoming a victim of street crime were asked to describe what measures they used to protect themselves against crime occurring outside the home.

To avoid becoming a victim of street crime, those residents most commonly said they don't go out alone, don't go out after dark, and avoid certain routes or areas of the city. In eight cities, 20% or more of the residents fearful of street crime said they planned to move out of the neighborhood to avoid crime. Among residents afraid of street crime, between a fifth to a third made an effort to get to know the neighborhood police. In six cities, at least 20% of these residents said they carried a self-defense weapon (table 24).

**Table 24. (continued).**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents fearful of street crime who —				
		Took a self-defense class	Attended community meetings	Got to know police in neighborhood	Planned to relocate	Took other preventive measures
Total	6,509,867	11%	18%	26%	25%	10%
Chicago	1,039,490	9	25	34	29	9
Kansas City	138,885	11	19	29	25	14
Knoxville	42,575	9	22	31	17	12
Los Angeles	1,622,136	14	17	24	26	8
Madison	37,427	13	13	22	18	14
New York	2,784,226	9	15	24	24	10
San Diego	371,845	13	21	24	15	11
Savannah	40,929	10	23	37	23	8
Spokane	43,489	12	20	25	19	13
Springfield	47,863	10	14	34	29	9
Tucson	141,634	16	21	28	25	11
Washington, DC	199,368	8	26	31	20	13

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category. Total number of respondents varies by each response category. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses. Asked only of those residents who said they were afraid of becoming a victim of street crime. Question: "Here are some things people do to avoid becoming a victim of crime that takes place outside the home. In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things — you took a self-defense class, you attended community meetings in your neighborhood, you made an effort to get to know the police in your neighborhood, you planned to relocate to outside your neighborhood?"

**Table 25. Residents in 12 cities who took action to protect themselves from crime in their home, by the type of action taken, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all residents who —				
		Attended watch meetings	Watched out for other's safety	Installed security system	Requested police security check	Owned guard dog
Total	12,737,662	11%	61%	18%	5%	15%
Chicago	2,009,342	17	65	18	6	16
Kansas City	344,390	13	72	18	7	19
Knoxville	123,672	12	72	17	5	21
Los Angeles	2,782,894	11	66	21	5	25
Madison	152,702	5	51	4	2	10
New York	5,315,324	9	54	17	4	9
San Diego	910,508	10	68	14	4	15
Savannah	98,389	16	73	19	10	24
Spokane	143,515	14	75	12	3	25
Springfield	105,571	7	67	21	8	18
Tucson	355,691	15	70	15	5	29
Washington, DC	395,664	15	64	15	7	6

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category. Total number of respondents varies by each response category. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses. Question: "In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things to protect yourself from crime in the home, in a direct response to you or your family's fear of crime — you go to neighborhood watch meetings, you and your neighbors have agreed to watch out for each other's safety, you've installed a security system for your home, you've asked the police department to do a home security check, you have guard dogs at home?"

**Crime prevention measures**

All residents were asked about the types of security measures they took to protect themselves from crime in their homes as well as crime which might occur in the street.

The most frequently cited security actions taken by residents in the 12 cities to protect themselves from crime in their home included adding outside or automatic lighting, arranging with neighbors to watch out for each other, and installing extra locks. About a third or more of the residents in Knoxville, Savannah, Spokane, and Tucson kept a weapon inside the home for self defense. Less frequently mentioned were installing security systems, attending neighborhood watch meetings, or asking police to conduct a home security check (table 25).

**Table 25. (continued)**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all residents who —				
		Placed ID numbers on property	Installed extra locks	Kept self-defense weapon in home	Added automatic lighting	Took other precautions
Total	12,737,662	17%	41%	14%	33%	18%
Chicago	2,009,342	18	41	13	36	17
Kansas City	344,390	23	40	27	42	18
Knoxville	123,672	24	36	39	40	15
Los Angeles	2,782,894	21	42	20	43	19
Madison	152,702	14	23	13	27	18
New York	5,315,324	14	40	8	24	19
San Diego	910,508	20	44	17	39	15
Savannah	98,389	23	43	34	44	17
Spokane	143,515	30	44	30	49	19
Springfield	105,571	18	42	14	48	15
Tucson	355,691	25	49	31	44	19
Washington, DC	395,664	14	32	7	30	22

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category. Total number of respondents varies by each response category. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses. Question: "In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things to protect yourself from crime in the home, in a direct response to you or your family's fear of crime — you've engraved security identification numbers on all your belongings, you've installed extra locks on windows and/or doors, you keep weapons inside the home, you've added outside automatic lighting (e.g. timers)?"

**Table 26. Residents in 12 cities who had heard about a meeting concerning crime in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Residents age 16 or older	
	Estimated number	Percent who heard about a meeting
Total	12,524,175	24%
Chicago	1,982,067	38
Kansas City	340,045	20
Knoxville	122,509	16
Los Angeles	2,741,853	19
Madison	150,836	18
New York	5,201,213	23
San Diego	900,086	17
Savannah	97,445	15
Spokane	141,766	19
Springfield	104,421	25
Tucson	351,060	18
Washington, DC	390,874	33

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Question: "In the past 12 months, have you heard about any community meetings concerning crime taking place in your neighborhood?"

**Table 27. Residents in 12 cities who attended a meeting concerning crime in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Residents age 16 or older	
	Estimated number	Percent who attended a meeting
Total	13,251,676	6%
Chicago	2,085,055	10
Kansas City	349,260	5
Knoxville	130,142	4
Los Angeles	2,810,892	6
Madison	157,985	3
New York	5,661,180	6
San Diego	924,886	4
Savannah	104,415	4
Spokane	145,476	5
Springfield	110,792	5
Tucson	359,000	5
Washington, DC	412,593	10

Note: Asked only of those who said they heard about community meeting on crime. Question: "In the past 12 months, have you attended any of these community meetings?"

*Community crime prevention meetings*

Residents were not widely familiar with community watch meetings held in their neighborhood. About a third or less of the residents in each of the cities said they had heard about community meetings concerning crime that took place in their neighborhood (table 26).

Community meetings on crime were not widely attended. In each city, 10% or less of the residents had attended a community meeting on crime within the past year (table 27).

Residents in the 12 cities who knew about the meeting but did not attend most frequently said they failed to attend because they did not have time or the meeting was held during work hours (table 28).

**Table 28. Residents in 12 cities who did not attend a meeting concerning crime in their neighborhood, by reasons for not attending, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent not attending meetings because —			
		Meeting held during work hours	No time to attend	Not especially concerned	Other reasons
Total	11,708,877	3%	6%	2%	9%
Chicago	1,791,876	6	10	3	14
Kansas City	322,031	3	5	1	8
Knoxville	117,378	2	3	0	7
Los Angeles	2,590,886	2	5	0	7
Madison	146,594	3	4	4	8
New York	4,866,822	3	6	2	8
San Diego	859,908	3	4	1	6
Savannah	93,225	3	2	--	6
Spokane	135,112	3	5	1	8
Springfield	99,621	5	5	--	11
Tucson	334,376	4	4	--	6
Washington, DC	351,048	5	10	2	14

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category. Total number of respondents varies by each response category. Asked only of those who said they had heard about a community meeting concerning crime in their neighborhood, but had not attended a meeting in the past 12 months. "Other reasons" include "did not know time or location," "unable to obtain transportation," "unable to obtain child care," "meeting held in unsafe part of town," "won't help crime problem," and "meeting is too far away."  
 --Fewer than 10 respondents. Zero indicates no cases in sample.  
 Questions: "What are your reasons for not attending any meetings?"

**Table 29. Residents in 12 cities who had contact with local police for any reason, 1998**

	Residents age 16 or older	
	Estimated number	Percent with police contact
Total	12,738,135	35%
Chicago	2,010,498	41
Kansas City	345,262	42
Knoxville	123,430	40
Los Angeles,	2,782,789	36
Madison	152,763	43
New York	5,317,897	29
San Diego	909,065	38
Savannah	98,024	44
Spokane	143,179	41
Springfield	105,361	43
Tucson	355,051	44
Washington, DC	394,816	40

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
Question: "In the past 12 months, have you been in contact with the local police for any reason?"

**Attitudes toward the local police**

Residents in each of the 12 cities were asked if they had been in contact with the local police for any reason over the past 12 months.

About 3 in 10 residents or more in each city — ranging from 29% in New York to 44% in Savannah and Tucson — said they had contact of some kind with the police over the past 12 months (table 29).

Overall, 8% of the residents had contact with the police because they reported a crime; 6% called for police service; 6% had a casual conversation with the police; and 6% said they had provided information to the police (table 30).

**Table 30. Residents in 12 cities, by types of contact with police, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all residents who —								
		Had casual conversation with police	Called police for service	Provided information to police	Reported a crime to police	Asked for information or advice	Participated in community activity with police	Involved in traffic violations/accidents	Worked with police on problem	Other contact*
Total	13,252,674	6%	6%	6%	8%	2%	1%	5%	2%	10%
Chicago	2,085,054	8	7	6	12	2	2	6	2	11
Kansas City	349,260	10	9	7	10	2	2	7	2	10
Knoxville	130,143	9	6	5	10	1	2	8	2	9
Los Angeles	2,810,892	6	7	9	8	2	1	4	2	11
Madison	157,985	8	7	7	10	2	2	8	3	14
New York	5,661,180	5	3	4	7	1	--	5	2	9
San Diego	925,803	8	7	8	8	2	2	7	2	9
Savannah	104,494	10	7	5	12	2	2	7	1	13
Spokane	145,477	6	7	8	12	2	2	5	3	12
Springfield	110,792	9	7	6	11	3	2	4	2	14
Tucson	359,001	8	10	8	13	2	2	6	2	11
Washington, DC	412,593	7	6	5	11	3	4	4	2	13

Note: Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category.  
Total number of respondents varies by each response category.  
Asked only of those who said they had contact with the local police in the past 12 months.  
--Fewer than 10 respondents.  
\*\*"Other contact" includes "responded to police survey."  
Questions: "How would you best describe your contact with the police?"

**Table 31. Residents in 12 cities who observed a change in police presence in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents who said police presence in their neighborhood —			
		Increased	Decreased	Did not change	Never see police
Total	12,170,240	23%	5%	68%	5%
Chicago	1,945,421	17	5	75	3
Kansas City	333,760	15	4	76	5
Knoxville	119,311	13	3	77	7
Los Angeles	2,651,357	23	4	68	5
Madison	146,606	13	2	82	4
New York	5,039,589	26	6	63	5
San Diego	875,953	19	3	72	5
Savannah	95,835	16	5	75	4
Spokane	137,779	13	3	75	9
Springfield	101,052	33	2	62	3
Tucson	345,162	19	4	70	8
Washington, DC	378,415	26	3	67	4

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 Question: "In the past 12 months, have you observed any increases or decreases in police officer presence in your neighborhood or did the number stay the same?"

A majority of respondents across all 12 cities said they had not noticed a change in police presence in the past 12 months (table 31). Twenty-three percent of all respondents reported an increase in police presence. In two of the largest cities, New York (26%) and Los Angeles (23%), about a quarter of the residents reported increases in police presence.

Residents were asked what kind of activities they saw police doing in their neighborhood. Thirty-seven percent of respondents reported seeing police talking to residents (table 32). Recreational and school activities with children (30%) and facilitating crime watch and prevention activities (27%) were other commonly reported police activities.

**Table 32. Residents in 12 cities who observed police activities, by type of activity, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents who said they saw police						
		Talking with residents	Talking with business owners	Attending community meetings	Facilitating prevention activities	Involved with kids	Opening substation/information centers	Doing other activities
Total	12,030,433	37%	24%	22%	27%	30%	19%	26%
Chicago	1,934,459	41	29	34	30	31	13	22
Kansas City	328,858	35	14	22	26	37	13	23
Knoxville	113,754	25	17	17	24	37	18	24
Los Angeles	2,612,038	34	17	20	23	32	25	24
Madison	146,805	34	12	16	19	31	18	25
New York	5,007,973	38	30	19	29	26	13	29
San Diego	858,278	36	18	19	24	34	31	25
Savannah	93,577	35	16	24	34	39	32	23
Spokane	130,001	29	9	21	28	43	58	19
Springfield	101,518	44	29	27	32	44	30	31
Tucson	327,270	34	12	19	25	33	27	24
Washington, DC	375,902	42	29	33	32	28	27	29

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category. Total number of respondents varies by each response category. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.  
 Question: "In the past 12 months, what activities have you seen police doing — police talking with residents in the neighborhood, police talking with business owners, police attending community meetings, police facilitating crime watch and prevention activities such as nights out, police involved with kids through recreational or school activities, police opening police substations or information centers?"

**Satisfaction with local police**

The household telephone survey asked residents age 16 or older about their level of satisfaction with the police who

served their neighborhood. The vast majority of residents in each of the 12 cities were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the local police.

The level of satisfaction with the police ranged from 97% of residents in Madison reporting being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” to 78% in Washington, D.C. (table 33). Few residents in the 12 cities, 6% or less, said they were “very dissatisfied” with the police.

In total, white residents in the 12 cities were more likely than black residents to have said they were satisfied with the police who served their neighborhood (table 34). The proportion of black residents who said they were satisfied with the police ranged from 63% in Knoxville to 97% in Madison.

**Table 33. Residents in 12 cities, by degree of satisfaction with local police, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents					
		Satisfied			Dissatisfied		
		Total	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Total	Dis-satisfied	Very dis-satisfied
Total	11,913,071	85%	18%	66%	15%	12%	3%
Chicago	1,901,575	80	16	64	20	15	4
Kansas City	330,761	89	24	65	11	7	4
Knoxville	116,356	89	22	66	11	9	2
Los Angeles	2,557,680	86	20	66	14	12	3
Madison	147,236	97	31	66	3	3	--
New York	4,973,711	84	16	67	16	13	4
San Diego	848,531	93	25	68	7	6	1
Savannah	93,110	86	21	65	15	10	4
Spokane	133,288	87	19	68	13	11	2
Springfield	102,609	87	23	64	13	10	3
Tucson	336,711	87	19	68	13	10	3
Washington, DC	371,503	78	14	63	22	17	6

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from table. Details may not add to total because of rounding. -- Fewer than 10 respondents. Question: "In general, how satisfied are you with the police who serve your neighborhood? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?"

**Table 34. Residents in 12 cities, by degree of satisfaction with local police, by race, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents satisfied or dissatisfied with police					
		White		Black		Other*	
		Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	Satisfied	Dis-satisfied
Total	11,913,070	90%	10%	76%	24%	78%	22%
Chicago	1,901,575	89	11	69	31	67	33
Kansas City	330,762	90	10	86	14	84	16
Knoxville	116,355	91	9	63	37	100	0
Los Angeles	2,557,679	89	11	82	18	80	20
Madison	147,236	97	3	97	3	98	2
New York	4,973,710	89	11	77	23	77	23
San Diego	848,530	95	5	89	11	87	13
Savannah	93,110	88	12	81	19	92	8
Spokane	133,289	88	12	79	21	73	27
Springfield	102,609	90	10	76	24	82	18
Tucson	336,713	88	12	91	9	76	24
Washington, DC	371,502	81	19	75	25	83	17

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from table. Details may not add to total because of rounding. Zero indicates no cases in sample. \*Includes Asian, Pacific Islander and American Indian, Aleut, and Eskimo. Question: "In general, how satisfied are you with the police who serve your neighborhood? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?"



**Table 35. Residents in 12 cities degree of satisfaction with the police, by whether they were a victim of violent crime, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents			
		Victim of violent crime		Not a victim of violent crime	
		Satisfied with police	Dissatisfied with police	Satisfied with police	Dissatisfied with police
Total	11,913,070	69%	31%	86%	14%
Chicago	1,901,576	75	25	81	19
Kansas City	330,761	72	28	90	10
Knoxville	116,356	74	26	89	11
Los Angeles	2,557,679	74	26	86	14
Madison	147,236	92	8	97	3
New York	4,973,712	61	39	85	15
San Diego	848,531	81	19	94	6
Savannah	93,110	69	31	86	14
Spokane	133,288	74	26	88	12
Springfield	102,607	69	31	88	12
Tucson	336,711	70	30	88	12
Washington, DC	371,503	69	31	78	22

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 Don't know responses and refusals to answers are excluded from analysis.  
 Question: "How satisfied are you with the police — are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?" "Satisfied" includes "very satisfied" and "satisfied."  
 "Dissatisfied" includes "dissatisfied" and "very dissatisfied."

For each of the 12 cities, residents who had been a victim of violent crime were less likely than others to say they were satisfied with the local police (table 35).

Likewise, compared to those who were not fearful of neighborhood crime, persons who were fearful of crime in their neighborhood were somewhat less likely to be satisfied with the local police (table 36).

**Table 36. Residents in 12 cities degree of satisfaction with the police, by whether they were fearful of crime in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents			
		Fearful of neighborhood crime		Not fearful of neighborhood crime	
		Satisfied with police	Dis-satisfied with police	Satisfied with police	Dis-satisfied with police
Total	11,762,723	79%	22%	89%	11%
Chicago	1,868,212	76	24	84	16
Kansas City	328,837	84	17	92	8
Knoxville	115,284	81	19	92	8
Los Angeles	2,538,139	81	19	89	11
Madison	146,901	91	9	98	2
New York	4,893,634	77	23	88	12
San Diego	845,941	87	13	95	5
Savannah	91,982	77	23	90	10
Spokane	132,261	80	20	90	10
Springfield	101,958	80	20	92	8
Tucson	333,972	79	21	92	8
Washington, DC	365,602	69	31	85	15

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 Don't know responses and refusals to answers are excluded from analysis.  
 Question: "How fearful are you of crime in your neighborhood?"  
 "Fearful" includes those who said they were "very" or "somewhat fearful."  
 "Not fearful" includes those who said they were "not very fearful" or "not at all fearful."

**Community policing**

*Police crime prevention*

Sixty percent of respondents from all 12 cities indicated that in the past 12 months the police had worked at least “somewhat” with neighborhood residents on crime prevention and safety (table 37). The percent of residents who identified police activity

regarding crime prevention in the neighborhoods varied from about 50% of the residents in Knoxville, Spokane, and Tucson to 68% in Chicago.

**Table 37. Residents in 12 cities who evaluated the level of work police were doing to prevent neighborhood crime, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents who said police were doing —					
		At least somewhat			Not much		
		Total	A lot	Some	Total	Very little	Nothing at all
Total	8,112,979	60%	17%	43%	40%	23%	17%
Chicago	1,429,016	68	19	49	32	20	12
Kansas City	238,250	60	14	46	41	19	21
Knoxville	86,678	50	10	40	50	26	23
Los Angeles	1,793,979	57	15	42	43	23	19
Madison	100,620	60	11	50	40	24	16
New York	3,148,976	59	20	40	41	25	16
San Diego	547,820	63	14	49	37	22	15
Savannah	73,755	58	14	44	42	20	22
Spokane	100,599	51	10	41	49	26	23
Springfield	77,419	66	19	47	35	20	15
Tucson	251,564	54	10	44	46	23	23
Washington, DC	264,303	64	15	50	36	21	15

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Details may not add to total because of rounding. Question: “How much are police doing with the residents of your neighborhood to prevent crime and safety problems; a lot, some, very little, or nothing at all?”

The survey asked each of the residents a series of questions related to community policing and citizens' preference for police activity.

Over half of all respondents said they were familiar with the term "community policing" (table 38). In Chicago, 73% of the residents were familiar with community policing.

When given a definition of "community policing," 54% of the total residents in the 12 cities said they thought police in their neighborhood practiced community policing (table 39). Across the 12 cities the percentage of residents who thought their local police practiced community policing ranged from 42% in Knoxville to 67% in Chicago.

**Table 38. Residents in 12 cities who were familiar with the term "community policing," 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents familiar with community policing*
Total	12,548,085	54%
Chicago	1,992,242	73
Kansas City	338,859	52
Knoxville	121,455	45
Los Angeles	2,737,268	49
Madison	150,298	60
New York	5,232,448	50
San Diego	894,461	57
Savannah	96,724	25
Spokane	140,358	55
Springfield	103,881	69
Tucson	352,703	39
Washington, DC	387,388	60

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
 \*When known, local terms for community policing were used in question wording. For example, in Chicago "CAPS" was used.  
 Question: "Are you familiar with the term 'community policing'?"

**Table 39. Residents in 12 cities who said their police practiced community policing, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents who said police practiced community policing*
Total	9,176,371	54%
Chicago	1,480,734	67
Kansas City	271,550	52
Knoxville	95,850	42
Los Angeles	1,974,335	50
Madison	122,825	47
New York	3,728,768	51
San Diego	661,900	57
Savannah	76,199	48
Spokane	114,318	54
Springfield	86,008	64
Tucson	268,419	46
Washington, DC	295,465	53

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
 \*Including those residents who said police practiced community policing "somewhat."  
 Question: "Community policing involves police officers working with the community to address the causes of crime in an effort to reduce the problems and the associated fear, through a wide range of activities. Based on the definition, do you think the police in your neighborhood practice community policing?"

Residents who reported community policing activities in their neighborhoods became aware of those activities in different ways. Overall, about a third

of the residents said they became aware of community policing in their neighborhood because they saw the police doing community policing

activities (20%) or they heard about it in the media (12%) (table 40). The remaining residents stated several other ways of learning about such activities, including talking with neighbors and children, neighborhood meetings and newsletters, advertising in the community, and police patrols.

Police activities of increased patrols and attending community meetings were each observed by about a third of the residents who reported seeing police practicing community policing in their neighborhoods (table 41).

**Table 40. Residents in 12 cities who said their police practice community policing, by sources of information in their neighborhood, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of all residents who said police practiced community policing because they —		
		Saw police doing community policing activities	Saw in the media that police were doing community policing	Had other knowledge
Total	9,176,371	20%	12%	27%
Chicago	1,480,734	23	16	37
Kansas City	271,550	20	13	22
Knoxville	95,850	14	12	18
Los Angeles	1,974,335	21	13	21
Madison	122,825	16	15	20
New York	3,728,768	17	9	28
San Diego	661,900	23	15	25
Savannah	76,199	18	10	21
Spokane	114,318	19	18	26
Springfield	86,008	29	17	26
Tucson	268,419	18	15	19
Washington, DC	295,465	25	9	25

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Asked only of those residents who said the police were practicing community policing in their neighborhood.  
Question: "How do you know?"

**Table 41. Residents in 12 cities who said they saw police practicing community policing, by type of activities observed, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents who said they saw police practicing community policing activities:							
		Enforcing traffic laws	Increased presence in high crime area	Increased patrol by vehicle, foot, or bike	Working with community to address problems	Attending community meetings	Conducting crime prevention workshops	Running youth programs	Other activities
Total	1,834,531	11%	16%	33%	23%	30%	10%	19%	35%
Chicago	342,593	9	14	35	26	31	11	15	31
Kansas City	55,486	11	15	29	24	29	5	23	38
Knoxville	13,531	16	17	40	23	28	15	20	43
Los Angeles	413,957	12	17	33	22	30	9	20	37
Madison	19,967	14	12	35	22	23	7	28	44
New York	651,819	9	17	33	25	33	10	19	32
San Diego	153,879	20	18	28	21	20	10	22	41
Savannah	13,636	11	13	41	18	30	7	18	35
Spokane	21,400	12	14	22	24	25	20	26	42
Springfield	24,573	7	15	60	17	23	10	26	33
Tucson	49,144	13	23	30	17	23	10	20	39
Washington, DC	74,546	5	14	39	20	40	7	15	42

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category. Total number of respondents varies by response category. Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses. Asked only of those residents who said they thought the police in their neighborhood practiced community policing and said they saw them doing community policing. Other activities include, "conducted surveys."  
Question: "You said you saw the police doing community policing activities. Please specify what type of activities you saw the police participating in?" (open-ended question)

**Table 42. Residents in 12 cities who said police did not practice community policing but wished that the police did, 1998**

	Residents reporting police did not practice community policing Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent who wished police practiced community policing
Total	6,914,327	86%
Chicago	892,591	90
Kansas City	176,659	83
Knoxville	73,399	72
Los Angeles	1,640,927	89
Madison	83,054	57
New York	2,989,595	87
San Diego	469,406	74
Savannah	52,791	80
Spokane	71,738	72
Springfield	46,187	85
Tucson	200,530	80
Washington, DC	217,450	90

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
Not asked of those who said they thought the police did practice community policing in their neighborhood.  
Question: "Do you wish the police in your neighborhood practiced community policing?"

Overall about half of the residents in the 12 cities said their local police did not practice community policing. Of these respondents most in each city wished the police did practice community policing (table 42).

Overall, of those residents who said they did not have community policing but wanted it, 46% indicated they would like more police officers patrolling the streets (table 43). Almost half specified "other activities," with most responses involving increased police visibility and contact with residents.

**Table 43. Residents in 12 cities who said police did not practice community policing, by types of police activities they would like, 1998**

	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents who wanted police to —								
		Work with community	Increase number of police on street	Assign same officers	Remove trash/evict bad tenants	Clean up streets	Work with kids	Conduct security checks/surveys	Not do anything	Other activities
Total	5,943,774	25%	46%	7%	4%	5%	13%	5%	6%	49%
Chicago	801,690	25	47	5	4	6	13	5	8	48
Kansas City	146,338	26	42	9	3	3	13	6	6	45
Knoxville	53,123	23	44	6	3	3	10	6	8	43
Los Angeles	1,453,044	29	48	7	5	4	11	5	5	45
Madison	47,740	25	38	7	3	4	14	6	7	42
New York	2,604,328	22	45	7	4	6	14	5	6	53
San Diego	348,693	29	46	9	3	2	12	6	6	39
Savannah	42,195	26	47	5	3	3	12	4	7	44
Spokane	51,862	23	45	7	3	--	12	4	9	41
Springfield	39,256	22	46	7	3	4	11	5	7	47
Tucson	160,746	30	45	9	3	5	12	6	5	42
Washington, DC	194,759	25	44	9	4	5	13	5	6	51

Note: Don't know responses and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.  
Estimated number of residents age 16 or older represents largest category.  
Total number of respondents varies by each response category.  
Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.  
Asked only of those who said the police were not practicing community policing in their neighborhood but wished the police did.  
-- Fewer than 10 respondents.  
Question: "What types of things do you wish the police were doing in your neighborhood?"

## Methodology

The methodological description of the study is based on the material presented in the Census Bureau's NCVS Research Memorandum No. 98-02 — *Community-Oriented Policing Services: Project Description and Analysis Plan* — Revised by Denise Lewis and Elaine Hock, May 1, 1998.

This survey was designed to obtain total violent crime estimates in 12 selected cities. The survey used the current National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) questionnaire with a series of supplemental questions measuring the attitudes in each city. The NCVS collects data in interviews from all household members age 12 or older about victimizations that occurred within the preceding 6 months. For the purposes of the 12-city survey, respondents were asked about incidents that occurred within the last year. Information on any of the following crimes is collected:

- Violent crimes of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault
- Personal crimes of theft
- Household crimes of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

The data collection was done using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). The data collection took place over a 4-month period starting in February 1998.

### Sample design

The 12-city survey sample design is a simple random sample of telephone numbers within each city. People residing within the city boundaries of interest were the target population. The Demographic Statistical Methods Division (DSMD) used the GENESYS

Random-Digit Dialing (RDD) Sampling System to select zip codes associated with each of the 12 cities. The GENESYS RDD Sampling System selects telephone numbers at a unit called a cell. These cells are grouped to form projects. For the 12-city survey, a cell contained the appropriate zip codes for each sample city, and the project was the sample city itself.

GENESYS numbers are contained in banks which are sets of 100 potential telephone numbers. These numbers have the same area code and five-digit prefix. Only those banks that contained at least one listed telephone number were used. By excluding banks that contained only unlisted numbers, a slight coverage bias was incurred.

After obtaining GENESYS banks of phone numbers for zip codes within the 12 cities, DSMD obtained zip code maps that showed county and city boundaries. The zip codes that were wholly within city boundaries were included in the sample. In the zip codes that crossed boundaries, DSMD looked at population counts to determine which zip codes to include. Cut-off levels for inclusion of zip codes were determined on a city-by-city basis. The cut-offs used included as much city population as possible while minimizing the population outside the city.

Approximately 870 household interviews, or 1,600 individual interviews, were required within each city to obtain total crime estimates at the 10% coefficient of variation level.

Prior NCVS results suggested that there were an estimated 1.84 eligible persons per household. This number was applied to the estimated number of household interviews to obtain the 1,600 individual interviews within each city. Applying these estimates for all 12 cities produced a required total sample size of 10,440 household cases. Exact household counts varied across cities based on differences in the percent of the city population age 12 or older. Target household interview counts were—

Total	10,449
Tucson, AZ	878
Springfield, MA	894
Los Angeles, CA	881
New York, NY	866
San Diego, CA	868
Knoxville, TN	844
Savannah, GA	891
Spokane, WA	875
Chicago, IL	885
Madison, WI	840
Kansas City, MO	884
Washington, DC	843

The target household sample sizes were then increased by four types of inflation factors: geographic screenouts, nonrespondents, ineligible respondents, and nonresidential respondents. Based on previous studies of this type it was estimated that approximately 40,000 telephone numbers would need to be screened to obtain the required number of interviews.

The monthly designated sample size for the first month was based on the Telephone Point of Purchase Survey (TPOPS) interview and screen-out rates. DSMD provided phone numbers for additional households in the first month to ensure that the final sample size was achieved. This was done to allow for additional sampling in the following months if the expected number of interviews was not attained.

Survey interview and screen-out rates replaced TPOPS rates as the survey progressed. This allowed more accurate projections of interview counts. The designated sample sizes were adjusted among the cities in April and May to take into account inflation that differed across the 12 cities. Telephone numbers were edited to eliminate numbers already in a prior month's sample. Listed business numbers were eliminated from the sample using the GENESYS Sampling System.

### Nonsampling sources of error

In addition to sampling error, other sources of error can affect the data collected. These sources include:

- The inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample. To reach the established target sample size of approximately 800 households per city almost twice that number of households had to be contacted by telephone. If respondents in fact differ from nonrespondents, this could be a source of significant bias in the estimates.
- Data collection errors resulting from recording and coding data and errors in estimating values for missing data
- Failure to represent all city-wide household units with the selected sample (undercoverage). This survey excluded the nontelephone households and households with unlisted phone numbers in strictly unlisted phone banks. Although there is evidence that nontelephone households have somewhat different victimization rates than other households, the size of these groups is small enough that the effect on overall rates would not be large.

• Respondent recall error and the unboundedness of the interview. In the regular NCVS, interviews are bounded, as households are interviewed more than once to exclude incidents outside the time reference period. This was not possible in the 12-city RDD survey.

Source: *Census Bureau Memorandum Source and Accuracy Statement for the 1998 Community Oriented Policing Services Survey*, by Alan Tupek, September 24, 1998.

### Weighting/estimation procedures

Each person, household, and person incident received a full sample final weight. The final weight was the product of all the components presented in the table on this page. The weighting was done independently within each of the 12 cities.

The weights calculated for each person, household, and person incident contain the following four components:

- *Base weight* is the inverse of the probability of selecting the household's telephone number.
- *Multiple phone number factor* adjusts for households with more than one telephone number and therefore a higher probability of selection.
- *Household noninterview adjustment factor* adjusts for household noninterviews. This includes both in scope noninterviews and a portion of the cases with unknown eligibility. Fifty percent of the unknown eligibility cases were assumed to be in-scope noninterviews.

### Components of the COPS final weights

Components of final weight	Persons	Households	Incidents
Base weight	X	X	X
Multiple phone number factor	X	X	X
Household noninterview adjustment factor	X	X	X
Within-household noninterview factor	X		X
Population ratio estimate factor	X	X	X
Multiple-victim adjustment factor			X

• *Population ratio estimate factor* adjusts the weighted person totals to the estimated city population for each of the surveyed cities. DSMD determined the growth rate for each city based on April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1996 city population counts. These growth rates were then applied to the July 1996 counts to estimate city populations for February 1998. Further adjustments were made to reflect each city's population age 12 older, (eligible to take part in this survey).

The person and person incident weights also included the Within-Household Noninterview Factor (WHNF). The WHNF inflates the weights of interviewed persons within interviewed households to account for noninterviewed persons within interviewed households. The weight assigned for the household is the weight of the principal person excluding the WHNF; this weight is also used to construct household incident estimates.

The incident weight also includes the Multiple-Victim Adjustment Factor (MVAF). This factor reduces the weights of multiple persons involved in a single victimization.

**Replicate weighting and variance estimation**

The sample used for a survey is one of a large number of possible samples of equal size that could have been obtained using the same sample design and selection procedures. Information collected from the sample surveyed is used to estimate characteristics of the entire population. The accuracy of those estimates must be measured to determine whether apparent differences are significant or part of the estimates' variation.

The standard error of a survey estimate is a measure of the variation among that estimate from all possible samples. DSMD has traditionally developed generalized variance functions that modeled the standard error for each type of characteristic studied. Generalized variance functions derive standard errors which are applicable to a wide variety of items and which can be prepared at a moderate cost, but require a number of approximations.

For the 12-city survey, variance estimation is based on the concept of replication. Through the use of replicate weights, users can compute standard errors for any characteristic that is relevant to their area of interest. The standard errors are more accurate than with the previously used approximations obtained through generalized variance functions.

Replicate samples were created by randomly assigning a replicate code (1 to R) within each primary sampling unit (PSU). For the 12-city survey, a replicate code of r=1, ..., 30 was assigned to each sample case at the time of sampling. This created thirty replicate samples (R), each containing 1/30 of the sample.

Replicate methods of variance estimation require reweighted replicate samples. The 12 cities replicate samples were reweighted by rerunning the basic weighting program 30 times with the following revisions:

- excluded one replicate sample for each iteration of the weighting procedure.
- increased the base weight of each replicate sample by a factor of 30/(30-1) to account for the exclusion of one replicate sample during each iteration.

The survey data can now be used to calculate estimators for each characteristic of interest and each estimator variance. The appropriate replication method to calculate variances is the "simple jackknife" because the 12-city survey used a simple random sample. The simple jackknife procedure requires that

replicate codes (1 to R) be randomly assigned to each case, which was done during sampling. To calculate an estimator and its variance, first calculate the estimator of interest using the complete sample. Then recalculate the estimator for each of the 30 reweighted replicate samples. The simple jackknife variance estimator is:

$$v(y) = (R - 1)/R \sum (y_r - y)^2$$

where:

- R = the total number of reweighted replicate samples
- y<sub>r</sub> = the reweighted replicate sample estimator
- y = the complete sample estimator

Use of replicate weights to calculate variances requires a vast number of computations. Software programs have been developed to perform these procedures.

City	Households		Persons	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Total	10,449	9,327	19,200	13,918
Chicago, IL	885	790	1,600	1,124
Kansas City, MO	884	798	1,600	162
Knoxville, TN	844	756	1,600	1,198
Los Angeles, CA	881	844	1,600	1,121
Madison, WI	840	731	1,600	1,162
New York, NY	866	744	1,600	1,059
San Diego, CA	868	791	1,600	1,131
Savannah, GA	891	766	1,600	1,245
Spokane, WA	875	801	1,600	1,239
Springfield, MA	894	771	1,600	1,231
Tucson, AZ	878	813	1,600	1,233
Washington, DC	843	722	1,600	1,013



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## **Appendix I**

### Survey instrument

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The survey questions related to community attitudes were developed through a collaboration between the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

A number of survey instruments were reviewed during the development of the community policing questions. Specific questions were adapted from policing surveys conducted in —

Chicago, Illinois,  
Knoxville, Tennessee,  
Pocatello, Idaho, and  
Tempe, Arizona.

Comments on the survey instrument were provided by Gary Cordner of Eastern Kentucky University, Wes Skogan of Northwestern University, and Deborah Weisel of the Police Executive Research Forum. The Bureau of the Census reviewed the final instrument prior to field work.

Copies of the National Crime Victimization Survey can be obtained from the BJS website <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>.

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LARGE CITY RDD VICTIMIZATION SURVEY  
COMMUNITY POLICING QUESTIONS

Note 1: If the respondent is 16 years old or older AND interviewed by self-response, continue the interview with the COPS questions, otherwise skip to the FILLROSTER screen, if there are other household members 12 years of age or older to be interviewed, or to THANK-YOU to end the interview with the household.

Section A. Perception/Identification of the Crime Problem

1a. Now, I am going to ask you a few questions about crime in your current neighborhood. To the best of your knowledge, have any serious crimes occurred in your neighborhood in the past 12 months, that is between <fill>?

(PROBE, IF NECESSARY)

- ( 1 ) Yes - Ask 1b
- ( 2 ) No - Skip to 2
- ( 3 ) Not aware of any crime occurring in current neighborhood - Skip to 2
- ( D ) Don't know - Skip to 2.

1b. Which of the following types of serious crimes do you know to have occurred in your neighborhood in the past 12 months . . .

(READ EACH CATEGORY THEN ENTER THE APPROPRIATE CODE FOR EACH CATEGORY)

- (1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't know

- . . . People openly selling drugs
- . . . People openly using drugs
- . . . Auto-theft
- . . . Theft of personal property
- . . . Breaking and entering to steal personal property
- . . . Violent physical attacks
- . . . Crimes committed with guns
- . . . Sexual assault/Rape
- . . . Murder

1c. How did you find out about these crimes?

(DO NOT PROBE. ENTER THE CODE FOR ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY).

Was there any other way you found out?

(WHEN FINISHED, ENTER "N" FOR 'NO MORE')

- ( 1 ) Respondent or someone they know was victimized.
- ( 2 ) Witnessed criminal acts in neighborhood.
- ( 3 ) Learned about crime through conversations with neighbors, neighborhood associations/civic organizations' newsletters, and/or community meetings.
- ( 4 ) Received information directly from the local police through community meetings, newsletters, pamphlets, crime bulletins, and/or police Internet websites.
- ( 5 ) Received information through the media, such as newspapers, television, and radio.
- ( 6 ) Received information through a public kiosk/terminal or by visiting a police substation.
- ( 7 ) Other (Specify)

Section B. Fear of crime/Quality of Life

2. Overall, do you think you are well informed of crime which occurs in your neighborhood?

- ( 1 ) Yes
- ( 2 ) No
- ( D ) Don't know.

3a. Now I'd like to ask you questions about your fear of crime and quality of life in both your current neighborhood and in your city.

How satisfied are you with the quality of life in your NEIGHBORHOOD? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

- ( 1 ) Very satisfied
- ( 2 ) Satisfied
- ( 3 ) Dissatisfied
- ( 4 ) Very dissatisfied
- ( D ) Don't know.

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3b. How satisfied are you with the quality of life in your city? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

- ( 1 ) Very satisfied
- ( 2 ) Satisfied
- ( 3 ) Dissatisfied
- ( 4 ) Very dissatisfied
- ( D ) Don't know.

4a. How fearful are you about crime in your NEIGHBORHOOD? Are you very fearful, somewhat fearful, not very fearful, or not at all fearful?

- ( 1 ) Very fearful
- ( 2 ) Somewhat fearful
- ( 3 ) Not very fearful - Skip to 5a
- ( 4 ) Not at all fearful - Skip to 5a
- ( D ) Don't know - Skip to 5a.

4b. Over the last 12 months, have your fears increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

- ( 1 ) Increased
- ( 2 ) Decreased
- ( 3 ) Stayed the same
- ( D ) Don't know.

5a. How fearful are you about crime in your city? Are you very fearful, somewhat fearful, not very fearful, or not at all fearful?

- ( 1 ) Very fearful
- ( 2 ) Somewhat fearful
- ( 3 ) Not very fearful - Skip to 6a
- ( 4 ) Not at all fearful - Skip to 6a
- ( D ) Don't know - Skip to 6a.

5b. Over the last 12 months, have your fears increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

- ( 1 ) Increased
- ( 2 ) Decreased
- ( 3 ) Stayed the same
- ( D ) Don't know.

6a. Now I am going to ask you a few questions that are more NEIGHBORHOOD specific. Do any of the following conditions or activities exist in your neighborhood ?

(READ EACH CATEGORY THEN ENTER THE APPROPRIATE CODE FOR EACH CATEGORY)

(1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't know

- ... Abandoned cars and/or buildings
- ... Rundown/neglected buildings
- ... Poor lighting
- ... Overgrown shrubs/trees
- ... Trash
- ... Empty lots
- ... Illegal public drinking/public drug use
- ... Public drug sales
- ... Vandalism or Graffiti
- ... Prostitution
- ... Panhandling/Begging
- ... Loitering/"hanging out"
- ... Truancy/youth skipping school
- ... Transients/Homeless sleeping on benches, streets

NOTE 2: Do any of the categories in 6a contain an entry of 1?

- Yes - Ask 6b
- No - Skip to 7.

6b. Do any of the conditions you just mentioned make you feel less safe in your NEIGHBORHOOD?

- ( 1 ) Yes
- ( 2 ) No - Skip to 7
- ( D ) Don't know - Skip to 7.

6c. Which one of the conditions just mentioned affects your feeling of safety the most?

(DO NOT READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES UNLESS REQUESTED BY THE RESPONDENT)

- ( 1 ) Abandoned cars
- ( 2 ) Rundown/neglected buildings

- ( 3 ) Poor lighting
- ( 4 ) Overgrown shrubs/trees
- ( 5 ) Trash
- ( 6 ) Empty lots
- ( 7 ) Illegal public drinking/public drug use
- ( 8 ) Public drug sales
- ( 9 ) Vandalism or Graffiti
- ( 10 ) Prostitution
- ( 11 ) Panhandling/Begging
- ( 12 ) Loitering/"hanging out"
- ( 13 ) Truancy/youth skipping school
- ( 14 ) Transients/Homeless sleeping on benches, streets
- ( D ) Don't know.

7. Here are some things people DO to protect themselves or their property from crime that takes place AT HOME. In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things to protect yourself from crime in the home, in a direct response to you or your family's fear of crime?.

(READ EACH CATEGORY THEN ENTER THE APPROPRIATE CODE FOR EACH CATEGORY)

(1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't know

- ... You go to neighborhood watch meetings.
- ... You and your neighbors have agreed to watch out for each other's safety.
- ... You've installed a security system for your home.
- ... You've asked the police department to do a home security check.
- ... You have guard dogs at home.
- ... You've engraved security identification numbers on all your belongings.
- ... You've installed extra locks on windows and/or doors.
- ... You keep weapons inside the home.
- ... You've added outside and/or automatic lighting (e.g timers).
- ... Are there any other precautions you take that I haven't described? (Specify).

8a. The next few questions pertain to ALL areas of your city. Are you afraid of becoming a victim of STREET crime?

- ( 1 ) Yes
- ( 2 ) No- Skip to 9a
- ( D ) Don't know - Skip to 9a.

8b. What type of street crime are you MOST afraid of?

(READ EACH CATEGORY THEN ENTER THE APPROPRIATE CODE)

- ( 1 ) Robbery, someone stealing from you
- ( 2 ) Physical assault that does not involve a gun (non-domestic violence)
- ( 3 ) Assault with a gun, someone hurting you with a deadly weapon
- ( 4 ) Sexual assault/Rape
- ( 5 ) Murder, OR
- ( D ) Don't know.

8c. Here are some things people DO to avoid becoming a victim of crime that takes place outside the home. In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things?.

(READ EACH CATEGORY THEN ENTER THE APPROPRIATE CODE FOR EACH CATEGORY)

(1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't know

- ... You carry a self-defense warning device such as a whistle or alarm.
- ... You carry a self-defense weapon (includes knife, gun, club, mace, stun-gun).
- ... You no longer take certain routes or go into certain areas in your neighborhood.
- ... You avoid going out at night.
- ... You avoid going out alone.
- ... You took a self-defense class.
- ... You attend community meetings in your neighborhood.
- ... You've made an effort to get to know the police in your neighborhood.
- ... You plan to relocate to outside of your neighborhood.

OR

- ... Have you taken other preventative measures that I haven't described? (Specify).

#### Section C. Police Contact/Visibility

9a. Now, I am going to ask about the LOCAL police.

In the past 12 months, have you been in contact with the LOCAL police for any reason?

- ( 1 ) Yes
- ( 2 ) No - Skip to 10
- ( D ) Don't know/Can't remember - Skip to 10.

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9b. How would you best describe your contact with the police?  
(DO NOT PROBE. ENTER THE APPROPRIATE CODE FOR ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY.  
WHEN FINISHED, ENTER "N" FOR 'NO MORE'.

- ( 1 ) Casual conversation with a police officer.
- ( 2 ) Officer responding to respondent's call for service.
- ( 3 ) Gave information to police about a crime or incident (e.g. crime tip).
- ( 4 ) Reported a crime to the police.
- ( 5 ) Participated in a survey given by the police department.
- ( 6 ) Asked the police for information or advice.
- ( 7 ) Participated in a community activity that involved the police (e.g. clean-up, social event, community meeting).
- ( 8 ) Traffic violations/traffic accidents.
- ( 9 ) Working with police to address specific problems.
- ( 10 ) Other (Specify).

10. In the past 12 months, have you observed any increases or decreases in police officer presence in your neighborhood or did the number stay the same?

- ( 1 ) Increase
- ( 2 ) Decrease
- ( 3 ) No change
- ( 4 ) Never see police in my neighborhood
- ( D ) Don't know.

11. In the past 12 months, what activities have you seen police doing?  
(READ EACH CATEGORY THEN ENTER THE APPROPRIATE CODE FOR EACH CATEGORY)

- (1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't know
- ... Police talking with residents in the neighborhood.
- ... Police talking with business owners in the neighborhood.
- ... Police attending community meetings.
- ... Police facilitating crime watch and prevention activities such as nights out.
- ... Police involved with kids through recreational or school activities
- ... Police opening police substations or information centers.
- ... Are there any other activities that you've noticed police are involved in (Specify).

OR

- ... Have you noticed any other activities?

12a. In the past 12 months, have you heard about any community meetings concerning crime taking place in your neighborhood?

- ( 1 ) Yes
- ( 2 ) No - Skip to 13
- ( D ) Don't know - Skip to 13.

12b. In the past 12 months, have you attended any of these community meetings?

- ( 1 ) Yes - Skip to 13
- ( 2 ) No
- ( D ) Don't know - Skip to 13.

12c. What are your reasons for not attending any meetings?  
(DO NOT PROBE. ENTER THE CODE FOR ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY.)

- ( 1 ) Aware of meetings, but do not know location and/or dates/times.
- ( 2 ) Unable to obtain transportation.
- ( 3 ) Unable to obtain child care.
- ( 4 ) Meetings held in unsafe/scary part of town.
- ( 5 ) Attendance would not help crime problem.
- ( 6 ) Meeting place is too far.
- ( 7 ) Meeting times take place during work hours.
- ( 8 ) Don't have the time to attend
- ( 9 ) Not especially concerned about crime in my neighborhood.
- ( 10 ) Other (Specify)
- ( D ) Don't know.

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Section D. Satisfaction with Police/Availability of Police

13. In general, how satisfied are you with the police who serve your neighborhood?  
Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

- ( 1 ) Very satisfied
- ( 2 ) Satisfied
- ( 3 ) Dissatisfied
- ( 4 ) Very Dissatisfied
- ( D ) Don't know (no opinion; not aware of police services).

14. Does the police department servicing your neighborhood have a phone number for you to call for non-emergencies, other than 911?

- ( 1 ) Yes (includes respondents who may not remember the number itself)
- ( 2 ) No
- ( D ) Don't know/can't remember.

Section E. Responsibility for Crime Prevention

15. How much work are police doing with the residents of your neighborhood to prevent crime and safety problems, a lot, some, very little, or nothing at all?

- ( 1 ) A lot
- ( 2 ) Some
- ( 3 ) Very little
- ( 4 ) Nothing at all
- ( D ) Don't know.

Section F. Knowledge of Community Policing

16a. Are you familiar with the term "Community Policing?"

- ( 1 ) Yes
- ( 2 ) No
- ( D ) Don't Know.

16b. Community policing involves police officers working with the community to address the causes of crime in an effort to reduce the problems themselves and the associated fear, through a wide range of activities. Based on the definition, do you think the police in your neighborhood practice community policing?

- ( 1 ) Yes - Skip to 17a
- ( 3 ) Somewhat - Skip to 17a
- ( 2 ) No
- ( D ) Don't know .

16c. Do you wish the police in your neighborhood practiced community policing?

- ( 1 ) Yes
- ( 2 ) No
- ( D ) Don't know.

NOTE 5: Is there a response of 2 or D in 16c?

- [ ] Yes - Skip to FILLROSTER, if there are other household members 12 years of age or older to be interviewed, otherwise skip to THANK-YOU to end the interview with the household.
- [ ] No - Ask 16d

16d. What type of things do you wish the police were doing in your neighborhood?  
(DO NOT PROBE.)

- ( 1 ) Working with the community to prevent crime
- ( 2 ) Increasing the number of officers patrolling the streets
- ( 3 ) Assigning the same officers to my neighborhood day in and day out
- ( 4 ) Removing the trash, abandoned cars, destroying abandoned buildings or helping to evict bad tenants
- ( 5 ) Cleaning up the streets
- ( 6 ) Working more with the children in the area/ giving them a safe place to play
- ( 7 ) Doing home security checks/surveys
- ( 8 ) Do not want them to do anything/they are doing what I want them to do
- ( 9 ) Other (Specify).

NOTE 6: If any response in 16d, skip to FILLROSTER, if there are any other household members 12 years of age or older to be interviewed, otherwise skip to THANK YOU to end the interview with the household.

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17a. How do you know?

(DO NOT PROBE. ENTER CODE FOR ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY.)

- ( 1 ) Saw police doing community policing activities
- ( 2 ) Saw in newspaper, on TV, or heard on the radio that police were doing community policing
- ( 3 ) Other (Specify).
- ( D ) Don't know.

NOTE 7: Is there an entry of 1 in 17a?

- [ ] Yes - ask 17b.
- [ ] No - Skip to FILLROSTER if there are any other household members 12 years of age or older who need to be interviewed, otherwise skip to THANK YOU to end the interview with the household.

17b. You said you saw the police doing community policing activities. Please specify what types of activities you saw the police participating in.

(DO NOT READ CATEGORIES. ENTER THE APPROPRIATE CODE FOR ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY.)

- ( 1 ) Traffic enforcement
  - ( 2 ) Increasing their presence in high crime/"bad" areas
  - ( 3 ) Increasing patrol by vehicle/foot/bike patrol
  - ( 4 ) Working with the community and/or business owners to address specific problems
  - ( 5 ) Attending community meetings
  - ( 6 ) Conducting crime prevention or community policing workshops
  - ( 7 ) Conducting community and/or business surveys about neighborhood problems
  - ( 8 ) Running youth programs like DARE, GREAT, PAL
  - ( 9 ) Other (Specify).
- End interview.



## Appendix II

**Appendix table 1. Standard errors for selected estimates, 1998**

	Fear of crime		Violent crimes			Property crimes		
	In city percent fearful	In neighborhood percent fearful	Rate per 1,000 persons	Number (1,000's)	Percent reported to police	Rate per 1,000 households	Number (1,000's)	Percent reported to police
Total	0.80	0.86	6.37	90.18	3.63	12.18	88.35	1.64
Chicago	1.25	1.91	8.78	19.64	4.70	25.40	28.63	2.71
Kansas City	1.59	1.65	9.74	3.57	5.74	30.81	6.11	3.42
Knoxville	1.26	1.34	8.54	1.18	6.78	26.89	1.94	3.01
Los Angeles	1.14	1.59	8.97	26.50	7.88	24.68	37.02	2.90
Madison	1.39	1.40	8.68	1.43	5.82	32.32	2.78	5.00
New York	1.65	1.69	13.20	80.72	6.09	21.63	67.87	3.84
San Diego	1.67	1.56	8.38	8.23	6.61	23.78	11.68	2.88
Savannah	1.48	1.50	12.95	1.46	8.01	27.01	1.46	3.67
Spokane	1.16	1.51	10.26	1.60	5.19	29.35	2.38	2.93
Springfield	1.43	1.72	11.78	1.44	5.87	30.02	1.75	2.72
Tucson	1.43	1.63	11.81	4.49	5.04	29.49	5.86	2.43
Washington, DC	1.57	2.20	8.19	3.57	8.90	36.33	8.93	3.17

See *Methodology* section for description of calculations of standard errors.

**Appendix table 2. Standard errors for estimates of satisfaction with police, 1998**

	Percent satisfied with police			
	Total	White	Black	Other
Total	0.68	0.74	1.93	2.03
Chicago	1.47	1.35	2.38	5.56
Kansas City	1.05	1.35	3.02	6.15
Knoxville	1.02	0.99	7.35	0.00
Los Angeles	1.34	1.64	4.41	2.75
Madison	0.79	0.88	3.11	1.96
New York	1.53	1.75	3.21	3.83
San Diego	0.71	0.76	3.35	2.69
Savannah	0.95	1.43	1.48	4.39
Spokane	1.33	1.25	11.15	7.43
Springfield	1.25	1.35	2.71	4.05
Tucson	0.96	0.96	4.70	3.91
Washington, DC	1.45	2.23	2.27	7.59

See *Methodology* section for description of calculations of standard errors.

**Appendix table 3. Incidents used to calculate rates of crime**

	Violent crime incidents				Property crime incidents			
	Victim race				Household race			
	Total	White	Black	Other	Total	White	Black	Other
Total	1,056,327	516,391	337,064	202,872	2,365,223	1,375,965	655,782	333,476
Chicago	152,136	82,492	37,178	32,466	488,093	250,089	175,978	62,026
Kansas City	22,263	15,863	4,494	1,906	65,715	43,455	19,072	3,188
Knoxville	9,634	8,607	923	104	22,647	20,405	1,835	407
Los Angeles	191,189	115,404	49,254	26,531	520,865	293,323	110,628	116,914
Madison	11,614	11,338	0	276	27,735	25,366	1,360	1,009
New York	521,470	182,220	214,839	124,411	814,937	448,779	267,321	98,837
San Diego	61,844	47,524	6,087	8,233	151,176	112,979	12,267	25,930
Savannah	9,129	4,745	4,118	266	24,053	13,827	8,981	1,245
Spokane	10,471	8,689	889	893	33,393	30,226	1,067	2,100
Springfield	9,502	5,881	2,191	1,430	21,258	14,387	5,411	1,460
Tucson	30,993	24,527	1,421	5,045	85,859	70,342	2,844	12,673
Washington, DC	26,082	9,101	15,670	1,311	109,492	52,787	49,018	7,687

**Appendix table 4. Populations used to calculate rates of crime**

	Population age 12 or older				Number of households			
	Total	White	Black	Other	Total	White	Black	Other
Total	14,167,416	8,488,609	3,401,856	2,276,951	7,251,110	4,430,682	1,695,832	1,124,596
Chicago	2,237,203	1,241,089	742,591	253,523	1,127,553	634,599	368,492	124,462
Kansas City	366,351	271,397	77,899	17,055	198,303	148,264	41,038	9,001
Knoxville	138,066	123,238	11,644	3,184	72,228	64,642	6,227	1,359
Los Angeles	2,954,058	1,856,651	431,939	665,468	1,499,930	953,045	220,044	326,841
Madison	164,987	150,289	5,684	9,014	86,154	77,589	3,446	5,119
New York	6,116,941	3,317,344	1,752,530	1,047,067	3,137,685	1,758,658	859,342	519,685
San Diego	982,314	743,711	58,668	179,935	491,217	376,317	29,481	85,419
Savannah	112,349	63,440	45,132	3,777	54,084	31,632	20,399	2,053
Spokane	156,428	144,919	3,796	7,713	81,177	76,000	1,120	4,057
Springfield	122,501	85,717	25,854	10,930	58,230	41,257	11,554	5,419
Tucson	380,067	315,133	13,544	51,390	198,706	165,720	6,691	26,295
Washington, DC	436,151	175,681	232,575	27,895	245,843	102,959	127,998	14,886

## Appendix III

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### Sources of additional information on community policing

#### Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

To obtain information about COPS grant programs, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or access the COPS website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/>

#### Local police departments in the study cities

Information about the police departments and their forms of community policing can be obtained from the following locally maintained websites:

Chicago, IL — [www.ci.chi.il.us/CommunityPolicing](http://www.ci.chi.il.us/CommunityPolicing)

Kansas City, MO — [www.kcpd.org](http://www.kcpd.org)

Knoxville, TN — [www.ci.knoxville.tn.us/departments/kpd.htm](http://www.ci.knoxville.tn.us/departments/kpd.htm)

Los Angeles, CA — [www.lapdonline.org/index.htm](http://www.lapdonline.org/index.htm)

Madison, WI — [www.ci.madison.wi.us/police/poldept.html](http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/police/poldept.html)

New York City, NY — [www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/nypd](http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/nypd)

San Diego, CA — [www.sannet.gov/police/index.html](http://www.sannet.gov/police/index.html)

Savannah, GA — [www.savannahpd.org](http://www.savannahpd.org)

Springfield, MA — [www.spfldpd.org/](http://www.spfldpd.org/)

Spokane, WA — [www.ior.com/~spd](http://www.ior.com/~spd)

Tucson, AZ — [www.ci.tucson.az.us/police](http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/police)

Washington, DC — [www.mpdc.org](http://www.mpdc.org)