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**Criminal Justice Center**

The Criminal Justice Center at Minnesota Planning provides criminal and juvenile justice information, conducts research and maintains databases for policy development.

*Changing Perceptions* was prepared by members of the Criminal Justice team at Minnesota Planning: Ray Lewis, LaLonnie Erickson, Daniel Storkamp and Carol Weber.

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Upon request, *Changing Perceptions: 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey* will be made available in an alternate format, such as Braille, large print or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 and ask for Minnesota Planning.

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# Glossary

Below are generally accepted definitions for terms used in this report.

**Aggravated assault:** an attack or attempted attack with a weapon regardless of whether or not an injury occurred or an attack without a weapon when serious bodily injury occurs.

**Assault:** a physical attack or threat of attack. Assault is classified as either simple or aggravated. Rape and attempted rape are excluded from this category, as are robbery and attempted robbery.

**Burglary/breaking and entering:** any unlawful entry or attempted forcible entry of any structure to commit a felony or larceny. This does not include breaking and entering of motor vehicles.

**Larceny:** theft or attempted theft of property without involving force or illegal entry. Larceny is categorized as either personal or household larceny.

**Motor vehicle theft:** larceny or attempted larceny of motor vehicles.

**Property crimes:** stolen or attempted motor vehicle theft; theft or attempted theft from a motor vehicle; break-in or attempted break-in of motor vehicle, home or building; theft from home; other theft; property damage or vandalism.

**Rape:** carnal knowledge through the use of force or threat of force, including attempts.

The term covers heterosexual and homosexual rape. Statutory rape (without force) is excluded.

**Robbery:** completed or attempted theft, directly from a person by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon.

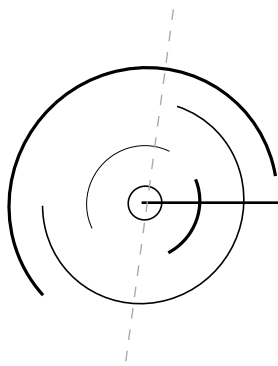
**Self-defined:** survey terms such as *feeling safe, city, community, town, rural* and *very often* were defined by each respondent and thus their exact meanings are based on the respondent's own inferences.

**Sex offenses:** all sex offenses other than forcible rape, prostitution and commercialized vice.

**Simple assault:** the threat of or actual physical attack without a weapon that produces minor injury.

**Vandalism/destruction of property:** all willful or malicious destruction, injury, disfigurement or defacement of any public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or person having custody.

**Violent crimes:** attempts at or taking something by force; attempts at or knifing, shooting or attacking with a weapon; threats to beat or threats with a weapon; hitting, beating or attacking; attempted or forced sexual intercourse; and other attempted or forced unwanted sexual activity.



# CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

## 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey

### Summary

Most Minnesotans feel safe in their community, even those who were the victim of a crime in 1995. This and other findings of the 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey reveal some changing crime perceptions among the state's citizens.

The survey, conducted by Minnesota Planning, polled a random sample of 2,200 Minnesotans about their perceptions of and experiences with crime. This report, *Changing Perceptions: 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey*, presents findings from 1,295 returned surveys and compares these responses to the 1993 Minnesota Crime Survey.

About 93 percent of respondents feel safe in their community. Even 87 percent of those who said that they had been victims of a crime in 1995 felt safe. The 1993 Minnesota Crime Survey did not ask this question.

Both surveys probed Minnesotans' perceptions of crime, along with their expectations of becoming a victim, their satisfaction with law enforcement's performance, the degree to which fear of crime affects their activities, and their experiences with crime in the previous year.

The 1996 survey found some changes in the perceptions of crime since 1993. For example:

- Forty-six percent of all respondents in 1996 said that they expect to become a victim of such crimes as theft, burglary, robbery, assault and rape within the next year, compared to 55 percent in 1993.

- Law enforcement is doing an excellent or good job in the estimation of 74 percent of all 1996 survey participants, compared to 67 percent in the 1993 poll.

- Fear and worry of becoming the victim of crimes such as robbery, physical assault, burglary or vandalism, and the degree that

#### Most Minnesotans Feel Safe

**Question:** How safe do you feel in the community where you live?

Percentage of all respondents in each category

	Very – Usually	Often not – Never
<b>Total</b>	93%	7%
<b>Crime Victim in 1995</b>	87	13
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	94	7
Female	92	8
<b>Age</b>		
15 to 24	93	7
25 to 49	93	7
50 or Older	93	7
<b>Type of Community</b>		
Rural Area or Town	96	4
Suburb	95	5
City	85	15
<b>Geographic Area</b>		
Hennepin and Ramsey Counties	90	10
Other 85 Counties	94	6

Note: This question was asked for the first time in 1996. It was not included in the 1993 crime survey. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Response options were very safe, usually safe, often not safe or never safe.

fear of crime prevents people from doing things they would like to do, has gone down slightly since 1993.

■ The gap between expected and actual reported victimization is getting smaller. While the percentage of respondents who said that they were victims of crime in the prior year remained virtually the same for both surveys, those who said they expect to be victims in the next year dropped 9 percent.

Other findings were similar to the 1993 survey with regard to respondents' fears and perceptions. Women, people age 50 or older and city dwellers continue to have higher levels of fear and worry than other respondents. Perceptions of the causes of violent crime in the community and the role of various drugs in violent crimes also remained the same.

Trends in reported victimization did not change in three years. Victimization in Minnesota remained stable between the 1993

and 1996 surveys. In the 1996 poll, 30 percent reported that they were victims of a crime in 1995. Property offenses were more widespread than violent crimes in both years of the survey. Younger people and city residents experienced a higher rate of victimization than did members of other demographic groups. Most victims of certain violent offenses knew their assailant and usually were victimized by adults, not juveniles.

New findings from the 1996 survey shows that 9 percent of those classified by the survey as victims do not think of themselves as victims. Of those in the 1996 survey who did consider themselves to be crime victims, six out of 10 said the incident was a nuisance with a minor impact on their lives. More than half of all the crimes reported on the survey were not reported to the police.

A complete listing of the 1996 survey questions and responses is contained in the appendix.

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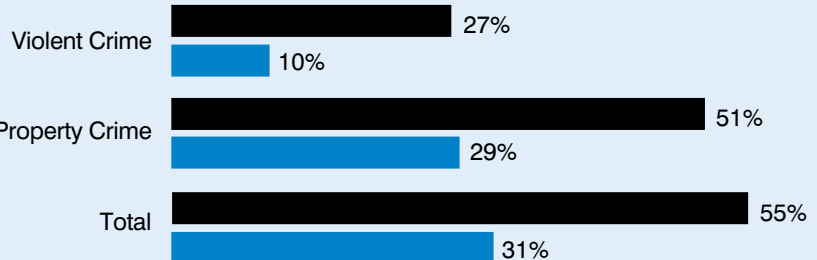
Putting more people behind bars is not the answer. Establishing communities where people are involved and have an opportunity for personal fulfillment and economic justice would help.  
*45-year-old man from Morrison County*

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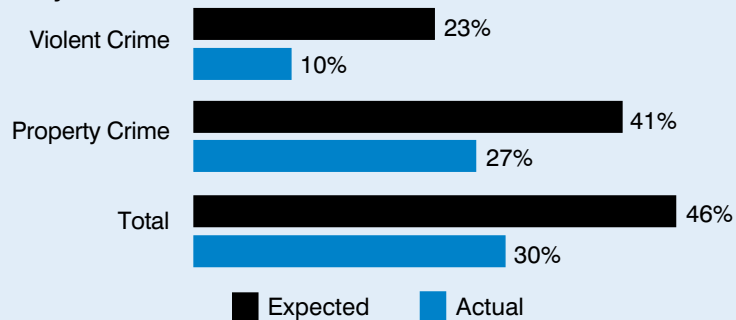
### Expectations Coming Closer to Reality

Percentage of all respondents

#### 1993 Survey



#### 1996 Survey



Expectations of becoming a victim of property crimes dropped more than for violent crimes. Expectations for both crime types were higher than actual experiences.

Note: Both surveys asked about experiences with crime in the year prior to the survey and expectations within the next year.



# Measuring Fear and Crime

The 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey is the second statewide survey of Minnesotans' perceptions of and experiences with crime. The survey and its 1993 predecessor were developed in response to *Minnesota Milestones*, the state's 30-year plan. Based on a vision of the future defined by citizens around the state, 20 broad *Milestones* goals and 79 specific indicators were identified to measure progress toward achieving this future.

One of the long-range *Milestones* goals is to have communities that are safe, friendly and caring. To monitor progress toward this goal, *Milestones* recommended that a survey on crime be conducted every three years. In 1993, Minnesota Planning conducted the first statewide crime survey of 6,029 Minnesota residents age 15 and older.

The Minnesota Crime Survey asks a variety of questions intended to measure citizens' fears and perceptions regarding crime and safety, and their encounters with crime. The survey seeks to identify respondents' perceptions of their safety and examines their fear of becoming the victim of a crime. It compares their expectations of becoming a crime victim during 1996 with their reported experiences in 1995.

A total of 1,295 responses were collected from a random statewide sample of 2,200 individuals, age 15 to 92, with a current mailing address on a driver's license or state identification card. The survey instrument and methodology closely replicated those used in 1993. Responses to the 1996 survey have been weighted to match the age, gender and geographical distribution of the 1995 Minnesota state population projection. Results are based upon an adjusted response rate of 72.3 percent, which was similar to the 72.4 percent achieved in 1993. The margin of error is plus or minus 2.5 percent.

A detailed description of the survey methodology is available from the Criminal Justice Center at Minnesota Planning.

Nontechnical terms were used on the survey when probing about crime. For example, questions included "Did anyone hit you, attack or beat you up?" and "Was any of your property damaged or vandalized?" Crime was broadly defined to include a variety of behaviors, including threats and attempts, that respondents said happened to them in 1995.

Results of the 1993 and 1996 surveys are limited. Descriptions based on subgroups of respondents, such as 15- to 24-year-olds or residents of particular communities, have a higher margin of error because the number of respondents is small within each subgroup. In some cases, the wording of response options for specific questions changed between 1993 and 1996. Some changes in results between the two surveys are not necessarily significant, and some may be attributable to survey technique alone. Results also may be influenced by sample selection, selective response rates, question wording and ordering, self-definitions, data entry and analysis, and major events occurring during the survey period.

The 1996 survey documents experiences with crime in 1995, while the 1993 survey focused on encounters in 1992. Neither survey sample contained enough responses from self-identified African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans or Chicanos/Latinos to produce reliable information on the experiences of Minnesotans from these groups. These responses are included in the overall analysis and within different subgroupings, but no separate analysis is reported by race or ethnicity.

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I believe that the various issues of crime have been identified. Like any disease, if caught early enough it can be controlled or cured. If not, the problem will be too big to resolve. It's not about politics and votes. It's about people, society and our futures.  
*34-year-old man from Hennepin County*

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# Fears and Perceptions

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My answers today are different than they would have been two years ago. We moved from Brooklyn Park to a small rural town. Any concerns that I have about crime are directly related to my commute and work in downtown Minneapolis.

*Woman from McLeod County*

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People’s perceptions of crime are influenced by several forces, including personal experience, the reporting of official crime statistics and media coverage. The public’s concern with crime rises and falls with media reporting of criminal activities. Several sensational crimes drew the media spotlight during the three months in which the 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey was being conducted. Attention also was focused on crime through the Minnesota Legislature’s passage of new crime-related laws, the release of prison population projections by the Minnesota Department of Corrections, and the debate in Hennepin County over whether to build a new jail.

Despite this focus on crime, the vast majority of Minnesotans surveyed — more than nine out of 10 — said they feel safe in their community. Most also believe that crime is either not a problem or only a slight problem in their community and they do not expect to become crime victims within the next year. Fewer respondents than in the 1993 survey said that they fear becoming the victim of specific crimes or that fear of crime prevents them from engaging in activities.

On the surface, these findings would seem to contradict a variety of other surveys that have shown crime to be a serious problem in the minds of Minnesotans. In a recent Star Tribune/WCCO Minnesota Poll, for example, 22 percent of the respondents said crime, violence, drugs and juveniles were the nation’s most critical problems. Likewise, in

a January 1996 survey sponsored by the Metropolitan Council, crime was identified by 58 percent as being “the single most important issue facing the region.”

Looking a little deeper, such results may not be contradictory. The 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey asked Minnesotans about their personal experiences with crime and their impressions of their safety in the community. Other surveys ask about crime within a much broader framework — whether it is a problem for the state, region or nation as a whole. Because of the connotations surrounding the issue of crime and the portrayal of crime in the media, respondents may perceive crime to be a serious problem in general, even though they may not be directly affected by it or believe it to be a problem in their own community.

## Communities Viewed as Safe

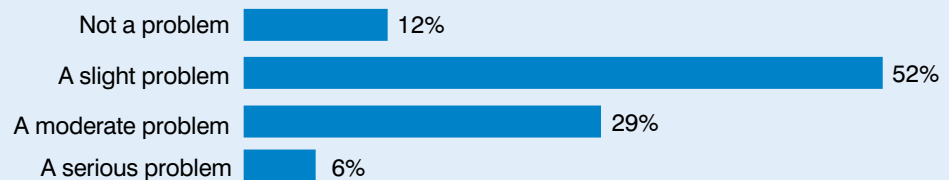
The community in which people live can strongly influence how safe they feel and whether they perceive crime as a problem. Most Minnesotans surveyed feel safe in their community and many do not see crime as a problem or feel that it has gotten worse.

To help measure progress toward reaching the *Milestones* goal of having communities that are safe, friendly and caring, the 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey for the first time asked respondents, “How safe do you feel in the community where you live?” Since “feeling safe” and “community” were self-defined — that is, respondents drew their own infer-

### Most Believe Crime Only Slight Problem in Their Community

**Question:** *To what extent do you think crime is a problem in your community?*

Percentage of all respondents



Note: This question was asked for the first time in 1996. It was not included in the 1993 survey. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

ences about their exact meanings — answers to this question are based on respondents' own ideas about what it means to feel safe in their community. Ninety-three percent said that they feel safe in their community.

Somewhat surprisingly, victims of crime also conveyed that they feel safe within their communities. Among the 1995 crime victims, 87 percent said they feel safe in their community.

How safe people feel seems to depend somewhat on where they live, which was self-defined by respondents. About 96 percent of the people living in rural areas or towns feel safe, compared to 95 percent from the suburbs and 85 percent from the cities.

People are more likely to feel safe if they viewed their community as being safe. Eighty-eight percent who said they feel safe also reported that crime is not a problem or only a slight problem in their community.

More than two-thirds of all Minnesotans surveyed said that crime is not a problem or only a slight problem in their community as did more than half of the 1995 crime victims. Eleven percent of victims said that crime is a serious problem in their community, compared to 6 percent of all respondents.

People from the city are the most likely to view crime as a problem. Crime was consid-

ered to be a serious problem by 19 percent of city residents, compared to only 2 percent of respondents from rural and town dwellers and 3 percent of suburban inhabitants.

### Minnesotans Are More Optimistic

Perceptions about the occurrence of violent crime in the community have changed in three years. More people in 1996 than in 1993 thought the incidence of violent crime had stayed about the same in their community over the past three years — 61 percent compared to 54 percent.

During the next three years, more than half of the 1996 respondents expect no change in the incidence of violent crime in their community, compared to 44 percent of the 1993 respondents.

At the same time, a smaller and declining percentage see the incidence of violent crime getting worse. In the opinion of 36 percent of the 1996 respondents, violent crime had gotten worse within the last three years. Forty-four percent believe it will continue to get worse during the next three years, a notable decline from the 1993 levels of 43 and 51 percent, respectively.

### Drugs, Poor Parenting, Gangs Top Causes

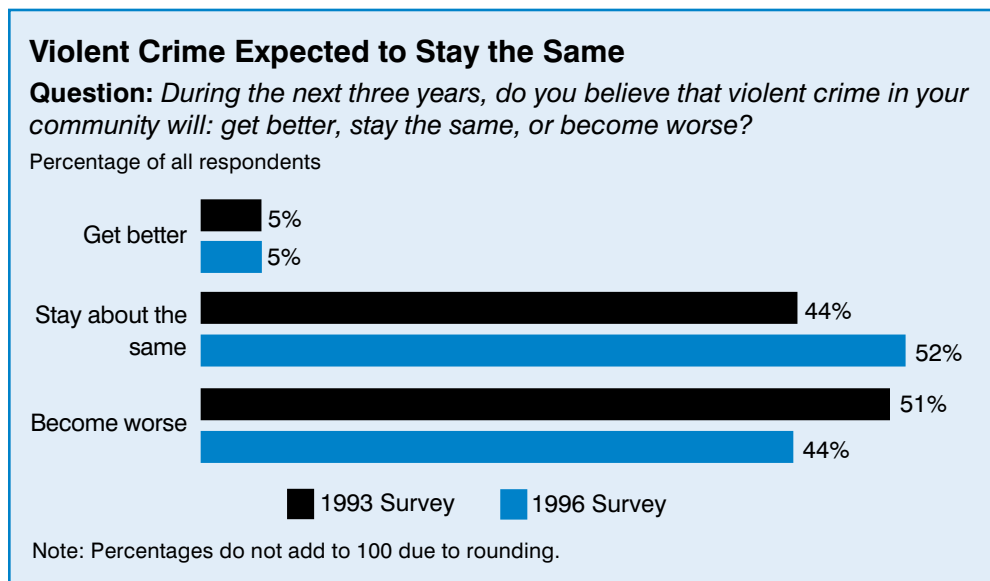
A variety of social conditions were believed to contribute to the rate of violent crime in Minnesota. Similar to findings in 1993, seven out of 10 respondents cited drug use,

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The media has a strong influence on the perception of crime.

*27-year-old woman from Wright County*

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lack of parental discipline, gangs or the breakdown of family life as major contributors to violent crime. More than one-half also targeted the use of alcohol, moral decay, the availability of guns or a criminal justice system that is too easy.

A little more than half of 1996 respondents — 54 percent — felt that the availability of guns contributed to violent crime in Minnesota. Those who own firearms, however, have a different perspective than those who do not own a gun. Two out of three without guns in their home said that guns contribute very much to violent crime, compared to two out of every five of the gun owners. Twenty-six percent of those who have a firearm at home, compared to 10 percent who do not, thought the availability of guns contributed very little.

Among drugs, alcohol was cited as the top contributor to the incidence of violent crime by four out of five respondents in 1993 and 1996. Marijuana was listed by 56 percent of 1996 respondents, an 8 percent gain since 1993. Powder cocaine and crack were named by about half of all surveyed in 1996 and in 1993. Only 4 percent in both surveys said that drugs do not contribute to the incidence of violence.

### City Dwellers Most Afraid to Walk Alone at Night

Fear of walking alone at night within a mile of home stayed essentially the same for all respondents in both survey years, going up 2 percentage points, to 46 percent, in 1996.

This fear is greatest among females and city dwellers. More than twice as many females

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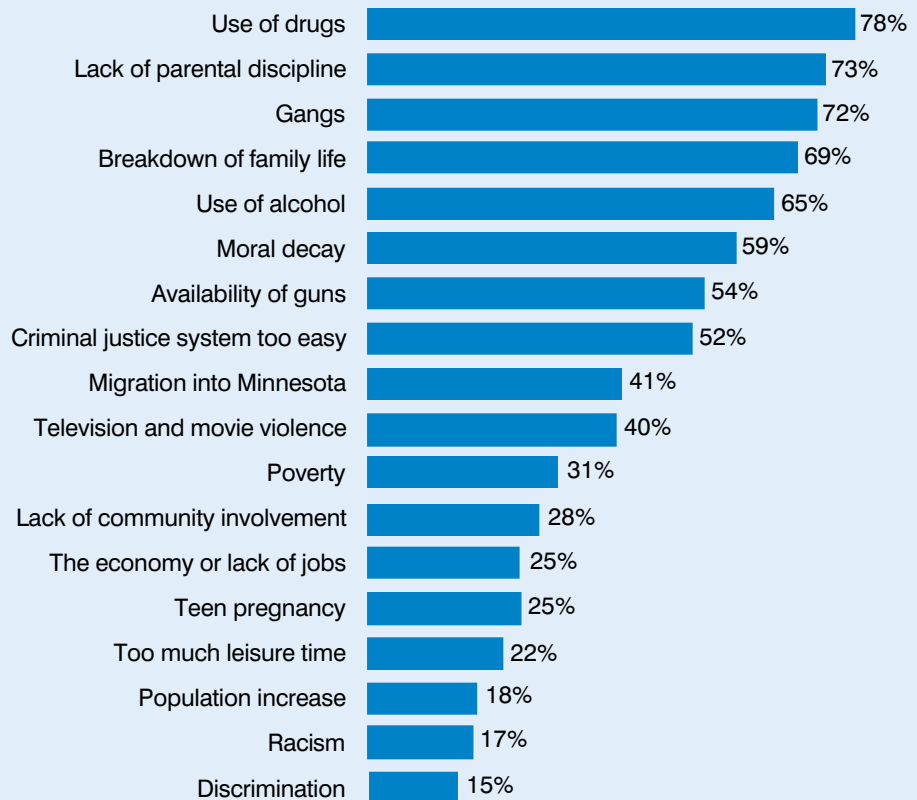
During the summer when there is an influx of vacationers I feel less safe and don't go out alone at night . . . vacation homes are broken into when owners are away.  
*78-year-old woman from St. Louis County*

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### Use of Drugs Cited as Top Contributor to Violent Crime

**Question:** *How much do you think each of the following contributes to violent crime in Minnesota?* Response options: very much, somewhat, very little. (Check all that apply)

Percentage of all respondents who indicated very much



Note: Different question format in 1993 prevents comparisons between the two survey years.

as males say that they would be afraid to walk alone at night within a mile of their home. The lowest level of fear was among rural area or town residents, with 29 percent afraid to walk alone. Among the age groups, respondents age 50 or older were most likely to express this fear. These results were quite similar to the 1993 findings.

Crime victims were more apt than nonvictims to say that they would be afraid to walk alone at night. Even though a large percentage of victims said that they feel safe and that crime is not a problem or only a slight problem in their community, more than half declared that they would be afraid to walk alone at night within a mile of their home.

### Fewer Worry

Minnesotans were asked about how often they think or worry about being robbed, physically assaulted, attacked, burglarized or vandalized and the degree to which fear of crime prevents them from doing things they like to do.

Fewer Minnesotans in 1996 than in 1993 said that they worry very much about becoming the victim of one of these specific crimes or that fear of crime prevents them from engaging in certain activities.

While females are more likely than males to worry about these concerns, fear among females seems to be diminishing. Specifically, females who said they rarely or never worry about their home being broken into or vandalized while they are away rose significantly to 55 percent from 47 percent in 1993; and the percentage of those who declared that fear rarely or never prevents them from doing desired activities increased by 9 points, to 59 percent.

The degree of worry for these specific crime concerns is greatest among crime victims, females, those age 25 or older and city residents. The 1993 Minnesota Crime Survey showed similar results, except that individuals age 50 or older exhibited the greatest fear among the age groups.

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Although I live in a small town, I am still nervous in areas that tend to be quiet and isolated, like certain parts of the bike trail. When I'm in larger towns and cities, I am more alert and protective. I don't feel comfortable when I'm in a mall and see gangs roaming about.

*32-year-old woman from Fillmore County*

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Our neighborhood has a lot of business break-ins from juveniles in our area, as well as vandalism, shoplifting and crank phone calls . . . Our police officers do a decent job — but they will hardly arrest anyone from a prominent family in our town.

*24-year-old woman from Mille Lacs County*

### Fear of Violent Crime Subsides

Fewer Minnesotans worry about becoming a violent crime victim in 1996 than in 1993. Sixteen percent of the 1996 survey participants stated that they were not at all fearful of becoming a victim of violent crime.

Fear of violent crime victimization was greatest for respondents from particular groups. Reflecting 1993 survey data, females, 15- to 24-year-olds, city residents and crime victims were the most fearful. Showing some contradiction in 1996, those age 15 to 24 also had the highest incidence of reporting that they were not at all fearful

More people worry for their loved ones than for themselves. Among 1996 respondents, 12 percent worry very often about their loved ones, while 7 percent are very much afraid of personally experiencing violent crime. Worriers tend to be crime victims, females, those age 50 and older, or city dwellers. A change in question and response category wording prevents comparisons to the 1993 survey.

### Half Think They Will Not Be a Victim

Most survey participants — 54 percent — do not expect to be victims of crimes such as theft, burglary, robbery, assault or rape during 1996. Of those who expect to

#### Most People Not Afraid

Percentage of all respondents

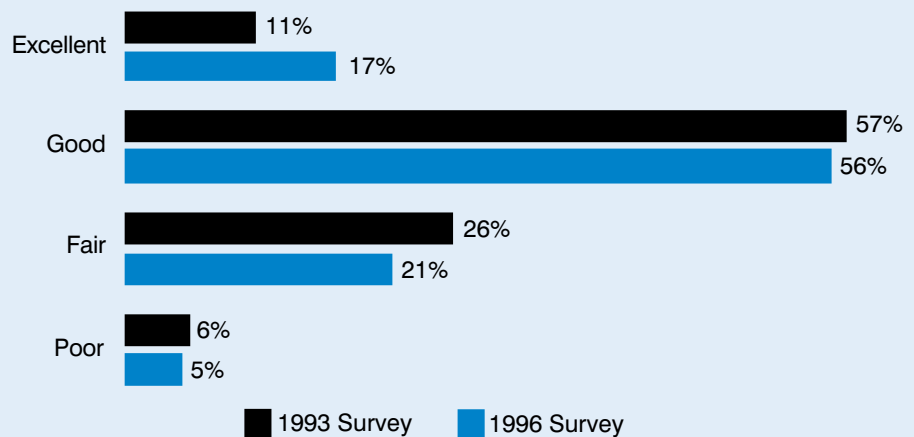
	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
<b>Question:</b> When you leave your home, how often do you think about it being broken into or vandalized while you're away?	10%	36%	40%	14%
<b>Question:</b> When you leave your home, how often do you think about being robbed or physically assaulted?	6	28	45	22
<b>Question:</b> How much does fear of crime prevent you from doing things you would like to do?	4	29	39	28
<b>Question:</b> When you're in your home, how often do you feel afraid of being attacked or assaulted?	2	20	46	32

Note: Response wording was changed between the 1993 and 1996 survey. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

#### Law Enforcement Rating Improves

**Question:** How would you rate the job being done by law enforcement in your community?

Percentage of all respondents



Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

become victims, almost twice as many expect to be victims of a property crime than violent crime. Changing significantly since 1993, the percentage of those expecting to be the victim of a property crime fell by 10 points, compared to a drop of 4 percent in those who expect to be victims of violence.

On the decline is the percentage of those who think they will be a victim of theft, burglary, robbery, assault or rape in 1996. The biggest drop in expected victimization — from 43 to 36 percent — was among Minnesotans who expect to be victims of property theft, other than a motor vehicle.

Minnesotans most likely to expect they will become a crime victim in 1996 were age 15 to 24 or those who live in the city. Males and females, however, had about the same expectations.

Victims are two times more likely than nonvictims to fear they will become a victim again. Seven out of 10 victims of crime in 1995 said they expected to become a victim again within the next year.

### **Good Job by Law Enforcement**

Citizens' fears and perceptions of crime can be affected by how well they think law enforcement is doing its job. Survey participants in 1996 rated law enforcement's

performance higher than did those in 1993. Increasing 6 points, 17 percent of 1996 respondents gave law enforcement an excellent rating.

Victims gave law enforcement much lower ratings than did nonvictims. Of those who gave law enforcement a poor rating, 62 percent said that they had been a victim of a crime in 1995, while 74 percent of those who gave an excellent or good rating had not been victimized in that year.

Older people tended to give more positive assessments: 24 percent of all respondents age 50 or older said that law enforcement was doing an excellent job compared to 15 percent of those age 25 to 49, and 9 percent of those age 15 to 24. At the same time, 11 percent of 15- to 24-year-olds gave a poor rating, more than twice the percentage as either of the other two age groups.

Satisfaction with law enforcement also differed with respect to the respondents' type of community. Twenty-one percent of suburban respondents said that law enforcement was doing an excellent job, compared to 17 percent of city dwellers who reflected the statewide average. Only 15 percent of Minnesotans from rural areas or towns gave an excellent rating.

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I think we're going to see more crime in rural areas and small towns, many of which have a small budget for police protection and are more vulnerable. We need to teach the concepts of community and self-defense without weapons.

*43-year-old woman from Mower County*

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## **Facing Reality**

One purpose of the 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey was to discover differences between what people perceive about crime and what they report is actually happening to them, and whether this has changed since 1993.

The survey revealed several important findings surrounding people's experiences with crime. It showed that most Minnesotans were not a victim themselves, but knew someone who was a victim. The survey also revealed that the number of respondents who were crime victims did not change significantly between the two survey years. Expectations of being a crime victim are coming closer to actual experience.

A majority of Minnesotans — 70 percent — were not victims in 1995, but four out of 10 survey respondents knew someone who was a crime victim. Three out of every 10 Minnesotans indicated that they were victims of threats, attempts or actual acts of crime in 1995, a rate nearly identical to that in the 1993 survey. The property crimes of burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and vandalism were the most common types of victimization reported by 27 percent of survey participants, down slightly from 1993. In both surveys, 10 percent of respondents reported being victims of any combination of violent crimes such as robbery, assault, rape or any

attempts at violence, while 6 percent experienced both property and violent crimes.

The gap between respondents' expectations of becoming a crime victim and the actual incidence of reported victimization is shrinking. Fifty-five percent of 1993 survey participants expected to be victims of a crime within the next year, compared to 31 percent who said they were victims in 1992; in the 1996 survey, these figures were 46 percent and 30 percent, respectively.

The people most likely to report that they were crime victims in 1995 had one or more of the following characteristics:

- Between 15 and 24 years old
- Single
- Live in a city
- Work part-time
- Resident of their community for less than one year

### Property Crimes Most Common

Property crimes such as burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and vandalism were the most common types of crime reported in 1995. Twenty-seven percent of respondents were victims of these crimes, compared to 28 percent in 1993. Theft from motor vehicles and property damage or vandalism were the property offenses experienced most, reported by 10 percent of the respondents. Six percent or fewer experienced attempted or actual break-ins to homes, buildings or motor vehicles; attempted or actual motor

vehicle theft; or the theft of other property in 1995.

Driven by a higher incidence of thefts from motor vehicles, people living in the city were most likely to report being property crime victims in 1995, while rural area and town residents were the least likely. City dwellers also had the only growth in property crime victimization since 1992.

Males were slightly more likely than females — 29 percent versus 26 percent — to be property crime victims. About two-fifths of respondents in the 15-to-24 age group were victims of this crime, while one-third of those age 25 to 49 and less than one-fifth of residents age 50 or older related this experience.

### Violent Crime Levels Unchanged

The overall level of violent crime victimization stayed the same between 1992 and 1995, with 10 percent of all respondents experiencing some type of violent crime, such as robbery, assault, rape, threats of violence or attempts at violence.

Low and stable levels of violent crime victimization conflict with perceptions. Thirty-six percent of respondents felt that violent crime in their community had gotten worse over the past three years, yet self-reported experiences remained the same.

Threatened assault with knives, guns or other weapons was the most common type

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I think we need more family involvement. It's sad we all have to work so much. I know some people who work three jobs to try and make a go of it.  
*57 year-old man from Rice County*

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### Vandalism and Theft from Motor Vehicles Lead 1995 Property Crimes

	City	Suburb	Rural Area or Town	Statewide
Property damaged or vandalized	10%	9%	10%	10%
Theft from motor vehicle	17	9	8	10
Motor vehicle theft or attempt	7	3	5	5
Attempt or break-in to motor vehicle	9	5	3	5
Attempt or break-in to home or building	11	5	4	6
Anything else stolen from home	5	4	3	4
Anything else stolen	7	4	5	5
<b>Total property crime</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>

City respondents experienced the highest proportion of property crimes in 1995.

Note: Some respondents reported multiple types of property crimes but were counted only once as a property crime victim.

of violent crime in 1995, with 6 percent of respondents reporting this experience. Three percent said that they were hit, beaten or attacked by someone.

Those age 15 to 24 were five times more likely to be a victim of violent crime in 1995 than those age 50 and older. In both surveys, members of the 15-to-24 age group also conveyed the greatest fear of becoming violent crime victims.

City inhabitants reported the highest rate of violent crime victimization in 1995 — 16 compared to 9 percent of rural area or town respondents. The lowest rate — 7 percent — was reported by suburban respondents.

### Assailants Most Often Adults

In 1995, assailants were most often adults, especially for specific violent crimes: threatened or actual assault with a weapon, threatened or actual assault by hitting or beating, and rape or unwanted sexual activity. For all victims, adults were almost three times more likely to be identified as the assailant of these violent crimes than

juveniles. The overall proportion of adult assailants went up 4 percent from the 1993 survey, while that of juvenile assailants dropped 2 percent.

Contrary to 1993 survey findings, young victims between age 15 and 24 were more often victimized by adults than other juveniles in 1996 — 43 percent compared to 39 percent. The earlier survey reported young victims as more likely targets of juvenile assailants.

Most victims said they knew their assailant, findings that reflect the 1993 survey. The 1996 poll found that more than half of assailants for violent offenses — excluding robbery or attempted robbery — were casual acquaintances, friends or family members. Strangers were indicated as the assailant about one-third of the time.

### Crime Is a Nuisance

Respondents held different opinions about what constituted being a victim of crime. Some behaviors, although satisfying the technical definition of “crime” on this survey,

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My child was involved with stealing, got caught, went to jail and is ready to steal again. He is laughing at the system; he believes nothing will be done. He doesn't care, learn or worry.

*49-year-old man from Carver County*

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<b>Urban and Young Most Likely Crime Victims in 1995</b>			
Percentage of all respondents in each category			
	<b>Crime Victim</b>	<b>Violent Crime Victim</b>	<b>Property Crime Victim</b>
<b>Total</b>	30%	10%	27%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	32	12	29
Female	30	9	26
<b>Age</b>			
15 to 24	44	22	37
25 to 49	35	10	30
50 or Older	19	4	18
<b>Type of Community</b>			
City	42	16	37
Suburb	28	7	26
Rural Area or Town	27	9	23
<b>Geographic Area</b>			
Hennepin and Ramsey Counties	34	10	31
Other 85 Counties	29	10	25

Property crimes were the most common type of victimization in both 1992 and 1995.

Note: The 1993 and the 1996 crime surveys asked about experiences with crime in the year prior to the survey. Respondents who said that they were victims of both property and violent crimes were counted only once in the “crime victim” category. See the glossary for definitions of property and violent crimes.

would not necessarily be viewed by all people as criminal acts. For all respondents who indicated they experienced survey-defined crimes, 9 percent did not consider themselves to be victims.

Among respondents who regarded themselves victims, 62 percent said the crime committed against them was a nuisance that had a minor impact on their lives; 24 percent thought the incident was a major inconvenience with a moderate impact; and 15 percent felt the experience was a significant event with a major impact.

Victims of violent crime were most apt to rate their encounters as having a major impact on their lives — two times more likely than all crime victims and three times more

than victims of property crime. Yet, more than half still felt the incident was only a nuisance with a minor impact. About one in 10 of those who experienced property crime said they were significantly affected by the offense, compared to seven out of 10 who considered it a nuisance.

The 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey for the first time asked those respondents who had been victims of a crime in 1995 whether they felt that the act committed against them could be considered a hate crime. Specifically, they were asked whether the crime was motivated by the assailant's bias against their sex, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability or sexual preference. Four percent of all victims said they viewed the act as a hate crime.

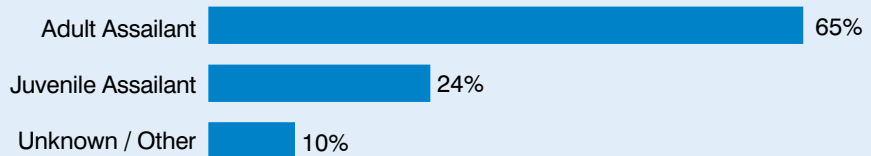
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We are crime-and-safety conscious: our children are supervised at all times, our door and windows are locked at night, and I'm extremely cautious if out alone. I believe I have to take personal responsibility for my safety.  
*33-year-old woman from Ramsey County*

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### More Adults Than Juveniles Were Violent Crime Assailants

Percentage of all violent crime victims, except robbery or attempted robbery



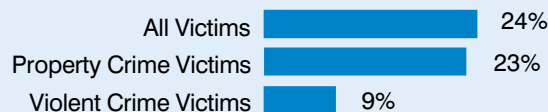
Note: Adult assailants were categorized as age 18 or older and juvenile assailants as under age 18. Victims in the "Unknown / Other" category were not sure of their assailant's age or had multiple assailants.

### More Than Half of All Victims Regarded the Crime As a Nuisance

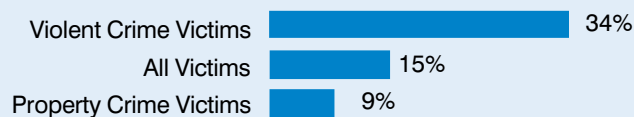
#### Nuisance with a Minor Impact



#### Major Inconvenience with a Moderate Impact



#### Significant Event with a Major Impact



Victims of violent crime were more likely to consider the incident a significant event with a major impact.

Note: "All victims" includes respondents who reported being the victim of a property or a violent crime.

## Most Crimes Not Reported

More than half of all the crimes experienced by survey participants in 1995 were not reported to the police. Respondents gave varied reasons for not reporting. About one-third said they felt the offense was minor or not important enough to report, while one-fifth felt the police would not be able to do anything, and more than one-sixth said they dealt with the situation in another way. Ten percent said their lack of confidence in the justice system stopped them from notifying law enforcement authorities. Others said they didn't report it because they didn't want the police in their lives, did not trust the police, were too embarrassed, feared the offender or felt sorry for the offender.

Whether a victim involved the police may have depended on the offense. For example, 21 percent of the victims of sexual offenses such as rape, attempted rape or attempted unwanted sexual activity contacted the police. In comparison, 79 percent of those who had a motor vehicle stolen from them notified law enforcement.

A small percentage of victims who reported the crime to police received information from responding officers about victim services and reparations programs. Law enforcement officers provided this information to 9 percent of all respondents who reported the crime. Minnesota law enforcement officials are required in most cases to provide crime victims with information on how to contact these organizations.

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Efforts to involve at-risk youth in positive structured activities, with adults who can provide encouraging relationships, are critical to crime prevention.

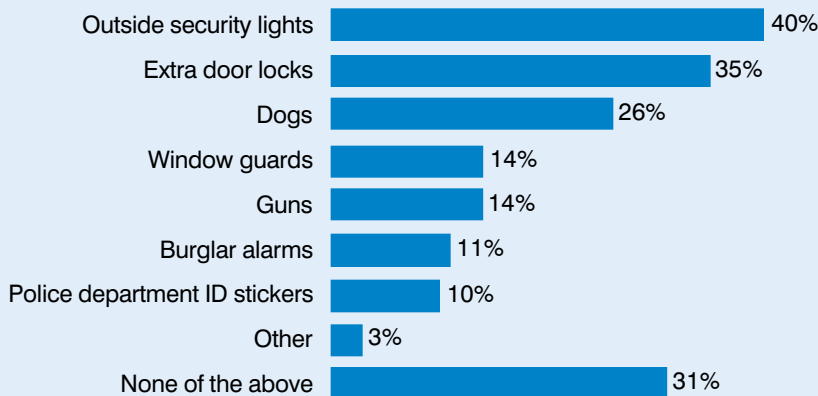
*40-year-old woman from Hennepin County*

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### Many Take Action to Feel Safe

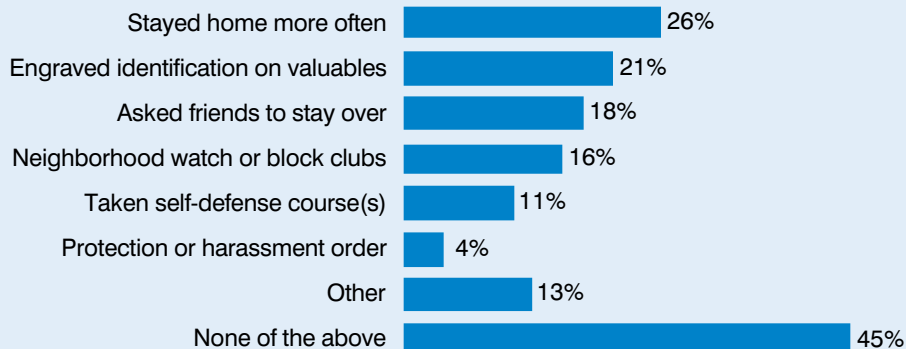
**Question:** Which, if any, of the following have you placed in your home to make you feel safer from crime? (Check all that apply.)

Percentage of all respondents



**Question:** Which, if any, of the following have you done to make you feel safer from crime? (Check all that apply.)

Percentage of all respondents





## Many Stay Home to Feel Safe

Reflecting 1993 survey data, nearly eight out of 10 respondents reported that they have placed something in their home or taken some type of action to feel safer from crime. From the options given respondents, almost 70 percent said they have installed some type of security device such as lights or extra door locks for safety. Twenty-six percent said they have a dog, 14 percent have put up window guards, and another 14 percent placed a gun in their home. Other reported security measures included burglar alarms, police identification stickers, door chains, fences, light timers, glass-block basement windows, a baseball bat, a stun gun and a safe for valuables.

The most common action to feel safer from crime was staying home more often, cited by more than one-fourth of the respondents. Other actions were installing car alarms, cellular phones, caller ID and changing the code on the garage door opener. Some requested more police patrols, called 911 when something looked suspicious, patrolled the block or moved away from the community.

Victims of crime were more likely than nonvictims — 88 percent compared to 76 percent — to report that they placed something in their home or took some type of action to feel safer from crime.

## Nearly Half Keep a Gun in Their Home

When asked about whether they keep a firearm in their home, 48 percent of Minnesotans said they do. Of those who keep a gun in their home, 60 percent reported that they own the firearm for sporting purposes, compared to 6 percent who said they keep the weapon mainly for protection; more than one-third said they

keep the gun for both sport and protection. The 1993 survey did not ask about guns kept for sporting purposes, so comparisons cannot be made to the 1996 survey.

Among those who reported that they keep a gun in their home, males outnumbered females 58 percent to 42 percent. One-third who live in Hennepin and Ramsey counties own a firearm, compared to more than half of those in all other counties. Having a firearm in the home also varied by type of community: 66 percent of residents from town and rural areas, 31 percent from cities and 32 percent from suburbs reported having a gun in their home.

## Fear Greater Than Reality

Fears, perceptions and realities of crime are still not meshing. Most people who answered the 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey related that they are feeling safe within their community, do not fear or expect to become the victim of certain crimes, and do not see crime as a problem within their community. Their perceptions of crime and safety, however, are still higher than what they are reporting is really happening to them. This has not changed since 1993.

Younger respondents experienced a larger share of victimization yet communicated lower levels of fear. Fifteen- to 24-year-olds had the highest victimization rate of all age groups: 44 percent were crime victims in 1995, compared to 35 percent of respondents age 25 to 49 and 19 percent of those age 50 or older. Members of the youngest age group were least likely to express fear of walking alone at night within a mile of their home, to think or worry about becoming a victim of specific crimes, or to indicate that fear of crime prevents them from doing

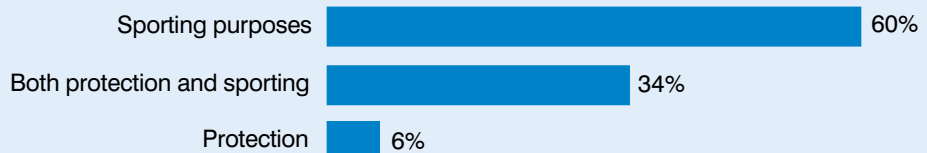
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I believe that one of the greatest causes of increased violence is that teenagers do not have purposeful activities to be involved in.  
*25-year-old woman from Benton County*

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## Sporting Most Common Purpose for Keeping Firearm

Percentage of firearm owners



Fewer than one of 10 Minnesotans who keep a firearm in their home have it for protection only.

things they would like to do. They were, however, most likely to expect they would become victims within the next year. On the other hand, while survey participants age 50 or older expressed more fears within their community, their actual experiences reported in the survey did not match their perceptions, because they were least victimized in 1995.

Among the genders, there also were some contradictions. Females were more prone than males to communicate heightened levels of fear and concern about becoming victims. Both genders had about the same incidence of being victimized, however, and both had equal expectations of becoming victims in the next year.

While showing higher levels of victimization, city dwellers also reported stronger feelings of fear compared to residents of other types of communities. Of all respondents, people from the city felt the least safe within their community, were the most fearful to walk alone at night within a mile of their homes, worried most about becoming the victim of specific crimes and were most likely to expect they will become crime victims during 1996. In contrast, inhabitants of rural areas and towns had not only the lowest rates of victimization in 1995 but

also low levels of fear regarding victimization and were least likely to expect they would become crime victims within the next year. The perceptions of city respondents and their counterparts in rural areas and towns appear to be in line with their day-to-day realities.

People reported a variety of reactions about crime and safety. A portion of respondents who experienced incidents defined as crime in this survey, did not consider themselves to be victims. For those who did consider themselves victims, more than half felt the incident was merely a nuisance with a minor impact on their lives. Other reactions came from people who reported that they had taken specific steps to feel safer. More than three-fourths of all survey participants placed something in their home or took some sort of action to feel safer from crime, with crime victims being more likely to do so than nonvictims.

The various fears, perceptions and reactions reported on the survey may have been influenced in part by respondents' knowledge of crime in their surroundings, their ability to control their level of risk, or personal experience. Media coverage, knowing crime victims socially and taking actions to reduce risks all can influence people's thoughts and behaviors.

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The community I live in does not see much crime. A bike was stolen out of my garage; I was sick at the time and then thought it was too late to report the crime four months later.

*40-year-old woman from Brown County*

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## Appendix

### Methodology

The purpose of the 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey was to measure two specific indicators: the percentage of people who have been crime victims and the percentage of people who feel safe in their community. Minnesota Planning conducted the first statewide crime survey of 6,029 Minnesota residents age 15 and older in 1993 to establish a baseline. The 1996 survey, which asked about perceptions and experiences with crime, provided data to measure progress toward the *Minnesota Milestones* goal of having communities that are safe, friendly and caring. The 1996 survey asked about incidents that occurred in 1995, while the 1993 survey asked about incidents in 1992.

The 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey is based on the 1,295 responses to a mail survey sent to 2,200 randomly selected individuals from the state driver's license and identification card database. The 1996 questions and methodology was a close replication of the 1993 survey.

Changes from the 1993 methodology included adding and reordering questions and rewording question responses. The 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey expanded the number of questions from the previous survey and asked about specific types of property offenses. The timing of the 1996 survey was also changed to start polling in January rather than June to assist recall of incidents that happened in the prior year.

The sample size was reduced from more than 6,000 in 1993 to 2,200 in 1996. The number of responses and the 72.3 percent response rate to the survey allow confidence that the 30 percent who reported some experiences with crime in 1995 was not significantly different from the 31 percent finding in 1992. The margin of error for this finding was plus or minus 1.5 percent in 1993 and 2.5 percent in 1996. For the 93 percent reporting feeling very safe or usually safe in their community in 1996, the margin of error is 1.4 percent. Other survey findings have a larger margin of error, especially those closer to 50 percent or based on smaller subgroups such as gender, age or type of community.

Some changes from the 1993 and 1996 findings for these smaller subgroups are interesting but not statistically significant. These slight movements should not be used alone to make inference about policy, nor are they sufficient by themselves to warrant taking action since they may be as much attributable to sampling error as to changes in trends. However, some findings that are not significant may provide recurring evidence of where to focus attention and more in-depth research.

### Sample Selection and Generalization of Findings

The sample was drawn from the Minnesota driver's license records database, which includes state-issued identification cards. Since the same database was used to create the sample for the 1993 and 1996 surveys, the survey findings can be generalized to members of this group. The Criminal Justice

Center received a randomly selected 5 percent sample of the driver's license database from the 3,409,482 individual records that were available in 1995. All individuals born after December 31, 1979, and individuals with an out-of-state mailing address were excluded.

Two samples based on geographical area were selected from the remaining records: 1,200 names from Hennepin or Ramsey counties and 1,000 names from the other 85 counties. A larger sample was selected for Hennepin and Ramsey counties to anticipate a larger proportion of individuals without a current mailing address on a driver's license.

Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and North Carolina have used driver's license records to obtain a sample for victimization surveys among the general population. One potential bias that has not been addressed by previous research on this subject is that younger individuals who are more likely to move and less likely to change the address on their license or identification cards are also more likely to be victims of crimes. The analysis of the Minnesota survey attempted to reduce this bias by a statistical method of weighting the survey responses to match the age and gender distribution in the state.

### Survey Process and Response Rate

The 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey used a five-wave mailing: a sensitizing postcard, a survey, a follow-up postcard, a second survey and a final follow-up postcard.

The 1996 statewide unadjusted response rate for the survey was significantly lower than

### 1996 Survey Sampling Data

	1995 Population Projected by Demographer	1995 Driver's License Records (5% Sample)	Sample Size of Survey	No Current Mailing Address	Responses Unweighted	Responses Weighted	Response Rate (Adjusted)
<b>Minnesota</b>	4,527,690	156,021	2,200	409	1,295	1,297	72.3%
<b>Hennepin and Ramsey Counties</b>	1,577,060	56,245	1,200	258	600	454	63.7
<b>Other 85 Counties</b>	2,950,630	99,776	1,000	151	695	842	81.9

Note: A total of 1,313 surveys were returned to the Criminal Justice Center at Minnesota Planning, but 18 were unusable because they were returned blank, had inconsistent answers or were too late to be included in the analysis. The adjusted response rate is calculated by subtracting the 409 ineligible individuals from the 2,200 original sample and dividing the 1,295 valid responses by the 1,791 adjusted sample size.

that of the 1993 sample. The total response from the sample declined from 65 percent in 1993 to 59 percent in 1996. A major factor in the decline was the number of people without a current mailing address in the sample's database. Prior to the 1993 survey, the Department of Public Safety had updated its driver's license and state identification database.

The statewide response rate (for those who received a survey) was similar in both years; 72.3 percent in 1996, compared to 72.4 percent in 1993. While the Hennepin or Ramsey county response rate went down 6 percent in 1996, responses from the other 85 counties went up 6 percent.

Response bias has to be considered when evaluating the results of this survey. Even though the two geographic areas were weighted to produce statewide percentages, the different response rates for the two surveys may be responsible for some of the changing perceptions. Survey findings may change if those more likely to be victims of crime or express fear of crime did not get a survey or received but did not return a survey.

### Weighting

The responses were weighted to the state-estimated population using age, gender and geographic area. This allows for generalizations from the sample about the experiences and perceptions of the Minnesota population age 15 or older. The weighting process allows accurate calculations of proportions or percentages for the entire state, but it does not provide an accurate method for estimating the number of reported offenses.

A detailed description of the survey methodology is available from the Criminal Justice Center at Minnesota Planning.

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# 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey

Responses have been weighted to reflect statewide age, gender and geographic population distributions. To conserve space, some questions, such as number 10, show data for “yes” responses only. Percentages for “no” responses can be calculated by subtracting the number given from 100. To assist analysis, responses to some questions, such as number 10, are displayed in rank order rather than the order in which they appeared on the survey. Questions 16 to 35 deal specifically with victims of crime; no statewide percentages are shown for the follow-up questions although they are described in the text.

The total number of respondents after weighting was 1,297. The number of answers to each question is provided. All percentages are rounded to nearest whole number and are based on valid answers. Copies of the survey are available from the Criminal Justice Center at (612) 296-4852 or online from Minnesota Planning’s World Wide Web site — <http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us>

## Attitudes Toward Crime and Safety

1. How safe do you feel in the community where you live? (n=1,288)

Very safe	32%
Usually safe	61%
Often not safe	7%
Never safe	1%

2. To what extent do you think crime is a problem in your community? (n=1,284)

Not a problem	12%
A slight problem	52%
A moderate problem	29%
A serious problem	6%

3. Is there any area right around your home — that is, within a mile — where you would be afraid to walk alone at night? (n=1,284)

Yes	46%
No	54%

4. How much does fear of crime prevent you from doing things you would like to do? (n=1,277)

Very much	4%
Somewhat	29%
Not much	39%
Not at all	28%

5. When you leave your home, how often do you think about being robbed or physically assaulted? (n=1,286)

Very often	6%
Sometimes	28%
Rarely	45%
Never	22%

6. When you leave your home, how often do you think about it being broken into or vandalized while you’re away? (n=1,277)

Very often	10%
Sometimes	36%
Rarely	40%
Never	14%

7. How often do you worry that your loved ones will be hurt by criminals? (n=1,273)

Very often	12%
Sometimes	42%
Rarely	35%
Never	11%

8. When you’re in your home, how often do you feel afraid of being attacked or assaulted? (n=1,278)

Very often	2%
Sometimes	20%
Rarely	46%
Never	32%

9. How fearful are you of being the victim of a violent crime? (n=1,277)

Very much	7%
Somewhat	25%
Not much	52%
Not at all	16%

10. Do you think any of the following are likely to happen to you during the next year? (n=1,233 to 1,246)

	Yes
Someone stealing other property or valuable things belonging to you	36%
Someone stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you	22%
Someone breaking into your home and taking something or attempting to take something	20%
Someone threatening you with their fist, feet or other bodily attack	19%
Someone taking something from you by force or threat of force	12%
Someone beating or attacking you with a knife, gun, club or other weapon	10%
Someone forcing you to have sexual intercourse with them against your will	6%
Being beaten or attacked by a member of your family or someone in your household	2%

11. Over the past three years, do you believe violent crime in your community has: (n=1,241)

Stayed about the same	61%
Gotten worse	36%
Gotten better	3%

12. During the next three years, do you believe that violent crime in your community will: (n=1,249)

Stay about the same	52%
Become worse	44%
Get better	5%

13. How would you rate the job being done by law enforcement in your community? (n=1,250)

Excellent	17%
Good	56%
Fair	21%
Poor	5%

14. How much do you think each of the following contributes to violent crime in Minnesota? (n=1,242 to 1,264)

	Very Much	Some-what	Very Little
Use of drugs	78%	20%	3%
Lack of parental discipline	73%	24%	3%
Gangs	72%	24%	5%
Breakdown of family life	69%	28%	3%
Use of alcohol	65%	31%	4%
Moral decay	59%	36%	6%
Availability of guns	54%	29%	17%
Criminal justice system is too easy	52%	39%	9%
Migration into Minnesota	41%	37%	22%
Television and movie violence	40%	39%	20%
Poverty	31%	51%	18%
Lack of community involvement	28%	59%	13%
Teen pregnancy	25%	45%	31%
The economy/lack of jobs	25%	51%	25%
Too much leisure time	22%	42%	36%
Population increase	18%	44%	39%
Racism	17%	49%	34%
Discrimination	15%	47%	39%
Other, please specify (n=181)	63%	15%	22%

15. Which drugs, if any, do you feel contribute to violent crime in your community? (Check all that apply) (n=1,256)

Alcohol	83%
Marijuana	56%
Cocaine (powder)	50%
Crack cocaine	50%
Amphetamines or methamphetamine	34%
Heroin	33%
Other drugs, specify	5%
Drugs do not contribute to violent crime	4%
Violent crime is not a problem in my community	27%

### Your personal experience with crime in 1995

Please read the following questions carefully. Questions 16 to 30 refer only to events that occurred between January 1 and December 31, 1995. List events only once. For example, if you answer yes to one question, answer yes to other questions only if you are referring to other incidents.

16. Did anyone take something directly from you by using force, such as by a stick-up, mugging or threat? (n=1,269)

No	99%
Yes	1%

How many times? Range 1-3

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

17. Did anyone TRY to rob you by using force or threatening to harm you (other than any incident already mentioned)? (n=1,268)

No	99%
Yes	1%

How many times? Range 1-2

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

18. Were you knifed, shot at or attacked with some other weapon by anyone at all (other than any incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,268)

No	99%
Yes	1%

How many times? 1-2

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

If yes, was the most recent of these done by:

- A stranger or unknown person
- A casual acquaintance
- A person well known to you (but not a family member)
- A family member

To your knowledge, was the assailant (or assailants):

- A juvenile (under 18 years old)
- An adult (18 years and older)
- Unknown

Please describe only events that occurred between January 1 and December 31, 1995.

19. Did anyone threaten to beat you up or threaten you with a knife, gun or some weapon NOT including telephone threats (other than any incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,266)

No	94%
Yes	6%

How many times? 1-6

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

If yes, was the most recent of these done by:

- A stranger or unknown person
- A casual acquaintance
- A person well known to you (but not a family member)
- A family member

To your knowledge, was the assailant (or assailants):

- A juvenile (under 18 years old)
- An adult (18 years and older)
- Unknown

20. Did anyone hit you, attack or beat you up (other than any incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,264)

No	97%
Yes	3%

How many times? 1-5

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

If yes, was the most recent of these done by:

- A stranger or unknown person
- A casual acquaintance
- A person well known to you (but not a family member)
- A family member

To your knowledge, was the assailant (or assailants):

- A juvenile (under 18 years old)
- An adult (18 years and older)
- Unknown

21. Did anyone force you, or attempt to force you, to have sexual intercourse with them? (n=1,275)

No 99%  
Yes 1%

How many times? 1-5

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

If yes, was the most recent of these done by:

A stranger or unknown person  
A casual acquaintance  
A person well known to you (but not a family member)  
A family member

To your knowledge, was the assailant (or assailants):

A juvenile (under 18 years old)  
An adult (18 years and older)  
Unknown

22. Did anyone force you, or attempt to force you, to engage in any other form of unwanted sexual activity (other than those incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,270)

No 99%  
Yes 1%

How many times? 1-10

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

If yes, was the most recent of these done by:

A stranger or unknown person  
A casual acquaintance  
A person well known to you (but not a family member)  
A family member

To your knowledge, was the assailant (or assailants):

A juvenile (under 18 years old)  
An adult (18 years and older)  
Unknown

23. Did anyone try to attack you in some other way (other than any incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,270)

No 98%  
Yes 2%

How many times? 1-2

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

If yes, was the most recent of these done by:

A stranger or unknown person  
A casual acquaintance  
A person well known to you (but not a family member)  
A family member

To your knowledge, was the assailant (or assailants):

A juvenile (under 18 years old)  
An adult (18 years and older)  
Unknown

24. Did anyone steal, or attempt to steal, a motor vehicle such as your car, truck, motorcycle, snowmobile? (n=1,276)

No 96%  
Yes 5%

How many times? 1-3

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

25. Did anyone steal things that belonged to you from inside ANY car or truck, such as packages or clothing? (n=1,271)

No 90%  
Yes 10%

How many times? 1-5

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

26. Did anyone break into, or try to break into your car or truck (other than any incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,274)

No 95%  
Yes 5%

How many times? 1-10

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

27. Did anyone break into, or try to break into, your home or some other building on your property? (n=1,270)

No 94%  
Yes 6%

How many times? 1-7

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

28. Was anything stolen from your home (other than any incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,271)

No 97%  
Yes 4%

How many times? 1-5

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

29. Was anything else at all stolen from you (other than any incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,268)

No 95%  
Yes 5%

How many times? 1-3

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

30. Was any of your property damaged or vandalized (other than any incidents already mentioned)? (n=1,265)

No 90%  
Yes 10%

How many times? 1-7

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

31. If you were a victim of crime in 1995 or answered yes to any of questions 16 to 30, would you characterize the crime(s) and their impact on your life as: (n=1,014)

A nuisance with a minor impact on your life 23%  
A major inconvenience with a moderate impact 8%  
A significant event with a major impact 5%  
Was not a victim of crime in 1995 63%

32. If you were a victim of a crime in 1995 but DID NOT report the incident to the police, what were the reasons for not reporting it? (Check all that apply) (n=716)

Was not a victim of crime in 1995	81%
Not important enough minor offense	21%
Police couldn't do anything	12%
Dealt with it another way	9%
No confidence in the justice system	6%
Crime due to my own carelessness	5%
Didn't want police in my life	5%
Did not want to get involved	4%
Afraid of the offender	3%
Too embarrassing	2%
Didn't trust police	2%
Felt sorry for the offender	1%
Other, please specify	6%

33. If you were a victim of a crime in 1995 and reported the incident(s) to the police, did the responding officer(s) tell you about: (Check all that apply) (n=831)

Minnesota's Victim's Services	1%
Crime Victims Reparations programs	1%
Responding officer did not give information about help for victims	18%
Was not a victim of crime in 1995	80%

34. If you were a victim of crime in 1995, were any of the incidents committed by your family members or people you live with? (n=1,094)

Was not a victim of crime in 1995	65%
No	33%
Yes	2%
How many times?	

For this incident (or the most recent of these incidents), was the crime committed by your:

Spouse	
Live-in partner	
Ex-spouse or partner	
Parent	
Child	
Brother or sister	
Other family member	
Not a family member but someone who lives with me	

If you reported the incident to the police, how did they respond? (Check all that apply)

Took telephone report	
Took face-to-face report	
Did on-scene investigation	
Took someone into custody	
Other, please specify	

35. If you were a victim of crime in 1995, do you believe that any of the incidents could be considered a hate crime (that is, motivated by the offender's bias against your sex, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability or sexual preference)? (n=1,091)

Was not a victim of crime in 1995	65%
No	31%
Yes	4%
How many times?	
How many of these incidents did you report to the police?	

Do you think the crime was committed because of your:

Sex	
Race	
Ethnicity	
Religion	
Sexual preference	
Age	
Disability	
Other, please specify	

36. Were any of your friends, family or neighbors victims of crime in 1995? (Check all that apply) *Collapsed immediate and extended family answers for analysis.* (n=1,183)

No	39%
Friends or neighbors	28%
Acquaintances or co-workers	16%
Don't know	16%
Immediate or extended family	14%

## Security Measures

*Questions 37 and 38 had two categories of "Ever" and "In the past year," which were collapsed for analysis.*

37. Which, if any, of the following have you done to make you feel safer from crime? (Check all that apply)(n=1,223)

	Yes
Stayed home more often	26%
Engraved identification on valuables	21%
Asked friends to stay over	18%
Participated in neighborhood watch or block club	16%
Taken self-defense course(s)	11%
Received order for protection or harassment order	4%
Other, please specify	13%
None of the above	45%

38. Which, if any, of the following have you placed in your home to make you feel safer from crime? (Check all that apply) (n=1,223)

Outside security lights	40%
Extra door locks	35%
Dogs	26%
Window guards	14%
Guns	14%
Burglar alarms	11%
Police department identification stickers	10%
Other, please specify	3%
None of the above	31%

39. Do you keep a firearm in your home? (n=1,234)

No, I do not keep a firearm in the home	50%
Yes, for sporting purposes	29%
Yes, for both protection and sporting	16%
Yes, for protection	3%
Other, please specify	2%



## Your Characteristics:

(answers will be used for statistical analysis only)

40. In what year were you born?

Range 1904 to 1980 (n=1,260)

15 to 24 years	17%
25 to 49 years	50%
50 or older	33%

41. What is your gender? (n=1,260)

Male	49%
Female	51%

42. What is your racial background? (n=1,266)

Caucasian/White	94%
Asian	2%
Black/African American	1%
American Indian	1%
Biracial or Multiracial	1%
Other, please specify	1%

43. What is your ethnic background? (n=1,123)

Hispanic	2%
Non-Hispanic	98%

44. Please check the category that describes your highest level of education: (n=1,265)

8th grade or less	3%
9th-12th grade, but no diploma	12%
High school graduate or GED	18%
Some college or Technical-Vocational school	31%
Associate degree	6%
College degree 4 year	19%
Graduate or professional degree	12%

45. How long have you lived in Minnesota? (n=1,270)

Less than 1 year	1%
1-2 years	2%
3-9 years	7%
10-25 years	26%
More than 25 years	64%

46. How long have you lived at your current address? (n=1,277)

Less than 1 year	10%
1-2 years	12%
3-9 years	33%
10-25 years	31%
More than 25 years	15%

47. Are you: (n=1,270)

Married	58%
Single	26%
Partnered	3%
Divorced	6%
Widowed	6%
Separated	1%

48. Including yourself, how many people live in your home? (n=1,264)

1	12%
2	33%
3	18%
4	18%
5 or more	18%

49. Of these categories, which describes your TOTAL HOUSEHOLD income in 1995 before taxes? (n=1,187)

Under \$10,000	8%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	11%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	16%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	15%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	16%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8%
Over \$100,000	7%

50. What is your present employment status? (n=1,272)

Employed full-time	48%
Retired	15%
Employed part-time	11%
Student	7%
Homemaker	4%
Unemployed	2%
Other, please specify (or multiple)	12%

51. Which best describes where you live? (Check only one)

*Survey question had 5 categories (n=1,263)*

Rural area or town away from a city	42%
Suburb of a city	34%
In a city or in the inner city	24%

52. Do you live in the city limits of Burnsville, Duluth, Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Cloud or St. Paul? (n=1,256)

Yes	28%
No	72%

53. In what county do you live? (n=1,297)

Hennepin or Ramsey	35%
Other 85 counties	65%

*84 of 87 counties had respondents*

54. What is your zip code? (n=1,297)