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George W. Barger

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SOCIAL COHESION IN OMAHA:

A Preliminary Study

George W. Barger

* * *

Omaha Urban Area Research Project

Urban Studies Center

Wayne Wheeler, Director

University of Nebraska at Omaha

September 1968

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INTRODUCTION

There is scarcely a report focusing on contemporary American life that does not manage to make the point that our society presently faces many problems. Indeed, the remark is a truism. It is not made, however, less important by its self-evident quality. On the contrary, we have heard the cry of "wolf" so often that we are likely to discount its grim clamor. The problems remain, and with them, the necessity for our continued attempts to understand them and seek their alleviation.

"To understand . . ." How are we to understand the nature of the issues in our society? The very concepts we use easily distort the topics we select, and lead to a concern for measures peripheral to the problem; or, equally, they lend themselves to ideology. The complex nature of modern life virtually guarantees such deformation, and makes imperative an interdisciplinary approach and public airing of result, so that mutual criticism can sharpen both focus and insight.

The report following, then, should be understood within the context of a series of studies recently published by the Urban Studies Center of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.¹ While previous reports have been concerned primarily with economic variables, shopping areas, products, input-output rates--this investigation is a preliminary report on the "collective conscience" of Omaha. The term is a technical one in the behavioral sciences, and refers to the web of meanings, ideas and values which hold together the members of a

¹The studies have been sponsored by the Economic Development Council of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. Grateful acknowledgement of their support is herein offered.

social community.¹ It is these shared meanings which constitute a major source for community cohesion.

Although they will again be mentioned in their relevant contexts, certain caveats are important in interpreting the materials following.

1. Financial and personnel resources made it impossible to select a respondent sample satisfactory for inferential statistical manipulation. Because of the preliminary nature of the study, this is not a serious qualification of results; it does mean, however, that the findings reported are, in a strict sense, applicable only to this respondent population.

2. The report should be understood in a cumulative fashion. It is not so much a matter of one section being of over-riding importance as it is the general structure of results which emerge.

3. The findings relate only to the period at which the data was accumulated. This does not mean that the reliability of the report is impugned; it does imply that we lack serious longitudinal and cross-sectional comparisons which could assist in assessing the results here. This is simply a fact of affairs today. Studies such as this one will assist in providing a remedy to this deplorable lack.

The author wishes to express his thanks to the organizations of the Omaha community who participated in the study. Advancement of community understanding inevitably depends in large measure on the desire of that community to be understood. With few exceptions, cooperation was graciously given.

¹Cp. E. Durkheim, The Division of Labor in Society. Translated by George Simpson. (New York: Free Press of Glencoe, Ill., 1933).

Finally, a word of appreciation should be given those who helped most directly in this study: to Dr. Wayne Wheeler, Chairman of the Urban Studies Center; to Miss Elaine Hess, who served as general consultant in the analysis of data; to Mr. Charles Gibbons, who wrote the computer analysis program; and to Mr. Richard Francis, graduate student in Sociology, who helped in planning and administering the questionnaire used in this study.

George W. Barger

August, 1968

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF COHESION TO THE COMMUNITY

"How are you feeling today?" a physician asks, and the answer to that question can become the basis for a serious analysis of the general well-being of the individual. Similarly, we now ask the question: "What makes a community?" and state that the answer can lead us to important levels of analysis into the nature of the ongoing social order.

One answer, it would seem, would point to the economic necessities of community life: jobs, merchandising, banking, and the many other factors related to the flow of goods and services in and out of a geographic area.

Still other replies would remind us of the importance of number, the movements of people into, within and out of an area, and the relationship of this flow to community life.

The fourteenth century Arabic social philosopher and historian, Ibn Khaldun, pointed in his writings to a quality of social life which he designated, asabiyah. A possible translation of the term is, "group feeling".¹ A civilization, he stated, was a consequence not merely of populations or resources and technology, but of the cooperative activities of persons. Societies of equivalent size and (apparent) opportunity can be shown to differ markedly in their accomplishments. Some factor other than those just cited must exist, some quality of life which helps account for variances in end product. This Khaldun designated asabiyah.

The quality to which he was pointing can easily be grasped intuitively. Of course, there is a difference in communities. Some seem to have a sense

¹Ibn Khaldun, The Muqaddimah. Translated by Franz Rosenthal. Three vols. (New York: Pantheon Books, 1958). For Rosenthal's discussion of the term, cp. I, lxxviii^{ff}.

of membership, of mutual regard and understanding that fairly permeates the air one breathes. They appear dynamic, filled with enterprise, and caught up in a sense of movement and anticipation. Other communities, on the contrary, impress even a casual observer as confused, uncertain, hesitant, and with a modicum of reciprocal solicitude.

Except in these very general characterizations, however, Khaldun's asabiyah has proven difficult to specify empirically. "Of course, there is a difference in communities"; but in what does this difference consist?

The question is not only of academic interest. Khaldun believed that asabiyah was directly related to the future of a community. "No group can retain its predominance, nor any leader his dominant position in the group, when their former asabiyah is no longer there to support them."¹ In other words, as asabiyah increased, so did the community; as that quality declined, community decadence followed.

The point made thus far may be summarized: there are factors in the life of a community, in addition to the economic or technological, which powerfully influence the ongoing life and future of that community.

Because the concept is elusive does not make its consequences less real. Some insight may be provided by reference to a series of small group studies which investigate "social cohesion".² Such cohesion is generally characterized as an emotionally focused sense of fellow-feeling within a group. The concept is closely akin to that which Khaldun called asabiyah;

¹Ibid., p. lxxx.

²S. Schachter, "Social Cohesion," International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, II, pp. 542-546.

and investigators interpret cohesion as essential to the welfare of the group in the same sense that Khaldun utilized his formulation.

Cohesion is abstracted in terms of certain groups of factors.¹ A shared system of values, "the pleasures of being sure that others will respond in the desired way", is seen as a basic source of reward within the group; hence, of its cohesiveness. Closely related, a shared frame of reference facilitates interaction between individuals, and makes task performance both easier and more satisfying. These shared values and frames of reference make possible the focusing of group activities on goals attractive to its members, and, reciprocally, make the achievement of those goals an end valued by the group.

The concept is operationalized in several ways. Sociometric choice studies have been made. The individual is asked to select persons/values/goals which he prefers, or which he believes others prefer. This selection is related to certain 'others' within his social space. The strength of his 'choice' items is related to certain attitude measurements, and a resultant "magnitude of cohesion" measure is generated.

The dimension is further empiricized through relating cohesion score to behavioral and performance criteria. Studies repeatedly have found that high cohesion is positively related to high conformity and to successful task completion.²

The foregoing analysis, in brief, leads to these generalizations. In addition to economic and related factors, the community is fostered by a

¹J. Klein, The Study of Groups. (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1956), p. 114^f.

²Leon Festinger, et. al., Social Pressures in Informal Groups. (Palo Alto, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1950).

social quality which we have labeled 'cohesion'. This constituent is reflected in the individual's positive set toward his community and its general quality of life. He will express satisfaction with his community, with the sense of life's qualities and possibilities, and reflect an at-homeness in his feelings toward it. This positive orientation will be mirrored also in his attitudes toward himself and his personal possibilities and accomplishments. On the other hand, a community with low cohesion will include a predominant number of individuals who would answer in a negative manner questions relating to any of the above topics.

In the winter of 1967-68, a questionnaire was formulated for use in gathering data for a preliminary assessment of social cohesion in the Omaha community. It is fair to say that other matters of equal interest and importance could have been selected. Without an extended apologia, let it suffice that, in the light of available personnel and financial resources, the study actually undertaken seemed (and still seems) defensible. Its importance is all the more enhanced when one considers the paucity of social information currently available; the study fills a small space in a very wide gap. It is sincerely hoped that it does even more.

II. METHODOLOGY

Most systematic studies of social cohesion have involved laboratory experiments of some sort. Focusing on small groups, it has been possible under controlled conditions to relate group attractiveness and various task performances. A major inference utilized in the present study is that group attractiveness is operationally similar to community attractiveness; hence, one can infer a level of community cohesion from measures of community attractiveness.

A questionnaire consisting of 17 items, some with multiple subitems, was pretested through administration to a class in Introductory Social Psychology. Some minor modifications in wording resulted, and the resultant document was then administered to various persons in the Omaha community. Method of selection of these persons will be detailed below.

The questionnaire items, other than the usual biographical information data, were seen as related to the general focus of community cohesion. Length of residence in the community and neighborhood, use of public transportation, sense of security within the geographic area, and personal knowledge or experience with certain quasi-criminal and criminal activities were examined through forced choice questions. In addition, an attitude survey, including the scale developed by Leo Srole,¹ was included. With few exceptions, items included in the questionnaire had previously been used by other organizations in community surveys in other cities.

The respondent group was composed of members of various social, fraternal and improvement organizations within the Omaha area. Utilizing a list of such organizations supplied through the United Community Services of Omaha, some 32 groups were contacted. Permission was asked to attend a meeting of the group, and at that time, to administer the questionnaire. With few exceptions, this courtesy was granted. In addition, the Metropolitan Utilities District mailed the questionnaire to its Omaha personnel; a slightly better than 50% response was received. In contacting organizations, some attention was given to the attempt to secure a cross-section of the Omaha area; that is, in so far as possible, a respondent population broadly representative of

¹Leo Srole, "Social Integration and Certain Corollaries: An Exploratory Study," American Sociological Review, 21 (December, 1956), pp. 709-716.

the geographical area. Obviously, this selection involved more than a little subjective balancing of possibilities and probabilities, and from the standpoint of methodology, constitutes the most serious limitation of the study and its results.

A total of 1311 completed questionnaires were accumulated. Of these, some 192 proved to be from respondents living outside the present limits of Omaha, and their questionnaires were not used. Thus, the respondent population totals 1119.

Although specific claims regarding the representativeness of our sample and the consequent generalizability of our results would be inappropriate, some positive statements may be made about the respondent group.

Table 1 indicates a fairly even age-split amongst the respondents, utilizing open-ended categories at each boundary and ten-year class intervals in the three middle groups. An approximately equal division by sex can also

TABLE 1

Age of Respondents, In Percent

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Omaha Census (1960)</u>
Less than 20	16%	38%
20-29	22	13
30-39	20	13
40-49	20	12
More than 50	23	24
No answer	<u>0.01</u>	
	101.01%*	<u>100%</u>

*Total exceeds 100% due to rounding effect.

be reported: males constitute 46% and females 54% of the total sample.

Two disappointing results must be noted at this point, one unavoidable because of the nature of our respondent sample selection procedures;

the other simply a fortuitous--in the worst sense of the word--product of the sample itself. It will shortly be explained that, in analyzing the data, certain sub-community levels of Omaha were adopted. These 'communities' were denominated on the basis of criteria independent of this particular report, and were simply employed as a part of the data analysis procedures.¹ As it turned out, most of the cells generated by this procedure were sufficiently large for useful results: in three of the sub-communities, this was not the case. These will be mentioned later.

The second soft area of the sample is in its ethnic subcategories. Non-whites totaled just under 7% of the total respondents. Since, in the most recent general census (1960) this group constituted some 10% of the population of Omaha (and has increased its proportion since that time),² this certainly is a regrettable accident of the sample. On the other hand, it does happen that the non-white community in Omaha constitutes a restricted geographic area; hence, most members of this category are found in the same sub-community as utilized in this report.

Most of our respondents had lived in Omaha for some time, and in their present neighborhood between three and five years, as Table 2 indicates. This is important in relationship to questions asked later: "What do you think of Omaha as a place to live?", and the like. One must have experienced

¹The sub-communities were defined by Wayne Wheeler. Definitions will be presented and clarified by him in a subsequent publication of the Urban Studies Center. See Appendix A.

²See the report of John P. Zipay, The Changing Population of the Omaha SMSA 1960-1967, With Estimates for 1970. Omaha: University of Omaha, Urban Studies Center, 1967, p. 11^{ff}.

TABLE 2

Length of Residence in Omaha and Neighborhood
by Percent of Respondents

<u>Residence Time, in Years</u>	<u>In Omaha</u>	<u>In Neighborhood</u>
Less than 1	3%	11%
1 to less than 3	5	13
3 to 5	5	16
more than 5	<u>86</u>	<u>60</u>
	99%*	100%

*Totals less than 100% due to rounding effect.

a community for some time before any reliability of response can be expected for such inquiries.

In summary, then, the respondent group may be fairly said to be broadly typical of Omaha residents who have lived in the city for some time, "in so far as this sample may be considered representative." Even though it is not continually repeated, this proviso must always be understood in interpreting reported results. Because the sample was not random, but "broadly representative", reliability of findings remains an open question.

This is, perhaps, the point at which the matter should be pursued at somewhat greater length. How similar are the members of voluntary organizations to other members of a community? Social scientists have spent more than a little time in investigating this and related matters. The findings of Murray Hausknecht will be taken as modal for purposes of this study.¹ In a secondary analysis of two previous surveys involving a total of more than

¹Murray Hausknecht, The Joiners: A Sociological Description of Voluntary Association Membership in the United States. New York: The Bedminster Press, 1962.

4,000 persons, Hausknecht sought to characterize the extent of affiliation with voluntary organizations in the United States and the characteristics of those who join such groups.

He reports that community size and affiliation with voluntary association are inversely related, the larger community having some 47% membership, in contrast with rural farm areas reporting 58% membership. Education is highly correlated with such membership, those with more education belonging at a much higher rate (78% of college graduates) than persons with lower educational attainments (39%, 'some elementary school'). In similar manner, on a continuum of 'unskilled through professional' workers, membership in voluntary organizations ranged from 21% to 53%. Certain allowances always must be made for distorting effects in respondent answers, but a reasonable conclusion might be that less than half the members of a metropolitan community can be expected to belong to one or more such associations. In this sense, such members are not typical.

Why, then, were such organizations made the focus of this particular study? Two answers may be given. Without a doubt, the more important of the two relates to economy. A random sampling of the Omaha community would have required far more in terms of personnel and financial resources, and in available time, than were at hand during the period in which this study was made. On the other hand--and this is by no means merely an ex post facto justification of the inevitable--such an expenditure of time and resources probably could not have been justified at that point, even had they been available. Omaha is not too much different in this respect from many (though not most) communities of comparable size, but the fact is we have serious lack of reliable social information relating to our area. What data there is can scarcely be used, because of changing recording practices and definitions.

What is most pertinent to present needs is the initiation, and continuance, of standardized definitional and record-keeping procedures. On the basis of information thus accumulated, meaningful hypotheses and tests can be attempted.

The second, and more positive, reason for selecting voluntary organizations as focus for data gathering may now be stated. While it is true such associations do not represent the 'typical' person in a community, they do include those who are more active in the ongoing affairs of their area, the 'get-things-done' people.¹ In terms of community social policies, therefore, their responses could theoretically be weighted more heavily than any other category of persons engaged in activities not specifically politically or power-oriented. On the basis of their replies, hypotheses of significance could be generated, for more thorough probing than is possible with the present sample.

III. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

It has been noted previously that the general focus of this survey related to the level of social cohesion in Omaha. Certain findings of small group research on over-all group attractiveness and group solidity were extrapolated to the level of social community. The measurement procedure was then to operationalize group cohesion through a series of questions relating to community attractiveness, a feeling of 'at-homeness', sense of personal safety, and certain attitude dimensions.

It should not be assumed that such procedures generate an absolute scale for assessing community cohesion. Rather, level of cohesion is viewed

¹See, for example, Herbert Maccoby, "The Differential Politican Activity of Participants in Voluntary Associations," American Sociological Review, 24, (1958), pp. 524-532; Philip Hastings, "The Voter and the Non-Voter," American Journal of Sociology, 62, (November, 1956), pp. 302-307.

as an inference made as a final step in the analysis of question responses. The effect of the findings reported in this survey is cumulative, rather than hinging on a single question or even group of questions, and it is in this direction that the discussion of results will be presented.

A. General View of Omaha as a Place to Live

In general, the respondents view Omaha as a pretty good place in which to live. Almost three out of every four thought both their city and their neighborhood better than average (good; very good).¹ Table 3 allows certain

TABLE 3

Reported Satisfaction with Omaha, by Length of Residence in Neighborhood, In Percent

<u>Level of Satisfaction</u>	<u>Length of Time in Neighborhood</u>				<u>Total*</u>
	<u>Less than 1 year</u>	<u>1-3 years</u>	<u>3-5 years</u>	<u>More than 5 years</u>	
Best place	4%	12%	15%	68%	99%
Pretty good	10	13	14	63	100
All right	14	12	18	56	100
Don't care much for Omaha	10	17	27	46	100
Not much	14	17	23	46	100

*Row totals may not equal 100% due to rounding effect.

The Table should be read, "Of those who believe Omaha to be a _____ place in which to live, NN% have lived in their neighborhood nn years.

inferences in this regard. It indicates that level of satisfaction rises with length of time lived in this city. Interestingly enough, however, level of dissatisfaction shows a corresponding rise. The former cannot, then, be explained in terms of a familiarity leading to contentment process.

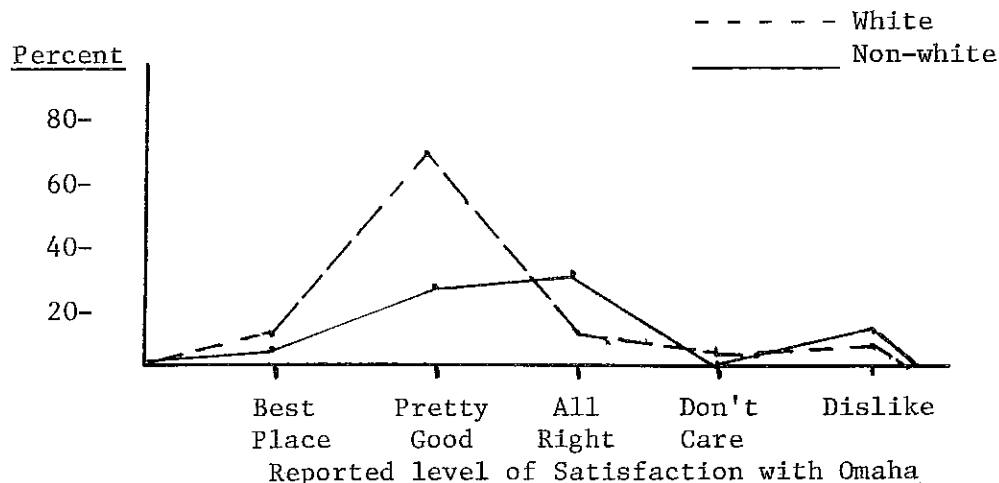
¹Total responses, in percent, to each question and sub-question are reproduced as a part of the questionnaire printed as Appendix B.

Two sources for the foregoing results may be suggested. Almost 90% of all respondents had lived in Omaha five or more years. What Table 3 may reflect is simple accumulation of cases towards the upper end of the table; no matter what the level of response, most cases would be found bunching towards that direction.

This is not, however, the predominant source of the above results. If the question is examined in terms of ethnic membership of the respondent, Figure 1 and Table 4 indicate that non-white groups report lower levels of positive feelings towards the Omaha community, and their residential area,

FIGURE 1

Reported Satisfaction with Omaha, by Ethnic Group, In Percent



than do white ethnic groups. These differences are not accounted for in terms of residence, for some 88% of both groups have lived in Omaha five or more years; while more than half report the equal amounts of time in their present neighborhood. (See Appendix C, Tables 1 and 2.)

TABLE 4
Reported Satisfaction with Neighborhood, by
Ethnic Group, In Percent

<u>Level of Satisfaction</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Indian</u>	<u>Oriental</u>
Very good	31	7	**	**
Good	46	22	**	**
Fair	19	60	**	**
Bad	2	8	**	**
Very bad	1	0	**	**
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>**</u>	<u>**</u>
	100*	98*	**	**

*Column totals will not always equal 100% due to rounding effect.

**N of these cells too small for stable percentages to be generated.

B. Sense of Personal Safety

A person's contentment with his community can be assessed in ways other than through his responses to direct questions. Further clues may be inferred from his sense of "at-homeness" in the area, his feelings of personal safety and his utilization of services within the locality. Almost one-third of our respondents, for example, reported being afraid to walk about their neighborhood alone and at night. Part of this response is undoubtedly sex specific: a substantially larger percentage of females (47%) than males (11%) admitted to this fear. That this dichotomy is not the sole source for such anxieties can be seen from an examination of Tables 5 and 6, where both residential location and ethnicity are shown to be involved as possible factors. Even here the relationship cannot easily be summarized, for residence patterns in Omaha are such that some ethnic groups are largely clustered in a rather circumscribed geographic area; hence, the factors of neighborhood and ethnicity strongly influence one another.

TABLE 5
Sense of Personal Security, by Ethnic
Group, In Percent

Ethnic Group	Recorded Response	Afraid by Day in Neighborhood	Afraid at Night in Neighborhood	Special Precautions Necessary at Night
White	Yes	1%	29%	88%
	No	98	65	9
	Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
		100%	100%	100%
Non-white	Yes	4%	51%	94%
	No	96	44	5
	Don't know	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
		100%	100%	100%

Notice should be taken, however, that this sense of personal safety, or the lack of it, is rather unevenly distributed throughout the city. Table 6 makes this quite clear. While the association is not exact, a general rise in concern is expressed as one moves from the fringes of the city limits towards the central city.

C. Movement About the City

A question somewhat related to the foregoing dealt with the individual's movement about the city, specifically his use of public transportation facilities and his travel to the 'downtown' business area. The relationship of these matters to one's sense of personal security is not direct, of course; but taken together they do add information regarding the "belongingness" which a person feels within his community. Does he believe himself free to move about the area? Does he want to make use of the varied opportunities and services which are often said to be a major part of the charm of the metropolitan area?

TABLE 6
Sense of Personal Security, Residential
Neighborhood, In Percent

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Afraid During Day*</u>		<u>Afraid at Night*</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Downtown	12%	87%	63%	31%
Near North Side	4	95	49	45
East Omaha	0	100	50	50
Kenwood	**	**	**	**
Miller Park	9	91	64	36
Florence-Minnelusa	2	98	17	79
Sherman	**	**	**	**
North Omaha	0	99	22	72
Fontenelle	2	98	50	48
Northwest Omaha	0	99	18	74
Benson	0	100	26	63
Indian Hills-West Dodge	0	100	26	62
West Omaha	0	100	16	78
Fairacres	12	82	35	53
Dundee	2	98	38	60
Midtown	7	93	60	36
Elmwood-Happy Hollow	0	100	27	69
Ak-Sar-Ben	0	100	47	43
South Saddle Creek	0	100	22	69
Dewey Park	3	97	53	33
Field Club-Hanscom Park	0	100	35	65
Near South Side	5	95	28	67
Southwest Omaha	0	100	17	76
South Omaha	1	98	23	72

*Rows will not always total 100% due to rounding effect, and the omission of the "Don't know" category from this table.

**N too small for stable percentages to be generated.

It will probably come as no surprise to learn that our respondents are not much given to the use of public transportation. More than 2/3 said they used the bus services "rarely or never", and only 14% selected "often" as their descriptive category. This low level of use probably accounts for the large "Don't know" response (30%) to the associated question, "Have you ever felt . . . afraid . . . traveling on a bus at night?"

So far as movement into the inner city is concerned, a somewhat different picture emerges from the data. Fully 1/4 of the respondents regularly travel to that area, and another 1/6 (actually, 17%) as much as twice a week. Some of this movement is probably connected with job locations, although, unless we may assume many of our female respondents are employed, the differences in response between males and females to this question is not large.

TABLE 7

Reported Number of Times Traveled to Downtown Area, by Sex of Respondent, In Percent

<u>Times Traveled to Downtown Area</u>	<u>Sex of Respondent</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
3 or more times a week	27%	23%
Once or twice a week	16	19
Once or twice a month	37	38
Not at all this past month	<u>20</u> 100%	<u>20</u> 100%

D. Leisuretime Activities

Urban areas are said to offer their inhabitants, among other things, the advantages of many varieties of recreational and cultural alternatives for leisure hours. One may attend concerts, movies, visit art centers, watch professional sports, engage in participant sports, visit friends or a neighborhood bar, and a host of other things. Many (most?) of these possibilities simply are not options to inhabitants of smaller residential centers. It would seem reasonable to believe that the citizen who has

positive feelings towards his community would also be one given to frequent use of such facilities. His participation would form a rough index of his feelings toward the area.

TABLE 8

Recreational and Related Activities within the Past
Thirty Days, by Neighborhood, In Percent

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Reported Activities</u>				<u>No Answer*</u>
	<u>None</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>More than 7</u>	
Downtown	6%	44%	44%	0%	6%
Near North Side	0	30	47	23	0
East Omaha	0	21	64	14	0
Kenwood	**	**	**	**	**
Miller Park	0	55	36	9	0
Florence-Mimmelusa	0	23	51	26	0
Sherman	**	**	**	**	**
North Omaha	0	28	51	21	**
Fontenelle	0	26	50	22	2
Northwest Omaha	0	27	47	27	1
Benson	0	22	56	21	1
Indian Hills-West Dodge	0	15	47	38	0
West Omaha	0	12	47	41	0
Fairacres	0	29	47	24	0
Dundee	0	23	62	15	0
Midtown	0	17	55	24	5
Elmwood-Happy Hollow	0	23	50	27	0
Ak-Sar-Ben	0	27	47	20	7
South Saddle Creek	0	17	64	19	0
Dewey Park	3	13	67	17	0
Field Club-Hanscom Park	0	12	59	29	0
Near South Side	0	35	42	23	0
Southwest Omaha	0	32	52	16	0
South Omaha	0	29	54	16	1

*Row totals will not always total 100% due to rounding effect.

**N too small for stable percentages to be generated.

Not much support for that inference, however, can be gained from the responses to the present study. The modal respondent (51%) reported participation in between four and six such activities during the past 30 days, not a large total when one considers that upwards of four of these conceivably

could have been church activities, if he is an active church member. Even without this possibility, the total is somewhat less than impressive. A small group (22%) indicated participation in seven or more such activities; but about the same number (25%) reported less than four, in the same time period. Table 8 indicates a somewhat irregular patterning of leisure and related activities. Other than the modal value, already noted, there is no readily apparent patterning. This somewhat unsatisfactory--in the sense of incomplete--finding is probably related to the fact that some of the information originally gained through the questionnaire was not utilized in final coding of responses. As first administered, the responses to this area of investigation provided for the indication of specific activities: Omaha Symphony Concert, professional football game, attended school activity, etc. A decision made during analysis of the questionnaire, however, led to disregarding such particular responses, in favor of a procedure which preserved only the total frequency of such participation. It may be that a secondary analysis of the data, concentrating on type of activity, would reveal some interesting results.

To summarize briefly the report thus far: while Omahans are generally satisfied with their city and neighborhood, such positive orientation is muted by important differences when ethnic background is controlled. In addition, citizens report a substantial degree of concern for personal safety, especially after dark. The amount of concern rises as one moves from the environs toward the city's center. The recreational and leisure patterns of residents can be regarded as moderately active.

E. Knowledge of Illegal Activities

A second major section of the questionnaire was given to investigating the respondent's views of criminal and quasi-criminal activity in Omaha. How much does he know (or suspect) about illegal behaviors? How concerned is he about these? Obviously, if a person sees his community as lawless, his sense of commitment to it will surely be less than wholehearted. Here again, however, it is a moot question as to what constitutes average or above average awareness. The results following certainly bring the question forward.

Most respondents (67%) did not see juvenile delinquency as a major problem for more than 10 of 100 young people.¹ Interestingly, there was some tendency for younger ages to inflate their estimate of delinquency as a possible problem. (See Appendix C, Table 26). In addition, such estimates varied with community area, and were somewhat related to actual fluctuations in such rates.²

Not all juvenile problems which occasionally are labeled as delinquent rate such opprobrium, according to our respondents. Table 10 indicates an interesting variation in degree of seriousness with which certain activities are viewed. Behaviors which directly involve only the individual actor are, in general, viewed much more permissively than those which are seen as

¹Depending on what data forms the base, the actual percentage for the U. S. is perhaps slightly more than 1%. See U. S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1967, Washington, D. C., 1967. Omaha data suggest a figure ranging from 38% to 0.2%, depending on census tract area. cf. Social Problems, Disease and Substandard Housing. Omaha, Nebraska: United Community Services, 1963.

²Ibid. Cp. Table 26, Appendix C, for such rates by census tract.

TABLE 9

Estimates of Juvenile Delinquency, by Sub-Community
In Percent Respondent Replies

Sub-Community	No Answer	Estimated Delinquency			10% or less*
		50%	25-50%	10%	
Downtown	0%	0%	0%	13%	87%
Near North Side	2	8	10	32	49
East Omaha	0	21	14	14	50
Kenwood	**	**	**	**	**
Miller Park	0	0	0	27	73
Florence-Minneapolis	0	2	6	11	81
Sherman	0	0	17	33	50
North Omaha	1	0	5	23	72
Fontenelle	2	2	6	40	50
Northwest Omaha	0	1	6	25	68
Benson	1	3	6	22	68
Indian Hills-West Dodge	0	0	6	12	83
West Omaha	0	1	2	18	79
Fairacres	0	0	0	18	82
Dundee	0	0	4	23	73
Midtown	0	2	2	29	67
Elmwood Happy Hollow	0	0	0	12	88
Ak-Sar-Ben	0	0	7	13	80
South Saddle Creek	0	0	3	28	69
Dewey Park	0	0	0	47	53
Field Club-Hanscom Park	0	0	6	35	59
Near South Side	2	2	7	28	60
Southwest Omaha	3	2	3	20	71
South Omaha	1	3	6	33	57

*Row totals will not always equal 100% due to rounding effect.

**N too small for stable percentages to be generated.

implicating other persons in their consequences; swearing or idiosyncratic dress--personal activities, are viewed more casually than fighting or abusing others. Table 11 again indicates some rather wide variations in community consensus regarding such behaviors, those for example who view teenage drinking as a very serious problem ranging from a high of 67% to a low of 31% of the respondents in our designated sub-communities of Omaha. While community consensus is not a major concern of this investigation, we may note in passing

TABLE 10

Responses Relating to the Gravity of Selected
Juvenile Behaviors, In Percent

<u>Behavior</u>	<u>Estimate of Seriousness</u>				
	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>No Answer*</u>
Staying out late	21%	48%	18%	11%	2%
Using Dope	70	5	8	15	2
Dressing sloppily	8	35	46	8	2
Swearing	14	46	28	10	3
Vandalism or stealing	73	10	9	7	1
Picking on others who are smaller/younger	43	30	15	10	2
Drinking	46	29	12	12	2
Participation in Gangs	32	37	19	10	2
Gang fights	60	15	13	11	2

*Row totals will not always equal 100% due to rounding effect.

that the lack of such agreement helps account for a part of the rise in rates of some delinquent behaviors, formal community norms lagging behind the manifest informal norms.

Although Omahans view teenage swearing as at least somewhat serious, only 28% were willing to indicate the probability that, should they have occasion to observe such behavior, they would take any kind of action. In contrast, more than 89% stated they would do so if they observed vandalism in progress, while 83% had given indication that they viewed such activity as serious. Behavior is, of course, contextual. That is, what a person does is, in part, related to the specific situation in which he is located at the moment: what others are doing, what his options for behavior are, and the like. Specific acts are somewhat problematic when considered in abstraction. It appears likely, however, that citizens of this community are more likely to take some positive action in response to certain kinds of undesirable activity that might be true of other urban communities.

TABLE 11

Responses to Selected Juvenile Behaviors,
by Sub-Community, In Percent

Sub-Community	Behavior and Degree of Seriousness*								
	Using Dope			Vandalism and Stealing			Drinking		
	Very	Somewhat	None	Very	Somewhat	None	Very	Somewhat	None
Downtown	81%	6%	0%	88%	6%	0%	63%	19%	0%
Near North Side	74	8	3	78	13	3	46	37	6
East Omaha	79	14	0	79	14	7	50	36	0
Kenwood	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Miller Park	45	0	18	55	27	9	36	27	18
Florence-Minneapolis	70	0	11	68	13	13	40	28	15
Sherman	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
North Omaha	71	4	16	74	6	15	51	23	13
Fontenelle	70	8	12	76	8	8	44	26	18
Northwest Omaha	68	7	11	68	17	8	47	26	16
Benson	68	3	11	72	4	14	42	26	18
Indian Hills-West Dodge	71	3	12	73	9	15	53	21	12
West Omaha	62	6	12	66	11	14	39	32	12
Fairacres	53	18	6	65	24	0	53	24	6
Dundee	56	8	12	65	12	15	40	31	17
Midtown	60	12	2	70	19	7	45	24	12
Elmwood-Happy Hollow	58	12	4	54	19	12	31	31	19
Ak-Sar-Ben	90	0	0	90	0	3	53	33	3
South Saddle Creek	78	6	3	81	8	8	53	31	8
Dewey Park	73	0	7	77	3	3	47	30	0
Field Club-Hanscom Park	65	6	12	71	12	12	47	35	18
Near South Side	81	0	5	79	9	2	40	42	5
Southwest Omaha	72	5	2	78	6	4	57	23	8
South Omaha	75	4	4	78	1	12	49	26	14

*Row totals will not equal 100% due to omission of certain response categories.

**Cell frequencies too small for stable percentages to be generated.

A rather large number of respondents are "certain" they know of various illegal activities in the city. Tables 12 and 13, detailing the responses for the respondent group as a whole, and by their respective communities, make clear that this knowledge is by no means confined to one or two areas of

TABLE 12

Knowledge of Selected Illegal Activities,
In Percent*

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Certain</u>	<u>Respondents Reply</u>	
		<u>Uncertain</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Numbers (betting)	34%	57%	9%
Numbers (accepting bets)	25	67	12
Using drugs and marijuana	28	62	10
Selling stolen goods	33	58	9
Selling marijuana and drugs	16	72	12
Stealing for a living	22	68	10

*Row totals may not equal 100% due to rounding effect.

the city, but is rather general. This somewhat surprising finding could have several possible meanings. It may be the respondents reflect suspicions rather than immediate knowledge. One may be "certain" of his inferences, yet lack hard data. Alternatively, it may be the responses report conclusions which individuals draw from their mass media information sources, sources which confessedly report as 'news' the more sensational aspects of community life; hence, inflate its seeming occurrence. Whatever the cause, it seems that virtually 1/3 of our respondents are aware of certain serious criminal activities in Omaha, and that this knowledge is rather evenly distributed throughout the city. Does this imply acquiescence? If so, what kind of community does it indicate urban dwellers are willing to settle for? What other implications, in terms of police possibilities and capabilities, might this imply?

TABLE 13

Reported "Certain" Knowledge of Selected Illegal
Activities, by Sub-Community, In Percent

<u>Sub-Community</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Illegal Activity</u>		
		<u>Using Drugs</u>	<u>'Fencing'</u>	<u>Stealing as Livelihood</u>
Downtown	37%	31%	50%	37%
Near North Side	28	43	48	36
East Omaha	36	43	43	36
Kenwood	**	**	**	**
Miller Park	27	27	9	18
Florence-Mimmelusa	34	32	32	23
Sherman	**	**	**	**
North Omaha	43	22	34	28
Fontenelle	34	36	42	34
Northwest Omaha	35	27	32	15
Benson	33	32	29	23
Indian Hills-West Dodge	26	26	24	6
West Omaha	37	24	31	21
Fairacres	24	35	24	41
Dundee	35	33	27	10
Midtown	21	29	33	26
Elmwood-Happy Hollow	27	23	19	12
Ak-Sar-Ben	30	20	27	7
South Saddle Creek	44	39	31	22
Dewey Park	37	23	27	7
Field Club-Hanscom Park	53	24	53	0
Near South Side	30	28	47	36
Southwest Omaha	35	18	37	20
South Omaha	39	23	25	17

**Cell frequencies too small for stable percentages to be generated.

At this point, a second brief summary is in order. In so far as community cohesion is reflected in verbal responses to direct and indirect questions relating to community attractiveness, this study has indicated slightly above average satisfaction. Such a positive response is tempered by the fact that the respondents report uneasiness about their personal safety, and a substantial number also are aware of varieties of illegal activities occurring in their city, about which they express varying degrees of concern and willingness to take action.

F. Attitude Responses

The third, and final, section of the questionnaire approached the matter of social cohesion from still another aspect, that of assessing the person's attitudes. A general definition of attitude may be stated as "a predisposition to act in a certain way." Attitudes are constructs which represent the more stable aspects of personality. They are presumed to be long-term precipitates of experience, involving both cognitive and affective dimensions, and functioning as focuses of classes of behaviors. Hence, attitudes are important determinants of enduring patterns of actions.¹

Attitudes are inferred dimensions of personality. They may be assessed through responses to certain questions. The questions are intuitively assumed to relate to the attitude(s) under study. There are methodological steps available in order to judge the validity of this intuition. Here we simply say that the questions used in the present study had been previously used in similar studies in other areas of the country. In other words, their validity was assumed for the purposes of this study.

An important subset of questions utilized in this part of the questionnaire represented the Srole 'anomia' scale.² In 1951, Leo Srole, an American social psychologist, read a paper before the American Sociological Society in which he hypothesized that 'anomia', a term which he defined as "self to

¹Literature on attitudes, their meanings and measurements, is so voluminous that no attempt will be made to list references. The interested reader could consult, as a beginning, a recent publication: M. Jahoda and N. Warren, eds., Attitudes. Baltimore: Penguin Books, Inc., 1966, a convenient and inexpensive summary of the current state of attitude theory and research.

²Leo Srole, "Social Integration and Certain Corollaries . . .", American Sociological Review, 21, (1956), pp. 709-716.

others alienation", was closely related to discrimination, prejudice and rejection of others in social relationships. Srole distinguished five major dimensions along which 'anomia' could be distinguished, and developed five assessing attitude statements related to these theoretical dimensions. An individual, on the basis of his answers to these questions, could be assigned a relative anomia-eunomia position. Certain other behavioral correlates, among them social cohesion, (Srole calls it 'social integration') could be predicted.¹

In the present study, analysis of the respondent's replies to the Srole questions was done through assigning numerical weights to possible replies. The negative response, "strongly agree" was given a "score" of 4; the opposite response, "strongly disagree", a score of 1. Intervening scores were given accordingly, and the response, "don't know", a score of 0. Individual scores were summed, and a standard deviation and mean computed for each of the sub-communities.

Examination of the entire section of the questionnaire dealing with attitudes produces some interesting insights. (It is reproduced as Appendix B.) Perhaps the most interesting fact of all is the wide variation in response which may be noted. Only 1/5 of the questions produced a majority response in any category; of these, but two approached a 75% agreement in response. These totals could, of course, be modified if the answer categories were dichotomized along the lines of positive/negative responses.

¹For an evaluation of the uses and implications of the Srole scale, see C. R. Miller and E. W. Butler, "Anomia and Eunomia: A Methodological Evaluation of Srole's Anomia Scale," American Sociological Review, 31, (1966), pp. 400-406.

There is, in addition, some importance to be gained in analyzing what sort of questions produced the widest variations in agreement. For example, our respondents were about equally divided on the question of the chances of the poor to improve their life opportunities. They were similarly divided on their sense of ability (or lack of it) to influence political issues, and in their convictions about the poor getting a fair shake in courts of justice. They were not enthusiastic about landlords' willingness to listen to tenants' requests. They were divided on their certainty that the War on Poverty will be a positive help to the poor, and about the willingness of local government to do more than the federal in helping the poor. In other words, what seems to be reflected here in a rather basic and general division of opinion concerning several extremely sensitive areas of politics and power.

The Srole categories support this last conclusion, for, as Table 14 indicates, our sub-communities vary in their responses to the five questions associated with that scale. In some instances, the variance is statistically significant at the 5% level, although, due to the nature of the sample, it was not justifiable from a methodological standpoint to emphasize these computations. There is a tendency for higher scores (which equal lower anomia) to be found as one moves away from the city center, but the correspondence is not exact. Indeed, it would not be expected to be, for alienation is related not merely to residential area, but to quality of life as well.

TABLE 14
Means and Standard Deviations for Srole
Responses, by Sub-Communities

<u>Sub-Community</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>
Downtown	14.7	3.7
Near North Side	13.6	3.3
East Omaha	12.6	4.1
Kenwood	***	***
Miller Park	14.1	3.6
Florence-Minnelusa	15.1	2.9
Sherman	***	***
North Omaha	14.7	2.8
Fontenelle	14.2	3.0
Northwest Omaha	14.4	2.9
Benson	15.2	2.8
Indian Hills-West Dodge	16.2	3.4
West Omaha	15.7	2.7
Fairacres	14.9	3.4
Dundee	16.0	2.7
Midtown	14.4	3.3
Elmwood-Happy Hollow	16.0	2.2
Ak-Sar-Ben	15.0	3.4
South Saddle Creek	14.9	2.0
Dewey Park	14.7	3.1
Field Club-Hanscom Park	13.2	3.3
Near South Side	15.0	3.1
Southwest Omaha	15.0	3.0
South Omaha	14.0	2.7

***Cells too small to generate stable results.

IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A questionnaire relating to social cohesion was administered to 1311 members of certain social and service organizations in the city of Omaha. Analysis of results leads to the conclusion that, while Omahans in general express above median satisfaction with their city and neighborhood, this expression is lessened if one controls for residential area and length of residence. In addition, a rather serious concern for personal safety,

especially after dark, was indicated. In so far as knowledge of such activity is an indicator, there is a substantial amount of illegal activity in Omaha. Finally, respondents reflect a 'mild' degree of alienation, as measured through the Srole index, the highest mean scores being 16.0 with a possible high having been 25.0.

Further analysis indicated partial support for the so-called two culture theory of American society, white and non-white.¹ Emphasis here should be on the word partial, for there was substantial agreement in many areas between these two groups. Of far more importance was the tendency for some indicators of social cohesion to decrease as one moved from the environs of the city towards its center.

Perhaps the most interesting finding was the polarization of opinion which seems to be reflected in the responses. If answers are dichotomized on an agree/disagree polarity, our respondents are typically arranged in equal groups. What this may mean in terms of developing policy in the city is most easily seen when we remember that our type of society ordinarily assumes not polarization of opinions but many shades of opinion blending into a consensus. One would hardly predict an easy consensus from the information derived through this survey.

Let it be stated a final time that this has been a preliminary study. The methodology employed necessitated stating of results in a fashion more tentative than would normally be the case. Another and similar study, with more acceptable controls, would not require such timidity.

¹Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. (New York: Bantam Books, 1968).

There is at present a deplorable lack of hard data concerning almost every social aspect of the Omaha community. We are instead dependent on anecdotes and guesses, on the "reliable source" and the "authoritative spokesman." It is possible to fly a Piper Cub by such seat of the pants methods, but hardly acceptable to attempt this with a Lockheed Electra.

The undeniable advantage which a study such as this brings is that it is representative of the entire city rather than a small number of informants or spokesmen. As such studies accumulate, so will increase our ability to face in a meaningful way the complex but important demands of urban community life.

APPENDIX A

The Sub-Communities of Omaha

Any large metropolitan area is an aggregate of many sub-areas. An important theoretical question in current sociological theory and research is related to this very point: in what sense is a large, complex metropolis a "community"? How meaningful is it to speak of an Omaha community, when its average citizen has few or no contacts with the majority of his fellow citizens in even the most superficial way? Since relationships are built upon personal contacts, how is social organization sustained in the urban-industrial world of today?¹ The direction of contemporary answers to such questions ordinarily is pointed towards certain kinds of dependency relationships, themselves the results of specialist occupational trends.

At any rate, cities are not themselves unitary in any thorough-going sense, but are an assemblage of various sub-communities. But, how are these identified, and how important are they? Without a doubt, current patterns of mobility have made these areas of much less importance than previously. Indeed, our major reason for using them in this study is to be found, not in the realm of urban theory, but that of methodological needs. It always is difficult to select units for presenting data that do not unreasonably distort that data. Even when the categories used are faithful to the intent of the gathering techniques, category size is a persistent problem. If they are too large, important variations may be

¹See, for example, the classic studies of F. Toennies, Community and Association. Translated by C. P. Loomis (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1955), and E. Durkheim, The Division of Labor in Society. Translated by G. Simpson (New York: The Free Press, 1933).

masked; if too small, resulting differences could be reduced to apparent insignificance.

In the present study, use was made of a series of sub-community designations provisionally done by Wayne Wheeler, Director of the Urban Studies Center of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. While a future publication will detail the rationale behind these definitions, in brief, the following factors were among those considered: historical backgrounds of the area--was it originally a separate incorporated area, etc?; present day business designations--do they call themselves by the sub-community name?; postal and public utility indicators--number, prefixes, and zones; and present area designations--names of apartment complexes, recreation facilities, and the like.

The resulting judgment of such communities was conformed to census tract boundaries, because of the useful data already available through those latter categories. Table 1 presents the twenty-four such areas utilized in this study, the census tracts included within them, and the number of respondents who participated in the study. As may be seen, two of the areas produced a respondent total too small for generation of stable percentage accumulations; perhaps four more could be considered borderline cases in this respect.

Finally, it should be noted that nothing is claimed for these area designations, so far as this study is concerned, except their methodological usefulness. One would hope that future studies could help to establish the theoretical and empirical utility of the designations.

TABLE I

Sub-Community Designations, Census Tracts
and Number of Respondents

	<u>Sub-Community Designation</u>	<u>Census Tract(s)</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>	<u>Proportion Total Omaha Population 1960</u>	<u>Proportion of Study Total N.</u>
I.	Downtown	18, 19	16	.0173	.0143
II.	Near North Side	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13A, 13B, 14, 15, 16, 17, 52, 53, 58B	115	.1596	.1028
III.	East Omaha	5, 72	14	.0124	.0125
IV.	Kenwood	6	2*	.0118	.0018
V.	Miller Park	3	11	.0103	.0098
VI.	Florence-Minnelusa	2, 62A, 62B	47	.0365	.0420
VII.	Sherman	4	6*	.0101	.0054
VIII.	North Omaha	61A, 61B, 63	82	.0456	.0733
IX.	Fontenelle	54, 58, 59A, 60	50	.0614	.0447
X.	Northwest Omaha	65, 66	88	.0426	.0786
XI.	Benson	55, 56, 57, 64	95	.0764	.0849
XII.	Indian Hills-West Dodge	67	34	.0136	.0304
XIII.	West Omaha	68, 69	104	.0436	.0929
XIV.	Fairacres	17	17	.0087	.0152
XV.	Dundee	48, 49	52	.0326	.0465
XVI.	Midtown	43, 50, 51	42	.0422	.0375
XVII.	Elmwood-Happy Hollow	45, 46	26	.0172	.0232
XVIII.	Ak-Sar-Ben	36	30	.0178	.0268
XIX.	South Saddle Creek	37, 44	36	.0199	.0322
XX.	Dewey Park	39, 40, 41, 42	30	.0384	.0268
XXI.	Field Club-Hanscom Park	38	17	.0166	.0152
XXII.	Near South Side	20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 33	43	.0700	.0384
XXIII.	Southwest Omaha	34A, 34B, 35, 70, 71	93	.0809	.0831
XXIV.	South Omaha	25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32	69	.1145	.0617
			<u>1119</u>	<u>1.0000</u>	<u>1.0000</u>

*N too small for stable percentages to be generated.

APPENDIX B

The Questionnaire and Resulting
General Totals in Percentages

The following pages present the questionnaire, in the form utilized,
together with percentages of the total responses to each question and
sub-question.

- - - - -

SURVEY #1

Urban Studies Center
Omaha University

N=1311

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ASK FOR YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS ABOUT OMAHA. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR INDIVIDUAL NAME IS NOT REQUESTED IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. THUS, YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT NO IDENTIFICATION OF YOUR PERSONAL ANSWERS WILL BE POSSIBLE. YOU ARE ASKED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION AS YOU THINK WILL BEST INDICATE YOUR OWN OPINION, MARKING YOUR CHOICE WITH AN X IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

1. People living in cities develop certain feelings toward those communities. In general, how do you feel about Omaha as a place to live?

the best place I can think of.	12%
a pretty good place to live.	59
it's all right, I suppose.	16
I really don't care one way or the other.	4
I don't care too much for Omaha at all.	9
no answer	.5

2. How long have you lived in Omaha?

less than one year.	3%
at least one year but less than three years.	5
three to five years.	5
more than five years.	86
no answer	.3

3. How long have you been living in your neighborhood? (By neighborhood, we mean the area within a few blocks of your present home.)

less than one year.	11%
at least one year but less than three years.	13
three to five years.	16
more than five years.	60
no answer	.1

4. In general, what kind of neighborhood would you say you live in?

very good	30%
good	45
fair	22
bad	2
very bad	1
don't know	.4
no answer	0

5. Are you ever afraid to walk around alone in your neighborhood during the daytime?

yes	2%
no	98
don't know	.2
no answer	.4

6. Are you ever afraid to walk around in your neighborhood at night and alone?

yes	30%
no	64
don't know	6
no answer	.4

7. When you go out at night, do you think there are special precautions that a person has to take in order to be safe in Omaha -- such things as driving your car with the doors locked, leaving a light on at home, and the like?

yes	89%
no	9
don't know	2
no answer	.2

8. Some people become afraid when they have to ride on the buses in Omaha while traveling at night. Have you ever felt this way?

yes	26%
no	42
don't know	30
no answer	1

9. How often do you ride the city transportation, that is, on the bus?

often	14%
sometimes	17
rarely or never	69
no answer	.3

10. One of the advantages cities are said to offer their inhabitants is a variety of things to do. (This question was finally coded merely in terms of number.)

no items	.2%
1-3 items	25
4-6 items	51
7 or more items	22
no answer	.8

11. How many times in the last month have you gone to the "down town" business district of Omaha?

many times (three or more times a week)	25%
once or twice a week	17
once or twice this past month	37
not at all this past month	20
no answer	.3

NOW A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE.

12. About how many teenagers out of 100 here in Omaha would you say are delinquents? Just your best guess.

more than 50 out of 100	2%
between 25 and 50 out of 100	5
between 10 and 25 out of 100	25
less than 10 out of 100	67
no answer	1

13. Here are some things that teenagers do in any neighborhood -- like fighting or using bad language. Some people believe that these things are serious and something to worry about, while others feel they are not serious and that it's just part of growing up. How serious do you consider these problems for the young people in your neighborhood?

Teenagers who stay out late at night.

very serious	21%
somewhat serious	48
not serious at all	18
don't know; can't say	11
no answer	2

Teenagers who use dope.

very serious	70%
somewhat serious	5
not serious at all	8
don't know; can't say	15
no answer	2

Teenagers who dress sloppily.

very serious	8%
somewhat serious	35
not serious at all	46
don't know; can't say	8
no answer	2

Teenagers who swear.

very serious	14%
somewhat serious	46
not serious at all	28
don't know; can't say	10
no answer	3

Teenagers who damage or steal other people's things -- like cars.

very serious	73%
somewhat serious	10
not serious at all	9
don't know; can't say	7
no answer	1

Teenagers who pick on little kids.

very serious	43%
somewhat serious	30
not serious at all	15
don't know; can't say	10
no answer	2

Teenagers who drink.

very serious	46%
somewhat serious	29
not serious at all	12
don't know; can't say	12
no answer	2

Teenagers who hang around in gangs.

very serious	32%
somewhat serious	37
not serious at all	19
don't know; can't say	10
no answer	2

Teenagers who get into gang fights.

very serious	60%
somewhat serious	15
not serious at all	13
don't know; can't say	11
no answer	2

IF YOUR AGE IS 25 OR MORE, COMPLETE QUESTIONS 14A AND 14B: THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 16.

IF YOUR AGE IS LESS THAN 25, OMIT QUESTIONS 14A AND 14B AND GO DIRECTLY TO QUESTION 15.

14a. If you saw a teenager in your neighborhood and he was swearing, do you think you would try to do anything about it?

yes	23%
no	37
don't know	12
no answer	28

14b. If you saw a teenager damaging someone else's property, do you think you would do anything about it?

yes	68%
no	1
don't know	3
no answer	28

15A. If you saw a friend in your neighborhood and he was swearing, do you think you would try to do anything about it?

yes	6%
no	16
don't know	4
no answer	75

15B. If you saw a friend damaging someone else's property, do you think you would do anything about it?

yes	21%
no	1
don't know	3
no answer	75

16. Some people say that Omaha has a problem with certain forms of illegal or questionable activities. From your own experience, do you know for certain that there are people in Omaha who: (circle your answer)

Bet on numbers.

certain	34%
not certain	57
no answer	9

Take numbers.

certain	25%
not certain	64
no answer	12

Use marijuana and drugs.

certain	28%
not certain	62
no answer	10

Sell stolen drugs.

certain	33%
not certain	58
no answer	9

Sell marijuana and drugs.

certain	16%
not certain	72
no answer	12

Steal for a living.

certain	22%
not certain	68
no answer	10

17. Here are some things people have said. Will you please indicate (by circling the answer) how much you agree or disagree with each statement.

Poor people have just as good a chance to get ahead as anybody else.

agree strongly	18%
agree somewhat	39
disagree somewhat	29
disagree strongly	17
don't know	1
no answer	.6

Luck is more important than hard work in getting along in life.

agree strongly	3%
agree somewhat	13
disagree somewhat	22
disagree strongly	59
don't know	2
no answer	1

Nowadays a person has to live pretty much for today and let tomorrow take care of itself.

agree strongly	6%
agree somewhat	21
disagree somewhat	25
disagree strongly	46
don't know	1
no answer	1

There's little use in writing to public officials because often they aren't really interested in the problems of the average man.

agree strongly	16%
agree somewhat	28
disagree somewhat	30
disagree strongly	20
don't know	5
no answer	1

A lot of people getting money from welfare don't really deserve it.

agree strongly	41%
agree somewhat	34
disagree somewhat	13
disagree strongly	7
don't know	6
no answer	1

In spite of what some people say, the life of the average man is getting worse.

agree strongly	12%
agree somewhat	24
disagree somewhat	27
disagree strongly	31
don't know	5
no answer	1

People should be grateful for the money they get from welfare agencies.

agree strongly	54%
agree somewhat	27
disagree somewhat	7
disagree strongly	5
don't know	6
no answer	1

My children will have a better life than I.

agree strongly	27%
agree somewhat	34
disagree somewhat	9
disagree strongly	4
don't know	22
no answer	4

A judge in court is just as fair to a poor man as to a rich man.

agree strongly	22%
agree somewhat	25
disagree somewhat	26
disagree strongly	17
don't know	9
no answer	1

It is all right to break an unfair law.

agree strongly	5%
agree somewhat	10
disagree somewhat	20
disagree strongly	58
don't know	5
no answer	2

Most people can be trusted.

agree strongly	22%
agree somewhat	46
disagree somewhat	20
disagree strongly	8
don't know	2
no answer	1

Storekeepers and clerks tell the truth about the things they sell.

agree strongly	4%
agree somewhat	32
disagree somewhat	42
disagree strongly	19
don't know	3
no answer	1

Someone with a personal problem should try to work it out for himself and not bother others with his problems.

agree strongly	11%
agree somewhat	29
disagree somewhat	34
disagree strongly	23
don't know	2
no answer	1

Landlords do as little as they can for their tenants.

agree strongly	13%
agree somewhat	32
disagree somewhat	34
disagree strongly	8
don't know	12
no answer	1

The War on Poverty will do a lot of good for the poor persons.

agree strongly	9%
agree somewhat	34
disagree somewhat	25
disagree strongly	21
don't know	10
no answer	1

When it comes to helping poor people, the city and county do more than the federal government.

agree strongly	9%
agree somewhat	25
disagree somewhat	22
disagree strongly	14
don't know	27
no answer	2

Honesty is the best policy.

agree strongly	77%
agree somewhat	18
disagree somewhat	3
disagree strongly	1
don't know	1
no answer	1

Some children are just born bad, and there is nothing anyone can do about it.

agree strongly	2
agree somewhat	6
disagree somewhat	15
disagree strongly	74
don't know	2
no answer	1

The most important thing a child can learn is to obey.

agree strongly	46%
agree somewhat	28
disagree somewhat	15
disagree strongly	7
don't know	2
no answer	1

Once a child starts getting into trouble there is usually nothing a parent can do about it.

agree strongly	1%
agree somewhat	3
disagree somewhat	17
disagree strongly	77
don't know	1
no answer	1

It's hardly fair to bring children into the world with the way things look for the future.

agree strongly	6%
agree somewhat	13
disagree somewhat	18
disagree strongly	58
don't know	4
no answer	1

An open housing law is hardly likely to help in easing racial tensions.

agree strongly	31%
agree somewhat	23
disagree somewhat	19
disagree strongly	17
don't know	9
no answer	1

It seems pretty clear that science has shown there are three separate races of man at least, White, Yellow and Black.

agree strongly	32%
agree somewhat	24
disagree somewhat	10
disagree strongly	16
don't know	15
no answer	2

These days a person doesn't really know who he can count on.

agree strongly	17%
agree somewhat	34
disagree somewhat	28
disagree strongly	17
don't know	3
no answer	1

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS GATHERED IN ORDER TO ASSIST US IN THE ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR IDENTITY IS NOT REVEALED BY THE ANSWERS ON THESE QUESTIONS. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS WILL BE USED ONLY TO ASSIGN YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE TO A GENERAL COMMUNITY AREA OF OMAHA FOR PURPOSES OF ANALYSIS.

- A. Your home address (block number and street are sufficient; for example, if you live at 2605 Lafayette, this question would be answered: Number 2600, Street Lafayette.)

NUMBER _____ STREET _____

- B. Your age (please indicate category below)

Less than 20	16%
20-29	22
30-39	20
40-49	20
50 and above	23
no answer	.2

C. Sex (circle correct category)

Male	47%
Female	53
No answer	.3

D. Ethnic Group (circle correct category)

White	93%
Negro	6
Indian	.2
Oriental	.2
No answer	1

(Percentages do not always equal 100% due to rounding.)

APPENDIX C

(Selected tables relating to the summary information in the body of the foregoing report.)

Table 1

Years of Residence in Omaha, by Ethnic Group,
in Percent

<u>Years of Residence</u>	<u>Ethnic Group</u>			
	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Indian</u>	<u>Oriental</u>
Less than 1 year	4%	0%	0%	0%
1-3 years	5	6	0	0
3-5 years	5	4	0	0
More than 5 years	86	90	100	100
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100*</u>	<u>100*</u>

*N of these cells is too small for stable percentages to be generated.

Table 2

Years of Residence in Neighborhood, by Ethnic Group,
in Percent.

<u>Years of Residence</u>	<u>Ethnic Group</u>			
	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Indian</u>	<u>Oriental</u>
Less than 1 year	10%	10%	0%	0%
1-3 years	13	15	100	0
3-5 years	16	17	0	0
More than 5 years	61	58	0	100
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100*</u>	<u>100*</u>

*N of these cells is too small for stable percentages to be generated.

Table 3

Respondent's Race By Sub-Community, In Percent

<u>Sub-Community</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Nonwhite</u>	<u>No answer</u>
I	100		0
II	37	59	4
III	100		0
IV	100		0
V	100		0
VI	100		0
VII	100		0
VIII	96	2	1
IX	90	8	2
X	97	2	0
XI	100		0
XII	100		0
XIII	100		0
XIV	100		0
XV	100		0
XVI	93	7	0
XVII	100		0
XVIII	100		0
XIX	100		0
XX	100		0
XXI	100		0
XXII	100		0
XXIII	98		1
XXIV	99	0	0

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 4

Feelings About Omaha by Evaluation
of Neighborhood, in Percent

<u>Kind of Neighborhood</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Best Place</u>	<u>Pretty Good</u>	<u>All Right</u>	<u>Don't Care</u>	<u>Not Much</u>
No answer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very good	17	53	30	20	10	19
Good	17	35	50	42	46	29
Fair	50	10	18	33	38	44
Bad	17	1	1	4	2	4
Very bad	0	0	.3	.5	2	3
Don't know	0	0	.3	.5	2	2

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 5

Feelings About Omaha by Length of
Residence in Omaha, in Percent

<u>Time lived in Omaha</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Best Place</u>	<u>Pretty Good</u>	<u>All Right</u>	<u>Don't Care</u>	<u>Not Much</u>
No answer	0	0	.4	0	2	0
Less than 1 year	0	1	3	5	4	7
Up to 3 years	0	1	4	8	4	10
3-5 years	0	4	5	5	10	9
More than 5 years	100	94	88	82	79	75

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 6

Feelings About Omaha by Length of Residence
in Neighborhood, in Percent

<u>How Long In Neighborhood</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Best Place</u>	<u>Pretty Good</u>	<u>All Right</u>	<u>Don't Care</u>	<u>Not Much</u>
No answer	0	0	.1	0	0	0
Less than 1 year	17	4	10	14	10	14
Up to 3 years	0	12	13	12	17	17
3-5 years	0	15	14	18	27	23
More than 5 years	83	68	63	56	46	46

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 7

Feelings About Omaha by Activities
Attended, in Percent

<u>Activities Attended</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Best Place</u>	<u>Pretty Good</u>	<u>All Right</u>	<u>Don't Care</u>	<u>Not Much</u>
No answer	0	1	1	0	0	1
None	0	0	.3	0	0	1
1-3	33	21	23	26	48	34
4-6	33	55	52	54	40	43
7 or more	33	23	23	20	13	22

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 8

Feelings About Omaha by Reported Anxiety
at Night, in Percent

<u>Afraid at Night</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Best Place</u>	<u>Pretty Good</u>	<u>All Right</u>	<u>Don't Care</u>	<u>Not Much</u>
No answer	0	1	.4	0	0	1
Yes	67	37	28	33	19	32
No	33	59	65	61	77	62
Don't know	0	3	6	6	4	5

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 9

Feelings About Omaha by Precautions
at Night, in Percent

<u>Precautions at Night</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Best Place</u>	<u>Pretty Good</u>	<u>All Right</u>	<u>Don't Care</u>	<u>Not Much</u>
No answer	0	1	.1	0	0	0
Yes	100	94	89	87	77	90
No	0	4	9	10	19	10
Don't know	0	1	2	3	4	1

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 10

Feelings About Omaha by Kind of
Neighborhood, in Percent

<u>Sub-Community</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Very Bad</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
I	0	0	56	19	13	13	
II	0	6	23	57	12	1	1
III	0	21	43	29	0	7	
IV	0	0	0	1			
V	0	0	18	82			
VI	0	23	55	15	4	0	2
VII	0	0	17	83			
VIII	0	21	52	27			
IX	0	8	40	48	4		
X	0	49	41	9	0	1	
XI	0	28	61	11			
XII	0	59	38	3			
XIII	0	59	40	0	1		
XIV	0	59	29	6	6		
XV	0	23	60	17			
XVI	0	12	29	52	2	2	2
XVII	0	23	58	19			
XVIII	0	43	57				
XIX	0	36	53	11			
XX	0	7	60	30	0	0	3
XXI	0	24	76				
XXII	0	26	42	33			
XXIII	0	27	56	15	1	0	1
XXIV	0	22	42	30	3	1	1

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 11

Ethnic Groups in Omaha by
Age, in Percent

<u>Age</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Indian</u>	<u>Oriental</u>
No answer	11	.2	0	0	0
Less than 20	11	16	6	0	0
20-29	33	22	24	0	0
30-39	44	19	24	50	0
40-49	0	20	25	50	50
50 or more	0	23	21	0	50

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 12

Ethnic Groups in Omaha by
Sex, in Percent

<u>Sex</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Indian</u>	<u>Oriental</u>
No answer	11	.3	0	0	0
Males	44	47	32	100	50
Females	44	52	68	0	50

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 13

Reported Anxiety in Neighborhood During the Day,
by Sex of Respondent, in Percent

<u>Afraid During Day in Neighborhood</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
No answer	0	.3	.1
Yes	0	1	2
No	100	99	97
Don't know	0	.2	.3

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 14

Reported Anxiety in Neighborhood at Night,
by Sex of Respondent, in Percent

<u>Afraid at Night in Neighborhood</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
No answer	0	1	0
Yes	25	11	47
No	75	85	45
Don't know	0	3	8

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 15

Necessity of Precaution at Night, by
Sex of Respondent, In Percent

<u>Precautions Taken at Night</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
No answer	0	.3	0
Yes	100	83	94
No	0	13	5
Don't Know	0	3	1

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 16

Reported Anxiety in Neighborhood During Day,
by Age of Respondent, In Percent

<u>Afraid to Walk in Neighborhood (Day)</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>-20</u>	<u>20-29</u>	<u>30-39</u>	<u>40-49</u>	<u>50-59</u>
No answer					.4	.7
Yes		.5	2	.4	1	4
No	100	100	98	99	98	96
Don't Know			.7	.4		

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 17

Reported Anxiety in Neighborhood at Night, by
Age of Respondent, In Percent

Afraid to Walk in Neighborhood (Night)	No Answer	-20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
No answer			.7			1
Yes	67	23	25	25	32	43
No	33	73	69	71	60	51
Don't Know		4	6	5	8	5

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 18

Necessity of Precaution at Night, by
Age of Respondent, In Percent

Precautions at Night	No Answer	-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50+
No answer						.7
Yes	67	83	85	89	92	94
No	33	13	12	8	6	5
Don't Know		4	3	3	1	.3

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 19
Special Precautions by Sub-Community,
In Percent

<u>Sub-Community</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
I	0	100		
II	0	90	7	3
III	0	79	21	
IV	0	100		
V	0	91	9	
VI	0	96	4	
VII	0	100		
VIII	0	89	7	4
IX	0	94	4	2
X	0	91	8	1
XI	0	88	8	3
XII	0	91	9	
XIII	0	86	11	4
XIV	6	83	12	
XV	0	77	23	
XVI	0	90	10	
XVII	0	85	15	
XVIII	0	100		
XIX	0	86	8	6
XX	0	97	3	
XXI	0	82	18	
XXII	0	81	16	2
XXIII	0	92	4	3
XXIV	1	77	17	4

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 20

Use of Public Transportation Facilities,
by Age of Respondent, In Percent

<u>Ride Bus How Often</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>-20</u>	<u>20-29</u>	<u>30-39</u>	<u>40-49</u>	<u>50-59</u>
No Answer				.4		1
Often	33	20	11	5	14	20
Sometimes		20	11	15	18	23
Rarely/Never	67	61	78	80	68	56

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 21

Use of Public Transportation, by
Ethnic Group, In Percent

<u>Ride Bus How Often</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Indian</u>	<u>Oriental</u>
No answer	0	.3	0	0	0
Often	33	13	23	0	0
Sometimes	33	16	29	0	0
Rarely/Never	33	70	49	100	100

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 22

Travel to Downtown Omaha Area, by Sub-Community
of Residence, In Raw Scores

<u>Sub-Community</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>3 or more times</u>	<u>1-2 a week</u>	<u>1-2 a month</u>	<u>None</u>
I	0	8	2	2	4
II	1	42	23	38	11
III	0	3	2	6	3
IV	0	0	2		
V	0	4	1	4	2
VI	0	8	9	22	8
VII	0	3	1	0	2
VIII	0	24	10	31	17
IX	1	11	11	19	8
X	0	18	7	36	27
XI	0	23	17	31	24
XII	0	4	6	15	9
XIII	0	21	22	44	17
XIV	0	9	4	2	2
XV	0	14	10	24	4
XVI	1	13	12	12	4
XVII	0	6	6	6	8
XVIII	0	7	4	12	7
XIX	0	10	6	15	5
XX	0	14	7	8	1
XXI	0	4	3	8	2
XXII	0	15	7	16	5
XXIII	0	9	13	48	23
XXIV	0	17	9	24	19

Table 25

Recreation Participation, by Sub-Community
of Residence, In Percent

<u>Sub-Community</u>	<u>No Answer</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>	<u>7+</u>
I	6	6	44	44	
II	0	0	30	47	23
III	0	0	21	64	14
IV	0	0	50	50	
V	0	0	55	36	9
VI	0	0	23	51	26
VII	0	0	50	33	17
VIII	0	0	28	51	21
IX	2	0	27	50	22
X	1	0	27	47	25
XI	1	0	22	56	21
XII	0	0	15	47	38
XIII	0	0	12	47	41
XIV	0	0	29	47	24
XV	0	0	23	62	15
XVI	5	0	17	55	24
XVII	0	0	23	50	27
XVIII	7	0	27	47	20
XIX	0	0	17	64	19
XX	0	3	13	67	17
XXI	0	0	12	59	30
XXII	0	0	35	42	23
XXIII	0	0	32	52	16
XXIV	1	0	29	54	16

Row totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

