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## Perceptions of Crime and Safety in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska

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Vogt, Rebecca; Burkhart-Kriesel, Cheryl A.; Cantrell, Randolph; and Lubben, Bradley, "Perceptions of Crime and Safety in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska" (2014). *Publications from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI)*. 99.  
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# NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

## A Research Report

### **Perceptions of Crime and Safety in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska**

*2014 Nebraska Rural Poll Results*

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Nebraska Rural Poll Research Report 14-2, September 2014.

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All of the research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on the Center's World Wide Web page at <http://ruralpoll.unl.edu>

Funding for this project was provided by the Cooperative Extension Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Research Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Department of Agricultural Economics. Additionally, considerable in-kind support and contributions were provided by a number of individuals and organizations associated with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska and the University of Nebraska Rural Futures Institute.

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# Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

## Introduction

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

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

### *Methodology and Respondent Profile*

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

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

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

A 29% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

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

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



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

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

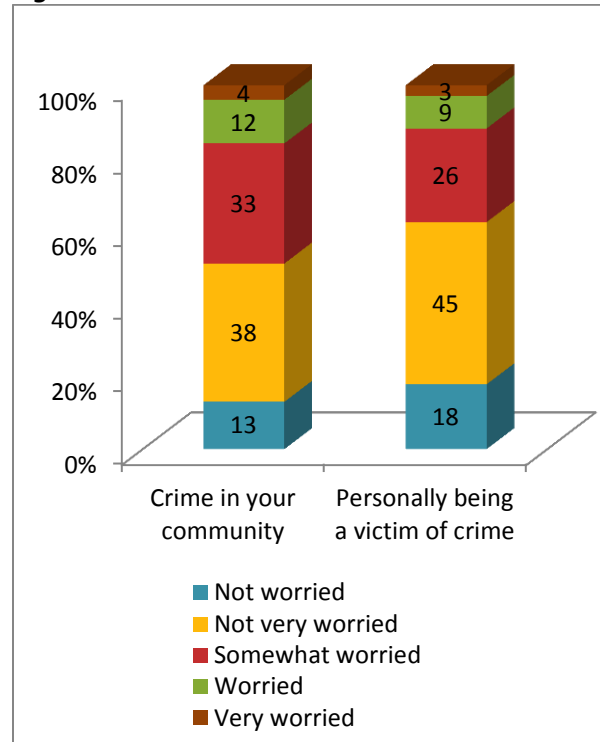
Thirty-four percent of the respondents report their 2013 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Fifty-four percent report incomes over \$50,000.

Sixty-nine percent were employed in 2013 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-one percent are retired. Thirty-nine percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Twelve percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

## Personal Safety

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

**Figure 1. Worries About Crime**

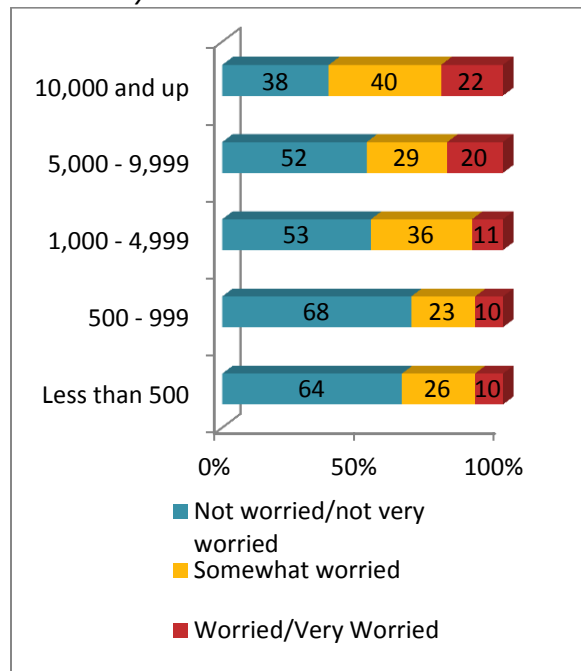


crime in their community and 12 percent are very worried or worried about personally being a victim of crime.

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

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

**Figure 2. Worried about Crime in Community by Community Size**



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

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

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

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

To further assess how safe rural Nebraskans feel in their community, they were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with various statements (Table 1). Most rural Nebraskans (68%) believe that the threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas. However, only 40 percent of rural Nebraskans believe more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer. Trust also runs high in rural areas as two-thirds (66%) of rural Nebraskans say that when they are away from home, they count on their neighbors to watch their property.

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

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

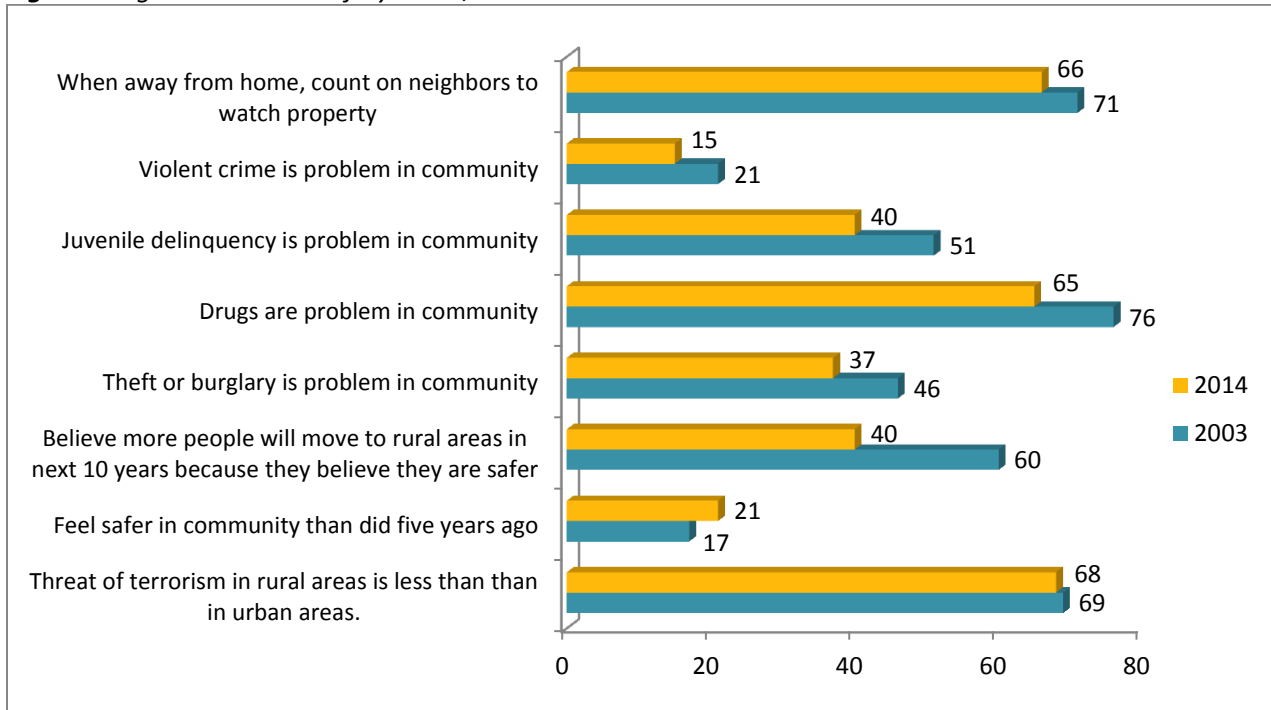
|   | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Don't Know | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|-------------------|----------|------------|-------|----------------|
| The threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas.  | 4%                | 11%      | 18%        | 49%   | 19%            |
| I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

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

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

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

**Figure 3. Agreement with Safety Items, 2003 and 2014**



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

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

Other groups most likely to believe that the threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas include: persons with higher household incomes, persons under the age of

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

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999 are more likely than the persons living in or near communities of different sizes to agree that they feel safer in their community today than they did five years ago. One-quarter (25%) of the persons living in or near these mid-sized communities agree with that statement. However, only 18 percent of the persons living in or near communities with more than 10,000 persons share this opinion.

Other groups more likely to feel safer in their community today than they did five years ago include: residents of the North Central region, persons over the age of 30, both persons with the highest and lowest educational levels, persons without children in their household, and newcomers to the community.

Agreement with the statement, “I believe more people will move to rural areas in the next 10 years because they believe rural areas are safer” differed by every characteristic examined, except gender and community size.

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

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

Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than the persons living in or near smaller communities to believe that theft or burglary is a problem in their community. Almost one-half (49%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree that theft is a problem in their community. However, only 22 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 share this opinion.

Regional differences are also detected. Persons living in both the North Central and Northeast regions are *less* likely than persons living in other regions of the state to agree that theft is a problem in their community.

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

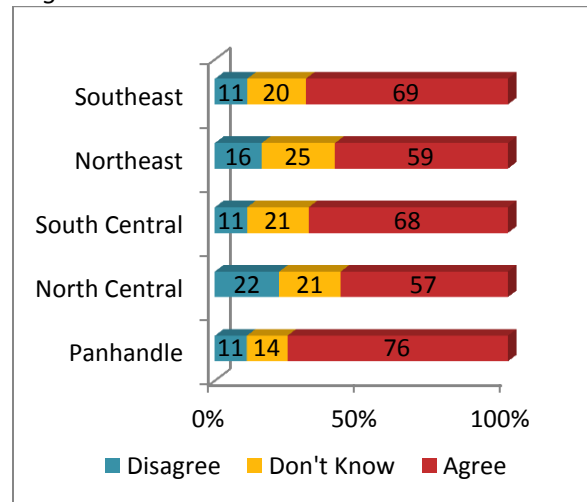
persons, persons with lower education levels and persons who have lived in their community for five years or more.

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

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

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

**Figure 4. Drugs are a Problem in Community by Region**



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

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

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

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

Some groups are more likely than others to agree that violent crime is a problem in their community. Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near the smallest communities to view this as a problem. Just over one-quarter (26%) of persons living in or near the communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree that violent crime is a problem in their community, compared to only six percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people.

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

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

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

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

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

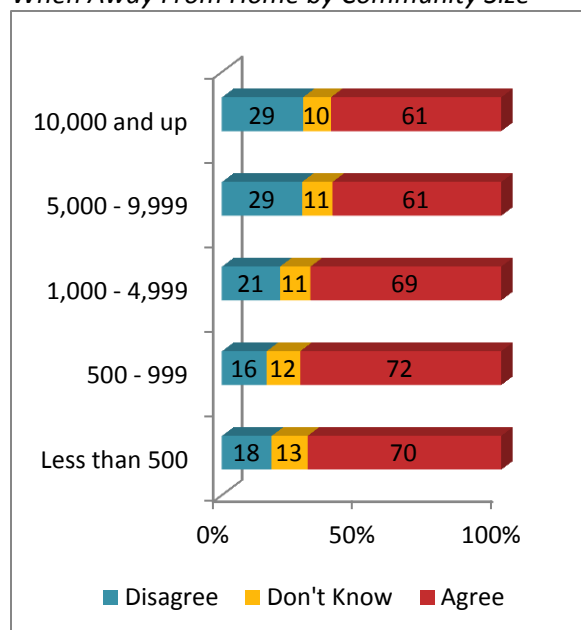
The last statement in this section asked respondents if they count on their neighbors to

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

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

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

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

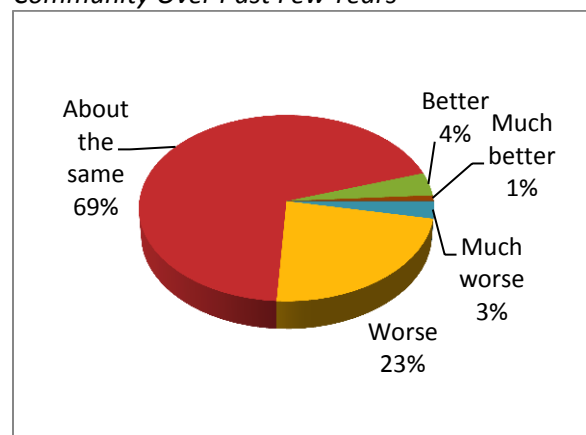


persons with higher household incomes, older respondents, males, persons without children in their household, and persons who have lived in their community for more than five years.

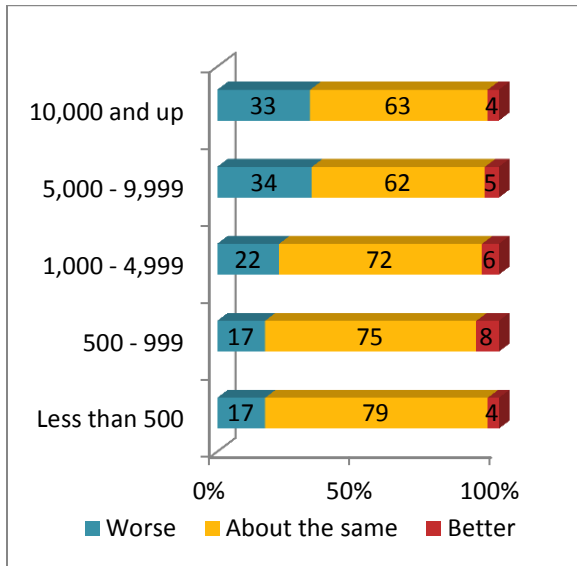
Next, respondents were asked how the crime situation in their community has changed in the past few years. Most rural Nebraskans believe the crime situation in their community has remained about the same during the past few years. Almost seven in ten rural Nebraskans (69%) believe the situation has remained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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

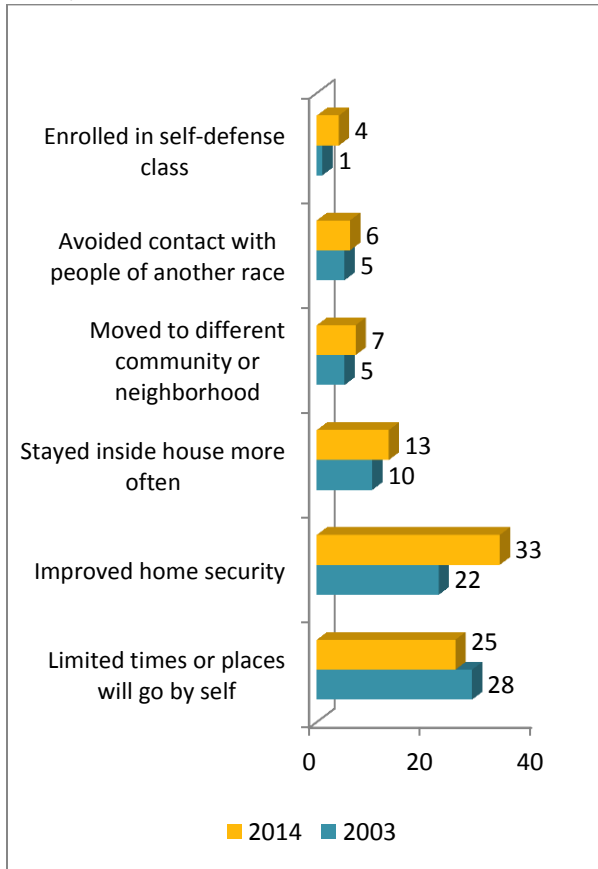
This question was also asked in 2003. Although most of these items haven’t changed much over those 11 years, the proportion of rural Nebraskans who improved their home security because they were concerned about crime increased from 22 percent in 2003 to 33 percent this year.

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

Some groups are more likely than others to have made several of these changes (Appendix Table 5). Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than the persons living in or near the smaller communities to have done the following: limited the times or places they will go by themselves, improved their home security, stayed inside their house more often, moved to a different community or



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

protection and to have left residence lights on at night.

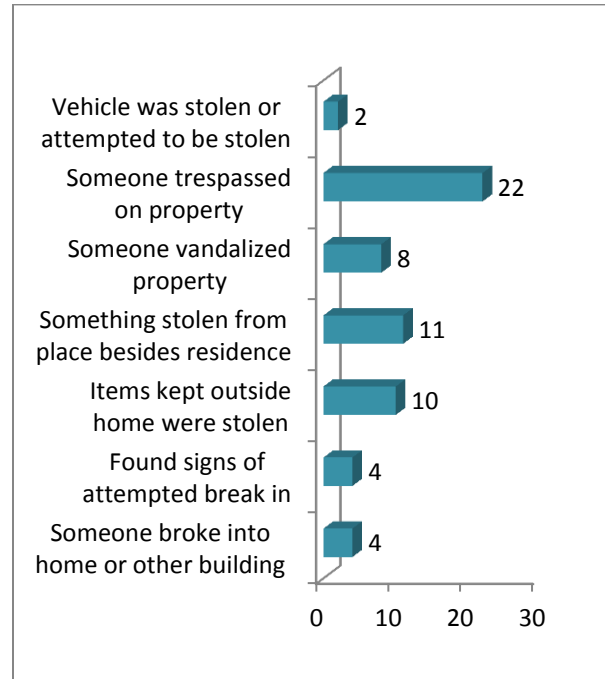
When comparing responses by education, the persons with less education are more likely than persons with more education to have done the following: limited the times or places they will go by themselves, improved their home security and stayed inside their house more often. The persons with some college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

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

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

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

**Figure 9. Experience with Crime During Past Six Months**



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

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

near communities with populations less than 500.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Conclusion

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

Trust also remains high in the rural areas. Most rural Nebraskans say they count on their neighbors to watch their property while they are away. This is especially true in smaller communities.

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

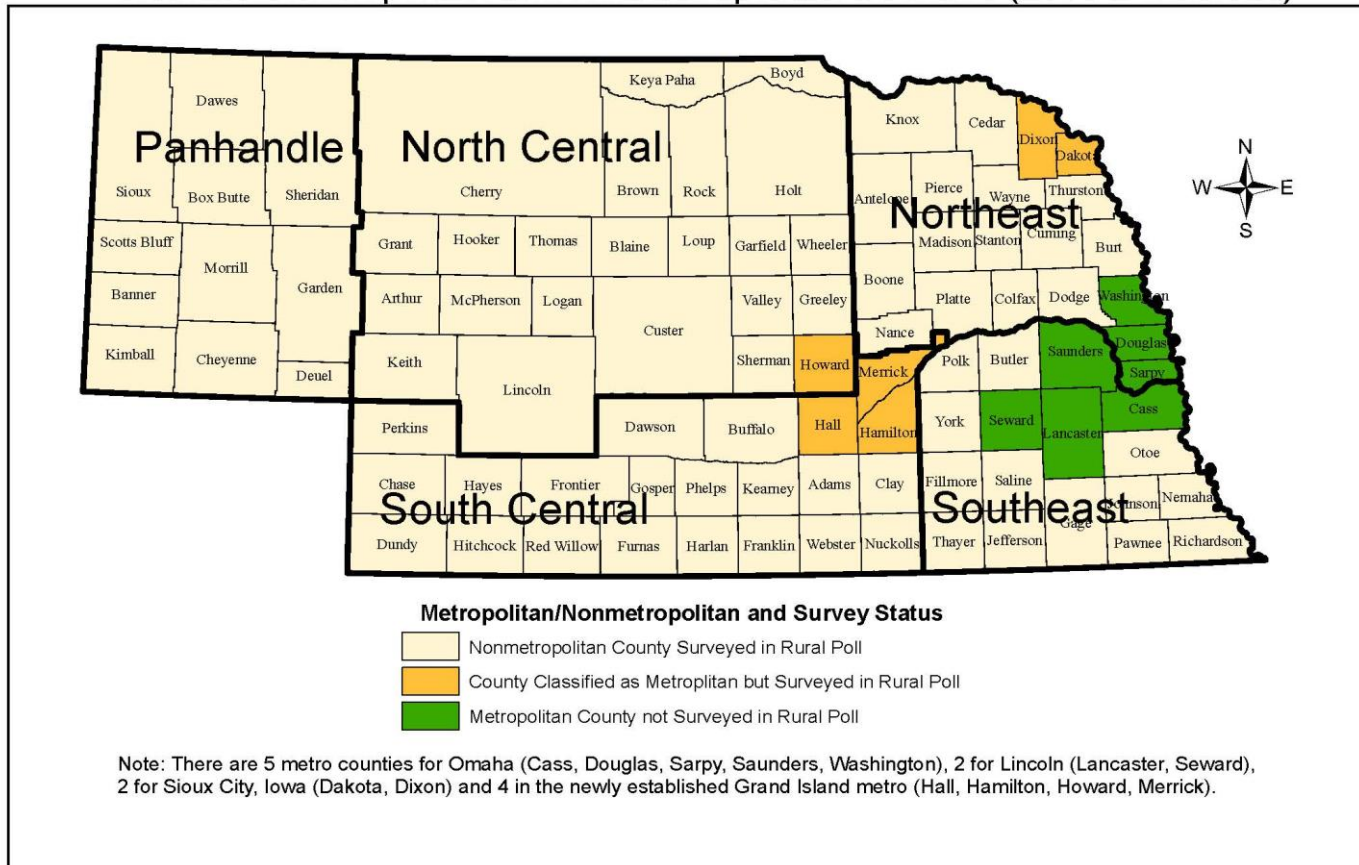
Most rural Nebraskans believe the crime situation in their community has remained about the same during the past few years. Very few feel it has changed for the better and just over one-quarter believe it has changed for the worse. And, few rural Nebraskans have experienced various crimes during the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

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

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

**Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska**

**Nebraska Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties (2013 Definitions)**



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13

Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

**Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents<sup>1</sup> Compared to 2010 Census and 2008 – 2012 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska\***

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

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 2008-2012 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix Table 2 continued.

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

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



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

|                               | <i>The threat of terrorism in rural areas is less than that in urban areas.</i> |                   |              |                     | <i>I feel safer in my community today than I did five years ago.</i> |                   |              |                     |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                               | <i>Disagree</i>   | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Significance</i> | <i>Disagree</i>  | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Significance</i> |
| <b>Total</b>                  | 15  | 18                | 68           |                     | 38   | 41                | 21           |                     |
|                               | <i>Percentages</i>  |                   |              |                     |  |                   |              |                     |
| <b>Community Size</b>         | (n = 1788)  |                   |              |                     | (n = 1795)   |                   |              |                     |
| Less than 500                 | 12  | 16                | 72           |                     | 37   | 42                | 21           |                     |
| 500 - 999                     | 9   | 18                | 73           |                     | 34   | 43                | 22           |                     |
| 1,000 - 4,999                 | 13  | 13                | 74           |                     | 32   | 43                | 25           |                     |
| 5,000 - 9,999                 | 16  | 21                | 63           | $\chi^2 = 30.90^*$  | 38   | 41                | 22           | $\chi^2 = 19.14^*$  |
| 10,000 and up                 | 19  | 19                | 62           | (.000)              | 44   | 38                | 18           | (.014)              |
| <b>Region</b>                 | (n = 1850)  |                   |              |                     | (n = 1850)   |                   |              |                     |
| Panhandle                     | 16  | 18                | 66           |                     | 42   | 37                | 21           |                     |
| North Central                 | 17  | 17                | 66           |                     | 33   | 42                | 25           |                     |
| South Central                 | 14  | 20                | 66           |                     | 38   | 41                | 21           |                     |
| Northeast                     | 12  | 18                | 71           | $\chi^2 = 8.82$     | 34   | 45                | 21           | $\chi^2 = 15.54^*$  |
| Southeast                     | 17  | 15                | 68           | (.358)              | 44   | 39                | 17           | (.049)              |
| <b>Individual Attributes:</b> |   |                   |              |                     |  |                   |              |                     |
| <b>Income Level</b>           | (n = 1699)  |                   |              |                     | (n = 1701)   |                   |              |                     |
| Under \$20,000                | 18  | 27                | 55           |                     | 36   | 42                | 22           |                     |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999           | 14  | 25                | 60           |                     | 36   | 44                | 20           |                     |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999           | 15  | 18                | 67           | $\chi^2 = 83.66^*$  | 40   | 41                | 19           | $\chi^2 = 5.11$     |
| \$60,000 and over             | 12  | 9                 | 79           | (.000)              | 37   | 40                | 23           | (.529)              |
| <b>Age</b>                    | (n = 1855)  |                   |              |                     | (n = 1859)   |                   |              |                     |
| 19 - 29                       | 13  | 18                | 70           |                     | 27   | 56                | 18           |                     |
| 30 - 39                       | 11  | 16                | 73           |                     | 31   | 45                | 24           |                     |
| 40 - 49                       | 16  | 14                | 70           |                     | 36   | 42                | 22           |                     |
| 50 - 64                       | 16  | 16                | 68           | $\chi^2 = 22.80^*$  | 49   | 32                | 20           | $\chi^2 = 62.92^*$  |
| 65 and older                  | 16  | 24                | 60           | (.004)              | 38   | 39                | 23           | (.000)              |
| <b>Gender</b>                 | (n = 1816)  |                   |              |                     | (n = 1820)   |                   |              |                     |
| Male                          | 13  | 14                | 73           | $\chi^2 = 19.77^*$  | 36   | 42                | 22           | $\chi^2 = 2.28$     |
| Female                        | 16  | 20                | 64           | (.000)              | 40   | 40                | 21           | (.320)              |
| <b>Education</b>              | (n = 1799)  |                   |              |                     | (n = 1804)   |                   |              |                     |
| H.S. diploma or less          | 16  | 31                | 53           |                     | 38   | 38                | 25           |                     |
| Some college                  | 16  | 18                | 66           | $\chi^2 = 95.63^*$  | 42   | 41                | 17           | $\chi^2 = 16.52^*$  |
| Bachelors or grad degree      | 12  | 9                 | 78           | (.000)              | 34   | 43                | 23           | (.002)              |
| <b>Children in Household</b>  | (n = 1488)  |                   |              |                     | (n = 1491)   |                   |              |                     |
| No children in hh             | 17  | 16                | 68           | $\chi^2 = 3.61$     | 42   | 36                | 23           | $\chi^2 = 25.84^*$  |
| Children in household         | 14  | 19                | 68           | (.164)              | 33   | 49                | 19           | (.000)              |
| <b>Yrs Lived in Community</b> | (n = 1646)  |                   |              |                     | (n = 1649)   |                   |              |                     |
| Five years or less            | 8   | 17                | 75           | $\chi^2 = 12.82^*$  | 23   | 41                | 36           | $\chi^2 = 52.52^*$  |
| More than five years          | 16  | 17                | 67           | (.002)              | 41   | 41                | 18           | (.000)              |

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

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

|                               | <i>I believe more people will move to rural areas from urban areas in the next ten years because they believe rural areas are safer.</i> |                   |              | <i>Significance</i> | <i>Theft or burglary is a problem in my community.</i> |                   |              | <i>Significance</i> |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                               | <i>Disagree</i>  | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> |                     | <i>Disagree</i>  | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> |                     |
|                               | <i>Percentages</i>   |                   |              |                     |  |                   |              |                     |
| <b>Total</b>                  | 27   | 33                | 40           |                     | 41   | 22                | 37           |                     |
| <b>Community Size</b>         | (n = 1792)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1781)   |                   |              |                     |
| Less than 500                 | 23   | 33                | 44           |                     | 55   | 20                | 26           |                     |
| 500 - 999                     | 30   | 30                | 40           |                     | 59   | 20                | 22           |                     |
| 1,000 - 4,999                 | 24   | 34                | 42           |                     | 44   | 25                | 32           |                     |
| 5,000 - 9,999                 | 34   | 30                | 36           | $\chi^2 = 13.17$    | 33   | 24                | 43           | $\chi^2 = 106.85^*$ |
| 10,000 and up                 | 29   | 34                | 37           | (.106)              | 30   | 21                | 49           | (.000)              |
| <b>Region</b>                 | (n = 1853)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1844)   |                   |              |                     |
| Panhandle                     | 26   | 28                | 47           |                     | 37   | 20                | 43           |                     |
| North Central                 | 30   | 33                | 37           |                     | 55   | 20                | 25           |                     |
| South Central                 | 30   | 30                | 40           |                     | 34   | 23                | 43           |                     |
| Northeast                     | 22   | 38                | 40           | $\chi^2 = 19.69^*$  | 44   | 25                | 32           | $\chi^2 = 48.85^*$  |
| Southeast                     | 27   | 35                | 38           | (.012)              | 37   | 22                | 40           | (.000)              |
| <b>Individual Attributes:</b> |  |                   |              |                     |  |                   |              |                     |
| <b>Income Level</b>           | (n = 1700)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1692)   |                   |              |                     |
| Under \$20,000                | 24   | 36                | 39           |                     | 41   | 24                | 35           |                     |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999           | 19   | 38                | 44           |                     | 41   | 23                | 37           |                     |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999           | 26   | 33                | 41           | $\chi^2 = 32.69^*$  | 38   | 22                | 40           | $\chi^2 = 5.13$     |
| \$60,000 and over             | 34   | 29                | 37           | (.000)              | 44   | 21                | 35           | (.527)              |
| <b>Age</b>                    | (n = 1858)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1851)   |                   |              |                     |
| 19 - 29                       | 35   | 37                | 29           |                     | 45   | 29                | 27           |                     |
| 30 - 39                       | 37   | 27                | 37           |                     | 53   | 17                | 29           |                     |
| 40 - 49                       | 28   | 34                | 38           |                     | 40   | 22                | 38           |                     |
| 50 - 64                       | 24   | 32                | 44           | $\chi^2 = 56.20^*$  | 36   | 20                | 44           | $\chi^2 = 48.48^*$  |
| 65 and older                  | 17   | 36                | 47           | (.000)              | 36   | 24                | 40           | (.000)              |
| <b>Gender</b>                 | (n = 1817)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1808)   |                   |              |                     |
| Male                          | 28   | 30                | 41           | $\chi^2 = 3.87$     | 41   | 23                | 36           | $\chi^2 = 1.28$     |
| Female                        | 26   | 35                | 39           | (.144)              | 41   | 21                | 38           | (.526)              |
| <b>Education</b>              | (n = 1805)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1795)   |                   |              |                     |
| H.S. diploma or less          | 17   | 37                | 46           |                     | 39   | 22                | 39           |                     |
| Some college                  | 22   | 36                | 42           | $\chi^2 = 74.08^*$  | 38   | 24                | 39           | $\chi^2 = 10.75^*$  |
| Bachelors or grad degree      | 38   | 28                | 34           | (.000)              | 46   | 20                | 34           | (.029)              |
| <b>Children in Household</b>  | (n = 1491)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1484)   |                   |              |                     |
| No children in hh             | 25   | 32                | 43           | $\chi^2 = 11.72^*$  | 41   | 21                | 38           | $\chi^2 = 3.92$     |
| Children in household         | 31   | 34                | 35           | (.003)              | 42   | 24                | 34           | (.141)              |
| <b>Yrs Lived in Community</b> | (n = 1647)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1641)   |                   |              |                     |
| Five years or less            | 44   | 25                | 31           | $\chi^2 = 42.95^*$  | 52   | 24                | 24           | $\chi^2 = 26.79^*$  |
| More than five years          | 24   | 34                | 42           | (.000)              | 38   | 22                | 40           | (.000)              |

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

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

|                               | <i>Drugs are a problem in my community.</i> |                   |              |                     | <i>Juvenile delinquency is a problem in my community.</i> |                   |              |                     |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                               | <i>Disagree</i>                             | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Significance</i> | <i>Disagree</i>   | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Significance</i> |
| <b>Total</b>                  | 14  | 21                | 65           |                     | 26  | 35                | 40           |                     |
|                               | <i>Percentages</i>                          |                   |              |                     |   |                   |              |                     |
| <b>Community Size</b>         |   | (n = 1793)        |              |                     |   | (n = 1782)        |              |                     |
| Less than 500                 | 31  | 27                | 42           |                     | 48  | 32                | 20           |                     |
| 500 - 999                     | 28  | 28                | 44           |                     | 42  | 37                | 21           |                     |
| 1,000 - 4,999                 | 9   | 24                | 67           |                     | 25  | 39                | 36           |                     |
| 5,000 - 9,999                 | 9   | 15                | 76           | $\chi^2 = 218.13^*$ | 18  | 37                | 46           | $\chi^2 = 223.25^*$ |
| 10,000 and up                 | 7   | 15                | 79           | (.000)              | 12  | 31                | 56           | (.000)              |
| <b>Region</b>                 |   | (n = 1853)        |              |                     |   | (n = 1843)        |              |                     |
| Panhandle                     | 11  | 14                | 76           |                     | 18  | 30                | 53           |                     |
| North Central                 | 22  | 21                | 57           |                     | 36  | 37                | 27           |                     |
| South Central                 | 11  | 21                | 68           |                     | 21  | 34                | 46           |                     |
| Northeast                     | 16  | 25                | 59           | $\chi^2 = 44.07^*$  | 27  | 37                | 36           | $\chi^2 = 52.85^*$  |
| Southeast                     | 11  | 20                | 69           | (.000)              | 29  | 33                | 38           | (.000)              |
| <b>Individual Attributes:</b> |   |                   |              |                     |   |                   |              |                     |
| <b>Income Level</b>           |   | (n = 1702)        |              |                     |   | (n = 1693)        |              |                     |
| Under \$20,000                | 20  | 27                | 53           |                     | 27  | 40                | 34           |                     |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999           | 16  | 23                | 61           |                     | 25  | 35                | 40           |                     |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999           | 14  | 18                | 68           | $\chi^2 = 27.64^*$  | 22  | 32                | 46           | $\chi^2 = 11.33$    |
| \$60,000 and over             | 11  | 18                | 71           | (.000)              | 28  | 32                | 40           | (.079)              |
| <b>Age</b>                    |   | (n = 1860)        |              |                     |   | (n = 1850)        |              |                     |
| 19 - 29                       | 21  | 22                | 57           |                     | 29  | 39                | 32           |                     |
| 30 - 39                       | 19  | 24                | 57           |                     | 24  | 32                | 44           |                     |
| 40 - 49                       | 11  | 21                | 68           |                     | 31  | 33                | 37           |                     |
| 50 - 64                       | 12  | 16                | 72           | $\chi^2 = 38.05^*$  | 23  | 32                | 45           | $\chi^2 = 24.00^*$  |
| 65 and older                  | 11  | 24                | 66           | (.000)              | 23  | 39                | 38           | (.002)              |
| <b>Gender</b>                 |   | (n = 1818)        |              |                     |   | (n = 1809)        |              |                     |
| Male                          | 14  | 22                | 64           | $\chi^2 = 2.05$     | 23  | 38                | 38           | $\chi^2 = 8.75^*$   |
| Female                        | 14  | 19                | 67           | (.358)              | 27  | 32                | 41           | (.013)              |
| <b>Education</b>              |   | (n = 1804)        |              |                     |   | (n = 1794)        |              |                     |
| H.S. diploma or less          | 16  | 23                | 62           |                     | 22  | 42                | 36           |                     |
| Some college                  | 14  | 21                | 65           | $\chi^2 = 5.72$     | 27  | 30                | 43           | $\chi^2 = 15.93^*$  |
| Bachelors or grad degree      | 13  | 19                | 68           | (.221)              | 26  | 35                | 40           | (.003)              |
| <b>Children in Household</b>  |   | (n = 1492)        |              |                     |   | (n = 1482)        |              |                     |
| No children in hh             | 13  | 21                | 67           | $\chi^2 = 3.36$     | 25  | 34                | 41           | $\chi^2 = 3.58$     |
| Children in household         | 16  | 22                | 63           | (.186)              | 29  | 34                | 37           | (.167)              |
| <b>Yrs Lived in Community</b> |   | (n = 1648)        |              |                     |   | (n = 1640)        |              |                     |
| Five years or less            | 19  | 26                | 55           | $\chi^2 = 19.05^*$  | 28  | 33                | 38           | $\chi^2 = 1.19$     |
| More than five years          | 13  | 19                | 69           | (.000)              | 25  | 33                | 41           | (.553)              |

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

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

|                               | <i>Violent crime is a problem in my community.</i> |                   |              |                     | <i>Gang activity is a problem in my community.</i> |                   |              |                     |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                               | <i>Disagree</i>                                    | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Significance</i> | <i>Disagree</i>                                    | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Significance</i> |
|                               | <i>Percentages</i>                                 |                   |              |                     |  |                   |              |                     |
| <b>Total</b>                  | 63   | 22                | 15           |                     | 63   | 25                | 13           |                     |
| <b>Community Size</b>         | (n = 1792)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1786)   |                   |              |                     |
| Less than 500                 | 77   | 17                | 6            |                     | 82   | 15                | 3            |                     |
| 500 - 999                     | 80   | 15                | 5            |                     | 84   | 14                | 2            |                     |
| 1,000 - 4,999                 | 72   | 19                | 8            |                     | 77   | 20                | 3            |                     |
| 5,000 - 9,999                 | 60   | 21                | 19           | $\chi^2 = 172.62^*$ | 58   | 29                | 13           | $\chi^2 = 357.85^*$ |
| 10,000 and up                 | 46   | 28                | 26           | (.000)              | 37   | 35                | 28           | (.000)              |
| <b>Region</b>                 | (n = 1854)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1846)   |                   |              |                     |
| Panhandle                     | 57   | 21                | 23           |                     | 56   | 33                | 12           |                     |
| North Central                 | 71   | 17                | 12           |                     | 75   | 21                | 4            |                     |
| South Central                 | 61   | 24                | 16           |                     | 58   | 24                | 18           |                     |
| Northeast                     | 63   | 22                | 15           | $\chi^2 = 20.36^*$  | 58   | 25                | 17           | $\chi^2 = 82.31^*$  |
| Southeast                     | 66   | 22                | 11           | (.009)              | 74   | 23                | 4            | (.000)              |
| <b>Individual Attributes:</b> |  |                   |              |                     |  |                   |              |                     |
| <b>Income Level</b>           | (n = 1702)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1697)   |                   |              |                     |
| Under \$20,000                | 58   | 27                | 16           |                     | 58   | 31                | 11           |                     |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999           | 60   | 22                | 19           |                     | 65   | 22                | 13           |                     |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999           | 60   | 25                | 15           | $\chi^2 = 25.71^*$  | 62   | 27                | 12           | $\chi^2 = 10.80$    |
| \$60,000 and over             | 70   | 16                | 14           | (.000)              | 66   | 21                | 13           | (.095)              |
| <b>Age</b>                    | (n = 1857)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1853)   |                   |              |                     |
| 19 - 29                       | 65   | 25                | 9            |                     | 71   | 24                | 5            |                     |
| 30 - 39                       | 77   | 11                | 13           |                     | 78   | 16                | 6            |                     |
| 40 - 49                       | 67   | 22                | 11           |                     | 66   | 22                | 12           |                     |
| 50 - 64                       | 61   | 21                | 18           | $\chi^2 = 58.35^*$  | 57   | 25                | 18           | $\chi^2 = 85.52^*$  |
| 65 and older                  | 53   | 27                | 20           | (.000)              | 51   | 32                | 17           | (.000)              |
| <b>Gender</b>                 | (n = 1817)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1813)   |                   |              |                     |
| Male                          | 63   | 21                | 16           | $\chi^2 = 1.71$     | 62   | 26                | 13           | $\chi^2 = 1.75$     |
| Female                        | 64   | 22                | 14           | (.426)              | 64   | 23                | 13           | (.417)              |
| <b>Education</b>              | (n = 1805)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1799)   |                   |              |                     |
| H.S. diploma or less          | 52   | 26                | 22           |                     | 54   | 31                | 16           |                     |
| Some college                  | 59   | 26                | 15           | $\chi^2 = 65.35^*$  | 63   | 26                | 11           | $\chi^2 = 26.98^*$  |
| Bachelors or grad degree      | 74   | 15                | 12           | (.000)              | 69   | 20                | 12           | (.000)              |
| <b>Children in Household</b>  | (n = 1491)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1490)   |                   |              |                     |
| No children in hh             | 62   | 22                | 16           | $\chi^2 = 10.84^*$  | 61   | 26                | 14           | $\chi^2 = 12.61^*$  |
| Children in household         | 70   | 18                | 12           | (.004)              | 69   | 21                | 10           | (.002)              |
| <b>Yrs Lived in Community</b> | (n = 1650)   |                   |              |                     | (n = 1647)   |                   |              |                     |
| Five years or less            | 64   | 24                | 12           | $\chi^2 = 3.09$     | 68   | 27                | 5            | $\chi^2 = 15.12^*$  |
| More than five years          | 64   | 20                | 15           | (.213)              | 63   | 24                | 14           | (.001)              |

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

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

| <i>When I am away from home, I<br/>count on my neighbors to watch<br/>my property.</i> |                 |             |              |                     |
|--|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <i>Don't</i>   |                 |             |              |                     |
|  | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Know</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Significance</i> |
| <i>Percentages</i>   |                 |             |              |                     |
| <b>Total</b>   | 23              | 11          | 66           |                     |
| <b>Community Size</b>  |                 | (n = 1796)  |              |                     |
| Less than 500  | 18              | 13          | 70           |                     |
| 500 - 999  | 16              | 12          | 72           |                     |
| 1,000 - 4,999  | 21              | 11          | 69           |                     |
| 5,000 - 9,999  | 29              | 11          | 61           | $\chi^2 = 29.36^*$  |
| 10,000 and up  | 29              | 10          | 61           | (.000)              |
| <b>Region</b>  |                 | (n = 1859)  |              |                     |
| Panhandle  | 19              | 9           | 72           |                     |
| North Central  | 23              | 14          | 63           |                     |
| South Central  | 29              | 10          | 61           |                     |
| Northeast  | 20              | 14          | 67           | $\chi^2 = 26.83^*$  |
| Southeast  | 21              | 8           | 70           | (.001)              |
| <b>Individual Attributes:</b>  |                 |             |              |                     |
| <i>Income Level</i>  |                 | (n = 1706)  |              |                     |
| Under \$20,000   | 24              | 16          | 60           |                     |
| \$20,000 - \$39,999  | 29              | 12          | 60           |                     |
| \$40,000 - \$59,999  | 22              | 10          | 68           | $\chi^2 = 16.39^*$  |
| \$60,000 and over  | 22              | 10          | 68           | (.012)              |
| <i>Age</i>   |                 | (n = 1863)  |              |                     |
| 19 - 29  | 38              | 16          | 46           |                     |
| 30 - 39  | 32              | 10          | 58           |                     |
| 40 - 49  | 21              | 7           | 72           |                     |
| 50 - 64  | 18              | 12          | 71           | $\chi^2 = 94.68^*$  |
| 65 and older   | 16              | 10          | 74           | (.000)              |
| <i>Gender</i>  |                 | (n = 1822)  |              |                     |
| Male   | 20              | 12          | 69           | $\chi^2 = 12.51^*$  |
| Female   | 27              | 10          | 63           | (.002)              |
| <i>Education</i>   |                 | (n = 1809)  |              |                     |
| H.S. diploma or less   | 18              | 18          | 64           |                     |
| Some college   | 25              | 10          | 65           | $\chi^2 = 37.17^*$  |
| Bachelors or grad degree   | 26              | 7           | 67           | (.000)              |
| <i>Children in Household</i>   |                 | (n = 1497)  |              |                     |
| No children in hh  | 20              | 9           | 71           | $\chi^2 = 33.44^*$  |
| Children in household  | 29              | 14          | 57           | (.000)              |
| <i>Yrs Lived in Community</i>  |                 | (n = 1652)  |              |                     |
| Five years or less   | 32              | 14          | 54           | $\chi^2 = 17.07^*$  |
| More than five years   | 23              | 10          | 67           | (.000)              |

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

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 5. Safety Precautions Taken in Last Five Years by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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