



Safe at Home: 2002 MINNESOTA CRIME SURVEY

1. How safe do you feel in the community you live in?

- ☐ Always safe
- ☐ Almost always safe
- ☐ Sometimes safe
- ☐ Almost never safe
- ☐ Never safe

2. To what degree do you think crime is a problem in your community?

- ☐ Never a problem
- ☐ Almost never a problem
- ☐ Sometimes a problem
- ☐ Almost always a problem
- ☐ Always a problem

3. How often does fear of crime prevent you from doing things you would like to do?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Almost always
- ☐ Always

4. When you leave your home, how often do you think about being robbed or physically assaulted?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Almost always
- ☐ Always

5. Is there any area within a mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

6. When you leave your home, how often do you think about it being broken into or vandalized while you're away?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Almost always
- ☐ Always

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Almost always
- ☐ Always

8. When you're in your home, how often do you feel afraid of being attacked or assaulted?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Almost always
- ☐ Always

9. How often are you fearful of being the victim of a violent crime?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Almost always
- ☐ Always

10. How often do you worry that you or your family will be the victim of a terrorist attack?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Almost always
- ☐ Always

11. Do you think any of the following are likely to happen to you during the NEXT year?

No Yes

- ☐ ☐ Someone breaking into your home and taking something or attempting to take something
- ☐ ☐ Someone stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you
- ☐ ☐ Someone taking or attempting to take something from you by force or threat of force
- ☐ ☐ Someone stealing other property or valuable things belonging to you
- ☐ ☐ Someone beating or attacking you with a knife, gun, club or other weapon
- ☐ ☐ Someone threatening you with their fist, feet or other bodily attack
- ☐ ☐ Someone forcing you or attempting to force you to have sexual intercourse with them against your will



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This report was produced by the Criminal Justice Statistics Center at Minnesota Planning and published by Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs.

In April 2003, Executive Order No. 188 eliminated Minnesota Planning and moved the Criminal Justice Statistics Center to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs.

The Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (OJP) was created to improve the effectiveness of state government's criminal justice planning and grant administration activities. The office brings together programs formerly operated through five separate state agencies: Minnesota Planning, the Office of Crime Victim Ombudsman and the Departments of Public Safety, Education, and Economic Security.

The Office of Justice Programs provides leadership and resources to reduce crime in Minnesota, improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, and assist crime victims.

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

Safe at Home: 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey was prepared by Gail Carlson of the Criminal Justice Statistics Center at Minnesota Planning, with assistance from Deb Hagel, Susan Roth and Martha McMurry.

Funding for this report was provided by grant number 2002-BJ-CX-K024 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice.

Upon request, *Safe at Home: 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey*, will be made available in an alternate format such as Braille, large print or audio tape.

December 2003

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An electronic copy of *Safe at Home: 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey*, is available at <http://www.ojp.state.mn.us/cj/index.htm>

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GLOSSARY

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GLOSSARY

These are generally accepted definitions for terms used in this report:

Aggravated Assault The attempted or actual use of force, through the use of a weapon or physical attack, intended to inflict severe bodily injury upon another person.

Burglary The unlawful or forcible entry of any structure such as a public building, factory, apartment, house, trailer, ship or warehouse to commit a felony or theft.

Hate crime A crime where the responding officer, the victim or both believe the offender was motivated to commit the crime because of the victim's perceived or actual age, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

Minnesota Milestones This 30-year plan sets 19 goals for the state's future and uses 70 indicators to track progress toward the goals.

Motor vehicle theft The attempted or actual theft of a motor vehicle, such as a car, truck, motorcycle or snowmobile.

Property crime Stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle such as a car, truck, motorcycle or snowmobile; breaking into or trying to break into a home or some other building or property; stealing something that belonged to someone from inside their car or truck, such as packages or clothing; damaging or vandalizing someone's property.

Rape Carnal knowledge of a female or male forcibly and against her or his will, including assaults and attempts to rape.

Robbery The threatened, attempted or actual taking of other people's property against their will by using force or threat of force.

Self-identified victims Respondents who answered "yes" to the question, "Were you the victim of a crime (s) in 2001 or did you answer yes to any of questions 17 through 29," regardless of their answer to one or more of the survey victimization or stalking questions.

Stalking Intentionally acting in a way that causes the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted or intimidated.

Survey-defined victims Respondents who answered "yes" to one or more of the survey victimization questions, excluding stalking questions.

Trigger-lock A device which locks onto the trigger portion of a firearm, preventing the trigger from being pulled, and which may not be removed without the proper key.

Uniform Crime Reporting Program A city, county and state law enforcement program that provides a nationwide view of crime based on the submission of statistics by law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

Vandalism Willful or malicious destruction, injury, disfigurement or defacement of any public or private property, real or personal, without consent of the owner or person with custody or control by cutting, tearing, breaking, marking, painting, drawing, covering with filth or any other such means.

Violent crime Taking or attempting to take something directly from an individual by force, such as by a stick-up, mugging or threat; injuring an individual, by use of knife, gun or weapon; hitting, attacking or beating up an individual by use of hands, fists or feet; threatening with or without a weapon to hit, attack or beat someone up; forcing or attempting to force someone to have sexual intercourse; injuring a household or family member with an object or weapon or by hitting, slapping, pushing or kicking.

SUMMARY

Most Minnesotans feel safe in their community. *Safe at Home: 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey* reports the perceptions of some residents about crime in their community, law enforcement performance and victimization experiences in the past year.

The 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey is the fourth crime survey conducted by Minnesota Planning. Earlier surveys were conducted in 1993, 1996 and 1999; each survey questioned respondents about the previous calendar year. The survey was designed to monitor the progress of Minnesota's communities in meeting the *Minnesota Milestones* goal to be safe, friendly and caring. The survey has been mailed out every three years since 1993, asking respondents to answer questions about their current perceptions of crime and safety, as well as victimization experiences in the previous year.

The 2002 crime survey includes new questions not appearing in the 1993, 1996 or 1999 surveys. The concern about being the victim of a terrorist attack arose out of the attacks of 9/11/01. A partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health produced new questions on sexual violence and domestic abuse.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Perceptions of crime

- Three-quarters of respondents were never or almost never worried about themselves or their family being the victim of a terrorist attack.
- More than 90 percent of respondents to the 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey said they always or almost always feel safe in the community where they live.
- Fewer respondents expect to be the victim of a crime in the next year than those who responded to the 1993, 1996 and 1999 surveys.
- There has been an 8 percent decrease since 1999 in the percentage of respondents who believe violent crime will rise over the next three years.

Experiences with crime

- Seven percent of respondents reported they were victims of violent crime, a slight decrease from the 1999 survey.
- Twenty-two percent of respondents were victims of property crime, the same as in the 1999 survey.
- Although the percentage of respondents who were victims of violent crime decreased since the 1999 survey, victims were more likely to have had more than one occurrence than in 1999.
- Twelve percent of survey respondents described their living status as renter in 2002, but 25 percent of victims of violent crime in 2001 were renters.

Impact of crime

- Thirty-nine percent of all respondents who have a firearm in their home and who have children under age 16 living in their home did not keep the firearm stored in a locked place or trigger-locked. This was a slight increase from the 1999 survey.
- There was an increase in the percentage of women who carry firearms outside the home to make them feel safe. The percent of women who carried a firearm outside the home rose from one quarter in 1999 to more than one-third in 2002.
- Forty-two percent of female respondents and 55 percent of male respondents answered they had a gun in their home.
- There were 330 instances of costs made out-of-pocket or by insurance companies toward property repair, medical treatment and legal matters due to a crime against respondents in 2001. Eighty-six percent of these were for property repairs; of those, forty-five percent were for \$500 or more.
- Sixty-seven percent of 2001 crime victims did not report one or more incidents to the police, the same percent as in the 1999 crime survey.
- Eighty-five percent of all victims of unwanted sexual activity in 2001 did not report one or more incidents to the police.

MEASURING CRIME IN MINNESOTA'S COMMUNITIES

A mailing to 10,013 individuals resulted in 4,161 survey responses. The survey sample was taken from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety database of individuals issued a Minnesota driver's license or identification card. While driver's licenses cannot be issued until an individual is age 16 or older, the survey sample could have included individuals of any age since there is no age restriction on state identification cards. The survey instrument was an eight page document with 53 questions, the same length as the 1999 survey.

New this year is a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health to explore issues of sexual violence and domestic abuse. Additional questions about trips to the emergency room, injury as a result of sexual violence and domestic abuse, and the relationship of the offender to the victim were included.

To make survey questions more understandable, nontechnical terms were used. Instead of asking if the respondent was a victim of aggravated assault, for example, one question read, "In 2001, did anyone injure you with a knife, gun or weapon OTHER THAN hands, fists or feet?"

Depending on life experiences, survey questions could be interpreted differently by respondents and therefore affect responses. Respondents' personal definition of words or phrases in the survey, such as "community," adds an element of subjectivity that should be considered in the findings. Other influences on results may include sample selection, question ordering and major events occurring at the time a respondent filled out the survey.

Perceptions and opinions of crime may be influenced by many factors, such as news about crime in the media. Although conducted in 2002, the survey asked respondents to focus on crime in 2001, which included the time period of the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks. Local and national news coverage of these attacks and their impact on public safety continued to occur during the four months that the crime survey was conducted. Other high profile crime stories that received statewide coverage during the survey period were the sniper killings in the Washington, D.C. area; the sex abuse allegations against priests; the killing of a female police officer and a woman at a public housing complex in Minneapolis; and the accidental shooting of an 11-year-old boy by a police officer.

Some findings from the 2002 survey are compared to the previous crime surveys. Comparisons are limited, however, because of changes in the wording of questions and answer choices in the 2002 survey. Some questions asked in previous surveys were excluded and new questions were added. However, similarities between the 1999 and 2002 crime surveys allowed more comparison between the latest two surveys.

Because of the small number of respondents who self-identified as Hispanic or as African American, American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander or more than one race, it was not possible to do reliable analysis by race or ethnicity.

The *2001 National Crime Victimization Survey*¹, released September 2002, reported a decrease in violent crime and other findings similar to findings from the 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey. Since 1993, violent crime has decreased nationally by almost 50 percent; in Minnesota, results from the four crime surveys indicate a 30 percent decline in violent crime. The national survey found that the drop was mainly due to a record low number of reported assaults, but there were also decreases in rape and sexual assault, similar to the 2002 Minnesota survey results. The Midwest experienced the most dramatic decline in violent crime. The decline can be attributed mainly to the strong economy of the 1990s and tougher sentencing laws, according to experts discussing the report.

PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES

Although people in Minnesota tend to view their communities as safe, some also believe violent crime is increasing. The 2002 crime survey asked participants about perceptions of crime in Minnesota communities and attitudes about law enforcement.

MOST MINNESOTANS FEEL SAFE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Percent of all respondents in each category

How safe do you feel in the community where you live?

	Always or almost always safe	Sometimes safe	Never or almost never safe
Total	92%	7%	1%
Victims of crime	85	13	2
Gender			
Female	92	7	1
Male	93	6	1
Age			
15 to 24	91	9	0
25 to 49	92	7	1
50 and over	92	6	1
Community			
City	88	10	3
Rural area	94	5	1
Suburb	94	5	0
Town	92	6	1
County			
Hennepin and Ramsey counties	90	8	2
Other 85 counties	93	6	1

Notes: Categories with 0 percent had less than half of 1 percent. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

MOST PEOPLE FEEL SAFE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Sense of safety in the community was very high among all demographic areas studied. Overall, 92 percent of respondents felt always or almost always safe when asked, "How safe do you feel in the community where you live?" Crime victims also expressed feeling a high degree of safety; 85 percent answered always or almost always safe. Individuals who live in a city had a slightly lower sense of safety than those who lived in suburbs, rural areas or towns; 88 percent of city respondents answered they felt always or almost always safe.

When asked "To what degree do you think crime is a problem in your community?", 39 percent believed crime was almost never or never a problem and 55 percent responded that crime was sometimes a problem. In the 1999 survey, 36 percent believed crime was almost never or never a problem and 58 percent believed that crime was sometimes a problem. When analyzed by gender, community and geographical area, over half of respondents said crime was sometimes a problem. The youngest age group, age 15-24, was the most optimistic of all age groups analyzed and nearly half responded that crime was never or almost never a problem.

When asked about community, respondents had varying answers between sense of safety and the problem of crime. Of those who felt crime was always or almost always a problem in their community, 57 percent answered that they always or almost always felt safe in the community where they live. Of that 57 percent, 47 percent identified their community as a city, rather

than a suburb, rural area or town. Feeling safe for respondents despite feeling that crime is always or almost always a problem in the community where they live is even more pronounced than in the 1999 survey; 55 percent of respondents who felt that crime was always or almost always a problem in their community answered that they felt always or almost always safe in the community where they lived. In 1999, of that 55 percent, 41 percent identified their community as a city, rather than a suburb, rural area or town.

IMPACT OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IS LOW

To understand how respondents were affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a new question was added: "How often do you worry that you or your family will be the victim of a terrorist attack?" Seventy-five percent of respondents answered that they were never or almost never worried, and 23 percent answered that they were sometimes worried. There were gender differences among respondents; 71 percent of women and 81 percent of men never or almost never worried about being the victim of a terrorist attack.

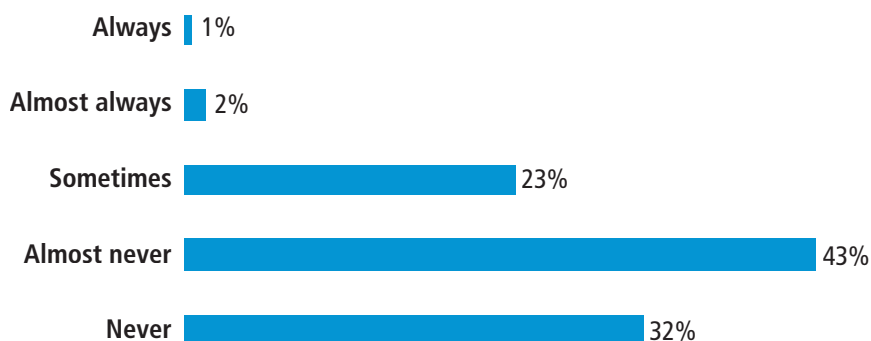
FEWER EXPECT VIOLENT CRIME TO INCREASE

More than 60 percent of all respondents believed that violent crime has stayed the same over the past three years, 24 percent believed it has greatly or somewhat increased and 15 percent believed it has greatly or somewhat decreased. This trend was fairly consistent among age and gender groups, but community and geographic areas had slight differences. Compared to the

THREE-QUARTERS OF RESPONDENTS NEVER OR ALMOST NEVER WORRIED ABOUT THEMSELVES OR THEIR FAMILY BEING VICTIMS OF A TERRORIST ATTACK

Percent of all respondents in each category

How often do you worry that you or your family will be the victim of a terrorist attack?



Notes: Seventy-one percent of women and 81 percent of men never or almost never worried about being the victim of a terrorist attack. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

1999 survey, a higher percentage believe that violent crime has stayed the same over the last three years and a lower percentage believe that it has increased.

Of all individuals who classified their community as a city, 50 percent believed violent crime had stayed the same, 20 percent believed it had greatly or somewhat decreased and 29 percent believed violent crime had increased or greatly increased. Residents in Hennepin and Ramsey counties were more optimistic than the other 85 counties; 19 percent believed that violent crime had decreased compared to 15 percent overall, and only 19 percent believed it had increased, compared to 24 percent overall.

Murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault are the four offense types which make up violent crime, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting Program. In Minnesota, violent crimes known or reported to law enforcement have declined in number over the past six years. In the most populated counties of Hennepin and Ramsey, violent crime decreased from a rate of 623 per 100,000 in 1998 to 504 per 100,000 in 2001. Violent crime fell from 173 per 100,000 in 1998 to 144 per 100,000 in 2001 for the other 85 counties in the state. These rates are based on reported crime statistics from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and 2001 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Respondents were more positive about the future of violent crime than reported in the previous crime survey. During the next three years, 54 percent believed that crime would stay the same, up from 45 percent in the 1999 crime survey. Only 33 percent believed that crime would greatly or somewhat increase, compared with 41 percent in the previous survey. Opinions varied little across gender and age groups. However, respondents who lived in cities, were renters, earned less than \$30,000 per year and resided in Hennepin and Ramsey counties were more likely to believe that violent crime would decrease over the next three years than respondents overall.

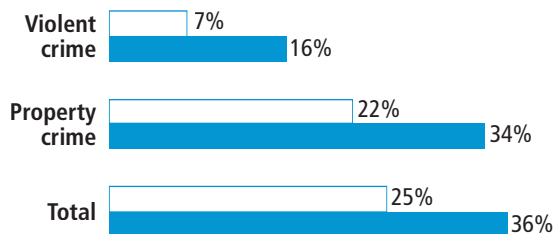
MOST FEAR WALKING ALONE AT NIGHT

Almost half of all respondents and nearly 60 percent of all crime victims answered yes to the question, "Is there any area within a mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?" This is almost identical to the findings from the 1999 crime survey. About 73 percent of all female crime victims and 74 percent of crime victims who live in cities answered yes to this question.

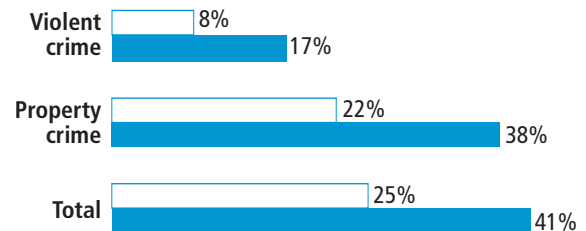
FEWER RESPONDENTS EXPECT TO BE CRIME VICTIMS THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Percent of all respondents

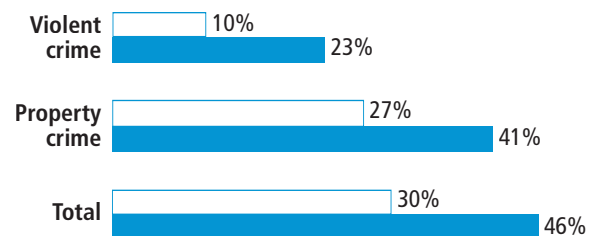
2002 Survey



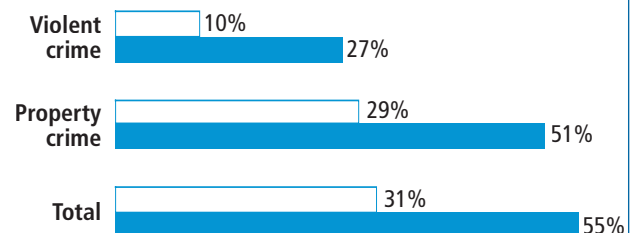
1999 Survey



1996 Survey



1993 Survey



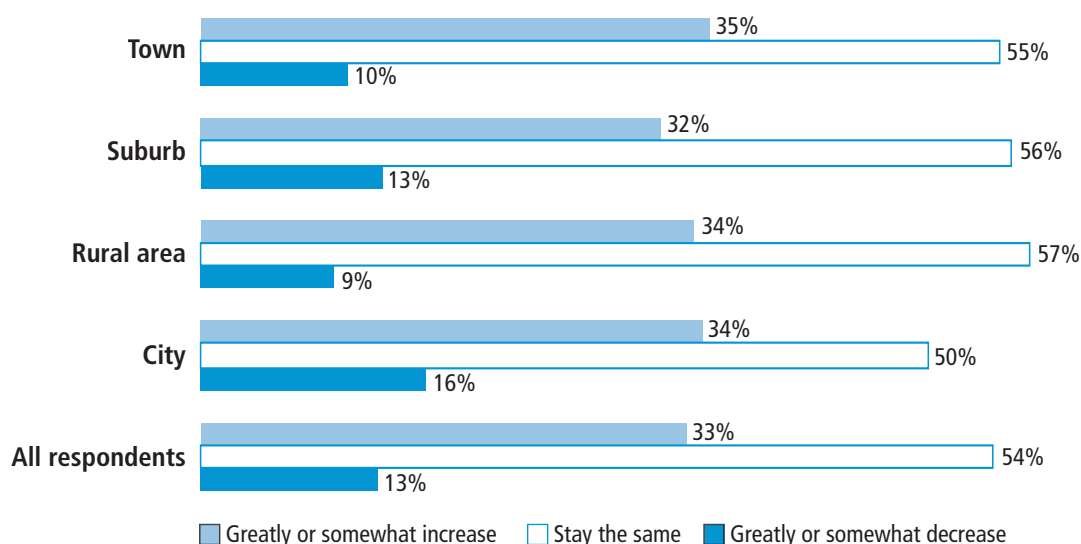
□ Actual ■ Expected

The range between the expectation and actual occurrence of victimization fell in the 2002 crime survey for total and property crime, but for violent crime remained the same as the 1999 crime survey.

Notes: Total refers to both violent and property crimes. See glossary for violent and property crime definitions. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

MOST RESPONDENTS BELIEVE VIOLENT CRIME WILL STAY THE SAME OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Percent within each category



City dwellers were most likely to view violent crime as decreasing over the next three years, even though they were most likely to be victimized in 2001. More respondents expect violent crime to either stay the same or decrease over the next three years than respondents in the last survey.

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

The fear of crime prevented only 20 percent of respondents from sometimes or always doing the things they would like to do. Eighty percent of respondents answered that fear of crime never or almost never prevented them from doing the things they would like to do. There were some geographic and gender differences in answers; 22 percent of Hennepin and Ramsey county respondents answered that fear of crime sometimes prevented them from doing the things they wanted to do, compared to 17 percent for the other 85 counties. Seventy-five percent of Hennepin and Ramsey county respondents, compared to 82 percent of the other 85 counties, stated that fear of crime never or almost never prevented them from doing the things they want to do. This trend varied by gender; 76 percent of females compared to 86 percent of males answered that fear of crime never or almost never prevented them from doing what they wanted to do; 22 percent of females and 12 percent of males said they sometimes feared crime to such an extent.

ATTITUDES TOWARD LAW ENFORCEMENT VARY

The 2002 survey did not ask respondents about the type of contact they had with law enforcement during the past year as had been done in previous surveys. Instead, the survey asked, "In the past 12 months, have you had contact with the LOCAL police? IF YES, would you describe the contact(s) as positive? Would you describe the contact (s) as negative?"

Thirty-six percent of all respondents answered that they had contact with the local police in the past 12 months. Of those who had contact with the police, 81 percent responded that the contact was positive and 19 percent answered that it was negative. Sixty-two percent of crime victims had contact with local police, and among those, 74 percent answered that the contact was positive, and 26 percent answered that the contact was negative.

Three-fourths of the respondents rated the job law enforcement does in their community as very good or good. Nearly half believed that the amount of work police were doing in their community to improve safety was only some work, and 12 percent believed the police were doing only a little work or very little work. The 2002 survey did not include a question on police efforts to prevent crime in the community, as had previous surveys.

Respondents age 50 and over gave the police the highest ratings and youth, age 15 to 24, gave police the lowest ratings. Over 80 percent of respondents living in the suburbs rated the job law enforcement does in their community as very good or good, more than any other locality. Ratings among crime victims were lower; only about 60 percent rated the job law enforcement was doing as very good or good, 15 percentage points lower than all respondents, and 19 percent believed that the police were doing only a little work or very little work to improve safety in their community.

VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

The 2002 survey found that about a quarter of all female and all male respondents were crime victims in 2001. This was the same percentage found in the 1999 crime survey, but less than in the 1996 survey.

DECREASE IN STALKING AND HATE CRIME

The question on stalking that was introduced in the 1999 Minnesota Crime Survey was shortened in the 2002 survey. Although stalking is a crime, this question was excluded from victim aggregate measures and analyzed separately because of the potential of double-counting stalking and other victimization incidents. For example, respondents were asked a stalking-related question: did anyone "vandalize your property or destroy something you value," which is similar to an earlier question about property that was "damaged or vandalized."

Respondents were asked about four behaviors described in Minnesota Statutes which may be classified as stalking, such as following or spying on, or making unsolicited phone calls to respondents. Sixteen percent of all respondents reported that one or more of the behaviors had occurred in 2001. Fifty-eight percent of the stalking victims did not report the incident to the police.

MORE STALKING VICTIMS REPORT THE BEHAVIOR TO POLICE THAN IN 1999

Percent who answered yes to each question

"Did you feel terrorized or fear bodily harm as a result of these behaviors?" 17%

"Do you believe that these behaviors were motivated by your actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or national origin?" 11%

Percentage who responded that they did not report the incident to police..... 58%

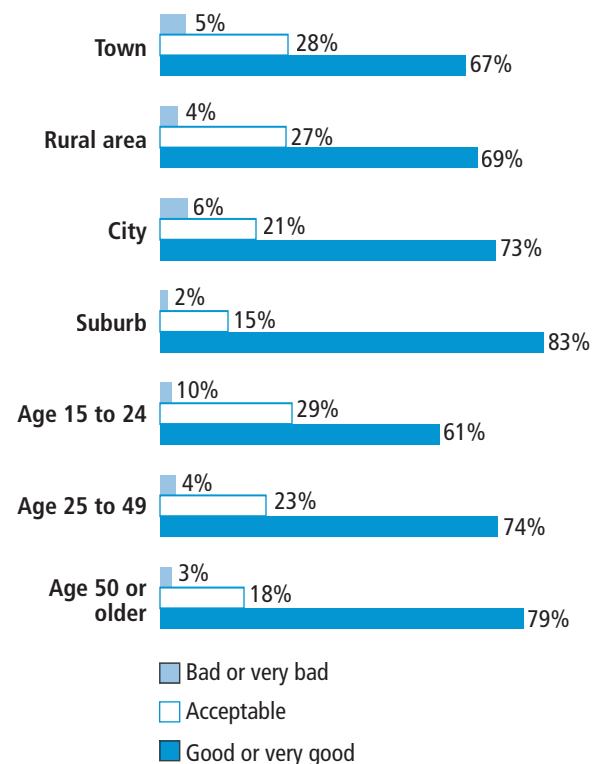
Note: Percentage is based on all respondents who said one or more of four behaviors classified as stalking had occurred in 2001. Those four behaviors are follow or spy on you; send you unsolicited (unasked for) letters or written correspondence; make unsolicited (unasked for) phone calls to you; and vandalize your property or destroy something you value.

Fifty-eight percent of stalking victims did not report the incident to the police, compared to 65 percent in 1999.

MAJORITY GIVE POLICE A GOOD RATING

Percent in each category

How would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community?



Respondents who are older or live in a suburb have a more favorable rating of law enforcement.

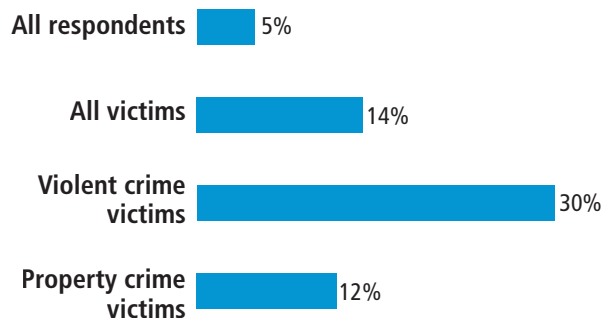
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

In Minnesota, if the responding officer or victim of a crime believes the offender was motivated to commit the crime because of the victim's age, disability, national origin, color, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, the crime is identified as a hate or bias-motivated crime. When participants responded that one or more of the four stalking behaviors had occurred, they were asked a subsequent question about hate crime. Of all stalking victims 11 percent believed the offender was motivated to commit the crime because the victim was perceived to have or actually had one or more of the eight attributes.

Later in the survey, another question about hate crime was asked of all respondents, not just stalking victims. Five percent of all respondents believed that in at least one crime committed against

FEWER 2001 CRIME VICTIMS EXPERIENCED A HATE CRIME THAN IN 1999

Percent is based on number of individuals within each category that were identified as hate crime victims



Thirty percent of all violent crime victims in 2001 experienced a hate crime, compared to 34 percent in 1999.

Note: Questions about hate crimes and victimization were asked separately; it is not possible to know the specific crime or crimes victims were referring to when answering the hate crime question.

them in 2001, the offender was motivated to commit the crime because of one or more of the eight attributes. A comparison of the separate stalking and hate crime questions showed that 57 percent of all hate crime victims were also stalking victims. The hate crime victim question was asked of all respondents and was not associated with any specific victimization question, therefore it is not possible to determine which crime the victim believed was a hate crime.

The percent of individuals who were identified as hate crime victims in 2001 was lower in all categories (all respondents, all victims, violent and property crime victims) than in 1998. Nearly a third of all violent crime victims experienced a hate crime.

DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS ACCOUNT FOR OVER A QUARTER OF ALL VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS

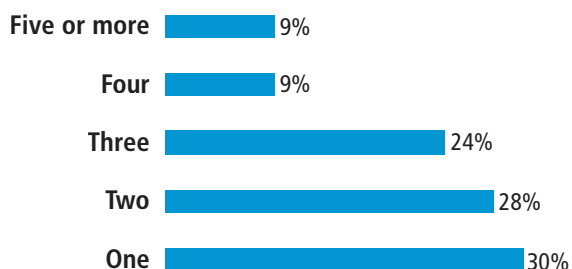
Data on domestic abuse in Minnesota is limited. Domestic abuse is not a category under the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting Program and often is categorized as an assault-related offense. Also, cases of domestic abuse may not always be reported to the police.

At the request of the Minnesota Department of Health, the 2002 survey asked respondents more detailed information about their experiences with domestic abuse and sexual violence. Respondents were asked about the number of times they had been injured, how many times they sought medical attention

MOST DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS EXPERIENCED TWO OR MORE INCIDENTS*

Percent based on number of domestic abuse incidents

In 2001, did your spouse, significant other, partner or other family member push, shake, slap, kick, punch, hit, choke or harm you with an object or weapon? If yes: How many times did this occur?



Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding and due to a small percentage of domestic abuse victims who did not give an answer to this part of the question.

*Based upon less than 80 victims.

at an emergency room as the result of these injuries and if the assailant(s) for the most current incident was a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend or someone they dated.

To learn more about the incidence of domestic abuse, the 2002 survey asked, "In 2001, did your spouse, significant other, partner or other family member push, shake, slap, kick, punch, hit, choke, or harm you with an object or weapon?" Of all survey respondents, 2 percent answered yes to this question, but domestic abuse victims accounted for 26 percent of all violent crime victims. Of domestic abuse victims, 73 percent were female and 27 percent were male. Nearly 60 percent of victims were in the 25 to 49 age group, 31 percent were age 15 to 24 and 9 percent were age 50 and older.

Of domestic abuse victims who provided information on total household income, 43 percent of victims had total household incomes less than \$30,000, 38 percent had incomes from \$30,000 to \$59,999, and 19 percent had incomes over \$60,000. In comparison to all survey respondents, only 25 percent had household incomes less than \$30,000, 34 percent had incomes from \$30,000 to \$59,000 and 41 percent had incomes over \$60,000.

Of domestic abuse victims who provided information about education level, 71 percent had a high school diploma or GED, some post high school education or technical-vocational school

certificate or degree. Twenty-seven percent of victims had a high school diploma or GED. Twelve percent of victims had less than a high school education and 12 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Domestic abuse victims were more likely to live in cities and towns, and rent rather than own their own homes. Although only 12 percent of respondents indicated they were renters, 33 percent of domestic abuse victims answered that they rented rather than owned their own homes. Twenty-eight percent of respondents live in cities, but 33 percent of domestic abuse victims live in cities. Only 16 percent of respondents live in towns but 22 percent of domestic abuse victims live in towns. The trend reverses in the suburbs, where 33 percent of respondents live; only 23 percent of domestic abuse victims reported living in suburbs.

UNREPORTED CRIME HIGHEST FOR VIOLENT OFFENSES

Individuals who said a crime was committed against them failed to report one or more incidents to the police 67 percent of the time, which is the same percentage identified in the 1999 survey. Of violent crime victims, 81 percent did not report one or more occurrences to the police. Sixty-two percent of property crime victims did not report incidents to the police.

VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF A HATE CRIME

Percent of all respondents who answered yes to each question and were survey-defined as hate crime victims in 2001

Violent Crimes

<i>Rape or attempt*</i>	57%
<i>Unwanted sexual activity or attempt*</i>	51
<i>Robbery</i>	40
<i>Domestic abuse*</i>	37
<i>Aggravated assault with a weapon*</i>	33
<i>Aggravated assault without a weapon</i>	33
<i>Threatened aggravated assault</i>	28

Property Crimes

<i>Burglary or attempt</i>	16%
<i>Theft of things from inside motor vehicle</i>	14
<i>Any other incident of theft</i>	13
<i>Motor vehicle theft or attempt</i>	12
<i>Any other damaged or vandalized property</i>	12

Note: Hate crimes include any crime where the victim or officer believes the offender was motivated by the victim's age, disability, national origin, color, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. Questions about hate crimes and specific offense types were asked separately and may not be related to one another.

*Based upon sample size of less than 80.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IS MOST LIKELY TO BE REPORTED

Percent with one or more occurrences unreported to police in 2001

<i>Unwanted sexual activity or attempt*</i>	85%
<i>Domestic abuse*</i>	83
<i>Threatened aggravated assault</i>	81
<i>Rape or attempt*</i>	76
<i>Aggravated assault without a weapon</i>	71
<i>Aggravated assault with a weapon*</i>	56
<i>Theft of things from inside motor vehicle</i>	55
<i>Burglary or attempt</i>	48
<i>Robbery</i>	45
<i>Motor vehicle theft or attempt</i>	41
<i>Any other incident of theft</i>	70
<i>Any other damaged or vandalized property</i>	63
<i>All crimes</i>	67

*Based upon sample size of less than 80.

Although the highest unreported crime types were unwanted sexual activity and domestic abuse, these results were based upon less than 50 victims and 80 victims, respectively. The small number of victims does not allow us to draw any conclusions beyond the scope of this survey. Motor vehicle theft or attempt was most likely to be reported to the police, with 59 percent of all victims reporting all incidents to the police.

One quarter of all respondents were survey-defined as crime victims (respondents who answered "yes" to one or more of the survey victimization questions, excluding stalking questions), and of those individuals, 55 percent had more than one victimization occurrence. Twenty-two percent of all respondents were survey-defined property crime victims, and of those individuals, 54 percent had two or more victimization occurrences. Eighty-four percent of all violent crime victims had more than one occurrence, even though they only accounted for 7 percent of all respondents. About 15 percent of all crime victims were victims of both property and violent crimes.

In Minnesota, responding law enforcement is required, in most cases, to supply crime victims with information about victim services and reparation programs. Nineteen percent of all survey-identified crime victims and 18 percent of self-identified crime victims (respondents who answered "yes" to the question, "Were you the victim of a crime (s) in 2001 or did you answer yes to any of questions 17 through 29 regardless of their answer

MOST VICTIMS KNOW THEIR OFFENDERS

Percent based on number of identified offenders

<i>Stranger</i>	31%
<i>Well-known but not family</i>	25
<i>Casual acquaintance</i>	25
<i>Family member</i>	13
<i>Did not see anyone</i>	6

MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF ALL YOUTH AGE 15 TO 24 WERE VICTIMIZED IN 2001

Percent based on number victimized within listing

Age

<i>15 to 24</i>	42%
<i>25 to 49</i>	31
<i>50 and over</i>	19

Gender

<i>Female</i>	27%
<i>Male</i>	27

Community

<i>City</i>	31%
<i>Town</i>	27
<i>Suburb</i>	26
<i>Rural area</i>	25

County

<i>Hennepin and Ramsey counties</i>	27%
<i>Other 85 counties</i>	24

to one or more of the survey victimization or stalking questions) received this information from the responding officer. Of all survey-defined violent and property crime victims, 26 and 15 percent respectively, received information from the responding officer on victim services or programs.

Seventy-four percent of all offenses reported are property crimes. Damaged or vandalized property made up 26 percent of all offenses. Theft from inside a motor vehicle was next highest at 15 percent and burglary was 14 percent. Threat of aggravated assault was 12 percent and domestic abuse was 4 percent of all offenses. Rape and robbery were 1 percent of all offenses and aggravated assault with a weapon was the least likely offense at less than 1 percent.

MOST VICTIMS KNOW THEIR ASSAILANTS

Victims knew 63 percent of all assailants, identifying them as family, someone well-known but not related, or a casual acquaintance. Within specific offense types, an assailant's relationship to the victim varied. Among victims of threatened aggravated assault, 33 percent of offenders were strangers. Sixty-one percent of victims of rape or unwanted sexual activity knew the offender as a casual acquaintance or someone well-known but not related.

Forty-eight percent of all crime victims surveyed knew a friend, family member or neighbor who was the victim of a crime in 2001. This is nearly twice as many as all respondents.

Forty-two percent of all survey respondents aged 15 to 24 were crime victims. The percentage of crime victims decreased with age. About a quarter of all male and female respondents were crime victims. City dwellers were more likely to be crime victims as were respondents who live in Hennepin and Ramsey counties.

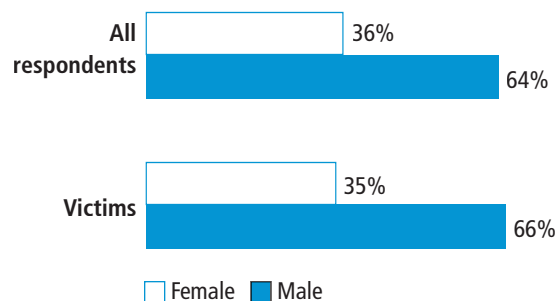
CRIME IS REPORTED TO HAVE LITTLE IMPACT UPON MOST VICTIMS' LIVES

Sixty percent of the respondents who were survey-defined as crime victims in 2001 said the event or events had little or very little impact on their life. About 13 percent of survey-defined crime or property crime victims did not self-identify as crime victims, in comparison to 11 percent of survey-defined violent crime victims.

MALES MORE LIKELY TO HAVE CARRIED A FIREARM FOR PROTECTION

Percent based on number who answered yes

In 2001, did you ever carry a firearm outside your home to make you feel safe?



Note: Only 2 percent of all female crime victims and 1 percent of all female respondents answered yes to the question; 5 percent of all male crime victims and 3 percent of all male respondents answered yes.

Forty-seven percent of respondents who were both self-identified as a victim and survey-defined as violent crime victims said the impact was little or very little, 23 percent said it had some impact and 30 percent said it had a lot or quite a lot of impact. The numbers differed among individuals who both self-identified and were survey-defined as property crime victims, as 61 percent answered that the event or events had little or very little impact on their life, 23 percent answered some impact and 16 percent felt there was a lot or quite a lot of impact.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

The 2002 survey asked questions about demographic characteristics, such as age and gender, in addition to questions on firearm ownership and costs paid because of crime.

MOST FIREARMS ARE FOR SPORTING PURPOSES

When asked if a firearm is kept in the home, 47 percent of all respondents said yes. This rate is almost identical to the findings from the 1999 and 1996 surveys. Of those who do keep a firearm in their home, 62 percent keep it for sporting purposes, 28 percent for both sporting and protection, 5 percent for protection and 5 percent for other reasons.

Loaded firearms must be kept in a secure place. It is a gross misdemeanor in Minnesota to store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child is likely to gain access. Of survey respondents who had a firearm in their home and children under age 16 living in their home, 39 percent did not store the firearm in a locked place or keep it trigger-locked. The question did not clarify if the firearm was stored without bullets.

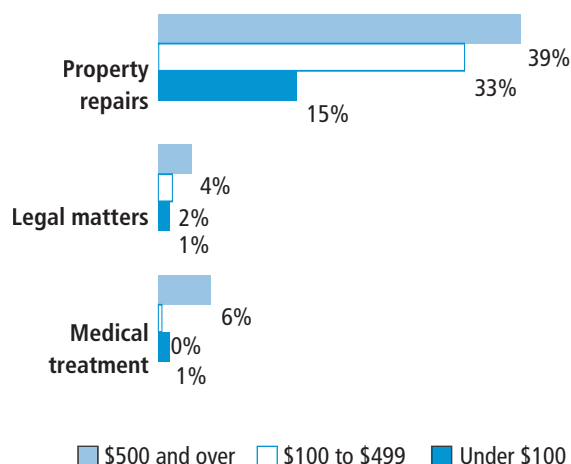
Thirty percent of the residents of Hennepin and Ramsey counties answered that they keep a firearm in their home compared to 55 percent of respondents from the other 85 counties. Individuals from rural areas or towns were more likely to have a firearm in their home, 70 percent and 49 percent respectively, than those who live in a suburb, 40 percent, or city, 34 percent.

Renters were less likely to have a firearm in their homes than homeowners; 23 percent of respondents who identified their living status as renters answered that they owned a firearm, compared to 51 percent of homeowners. In a third category classified as other – people who did not currently consider themselves an owner or renter – 46 percent kept a firearm in their home.

Males were more likely to have a firearm in their home than females. Fifty-five percent of males compared to 42 percent of females answered that they had a firearm in their home.

PROPERTY REPAIRS WERE THE MAJORITY OF ALL 2001 CRIME COSTS

Percent based on 330 counts of costs by respondents who said they were crime victims and that they or an insurer incurred costs in at least one area



Note: The 330 counts were incurred by 250 respondents. Forty-eight percent of all costs due to crime were over \$500. Percentages ignore missing values. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Households with higher incomes were more likely to have a gun than lower income households; of those householders who kept a gun in their home, 46 percent had household incomes of \$60,000 or more, 35 percent answered \$30,000 to \$59,999 and 19 percent had incomes less than \$30,000.

Two percent of respondents answered yes to the question, "In 2001, did you ever carry a firearm outside your home to make you feel safe?" There has been an increase in the percentage of women carrying firearms outside the home. Of those who answered yes, 64 percent were males and 36 percent were females, and there was little difference between all respondents and crime victims. In the previous survey, 78 percent of respondents who carried a gun outside the home were male and 22 percent were female.

COSTS DUE TO CRIME MOST OFTEN ARE PROPERTY REPAIR

The 2002 survey included questions about the amount of money spent by either the respondent or an insurance company due to crime or crimes against the respondent in 2001. Cost-related questions were categorized as property repairs, medical treatment or legal matters. Of all respondents to this question, 99 percent answered that neither they nor an insurance company had paid

any expenses due to a crime for medical treatment or legal matters. Ninety-two percent of all respondents to this question said that no money was paid for property repairs.

The cost of crime for victims and their insurance companies has risen since the last crime survey, especially for medical treatment and legal matters. Of respondents who paid expenses for medical treatment due to crime, 78 percent spent \$500 or more. Fifty-six percent of respondents who incurred legal expenses due to crime paid \$500 or more.

Forty-five percent of all property repair costs were \$500 or more; 38 percent were \$100 to \$499.

MANY RESPONDENTS FILLED OUT COMMENT SHEET

The 2002 crime survey was sent out with a comment sheet for respondents to write any personal thoughts about crime or questions in the survey. Comments were read and codified into 18 categories by the researcher at the Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

These categories were created based on initial readings of the comments made by respondents. Given that only one researcher codified the comments, subjectivity may be an issue. For a complete list of codified categories, contact the Criminal Justice Statistics Center. Many respondents made more than one comment and all comments were codified. Analysis was based on 782 comments made by 589 respondents.

Comment sheets were separated from the surveys when received, so analysis of comment sheets according to whether respondents were crime victims, as specified above, was not possible.

Some comments are described below. It is important to recognize that a statement does not represent all views but is an individual's opinion.

Thirty-one percent of the 782 comments were detailed information about survey answers or about the crime survey in general. Twenty-three percent were personal experiences with crime, being frightened or a general life experience. One individual wrote, "I have had my mailbox completely wrecked by vandals at least eight or ten times. I have had things stolen from my open shed."

Twelve percent of comments focused on the need for more punishment of law breakers, as well as tougher laws and prisons. Another respondent commented, "I think crime basically goes unpunished. Sentencing is too easy on people."

Increased drug activity was a concern in over 10 percent of the comments. A person stated, "I feel that a significant factor to the amount of crime we have is due to drug usage." Many remarked about the increase in drug activity in towns and rural areas. One individual wrote, "I believe rural areas are being used to traffic drugs more frequently."

Seven percent were concerned about either mistreatment or the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system, such as courts and police. An individual commented, "I was stopped by Minneapolis police and questioned like I was a criminal."

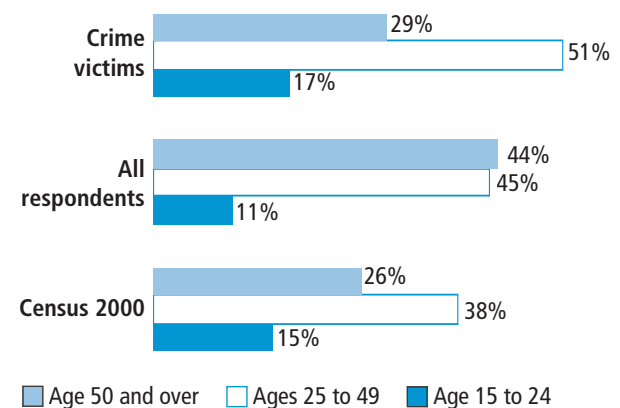
Five percent commented that more local law enforcement and state patrol troopers are needed for speeding, traffic violations or road rage. One person wrote, "I am very concerned about traffic, road rage and accidents, as I have grandchildren now driving."

"We feel safe in our community" was expressed by five percent of the comments, but most qualified this statement with, "We use common sense. We lock our doors and windows."

Three percent said the police are doing a good job in their community. One person wrote, "I feel the police are doing a good job patrolling our community." All other categories made up between one and three percent of all comments.

MOST CRIME VICTIMS ARE 25 TO 49 YEARS OLD

Percent based on the number in each category



Notes: Census 2000 results are for Minnesota. A higher proportion of survey respondents are age 50 and over than was found in the population for all Minnesotans in Census 2000.

Source: Census 2000, U.S. Census Bureau

SAFE IN MINNESOTA

The 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey shows some positive trends, such as a smaller percentage of violent crime victims than in the past three crime surveys. There was a drop among all crime victims (property, violent and total) in their expectation of being a crime victim during the next year. The majority of residents feel safe in their communities and believe the police are doing a good job. For many 2001 crime victims, the impact of crime was negligible. However, the impact for victims of violent crime could be high because they were more likely to have been victimized more than once.

A sense of safety is the predominant attitude among Minnesotans; yet, unreported crimes to the police are still high. The 1999 crime survey found that 67 percent of respondents who were crime victims did not report one or more of the crimes to the police and this remained the same for the 2002 survey. Victims of violent crimes, such as unwanted sexual activity or domestic abuse, are least likely to report to the police and victims of property crime, such as motor vehicle theft, are most likely to report to the police.

Twenty-one percent of respondents survey-defined as victims or stalking victims did not self-identify as victims. This is the same percentage as the 1999 crime survey. It may be that Minnesotans feel safer and report fewer crimes because many victims do not view themselves as victims.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS AND CRIME VICTIMS

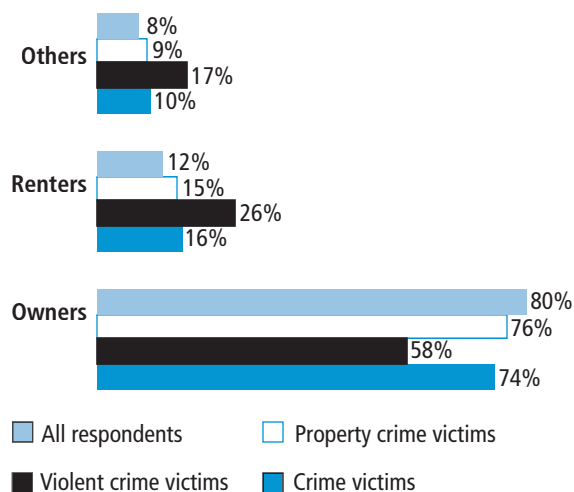
Census 2000 found that 50.5 of Minnesota's population was female and 49.5 percent was male. Overall, 59 percent of all survey respondents and crime victims were female and 41 percent were male.

About 60 percent of all crime victims and respondents live in cities or suburbs, with about a fourth living in rural areas and the remaining in towns. Thirty-three percent of all respondents are from suburbs.

The survey sample was less racially and ethnically diverse than Minnesota results from Census 2000. According to Census 2000, about 90 percent of Minnesota's population is Caucasian, 4 percent is African American, 3 percent is Asian and about 1.6 percent is Native American. Census 2000 found that about 3 percent of Minnesota's population is Hispanic. The 2002 survey respondents were about 94 percent Caucasian, about 1 percent Native American and African American and 2 percent Asian. About 1 percent of both crime victims and respondents were Hispanic.

PERCENT OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME WHO WERE RENTERS IS DOUBLE THE SURVEY POPULATION OF RENTERS

Percent based on the number in each category



Notes: Victimization is based on 2001 activities, while owner or renter status is based on 2002 situations; survey respondents did not identify living status at time of victimization occurrences. Difference in years means any inference may be unrelated. "Other" refers to individuals who did not classify themselves as renters or owners of their current dwelling.

More survey respondents were over age 50 than Census 2000 found for Minnesota's population. Forty-four percent of survey respondents and 29 percent of all crime victims were age 50 or older. Census 2000 found that only 26 percent of Minnesota's population was age 50 or older. Over half of all crime victims were age 25 to 49, but this age group comprised only 38 percent of the population in Census 2000. Only 11 percent of all respondents were age 15 to 24, but this group is 15 percent of Minnesota's population in Census 2000. However, youth are more likely to be victims of crime; 17 percent of crime victims were age 15 to 24.

Analyzing crime victims by age group, two different trends emerge. The percent of youth age 15 to 24 who were victimized decreased from 47 percent to 42 percent from the 1999 survey. The percentage of the respondents age 50 and over who were victimized increased from 16 to 19 percent from the previous crime survey.

Census 2000 found that three-quarters of Minnesota's households are owner-occupied. Crime victims responding to the 2002 survey were more likely to be renters than survey respondents. Only 12 percent of survey respondents were renters, but 16 percent of crime victims were renters.

Crime victims were more likely to be employed than all respondents. Fifty-one percent of respondents indicated that they were employed full-time, compared to 56 percent of crime victims. Thirty-four percent of all respondents answered that they were unemployed or other, such as retired, disabled or a student, compared to 25 percent of crime victims. Eleven percent of respondents hand wrote "retired" in the other category. According to Census 2000, 12 percent of the population in Minnesota is age 65 and over and the annual average unemployment rate for Minnesota has been less than 5 percent for the last ten years.

More respondents and crime victims were in the higher income categories than Census 2000 results for Minnesota. Only 24 percent of respondents and crime victims had incomes less than \$30,000, whereas Census 2000 found 30 percent at this income level. Forty-one percent of respondents and crime victims had incomes of \$60,000 or more, whereas the Census found only 37 percent of the population at this level.

Census 2000 compiles educational attainment data for the age 25 and older population.

When comparing educational attainment from Census 2000 to survey respondents and crime victims for this age cohort, there was a smaller percentage of survey respondents and victims in the lower educational categories than reported from Census 2000 for Minnesota. Twelve percent of Minnesotans have less than a high school diploma or equivalent, whereas 6 percent of survey respondents and less than 4 percent of crime victims fell in that category. Twenty-nine percent of Minnesotans stated in the Census that their highest educational level was high school or equivalent, but only 21 percent of survey respondents and 17 percent of crime victims stated it was their highest level. Twenty-four percent of crime victims and 22 percent of survey respondents stated that a bachelor's degree was their highest level of education, whereas only 19 percent of Minnesotans gave that response in Census 2000.

About 34 percent of the original sample was drawn from Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Thirty percent of respondents indicated they were from these counties. Thirty-two percent of all crime victims were from Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Census 2000 found about 33 percent of the population of Minnesota lives in these two counties. Surveys were received from all 87 counties; 79 counties contained crime victims.

METHODOLOGY

The 2002 crime survey was designed to measure citizen perceptions and experiences with crime. Changes to the 2002 survey from the 1993, 1996 and 1999 surveys included new, eliminated and reworded questions. A question on the perceived threat of a terrorist attack was added to the survey. Questions

were also added about domestic abuse and sexual violence as the result of collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health. Answer choices to some questions were reworded for clarification based on feedback from past surveys. The sampling process used for the 2002 crime survey was based on the 1999 crime survey, but differed slightly from the 1993 and 1996 crime surveys, which should be considered when reviewing any analysis comparisons of the 2002 survey to the earlier surveys.

The 2002 mailings were modeled after the 1993, 1996 and 1999 survey mailings. A postcard explaining that the survey should soon arrive was mailed to 10,013 addresses. Names on returned cards were deleted from the database; subsequent mailings were not sent. Next, the survey packet, which included a cover letter, crime survey, instruction sheet, additional comments sheet and a postage paid return envelope was mailed bulk rate to the current mailing addresses. A postcard with a reminder notice to return the survey was then sent first class to all who had not responded after three weeks, followed by another survey packet and reminder postcard. When survey packets were returned to Minnesota Planning with a forwarding address, the survey was re-sent to the new address. Names and addresses from postage returns without forwarding addresses at any point of the mailing process were excluded from future mailings.

Five weeks after the second reminder postcard was mailed, the collection of surveys ended. All survey answers were scanned and recorded by computer. This type of data collection eliminated human data entry error. Answers from the 1993 and 1996 crime surveys were hand-entered into a database; it is estimated that this process may cause roughly 5 percent data entry error.

SAMPLE SELECTION METHODS DIFFERED SLIGHTLY IN ALL FOUR CRIME SURVEYS

The 1993 and 1996 crime surveys used a different sample selection method than the 1999 or 2002 crime surveys. The sample for all four surveys was taken from the Minnesota Driver's License Bureau database, which contains names and addresses of individuals registered for a Minnesota driver's license or identification card. For the 1993 and 1996 crime surveys, the Driver's License Bureau randomly selected a record in the database and then retrieved every nth record that followed to compile approximately 10 percent of the database. Minnesota Planning then randomly selected a sample size from the 10 percent. For the 1999 and 2002 survey samples, the entire driver's license database was downloaded. In the 1999 Crime Survey, a 10 percent sample was randomly selected from the database, sorted by city and ZIP code, and then a 10,043 sample was randomly drawn. For the 2002 Crime Survey, only one random sample was drawn. First, the entire database was sorted by city and ZIP code. A number was randomly selected and then every nth record was selected to create a sample size of 10,013 people.

2002 CRIME SURVEY SAMPLE

	Sample Size	Removals	Surveys returned	Percent Returned
Minnesota	10,013	2,667	4,161	57%
Hennepin and Ramsey counties	3,411	1,067	1,240	53%
Other 85 counties	6,602	1,600	2,885	58%

Notes: Removals include participants who did not have a current address, were deceased or did not wish to participate in the survey. Percent returned excludes all removals from its calculation. Returned surveys exclude 36 surveys in the county total calculations due to respondents who did not fill in county of residence.

2002 Crime Survey Process

	Sensitizing postcard (mailed 7/9)	Survey packet (mailed 7/31)	Reminder postcard (mailed 8/16)	Second survey packet (mailed 9/6)	Second reminder postcard (mailed 9/23)	All returned surveys (last day accepted 10/31)
Number	10,013	8,510	6,115	4,504	4,065	4,161
Percent of original sample	100%	85%	61%	45%	40%	42%
Percent of all participants with correct address (7,346)	Not applicable	Not applicable	83%	61%	55%	57%

Note: Percent of all participants with correct address excludes people who did not have a current address, were deceased or did not wish to participate in the survey.

From the initial mailing of 10,013 postcards, 25 percent of the mailed postcards were returned to the center because respondents had moved; moved and left no forwarding address; were unknown at the specified address; were deceased; or came back marked return to sender. Nearly 2,500 were returned to the center because of an incorrect address for the person designated. Some effort was made to send postcards to respondents who had a current forwarding address. The remainder were removed from the sample.

The 1999 and 2002 selection methods addressed the concern that the database may be organized by last name, which could possibly cause an over-representation of a certain race or nationality. The process was intended to target individuals that represented areas throughout the state. This survey did not include over-sampling of certain areas in Hennepin and Ramsey counties that had high minority populations. The expectation was that over-sampling would produce more responses from people of color. However, all crime surveys drew low response rates from minorities and analysis of race could not be used. Although the 1999 and 2002 crime surveys tried to rectify this problem, not enough surveys were received from minorities to analyze by race or ethnicity.

Survey responses can be weighted to more accurately represent the population. For example, if females make up 50 percent of the population, but account for 80 percent of the survey sample, a weight can be assigned to each response, so that both genders

have an impact on response findings that reflects their proportion of the population. The 1993 and 1996 survey responses were weighted according to Minnesota estimates of age group, sex and geographic area. Responses to the 1999 and 2000 survey were not weighted because 6 percent of the respondents did not answer survey questions of age, gender or geographic area. This group could not be weighted without this information and therefore their responses would not have been analyzed in findings. Weighting cases can affect the outcome of survey findings and should be considered when comparing the 2002 and 1999 surveys to past surveys.

CONSIDER SURVEY LIMITATIONS

The similarity of some questions in the crime survey could have resulted in double counts of victimization experiences. Question 23, which asked about unwanted sexual activity and question 24, which asked about rape or attempted rape, could result in double counting. An individual may respond yes to both questions for the same incident, as an unwanted sexual act could also be a rape or attempted rape. In addition, the responses to these questions were positively correlated, which means there is some linear relationship between the two questions.

There were three questions, question 20, about being injured with a weapon, question 23, about unwanted sexual activity and question 24, about rape or attempted rape, that each had less than 50 respondents identifying victimization. Because of the

small sample of victims, detailed analysis could provide misleading results, and was not included in this report.

The results from offender analysis were limited because of the low number of responses. Detailed analysis of victims and offenders by age group is not available due to the high percentage of victims who checked age unknown when asked if the assailant(s) were juvenile, adult or age unknown. The length and repetitive nature of the questions may have played a part in respondents not answering sub-questions at the end of a long series of victimization questions.

Question 30 was added as a separate question to the 2002 crime survey, instead of prefacing each subsequent question with "If you were the victim of a crime or answered yes to any question 17 through 29" as was done in the previous crime survey. Only those who answered yes to question 30 were instructed to answer questions 31 to 35. However, there was confusion for respondents answering this question and more respondents answered questions 31 to 35 than had answered yes to question 30.

Question 29 on stalking was excluded from any victimization analysis unless otherwise noted.

Any analysis comparing a respondent's answer from one question to another should be read with caution. It is not possible to know if two answers are related when questions were asked separately.

A respondent's age was based on the year born subtracted from the current year. Any age analysis was made using three age groups: age 15 to 24, 25 to 49 and age 50 or older. Individual ages were not studied.

Respondents could fall into more than one victimization category, but could only be counted once in each category.

Unless otherwise indicated, percentages ignored missing data.

Comparisons about the number or percentage of victims from one survey to another may be somewhat skewed. One survey may have 10 victimization questions and another 12 questions, but the latter may show a higher percentage of victims because it gives respondents more opportunities to identify additional victimization occurrences.

A detailed description of the survey methodology is available from the Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

SOURCE

¹Newton, Christopher. "Violent crime declines across the U.S." *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, St. Paul, Minnesota. September 9, 2002, p. 2

2002 MINNESOTA CRIME SURVEY

Respondents who answered yes to crime survey questions were sometimes asked subsequent questions: percentages listed under these sections are calculated from the number of yes answers to the initial question.

To conserve space, some questions show percentages for yes responses only; percent of respondents who answered no may be calculated by subtracting the percent listed from 100. Percentages for all respondents are rounded to the nearest whole number except those under 1 percent.

Detailed analysis is available only for those questions that had a minimum number of 50 "yes" answers (minimum of 50 crime victims for each question).

Copies of the survey are available from the Criminal Justice Statistics Center at 651-297-3824 or online at www.ojp.state.mn.us/cj/index.htm.

THE 2002 MINNESOTA CRIME SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

This survey contains questions about your opinions on crime and the criminal justice system, as well as your personal experience with crime during 2001. Your help in answering these questions will help us learn more about the nature of crime in Minnesota.

Your answers will be treated confidentially by the researchers at the Criminal Justice Statistics Center at Minnesota Planning. The identification number on the survey will only be used to determine where to send reminder notes to fill out and return the survey. All names and addresses used to create mailing labels for this survey will be destroyed and only the answers given on returned surveys will be used in analysis. Your name will not appear anywhere in this survey or in the survey results.

YOUR ANSWERS ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Please take the time to read and answer every question. If you need additional space to answer a question or if you would like to make comments, please use the separate sheet of paper provided with this survey for that purpose.

To complete this survey you will need to:

- Use a **number 2 pencil** throughout the survey
- Fill in only one answer circle for each question unless a question is marked otherwise
- Completely fill in the circle which corresponds to your answer
- Completely erase any answer which you accidentally marked
- Keep the survey intact – *do not tape, staple, tear or bend this survey*

Please mail this completed survey in the envelope provided as soon as possible to avoid postcards and additional surveys being mailed to you. If you have any additional questions, please call the Criminal Justice Statistics Center at (651) 297-3824.

Thank you for your participation.

2002 MINNESOTA CRIME SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

1. How safe do you feel in the community where you live?

n=4,154

Always safe.....	23%
Almost always safe.....	69
Sometimes safe.....	7
Almost never safe.....	1
Never safe.....	0.3

2. To what degree do you think crime is a problem in your community?

n=4,152

Never a problem.....	3%
Almost never a problem.....	36
Sometimes a problem.....	55
Almost always a problem.....	5
Always a problem.....	2

3. How often does fear of crime prevent you from doing things you would like to do?

n=4,152

Never.....	38%
Almost never.....	42
Sometimes.....	18
Almost always.....	1
Always.....	0.4

4. When you leave your home, how often do you think about being robbed or physically assaulted?

n=4,155

Never.....	31%
Almost never.....	44
Sometimes.....	22
Almost always.....	3
Always.....	0.8

5. Is there any area within a mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?

n=4,112

No.....	52%
Yes.....	48

6. When you leave your home, how often do you think about it being broken into or vandalized while you're away?

n=4,152

Never.....	18%
Almost never.....	44
Sometimes.....	31
Almost always.....	5
Always.....	2

7. How often do you worry that your loved ones will be hurt by criminals?

n=4,146

Never	14%
Almost never.....	39
Sometimes	41
Almost always	4
Always	2

8. When you're in your home, how often do you feel afraid of being attacked or assaulted?

n=4,154

Never	39%
Almost never.....	46
Sometimes	14
Almost always	1
Always	0.4

9. How often are you fearful of being the victim of a violent crime?

n=4,147

Never	25%
Almost never.....	54
Sometimes	19
Almost always	1
Always	0.7

10. How often do you worry that you or your family will be the victim of a terrorist attack?

n=4,149

Never	32%
Almost never.....	43
Sometimes	23
Almost always	2
Always	0.6

11. Do you think any of the following are likely to happen to you during the NEXT year?

n=4,047 to 4,087

Someone breaking into your home and taking something or attempting to take something	16%
Someone stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you.....	15
Someone taking or attempting to take something from you by force or threat of force	8
Someone stealing other property or valuable things belonging to you	28
Someone beating or attacking you with a knife, gun, club or other weapon	5
Someone threatening you with their fist, feet or other bodily attack	12
Someone forcing you or attempting to force you to have sexual intercourse with them against your will	4
A member of your family or someone in your household beating or attacking you	2

12. In the past 12 months, have you had contact with the LOCAL police?

n=4,046

Yes	36%
Would you describe the contact (s) as positive?	81
Would you describe the contact (s) as negative?	19

13. How would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community?

n=4,046

Very good	30%
Good.....	45
Acceptable.....	22
Bad	3
Very bad.....	1

14. How much work are police doing in your community to improve safety?

n=3,943

Quite a lot of work..... 8%
A lot of work..... 35
Some work..... 45
A little work..... 7
Very little work 5

15. Over the PAST THREE YEARS, do you believe violent crime in your community has:

n=4,000

Greatly decreased 2%
Decreased 13
Stayed the same 61
Increased 22
Greatly increased 2

16. During the NEXT THREE YEARS, do you believe that violent crime in your community will:

n=4,018

Greatly decrease 2%
Decrease 11
Stay the same 54
Increase 31
Greatly increase 2

For questions 17 through 29, please describe only events that occurred in 2001 between January 1 and December 31. Your answers will remain anonymous.

17. In 2001, did anyone steal, or attempt to steal, a motor vehicle such as your car, truck, motorcycle or snowmobile?

n=4,049

Yes 3%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur? Ranged from 1 to 6

How many of these incidents did you report to the police? Ranged from 0 to 5

18. In 2001, did anyone break into, or try to break into your home or some other building on your property?

n=4,053

Yes 6%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 4

19. In 2001, did anyone take something directly from you by using force - such as by a stickup, mugging or threat?

n=4,060

Yes 0.5%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 4

20. In 2001, did anyone injure you with a knife, gun or weapon OTHER THAN hands, fists or feet?

n=4,058

Yes 0.2%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur? Ranged from 1 to 2

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 2

21. In 2001, did anyone hit, attack or beat you up by using their hands, fists or feet (this DOES NOT INCLUDE incidents involving a knife, gun or any other weapon)?

n=4,134

Yes 2%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 6

Was the most recent of these done by (mark all that apply):

A person you know well - excluding family 35%

A family member 23

A casual acquaintance 24

A stranger 22

Did not see anyone 11

To your knowledge, was the assailant - or assailants (mark all that apply)

Juvenile (under age 18) 27%

Adult (age 18 and older) 71

Unknown 13

22. In 2001, did anyone THREATEN - with or without a weapon - to hit, attack, or beat you up?

n=4,137

Yes 5%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 10 or more

Was the most recent of these done by (mark all that apply):

A person you know well - excluding family 26%

A family member 14

A casual acquaintance 27

A stranger 40

Did not see anyone 4

To your knowledge, was the assailant - or assailants (mark all that apply):

Juvenile (under age 18) 26%

Adult (age 18 and older) 79

Unknown 6

23. In 2001, did anyone force you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling or other unwanted sexual acts?

n=4,129

Yes 1%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 7

How many times did you go to the emergency room because of these incidents? Ranged from 0 to 1

24. In 2001, did anyone force you, or attempt to force you, to have sexual intercourse with them?

n=4,128

Yes 0.5%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 4

How many times did you go to the emergency room because of these incidents?

..... Ranged from 0 to 3

25. In 2001, did your spouse, significant other, partner or other family member push, shake, slap, kick, punch, hit, choke or harm you with an object or weapon?

n=4,111

Yes 2%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 9 or more

How many times were you injured because of these incidents? Ranged from 0 to 5

How many times did you go to the emergency room because of these incidents? Ranged from 0 to 5

For the most recent incident, could the assailant - or one of the assailants - be defined as your current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone you dated?

Yes 63%

To your knowledge, was the assailant - or assailants (mark all that apply):

Juvenile (under age 18) 12%

Adult (age 18 and older) 87

Unknown 12

26. In 2001, did anyone steal things that belonged to you from INSIDE any car or truck, such as packages or clothing (other than any incidents already mentioned)?

n=4,107

Yes 6%

IF YES:

How many times did this occur? Ranged from 1 to 10

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 9 or more

27. In 2001, was any of your property damaged or vandalized (other than incidents already mentioned)?

n=3,960

Yes 11%

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 9 or more

28. In 2001, was anything else stolen from you (other than any incidents already mentioned)?

n=4,079

Yes 6%

How many times did this occur?

..... Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

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

..... Ranged from 0 to 3

29. In 2001, did anyone - NOT INCLUDING bill collectors, telephone solicitors or other salespeople, more than once:

n=3,783 to 4,018

Follow or spy on you 3%
 Send you unsolicited (unasked for) letters or written correspondence 7
 Make unsolicited (unasked for) phone calls to you 12
 Vandalize your property or destroy something you value 5

IF YES TO ONE or MORE of the prior four behaviors:

n=676

Did you feel terrorized or fear bodily harm as a result of these behaviors? 17%

Do you believe that these behaviors were motivated by your actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or national origin? behaviors? 11

How many times did this occur?
 Ranged from 1 to 10 or more

How many of these incidents did you report to the police?
 Ranged from 0 to 9 or more

For the most recent incident, could the assailant - or one of the assailants - be defined as your current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone you dated?

Yes 6%

30. Were you the victim of a crime (s) in 2001 or did you answer yes to any of questions 17 through 29?

n=4,058

Yes 25%
 Not a victim 73

IF YES please answer the following five questions:

31. How much impact did the crime (s) have on your life?

n=2,874

Did not answer 69%
 Very little 14
 A little 7
 Some 6
 A lot 3
 Quite a lot 1

32. Do you believe the offender (s) of the crime (s) was motivated by your (mark all that apply):

n=4,083 to 4,151

Age 2%
 Mental disability 0.6
 National origin 0.2
 Physical disability 0.5
 Race 1
 Religion 0.4
 Sensory disability 0.2
 Sex 2
 Sexual orientation 0.4

33. Did the responding officer (s) ever tell you about any crime victim, services or programs?

n=1,835

Does not apply 79%
 No 18
 Yes 4

34. How much did you or an insurance company pay in costs related to a crime (s) against you in 2001?

n=1,864

No money paid 85%
 Under \$100 3
 \$100 to \$499 6
 \$500 or over 7

35. If you or an insurance company paid costs for a crime (s) in 2001, was it for (mark all that apply):

n=3,843 to 4,121

Property repairs 8%
 Medical treatment 1
 Legal matters 1

Questions 36 and 37 are about firearms which include handguns, pistols, rifles, and automatic and semi-automatic weapons.

36. Do you keep a firearm (s) in your home?

n=4,003

No..... 53%
 Yes, for protection 2
 Yes, for sporting purposes 29
 Yes, for both protection and sporting..... 13
 Yes other, please specify 3

IF YES:

Are all firearms stored in a locked place, stored with a trigger lock or both?

n=1,834

No..... 50%
 Yes 50

37. In 2001 did you ever carry a firearm outside your home to make you feel safe?

n=4,030

No..... 98%
 Yes 2

38. Were any of your friends, family or neighbors victims of crime in 2001?

n=3,427 to 3,825

	No	Yes	Unsure
Friends	65%	17%	19%
Family	76	13	11
Neighbors	54	17	29

These final questions are about your demographic characteristics (answers will NOT be used to identify you):

39. In what year were you born?

n=3,948

Age 15 to 24..... 11%
 Age 25 to 49..... 45
 Age 50 and over 44

40. Are you:

n=4,084

Female 59%
 Male 41%

41. What is your racial background?

n=4,065

African American/Black..... 1%
 American Indian/Alaska Native..... 0.6
 Asian..... 2
 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander..... 0.2
 White/Caucasian 94
 Other please specify..... 1
 Two or more races 0.5

42. What is your ethnic background?

n=3,656

Hispanic/Latino 1%
 Non-Hispanic 99

43. What best describes you:

n=4,102

Single..... 19%
 Married 65
 Partnered 4
 Divorced..... 6
 Widowed 6
 Separated 0.6

44. Please indicate if any of the following currently describe you (mark all that apply):

n=3,656 to 4,129

Does not apply..... 93%
 Mental disability 1
 Physical disability..... 5
 Sensory disability 0.8

45. What best describes your education:

n=4,031

8th grade or less	3%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7
High school diploma or GED	21
Some post high school education	18
Technical-vocational school certificate or degree	14
Associate degree	7
Bachelor degree	21
Graduate degree	10

46. What best describes your TOTAL HOUSEHOLD income in 2001 before taxes:

n=3,914

Less than \$30,000	25%
\$30,000 to \$59,999	34
\$60,000 to \$99,999	26
\$100,000 or more	15

47. What is your employment status?

n=4,025

Employed full-time	51%
Employed part-time	16
Not employed	15
Other please specify	19

48. Which best describes where you live (mark only one)?

n=4,114

City	28%
Rural area	24
Suburb	33
Town	16

49. Including yourself, are there people living in your home who are (mark all that apply):

n=4,161

Under age 16	35%
Does not apply	65

50. What best describes your place of residence?

n=3,939

Apartment building	7%
Condominium	2
Duplex	2
Farm	7
Mobile home or trailer	3
Single family house	72
Townhouse	5
Other	2

51. What best describes your living status?

n=3,904

Owner	80%
Renter	12
Other	8

52. What is your zip code?

n=3,824

53. In what county do you live (please choose only one)?

n=4,125

Hennepin & Ramsey counties	30%
Other 85 counties	70
Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota and Anoka counties	44%
Other 83 counties	56

Thank you for completing this survey. Please do not tape, staple, tear, or bend this survey.

Please place this survey in the envelope provided and drop it in the mail right away.

If you have any additional thoughts about crime in your community or the state - or about this survey - please write them on the separate piece of paper provided in the envelope in which this survey arrived.



Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs Suite 100 444 Cedar St. St. Paul, MN 55101
<http://www.ojp.state.mn.us/cj/index.htm>