

A STUDY
OF

FEAR OF CRIME,

PERCEPTIONS OF THE LOCAL CRIME PROBLEM,

AND

VICTIMISATION

in a Local Community
within Fairfield L.G.A.



A Research Project undertaken for
the Safer Neighbourhood Project,
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INTRODUCTION

The Safer Neighbourhood Project

In January 1990, Fairfield City Council and Waverley Council each embarked upon a one year pilot project called the Safer Neighbourhood Project. The purpose of the project was to examine ways in which Local Government might play a more pro-active role in crime prevention and develop more appropriate responses to the problems of crime that are faced by the local communities which the Councils serve and represent. Funding for the project came from the Federal Office of Local Government, the Law Foundation of N.S.W., the Criminology Research Council and from the participating Councils.

Community Crime Prevention

The idea that Local Government and local communities should take a more active role and greater responsibility for crime prevention, beyond just participation in Neighbourhood Watch is a relatively recent phenomenon in Australia. At present South Australia is perhaps the State which is furthest along the path of community crime prevention, having adopted in 1989 a 'Crime Prevention Strategy', as well as appointing a Minister for Crime Prevention, and establishing a Crime Prevention Unit within the Attorney General's Department. This Crime Prevention Unit has a budget of \$10 million over 5 years with which to sponsor Local Government and community-based crime prevention initiatives. Most other Australian states have as yet made few moves in this direction, however, and the predominant view still seems to be that more prisons, harsher penalties, and more police are the only solutions to the rising crime rates of our society - a view which is not supported by research findings.

Initiatives towards Local Government and community-based crime prevention strategies and programs are, on the other hand, quite widely accepted in many other western industrialised countries. Some of these initiatives have been recently documented in Local Authorities and Crime Prevention in Australia, Western Europe and North America: An Annotated Bibliography (Duffy, B. 1990) which was compiled as one part of the Safer Neighbourhood Project. For example, in France the national Bonnemaison Scheme, primarily administered through local government, has emphasised broad ranging social policy strategies concerning the recreation, education and employment needs of young people in its approach to crime prevention. In the Netherlands there is a national strategy for crime prevention that has involved the sponsoring of many smaller projects, involving both the situational crime prevention model as well as broader social policy, community development and environmental design approaches - often jointly sponsored by the state and the business sector. Sweden also has an established tradition of targetted social programs administered through local authorities, with a specific crime preventative focus, as well as involvement in more technically oriented situational crime prevention initiatives. In the United Kingdom a Crime Prevention Unit has operated within the Home Office for many years and has sponsored or co-ordinated many projects, especially in large low-

income housing areas, focussing on community development strategies with residents, coupled with the crime prevention through environmental design approach and detailed situational analysis of crime prone locations. Other projects and research in Britain have been sponsored by the Safer Neighbourhood Unit of the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Offenders (NACRO) and by the Safer Neighbourhood Advisory Service of the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies. In Canada the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (the 'Mounties') contract the services of their specially trained Crime Prevention Officers to municipal government to assist in the planning and development process in order to help resolve or prevent crime through applying situational analysis and crime prevention through environmental design principles. Similarly in the USA there have been numerous local projects sponsored by the National Institute of Justice, the Police Executive Research Forum, the Eisenhower Foundation, and the National Crime Prevention Council - particularly in the area of local community development approaches to crime prevention. So in many respects, Australia has fallen behind in the search for better solutions to the rising crime rates and attendant social problems experienced in all western countries.

As can be seen from the comments above, crime prevention strategies can take several forms or follow several models: situational crime prevention, the social intervention approach, crime prevention through environmental design, and the community development approach. What is common to all these approaches, however, is that they require detailed information about the specific crime problems that are to be prevented, the circumstances in which the crimes occur, and the people who are affected by the crimes or who may be an important resource in responding to the problem. Although different approaches require different information, and information at different levels of detail, the need for information is central to the process of developing crime prevention strategies.

The need for research and information

Systematised and comprehensive data on crime has traditionally not been kept in N.S.W. (or other areas of Australia in a manner that is either accessible or appropriate for the detailed understanding of how recorded crime might vary in both magnitude and type across a geographical area such as an LGA or suburb. Even less effort has gone into assessing levels of victimisation, as opposed to the levels of recorded crime found in police statistics. Victimisation is an important alternative measure of the crime problem. The few such studies that have been undertaken (eg. ABS surveys in 1973, 1983 and 1990) have tended to focus on sample populations representing very large geographical areas such as a State or the country as a whole, rather than examining crime in local communities.

An area related to crime and victimisation, which is perhaps even less researched in Australia, concerns the public's perceptions

of the crime problem and the public's fear of crime, and the impact that this can have on the lifestyle of individuals and families, and on the social life of a community or neighbourhood as a whole.

In recognition of the need for more research in these areas, and the need for these types of data to provide a knowledge base from which Local Government might start to develop crime prevention strategies and policies, the Criminology Research Council granted funds to the Safer Neighbourhood Projects at Waverley Council and Fairfield City Council for the purpose of conducting research in the areas of victimisation, and fear of crime.

The reason why there is a need for more, localised and specific data on crime and its social impacts becomes apparent as the complexity of the crime phenomenon is better appreciated. Both Australian and international research indicates that criminal activity is not evenly distributed within our society. Sex, age, ethnicity and socio-economic status are all important factors in influencing rates of victimisation. Nor is the population equally placed in respect of their capacity to cope with either the material/financial, physical or psychological consequences of crime. Similarly, crime is not evenly dispersed geographically and factors such as adult:child ratios, population densities, housing type/tenure, population mobility, and general socio-economic conditions interact in a complex way to influence crime rates for quite small areas such as neighbourhoods, and for much larger areas. Research has also indicated that different types of crime are more susceptible to certain types of preventative measures than are others, and it is therefore important to match the relevant prevention strategy or program with the specific types of crime upon which it is most effective.

Choosing the Villawood research project.

Since the overall purpose of the Safer Neighbourhood Project was to promote the development of locally based crime prevention strategies, it was necessary for the research to be undertaken to have a practical orientation, and not to be research simply for theoretical or academic purposes. It was this need for the research to be used which influenced the choice of the target population and area to be researched.

Research itself usually does not produce change. Change requires individuals, organisations or networks with both the will and the resources to act on the findings of the research. In some cases it may be that these interested parties already have the resources and expertise that can be applied to the resolution of the problems that the research identifies. More often than not, especially in the area of social problems and community needs, research which identifies and documents an issue of concern is only a first stage in the political process of negotiating for the provision of resources from external sources such as State or Federal Government Departments, Local Government, charitable foundations or private enterprise.

The Safer Neighbourhood Project was not funded, staffed or

structured in such a way that it could become directly involved in the provision of resources for specific crime prevention initiatives. It therefore seemed that it was necessary that the research specifically address the concerns of a particular area or group of people who may have a direct interest in ensuring that the research material was brought to the attention of the organisations, departments and authorities that may have the resources and responsibility to follow through the problems/issues raised in the research. While there are probably many groups, areas or problems within the Fairfield LGA where research was warranted, the limited funds necessitated a focussed approach.

The philosophical orientation of the Safer Neighbourhood Project emphasised the social costs and impacts of crime, and the recognition that it is often the least advantaged sectors of the community which bear the brunt of crime. This orientation also helped direct the research.

For all the reasons stated above, the area of, and surrounding the Villawood Department of Housing Estate seemed to be an appropriate focus for this research. Contacts with a range of people during the early stages of the Safer Neighbourhood Project had indicated that this area was regarded as something of a trouble spot. Local police had expressed concerns about the difficulties of policing this area, and had indicated that it was nicknamed "the lost city" or "the village of the damned". Aldermen had expressed the concerns of residents living nearby the Estate, who saw it as the source of all their problems. Local welfare workers had suggested that the only solution to the social problems of the area was to bulldoze the Estate and start again. Contact with residents on the Estate, and evidence from community surveys going back as early as 1983 indicated that crime was a major and long-standing source of stress, material hardship and discontent amongst Estate residents.

Although the problem with crime was an issue which the Tenants Association had raised again and again with various authorities, it seems that few resources had ever been allocated in systematic attempts to resolve the problems. At the time that the Safer Neighbourhood Project commenced in January 1990, it seemed that the extent of despair amongst Estate residents, and their retreat into isolation behind improvised security grills, etc., was considerable.

This research is intended to document the problems being confronted by this local community both on the Estate and in the surrounding neighbourhood. The research set out to examine: the extent and nature of the crime problem and victimisation; the impact crime is having on the lifestyles of people in this neighbourhood - both on and off the Housing Estate; and the opinions of the local residents about what they perceive as the causes of the problems.

In this way, the research may assist in the development of appropriate crime prevention strategies in this area. It is also hoped that the research will be a tool for the Tenants

Association, local Neighbourhood Watch group, local police, local school, community workers, and other concerned people to use in negotiating for the provision of the necessary resources for the area, so that these problems can be addressed, and so that policy decisions which perpetuate their problems might be influenced and changed.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This summary of findings relates to interviews with 180 residents from different households that were selected at random from an area in the suburb of Villawood. The sample of houses included 99 dwellings on a medium density Department of Housing Estate, and a further 81 dwellings from the surrounding streets. The sample is reasonably representative of the population of the target area, and therefore it is reasonable to generalise the findings of this study to the whole population of the target area, ie. some 622 households.

FEAR OF CRIME

1. 36.1% of survey participants indicated that they felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" when at home alone during the day. This proportion increased to 56.1% when alone at night.
 - * Females were more likely than males to feel "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" when alone at home at night.
 - * Age did not appear to have a significant influence on whether people felt safe when alone at home, day or night.
 - * Residents living on the Department of Housing Estate were significantly more likely to indicate that they felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" when at home alone both day and night (day=42.4% night=66.7%) than were people not living on the Estate (day=30.9% night=39.1%).
 - * People living in flats were most likely to indicate they felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" while at home alone, while those living in detached houses were least likely to feel this way.

2. 51.7% of all persons surveyed considered their house to be either "Not Very Secure" or "Not Secure at All" against intruders.
 - * 65.7% of residents of the Department of Housing Estate considered their houses as "Not Very Secure" or "Not Secure at All". This compared to 34.6% of non-estate residents who felt their houses do be insecure.
 - * 71.4% of people living in semi detached/town houses dwellings on the Estate considered their homes to be "Not Very Secure" or "Not Secure at All".

3. 70.0% of survey participants thought it to be "Likely" or "Very Likely" that their homes would be burgled if left unattended for several hours during the day time. This proportion increased to 77.8% for houses left unattended at night time.
 - * Significantly more residents of the Department of

Housing Estate thought burglary to be "Likely" or "Very Likely" during both day (88.9%) and night (89.9%) than those respondents not living on the Estate.

4. 39.4% of survey participants indicated they would be "Very Worried" about burglary if their house was left unattended for a period of one hour or less. A further 28.9% of survey participants felt they could not leave their house unattended for more than several hours without being very worried about it being burgled.
 - * Residents of the Department of Housing Estate (52.5%) were more than twice as likely as respondents not living on the Estate (23.5%) to indicate they could not leave their house unattended for one hour or less without being 'Very Worried'.
 - * Respondents living in semi-detached/town house dwellings were most likely to indicate they could not leave their house unattended for one hour or less without being "Very Worried" that it would be burgled.
5. 20.0% of survey participants indicated that they felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" walking alone in the neighbourhood's streets during the day and 61.7% indicated that they felt this way after dark.
 - * Females were somewhat more likely to feel "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" during the day than were males, but were more than twice as likely to indicate that they felt "Very Unsafe" after dark.
 - * Age was only slightly related to people's feeling of safety when walking alone in neighbourhood streets.
6. 56.1% of survey participants thought that streets and public walkways in their neighbourhood were not adequately lit at night time.
7. 27.2% of survey participants said they would feel "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" walking through or being alone in their local parks/playgrounds during the day. This proportion increased to 55.5% feeling "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" after dark. (30.6% did not express an opinion.)
 - * Females were significantly more likely than males to feel "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" walking through or being alone in local parks/playgrounds during the day and particularly at night time.
 - * As the age of survey respondents increased so too did the likelihood that they felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" being alone in local parks during the day.
8. 29.4% of participants thought the lighting in their local parks/playgrounds to be poor or very poor. 38.9% had no opinion.

9. 18.9% of survey participants indicated that concern for their safety influenced their decision whether or not to use local buses.
10. 46.7% of respondents in the survey indicated that concern for their safety influenced whether or not they use local trains/railway stations. Concern was significantly greater at night than during the day. This concern extended to the use of all 5 local railway stations.
 - * proportionally more females (50.0%) than males (38.1%) expressed concern for their safety when using local trains/railway stations.
11. (32.8%) of survey participants indicated that they would be concerned for their safety when shopping in at least one of four local shopping areas.
11. (40.6%) of survey respondents indicated that they were concerned for their safety when in or near public toilets, and a further 23.9% indicated their concern when using pedestrian tunnels/underpasses.

PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIME PROBLEM IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

1. Break and enter to houses was most frequently mentioned (67.8%) by survey respondents as the crime most likely to affect them or their families, followed by theft and stealing generally, then assaults.
2. 59.4% of survey participants thought the crime problem in their local area was "Quite Serious" or "Very Serious".
 - * 66.7% of survey participants living in the Department of Housing Estate evaluated the local crime problem as "Quite Serious" or "Very Serious" compared with 50.6% of respondents not living on the estate.
 - * Survey participants who had been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months generally evaluated the local crime problem as more serious than those who had not been a victim.
3. 41.7% of the survey population considered the local crime problem as serious enough to be a reason to move from the area if the opportunity arose.
 - * Significantly more survey participants living on the Estate (52.5% as opposed to 28.4%) of non estate residents indicated that crime would be a reason to move from the area.
 - * Those respondents who had been victimised were more likely to indicate they would move from the area if the opportunity arose.
4. Break and enter and other property offences were generally

considered to be more serious problems in the local community than offences against the person, although 31.7% and 23.9% of respondents rated the problem of Robbery without weapons and Assaults in public places, respectively as "High" or "Very High" problems.

5. The most frequently mentioned causes of the crime problem in the local area were "Drugs and alcohol" (43.9%) followed by "Unemployment/Youth unemployment" (34.4%) and "Boredom/Idleness" (21.1%).
6. The most frequently made suggestion to reduce the local crime problem was "More active/effective policing" (36.1%) followed by "Harsher laws and punishment" (20%) "Youth Facilities and Services" (14.4%) and "Employment for local people" (13.9%).

VICTIMISATION

1. 58.3% of householders in the survey sample indicated that their household had been the victim of at least one actual or attempted crime in the previous 12 months.
2. The most frequent crime was break and enter to houses (92 incidents) with 32.2% of households being victims. "Theft from areas outside the house" and "Car theft" were the next most frequent crimes.
3. 52.5% of "victimisation" incidents were not reported to police and reporting rates varied from one type to another.
4. 38.9% of households surveyed indicated that their households had been the victim of a crime on 2 or more occasions during the previous 12 months.
5. 62.6% of survey participants who lived on the Estate had been the victims of crimes compared to 53.1% of those not living on the Estate.
6. At a rate of 40.4% residents of the Department of Housing Estate were almost twice as likely to experience a break and enter to their home than residents not living on the Estate (22.2%).

RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO AND COPE WITH THE CRIME SITUATIONS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

1. If local population stability is considered as a "resource" in crime prevention, this neighbourhood would appear to be disadvantaged. 29.1% of households surveyed reported living in the area for two years or less. Population mobility was significantly higher on the Estate with 35.7% having lived at their current address for two years or less.
2. Significantly fewer participants living on the Estate (43.4%) than those living in the surrounding area (76.8%) know of a Neighbourhood Watch Program in the area.

3. 73.7% of the survey population who live on the Estate came from households where a language other than English was spoken most frequently at home. In the surrounding community this figure was 47.5%. This may indicate significant disadvantage in communicating with authorities or building supportive or protective community networks.
4. 26.8% of respondents living on the Estate, as opposed to 9.5% of those not living on the Estate, indicated that they did not know and trust a neighbour they could call on for assistance or who could keep an eye on their house.
5. 6.1% of respondents did not have access to a private telephone with those living on the Estate being slightly more disadvantaged in this respect.
6. People not living on the Estate were more likely to own cars and significantly more likely to carry insurance against theft of their car (65.7% as compared to 36.4%).
7. Only 40.3% of respondents living on the Department of Housing Estate had insurance cover against household burglary. This was less than half the rate of those not living on the Estate (86.6%).

PERCEPTIONS OF POLICING ACTIVITY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

1. Opinion about the adequacy of local policing was as follows:
 - * 45% considering police patrolling and visibility in the neighbourhood to be "Good" or "Very Good".
 - * 40.5% felt the police did a "Good" or "Very Good" job at responding quickly to calls.
 - * 32.2% thought the police did a "Good" or "Very Good" job of catching offenders.
 - * 50.6% felt the police did a "Good" or "Very Good" job at general law enforcement and ensuring reasonable behaviour in the area.
 - * 59.4% considered the police to be "Good" or "Very Good" with respect to being informative, polite, and helpful.
 - * 40.0% felt the police did a "Good" or "Very Good" job at consulting with the community and developing groups such as Neighbourhood Watch. 41.7% of the sample did not express an opinion about this area of activity.
2. On all the above attitudes to policing activity in the area, residents on the Estate rated the performance of the police as significantly poorer than those not living on the Estate.
3. 23.9% of survey respondents indicated that there had been a time in the previous 12 months when they had initially thought about contacting the police with respect to an incident but had subsequently decided not to.

DISCUSSION

The data collected during this research would suggest that in the survey area:

Fear of crime is a very substantial problem for the population. It would appear that this fear impacts negatively upon the ability of a substantial number of residents to move freely within their neighbourhood, to utilise local parks, public transport and even shopping areas. People do not feel particularly safe in their own homes, nor do they feel that it is safe to leave their houses and property unattended. It also appears that it is women generally and residents of the Department of Housing Estate in particular, who feel least safe and whose lifestyles are probably most constrained by fear of crime.

Unfortunately the lack of a comparative study means that it is not possible to say how much worse or better the problem in the survey area is relative to other areas in Sydney. The problem however appears to be quite severe. For many people, the prospect of not feeling safe when alone at home, walking on local streets, using local parks, etc., is hard to comprehend, and would certainly represent a significant reduction in our quality of life. Nor is it easy to comprehend the stress and lifestyle changes that would be required if homes were not to be left unattended for more than a few hours at a time. But these are the circumstances under which many residents in this area appear to be living.

Much anecdotal material was reported during the survey process, and a major failing with the questionnaire was that it could not measure the emotive responses (despair, anger, etc.) that many residents felt. For example, there were stories of reprisals for reporting crimes, and of families where one parent has to stay home while the rest of the family goes on holiday. What was also of great concern was the degree of acceptance of these restrictions on lifestyle, their material and social costs, and that high security living was here to stay and had become 'normal' and that little could be done to effect change.

Many residents on the Department of Housing Estate also commented on the poor quality of construction which made their houses insecure, eg. easily removed glass panels, poor quality locks, and an electric power system that can be tampered with so that whole sections of the Estate can be blacked out while burglaries are performed.

The research on victimisation suggested that the fear of crime in the survey area was justifiable, and that the area as a whole does experience a lot of crime. But again, it was those on the Department of Housing Estate who were victimised most often.

Similarly, the high concentration of people from non-English speaking backgrounds, the very high population turnover rate, and relatively low levels of car and home insurance suggested that this community may be poorly equipped to respond to or protect themselves from the crime problem. All these factors were more exaggerated on the Department of Housing Estate than the surrounding neighbourhood.

The research also indicated that the local community clearly identified drugs and alcohol, unemployment/youth unemployment and boredom/idleness as the major causes of crime in the area.

The research would suggest that a concerted and co-ordinated response by all the relevant agencies and departments is required if the crime problem in this area is to be satisfactorily addressed. The following recommendations would appear appropriate in view of the research findings and research on crime prevention initiatives that have been undertaken elsewhere. These are general strategies only, and would need to be developed in a planned and systematic manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

Fairfield City Council establish a Villawood Crime Prevention Working Group consisting of;

- Ward Aldermen for the Villawood area
- Representative of Council's Town Planning team
- The Villawood Tenants Association
- Department of Housing representatives (Regional & Local)
- Fairfield Police (Patrol Commander/Officer in charge of beat police)
- Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators
- Principal of the local school
- Youth and community workers from the area
- Prospect Electricity
- Representative of the Young Offenders Support (YOS) team.
- Dept. Family and Community Services, Fairfield Office
- Member of the Board of Fairfield Community Resource Centre.

This group should meet either bi-monthly or quarterly, under the auspice of Fairfield Council, which could, through the Administration Section of Council, provide secretarial support to the working group.

The purpose of this working group would be to monitor the crime situation in the area, to lobby for and promote the co-ordinated development of strategies and programs aimed at redressing the crime problem by each of the participating groups or organisations.

This Crime Prevention Working Group would seek to ensure the implementation of a range of crime prevention strategies which they subsequently identify, but which initially might include considering the following recommendations to each of the Government Departments and Instrumentalities.

Fairfield City Council

1. That the Parks Engineer conduct a process of consultation with residents in this area about ways to improve the amenity of local parks and playgrounds in order to minimise perceived risks to safety and to improve lighting and surveillance of the area.

2. That the Health and Building Department negotiate with the Department of Housing to ensure adequate refuse collection, cleaning of footpaths and streets and maintenance of grass verges, in the area to improve the general amenity of the area and reduce the risks of the area as being seen as run down and disorganised.

3. That the Town Planning Department enter into discussions with the Department of Housing about general physical improvements to the Estate, and about allocation and selection policies as a means of addressing problems resulting from high population densities, concentrations of unemployment, and disproportionately high ratios of children to adults in the area.

4. That the Town Planning Department undertake an examination of the adequacy of public transport services and other amenities in the area generally, as a means of making the area a more desirable place to live in order to reduce population turnover. This examination should also look at how the provision of local employment opportunities might be encouraged.

5. That the Town Planning Department, in consultation with Prospect Electricity, examine the feasibility of developing a network of safe walking routes providing access to local services and facilities, including Fairfield shopping area, where special attention has been paid to lighting, ease of surveillance, location of vegetation, barriers, etc.

6. That the Community Development Section continue to monitor and lobby for the provision of family, children's and youth services for the area, and undertake negotiations with the Family and Community Services Department and the Department of Community Services and Health, Department of Housing, and Fairfield Community Resource Centre with respect to such provision both in the long and short-term.

7. That the Traffic Committee undertake consultations with residents of the area of the Villawood Estate to determine if there exists a need for speed humps or other traffic control measures.

Department of Housing

1. Ensure either directly, or through negotiations with Fairfield Council, adequate provision of refuse collection services and Estate maintenance generally.

2. Undertake an extensive process of consultation with tenants as to their security needs, and undertake design alterations and provision of such security items as are necessary to provide a reasonable standard of security in response to the magnitude of the crime problem in this area.

3. Establish an ongoing tenant orientation and induction program to ensure that new tenants are assisted in developing contacts with their neighbours, the Tenants Association, and local services.

4. In the short-term, conduct consultations and community

development activities within each Way or block on the Estate in order to build networks that might provide a basis for surveillance, the formation of Neighbourhood Watch groups, as well as social support generally. This would require the provision of several bi-lingual community development workers to initiate this process.

5. Systematically examine ways that selection and allocation policies might be used to reduce the overall population density on the Estate, and increase the ratio of adults to children. It might also be important to examine the possibility of reducing the overall ethnic and language diversity and concentrating only 3 or 4 language groups in the area of the Estate through future allocations. This may help to facilitate communication, support and social control networks amongst residents, as well as facilitating the provision of services and community development activities.

6. Undertake a process of upgrading of the Estate paying particular attention to crime prevention through environmental design and situational crime prevention principles. Many of the recommendations of the Department's own report "Safe as Houses" (1984) should be implemented on the Villawood Estate.

7. In the short-term, provide the services of a sufficient number of security guards to effectively and safely patrol the Estate.

8. Undertake negotiations with Department of Family and Community Services and Department of Leisure Sport and Tourism to ensure the provision of recreational services and activities for children in the Villawood area generally, and particularly during school vacations.

9. Undertake negotiations with Prospect Electricity concerning improved lighting in and around the Estate, and to examine the security of the junction boxes located on the Estate.

The N.S.W. Police

1. Maintain and where resources permit increase the level of Police patrolling and visibility in the area, particularly in the form of foot patrols.

2. Undertake a formal pilot project to examine ways to develop community consultation processes and programs similar to Neighbourhood Watch in multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and low socio-economic communities. Such a pilot project should be formally planned, evaluated and fully documented as a basis for future programs.

3. Local police involvement in protective behaviours workshops with the local schools should be continued and expanded.

4. Data on reported crime and other incidents, eg. domestic violence not resulting in formal reports, should be systematically collected in the area, and be made available to the Crime Prevention Working Group on a regular basis so that the crime situation can be properly monitored.

Prospect Electricity

1. Enter into consultations with Council, Department of Housing and local residents concerning the need for improved lighting in local streets, walkways and parks.

2. Examine security of the junction boxes on the Estate.

State Rail Authority

1. Review staffing levels and the physical characteristics, including lighting at local railway stations and their surroundings, so as to maximise opportunities for SRA employee surveillance and control of the station area, and introduce measures to prevent loitering.

Department of Education

1. Monitor, and where necessary, increase resources for reducing truancy from local schools.

2. Develop special programs to provide care and supervision for children who are suspended or otherwise required to absent themselves from school, to ensure that they are not left unsupervised in the neighbourhood.

Department of Family and Community Services

1. Ensure adequate funding to Fairfield Community Resources Centre and other organisations and groups operating in the Villawood area for the provision of youth, family support, recreation and community workers with an appropriate range of language skills.

2. Ensure that resourcing and staffing levels of the Young Offenders Support team responsible for the Villawood/Fairfield area is adequate to provide effective supervision, counselling and drug or other rehabilitation programs.

Department of Health

1. Ensure that funding for counselling, education, rehabilitation and detoxification programs for drug and alcohol services in south western Sydney be given a high priority.

Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research/Criminology Research Council

1. That a series of local studies, similar in focus to this research and with an emphasis on fear of crime, be undertaken so that the data - base can be developed for the purpose of comparative analysis of the crime problems being experienced by local communities, and to facilitate the identification of areas where fear of crime or unreported victimisation are of unusually high levels so that crime prevention efforts can be appropriately targeted.

METHODOLOGY

The Target Population

The sample population was drawn from the geographical area in Villawood bordered by Normanby Street (at the corner of Landon Street) running south to Mitchell Street; then west along Mitchell Street to the corner of Bland Street; then north along Bland Street to the corner of Diprose Street; then east along Diprose Street (including May Street) to The Horsley Drive; then north along The Horsley Drive to the corner of Landon Street; and finally running east along Landon Street back to the corner with Normanby. (See Map in Appendix 3).

This area corresponds to the three Australian Bureau of Statistics Collector Districts (ABS CD's) numbered 400704, 400707 and 400711. ABS CD 400711 is the Collector District for the Villawood Department of Housing Estate bounded by Mitchell, Hercules, Tangerine and Normanby Streets. An additional sample of several houses which did not fall within these CDs was drawn from Normanby Street opposite the Estate.

Sampling Process

Attempts were made to draw a random sample of approximately 200 households from the target area, through a systematic process of door-knocking.

The purpose of the initial door-knock contact was to:

- (i) identify the language/s spoken by the residents
- (ii) inform the residents of the purpose of the study
- (iii) to request consent from the resident for their participation in the study.

The address and language spoken by residents who agreed to participated were recorded, and subsequently allocated to an interviewer who spoke the appropriate language.

For dwellings in the streets surrounding the Department of Housing Estate, the objective was to door-knock every third dwelling . If the resident was not contacted or if they refused to participate in the survey, then the next house was door-knocked and so on.

On the Estate every second dwelling was door-knocked, moving on to the next only if contact was not made.

The rationale for the different ratios between the Estate and Non-estate was that a higher refusal rate was expected on the Estate partly because of the socio-economic and ethnic characteristics, but also because it was suspected that residents may have been tired of surveys and data collection that came to nothing. The refusal rate at the initial doorknock was, however, not nearly as high as expected.

A total of 242 houses were door-knocked in this fashion, of which 25 said they would not participate, 17 households could not be communicated with or indicated that they would decide upon the interviewer's return, and 200 agreed to participate.

A further 56 households on the Estate were targeted without door-knocking, since the languages spoken had been identified in an earlier survey by Fairfield Community Resource Centre.

From this total of 273 households to which interviewers were sent, a final sample population of 180 emerged. As interviewers were instructed to return to an address 3 times only, a large part of this attrition can be attributed to not making subsequent contact rather than to refusals.

Demographic Characteristics of the Sample Population and the Target Area

AGE:

The age distribution of the sample population is presented below. For comparison purposes, the age distribution of the target area according to ABS 1986 Census data have also been presented.

Table: Age Distribution of Sample
Survey Sample

ABS Census 1986

	Frequency	Percent	% population ≥ 15 yrs	% Total Population
0-14 years	2	1.1	-	29.1
15-24 years	23	12.8	24.3	17.2
25-34 years	37	20.0	23.3	16.5
35-44 years	43	23.9		
45-54 years	28	15.6	29.8	21.1
55-64 years	25	13.9	13.5	9.6
65-74 years	14	7.8	5.7	4.1
75-84 years	8	4.4	2.7	1.9
85+	0	0	0.7	0.5
Total	180	100.0		100.0

SEX:

Of the 180 subjects 81 (45.0%) were male and 93 (51.7%) were female. In 6 (3.3%) cases the sex of the subject was not recorded.

LANGUAGE MOST FREQUENTLY SPOKEN AT HOME:

Table: Language Spoken at Home

	Frequency	Percent
Arabic	15	8.33
Armenian	1	0.56
Assyrian	1	0.56
Chinese	18	10.00
English	68	37.78
German	2	1.11
Greek	1	0.56
Italian	10	5.56
Khmer	10	5.56
Laotian	7	3.89
Macedonian	1	0.56
Maltese	1	0.56
Persian	1	0.56
Polish	1	0.56
Spanish	6	3.33
Turkish	1	0.56
Vietnamese	34	18.89
Yugoslav	1	0.56
Not Stated	1	0.6
	180	100.0

PLACE OF BIRTH OF SAMPLE POPULATION

Of the 180 people in the sample population 67.2% (122) were born outside Australia. This compares to 46.3% for the target area as a whole and 45.9% for the Fairfield LGA according to 1986 Census data.

Table: Place of Birth

	Frequency	Percent
Afghanistan	1	0.6
Australia	58	32.2
Austria	1	0.6
Cambodia	15	8.3
Chile	3	1.7
China	3	1.7
England	4	2.2
Germany	3	1.7
India	2	1.1
Indonesia	1	0.6
Iraq	1	0.6
Italy	9	5.0
Laos	7	3.9
Lebanon	16	8.9
Malaysia	1	0.6
Malta	1	0.6
Nicaragua	1	0.6
Poland	1	0.6
Russia	2	1.1
Timor	1	0.6
Turkey	2	1.1
Uruguay	2	1.1
Vietnam	42	23.3
Yugoslavia	2	1.1
Not Stated	1	0.6
	180	100.0

YEARS LIVED IN AUSTRALIA, FAIRFIELD L.G.A. AND CURRENT ADDRESS

The following table contains the statistics relating to how many years survey participants had lived in:

- (i) Australia
- (ii) the Fairfield Local Government Area (F.L.G.A.), and
- (iii) at their current address.

Table: Period of Residence Australia Fairfield L.G.A. Current Address

	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
< 1 year	1	0.6	10	5.6	25	13.9
1 -2 years	4	2.2	21	11.7	27	15.0
3 -5 years	13	7.2	33	18.3	31	17.2
6 -9 years	17	9.4	39	21.7	36	20.0
10 -14 years	49	27.2	27	15.0	26	14.4
15 + years	37	20.6	33	18.3	29	16.1
Whole Life	59	32.8	16	8.9	5	2.8
Not Stated	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.6
	180	100.0	180	100.1	180	100.0

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF SAMPLE POPULATION:

The occupational status of the sample population is contained in the following table.

Table: Occupational Status

	Frequency	Percent
Full Time Employed	40	22.2
Part Time Employed	13	7.2
Unemployed	24	13.3
Full Time Student	14	7.8
Retired/Age Pension	31	17.2
Other D.S.S. Pension or Benefit	32	17.8
Full Time Domestic	24	13.3
Not Stated	2	1.1
Total	180	100.0

Data that is comparable to the above is not available for the 1986 Census, the information that is available for the target area is as follows:

Table: Occupational Status

	Sample Pop.	Census '86
Total Employed (part- and full-time)	29.4	38.5
Total Unemployed	13.3	13.9
Not in Labour Force	56.1	46.5
Not Stated	1.1	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0

DWELLING TYPES:

Of the 180 subjects:

- 75 (41.7 %) lived in Detached dwellings
- 82 (45.6 %) lived in Semi-detached/Town house dwellings
- 23 (12.8 %) lived in Flats.

TENURE:

Of the 180 subjects:

- 57 (31.7 %) lived in privately owned dwellings
- 8 (4.4 %) lived in privately rented dwellings
- 115 (63.9 %) rented from the Department of Housing.

Of the 115 survey participants who rented their houses from the Department of Housing, 99 of them rented a dwelling on the Estate. This group represented 55.0% of the entire sample.

Recruitment and Training of Interviewers

Five English speaking and twelve multi-lingual interviewers were employed to conduct the survey interviews. The languages covered by the multi-lingual interviewers were Arabic, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin), Khmer, Italian, Laotian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

The multi-lingual interviewers were recruited by contacting interpreter services at Cabramatta Community Centre and at Westmead Hospital. Staff at these agencies also recommended other individuals outside their agencies who would be suitable to work as multi-lingual interviewers.

Each interviewer was given a two hour training session during which they were acquainted with the questionnaire and procedures required. Each section of the questionnaire was discussed in detail including issues relating to appropriateness and phrasing for different language and cultural backgrounds. All interviewers were paid to attend the training session.

The questionnaires were not translated into the various languages used by the interviewers. Each interviewer worked from the questionnaire written in English and translated the questions into the appropriate language.

Interviewers were paid per successfully completed questionnaire. They were asked to attempt to interview one resident at each address allocated to them. In the event of a refusal by the resident to participate, or three unsuccessful attempts to contact the resident, the interviewer could consider that address as being unable to complete, and it was removed from the sample population.

Each interviewer was provided with a photographic identification badge, maps of the neighbourhood, addressed questionnaires, and magnetic 'Emergency Services Information Cards' to be given to each household (see Appendix 4). In case a mistake had been made in allocating the correct language, interviewers also had language identification cards and information sheets translated into Khmer, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, and Laotian.

Languages used for interviews

The table below indicates the different languages used in the interviews by their frequency.

Arabic	15	Laotian	4
Cantonese	10	Mandarin	6
Chinese dialects	2	Spanish	5
English	91	Vietnamese	30
Italian	7		
Khmer	10		

The Interview Process

Each subject was informed at the outset of the interview that their address had been selected at random, that their names would not be needed and that confidentiality would be maintained. It was emphasised that they were one of approximately 200 households participating in the study. They were also told that they were free to refuse to answer any or all of the questions in the questionnaire.

Each survey participant was given a magnetised 'Emergency Services Information Card' as a gesture of appreciation for their participation in the survey. Participants were informed that their participation in the study would make possible a better understanding of the crime situation in their neighbourhood, and that the final report would contain some recommendations to various government departments regarding changes that are required to make their neighbourhood safer.

Interviews ranged in length from 25 to 45 minutes.

The Questionnaire Design

The questionnaire was designed so that it could be completed in approximately 30-35 minutes. Most of the questions were of a 'closed' nature in an attempt to avoid ambiguity in responses that might result from the range of language and cultural backgrounds. Closed questions were also intended to facilitate coding and analysis of responses.

The questionnaire itself was divided into six main sections;

Demographics - address, dwelling type, tenure, language/ethnicity, years of residency, sex, age, occupational status.

Fear of Crime - a range of closed and open questions were used to examine the respondent's feelings of 'fear' and 'security' over a range of commonplace activities and situations. These included safety at home alone, using public transport, security of their house against intruders, using shopping centres, walking in local streets and parks, etc.

Perceptions of Crime Problem - these questions were predominantly of a closed format. They dealt with the subject's general opinions and impressions of the crime problem in their neighbourhood, and asked about what crimes the subject considered most serious, whether they would move away from the neighbourhood because of the crime situation if they had the opportunity, and so on. There were also 23 questions relating to specific crimes, and asking the subject to rate how serious a problem each was in their neighbourhood, according to the scale of Minor, Average, High, or Very High.

Victimisation - here survey participants were asked, by means of closed questions, whether they or any member of their household had been victimised, either actual or attempted, during the previous twelve months.

An additional section on victimisation was added half-way through the survey process, which dealt with crimes that had occurred prior to the previous 12 months, and whether or not the householders had taken any steps to minimise the risk of crimes happening again. This measure was taken as it emerged that many people had within the past few years installed substantial security measures because of being victimised, and it was because of taking all these security measures that they had not been victimised recently. A total of 58 respondents received these supplementary questions.

Causes and Suggested Solutions - the questionnaire contained two open questions where the subject was asked what "they think might be the major causes of crime in the neighbourhood?" and what their opinion was of things that "should be done to help reduce crime in this area?"

Perceptions of the Police - survey participants were asked 6 question requiring them to rate (from "Very Good" to "Very Poor") how well they felt the police were performing a range of activities and responsibilities. Following these questions, it was asked what crimes the respondent felt the police should pay more attention to; and whether there were times they chose not to contact the police, and what their reasons for not contacting the police were.

Development and Piloting of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed in consultation with the Villawood Neighbourhood Worker, and some residents of other neighbourhoods, and it was subsequently piloted on seven subjects.

In developing the questionnaire, the researchers referred to the Victims of Crime in Australia 1984 (ABS 1983), the Community Attitudes Survey Reports (Frank Small & Associates, 1990) for the N.S.W. Police Department, and the survey questionnaire developed for the Waverley Council Project.

In retrospect, further piloting, and piloting using bi-lingual interviewers would have been most desirable.

The Analysis of the Data

The data from the 180 completed questionnaires was entered into an IBM compatible personal computer using Paradox database software. This data was subsequently analysed using Dbstats statistical software in order to generate the frequency, percentage, and cross-tabulation tables used.

All of the closed questions were coded as they appeared on the questionnaire. Open questions were grouped according to the categories that appear in the report - most data relating to open questions has been presented in the form of 'frequency of mention' only, since respondents were free to offer any number of responses to these questions.

A note on 'Tenure' and 'Location' Originally it was thought that it may be of interest to undertake an analysis based on tenure arrangements since these may effect whether people can exercise control over the security measures they can introduce in their homes, and also how much personal investment they may have in protecting their houses. Although data had been collected on the housing tenure arrangements of all respondents, the sample was not sufficiently large to make meaningful comparisons between the 5 different tenure types identified.

The second strategy was to group respondents according to whether they lived on or off the Department of Housing Estate ie. as 'Estate' or 'Non-estate'. This grouping thus allowed the research to examine whether 'fear of crime', 'victimisation', etc., was a significant problem across the whole area or whether it was a more localised problem primarily effecting the Estate. The very distinct characteristics of this particular housing estate seemed to justify this approach as it has an uncharacteristically high population density, high concentration of medium density housing construction, overall lower socio economic mix, greater ethnic diversity, higher child to adult ratios, and distinct geographical boundaries, vis a vis the surrounding suburbs.

It was also felt that by comparing the Estate with the Non-estate areas, the analysis may highlight factors in Department of Housing policy, planning and house design/construction that might be contributing to the crime problem of this area, or to the 'disadvantage' experienced by those to living on the Estate.

A note on 'Ethnicity' Originally it was hoped to examine the experiences and perceptions of the different 'ethnic communities' in this neighbourhood, however, the sample was too small and too many different ethnic groups were represented to make this comparison meaningful, and it seemed inappropriate to arbitrarily group respondents together as 'Asians' or 'Southern Europeans' etc. Consequently no analysis was undertaken along the lines of 'ethnicity'.

A note on 'Don't Know' responses and 'missing data'

It appeared that on many occasions interviewers failed to record a 'Don't Know' response on the questionnaire and left it blank instead. This led to some confusion as to whether respondents express the opinion that they had no view on the question, or whether for some other reason the interviewer omitted to complete the question. Consequently it was decided to aggregate 'Don't Know' and 'missing data' under the classification "No Response".

Critique/Evaluation of the Survey Methodology

Sampling

Despite the efforts made to door-knock households prior to interviewing there were still a considerable number of households which were either rarely at home when interviewers called, or who after initially agreeing to participate decided not to do so when the interviewer arrived. In some cases this apparent change of attitude may have been due to householders not really wanting to participate from the outset but not feeling able to refuse. In addition the time period after initial contact varied from several days up to five weeks and dissatisfaction with waiting may have influenced those who were re-approached at these later dates. Refusals may have also been the result of nervousness in discussing crime related issues either because of the belief that such matters are too personal, or in some cases through fear of reprisals. There was also some evidence that a number of people suspected that the interviewers were themselves 'con men', etc.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire form was effective to varying degrees. However, interviewers reported being unable to record the variety or intensity of feeling expressed by subjects.

Similarly, during the data entry and analysis stages it became evident that in the hands of the more experienced and motivated interviewers the questionnaire provided a useful structure which they could 'fill out' with some probing. For the less skilled interviewers, the questionnaire obviously caused a few problems.

Some questions were unclear (especially those relating to perceptions of the media on page 11), or too complex in their structure. A simpler structure and more prompts to interviewers would have been desirable.

Questions relating to safety were sometimes not entirely appropriate since to ask whether someone feels safe walking around the local streets alone at night, or being alone at home at night assumes that subjects do actually engage in these activities. Interviewers reported that in many cases "blanket rules" had been adopted by subjects which precluded such activities because of their 'dangerous' nature. Interviewers remarked, therefore, that where this was the case such questions were often difficult for subjects to answer and that other questions relating to the nature of such "blanket rules" would have been helpful and more informative.

Likewise, the questions relating to "security against intruders" were problematic for some respondents. In many cases houses were made secure by iron bars on windows, security doors, alarms, and with guard dogs in the yard - measures that were often introduced in direct response to having been victimised. It would in fact be rather strange if people felt their house insecure or they did not feel safe when inside, if they have what might be called unusually high levels of security. In a sense, the need for such security would suggest that the neighbourhood as a whole was 'unsafe'. Further questions would have been appropriate to investigate what

initially prompted such security measures to guard against intruders.

One interviewer commented that generally the questionnaire did not ask how people have adapted their lifestyles in response to the local crime environment. It appears that many people now find not walking on the streets at night, not leaving houses unattended, not catching trains, etc. as a "normal" state of affairs.

It is possible that in the questions relating to victimisation over the last twelve months, people may have included significant events which occurred more than twelve months before the time of interviewing. Despite the fact that the questions were made very specific and the twelve month time frame was repeated for each question in order to guard against such inaccuracies, allowance needs to be made for some 'memory error' in interpreting this data.

A number of questions raised the problem of people perhaps not answering honestly for fear of embarrassment, self-incrimination, or desire to give a 'socially acceptable' answer. These effects were possibly most noticeable with regard to questions about Neighbourhood Watch participation, stolen goods, illegal drugs, assault in the home, and child abuse. Contacts the researchers have had with local welfare agencies, some local residents and police would suggest that the data collected in relation to these particular topics is not a very accurate picture of the state of affairs.

The question about Neighbourhood Watch participation is an interesting example of a question which needed to be further refined. Eighteen respondents living on the Estate indicated that they participated in Neighbourhood Watch. To the best of the researchers' knowledge this is not, however the case (unless they were attending groups in the surrounding area) as there were no Neighbourhood Watch programs operating on the Estate at the time of the study. There would appear to be two plausible explanations for this data:

(i) Subjects were unclear as to what Neighbourhood Watch is (i.e. a project co-ordinated by the N.S.W. Department of Police and considered that keeping a look out for each other on an informal basis constituted participation in neighbourhood watch[ing].

or (ii) the subjects wanted to give a socially acceptable answer.

Had the question included a short explanation of Neighbourhood Watch or been phrased in such a way to allow a face saving 'way out' this problem may have been avoided.

Similar problems may have occurred with the question asking about 'racial harassment'. In the course of door-knocking and interviewing there was some evidence of attitudes that were 'anti'- particular ethnic groups, even though 'racial harassment' was rated as a 'minor' problem. It may be that people do not wish their community to be seen as experiencing inter-ethnic tensions.

Some evidence emerged that when answering questions relating to how serious they perceived the crime problem to be, respondents tended to not only focus on the present but also to evaluate how it had been over the past year or so.

The Interviewers

Finally it is necessary to note, that in the course of the survey it became apparent that some interviewers were more skilled than others, both in actually understanding and interpreting the questions, and at engaging respondents and eliciting responses. Several interviewers returned regrettably large numbers of "don't know" responses. Additional training of interviewers on a one to one basis would have been desirable to ensure that they fully understood the questions. Similarly it may have been advantageous if they had trialled the questionnaire on another interpreter from the same language group to ensure that translations were reasonably accurate.

The bi-lingual interviewers could also have played an important role in developing the questionnaire, as they later indicated that some questions were not structured in a culturally appropriate way, and suggested that some of the 'rating scales' were not easy to interpret.

While the quality of interviewers varied to some degree, there was no evidence of questionnaires being fraudulently completed.

FEAR OF CRIME

'Fear of Crime' was considered a very important subject to investigate in this research. An individual's 'fear' of crime may not necessarily be related to having been a victim of crime, or to the realistic chances of becoming a victim. 'Fear' could be the result of living in an area which either is, or is generally perceived to be, a 'high risk' area, or it may also be an outcome of knowing someone who has been a victim, etc. 'Fear of crime' may also be influenced by peoples' perceptions of how well they are able to protect themselves and their property.

The media and other communication networks in the community can be factors in the process of generating 'fear'. Rumours and media reports often do not contain the 'full story' about the circumstances of crimes, and a small number of very serious or horrific violent crimes can receive disproportionate coverage. These processes can lead to very misinformed public perceptions about who is most at risk, in what circumstances, etc. For example, a large proportion of homicides are 'domestic' in nature and it is usually the female spouse and children who are at risk, and not the public in general in these circumstances. Similarly, young males aged 18-24 years are most at risk of assaults while the elderly are least likely to be assault victims, etc. (Mukherjee, 1990.). This sort of information is, however, not usually conveyed to the community.

'Fear of crime' is an important subject to consider for several reasons. It can have quite debilitating effects for individuals, and impact negatively on the life of a community generally. It may be that people cease to do things or go places that they would otherwise choose to. This in turn can lead to greater social isolation and to less and less use of public facilities and services - reluctance to use public transport at night time being a typical case in point. If for example, people are scared to leave their house unattended for any period of time, how can they then participate in community meetings or activities, or go on family holidays, etc? If a particular shopping centre gets a bad reputation for theft or robberies, and people stop going to that area because of fear for their safety, this can have serious consequences for the livelihood of some of the traders in the area. This increasing isolation and retreat from public spaces, apart from possibly having a range of negative consequences for people's friendship/social networks and community life in general, can also lead to the situation where even less informal social control and surveillance can be exercised upon those who are involved in criminal or anti-social activities, and can therefore make it easier for them to pursue these activities.

How we attempted to measure 'Fear of Crime'

Measuring an emotion such as 'fear' is always problematic, so in the research it was decided to ask interviewees questions about how safe or unsafe they felt when undertaking routine activities while alone. They were asked for example, about how safe they felt being alone at home during the day and night, walking in the

streets near their home during the day and night, walking through or being in their local park, and whether they were concerned for their safety when using busses and trains or going shopping at different shopping areas. Interviewees were also asked about how long they felt it was safe to leave their house unattended, and how high they rated the risk of their house being burgled.

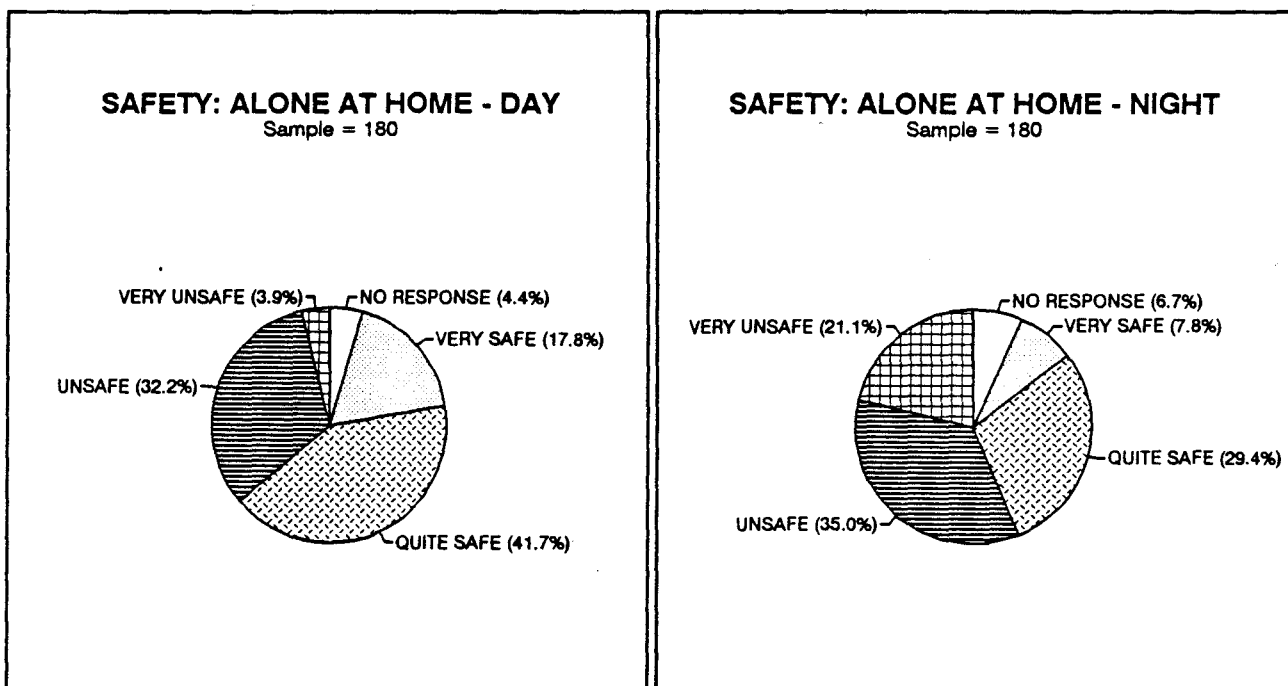
Differences between groups of people

As part of the analysis of 'fear of crime' it was decided to examine how the responses to the above questions differed across a range of dimensions such as sex and age of survey participants, the type of dwelling they lived in, and whether they lived on or off the Department of Housing Estate. Cross-tabulations were done on most of these dimensions for each question. However, only those cases where there was a clear difference between the population groups are presented in the report.

FEELING OF SAFETY WHEN AT HOME ALONE

Interviewees were asked 2 questions about how safe they felt when they were alone in their home during the day and at night. Coded responses to this question were: "Very Safe", "Quite Safe", "Unsafe" and "Very Unsafe".

The percentage of respondents falling within each response category can be gleaned from the pie-charts below.

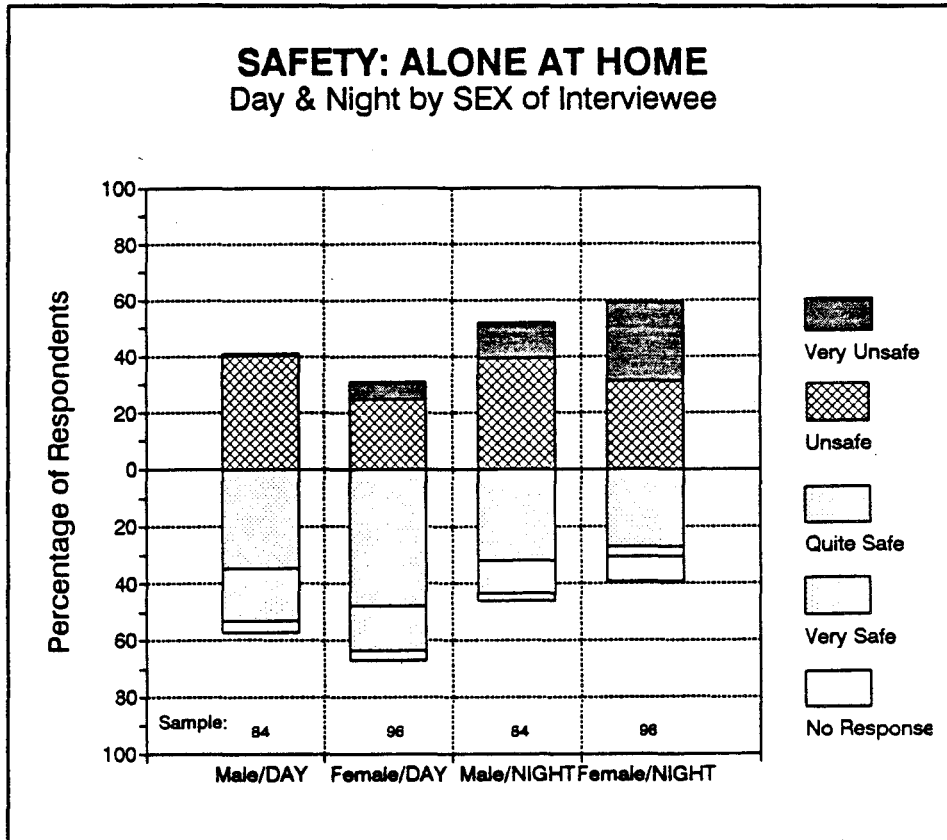


The first thing to note is that the percentage of people who feel "Safe" or "Very Safe" being alone in their home at night-time (37.2%) is substantially lower than the number who feel "Safe" or "Very Safe" during the daytime (59.5%).

Unfortunately, as no comparison study has been undertaken, it is not possible to say whether the results for the survey area differ in major respects from other areas in Sydney. However, from a general perspective it must be questioned whether it is socially acceptable that in any suburb 36.1% of people should feel "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" while alone in their homes during the day, with this proportion rising to 56.1% at night time.

Feeling of safety while at home alone: by Sex of interviewees

The graph below indicates the difference in how male and female interviewees responded to the above questions about their feeling of safety while being at home alone during the day and at night.



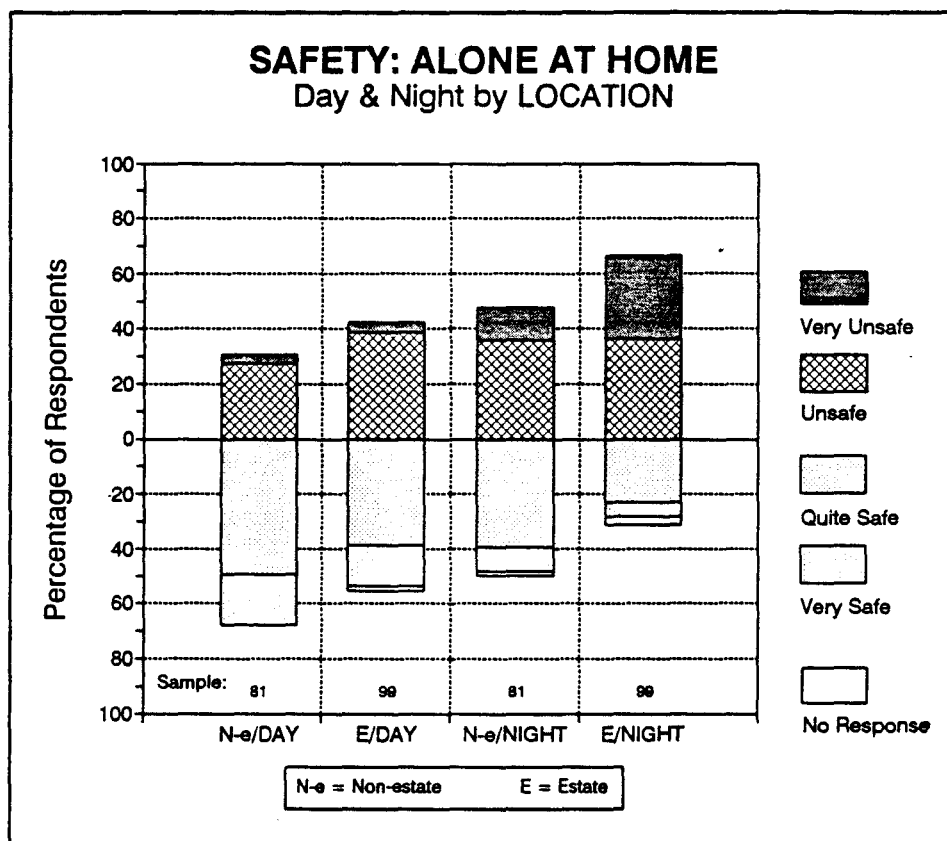
From this graph it can be seen that males generally feel "Safer" when alone at home at night-time than their female counterparts (males 44.0% and females 31.3% "Very Safe" or "Quite Safe"). The findings for the day-time gave the rather surprising result that 64.6% of females felt "Quite Safe" or "Very Safe" but only 53.5% of males responded this way.

Feeling of safety at home alone: by Age of interviewees

A breakdown of the sample population into seven 10 year age-groups (between 15 years and 84 years) indicated no discernible relationship between age and how 'safe' respondents felt when at home alone during either the day or night. Persons in the 55-64 age-group, however, had the highest proportion who felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" during both the day (52.0%) and at night (80.0%). Persons aged 15-24 on the other hand had the lowest proportions (day=21.7% and night=39.1%). All age-groups felt less 'safe' at night than during the day.

Feeling of safety at home alone: by Location (Non-estate/Estate)

The graph below illustrates the percentage of respondents who felt "Very Safe", "Quite Safe", "Unsafe", "Very Unsafe" when at home alone, according to whether they lived on or off the Department of Housing Estate.



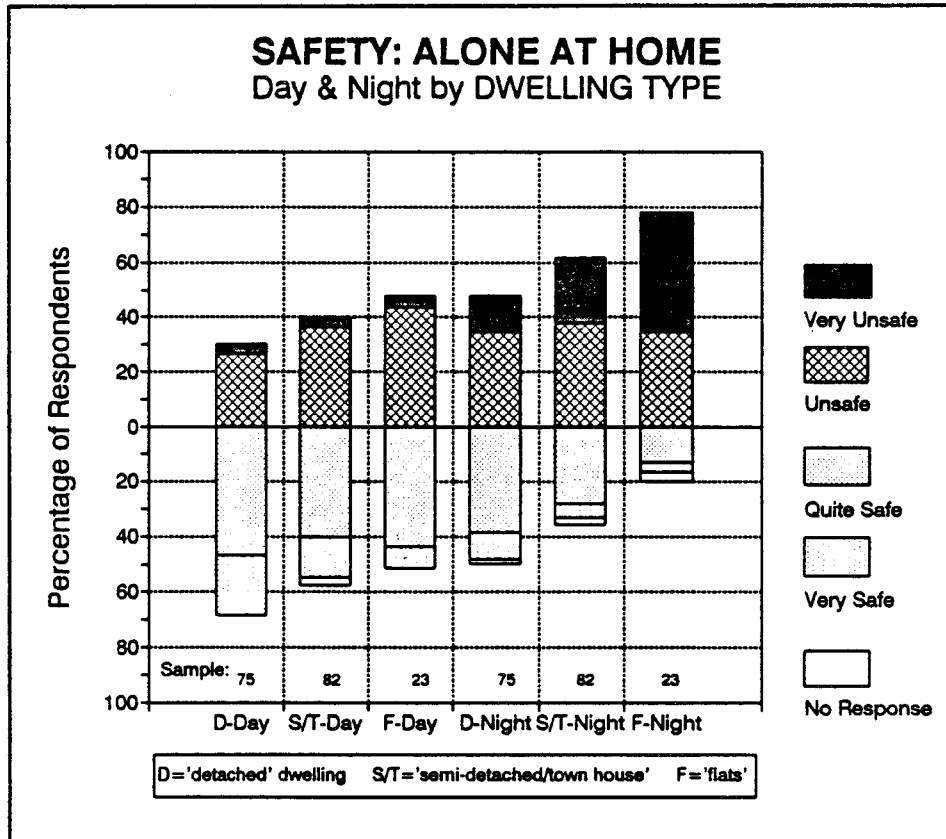
As can be seen from this graph, respondents living on the Estate feel less safe when at home alone, both during the day and night, than their counterparts who do not live on the estate (ie. Non-estate). 66.7% of respondents who live on the Estate felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" alone at home at night, whereas only 48.1% of 'Non-estate' respondents felt this way. This would seem to suggest that people on the Estate, at least on this measure, are affected by 'fear of crime' significantly more than those not living on the Estate.

Feeling of safety while alone at home: by Dwelling type

The data from these questions about 'feeling of safety while at home alone' was analysed according to the 'dwelling type' in which the respondents lived, in order to examine whether the type of physical design and its surrounds might be related to feelings of 'safety/unsafety'. Dwelling types were grouped as 'detached' dwellings, 'semi-detached/town house' dwellings, and 'flats'.

The very uneven distribution of housing types within the survey area results in some difficulty for the interpretation of the data, since 22 out of 23 'flats', and 73 out of 82 'semi-detached/town house' dwellings were on the estate. In contrast only 4 out of 75 detached dwellings were on the Estate. With such a distorted sample, it is not really possible to separate the effects of 'dwelling type' from those of 'location' when considering the survey area as a whole, as opposed to considering only those houses on the Estate.

As can be seen from the graph below, those people living in the 'detached' dwellings tend to feel safer than those living in 'semi-detached/town house' dwellings, who in turn feel safer than those living in 'flats'. 78.3% of those living in 'flats' felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" when at home alone at night, while the figure for those living in 'semi-detached/town house' dwellings was 62.2%.



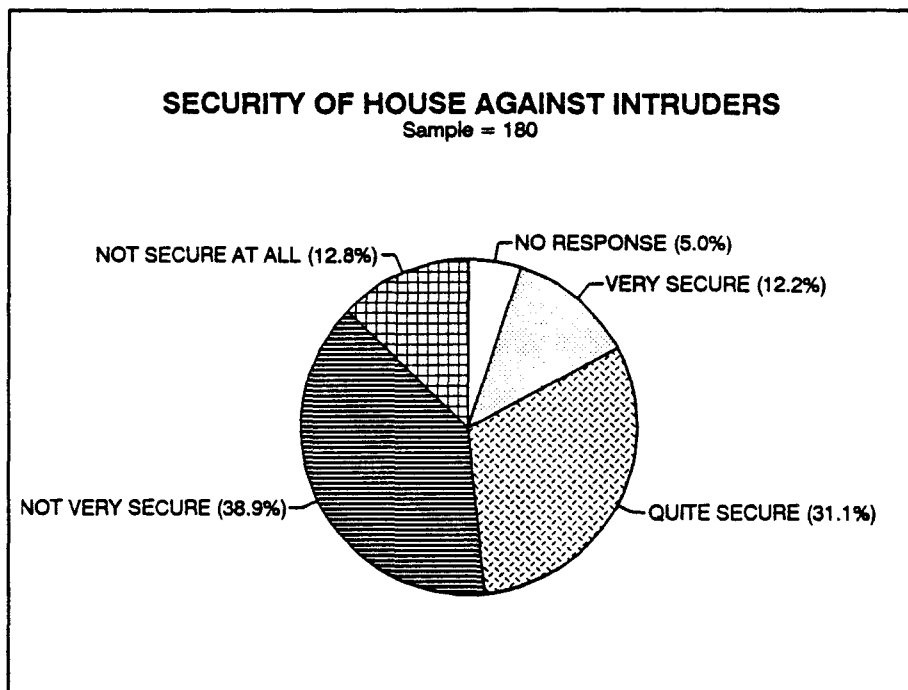
These differences in responses suggests that there may possibly be design characteristics of these different dwelling types, particularly when comparing those on the Estate, that make 'flat' dwellers feel most at risk eg. dark stairwells, noise from passers-by, areas where people can loiter, absence of a 'buffer zone' between public and private space, etc. However, further analysis, controlling for characteristics of the occupants might be warranted in case the Department's allocation processes result in 'fear prone' groups being concentrated in 'flat' accommodation.

SECURITY OF HOUSE AGAINST INTRUDERS

Interviewees were asked to indicate how secure against intruders they considered their house to be. Coded responses to this question were "Very Secure", "Quite Secure", "Not Very Secure", and "Not Secure at All".

Respondents were also given a "Don't Know" option since it was realised that some people may be reluctant to answer a question about home security. However, the frequency of this "don't know" response was very low at 9 responses out of 180 interviews.

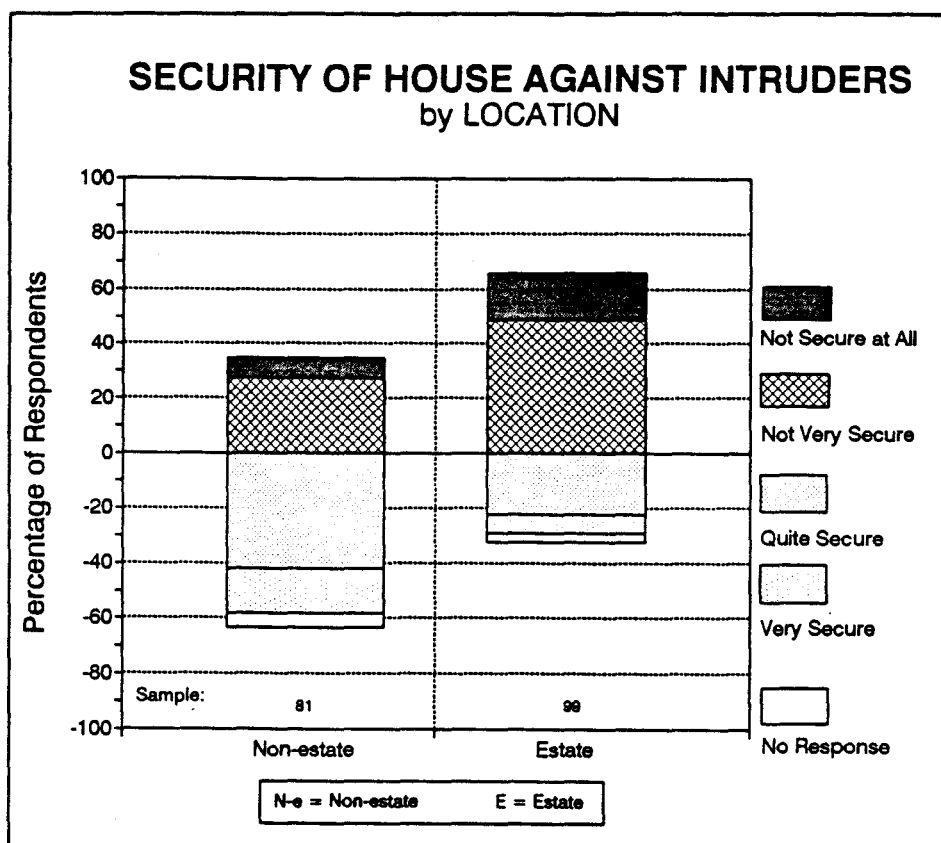
The percentage of responses within each category can be seen in the pie-chart below.



Some 51.7% of the survey population considered their houses to be "Not Secure at All" or "Not Very Secure".

Security of house against intruders: by Location (Non-estate/Estate).

The graph below illustrates how the responses between those living on the Estate and those not living on the estate differed with respect to how secure they considered their houses to be against intruders.



The percentage of respondents living on the Estate who felt that their house was "Not Very Secure" or "Not Secure at All" against intruders (65.7%) was almost double that of the respondents categorised as 'Non-estate' (34.6%).

Security of house against intruders by Dwelling type (Estate only)

A further analysis of the data for those who live on the Estate only, according to the 'dwelling type' in which the respondents lived, revealed the following:

	Not Very Secure	Not Secure at All
Semi-detached/ Town House	55.7%	15.7%
Flats	38.1%	14.3%

Respondents living in 'semi-detached/town house' dwellings on the Estate generally regarded their homes as less secure than those living in 'flats'. It could therefore be speculated that there are perhaps elements in the design or construction to the 'semi-detached/town house' dwellings which makes their tenants consider their homes to be 'insecure'.

Suggested ways to improve dwelling security

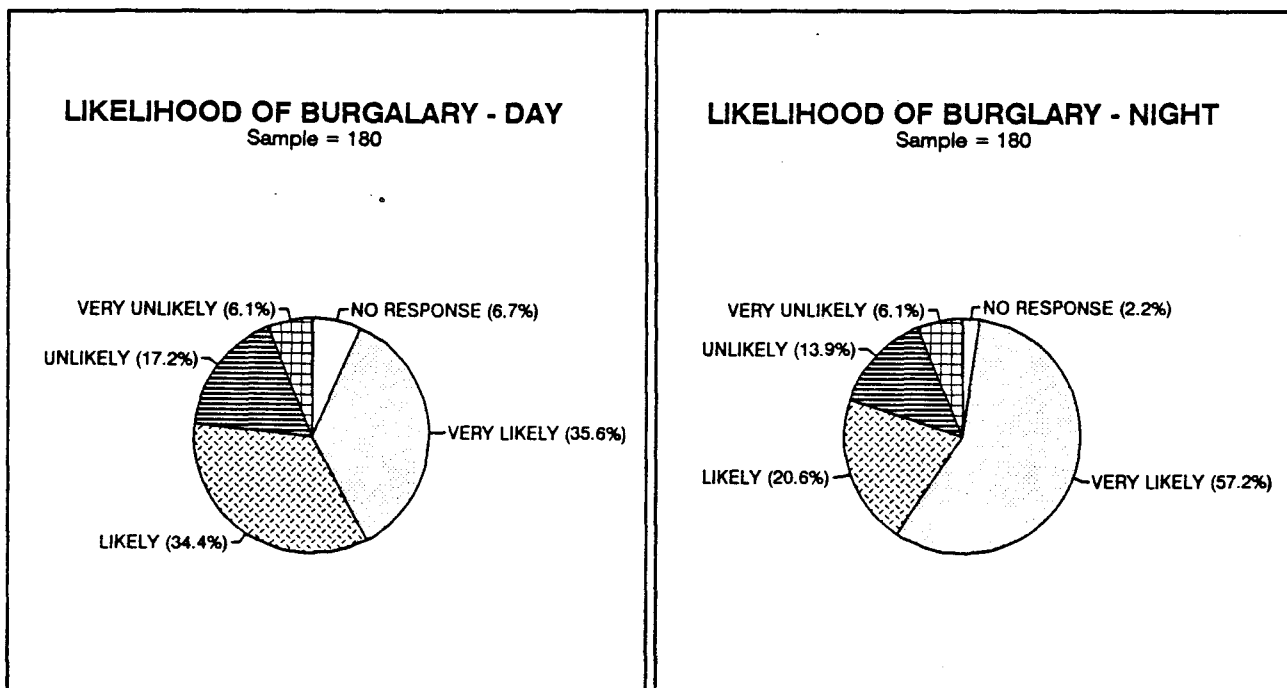
When asked to indicate how their houses could be made more secure, the most frequent responses were:

- bars on windows
- alarm systems
- deadlocks
- locks on windows
- security doors
- security guards.

LIKELIHOOD OF BURGLARY IF HOUSE IS LEFT UNATTENDED FOR SEVERAL HOURS

Interviewees were asked 2 questions about how likely they thought it would be that their house might be burgled if they left it unattended for several hours in the daytime and at night-time. Coded responses to this question were "Very Likely", "Likely", "Unlikely" and "Very Unlikely".

The percentage of responses within each category can be gleaned from the pie-charts below.



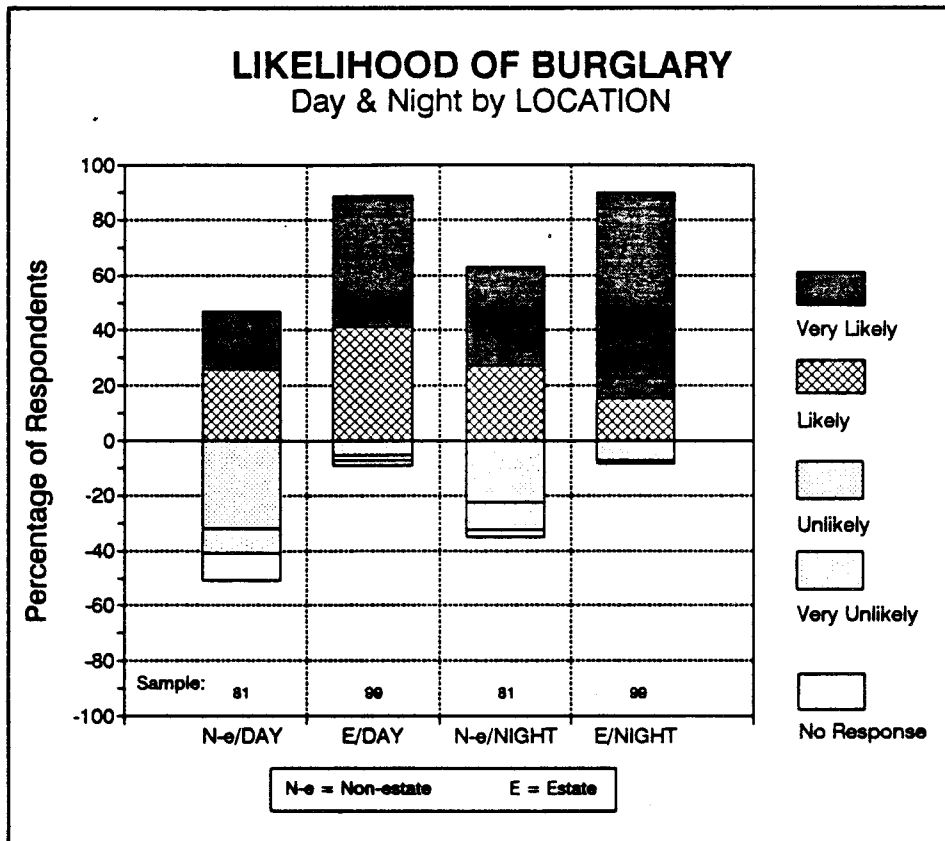
70% of respondents in the survey area felt it was "Likely" or "Very Likely" that their home would be burgled if it was left unattended for several hours during the day, while this proportion increased to 77.8% at night-time. At night-time a greater proportion also evaluated the risk to be greater, as can be seen from the increase in the "Very Likely" response from 35.6% to 57.2%.

These figures would appear quite alarming if we consider the constraints this 'fear' may place on people's freedom of movement and/or the psychological stress and reduced sense of well-being that residents in this area may experience, as a result of never being sure that their belongings are secure and that the security and privacy of their home is not being violated while they are away from it.

As 'dwelling type' and 'location', would seem most likely to influence the risk of burglary, cross-tabulations were done against these two variables for this question.

Likelihood of burglary: Day & Night by Location (Non-estate/Estate)

The data relating to these questions about how likely respondents thought it was that their house would be burgled if it was left unattended for several hours during the day and night, was analysed according to the location of the interviewee's home, ie. Non-estate or Estate. The proportion of responses falling within each category for day and night can be ascertained from the graph below.

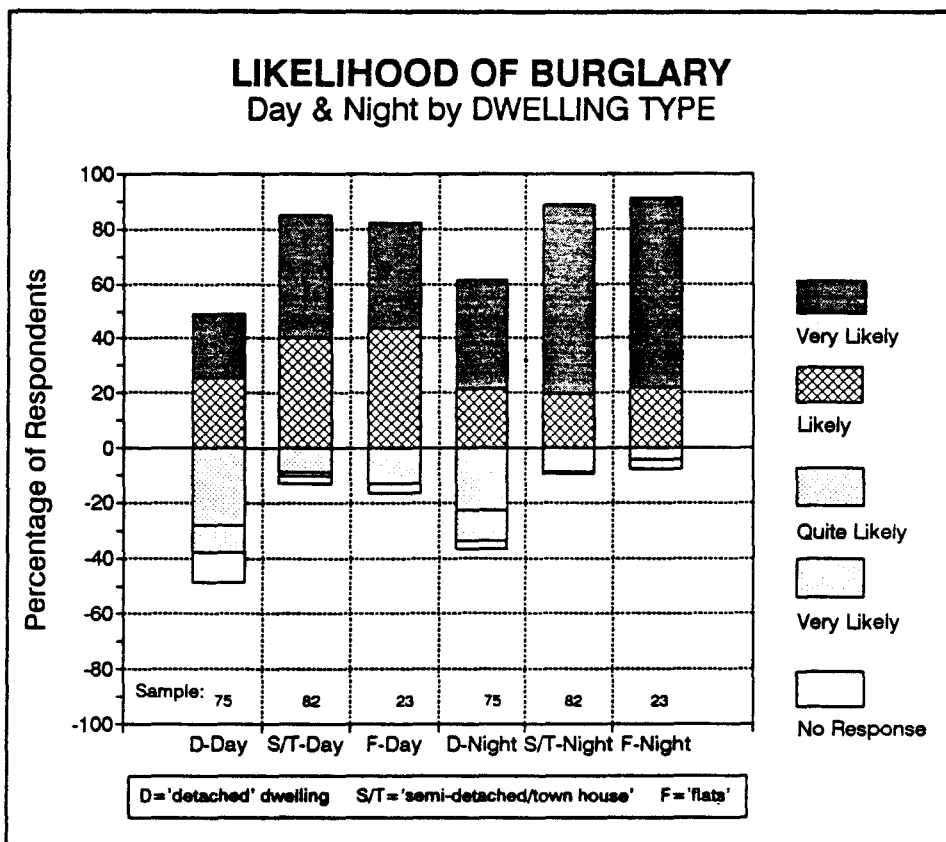


From this analysis it can be determined that those respondents who live on the Estate consider the likelihood of their homes being burgled if left unattended for several hours, to be significantly higher, during both the day and night, than people who live off the Estate. 89.9% of respondents living on the Estate thought burglary to be "Likely" or "Very Likely" if they left their home unattended for several hours at night (day=88.9%), while the corresponding figure for their Non-estate counterparts was 63.0% at night and 46.9% during the day.

These figures clearly indicate that those respondents living on the Estate perceive their homes as being at greater risk of burglary than those in the surrounding area.

Likelihood of burglary: Day & Night by Dwelling type

The graph below illustrates how the responses to these questions about leaving their house unattended for several hours were distributed according to the type of dwelling which the interviewee lives in.



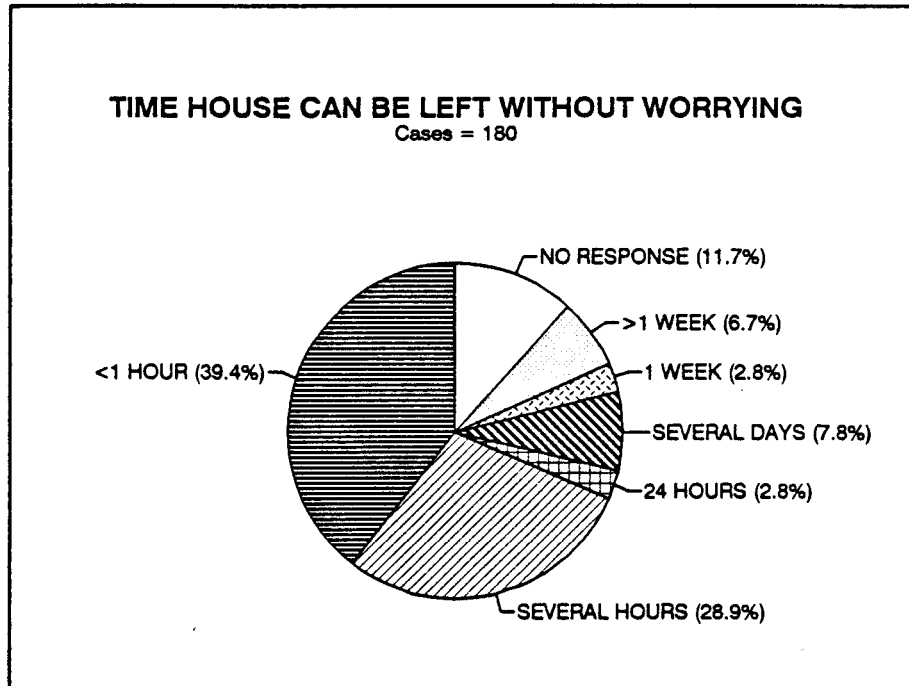
As indicated earlier, there are difficulties in interpreting comparisons between 'dwelling types' because of the very uneven distribution of types between the Estate and the surrounding community. Although the data presented above does not add particular support to the proposition made earlier that there are perhaps characteristics of the 'semi-detached/town house' designs which make them likely or easy targets for burglary, it does not contradict this proposition either.

For both day and night a marginally greater proportion of 'semi-detached/town house' dwellers than 'flat' dwellers gave the "Very Likely" response to this question.

PERIOD OF TIME RESPONDENTS COULD LEAVE THEIR HOUSE UNATTENDED WITHOUT BEING "VERY WORRIED" ABOUT IT BEING BURGLIED

Survey participants were asked the question, "How long do you feel you could be out or away, and leave your house unattended, without being very worried about the risk of it being burgled?" Coded responses included "<1 Hour", "Several Hours", "24 Hours", "Several Days", "1 Week" and ">1 Week".

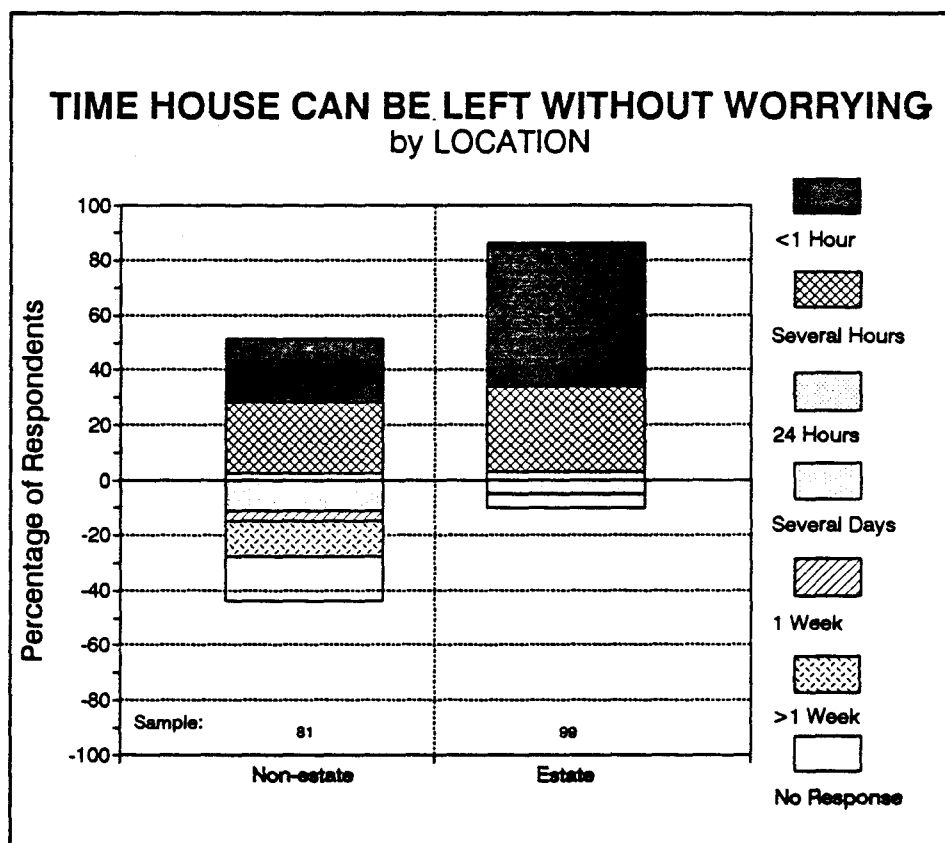
The distribution of responses across the survey area are presented in the pie-chart below.



68.3% of respondents in the survey area indicated that they would be "Very Worried" about having their house burgled if it was left unattended for several hours or less.

Period of time house can be left unattended: Day & Night by Location (Non-estate/Estate)

Analysis of the data relating to the questions about the length of time their house can be left unattended without the respondent being very worried, according to whether the respondent lived on or off the Estate, resulted in the following distribution of responses.

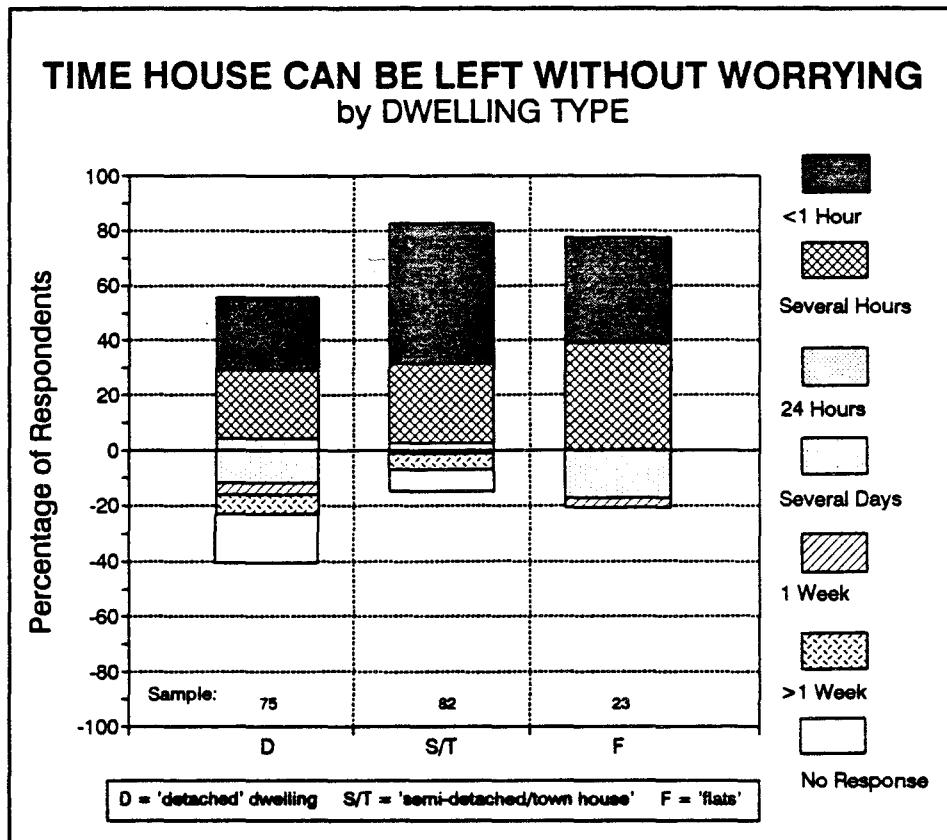


For the response "Several Hours", the proportion of Estate and Non-estate dwellers were fairly similar (25.9% and 31.3% respectively). However, Estate dwellers had a significantly higher representation amongst those who responded that they would be very worried if their house was left unattended for periods "Less than 1 hour", the percentage being 52.5% as opposed to 23.5%. It might be noted that only 2 out of 99 respondents living on the Estate indicated that they could leave their house unattended for 1 week or longer without being very worried about it being burgled.

These figures would suggest that people living on the Estate may be under significantly greater stress to organise their lives in order to minimise the periods of time that their homes are left unattended, than those living in the surrounding neighbourhood. It is, important to note however, that on the basis of our sample, a substantial proportion of those in the surrounding neighbourhood are also under such stresses. If people are in fact acting on these "worries" this must clearly have significant implications for their social life, opportunities for family activity, and even employment.

Period of time house can be left unattended: Day & Night by Dwelling type

When the data relating to these questions was analysed according to whether survey participants lived in a "detached" dwelling, "semi-detached/town house", or "flats", the following distribution resulted:



Responses to this question conformed to those elicited in the previous two questions in relation to 'dwelling types'. 'Semi-detached/town house' dwellers indicated greatest concern about leaving their houses unattended:

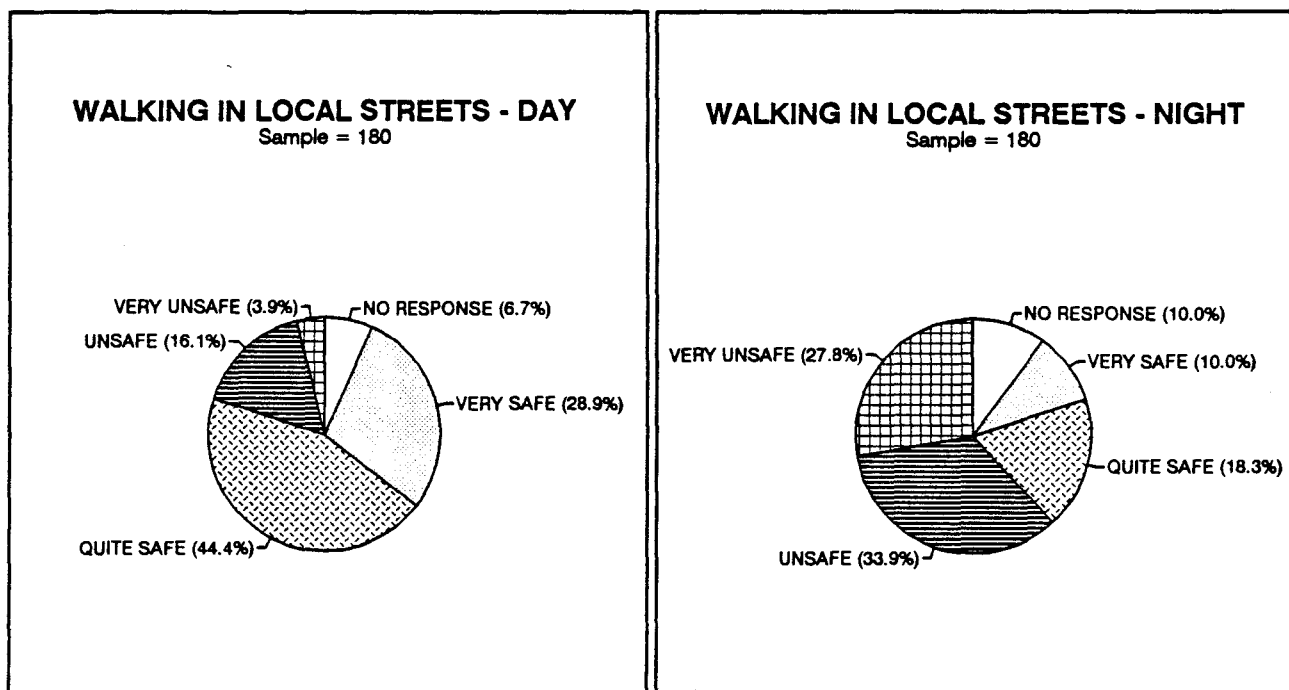
Several hours or less

Semi-detached/town house	80.5%
Flats	78.2%
Detached	52.0%

Again this data could be seen to support the view that there may be particular features of the 'semi-detached/town house' construction and design which results in their occupants being most concerned about burglaries.

FEELING OF SAFETY WHILE WALKING ALONE IN NEIGHBOURHOOD STREETS

The survey participants were asked 2 questions about how safe they felt when walking alone in neighbourhood streets nearby their homes during both the day and 'after dark'. Coded responses to these questions were "Very Safe", "Quite Safe", "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe". The pie-charts below indicate how interviewees across the survey area responded to these questions.

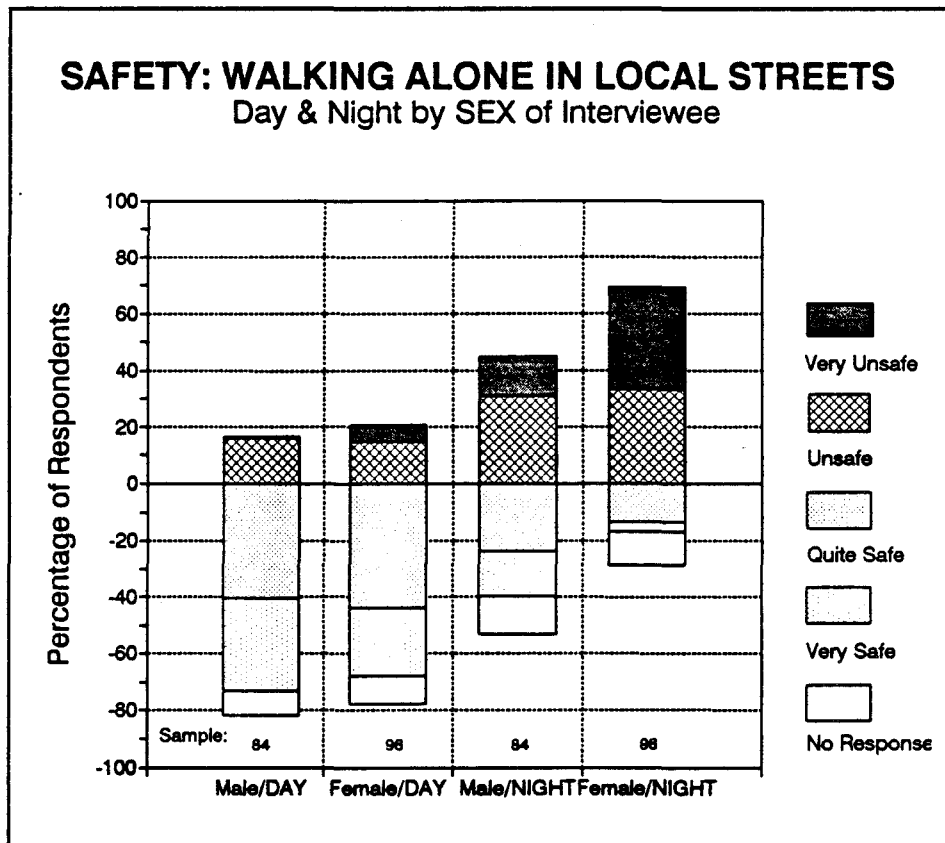


As can be seen from the above charts, the percentage of respondents who feel "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" walking alone in streets in their neighbourhood increases dramatically from 20.0% during the day to 61.7% 'after dark'.

Since comparative figures are not available it is not known how different these results might be from those that would be obtained in other areas. However, it is of concern that as many as 1/5 of all persons interviewed considered their local streets to be unsafe to walk alone in during the day, while two thirds felt them to be unsafe 'after dark'. Clearly this has major implication for people's freedom of movement, the social life of the community and general sense of well-being, if people feel constrained in their ability to move around their neighbourhood on foot.

Safety on neighbourhood streets: Day & Night by Sex of interviewee

The data relating to these questions was analysed according to the sex of the respondent in order to determine whether concern about safety when walking alone on neighbourhood streets differed noticeably between males and females.



A marginally greater percentage of females than males felt "Unsafe" and "Very Unsafe" walking alone in the streets of their neighbourhood during the day, though the difference within the "Very Unsafe" response category was substantial. In contrast to the data for daytime, a very clear difference emerged between how safe males and females felt 'after dark', when 36.5% of females felt "Very Unsafe" and a further 33.3% "Unsafe". The figures for males 'after dark' were 14.3% and 31.0% respectively.

On the basis of these figures it is reasonable to suggest that although both males and females feel restrained about walking in their area alone 'after dark', it is particularly females who are disadvantaged in respect to their movement in the area - 63.8% feeling "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe".

Safety walking alone in neighbourhood streets: by Age

The data on the 2 questions about feeling of safety walking in local streets was analysed according to the age-group of respondents.

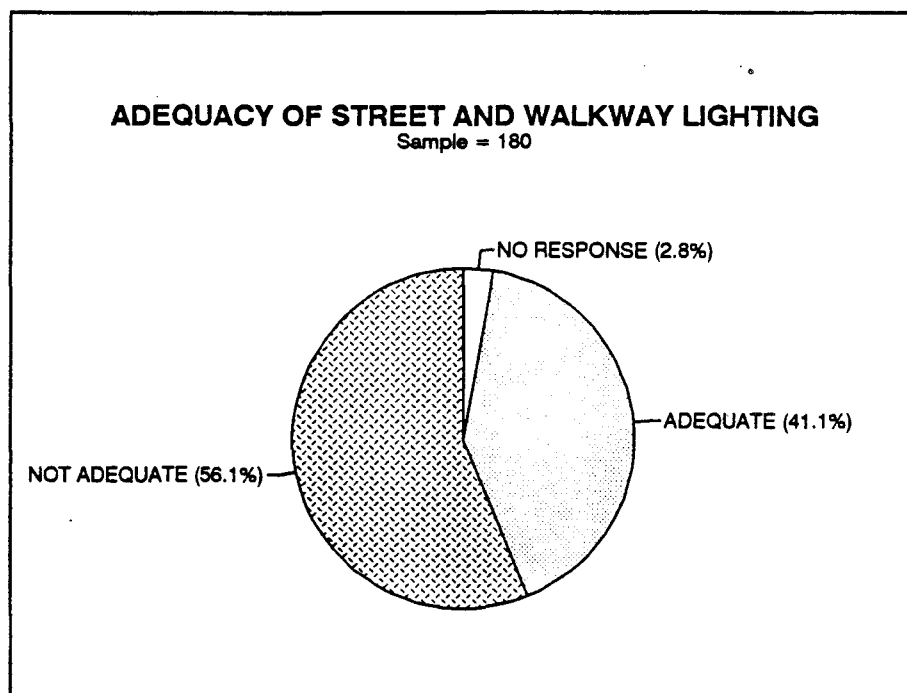
This analysis revealed only a slight positive relationship between increasing age and feeling 'less safe' when walking alone in neighbourhood streets both during the day and 'after dark'. That is, respondents generally felt less safe than those from younger age-groups.

ADEQUACY OF STREET AND WALKWAY LIGHTING

Survey participants were asked whether they considered the street lights in their area to be adequate. Coded responses were either "Yes" or "No".

It became obvious when analysing the survey questionnaire that a number of respondents interpreted this question to also include the lighting in the 'Ways' (communal driveways on the Estate) and 'paved walkways' in their definition of "streetlights".

The data presented below in the pie-chart therefore includes survey participants' views on the lighting on all three types of public movement/traffic routes.



As can be seen from the chart above, a majority of survey respondents (56.1%) felt that the street/walkway lighting in their area was not adequate.

The survey participants who expressed the view that the lighting was inadequate were asked what improvements they thought could be made to the lighting. The most frequent responses were as follows:

Suggested Improvements

Frequency of Mention

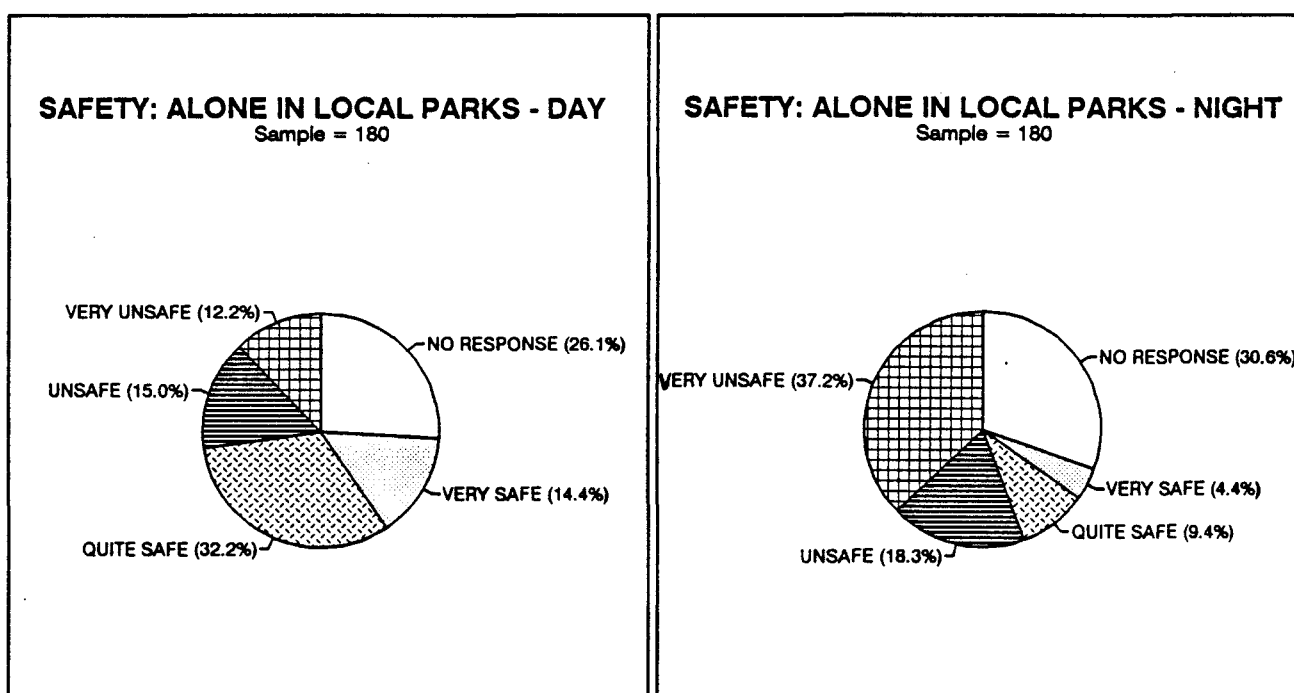
More lights with a better spatial distribution	62 mentions
Better maintenance	11
Brighter lights	11
Improved vandal resistance	3

FEELING OF SAFETY WHEN WALKING THROUGH OR BEING ALONE IN NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

Survey participants were asked 2 question about how safe they would feel walking through or being alone in the park/playground nearest their home, during both the day and after dark. Coded responses to the question were "Very Safe", "Quite Safe", "Unsafe" and "Very Unsafe".

A problem quickly became apparent with this question since it did not specify a particular park/playground, and there is some evidence that respondents referred to different parks, including; an open space area bordering the creek in Bland Street, the open space area and play equipment area on the Estate, and Fairfield Park. Most frequently, however, it seemed that people referred to Fairfield Park.

The pie-charts below illustrate how survey participants responded to these questions.

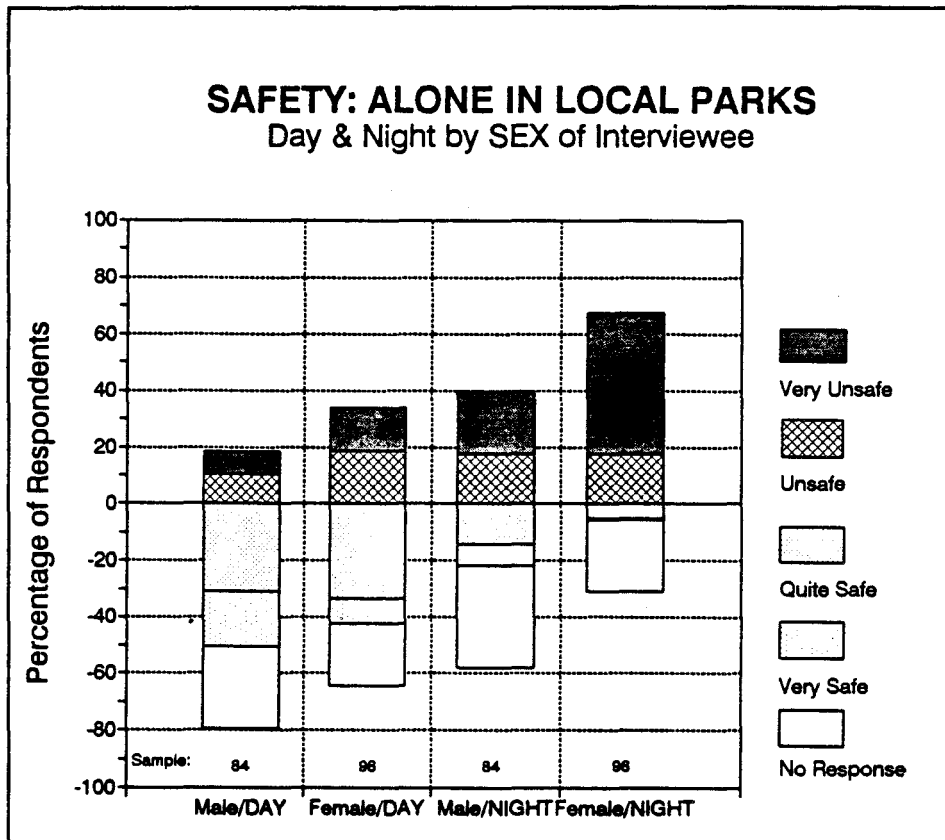


From these charts it can be observed that some 27.2% of those surveyed felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" when either walking through or being alone in the parks in their neighbourhood during the day, and this proportion increased significantly after dark to 55.5%.

These results would imply that a substantial number of people would be constrained in their use of local open space during the day owing to concern for their safety, and that these open space areas for the majority of local people might generally be considered 'unusable' after dark because of concern for safety. The large number of "No Response" responses to this question would suggest that many people simply do not use these areas.

Safety: Alone in neighbourhood parks: Day & Night by Sex of interviewees

An analysis of the data relating to concern for safety when alone in local parks, according to the sex of the respondent (see graph below) indicates that females are more concerned for their safety than their male counterparts during both the day and after dark. 67.7% of female survey participants indicated that they would feel "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" after dark.



On the basis of this data it can be implied that females, because of concern for their safety, are significantly more disadvantaged in their use of public open space in their neighbourhood than their male counterparts.

Safety: Alone in neighbourhood parks: Day & Night by Age-group of interviewee

When the data relating to these questions was analysed according to the age-group of the respondent a slight positive relationship between increasing age and concern for safety was found for daytime. This relationship was not, however, evident for night-time since such a large proportion of all age-groups consider it "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" to use local parks after dark.

The implication of these findings for daytime may be that current open space seems to primarily cater to the needs of younger age-groups, and that as people become older they become more disadvantaged in their use of these public areas because of concern for their safety.

Factors that make neighbourhood parks unsafe

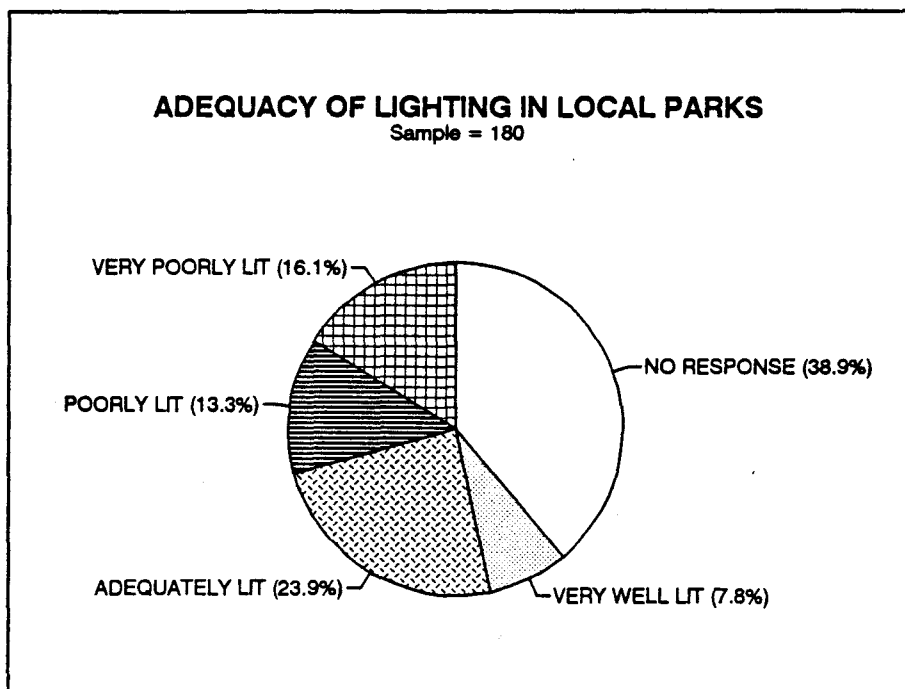
Interviewees who responded that they felt "Unsafe" or "Very Unsafe" walking through or being alone in local parks alone, were asked a supplementary question about what made these park unsafe.

The frequency of responses is indicated in the table below:

<u>Problems Identified</u>	<u>Frequency of Mention</u>
Parks seen as a place of likely exposure to criminal attacks	29
Physical characteristics of parks make them less safe (eg. poor lighting, bushes, emptiness isolation, etc.)	22
Parks are areas frequented by 'undesirables' (eg. drug addicts, alcoholics, 'perverts', etc.)	21
Non-specific reason/Parks generally unsafe	20
Parks are frequented by 'youths'	9

ADEQUACY OF LIGHTING IN LOCALS PARKS

Survey participants were asked how 'adequate' they considered the lighting in their local parks/playground to be. The distribution of responses is displayed in the pie-chart below. It might be noted that many of the 'don't know' responses were probably the result of people simply not going to these areas after dark.



FEAR OF CRIME AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT USE

The following 2 sections concern the use of public transport (busses and trains) and people's concern for their safety.

These questions were, however, not phrased particularly well, with survey participants being asked a question in the form:

"Does concern for your safety influence whether or not you would use local busses (trains)?"

The phrasing of this question may have influenced answers in discrete ways. For example, it may be that a person is in fact very concerned about their safety when on public transport, but has little choice but to use it. So while they may be 'concerned' to use public transport it does not 'influence their decision' to do so. It is unclear whether respondents focussed on their 'feelings' when using public transport, or on the 'decision' aspect of the question. The intention of the question was to measure the extent of their feelings of concern. It might be noted that the alternative interpretation is likely to result in an underestimation of the concern for safety.

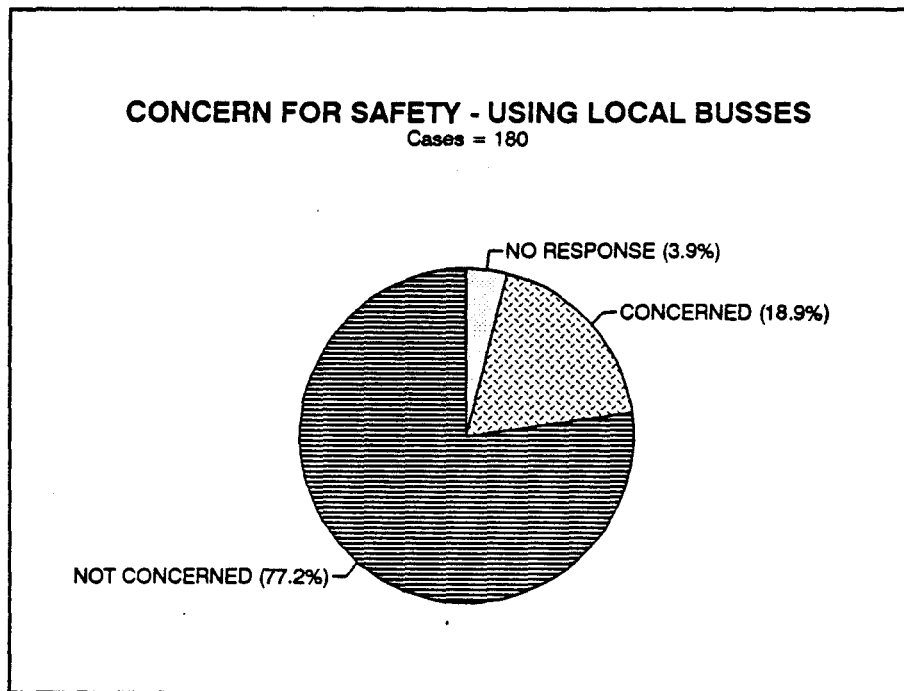
CONCERN FOR SAFETY WHEN USING LOCAL BUSESSES

Interviewees were asked whether concern for their safety influenced whether or not they use local busses. Coded responses to this question were "Yes", "No" and "Don't Use Busses". Those who answered "Don't Use Busses" were asked a supplementary question about whether concern for their safety was the reason why they don't use busses.

Those who indicated concern for safety was the reason they "Don't Use Busses", were aggregated with people who responded that "Yes" concern for their safety influenced their decision to use busses. Those who answered "Don't Use Busses" but indicated concern for their safety was not a reason, were aggregated with the "No" response. The distribution of responses to this question is shown in the pie-chart below.

Some 18.9% of respondents (34) indicated that concern for their safety did influence their decision whether or not to use local busses.

It might be noted that this question caused some problems for a lot of respondents as few bus services operate in the local neighbourhood and bus use was not a regular feature of their daily experience.



Analysis by Sex and Age of interviewees

There was only a negligible difference in the responses to this question between males and females, nor was there any apparent relationship between age and concern for safety when using busses.

Factors which cause concern when using busses

The 34 respondents who indicated that they were concerned about their safety when using local busses were asked a supplementary question about what aspects of bus travel caused them concern, and whether this was during the day, night or both.

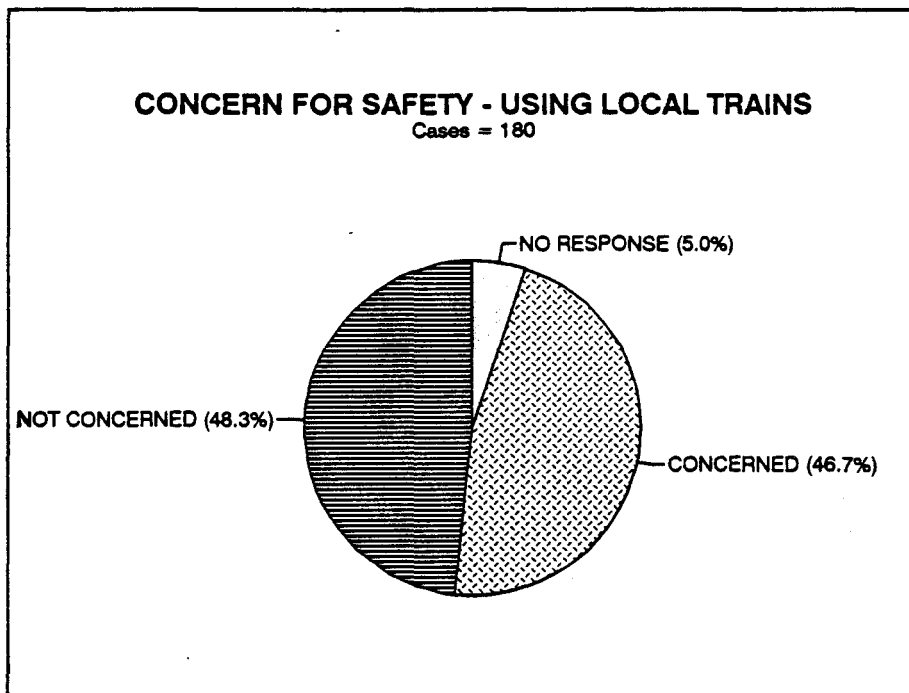
The frequency of responses is tabulated below.

<u>Area of concern</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Both</u>
Walking to/from busses unsafe	1	22	1
Waiting at bus stops is unsafe	3	21	1
Travelling on the bus is unsafe	1	20	

CONCERN FOR SAFETY WHEN USING LOCAL TRAINS

Interviewees were asked whether concern for their safety influenced whether or not they use local trains. Coded responses to this question were "Yes", "No" and "Don't Use Trains". Those who answered "Don't Use Trains" were asked a supplementary question about whether concern for their safety was the reason why they don't use trains.

Those who indicated concern for safety was the reason they "Don't Use Trains", were aggregated with people who responded that "Yes" concern for their safety influenced their decision to use trains. Those who answered "Don't Use Trains" but indicated that concern for their safety was not a reason, were aggregated with the "No" response. The distribution of responses to this question is shown in the pie-chart below.



Some 46.7% of respondents (84) indicated that concern for their safety does influence their decisions whether or not to use local trains.

Analysis by Sex and Age of interviewees

A greater proportion of females (51.6%) than males (39.5%) indicated that concern for their safety would influence their decisions to use trains. No clear relationship was evident, however, between the age-group of interviewees and concern for safety influencing their decision to use trains.

Factors which cause concern when using trains

The 84 respondents who indicated that they were concerned about their safety when using local trains were asked a supplementary question about what aspects of train travel caused them concern, and whether this was during the day, night or both.

The frequency of responses is tabulated below:

<u>Area of concern</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Both</u>
Walking to/from station unsafe	0	36	13
Waiting at train stations is unsafe	0	50	18
Travelling on the trains is unsafe	0	42	22

Stations at which "waiting for trains" causes concern

Interviewees who indicated that "waiting at the station" was a reason why train travel was unsafe were subsequently asked to indicate which local railway stations this applied to, and whether it was during the day, night or both.

The frequency of responses to this question can be seen in the table below.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Both</u>
Fairfield	1	22	8
Cabramatta	2	21	16
Canley Vale		12	7
Carramar		18	10
Villawood		34	18

The above frequency table cannot be used for 'ranking' stations, however, since many respondents had only limited experience of using different stations and referred to only 1 or 2 stations in their response.

Factors which cause concern at different stations

Respondents who referred to particular stations were asked about what features of the station made it 'unsafe'. This information can be summarised as follows:

Canley Vale, Carramar and Villawood stations were characterised as being "isolated", "secluded", "deserted".

With respect to all stations there was reference to "assaults", "robberies" and the presence of "undesirable persons" (drunks, drug addicts, etc.)

In the instances of Villawood, Cabramatta and Fairfield stations there was reference to "gangs".

"Poor lighting" at Villawood station received numerous mentions.

Comment

There seem to be a range of reasons why a substantial proportion of our sample, 46.7%, were concerned about their safety when using local trains. Once again the results indicate that 'concern for safety' may restrict people's freedom of movement (and consequently their access to facilities and services) and that some groups are more disadvantaged than others, ie. females, and possibly those who don't have access to private vehicles. An analysis of the data according to whether people reported owning a car, indicated that a greater percentage of those without a car (60%) than those with cars (44.9%) said that concern for their safety influenced their decisions to use local trains.

CONCERN OF SAFETY AT VARIOUS LOCAL SHOPPING AREAS

Survey participants were asked whether they would be concerned about their safety when shopping at any of the nearby shopping areas of Fairfield, Cabramatta, Villawood and the local 'corner shops' in Tangerine Street. Coded responses were "Yes", "No" and "Don't Go Shopping".

Those who answered "Don't Go Shopping" were then asked a further question to ascertain if this was because of concern for their safety. Those who responded "Yes", that this was a reason why they did not go shopping were then aggregated with those who answered "Yes" to the previous question. Those answering 'no' were aggregated with the "No" responses in the previous question.

A total of 59 respondents (32.8%) indicated that they were worried about their safety when shopping in at least one of these local shopping areas, either during the day, night or both.

The frequency of responses were distributed as follows:

<u>Shopping Area</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Both</u>
Fairfield Shops	2	16	9
Cabramatta Shops	2	10	18
Villawood Shops	1	10	2
Tangerine Street Shops	0	7	2

The above frequency table cannot be used for 'ranking' shopping areas, however, since many respondents had only limited experience of shopping in these areas and referred to only 1 or 2 areas in their response.

Factors which cause concern when shopping in different areas

Respondents who indicated concern for their safety in one or more of these shopping areas were asked to identify what the major factors contributing to this concern were.

Responses included several mentions of 'pick-pockets', 'bag-snatches', 'robberies', 'unsafe generally', 'undesirables hanging around', and one mention of 'gangs', 'jewellery snatches' and 'car theft'. There was little difference between the different shopping areas in terms of the factors were mentioned.

Comment

While it is not clear that there is, in fact, a substantial problem with crime in any of these shopping areas, it is of concern that such a large proportion of our sample (32.8%) perceived there to be a risk to their safety when going shopping within their local area - particularly at night.

This should clearly be of concern to local Chambers of Commerce if their shopping areas have either a real problem with crime, or are perceived as having such a problem by the public.

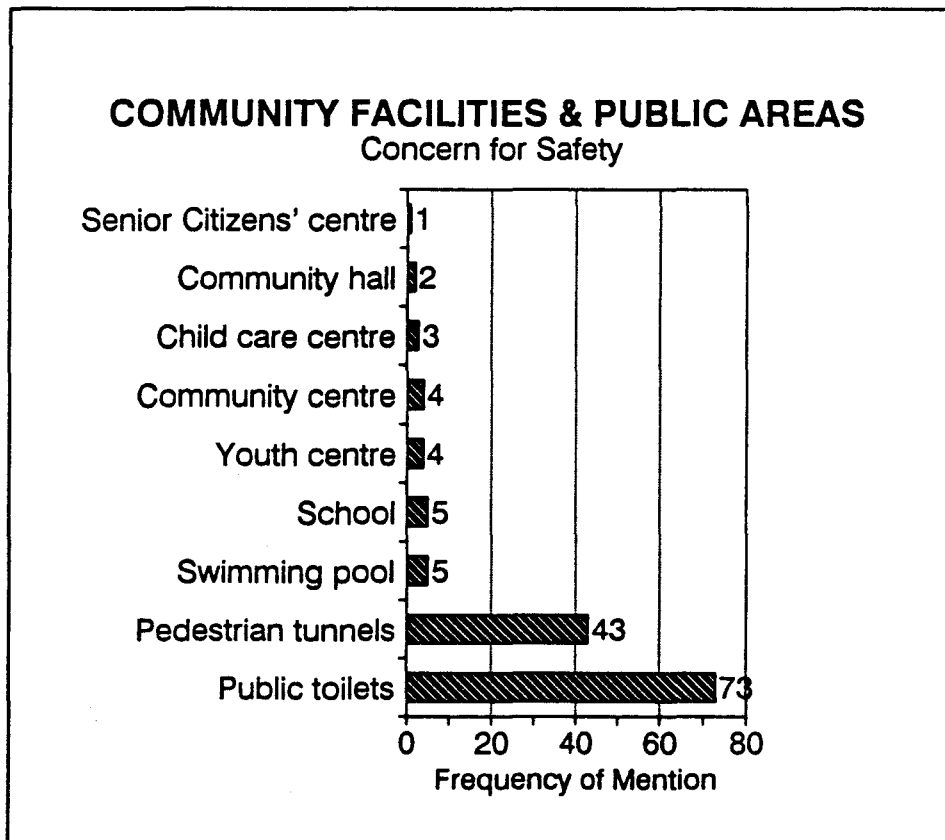
CONCERN FOR SAFETY AT OR NEAR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OTHER PUBLIC AREAS

Survey participants were asked whether there were, "any community buildings or services where you would be concerned about your safety either inside or immediately outside the facility?".

This question was poorly phrased and many respondents were not clear what this question meant until the coding list for the question was read to them. Nor had it been made clear whether the question referred to day, night, work hours, or out of hours use of these places. People's responses to such a question could understandably be different at different times of the day.

Quite a common response to this question was "Don't Know", and interviewers reported that quite a number of survey participants said they had no regular contact with such facilities or places. Nonetheless, 151 people responded to this question: 57 of whom indicated places where they were concerned for their safety.

The frequency of responses given by these 57 are indicated in the table below:



While it is not very clear what to make of some of these figures, there was a clear concern amongst survey participants relating to using "public toilets" and "pedestrian tunnels".



PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIME PROBLEMS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

It would seem reasonable to speculate that people's 'fear of crime' will be related to their perceptions of the extent and nature of the crime problem in their local area.

It was beyond the scope of this research, however, to examine in detail whether 'fear of crime' was a 'generalised fear' or whether on the other hand, it was directly related to perceptions about specific types of crime. What this section of the research intended to do was to document what survey participants saw as the extent and nature of crime in their area, and which crimes they identified as being of primary concern to them.

It might be noted that what people perceive as the major crime problems in their area, may not in fact be an accurate reflection of what crimes actually occur, or those most frequently dealt with by police, but is probably an indication of the subject's personal concerns and experience.

How we attempted to measure 'Perceptions of the Crime Problem'

Survey participants were asked several general question about what they thought of the crime problem in their neighbourhood, eg. which crimes were they most concerned might effect them or their families; how 'serious' did the consider the overall crime problem of their neighbourhood to be; would the crime problem be an important factor in deciding to move from the area if the opportunity arose. These questions were followed by asking the survey participants to 'rank' a series of particular crimes according to how serious they thought the problem with this crime was in their local area. In addition to these question, survey participants were asked what they saw as the causes of the crime problems in their area, and what they thought should be done to help reduce crime in the area.

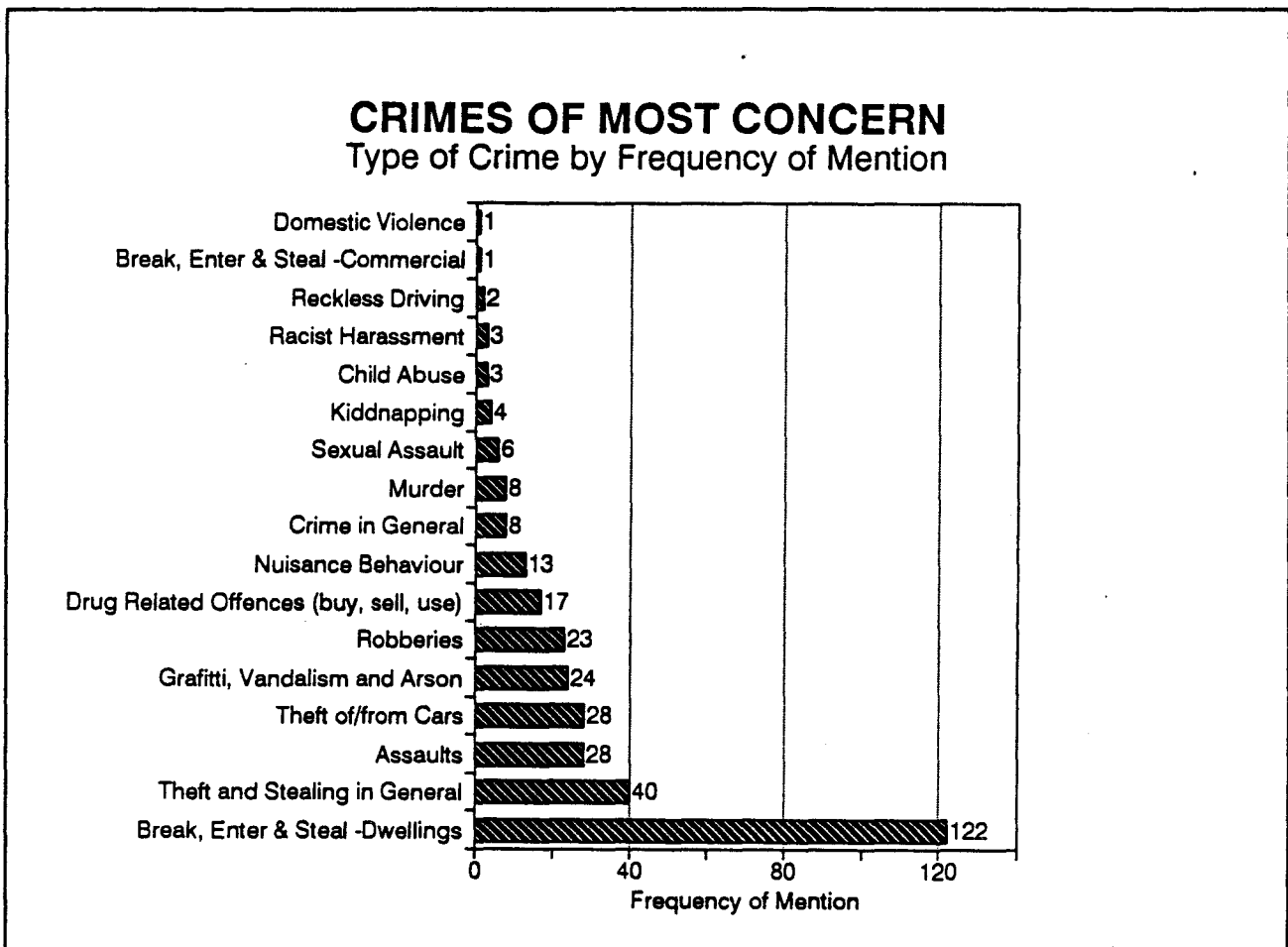
A further question was asked about media presentation and public perceptions of the crime problem in their area. This question proved to be very unsatisfactorily phrased and was dropped from the analysis. It might be noted that although the form of the question was clearly inadequate, it may also be that the difficulty most people had in understanding the question reflects the fact that many people do not see the media as being involved in the process of creating 'images' and influencing public 'perceptions'.

CRIMES OF MOST CONCERN TO SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Survey participants were asked the following open-ended question, "Which crimes are you most concerned might effect you or your family personally, while you live in this area?". Participants were free to offer as many responses as they wished.

The response rate to this question was 83.3% (150 out of 180). 49 people gave only 1 response, 5 people gave 2 responses, 38 gave 3 responses and 17 gave 4 separate responses.

The graph below illustrates the frequency with which different types of crime were mentioned.



Some of the responses given to this question could indicate that a number of survey participants interpreted this question rather broadly, and answered in accordance with which crimes were of concern to them generally, as opposed to the narrower (and intended) interpretation of the question relating to the crimes which they were most concerned might effect them or their family personally.

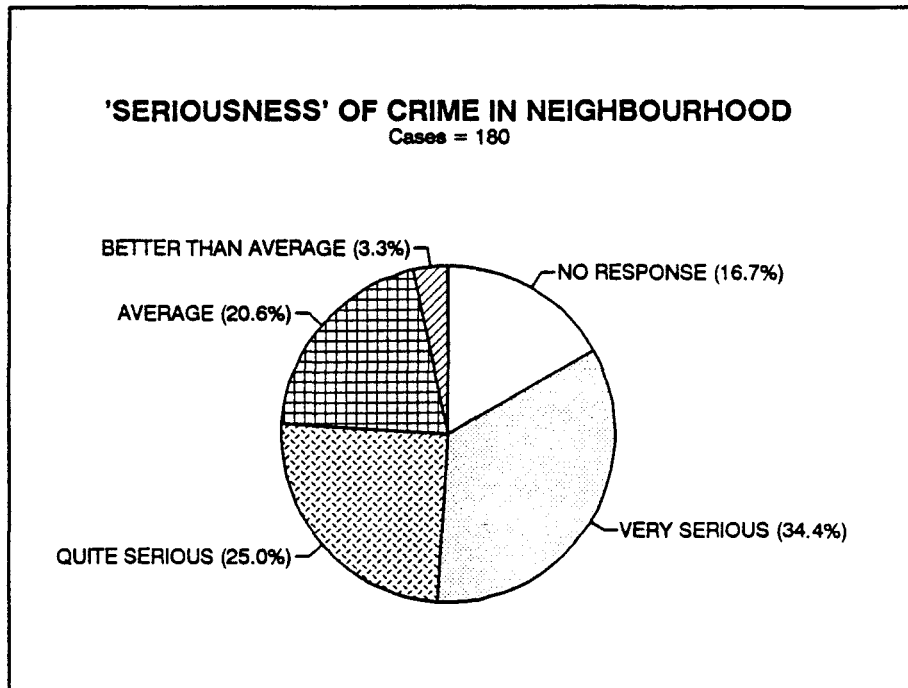
A further caution relating to this question is that it did not specifically canvas the magnitude of their concern with respect to each type of crime mentioned. The question assumed that people only mentioned crimes which they believed had a realistic chance of actually occurring.

Despite these reservation, the responses given to this question clearly indicates an overwhelming concern with 'break and enter' offences, while all other categories of crime fell well behind.

'SERIOUSNESS' OF CRIME SITUATION IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Survey participants were asked the general question, "How serious do you consider the crime situation in your neighbourhood to be?". The coded responses were "Very Serious", "Quite Serious", "Average", "Better than Average", and "Don't Know".

The distribution of these responses is illustrated in the pie-chart below.



34.4% of the survey sample consider the crime problem in their local area as being "Very Serious" and a further 25.0% as "Quite Serious".

Seriousness of crime problem: by Sex of interviewee

The data relating to this question was analysed according to the sex of the interviewee, and as can be seen from the table below they evaluated the seriousness of the crime problem in their neighbourhood slightly differently.

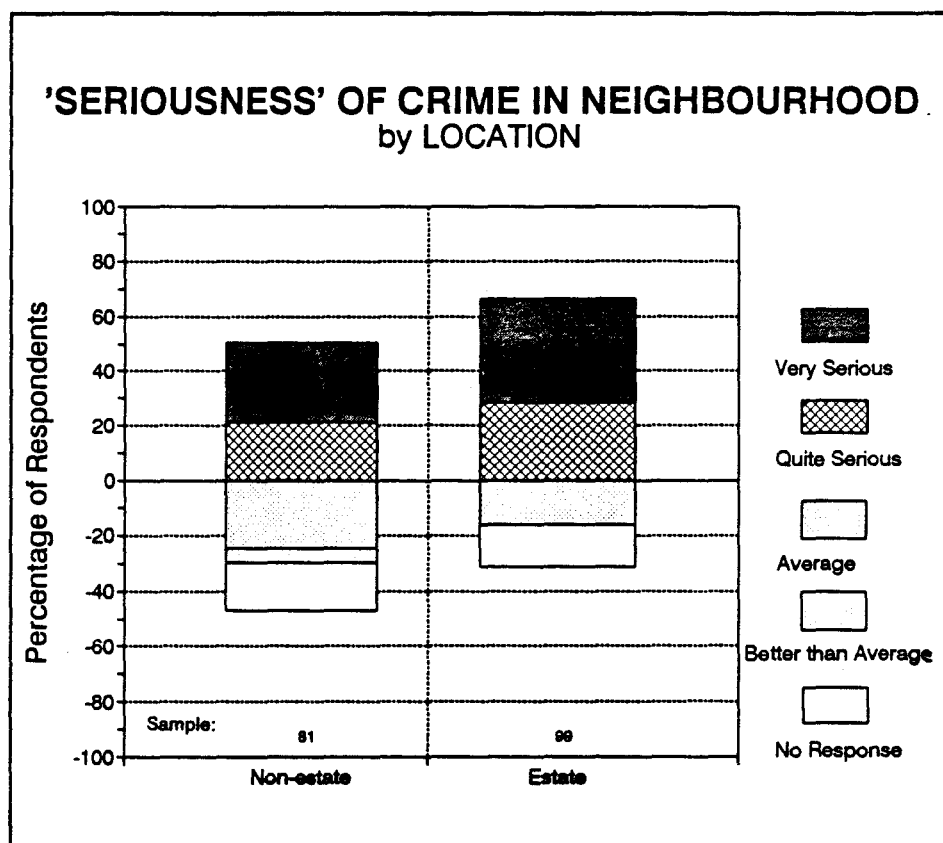
	<u>Very Serious</u>	<u>Quite Serious</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Better than Average</u>
Male	44.8%	23.9%	25.4%	6.0%
Female	37.2%	37.2%	24.4%	1.3%

Seriousness of crime problem: by Age-group of interviewee

Analysis of responses to this question according to the age-group of respondents revealed no discernible relationship between age of respondents and evaluation of the seriousness of the crime problems of the neighbourhood.

Seriousness of crime problem: by Location (Non-estate/Estate)

When the responses to this question were analysed according to whether survey participants lived on or off the Department of Housing Estate, it became evident that those people living on the Estate evaluated the crime problem in their neighbourhood as generally more serious than those not living on the Estate. The distribution of responses according to 'Location' are illustrated in the graph below.



Whereas 50.6% of respondents who live in the streets around the Estate evaluated the local crime problem as "Quite Serious" or "Very Serious", the comparative figure for those living on the Estate who gave this evaluation was 66.7%.

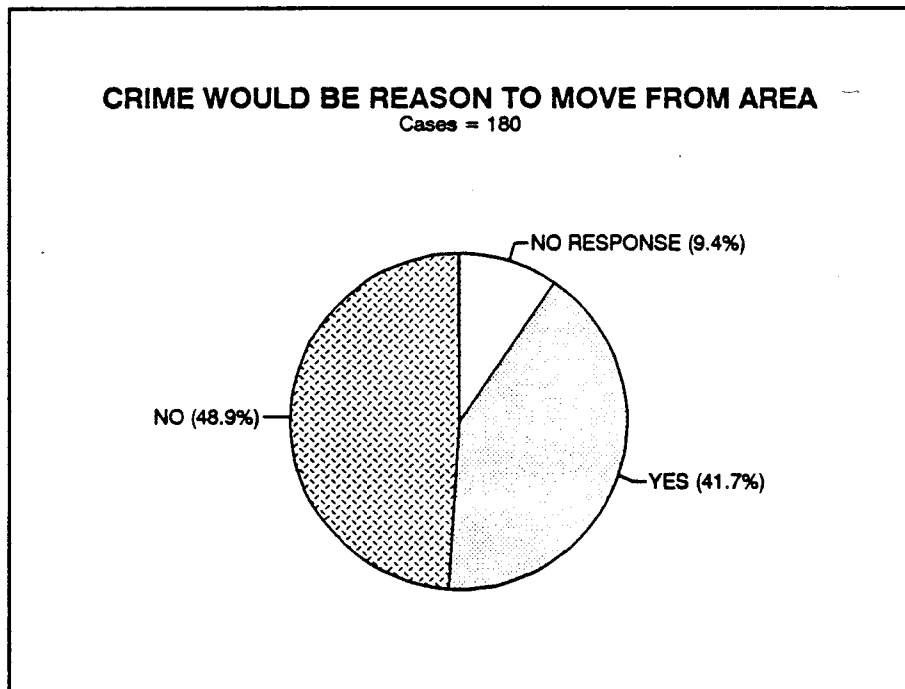
Victimisation and perception of crime seriousness

Analysis of the data from this question according to whether the respondent reported being a victim of 1 or more crimes in the past 12 months, revealed a slight positive relationship between victimisation and evaluation of 'seriousness'. At a general level, those who had been 'victimised' in the previous 12 months evaluated the problem as more serious than those who had not been victimised. Similarly, as the number of victimisations increased so to did their evaluation of the seriousness of the crime problem.

CRIME AS A FACTOR IN DECIDING TO MOVE FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Survey participants were asked the question, "Is the crime problem in this area so bad that you would move somewhere else if you had the opportunity?". Coded responses were "Yes" and "No".

It is worth noting that this question was of a 'hypothetical' nature, and it would perhaps not be safe to assume that those who responded "Yes" would in fact move if the opportunity arose. However, as an indication of how people feel about their community or their degree of attachment to the area, it seemed to be a useful question to pose. The responses given can be seen in the pie-chart below.



As can be seen from the chart, some 41.7% of the survey population considered the crime problem serious enough to be a reason to move from the area if they had the opportunity.

If as these figures suggest, a large number of the people living in the survey area would move if they had the opportunity, it could be expected that this would not only result in considerable population mobility through the area, it may also result in people never really attempting to establish close social ties or make other investments in the life of the neighbourhood. A lack of such social networks and population stability are themselves likely to contribute to an atmosphere in which criminal and anti-social activity could prosper.

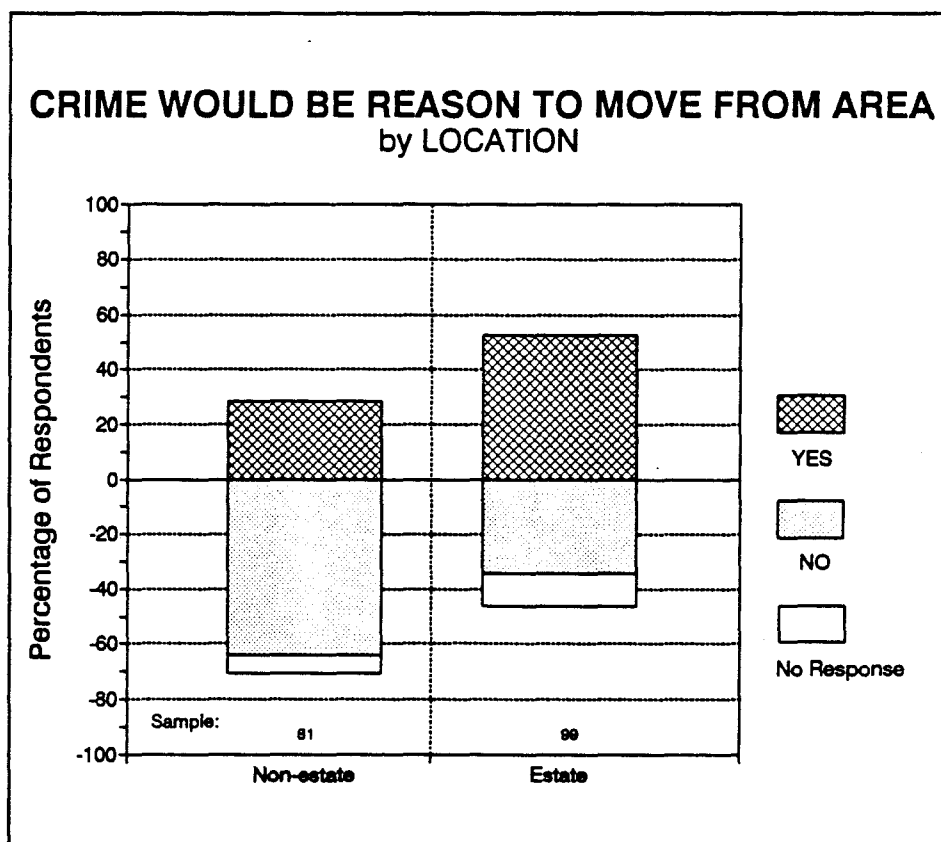
Crime as a factor in moving from the neighbourhood: by Sex and Age-group of interviewees

When the responses relating to this question were analysed according to the sex of the respondent, it was observed that males and females differed only marginally in their responses, with some 2% more females answering "Yes" they would move.

No apparent relationship existed between the age-group of survey participants and the responses they gave to this question. Dissatisfaction, ie. "Yes" response, was greatest amongst the 45-55 year age-group (60.0%) followed by the 25-34 year age-group (58.8%), compared to the average rate for "Yes" responses of 46.0%.

Crime as a factor in moving from neighbourhood: by Location (Non-estate/Estate)

When this question was analysed according to whether the respondent lived on or off the Estate, a substantial difference in views was detected, as is illustrated in the graph below.



52.5 % of Estate dwellers indicated that the crime problem would be a factor in deciding to move from the neighbourhood if the opportunity arose, compared to only 28.4% for their Non-estate counterparts.

While these results may well indicate that respondents living on the Estate feel a greater dissatisfaction with the crime situation in the area, the results may also be influenced by other factors such as the basis of tenure (ie. those who actually own their houses, or have lived in the area a long time, may be more reluctant to move), and the level of resources and control people have with regard to measures they can take to protect themselves (eg. tenant vs. owner, car vs. no car, money for security system vs. no money, etc.). It may also reflect the fact that Villawood may not have been a place of choice for many Department of Housing tenants anyway, and they were required to accept the place they were allocated.

Nonetheless, this data suggests that the crime problem may be substantially aggravating turnover rates for Estate tenants. This presumably would be an undesirable situation for the Department of Housing on both financial and social/management grounds. It would also impact negatively on the local school if their student population is constantly changing.

High turnover rates or general lack of long term commitment to the area are also likely to be an obstacle and constraining factor for community development work on the Estate, as it would be more difficult to establish and maintain networks; and if people are focussed on 'getting out' of the Estate, they are unlikely to make major personal investments towards improving conditions on the Estate.

Crime as a factor in deciding to move from the neighbourhood: by Victimization

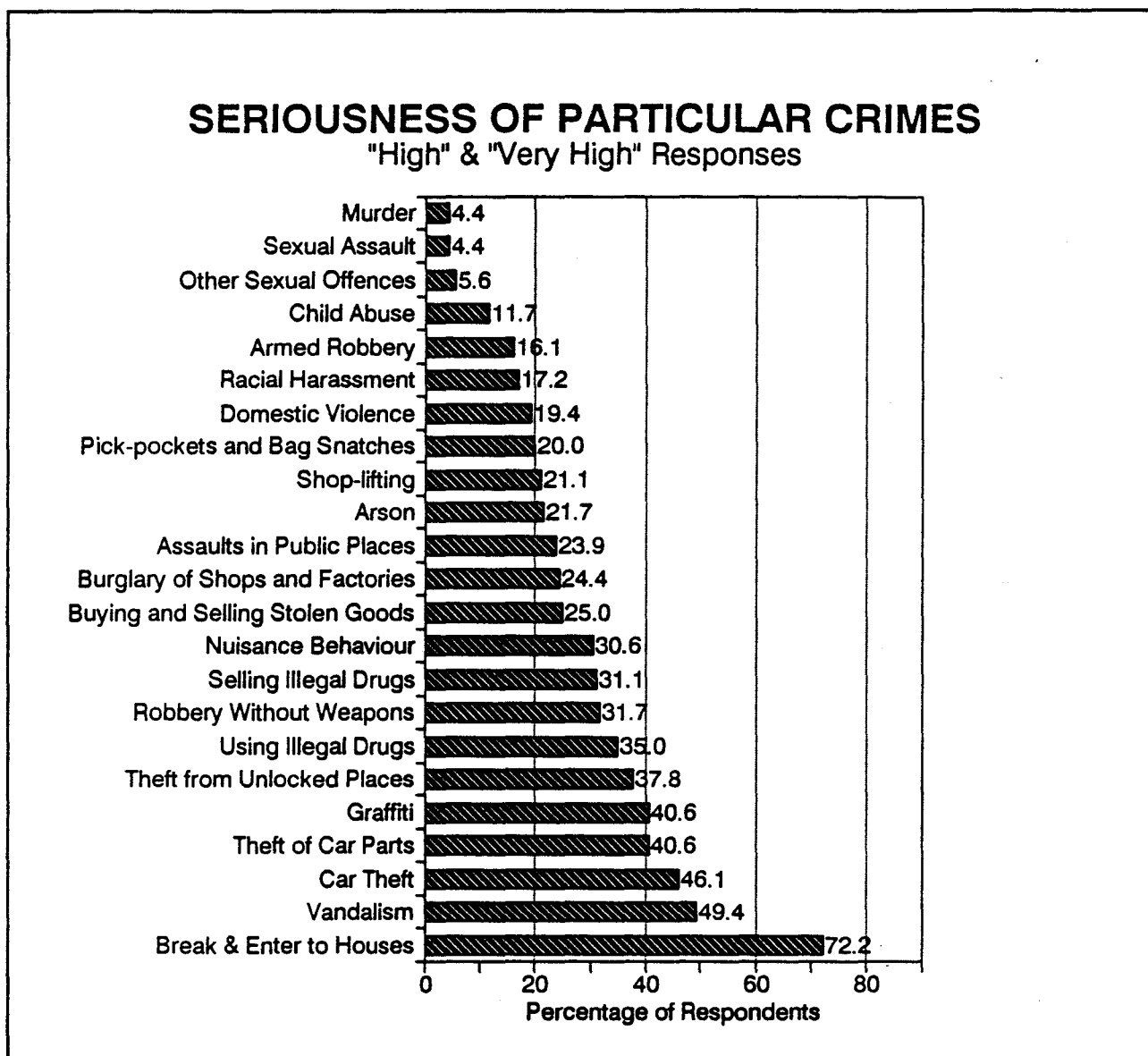
Examination of this data according to whether the interviewee, or a member of his/her family, or property belonging to his or her household, had been a victim of one or more crimes in the previous 12 months, indicated that those whose household had been a victim were more likely to answer "Yes" (55.2%) than those whose household had not been victimised (32.8%).

In general, those whose households had been victimised 3 or more times during the previous 12 months were even more likely to answer "Yes", than those victimised 2 or fewer times. The sample was not however, sufficiently large to determine whether the proportion indicating that "Yes" crime was a reason to move consistently increased with the number of victimisations, as only 48 households in the sample had been victimised on 3 or more occasions in the previous 12 months.

SERIOUSNESS OF THE CRIME PROBLEM IN THE LOCAL AREA WITH RESPECT TO PARTICULAR TYPES OF CRIME

Survey participants were read a list of 23 types of crime and asked to indicate how serious a problem they considered each type of crime to be in their local area. A ranking scale of "Minor", "Average", "High", "Very High" and "Don't Know" was used.

The graph below indicates the percentage of the sample population who considered the seriousness of the problem with each particular type of crime in the list to be "High" or "Very High".



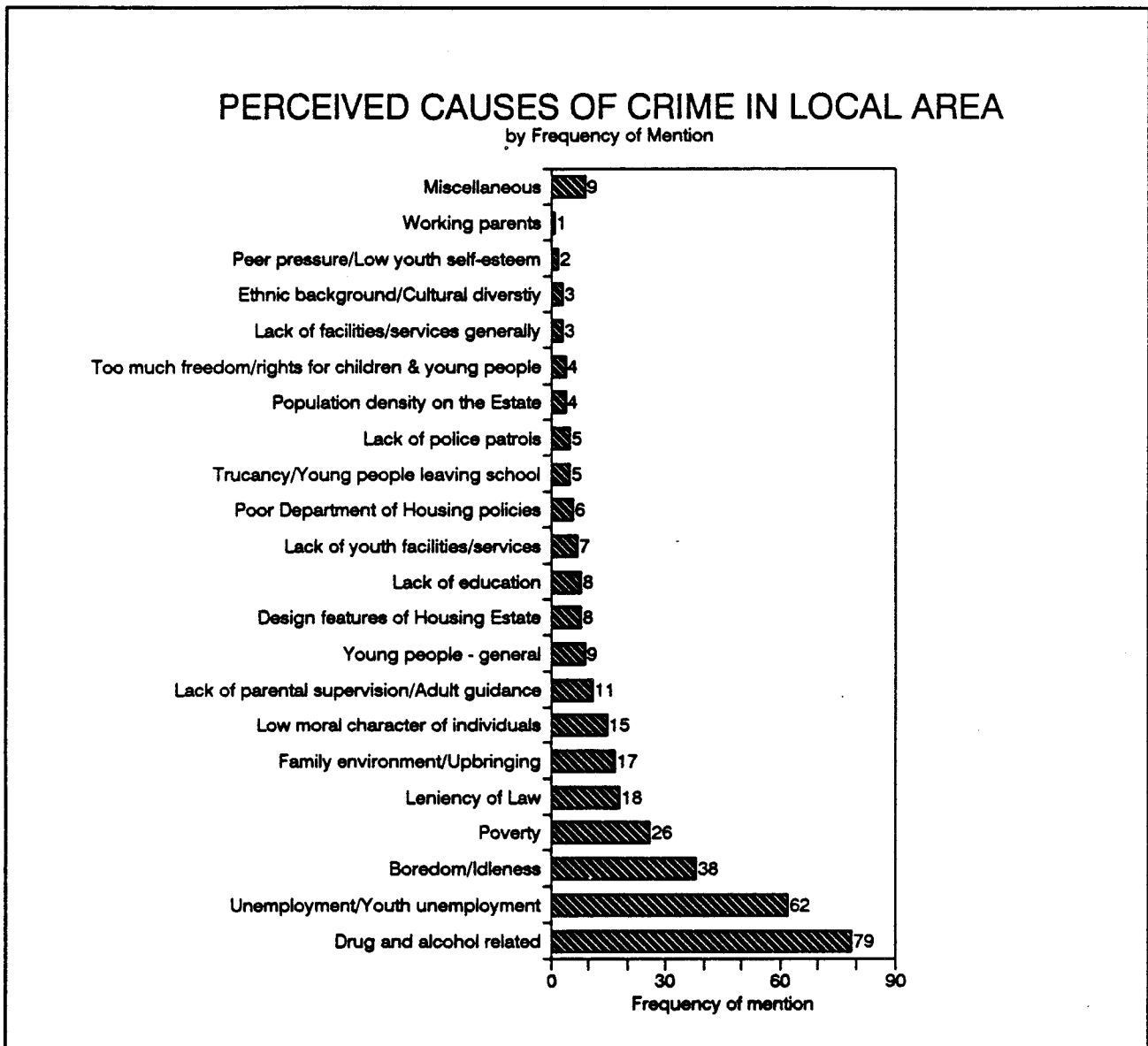
Once again "Break & enter" was seen as the major problem, followed by a range of other property offences. Apart from "Robbery Without Weapons", most other offences against the person come quite low in the ranking of crime problems in the area.

PERCEIVED 'CAUSES' OF THE CRIME PROBLEM IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Survey participants were asked to identify what they thought were the major 'causes' of the crime problem in their neighbourhood. The question was of an open format, and subjects were free to indicate as many 'causes' as they wished.

149 out of the 180 survey participants offered responses to this question: 46 gave only 1 response, 42 gave 2 responses, 40 gave 3 responses, 12 gave 4 responses, and 9 gave 5 separate responses.

The graph below indicates the 'causes' identified by survey participants according to their frequency of mention.



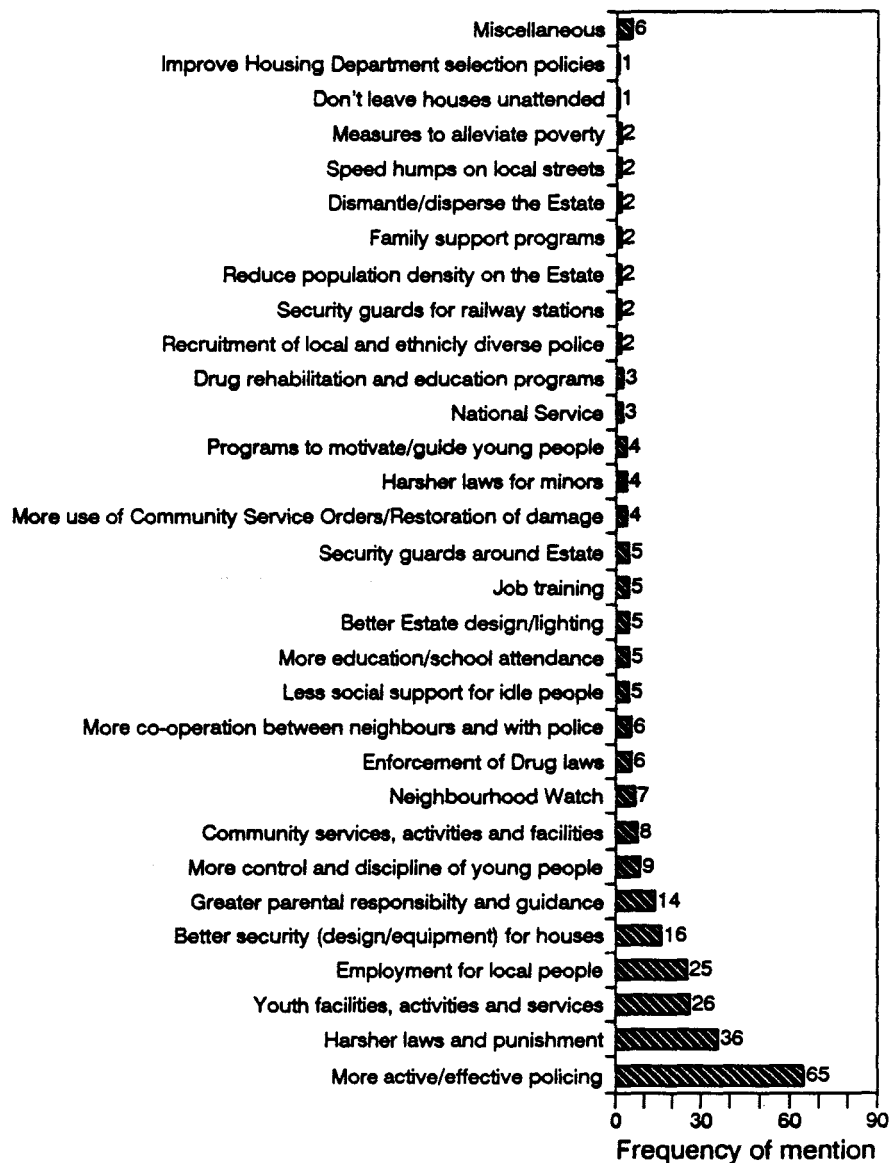
The most frequently identified 'causes' of the local crime problem were 'Drug and alcohol related' and 'Unemployment/Youth unemployment', followed by 'Boredom/Idleness'. This would suggest a number of necessary longer-term policy and program measures that are needed to address the crime problem of this neighbourhood.

SUGGESTED WAYS TO REDUCE THE CRIME IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Survey participants were asked to identify what they thought should be done to "... help reduce the crime problems in their neighbourhood". The question was of an open format, and subjects were free to suggest as many 'solutions' as they wished.

145 out of the 180 survey participants made suggestions as to how the crime problem could be reduced: 62 gave only 1 response, 40 gave 2 responses, 25 gave 3 responses, 11 gave 4 responses, and 7 gave 5 separate responses. The graph below indicate the 'solutions' suggested according to their frequency of mention.

WAYS TO REDUCE CRIME IN THE LOCAL AREA by Frequency of Mention



As can be seen from the graph above, the most frequently suggested 'solutions' to the crime problem in the neighbourhood were 'More active/effective policing' and 'Harsher laws/punishments'.

It is interesting to note 2 features of the previous two graphs. Firstly, survey participants seemed more limited in the range of 'solutions' they perceived as being possible, than in the range of 'causes' they could identify, with more subjects making only 1 response for 'solutions'. Secondly, it can be noted that there is no direct correspondence between the 'causes' of the crime problems that were identified, and the 'solutions' that were suggested. It appears that respondents focussed on short-term measures of control and protection rather than on the longer-term strategies that would be necessary to address the 'causes' that they had identified.

It is understandable that a respondent's immediate concern might be with controlling the situation and getting protection through measures such as better policing and 'locking people up' for longer periods of time. These concerns do certainly need to be addressed, however, it is also clear that much longer-term strategies to address the 'drug and alcohol', 'unemployment' and 'boredom' issues would also be needed.

VICTIMISATION

This research was also concerned with getting some idea of how many households in the survey area had actually been victims of a crime in the previous 12 months. Apart from the problem of not having access to local police statistics on reported crime for this area, other research (see Mukherjee, 1990.) has indicated that a large amount of crime never gets reported to the police and therefore does not appear in police statistics anyway. It was therefore decided to directly ask survey participants about the experiences of their households so as to provide a basic guide to the magnitude of the crime problem in the survey area.

There are, however, a range of problems associated with asking questions of this nature. Firstly, it assumes that the respondent is able to identify acts that are 'criminal', ie. a breach of a law, and neither includes events which were not in fact crimes, or alternatively omits to include events which should have been considered crimes. There are also problems associated with asking questions that people may find embarrassing to answer or which they may feel will incriminate them in some way. For example, the data we collected with respect to 'assault in the home', and 'illegal drugs' would appear to be not very reliable and would suggest considerable non-reporting.

How we measured 'Victimisation'

First of all it is important to note that the questionnaire asked about households and not the individual survey respondent. As such, the questions relied on the survey participant having knowledge of incidents that involved other members of their household and their property.

One of the reasons for asking the questions in this form was that it was hoped that people would feel more free to disclose information about criminal events which they may not want linked with them personally, eg. "assault in the home". In retrospect it probably would have been better to have also included questions relating to the specific individual as well, since this would have enabled comparisons on the basis of sex, age, etc.

A second feature of these questions was that they asked about both 'actual' and 'attempted' criminal acts. This was felt to be important, for the reasons that an 'attempt' is still an offence, and because even if a crime is unsuccessful it can still generate fear and anxiety amongst the would-be victims.

Survey participants were led through a series of questions about broad categories of crime, and if they indicated that they or a member of their household had been a victim in the past 12 months, they were then asked for more details about the type of offence, how many times it occurred, how many incidents were reported to police, and where the offence took place.

VICTIMISATION

Of the total sample of 180 households, 105 or 58.3%, said that their household had been the victim of an attempted or actual crime during the previous 12 months.

FREQUENCY OF VICTIMISATION: BY TYPE OF CRIME

The table below indicates the responses given by survey participants according to the type of crime their household was victim to.

Type of Crime	No. Incidents	No. & % of Households affected	No. & % of Incidents Reported to Police
Break and enter houses	92	58 (32.2%)	63 (68.5%)
Theft from area outside house	75	33 (18.3%)	21 (28.0%)
Car theft	40	24 (13.3%)	28 (70.0%)
Harassment/Intimidation	30	14 (7.7%)	12 (40.0%)
Car vandalised/set alight	24	14 (7.7%)	17 (70.8%)
Car parts stolen	24	14 (7.7%)	5 (20.8%)
Theft of property from inside car	23	16 (8.8%)	8 (34.8%)
Approached to buy stolen goods	20	7 (3.8%)	3 (15.0%)
Assault in a public place	12	8 (4.4%)	12 (100%)
Approached to buy illegal drugs	11	4 (2.2%)	0
Theft from the person while in the street or public place	6	5 (2.7%)	1 (16.7%)
Fraud, Confidence trick	4	4 (2.2%)	0
Approached to buy stolen car parts	4	4 (2.2%)	0
Subjected to indecent exposure	2	1 (0.6%)	2 (100%)
Arson of house	2	2 (1.1%)	2 (100%)
Assault in the home	0	0	0

On the basis of this data it would appear that the major crime

On the basis of this data it would appear that the major crime problems confronted by the community are: break and enter to houses; theft of property from areas outside the house; harassment and intimidation; theft of and from cars; and damage to cars.

It must, however, be noted that some crimes may not have shown up because of respondents' reluctance to discuss them, and the form of questioning may have resulted in some areas of crime not being adequately examined, eg. vandalism/graffiti to property.

The data in the above table on the number of incidents reported to police is also quite illuminating, and it reveals quite large differences in reporting rates between types of crime. Overall, some 52.5% of incidents were not reported to police.

MULTIPLE VICTIMISATION

The data relating to the victimisation questions above was analysed to determine how many households had been victims of more than one crime in the previous 12 months.

The frequency table below shows the number of households affected by different levels of victimisation.

Number of times a victim	Number of households	% of households
0	75	41.6%
1	35	19.4%
2	22	12.2%
3	16	8.9%
4	6	3.3%
5	3	1.7%
6	8	4.4%
7	3	1.7%
8	2	1.1%
9	0	0
10	1	0.6%
11	5	2.8%
12	2	1.1%
13	0	0
14	1	0.6%
15	0	0
16	1	0.6%

As can be seen from the table above, different households have experienced quite different levels of victimisation. Similarly, the table below indicates that some households were not only exposed to a greater number of crimes but also to a greater diversity in the types of crime:

Different types of crime	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. of households	16	39	22	13	9	3	1	1	0	0	0	1

The data that was collected was, unfortunately not suitable for doing a more detailed analysis to see whether there were perhaps certain characteristics of particular households that made them more prone to victimisation, or whether it was a random effect.

Victimisation: by Location (Non-estate/Estate)

The data that was collected could however, be cross-tabulated with information about whether the respondent lived on or off the Estate.

The Survey Interviewers had been asked to elicit information about where offences occurred (ie. at/near home, in Fairfield LGA, or "other"). This data was, however, very incomplete for many of the questionnaires and was deemed unusable. The table below indicates all victimisation by 'Location' and may thus include reports of a number of crimes that happened away from the Estate and which could not reasonably be related to 'Location'.

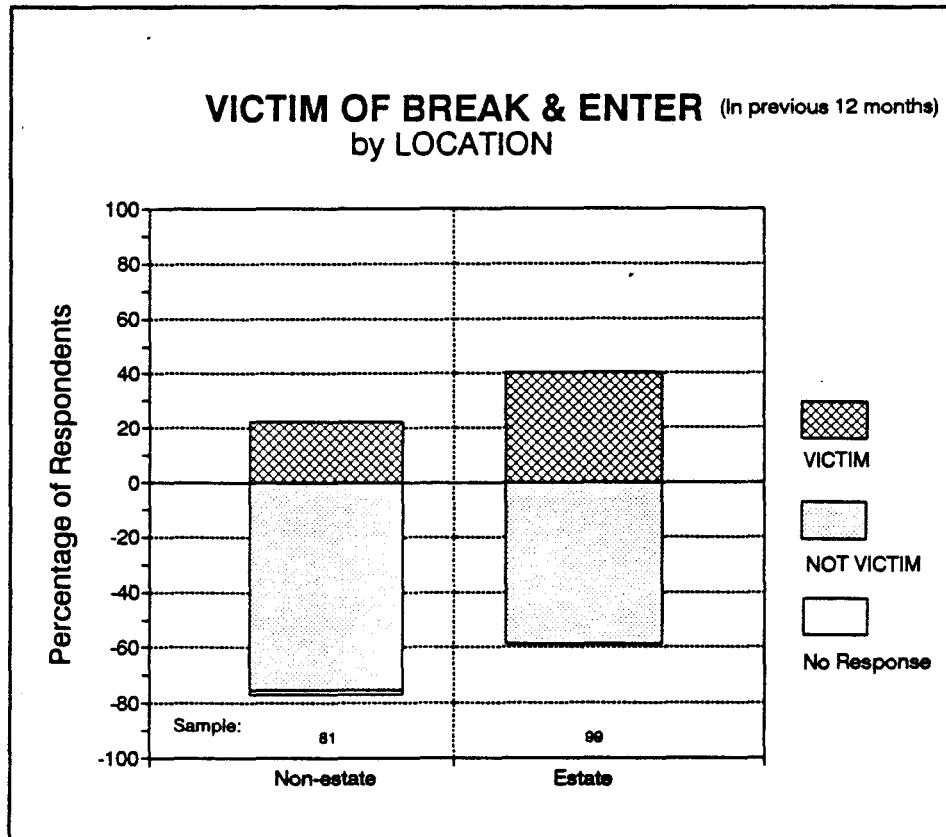
Total Victimisation: by location

	<u>Non-estate</u>	<u>Estate</u>
Victimised	43 53.1%	62 62.6%
Not victim	38 46.9%	37 37.4%

As can be seen from this table, respondents living on the Estate experienced overall a higher level of victimisation than their Non-estate counterparts.

As pointed out above, however, it may be that some of the incidents reported by survey participants cannot reasonably be

assumed to be associated with living on the Estate. The graph below, however, illustrates victimisation only for "break and enter to houses" and therefore relates directly to location. The crimes involving "Theft from unlocked areas outside the house", can also be related directly to location, and the data for these crimes is presented below in the table.

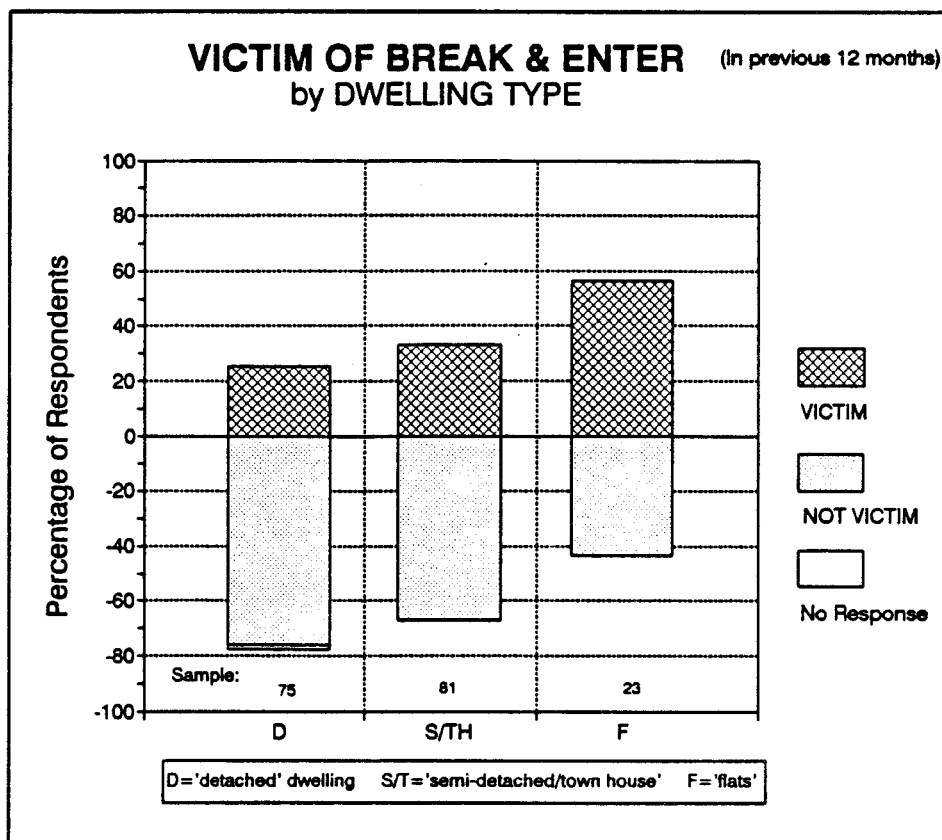


	<u>Non-estate</u>	<u>Estate</u>
Break and enter	18 22.2%	40 40.4%
Theft from unlocked places	15 18.5%	18 18.25%

In terms of 'break and enter' crimes, the respondents living on the Estate have experienced a higher level of victimisation - at almost twice that of their Non-estate counterparts.

"Break and enters": by Dwelling type

The data relating to actual and attempted "break and enter" crimes was analysed by the dwelling type of the respondent. The graph below indicates the distribution of responses.



This data indicates that, on the basis of our sample, a proportionally greater number of 'flats' than other dwelling types are the target of 'break and enter' crimes. Though it must of course be remembered that 'flats' comprised a relatively small group in the overall sample (23 out of 180), and the greatest number of break and enters was in fact against 'semi-detached/town house' dwellings.

Comment

This data on victimisation is quite alarming considering it covers only a 12 month period. The figures for "break and enter" are particularly of concern as they indicate that some 32.2% of the sample population has been victimised at least once during the previous 12 months, with 23 of the 180 households sampled were victims of 'break and enter' on 2 or more occasions in this period. With such a large proportion of the sample being victimised it is not surprising that 'fear of crime' amongst many respondents was quite high.

The disproportionate number of victimisations which occurred on the Estate, would suggest that there are very real security and safety concerns on the Estate that need to be addressed.

VICTIMISATIONS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

58 households were asked a supplementary question about victimisation in years prior to the previous 12 months while they were resident at their current address.

This question was included because a substantial number of respondents indicated that they had not had problems with crime in the past year, but this was because of protective measures they had taken in response to previous victimisations. No attempt was made to ensure the randomness or representativeness of this sub-sample and consequently no comparisons have been made.

Of the 58 participants questioned, 32 (55.2%) indicated that their households had been a victim of a crime in previous years. 19 of these had been a victim of 1 crime only, 6 of 2 crimes, and 7 households were victims of 3 or more crimes.

The number of incidents of different types of crimes was as follows:

Break and enter to houses	19
Car theft	6
Theft of parts or goods from inside car	3
Murder/manslaughter	2
Armed robbery	1
Assault in a street or public place	1
Sexual offences such as indecent exposure	1
Child abuse	1
Vandalism	1
Pick-pocket/Bag snatch	1
Nuisance behaviour	1

All of these crimes were reported as having occurred between 1982 and 1990.

Of these 32 participants who indicated their households had been victimised, 21 indicated that they had subsequently taken protective measures, which included such things as:

- Alarm systems
- Bars on windows
- Deadlocks
- Roller doors on garages
- Dogs
- Not leaving the house unattended.

RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO AND COPE WITH THE CRIME PROBLEM

The purpose of this section is to briefly examine a range of factors that may influence how effectively the 2 major sub-groups of the sample population, ie. Non-estate/Estate, might be able to respond to or otherwise cope with the crime situation in their area.

STABILITY OF THE LOCAL POPULATION

In areas where there is a highly mobile or transitory population, it is often harder for social and information networks to become established. The reason why these networks are important is that they often bring with them a degree of informal 'social control'.

Examining the Estate and Non-estate populations in the survey sample on the basis of the period of time they had been resident at their current address, as shown in the table below; it can be seen that a substantially greater proportion of the Estate dwellers have lived at their current address for 2 years or less, ie. 35.7%, compared to their Non-estate counterparts (20.9%).

	<1 year	1-2 years	3-5 years	10+ years
Non-estate	8.6%	12.3%	17.3%	61.7%
Estate	18.4%	17.3%	17.3%	46.9%

As the actual housing stock in the survey area is well established and the quantity of which is unlikely to have changed much since the opening of the Estate in 1981, these figures need to be seen in terms of population 'turnover' rather than additional households.

It would therefore appear that population turnover on the Estate is considerably higher than that of the surrounding neighbourhood. It should be noted, however, that the figures for the 'Non-estate' part of the survey area also seem quite 'high'. For the sample population as a whole, some 29.1% of households have been resident at their current address for 2 years or less.

Such a high population turnover could well be a contributing factor to the crime problem of the area, and it would certainly be an obstacle to the establishment of groups such as Neighbourhood Watch. It would seem therefore that attempts to reduce the rate of population turnover could be an important step in tackling the crime problem. This presumably could only come about by making the area a generally more attractive and pleasant place to live by means of things such as: improving the quality of services, facilities, and transport; improved house security in all public housing in the area; measures to control the crime in the short-term through various policing methods and Neighbourhood Watch, as well as Department of Housing security guards; and longer-term

strategies concerning unemployment; density and composition of the population (Dept. Housing selection/allocation policies relating to age, ethnicity and family size distributions) and community development generally.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Survey participants were asked whether they were "aware of a Neighbourhood Watch group operating in the area?"

The question was perhaps not precisely enough phrased, which possibly led to confusion as to whether it meant Neighbourhood Watch groups in the local area generally or whether it meant a group covering the specific streets/block on which the respondent lived.

Despite this limitation, the data would seem to suggest that survey participants living on the Estate were generally 'less aware' of Neighbourhood Watch groups:

	<u>Aware of a Neighbourhood Watch group in the area</u>
Non-estate	76.8%
Estate	43.4%

This data would suggest that information about the Neighbourhood Watch program and Neighbourhood Watch groups operating in the area is not being effectively conveyed to a large proportion of the residents on the Estate.

A specially developed and targeted Neighbourhood Watch education and recruitment strategy, of using an adapted form which takes into account the language and cultural diversity of the Estate population, may be required if this information gap is to be bridged.

PERSONAL RESOURCES

English language ability

While it is not appropriate to equate the speaking of a language other than English at home, with having low levels of competence in English, this data may provide a useful guide to the likely extent of communication problems that a population might experience.

The survey data yielded the following information about the language background of survey participants, ie. the language most frequently spoken at home:

	<u>English</u>	<u>Language other than English</u>
Non-estate	52.5%	47.5%
Estate	26.3%	73.7%

This data would suggest that substantially more people living on the Estate may experience problems communicating with police, neighbours, the Department of Housing, or other agencies; and that they may have greater difficulties in fully participating in Neighbourhood Watch or other groups, or community development processes where there is a primary reliance upon communication in English.

It may also be that there are a greater number of people on the Estate who are socially isolated or feel more vulnerable because of inability to communicate with those around them. Community work using a range of bi-lingual workers might be an important step in assessing the extent of this problem and establishing whether or not there is a major need for English language training in the area.

Knows and trusts a neighbour who can watch the house or be called on for assistance

The fundamental principle of schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch is that crime can be reduced in areas where neighbours actively co-operate in watching each other's homes and providing assistance etc., when needed.

Examination of the survey data indicates, however, that substantially fewer survey participants living on the Estate said that they knew and trusted a neighbour who they could "call on for help or who could keep an eye on (their) house while (they) were away or out".

The figures for the 2 groups are indicated below:

	<u>Does NOT know and trust a neighbour</u>
Non-estate	9.5%
Estate	26.8%

On the basis of this data, it would appear that Estate dwellers are quite disadvantaged in terms of this particular resource for preventing themselves or their homes from becoming the victim of a crime.

With over 1/4 of the survey respondents living on the Estate indicating that they do not know or trust a neighbour, there would appear to be a lot of scope for the Department of Housing to undertake a 'tenant orientation/induction' scheme, as well as community development projects generally, to address this problem.

Access to a private telephone

Access to a private telephone may be important in assisting people to respond quickly to a crime, and may also influence people's level of social isolation and feelings of vulnerability.

The table below indicates the proportion of households in the survey sample that did not have a private telephone:

	<u>No Telephone</u>
Non-estate	5.0%
Estate	7.1%

Estate dwellers are slightly more disadvantaged with respect to this particular 'resource' than are their Non-estate counterparts.

What is perhaps more important to note is that some 6.1% of the households in the survey sample did not have access to a private telephone. This would suggest that adequate provision and maintenance of public telephones in the area is quite important in order to ensure ready access to phones for this fairly large number of households.

Car ownership and insurance

Access to a private vehicle decreases people's reliance on both public transport and walking, and consequently of the risks - real or perceived - that these entail (Though it does expose the owner to different risks including theft and damage of the vehicle). Vehicles also represent for many people one of their most expensive assets, and it may be heavily relied upon for their employment.

As indicated earlier in this research, car ownership in the sample population was higher amongst Non-estate respondents (78.2%) than amongst Estate dwellers (65.7%). Non-estate dwellers were also significantly more likely to have their car insured against theft (60.3%) than those living on the Estate (36.4%), and therefore can be considered to be better financially protected against car theft.

Household insurance

The ability to secure household insurance is affected by several inter-related factors: income, area of residence, and security features of the home.

In high-risk areas for 'break and enter' offences, insurance premiums are highest, and demands for 'minimum security measures' are greatest. Ironically, it is often these same areas that have a high proportion of: a) low-income households - unable to afford high premiums; and b) private rental and public housing - where tenants have little control over security measures in their homes and who cannot afford to invest in 'security hardware' which usually must be 'left behind' when the tenant moves on.

Examining the sample population reveals that Non-estate and Estate residents have very different patterns of home insurance against burglary.

Does NOT have Household Burglary Insurance

Non-estate	40.3%
Estate	86.6%

Clearly on this measure, survey participants living on the Estate are considerably disadvantaged relative to Non-estate participants in terms of their financial protection against the consequences of their houses being burgled. This is of considerable concern since the data on 'victimisation' suggested that homes on the Estate are also more frequently victims of 'break and enters'.

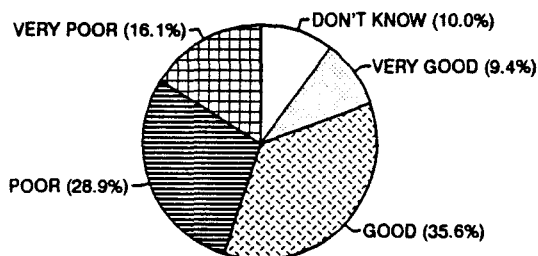
PERCEPTIONS OF POLICING ACTIVITY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

A series of questions were asked about how well the N.S.W. Police Department was seen by survey participants to be performing their various responsibilities, with respect to policing of their neighbourhood. Interviewees were asked to rate for 6 areas of policing activity according to whether they considered the police to be doing a 'Very Good', 'Good', 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' job.

The following graphs indicate the opinions of survey participants with respect to these six areas.

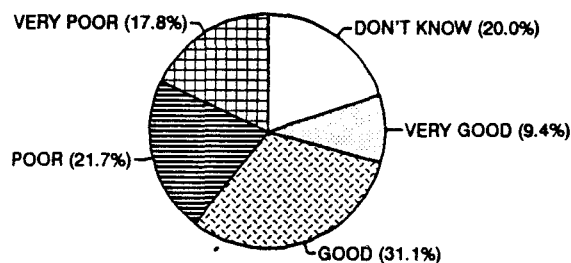
PATROLLING AND VISIBILITY IN AREA

Sample = 180



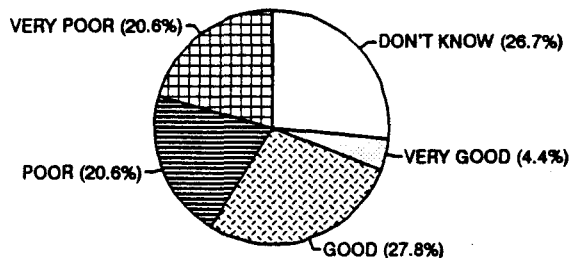
RESPONDING QUICKLY TO CALLS

Sample = 180



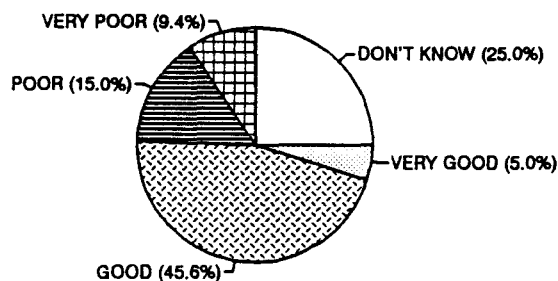
CATCHING OFFENDERS

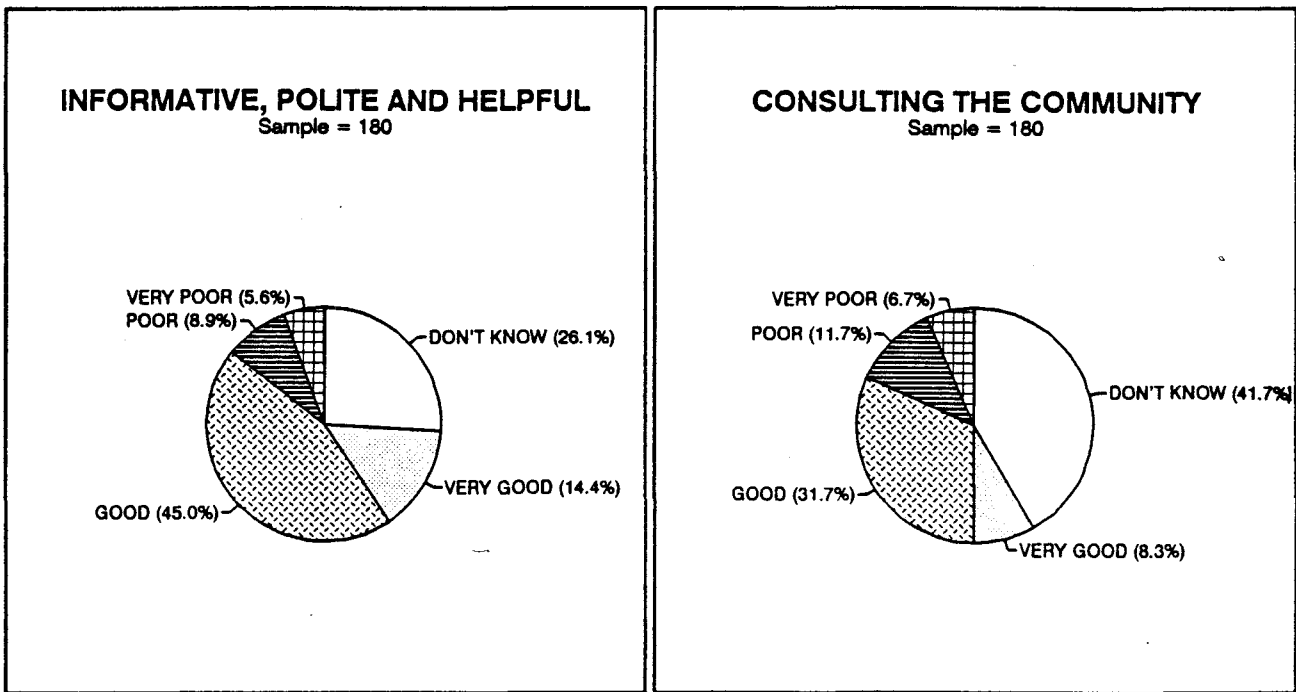
Sample = 180



GENERAL ENFORCEMENT & PUBLIC ORDER

Sample = 180





Of the 162 survey participants who expressed a view about police patrolling and visibility in the neighbourhood, opinion was evenly split between those who thought that it was 'adequate', ie. "Good" or "Very Good" and those who thought it 'inadequate' ie. "Poor" or "Very Poor".

Similarly, the 144 respondents who expressed a view on the police's speed in responding to calls, were evenly split between those who thought it was 'adequate' as opposed to 'inadequate'.

41.2% of the survey participants indicated that they thought the police were doing a "Poor" or "Very Poor" job at catching offenders, as opposed to 32.2% who thought they were doing a "Good" or "Very Good" job. In contrast, a slight majority of respondents (50.6%) thought the police were doing a "Good" or "Very Good" job in terms of general law enforcement and ensuring reasonable behaviour in the area.

This data would suggest that there is a substantial level of concern in the local community as to the quality/effectiveness of the policing services their neighbourhood is receiving. Presumably the 'lack of confidence' in the effectiveness of the police indicated by many survey participants may be a contributing factor in the level of 'fear' or insecurity people feel.

It is interesting and encouraging to note, however, that the majority (59.4%) of respondents felt that the police were informative, polite and helpful, despite the reservations about their 'effectiveness'. This would suggest that there is scope for developing closer co-operative relationship with the residents of this neighbourhood.

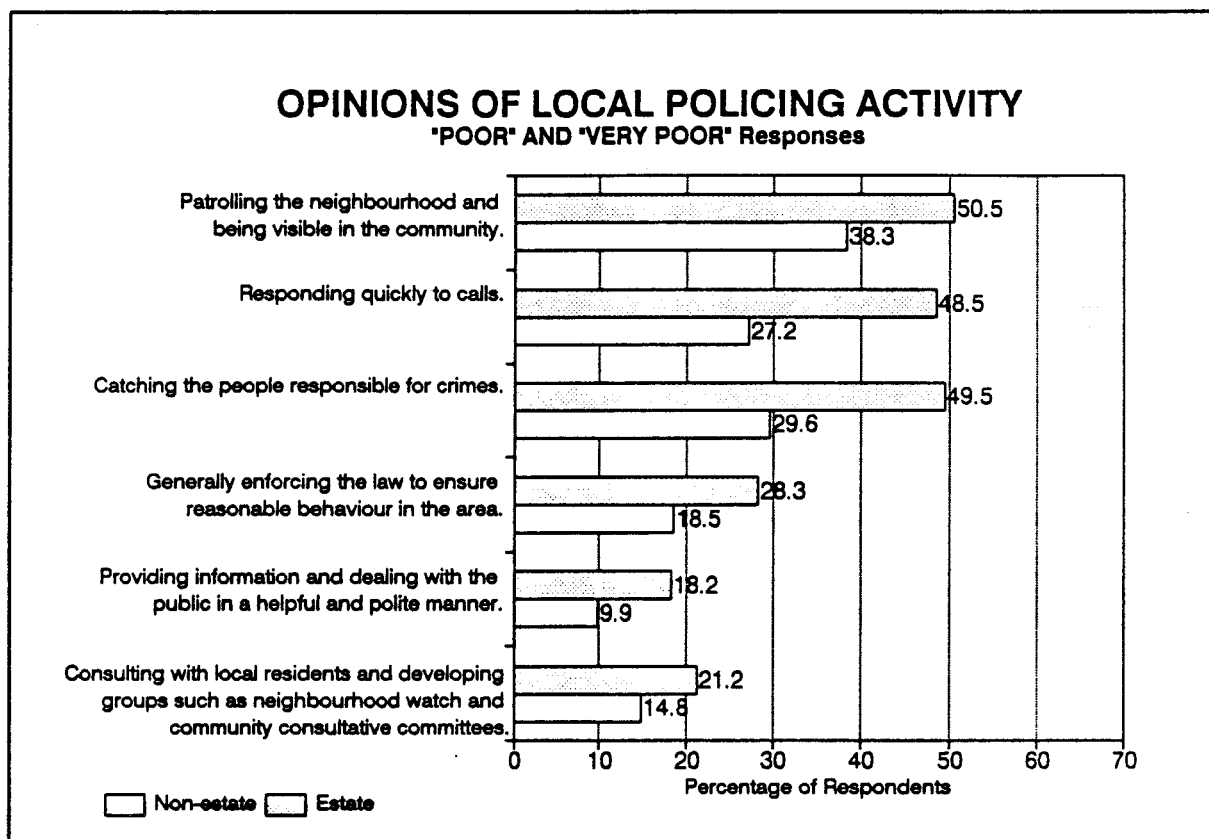
However, it is of note that the question relating to the police's role in Community Consultation and Neighbourhood Watch yielded a very high "Don't Know" response (75 out of 180), and this may

suggest that this area of police activity has not as yet been developed very far, with many residents having no knowledge or experience of this area of police activity.

Perceptions of police: by Location (Non-estate/Estate)

The responses of survey participants to the above questions about policing practices in their neighbourhood were analysed according to whether participants lived on or off the Department of Housing Estate.

The graph below shows how the groups differed in their opinions of the police, according to the percentage of each group that nominated the "Poor" or "Very Poor" response to each question.



As can be seen from this graph, in all 6 areas of policing activity, a greater proportion of Estate residents than persons not living on the Estate considered the police to be doing a "Poor" or "Very Poor" job.

The reasons for this difference are not, however, clear. It may be a reflection of a greater 'fear' or frustration felt by Estate residents because of their higher levels of victimisation which leads them to perceive the police as doing a less effective job, rather than an accurate indication of whether policing practices are different or differ in effectiveness between the two areas. However, it may also be that there are actual differences in the police's approach and attitudes to these two areas which have led to this difference in opinion.

REASONS FOR NOT CONTACTING POLICE

Survey participants were asked whether there were ".... any times during the previous 12 months when they thought about contacting the police but decided not to?"

43 respondents (23.9%) indicated that there had been occasions when they had decided no to contact the police.

These respondents were further questioned to elicit the reasons why they had made this decision. The table below indicates the reason given, by the frequency of mention.

The police could not help anyway	24
The incident was too trivial/unimportant	11
Did not want to get involved	8
Was scared of reprisals	2
Don't like the police	1
Someone else contacted the police	1
Told someone else about the incident instead	1
Tried to contact at first but couldn't get through	1

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FEELING OF SAFETY WHEN AT HOME ALONE															
RELATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		VERY SAFE		QUITE SAFE		UNSAFE		VERY UNSAFE		TOTAL	
				freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
DAY		180	172	8	4.4	32	17.8	75	41.7	58	32.2	7	3.9	180	100.0
NIGHT		180	168	12	6.7	14	7.8	53	29.4	63	35.0	38	21.1	180	100.0
SEX															
Male/DAY		84	80	4	4.8	16	19.0	29	34.5	34	40.5	1	1.2	84	100.0
Female/DAY		96	92	4	4.2	16	16.7	46	47.9	24	25.0	6	6.3	96	100.0
Male/NIGHT		84	81	3	3.6	10	11.9	27	32.1	33	39.3	11	13.1	84	100.0
Female/NIGHT		96	87	9	9.4	4	4.2	26	27.1	30	31.3	27	28.1	96	100.0
DWELLING TYPE															
Detached -DAY	D-Day	75	75	0	0.0	17	22.7	35	46.7	20	26.7	3	4.0	75	100.0
Semi-/Town House - DAY	S/T-Day	82	79	3	3.7	13	15.9	33	40.2	30	36.6	3	3.7	82	100.0
Flats - DAY	F-Day	23	23	0	0.0	2	8.7	10	43.5	10	43.5	1	4.3	23	100.0
Detached -NIGHT	D-Night	75	73	2	2.7	8	10.7	29	38.7	26	34.7	10	13.3	75	100.0
Semi-/Town House -NIGHT	S/T-Night	82	79	3	3.7	5	6.1	23	28.0	31	37.8	20	24.4	82	100.0
Flats -NIGHT	F-Night	23	22	1	4.3	1	4.3	3	13.0	8	34.8	10	43.5	23	100.0
LOCATION															
Non-estate -DAY	N-e/DAY	81	81	0	0.0	16	19.8	40	49.4	22	27.2	3	3.7	81	100.0
Estate -DAY	E/DAY	99	96	3	3.0	16	16.2	38	38.4	38	38.4	4	4.0	99	100.0
Non-estate -NIGHT	N-e/NIGHT	81	79	2	2.5	8	9.9	32	39.5	29	35.8	10	12.3	81	100.0
Estate -NIGHT	E/NIGHT	99	95	4	4.0	6	6.1	23	23.2	36	36.4	30	30.3	99	100.0
AGE-GROUP															
0-14 YRS/DAY		2	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0
15-24 YRS/DAY		23	23	0	0.0	5	21.7	13	56.5	3	13.0	2	8.7	23	100.0
25-34 YRS/DAY		37	36	1	2.7	8	21.6	13	35.1	15	40.5	0	0.0	37	100.0
35-44 YRS/DAY		43	43	0	0.0	8	18.6	16	37.2	18	41.9	1	2.3	43	100.0
45-54 YRS/DAY		28	26	2	7.1	4	14.3	12	42.9	10	35.7	0	0.0	28	100.0
55-64 YRS/DAY		25	25	0	0.0	3	12.0	9	36.0	10	40.0	3	12.0	25	100.0
65-74 YRS/DAY		14	14	0	0.0	4	28.6	7	50.0	2	14.3	1	7.1	14	100.0
75-84 YRS/DAY		8	8	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	75.0	2	25.0	0	0.0	8	100.0
0-14 YRS/NIGHT		2	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	2	100.0
15-24 YRS/NIGHT		23	22	1	4.3	3	13.0	10	43.5	4	17.4	5	21.7	23	100.0
25-34 YRS/NIGHT		37	35	2	5.4	4	10.8	8	21.6	13	35.1	10	27.0	37	100.0
35-44 YRS/NIGHT		43	42	1	2.3	2	4.7	15	34.9	14	32.6	11	25.6	43	100.0
45-54 YRS/NIGHT		28	27	1	3.6	1	3.6	12	42.9	10	35.7	4	14.3	28	100.0
55-64 YRS/NIGHT		25	25	0	0.0	2	8.0	3	12.0	16	64.0	4	16.0	25	100.0
65-74 YRS/NIGHT		14	13	1	7.1	2	14.3	3	21.4	4	28.6	4	28.6	14	100.0
75-84 YRS/NIGHT		8	8	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	50.0	3	37.5	1	12.5	8	100.0

SECURITY OF HOUSE AGAINST INTRUDERS															
RELATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		VERY SECURE		QUITE SECURE		NOT VERY SECURE		NOT SECURE AT ALL		TOTAL	
				freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Total		180	171	9	5.0	22	12.2	56	31.1	70	38.9	23	12.8	180	100.0
LOCATION															
Non-estate		81	76	5	6.2	14	17.3	34	42.0	22	27.2	6	7.4	81	100.0
Estate		99	95	4	4.0	8	8.1	22	22.2	48	48.5	17	17.2	99	100.0

LIKELIHOOD OF BURGLARY IF HOUSE LEFT UNATTENDED FOR SEVERAL HOURS															
RELATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VALID CASE	NO RESPONSE		VERY LIKELY		LIKELY		UNLIKELY		VERY UNLIKELY		TOTAL	
				freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
DAY		180	168	12	6.7	64	35.6	62	34.4	31	17.2	11	6.1	180	100.0
NIGHT		180	176	4	2.2	103	57.2	37	20.6	25	13.9	11	6.1	180	100.0
DWELLING TYPE															
Detached - DAY	D-Day	75	66	9	12.0	18	24.0	19	25.3	21	28.0	8	10.7	75	100.0
Semi-/Town House - DAY	S/T-Day	82	79	3	3.7	37	45.1	33	40.2	7	8.5	2	2.4	82	100.0
Flats - DAY	F-Day	23	23	0	0.0	9	39.1	10	43.5	3	13.0	1	4.3	23	100.0
Detached - NIGHT	D-Night	75	72	3	4.0	30	40.0	16	21.3	17	22.7	9	12.0	75	100.0
Semi-/Town House - NIGH	S/T-Night	82	81	1	1.2	57	69.5	16	19.5	7	8.5	1	1.2	82	100.0
Flats - NIGHT.	F-Night	23	23	0	0.0	16	69.6	5	21.7	1	4.3	1	4.3	23	100.0
LOCATION															
Non-estate - DAY	N-e/DAY	81	72	9	11.1	17	21.0	21	25.9	26	32.1	8	9.9	81	100.0
Estate - DAY	E/DAY	99	96	3	3.0	47	47.5	41	41.4	5	5.1	3	3.0	99	100.0
Non-estate - NIGHT	N-e/NIGHT	81	78	3	3.7	29	35.8	22	27.2	18	22.2	9	11.1	81	100.0
Estate - NIGHT	E/NIGHT	99	98	1	1.0	74	74.7	15	15.2	7	7.1	2	2.0	99	100.0

TIME HOUSE CAN BE LEFT UNATTENDED WITHOUT BEING VERY WORRIED ABOUT BURGLARY																			
RELATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		<1 HOUR		SEVERAL HOURS		24 HOURS		SEVERAL DAYS		1 WEEK		>1 WEEK		TOTAL	
				freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Total		180	159	21	11.7	71	39.4	52	28.9	5	2.8	14	7.8	5	2.8	12	6.7	180	100.0
DWELLING TYPE																			
Detached	D	75	61	14	18.7	20	26.7	19	25.3	3	4.0	9	12.0	4	5.3	6	8.0	75	100.0
Semi-/Town House	S/T	82	75	7	8.5	42	51.2	24	29.3	2	2.4	1	1.2	0	0.0	6	7.3	82	100.0
Flats	F	23	23	0	0.0	9	39.1	9	39.1	0	0.0	4	17.4	1	4.3	0	0.0	23	100.0
LOCATION																			
Non-estate		81	66	15	18.5	19	23.5	21	25.9	2	2.5	9	11.1	4	4.9	11	13.6	81	100.0
Estate		99	93	6	6.1	52	52.5	31	31.3	3	3.0	5	5.1	1	1.0	1	1.0	99	100.0

FEELING OF SAFETY WHEN WALKING ALONE IN LOCAL STREETS															
RELATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		VERY SAFE		QUITE SAFE		UNSAFE		VERY UNSAFE		TOTAL	
				freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
DAY		180	168	12	6.7	52	28.9	80	44.4	29	16.1	7	3.9	180	100.0
NIGHT		180	162	18	10.0	18	10.0	33	18.3	61	33.9	50	27.8	180	100.0
SEX															
Male/DAY		84	76	8	9.5	28	33.3	34	40.5	14	16.7	0	0.0	84	100.0
Female/DAY		96	86	10	10.4	24	25.0	42	43.8	14	14.6	6	6.3	96	100.0
Male/NIGHT		84	72	12	14.3	14	16.7	20	23.8	26	31.0	12	14.3	84	100.0
Female/NIGHT		96	84	12	12.5	4	4.2	13	13.5	32	33.3	35	36.5	96	100.0
AGE-GROUP															
0-14 YRS/DAY		2	2	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0
15-24 YRS/DAY		23	22	1	4.3	8	34.8	12	52.2	2	8.7	0	0.0	23	100.0
25-34 YRS/DAY		37	32	5	13.5	13	35.1	13	35.1	5	13.5	1	2.7	37	100.0
35-44 YRS/DAY		43	40	3	7.0	15	34.9	17	39.5	8	18.6	0	0.0	43	100.0
45-54 YRS/DAY		28	27	1	3.6	7	25.0	17	60.7	2	7.1	1	3.6	28	100.0
55-64 YRS/DAY		25	23	2	8.0	4	16.0	10	40.0	7	28.0	2	8.0	25	100.0
65-74 YRS/DAY		14	14	0	0.0	4	28.6	4	28.6	4	28.6	2	14.3	14	100.0
75-84 YRS/DAY		8	8	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	75.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	8	100.0
0-14 YRS/NIGHT		2	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	2	100.0
15-24 YRS/NIGHT		23	22	1	4.3	2	8.7	5	21.7	12	52.2	3	13.0	23	100.0
25-34 YRS/NIGHT		37	31	6	16.2	5	13.5	7	18.9	10	27.0	9	24.3	37	100.0
35-44 YRS/NIGHT		43	39	4	9.3	5	11.6	9	20.9	18	41.9	7	16.3	43	100.0
45-54 YRS/NIGHT		28	24	4	14.3	2	7.1	6	21.4	9	32.1	7	25.0	28	100.0
55-64 YRS/NIGHT		25	23	2	8.0	3	12.0	2	8.0	8	32.0	10	40.0	25	100.0
65-74 YRS/NIGHT		14	13	1	7.1	1	7.1	2	14.3	3	21.4	7	50.0	14	100.0
75-84 YRS/NIGHT		8	8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	6	75.0	8	100.0

ADEQUACY OF STREET AND WALKWAY LIGHTING										
RELATION	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		ADEQUATE		NOT ADEQUATE		TOTAL	
			freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Adequacy	180	175	5	2.8	74	41.1	101	56.1	180	100.0

FEELING OF SAFETY WHEN ALONE IN LOCAL PARKS/PLAYGROUNDS															
RELATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		VERY SAFE		QUITE SAFE		UNSAFE		VERY UNSAFE		TOTAL	
				freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
DAY		180	133	47	26.1	26	14.4	58	32.2	27	15.0	22	12.2	180	100.0
NIGHT		180	125	55	30.6	8	4.4	17	9.4	33	18.3	67	37.2	180	100.0
SEX															
Male/DAY		84	59	25	29.8	17	28.2	26	31.0	9	10.7	7	8.3	84	100.0
Female/DAY		96	74	22	22.9	9	9.4	32	33.3	18	18.8	15	15.6	96	100.0
Male/NIGHT		84	53	31	36.9	7	8.3	12	14.3	15	17.9	19	22.6	84	100.0
Female/NIGHT		96	71	25	26.0	1	1.0	5	5.2	17	17.7	48	50.0	96	100.0
AGE-GROUP															
0-14 YRS/DAY		2	2	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0
15-24 YRS/DAY		23	22	1	4.3	8	34.8	12	52.2	2	8.7	0	0.0	23	100.0
25-34 YRS/DAY		37	32	5	13.5	13	35.1	13	35.1	5	13.5	1	2.7	37	100.0
35-44 YRS/DAY		43	40	3	7.0	15	34.9	17	39.5	8	18.6	0	0.0	43	100.0
45-54 YRS/DAY		28	27	1	3.6	7	25.0	17	60.7	2	7.1	1	3.6	28	100.0
55-64 YRS/DAY		25	23	2	8.0	4	16.0	10	40.0	7	28.0	2	8.0	25	100.0
65-74 YRS/DAY		14	14	0	0.0	4	28.6	4	28.6	4	28.6	2	14.3	14	100.0
75-84 YRS/DAY		8	8	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	75.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	8	100.0
0-14 YRS/NIGHT		2	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	2	100.0
15-24 YRS/NIGHT		23	22	1	4.3	2	8.7	5	21.7	12	52.2	3	13.0	23	100.0
25-34 YRS/NIGHT		37	31	6	16.2	5	13.5	7	18.9	10	27.0	9	24.3	37	100.0
35-44 YRS/NIGHT		43	39	4	9.3	5	11.6	9	20.9	18	41.9	7	16.3	43	100.0
45-54 YRS/NIGHT		28	24	4	14.3	2	7.1	6	21.4	9	32.1	7	25.0	28	100.0
55-64 YRS/NIGHT		25	23	2	8.0	3	12.0	2	8.0	8	32.0	10	40.0	25	100.0
65-74 YRS/NIGHT		14	13	1	7.1	1	7.1	2	14.3	3	21.4	7	50.0	14	100.0
75-84 YRS/NIGHT		8	8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	6	75.0	8	100.0

ADEQUACY OF LIGHTING IN LOCAL PARKS/PLAYGROUNDS														
RELATION	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		VERY WELL LIT		ADEQUATELY LIT		POORLY LIT		VERY POORLY LIT		TOTAL	
			freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Adequacy	180	175	70	38.9	14	7.8	43	23.9	24	13.3	29	16.1	180	100.0

CONCERN FOR SAFETY - USING LOCAL BUSES										
RELATION	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		CONCERNED		NOT CONCERNED		TOTAL	
			freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Total	180	173	7	3.9	34	18.9	139	77.2	180	100.0

CONCERN FOR SAFETY - USING LOCAL TRAINS AND RAILWAY STATIONS										
RELATION	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		CONCERNED		NOT CONCERNED		TOTAL	
			freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Total	180	171	9	5.0	84	46.7	87	48.3	180	100.0

'SERIOUSNESS' OF CRIME PROBLEM IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD															
RELATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VALID CASE	NO RESPONSE		VERY SERIOUS		QUITE SERIOUS		AVERAGE		BETTER THAN AVERAGE		TOTAL	
				freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Total		180	150	30	16.7	62	34.4	45	25.0	37	20.6	6	3.3	180	100.0
LOCATION															
Non-estate	N-e	81	66	15	18.5	24	29.6	17	21.0	20	24.7	5	6.2	81	100.0
Estate	E	99	83	16	16.2	38	38.4	28	28.3	16	16.2	1	1.0	99	100.0

CRIME WOULD BE A REASON TO MOVE FROM THE AREA											
RELATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VALID CASES	NO RESPONSE		YES		NO		TOTAL	
				freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Total		180	163	17	9.4	75	41.7	88	48.9	180	100.0
LOCATION											
Non-estate	N-e	81	75	6	7.4	23	28.4	52	64.2	81	100.0
Estate	E	99	86	13	13.1	52	52.5	34	34.3	99	100.0

SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM WITH PARTICULAR CRIMES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD											
	DONT KNOW		MINOR		AVERAGE		HIGH		VERY HIGH		High & Very High
	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	freq	%	%
Break & Enter to Houses	12	6.7	13	7.2	25	13.9	48	26.7	82	45.6	72.2
Vandalism	30	16.7	34	18.9	27	15.0	35	19.4	54	30.0	49.4
Car Theft	33	18.3	26	14.4	38	21.1	44	24.4	39	21.7	46.1
Theft of Car Parts	35	19.4	38	21.1	34	18.9	39	21.7	34	18.9	40.6
Graffiti	29	16.1	47	26.1	31	17.2	31	17.2	42	23.3	40.6
Theft from Unlocked Places	39	21.7	42	23.3	31	17.2	38	21.1	30	16.7	37.8
Using Illegal Drugs	42	23.3	41	22.8	34	18.9	34	18.9	29	16.1	35.0
Robbery Without Weapons	50	27.8	39	21.7	34	18.9	26	14.4	31	17.2	31.7
Selling Illegal Drugs	64	35.6	40	22.2	20	11.1	30	16.7	26	14.4	31.1
Nuisance Behaviour	36	20.0	56	31.1	33	18.3	27	15.0	28	15.6	30.6
Buying and Selling Stolen Goods	70	38.9	45	25.0	20	11.1	21	11.7	24	13.3	25.0
Burglary of Shops and Factories	61	33.9	48	26.7	27	15.0	31	17.2	13	7.2	24.4
Assaults in Public Places	47	26.1	50	27.8	40	22.2	33	18.3	10	5.6	23.9
Arson	50	27.8	63	35.0	28	15.6	19	10.6	20	11.1	21.7
Shop-lifting	66	36.7	47	26.1	29	16.1	23	12.8	15	8.3	21.1
Pick-pockets and Bag Snatches	59	32.8	61	33.9	24	13.3	19	10.6	17	9.4	20.0
Domestic Violence	57	31.7	60	33.3	28	15.6	22	12.2	13	7.2	19.4
Racial Harassment	47	26.1	74	41.1	28	15.6	18	10.0	13	7.2	17.2
Armed Robbery	61	33.9	69	38.3	21	11.7	18	10.0	11	6.1	16.1
Child Abuse	66	36.7	76	42.2	17	9.4	14	7.8	7	3.9	11.7
Other Sexual Offences	59	32.8	89	49.4	22	12.2	7	3.9	3	1.7	5.6
Sexual Assault	69	38.3	82	45.6	21	11.7	6	3.3	2	1.1	4.4
Murder	64	35.6	95	52.8	13	7.2	4	2.2	4	2.2	4.4

VICTIM OF BREAK & ENTER: BY LOCATION (Non-estate/Estate)								
LOCATION	CODE	SAMPLE	VICTIM		NOT VICTIM		NO RESPONSE	
			freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Non-estate	N-e	81	18	22.2	61	75.3	2	2.5
Estate	E	99	40	40.4	58	58.6	1	1.0

VICTIM OF BREAK & ENTER: BY DWELLING TYPE								
DWELLING TYPE	CODE	SAMPLE	VICTIM		NOT VICTIM		NO RESPONSE	
			freq	%	freq	%	freq	%
Detached	D	75	18	24.0	55	73.3	2	2.7
Semi-detached/Town House	S/TH	82	27	32.9	54	65.9	1	1.2
Flats	F	23	13	56.5	10	43.5	0	0.0



PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME AND VICTIMISATION SURVEY

Survey Number: [] [] []

Street Name: []

Street Number: [] [] [] []

Dwelling Type:	Detached	1
	Semi-detached	2
	Town House	3
	Flats	4

Record sex of interviewee.	Male	1
	Female	2

INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is

I am helping Fairfield City Council to conduct a survey of the local residents in this area, in order to determine whether they consider the crime problem in their neighbourhood to be serious, and to find out what sorts of crimes people are most concerned about or have already been victims of.

Your house has been selected at random to participate in this survey.

I would like to spend about 35 minutes asking you questions about your opinions and experiences of the crime problem in this neighbourhood.

All the information will be kept strictly confidential. You do not need to tell us your name, and we will not ask any questions that could get anyone into trouble.

You do of course have the right to refuse to answer any or all of the questions. We do, however, hope that you will participate in the questionnaire, since if Council is aware of what residents major concerns are, it can only then start looking for ways to solve these.

Request for Interview

I am helping Fairfield City Council to conduct a survey of the local residents in this area, in order to determine whether they consider the crime problem in their neighbourhood to be serious, and to find out what sorts of crimes people are most concerned about or have already been victims of.

Your house has been selected at random to participate in this survey.

The survey would take approximately 30 minutes. If it is agreeable to you, I would like to arrange for an interviewer who speaks your language to return on another day and ask you the survey questions

All the information would be kept strictly confidential. You would not need to tell us your name, and we would not ask any questions that could get anyone into trouble.

You would of course have the right to refuse to answer any or all of the questions. We do, however, hope that you will participate in the questionnaire, since if Council is aware of what residents' major concerns are, it can only then start look for ways to solve these.

Could you please indicate whether you would be willing to participate in this survey with an interviewer who speaks your language:

YES I will participate in an interview about my attitudes to the crime problems in my neighbourhood, if conducted in my own language.

NO I would prefer not to be interviewed about my attitudes to the crime problems in my neighbourhood.

Language required for interview :

What language do you speak at home most often?

.....

What is your ethnic background?

.....

Where were you born?

.....

How many years have you lived in Australia?

Don't know	0
> 1 years	1
1-2 years	2
3-5	3
6-9	4
10-14	5
15+	6
whole life	7

How many years have you lived in Fairfield Local Government Area?

Don't know	0
< 1 year	1
1-2 years	2
3-5 years	3
6-9 years	4
10-14	5
15+	6
whole life	7

How many years have you lived at this address?

Don't know	0
< 1 year	1
1-2 years	2
3-5 years	3
6-9 years	4
10-14 years	5
15+ years	6
whole life	7

Could you please tell me if this house is:

Don't know.....	0
Owned yourself or by your family.....	1
Rented privately.....	2
Rented from the Department of Housing...	3
A company house.....	4

PART B: FEAR OF CRIME

The next questions are about how safe you feel doing different activities in your neighbourhood?

When you are alone in your house during the day, how safe do you feel?

- Don't know 0
- Very safe 1
- Quite safe 2
- Unsafe 3
- Very unsafe 4

How safe do you feel when you ^{are} at home alone during the night?

- Don't know 0
- Very safe 1
- Quite safe 2
- Unsafe 3
- Very unsafe 4

How secure against intruders do you consider your home to be?

- Don't know 0
- Very secure 1
- Quite secure 2
- Not very secure 3
- Not secure at all 4

What do you think would make your home more secure?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Do you have a telephone at home?

- Don't know 0
- Yes 1
- No 2

Are you aware of a Neighbourhood Watch program operating in this area?

- Don't know 0
- Yes 1
- No 2

If YES then ask...

Do you participate in this program?

- Don't know 0
- Yes 1
- No 2

If you were to go out for several hours during the daytime and leave your house unattended, how likely do you think it is that it might be burgled?

Don't know	0
Very likely	1
Likely	2
Unlikely	3
Very Unlikely	4

If you were to go out for several hours at night-time and leave your house unattended, how likely do you think it is that it might be burgled?

Don't know	0
Very likely	1
Likely	2
Unlikely	3
Very Unlikely	4

How long do you feel you could be out or away, and leave your house unattended without being very worried about the risk of it being burgled?

Don't know	0
<1 hour	1
Several hours	2
24 hours	3
Several days	4
1 week	5
>1 week	6

Do you know and trust a neighbour who you could call on for help or who could keep an eye on your house while you were away or out?

Don't know	0
Yes	1
No	2

Do you have insurance cover against burglary?

Don't know	0
Yes	1
No	2

Do you have insurance cover against theft of your car?

Don't know	0
Yes	1
No	2
No car	3

How safe do you feel when walking alone in the streets nearby your house during the daytime?

- Don't know 0
- Very safe 1
- Quite safe 2
- Unsafe 3
- Very unsafe 4

How safe do you feel walking alone in these streets after dark?

- Don't know 0
- Very safe 1
- Quite safe 2
- Unsafe 3
- Very unsafe 4

Do you feel that the street lights in your area are adequate?

- Don't know 0
- Yes 1
- No 2

If NO then ask...

How could they be improved?

.....

Does concern for your safety influence whether or not you would use the local busses?

- Don't know 0
- Yes 1
- No 2
- Don't use busses 3

If DON'T USE BUSSES then ask...

Is concern for your safety a major reason why you don't use busses?

- Don't know 0
- Yes 1
- No 2

If YES then ask...

What is about using the local busses which is unsafe?

	(Is this during the...?)		
	Day	Night	Both
Walking to and from the bus stop			
Waiting at the bus stop			
Travelling on the bus			
Other.....			

The next question is about how safe you feel using the trains and the local railway stations at Fairfield, Cabramatta, Canley Vale, Carramar and Villawood.

Does concern for your safety influence whether or not you would use the local trains?

Don't know	0
Yes	1
No	2
Don't use trains	3

If DON'T USE TRAINS then ask...

Is concern for your safety a major reason why you don't use trains?

Don't know	0
Yes	1
No	2

If YES then ask...

What is about using the local trains which is unsafe?

	(Is this during the...?)		
	Day	Night	Both
Walking to and from the station			
Waiting at the station			
Travelling on the train			
Other.....			

If WAITING AT THE STATION then ask...

Could you tell me which of the stations would you feel unsafe at and what the particular reasons are?

	(Is this during the...)			Particular Reasons
	Day =1	Night=2	Both =3	

Fairfield				
Cabramatta				
Canley Vale				
Carramar				
Villawood				

The next question is about how safe you feel shopping in the major shopping centres in your area at Fairfield, Cabramatta, Villawood and the local shops in Tangerine Street.

Would you be worried about your safety shopping in any of those areas?

- Don't know 0
- Yes 1
- No 2
- Don't go shopping 3

If DON'T GO SHOPPING then ask...

Is concern for your safety a major reason why you don't go shopping?

- Don't know 0
- Yes 1
- No 2

If YES then ask...

Could you tell me in which of these shopping areas you would feel unsafe and what the particular reasons for feeling unsafe are?

(Is this during the...)

- Day =1
- Night=2
- Both =3

Particular Reasons

	Day =1	Night=2	Both =3	Particular Reasons
Fairfield				
Cabramatta				
Villawood				
Tangerine Street				

How safe would you feel walking through or being alone in the park/playground nearest your home?

Very safe | Quite safe | Unsafe | Very unsafe | Don't know

During the day?	1	2	3	4	5
During the night?	1	2	3	4	5

What is it about the park which makes it...

safe (or) unsafe to be in?

.....

How well lighted is this park/playground at night-time?

Don't know	0
Very well lit	1
Adequately lit	2
Poorly lit	3
Very poorly lit	4

 Are there any community buildings or services that you would be unsure about using because you would be concerned about your safety either inside or immediately outside the facility?

School	01
Child Care Centre	02
Youth centre	03
Community centre	04
Library	05
Swimming Pool	06
Senior citizen's centre	07
Community hall	08
Public toilets	09
Pedestrian tunnels	10
Other (specify).....	
.....	
Don't Know	00
None	11

PART C: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME PROBLEM

The next question are about what you think of the crime problem in this neighbourhood in general.

Could you please tell me which crimes you are most concerned might affect you or your family personally, while you live in this area?

- any others? First mention
any others? Second mention
any others? Third mention
any others? Forth mention
any others? Fifth mention

How serious do you consider the crime situation in your neighbourhood to be?

- Don't know 0
Very serious 1
Quite serious 2
Average 3
Better than average 4

What are the major factors which contribute to this situation?

.....
.....

Is the crime problem in this area so bad that you would move somewhere else if you had the opportunity?

- Don't know 0
Yes 1
No 2

How positive or negative is the image that the media and general public has of this neighbourhood in relation to crime?

- Don't know 0
Very positive 1
Quite positive 2
Quite negative 3
Very negative 4

In what ways would you like to see the media's portrayal of this area change?

.....
.....

I am going to go through a list of particular crimes now. I would like you rate how serious a problem each of these crimes is in your local area.

Rate them as either 'minor' , 'average' , high' or 'very high'.

	Minor	Average	High	V.High	N/R
1. Murder	1	2	3	4	0
2. Armed robbery	1	2	3	4	0
3. Robbery - without weapons	1	2	3	4	0
4. Assault in the streets or public places	1	2	3	4	0
5. Domestic violence	1	2	3	4	0
6. Sexual assault	1	2	3	4	0
7. Other sexual offences such as indecent exposure, 'flashing'	1	2	3	4	0
8. Child abuse	1	2	3	4	0
9. Using illegal drugs	1	2	3	4	0
10. Selling illegal drugs	1	2	3	4	0
11. Break and enters to houses	1	2	3	4	0
12. Burglary of shops and factories	1	2	3	4	0
13. Pick-pocketing or bag-snatches	1	2	3	4	0
14. Shoplifting	1	2	3	4	0
15. Vandalism	1	2	3	4	0
16. Car theft	1	2	3	4	0
17. Theft of parts of cars or goods inside cars	1	2	3	4	0
18. Arson (starting fires)	1	2	3	4	0
19. Graffiti	1	2	3	4	0
20. Buying and selling stolen goods	1	2	3	4	0
21. Harassment or intimidation of a racist nature.	1	2	3	4	0
22. Nuisance behaviour (noise, harassment, urinating)	1	2	3	4	0
23. Theft from unlocked places such as clothes lines, gardens, porches and sheds.	1	2	3	4	0

PART D: VICTIMISATION

The next questions are about whether, during the past 12 months, anyone has committed or attempted to commit a crime against you, a member of your family living in this house, your home or your personal property.

Please feel free to refuse to answer any questions, but remember we are not interested in finding out who committed the crime.

Has any of the following crimes been attempted or happened to a car belonging to anyone who lives here, including yourself, in the last twelve months?

	N/a=0 Yes=1 No =2	Number of Occasions	Number of Reports	Home=1 FLGA=2 Othe=3
----- a. Car stolen				
----- b. Car parts stolen				
----- c. Property stolen from inside car				
----- d. Vandalised or set alight				

(Apart from incidents already mentioned) has any person attempted or actually stolen property belonging to anyone who lives here, including yourself, in the last twelve months?

Don't know	0
Yes	1
No	2

If YES then ask...

Was it...?

Was it...?	N/a=0 Yes=1 No =2	Number of Occasions	Number of Reports	Home=1 FLGA=2 Othe=3
a. Break, enter and steal				

How many of these incidents involved an offender who used force or threatened to use force against a member of your household, including yourself?.....Number of times []

Was it...?

Was it...?	N/a=0 Yes=1 No =2	Number of Occasions	Number of Reports	Home=1 FLGA=2 Othe=3
b. Area outside house (e.g. shed)				

How many of these incidents involved an offender who used force or threatened to use force against a member of your household, including yourself?.....Number of times []

Was it?

Was it?	N/a=0 Yes=1 No =2	Number of Occasions	Number of Reports	Home=1 FLGA=2 Othe=3
c. On the street or public place				

How many of these incidents involved an offender who used force or threatened to use force against a member of your household, including yourself?.....Number of times []

(Apart from the incidents already mentioned) Has any person attempted or actually assaulted anyone who live here, including yourself, in the last twelve months?

Don't know	0
Yes	1
No	2

If YES then ask...

Was it...?

N/a=0	Number	Number	Home=1
Yes=1	of	of	FLGA=2
No =2	Occasions	Reports	Othe=3

a. On the street or public place

b. In your home

Has anyone who lives here, including yourself been subjected to either of the following crimes in the past twelve months?

N/a=0	Number	Number	Home=1
Yes=1	of	of	FLGA=2
No =2	Occasions	Reports	Othe=3

a. harassment which has made you feel threatened or interfered with your activities

b. someone exposing themselves or committing indecent acts.

Has anyone tried to commit fraud, sell stolen goods or illegal drugs to anyone who lives here, including yourself, in the last twelve months?

Don't know 0
 Yes 1
 No 2

If YES then ask...

Was it?...

	N/a=0 Yes=1 No =2	Number of Occasions	Number of Reports	Home=1 FLGA=2 Othe=3
a. fraud				
b. stolen goods (not car parts)				
c. illegal drugs				
d. stolen car parts				

Has any intruder attempted or actually set fire to this house in the last 12 months?

Don't know 0
 Yes 1
 No 2

If YES then ask...

	N/a=0 Yes=1 No =2	Number of Occasions	Number of Reports	Home=1 FLGA=2 Othe=3
a. set fire to this house				

PART E: CAUSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

What do you think might be the major causes of the crime problem in this neighbourhood?

	Don't know	0
a.	[]	[]
b.	[]	[]
c.	[]	[]
d.	[]	[]
e.	[]	[]
f.	[]	[]
g.	[]	[]
h.	[]	[]
i.	[]	[]

I would now like to ask you your opinion of what things you think should be done to help reduce crime in this area?

	Don't know	0
a.	[]	[]
b.	[]	[]
c.	[]	[]
d.	[]	[]
e.	[]	[]
f.	[]	[]
g.	[]	[]
h.	[]	[]
i.	[]	[]

PART F: PERCEPTIONS OF POLICE

I'd now like to ask about how well you think the Police serve your neighbourhood.

For each type of police work I mention, would you indicate whether you think they are doing a: very good; good; poor; or very poor job.

	Very Good	Good	Poor	Very Poor	Don't know
Patrolling the neighbourhood and being visible in the community.	1	2	3	4	5
Responding quickly to calls.	1	2	3	4	5
Catching the people responsible for crimes.	1	2	3	4	5
Generally enforcing the law to ensure reasonable behaviour in the area.	1	2	3	4	5
Providing information and dealing with the public in a helpful and polite manner.	1	2	3	4	5
Consulting with local residents and developing groups such as neighbourhood watch and community consultative committees.	1	2	3	4	5

Are there any particular crimes occurring in your neighbourhood which you believe the police should pay more attention to?

- any others? First mention
- any others? Second mention
- any others? Third mention
- any others? Forth mention
- any others? Fifth mention

Was there any time during the past 12 months when you thought about contacting the police but decided not to?

Don't know	0
Yes	1
No	2

If YES then ask...

Why did you decide not to contact the police?

- Too trivial/unimportant.....01
- Don't like the police.....02
- Did not want to get involved.....03
- Someone else contacted them.....04
- Told someone else.....05
- Felt the police could not help anyway.....06
- Wasn't sure that a crime had been committed.....07
- Thought the offender was a child.....08
- Tried at first but couldn't get through.....09
- Didn't want the offender to be punished.....10
- Was scared of reprisals.....11
- Too confused/upset/injured.....12
- Other (please specify).....

PART G: DEMOGRAPHICS

My final questions are just general ones about yourself.

Could you tell me which year you were born in?

[] [] [] []

(e.g. [1] [9] [5] [3] for 1953)

Could you please tell me which of the following best describes your present occupational status?

- | | |
|--|---|
| Don't know | 0 |
| Full-time employed | 1 |
| Part-time employed | 2 |
| Registered as unemployed | 3 |
| Full-time student | 4 |
| Retired or Aged Pensioner | 5 |
| Other Social security Pension or Benefit | 6 |
| Full-time domestic duties/parent | 7 |

ADDITIONAL QUESTION - ATTACH TO END OF PART D PAGE 15

Have there been any crimes committed against you or your family since you moved to Villawood, other than those which happened in the last 12 months?

Don't know 0
Yes 1
No 2

If YES then ask...

Could you tell what happened?

...[Please record responses on table
on the other side of this sheet]

Then ask...

Did you decide to do anything as a result of this happening to protect yourself against these types of things happening again?

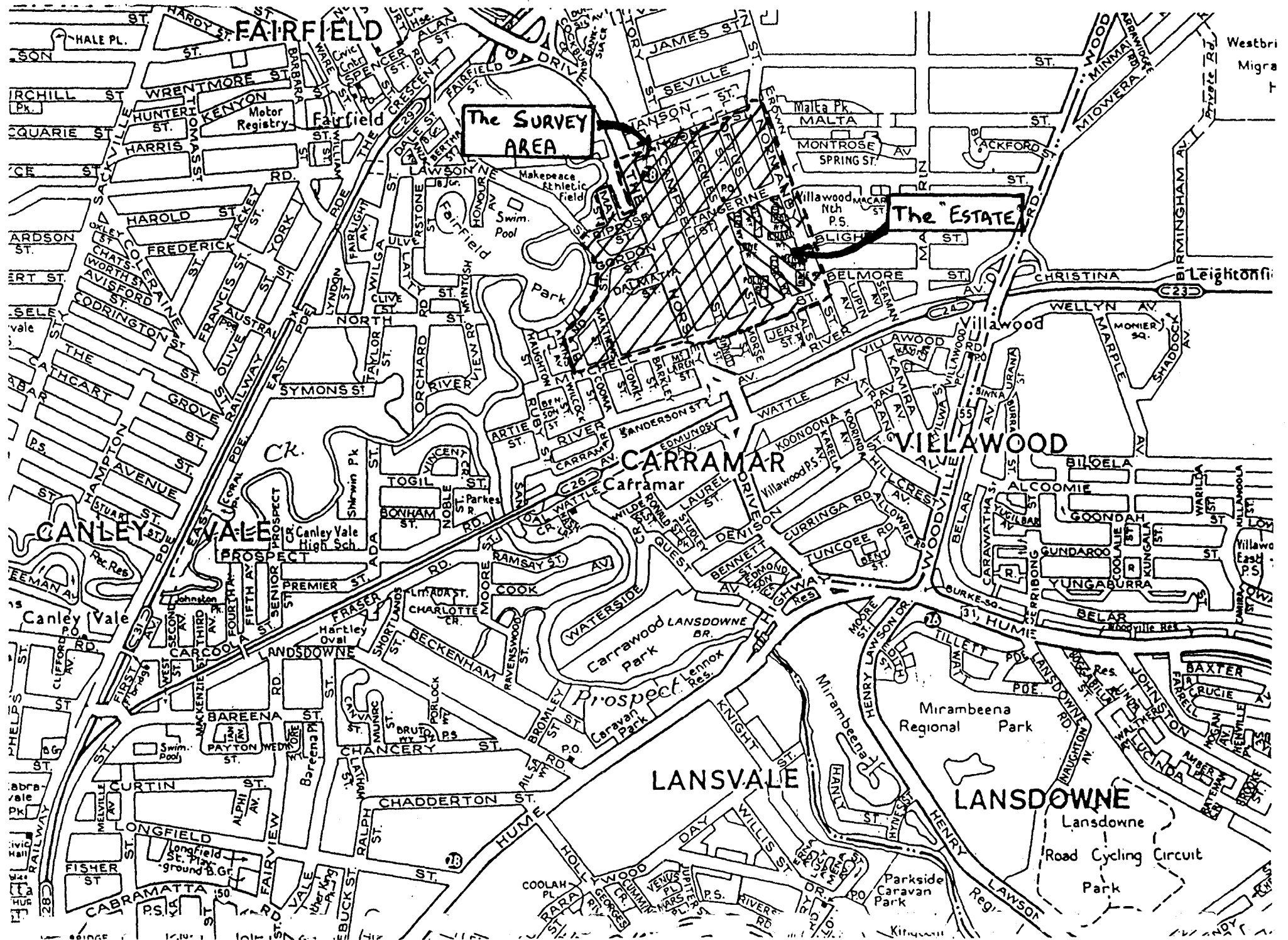
Don't know 0
Yes 1
No 2

If YES then ask...

What did you decide to do?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

	Number of Times	Years in which Incidents Occurred.
1. Murder		
2. Armed robbery		
3. Robbery - without weapons		
4. Assault in the streets or public places		
5. Domestic violence		
6. Sexual assault		
7. Other sexual offences such as indecent exposure, 'flashing'		
8. Child abuse		
9. Using illegal drugs		
10. Selling illegal drugs		
11. Break and enters to houses		
12. Burglary of shops and factories		
13. Pick-pocketing or bag-snatches		
14. Shoplifting		
15. Vandalism		
16. Car theft		
17. Theft of parts of cars or goods inside cars		
18. Arson (starting fires)		
19. Graffiti		
20. Buying and selling stolen goods		
21. Harassment or intimidation of a racist nature.		
22. Nuisance behaviour (noise, harassment, urinating)		
23. Theft from unlocked places such as clothes lines, gardens, porches and sheds.		



The SURVEY AREA

The ESTATE

FAIRFIELD

CANLEY VALE

CARRAMAR

VILLAWOOD

LANSVALE

LANSDOWNE

Westbri
Migra
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Leightonfi

Villawo
East
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Belar
Ridgeville Res

BAXTER
RUCIE

JOHNSTON
WALUCINDA

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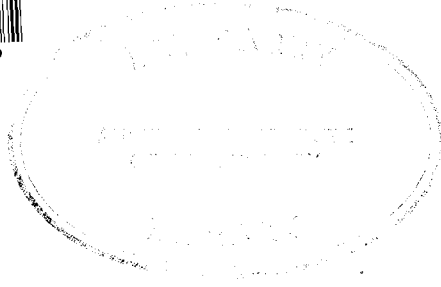
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EMERGENCY

Police Ambulance Fire

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- Fairfield Police Neighbourhood Watch** 728 0399
- Crime Stop Hotline** 332 3555
- Poisons Information** 519 0466
- Child Protection and Family Crisis (24 hour)** 818 5555
- Rape Crisis Centre (24 hour)** 819 6565
- Telephone Interpreter** 221 1111
- Fairfield Neighbourhood Centre** 727 4333
- Cabramatta Community Centre** 727 0477
- Fairfield City Council** 725 0222