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Political and Social Research

Fear of Crime and the Guardian Angels: Attitudes of New York City Subway Riders, 1984

Dennis Jay Kenney

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ICPSR 8531

FEAR OF CRIME AND THE GUARDIAN ANGELS: ATTITUDES
OF NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY RIDERS, 1984

(ICPSR 8531)

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FEAR OF CRIME AND THE GUARDIAN ANGELS: ATTITUDES   OF   NEW   YORK   CITY
SUBWAY RIDERS, 1984 (ICPSR 8531)

SUMMARY: These data focus on the potential effectiveness of the
Guardian Angels in their attempts to combat fear and crime on the New
York City subways.   Respondents were asked about their perceived fear
of crime while riding the subways, the likelihood of their becoming
victims of crimes, their opinions about the crime problem on the
subways, and their knowledge and observations of the Guardian Angels.
CLASS IV

UNIVERSE: New York City subway riders.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 2 data files + SPSS Control Cards
DATA FORMAT: Card Image with SPSS Control Cards

PART NUMBER: 1	PART NUMBER: 2
PART NAME: Interviews	PART NAME: Refusals
FILE STRUCTURE: rectangular	FILE STRUCTURE: rectangular
CASES: 2696	CASES: 776
VARIABLES: 49	VARIABLES: 16
RECORD LENGTH: 80	RECORD LENGTH: 80
RECORDS PER CASE: 1	RECORDS PER CASE: 1

RELATED PUBLICATION:
     Kenney, Dennis Jay. CRIME, FEAR, AND THE NEW YORK CITY SUBWAYS:
THE   ROLE OF CITIZEN ACTION. New York: Praeger   Publishers,
forthcoming.

CODEBOOK FOR QUESTIONNAIRES

CODEBOOK FOR QUESTIONAIRES

1-3 *BLANK*

1.) **Variable #1:**   4-5

   Number of questionaire. To be numbered sequentially
   from June interviews through September interviews.

2.) **Variable #2** (Question #1):   *Col 6*

   When riding the subway after dark, how worried are
   you about being robbed, threatened, beaten-up, or
   anything of that sort?

      1= Very worried.
      2= Somewhat worried.
      3= Only a little worried.
      4= Not at all worried.

3.) **Variables #3 - #6** (Questions #2a-d):

   During the course of a year, do you think it is:

      1= Very likely.
      2= Not very likely.
      3= Unknown.

   A. That you will be robbed while on the subway?   *7*

   B. That you will be mugged while on the subway?   *8*

   C. That someone will beat you up or hurt you while *9*
       you are on the subway?

   D. That someone will steal something from you while *10*
       you are on the subway?

4.) **Variables #7** (Question #3):   *11*

   Do you usually carry anything for protection when
   you are on the subway?

      1= Yes.
      2= No.
      3= No answer.

5.) Variable #8 (Question #3a): 12

   If yes, what?

                Ø= Does not apply.
                1= Gun -- all types.
                2= Knife (blade) or razor.
                3= Other stabbing objects.
                4= Personal objects.
                5= Mace (repellant sprays).
                6= Other objects.
                7= Refused

6) Variable #9 - #16 (Questions #4a-h):

       For each of the following, tell me if you believe
       it is a:

                1= Big problem.
                2= Some problem.
                3= Almost no problem.
                4= No Answer.

A. Groups of teenagers hanging around on the trains or 13
    in the subway stations?

B. Groups of men hanging around on the trains or in 14
    the subway stations?

C. Drunken men on the trains or in the stations?   15

D. People playing loud music while on the trains or in 16
    the stations?

E. People who urinate in public while either on the 17
    trains or in the stations?

F. People being robbed or mugged while on the trains 18
    or in the stations?

G. People being beaten-up or hurt while on the trains 19
    or in the stations?

H. Crimes committed by teenagers on the subways?   0

- 2 -

7.) Variable #17 (Question #5): 21

Over the past year, would you say that the crime
problem on the subways has:

1= Gotten better.
2= Stayed about the same.
3= Gotten worse.
4= Unknown.

8.) Variable #18 (Question #6): 22-23

Overall, what one thing do you think is the most
important crime problem on the subway?

1= Robbery.
2= Mugging.
3= Chain/Jewelry/Purse snatching.
4= Theft/Pickpockets.
5= Sexual assault.
6= Assault.
7= Pushing others or being pushed onto the
subway tracks.
8= Drugs and drug use.
9= Lack of police/security.
10= General conditions of the system/trains
(includes delay of trains).
11= Vandalism/Graffiti.
12= Fare beating.
13= Teens hanging around (this includes idle
and/or roaming teens, teens in groups, as
well as nonspecific references to teen
behavior.
14= Other crimes.
15= Other incivilities (including
harrassment).
16= Other.
17= Unknown.

9.) Variable #19 (Question #7): 24

If someone were being mugged or beaten-up while on
this train, is it:

1= Very likely.
2= Not very likely.
3= Unsure/Unknown.

- 3 -

that other citizens would try to help the victim during the confrontation?

10.) Variable #20 (Question #8): *25*

Is it:

        1= Very likely.
        2= Not very likely.
        3= Are you unsure.

if you would try to help the victim?

11.) Variable #21 (Question #9): *26*

Are you familiar with the citizen-action group known as the Guardian Angels?

        1= Yes.
        2= No.

12.) Variable #22 (Question #9a - asked if yes to #9):

When you are riding the subways, about how often do you see the Guardian Angels on patrol?

        0= Does not apply. *27*
        1= Usually.
        2= Sometimes.
        3= Seldom.
        4= Never.

13.) Variable #23 (Question #9b - asked if yes to #9):

Do you believe that the Guardian Angels make people like yourself less fearful of crime?

        0= Does not apply. *28*
        1= Yes.
        2= No.
        3= Unknown/No opinion.

14.) <u>Variable #24</u>   (Question #9c - asked if yes to #9):

Do you believe that the Guardian Angels reduce crime on the subways?

        0= Does not apply.   *29*
        1= Yes.
        2= No.
        3= Unknown/No opinion.

15.) <u>Variable #25</u>   (Question #9d - asked if yes to #9):

Do you:

        0= Does not apply.   *30*
        1= Approve.
        2= Disapprove.
        3= Undecided/No opinion.

of the Guardian Angels and their methods?

16.) <u>Variable #26</u>   (Question #10):

When you are riding the subway, about how often do you see the police?

        1= Usually.   *31*
        2= Sometimes.
        3= Seldom.

17.) <u>Variable #27</u>   (Question #11):

Within the past year or so, have you been the victim of a crime or needed help from a policeman while you were on the subway?

        1= Yes.
        2= No.   *32*

18.) Variable #28   (Question #11a - asked if yes to #11):

What was it about?   33-34

   0= Does not apply.
   1= Robbery.
   2= Chain/Jewelry/Purse snatching.
   3= Theft/Pickpocket.
   4= Sexual assault.
   5= Assault.
   6= Other crimes.
   7= Harrassment.
   8= Other incivilities.
   9= Other (medical, directions, etc.).
  10= Refused.

19.) Variable #29   (Question #11b - asked if yes to #11):

Did you contact the police?   35

   0= Does not apply.
   1= Yes.
   2= No.

20.) Variable #30   (Question #11c - asked if yes to #11):

Were you: 36

   0= Does not apply.
   1= Satisfied.
   2= Unsatisfied.
   3= Undecided.

with the help you received from the police?

21.) Variable #31   (Question #12):

Overall, how would your rate the job the police are
doing at protecting riders on the subways?

   1= Very good.   37
   2= Good enough.
   3= Not too good.
   4= Not good at all.
   5= Undecided/No opinion.

22.) <u>Variable #32</u> (Question #13):   3 8

    Do you live in New York City?

            1= Yes.
            2= No.

23.) <u>Variable #33</u> (Question #13a - asked if yes to #13):

    If yes, in which borough?   3 9

            Ø= Does not apply.
            1= Manhattan.
            2= Bronx.
            3= Brooklyn.
            4= Queens.
            5= Staten Island.
            6= None.
            9= Refused/No answer.

24.) <u>Variable #34</u> (Question #14):

    About how often during an average week do you ride
    the subway after dark?

            Answers vary from Ø - 7.   4 0

            Ø= Less than once a week.
            7= Seven days a week.

    NOTE: Because many persons were unable to estimate
           the absolute number of times they ride, the
           question was asked so as to obtain an
           estimated number of days each respondent
           rides.

25.) <u>Variable #35</u>:
                                             4 1
    Location of interview (by groups):

            1= Group #1.
            2= Group #2.
            3= Group #3.
            4= Group #4.
            5= Those stations belonging to both
                groups #2 and #3.

26.) Variable #36:

If interviewed in Group #1, was it on:

42

     Ø= Does not apply.
     1= AA-Train.
     2= A-Train.
     3= 86th Street Station.
     4= 125th Street Station.

27.) Variable #37:

If interviewed in Group #2, was it on:

43

     Ø= Does not apply.
     1= D-Train.
     2= 145th Street Station.
     3= 167th Street Station.
     4= 174-75 Street Station.

28.) Variable #38:

If interviewed in Group #3, was it on:

44

     Ø= Does not apply.
     1= D-Train.
     2= 167th Street Station.
     3= 174-75 Street Station.
     4= Fordham Road Station.
     5= Kingsbridge Road Station.

29.) Variable #39:

If interviewed in Group #4, was it on:

45

     Ø= Does not apply.
     1= #4-Train.
     2= 167th Street Station.
     3= Fordham Road Station.
     4= Kingsbridge Road Station.

30.) Variable #4Ø:

If interviewed on a train, was it: *46*

Ø= Does not apply.
1= Northbound.
2= Southbound.

31.) Variable #41:

Month of interview: *47*

1= June.
2= August.
3= September.

32.) Variable #42: *48-49*

Date of interview:

1 - 31 to correspond with actual date.

33.) Variable #43:

Day of interview: *50*

1= Monday.
2= Tuesday.
3= Wednesday.
4= Thursday.
5= Friday.
6= Saturday.

34.) Variable #44:

Time of interview: *51*

1=   7 - 7:59
2=   8 - 8:59
3=   9 - 9:59
4= 1Ø - 1Ø:59
5= 11 - 11:59
6= 12 - 12:59
7=   1 - 1:59

35.) <u>Variable</u> #<u>45</u>:

    Interviewer:

        1= Dennis Jay Kenney.
        2= Elizabeth Gibson-Kenney.
        3= Keith Fanney.
        4= Ed Sion.
        5= Matt McNally.
        6= Maureen Hastings.
        7= Joel Cordero.
        8= Elena Petta.

52

36.) <u>Variable</u> #<u>46</u>:

    Sex of respondent:

        Ø= Unknown.
        1= Male.
        2= Female.

53

37.) <u>Variable</u> #<u>47</u>:

    Race of respondent:

        Ø= Unknown.
        1= White.
        2= Black.
        3= Hispanic.
        4= Oriental.
        5= Other.

54

38.) <u>Variable</u> #<u>48</u>:

    Age of respondent:

        Ø= Unknown.
        1= Teenager.
        2= Adult.
        3= Elderly.

55

39.) <u>Variable #49</u>:

Did respondent volunteer being a: *56*

         0=   Does not apply.
         1=   Transit authority employee.
         2=   Transit authority police officer.
         3=   New York City police officer.
         4=   New York City corrections officer.
         5=   Other criminal justice employee
              (excluding private security).

Codebook for Refusals

CODEBOOK FOR REFUSALS

1.) Number of refusal. To be numbered sequentially from
    June 1st through September 3Øth.   1 - 4

2.) Location of refusal (by groups):   5

>   1=   Group #1.
>   2=   Group #2.
>   3=   Group #3.
>   4=   Group #4.
>   5=   Those areas belonging to both
>   Groups #2 and #3.

3.) If refused in Group #1, was it on: 6

>   Ø=   Does not apply.
>   1=   AA-Train.
>   2=   A-Train.
>   3=   86th Street Station.
>   4=   125th Street Station.

4.) If refused in Group #2, was it on: 7

>   Ø=   Does not apply.
>   1=   D-Train.
>   2=   145th Street Station.
>   3=   167th Street Station.
>   4=   174-75 Street Station.

5.) If refused in Group #3, was it on: 8

>   Ø=   Does not apply.
>   1=   D-Train.
>   2=   167th Street Station.
>   3=   174-75 Street Station.
>   4=   Fordham Road Station.
>   5=   Kingsbridge Road Station.

6.) If refused in Group #4, was in on: *9*

        0= Does not apply.
        1= #4-Train.
        2= 167th Street Station.
        3= Fordham Road Station.
        4= Kingsbridge Road Station.

7.) If refused on a train, was it: *10*

        0= Does not apply.
        1= Northbound.
        2= Southbound.

8.) Month of refusal: *11*

        1= June.
        2= August.
        3= September.

9.) Date of refusal: *12-13*

    1 - 31 to correspond with the actual date.

10.) Day of refusal: *14*

        1= Monday.
        2= Tuesday.
        3= Wednesday.
        4= Thursday.
        5= Friday.
        6= Saturday.

11.) Time of refusal: *15*

        1=   7 - 7:59.
        2=   8 - 8:59.
        3=   9 - 9:59.
        4= 10 - 10:59.
        5= 11 - 11:59.
        6= 12 - 12:59.
        7=   1 - 1:59.

12.) Interviewer refused: 16

        1=   Dennis Jay Kenney.
        2=   Elizabeth Gibson-Kenney.
        3=   Keith Fanney.
        4=   Ed Sion.
        5=   Matt McNally.
        6=   Maureen Hastings.
        7=   Joel Cordero.
        8=   Elena Petta.

13.) Sex of respondent: 17

        Ø=   Unknown.
        1=   Male.
        2=   Female.

14.) Race of respondent: 18

        Ø=   Unknown.
        1=   White.
        2=   Black.
        3=   Hispanic.
        4=   Oriental.
        5=   Other.

15.) Age of respondent: 19

        Ø=   Unknown.
        1=   Teenager.
        2=   Adult.
        3=   Elderly.

16.) Did respondent speak English?   20

        Ø=   Unknown.
        1=   Yes.
        2=   No.

INTERVIEW FOR SUBWAY PASSENGERS

1.) When riding the subway after dark, how worried are you about being robbed, threatened, beaten-up, or anything of that sort?

Very Worried	Somewhat Worried	Only a Little Worried	Not At All Worried

2.) During the course of a year, do you think it is:

(1) Very Likely	(2) Not Very Likely

A. That you will be robbed while on the subway?   _____

B. That you will be mugged while on the subway?   _____

C. That someone will beat you up or hurt you
    while you are on the subway?   _____

D. That someone will steal something from you
    while you are on the subway?   _____

3.) Do you usually carry anything for protection when you are on the subway?

Yes	No	No Answer

      If yes, WHAT?   _____

4.) For each of the following, tell me if you believe it is a:

(1) Big Problem	(2) Some Problem	(3) Almost No Problem

A. Groups of teenagers hanging around on the
    trains or in the subway stations?   _____

| (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Big Problem | Some Problem | Almost No Problem |

B. Groups of men hanging around on the trains
    or in the subway stations?   _____

C. Drunken men on the trains or in the stations?   _____

D. People playing loud music while on the
    trains or in the stations?   _____

E. People who urinate in public while either
    on the trains or in the stations?   _____

F. People being robbed or mugged while on the
    trains or in the stations?   _____

G. People being beaten up or hurt while on
    the trains or in the stations?   _____

H. Crimes committed by teenagers on the
    subways?   _____

5.) Over the past year, would you say that the crime problem
     on the subways has:

        Gotten   Stayed About   Gotten
        Better   the Same   Worse

6.) Overall, what one thing do you think is the most
     important crime problem on the subway?

     _____
                          ,

7.) If someone were being mugged or beaten-up while on this
     train, is it:

                Very Likely   or   Not Very Likely

     that other citizens would try to help the victim during
     the confrontation?

8.)   Is it:

       Very Likely   Not Very Likely   or   Are You Unsure

       if you would try to help the victim?

9.)   Are you familiar with the citizen-action group known as
       the Guardian Angels?

                              Yes   No

       If yes,

       9A.)   When you are riding the subways, about how often
              do you see the Guardian Angels on patrol?

              Usually   Sometimes   Seldom   Never

       9B.)   Do you believe that the Guardian Angels make
              people like yourself less fearful of crime?

                     Yes   No

       9C.)   Do you believe that the Guardian Angels
              reduce crime on the subways?

                     Yes   No

       9D.)   Do you   Approve   or   Disapprove   of the
              Guardian Angels and their methods?

10.) When you are riding the subway, about how often do you
       see the police?

              Usually   Sometimes   Seldom

11.) Within the past year or so, have you been the victim of
       a crime or needed help from a policeman while you were
       on the subway?

                     Yes   No

If Yes,

11A.) What was it about? _____

11B.) Did you contact the police?   Yes   No

11C.) Were you <u>Satisfied</u> or <u>Unsatisfied</u> with the help you received from the police?

12.) Overall, how would you rate the job the police are doing at protecting riders on the subways?

<u>Very Good</u>   <u>Good Enough</uptops   <u>Not Too Good</u>   <u>Not Good At All</u>

13.) Do you live in New York City?   Yes   No

If Yes, in which area/neighborhood? _____

14.) About how often during an average week do you ride the subway after dark?

_____

Location of Interview: GROUP _____

TRAIN/STATION _____

DIRECTION _____

Date/Time of Interview: _____

Interviewer: _____

Sex: _____   Race: _____   Age: <u>Teens</u>

<u>Adult</u>

<u>Elderly</u>

Other: