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**FEAR OF CRIME  
AND RELATED PERCEPTIONS  
IN FLORIDA -- 1996**

**FINAL REPORT**

**JULY 1997**



**Results of a Statewide Survey  
Conducted by  
The School of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
Florida State University**



# **Fear of Crime & Related Perceptions in Florida -- 1996**

## **Final Report**

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Conducted by the School of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
Florida State University

Dan Maier-Katkin, Dean

This report was prepared for the Florida Department of Community Affairs, James F. Murley, Secretary, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

July, 1997

This program was supported by grant # 94 - DBCX - 0012 awarded to the Department of Community Affairs, State of Florida, and by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice. The BJA is a component of OJP which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Office for Victims of Crime.

Points of view, opinions and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the recipient and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs or any other agency of the state or federal governments.

Additional support was provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, James T. Moore, Commissioner, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Calvin Ross, Secretary and the School of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Florida State University, Dan Maier-Katkin, Dean.

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## **Survey Research Team**

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The foregoing provided input to the composition of the survey and suggestions for the formatting of the final report. Any errors, omissions or oversights are the sole responsibility of the principal investigator.

# **Methodology**

## **The Sample**

Between August and September of 1996, a random sample of 3,000 Florida adults (18+) was drawn, using a two-stage Mitofsky-Waksberg sampling design. A ten call-back rule was employed before replacement. Spanish speaking interviewers were used for calls to predominantly Hispanic areas.

The final sample had the following characteristics (1990 census figures for persons 18 years or older are in parentheses):

- 55% Female (52%)
- 11% African-American (11%)
- 14% Hispanic (12%)
- 89% High School Graduate (74%)
- 32% College Graduate (24%)
- 16% Criminal Victimization (household) Previous Year
- 15% Age 65 or Older (18%)

The slight over-representation of women and those with higher education is not uncommon in telephone surveys.

## **The Survey**

The survey was conducted by The Research Network, Inc., a public opinion polling firm located in Tallahassee. They were chosen as the result of sealed competitive bids solicited and awarded by the Purchasing Department of Florida State University.

The telephone survey took approximately 12 minutes to complete. The principal issues examined in the survey and the questions asked to address them included those listed below. A copy of the survey instrument is included as an appendix (J) to this report.

## Fear of Crime

The fear of crime was assessed by means of the following question:

“On a scale from one to ten, with one being **not at all fearful** and ten being **very fearful**, how much would you say you fear . . .

- . . . having your car stolen?
- . . . having someone break into your home while you are away?
- . . . having someone break into your home while you are there?
- . . . being robbed or mugged on the street?
- . . . being raped or sexually assaulted?
- . . . being murdered?”

Two scores were computed from these questions. A “fear of crime” score is the sum of all six items (range: 0-60); a “fear of violent crime” score is the sum of the last three items (range: 0-30).

## Perceived Risk of Victimization

This is intended to measure a cognitive assessment of risk, as opposed to the affect of fear. Recent research has shown that such a cognitive assessment may or may not feed into an individual’s fear of crime. To measure this factor, we asked this question:

“You have already rated your fear of different kinds of crimes, now I want you to rate **the chance that a specific crime will happen to you during the coming year**. On a scale from one to ten, where one means **not at all likely** and ten means **very likely** – how likely do you think it is that you will . . .

- . . . be raped or sexually assaulted?
- . . . be murdered?
- . . . have someone break into your home while you are there?
- . . . be robbed or mugged on the street?
- . . . have your car stolen?
- . . . have someone break into your home while you are away?”

Results for perceived risk are examined separately for each crime. In particular, we report the *percent* who perceive victimization as *likely* – which is defined as 8 or higher on the 10 point scale.

### **Satisfaction With Local Law Enforcement**

Respondents were asked to express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with local law enforcement by means of a four part question.

“Next, I will read four statements about law enforcement in your community. Please tell me if you **strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree** with the following:

I am satisfied with the level of police protection in my neighborhood.

I seldom see a police officer on my street.

The police in this community treat everyone the same, regardless of who they are.

The police are helpful in dealing with problems in my neighborhood.”

Responses are compiled for each item separately. Response patterns are described in terms of the *percent* who *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

### **Concern About Particular Crimes – FDLE Related**

There are several crimes that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement has principal responsibility for. We assessed the extent to which respondents are concerned about these crimes by asking:

“On a scale from one to ten, with one being **not at all concerned** and ten being **very concerned**, how concerned are you about the following:



Terrorism by Americans against other Americans?

Organized crime?

Large scale drug trafficking?

Crimes that use computers?"

We consider scores of 8 or more on a scale of 10 to be an expression of "high concern" and response patterns are described in terms of the *percent* expressing "high concern" for each item separately.

### **Worry About One's Children**

Questions were developed to assess the extent to which parents are worried about crime related activities in relation to their own children.

The following was asked of respondents *only* if they had children between the ages of 5 and 17.

"On a scale from one to ten, with one being **not at all worried** and ten being **very worried**, how much do you worry about the following things happening to your child:

Your child being robbed by other youths?

Your child being attacked or beaten up?

Your child being murdered?

Your child joining a gang?

Your child getting addicted to drugs?

Mean "child worry" scores were computed for the combination of all five worrisome events. These scores could range from 0 - 50.

Also, for each separate worrisome event, we report the *percent* of respondents at different income levels who have a “high” degree of worry, which is defined as 8 or more on a 10 point scale.

### Perceptions of Teenagers and Teenage Criminals

The argument has been made in certain media and scholarly circles that juvenile criminals have become more violent, less remorseful and less concerned about the consequences of their actions than previously.

To assess that issue, we asked a series of questions with the focus on “teenagers” because we thought that would provide a more certain frame of reference than “juveniles.” Specifically, we asked the following.

“Now I am going to read some statements about teenagers. Please tell me if you **strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree** about the following:

Teenagers are becoming more violent.

Teenagers today have a good sense of right and wrong.

Most teenage criminals don’t care about the consequences of their actions.

Many teenage criminals are so dangerous that they are like predators.

Most teenagers are okay; it’s a few bad ones that get all the attention.”

We report the *percent* who *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement for the entire sample and for respondents from different age groups.

## **What Should Be Done About Juvenile Crime?**

Respondents were asked to address a variety of policy options concerned with the punishment and/or possible prevention of juvenile crime. These options were presented as follows.

“Different things have been suggested to reduce juvenile crime. On a scale from one to ten, with one being **least agree** and ten being **most agree**, how much do you agree that the following will reduce juvenile crime?

More discipline at home.

Lock up more juvenile offenders.

More discipline in school.

More rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders.

Death penalty for juveniles who murder.

More jobs available for young people.

Curfew laws for young people.

Let kids who are unsupervised at home stay at school until early evening.”

A score of 8 or above on a 10 point scale is considered “strong support” for a particular measure. The *percent* of respondents showing “strong support” for each measure is displayed.

### **Special Note:**

**There are so many ways to look at each of the foregoing measures -- by race, sex, income, victim experience, place, etc. that many hundreds of tables and figures are possible. We present selected highlights from the survey findings here and in the appendices.**

# Findings

## Fear of Crime

The fear of six specific crimes was measured by questions that are described on page 5 of the **Methodology** section above. Responses were combined to create a score ranging from 0-60. Responses to three violent crime questions were combined to create a fear of violent crime score that ranged from 0-30.

Figures in Appendix A summarize these findings.

## Highlights

- ◆ For the state as a whole, the fear of crime (FEAR) can be considered “moderate” with an average of 28 in a range from 0-60.
- ◆ Average FEAR levels are substantially higher for Hispanics (36) and Blacks (33) than for Whites (25).
- ◆ FEAR among women (32) is almost 50% higher than among men. It is highest for Black (38) and Hispanic (40) women.
- ◆ Younger Floridians (18-34) are the most fearful (30). Older Floridians (65+) are the least fearful (25).
- ◆ Having recent crime victim experience (32) elevates fear in comparison to those without such experience (27).
- ◆ Fear of crime does not increase with increases in city crime rate -- until that rate becomes twice as high (15,000) as the state average (7,491).
- ◆ Fear of crime is highest -- by far -- in Hialeah. It is also relatively high in Miami and Orlando. It is lowest in St. Petersburg

# Findings

## Perceived Risk of Criminal Victimization

Perceived victim risk during the next year for six crimes was measured by questions described on pages 5-6 of the **Methodology** section above. Figures reported below show the *percent* who perceive victimization as *likely* -- defined as 8 or higher on a 10 point scale -- for specific crimes. Also computed, but not shown in figures was the average perceived risk across six crimes, with possible values ranging from 0-60.

Figures in Appendix B report findings for “*percent likely*” as noted above.

## Highlights

- ◆ The average perceived risk of victimization for all Floridians -- 22 on a scale from 0-60 -- is lower than fear (28) measured on a similar scale.
- ◆ For women, perceived risk (24) is about 50% higher than for men (18) and is substantially higher for Hispanic (33) and Black (32) women.
- ◆ For the sample as a whole, the *percent* rating victimization as *likely* in the next year, varies by crime as follows: burglary when away from home (19%); burglary when home (11%); auto theft (16%); robbery (16%); murder (11%); sexual assault of women (11%).
- ◆ Hispanic (25%) and Black (22%) women see sexual assault as *likely* almost four times more often than White women (6%).
- ◆ Black (29%) and Hispanic (25%) women see murder as *likely* most often, White women (6%) and White men (2%) least often. Similar patterns -- at higher levels -- exist for burglary, robbery and auto theft.
- ◆ The *percent* rating victim chances as *likely* is substantially higher for each crime in cities of 250,000 or more. For most crimes, there is not much difference by city size until cities get larger than 100,000.

# Findings

## Satisfaction With Local Law Enforcement

Satisfaction with local law enforcement is measured with four statements described on page 6 of the **Methodology** section above. Figures in Appendix C show the *percent* who *agree* or *strongly agree* with each.

### Highlights

- ◆ For the state as a whole, 77% are “satisfied” with their level of police protection. Whites are most often satisfied (81%), but a substantial majority of Hispanics (70%) and Blacks (65%) are as well.
- ◆ Almost eight in ten Florida residents (79%) consider police to be “helpful with problems in their neighborhood.” Differences among Blacks (74%), Hispanics (75%) and Whites (81%) are small.
- ◆ For the state as a whole, 56% “*disagree*” with the statement that they “*seldom* see a police officer on their street” -- which means that they *are* aware of a police presence. Race makes little difference on this issue.
- ◆ A majority of Floridians (54%) “agree” that local police “treat everyone the same.” Blacks (42%) less often “agree” than Whites (56%) and Hispanics (54%).
- ◆ By FDLE region, Tallahassee (70%) and Miami (72%) which have relatively large minority populations, are the only regions below 80% in “satisfaction with police protection.”
- ◆ By FDLE region, Tallahassee (71%), Miami (77%) and Ft. Myers (77%) are the only regions below 80% in satisfaction with “police helpfulness.”
- ◆ By FDLE region, Tallahassee (43%) is lowest and Jacksonville (59%) is highest in agreement that local police “treat everyone the same.”

# Findings

## Concern About Selected Crimes

Four types of crime are a central responsibility of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement -- organized crime, large-scale drug-trafficking, crimes that use computers and terrorism by Americans against other Americans. Questions that measure public "concern" about these crimes are described on pages 6-7 of the **Methodology** section above. Figures in Appendix D describe the *percent* expressing *high concern* about each of these crimes -- defined as a score of 8 or more on a 10 point scale.

## Highlights

- ◆ For the state as a whole, "*high concern*" is more often expressed for large scale drug trafficking (59%) than for computer crime (40%), organized crime (36%) or terrorism by Americans against other Americans (39%).
- ◆ Women are approximately 50% more "concerned" about these crimes than men -- with the biggest difference for drug trafficking, and the smallest for organized crime.
- ◆ Blacks are consistently most concerned about these crimes -- 72% express "*high concern*" about large scale drug trafficking and between 53% and 55% express "*high concern*" about the other crimes. Hispanics express "*high concern*" almost as often, with 71% for drug trafficking, and between 47% and 53% for the other crimes.
- ◆ Concern about each of these crimes *increases* steadily as age of respondent increases -- with 73% of persons 65 years or older expressing "*high concern*" for drug trafficking and 50% for organized crime.
- ◆ Concern about each of these crimes *decreases* steadily as income increases -- with 44% of those earning over \$75,000 expressing "*high concern*" for drug trafficking and 23% for organized crime.

# Findings

## Worry About One's Own Children

For those with children between 5-17 years (N=788) we asked how much they worry about their children becoming victimized by, or involved in crime. These questions are on page 7 of the **Methodology** section above. Figures in Appendix E report mean levels of "overall child worry" across five items with scores ranging from 0-50 in addition to the *percent* expressing "*strong worry*" (8+ on 10 point scale) for each item.

### Highlights

- ◆ On average, women worry more than men, but Hispanic women (37) and men (32) worry more than Black women (31) or White women (25).
- ◆ Worry declines steadily as respondent income increases.
- ◆ At *lowest* income levels (\$15,000 or less) "*strong worry*" exists in these proportions: child becoming addicted (38%); being attacked (53%); joining a gang (38%); being robbed (41%); being murdered (48%).
- ◆ Concerning child addiction, "*strong worry*" exists at these levels: Hispanics (51%), Blacks (31%), Whites (24%).
- ◆ Concerning child being attacked, "*strong worry*" exists at these levels: Hispanics (61%), Blacks (44%), Whites (28%).
- ◆ Concerning child joining a gang, "*strong worry*" exists at these levels: Hispanics (47%), Blacks (31%), Whites (16%).
- ◆ Concerning child being robbed, "*strong worry*" exists at these levels: Hispanics (58%), Blacks (38%), Whites (21%).
- ◆ Concerning child being murdered, "*strong worry*" exists at these levels: Hispanics (62%), Blacks (48%), Whites (28%).



# Findings

## Perceptions of Teenagers & Teenage Criminals

Five statements about teenagers or teenage criminals were provided to respondents who could strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with them. They are described on page 8 of the **Methodology** section above.

Figures in Appendix F show the *percent* who *agree* or *strongly agree* with each statement.

### Highlights

- ◆ Nine in ten Floridians (91%) agree that “teenagers are becoming *more violent*” Support for this statement varies little by age, race, income or victimization, but Black women endorse it almost unanimously (96%).
- ◆ Nine in ten Florida residents (90%) agree that “teenage criminals *don’t care* about the *consequences* of their actions.” Responses to this question vary little by respondent characteristics.
- ◆ At the same time 80% of Floridians agree that “*most teenagers* are *O.K.*; it’s a few bad ones that get all the attention.” White males (85%) are the most likely to support this idea, Hispanic females (74%) least likely.
- ◆ Almost seven in ten (69%) Florida residents agree that “many teenage criminals are so dangerous that they are like *predators*.” This perception increases steadily with age -- 76% of the oldest respondents (65+) agree. Black women are the least likely (64%) to endorse this idea, Hispanic women (77%) most likely.
- ◆ Very few Floridians (34%) agree that “teenagers today have a *good sense of right and wrong*.” Younger respondents (18-34 years) are the least likely (31%) to have this perception, and older respondents (65+) most likely (39%).

# Findings

## What Should Be Done About Juvenile Crime?

A series of “things to do” about juvenile crime were presented in the survey. The questions asked are described on page 9 of the **Methodology** section. A score of 8 on a 10 point scale is considered “strong support” for a policy. Figures in Appendix G show the *percent* offering *strong support* for each.

### Highlights

- ◆ By a wide margin “*more discipline in the home*” (83%) gets the most support for reducing juvenile crime. This varies little by race, or sex.
- ◆ “*More jobs* available for young people” (74%) gets the next highest support. This idea is most often endorsed by Hispanic women (90%) and Black women (84%) and least often by White men (66%).
- ◆ Seven in ten (70%) support “*more discipline in school.*” Hispanic women rated this highest (84%); White men, lowest (65%).
- ◆ “*More rehabilitation* programs for juvenile offenders” (67%) and “*curfew laws* for young people”(65%) get two-thirds support. Women favor rehabilitation (74%) and curfews (73%) more often than men (57%, 55%).
- ◆ Allowing *unsupervised* kids to *stay at school* until early evening is supported by 60% of Florida residents. Women (68%), especially Black women (75%) like this most; Males (51%) and White males (46%) least.
- ◆ A slight majority (54%) think “*locking up* more juvenile offenders” will help. Hispanic (69%) and Black (64%) women support this most, White (46%) and Black (48%) men support this least. As income increases, support for this idea *decreases*.
- ◆ 47% of Floridians support the *death penalty* for juvenile murderers.

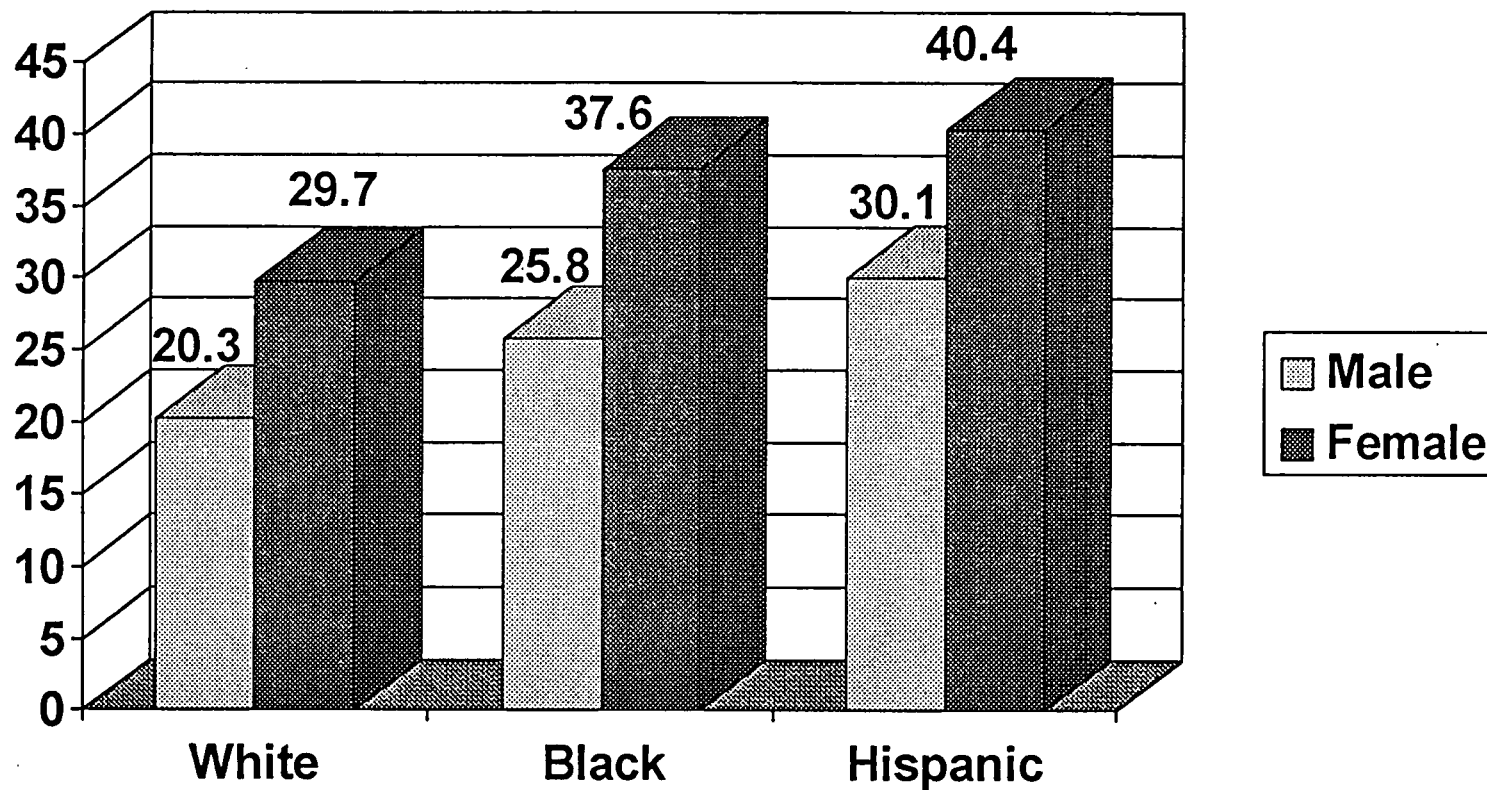
## **Appendix A**

### **Fear of Crime**

#### **Selected Figures from survey findings**

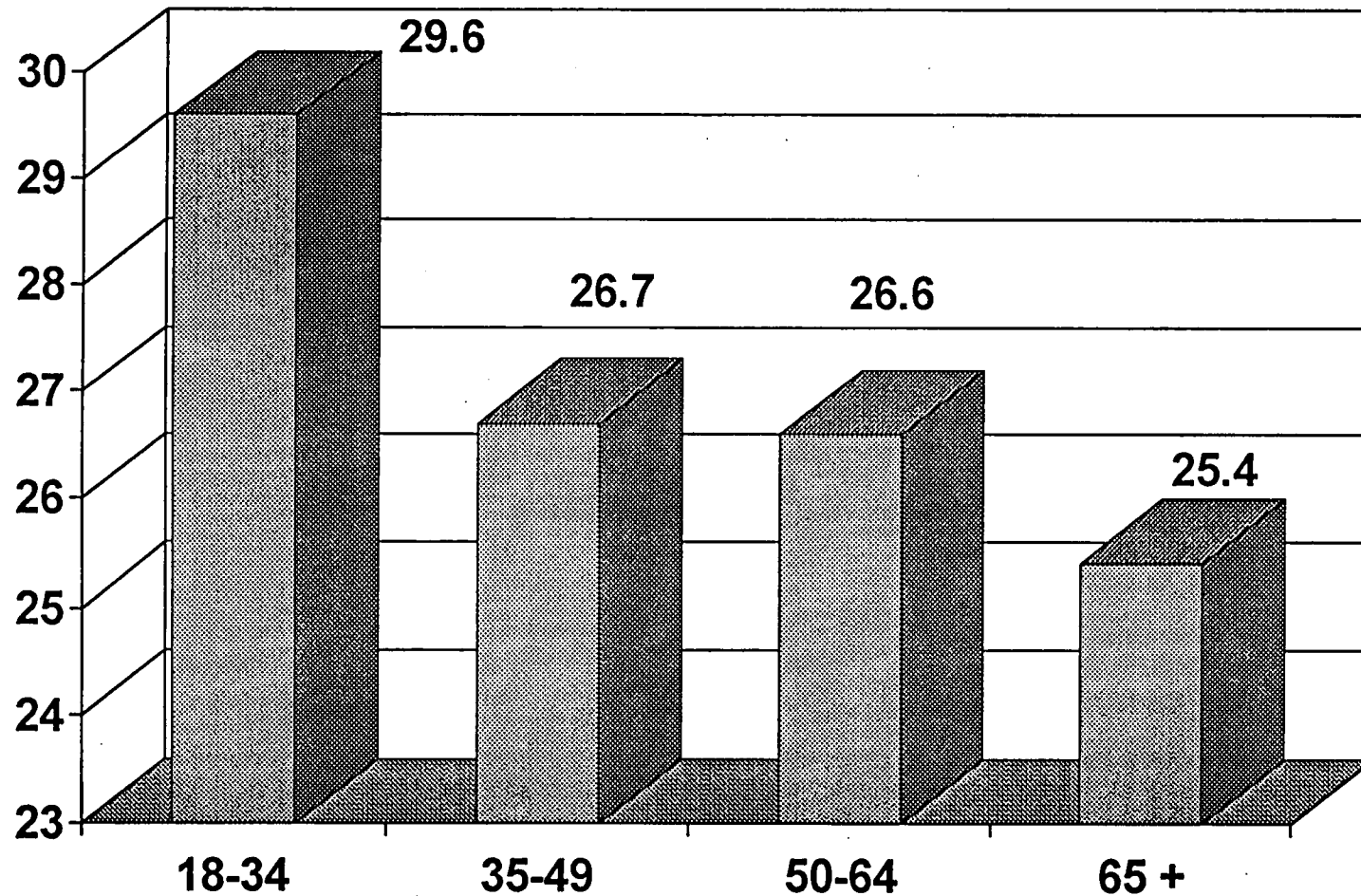
# Figure A1: Mean Fear of Crime by Sex & Race

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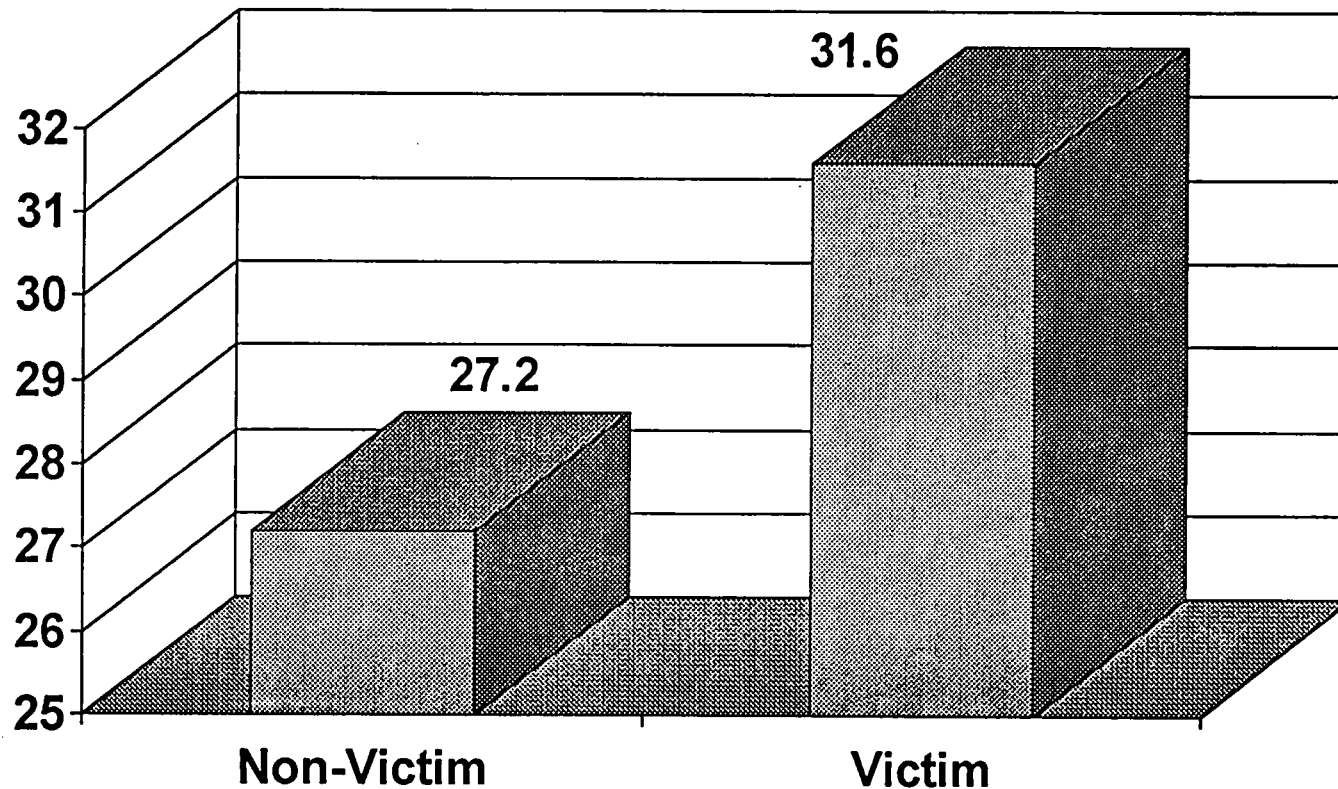
# Figure A2: Mean Fear of Crime by Age

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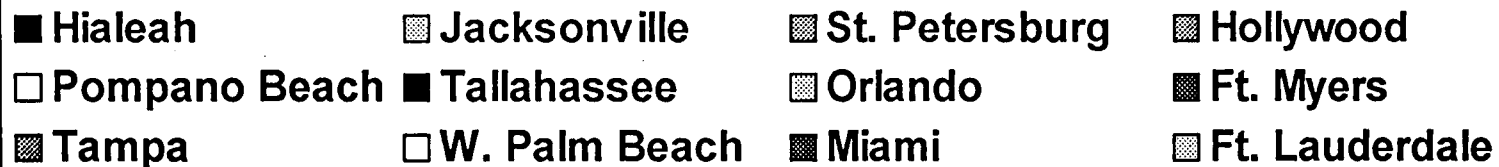
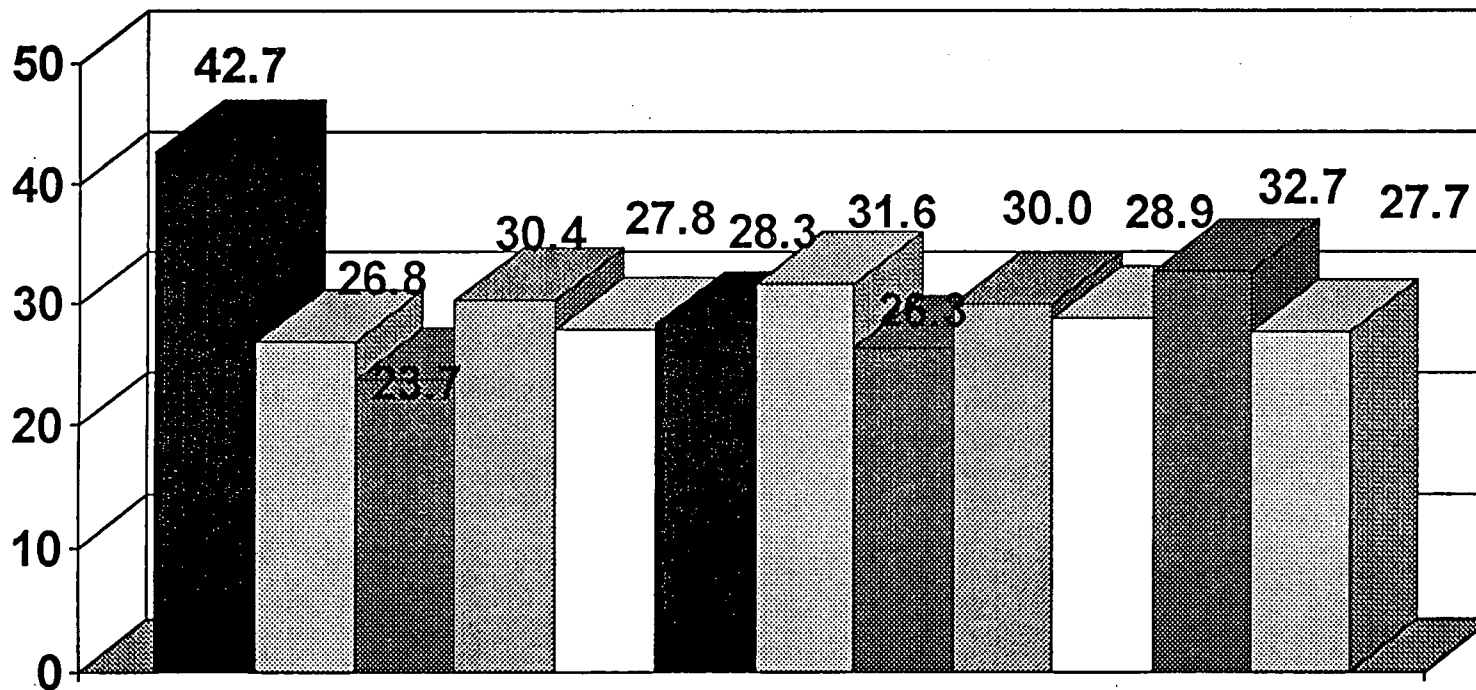


# Figure A3: Mean Fear of Crime by Victimization Experience

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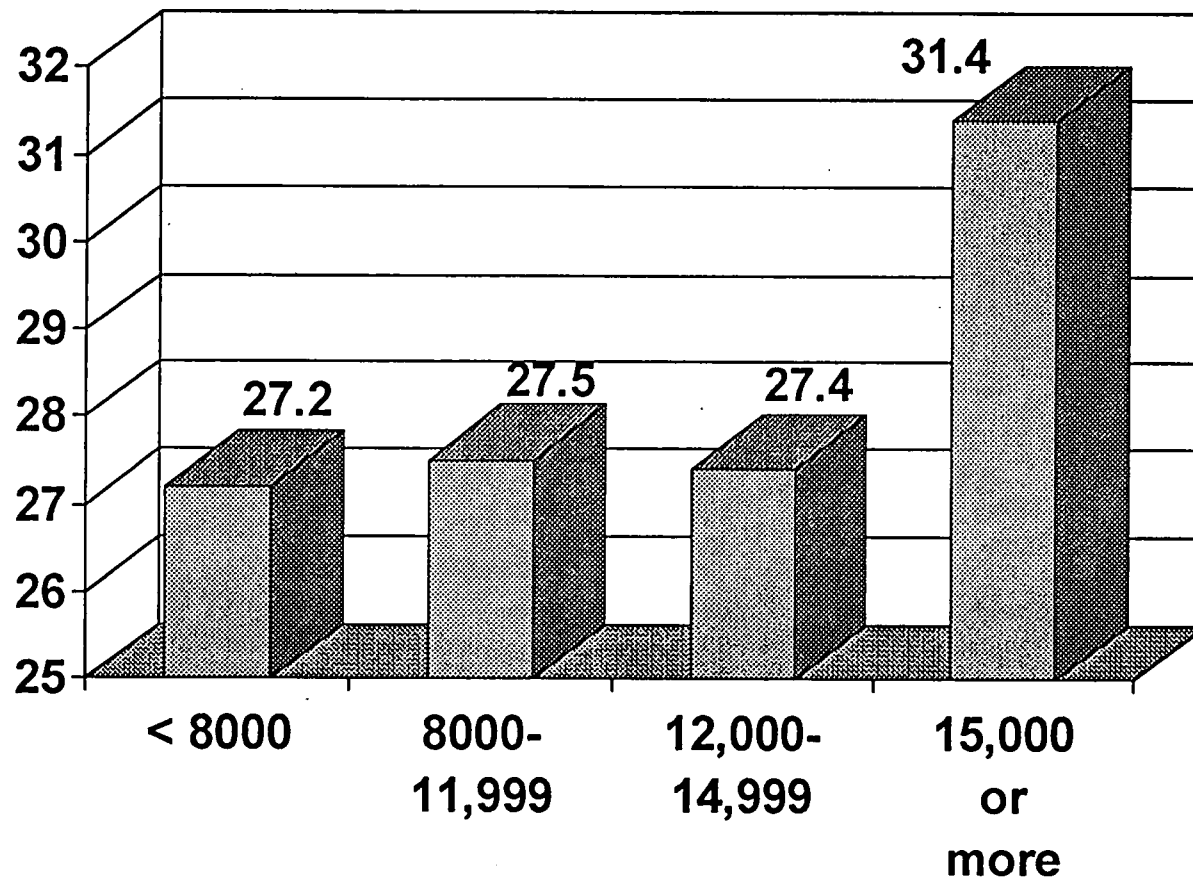


# Figure A4: Mean Fear of Crime by City



# Figure A5: Mean Fear of Crime by City Index Crime Rate

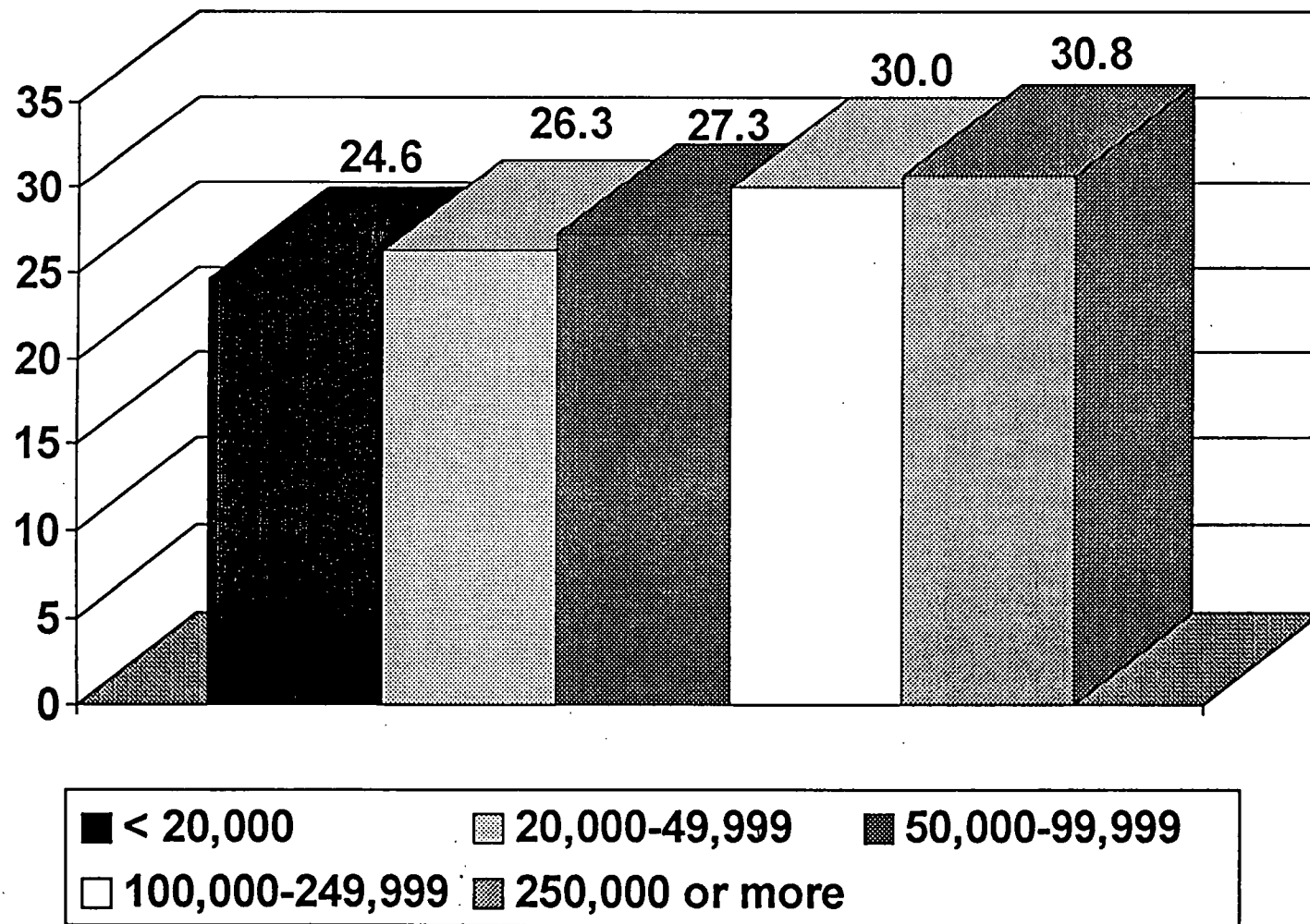
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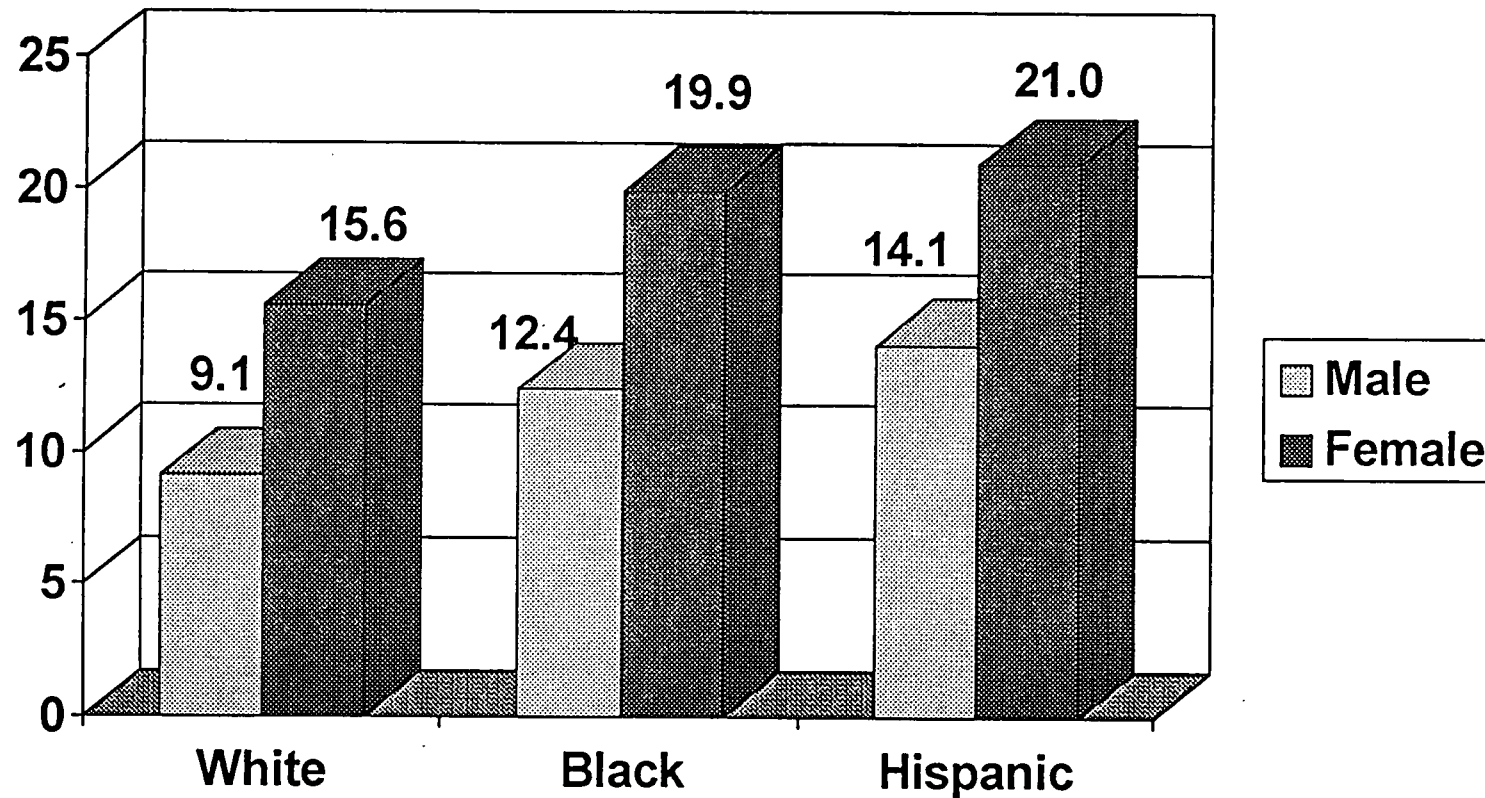
# Figure A6: Mean Fear of Crime by City Population Size

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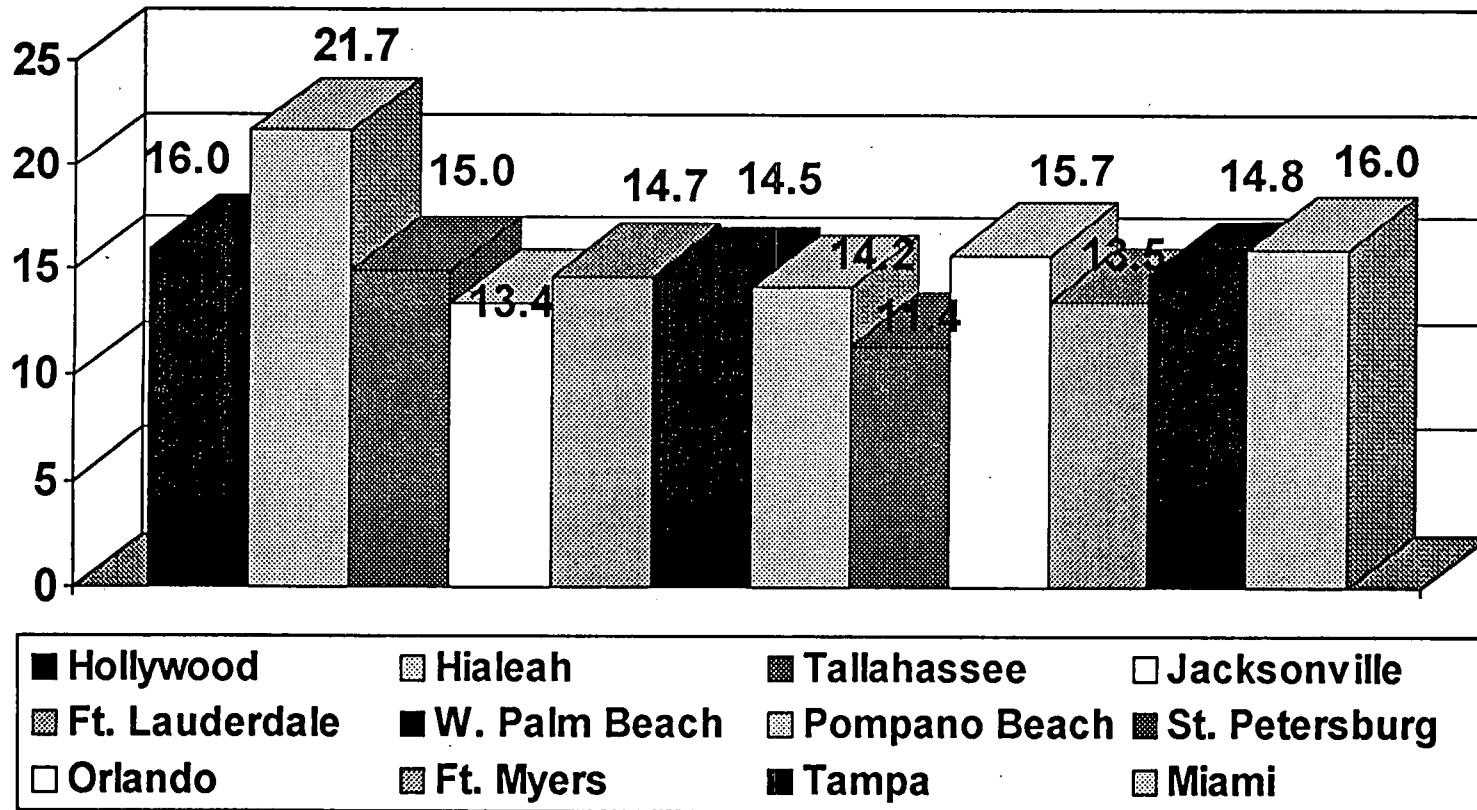


# Figure A7: Mean Fear of Violent Crime by Sex and Race

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# Figure A8: Mean Fear of Violent Crime by City



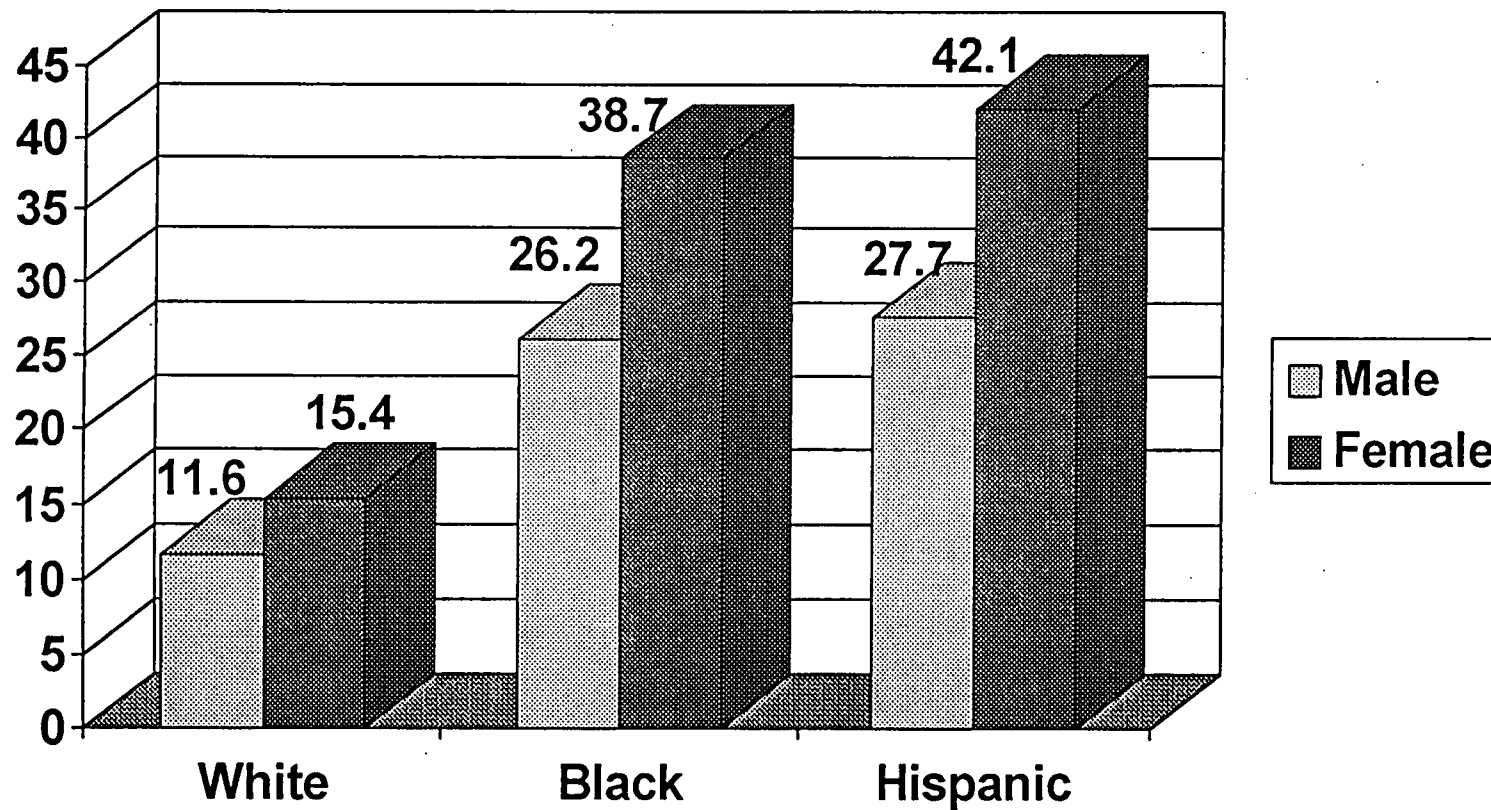
## **Appendix B**

### **Perceived Risk of Criminal Victimization**

**Selected Figures from survey findings**

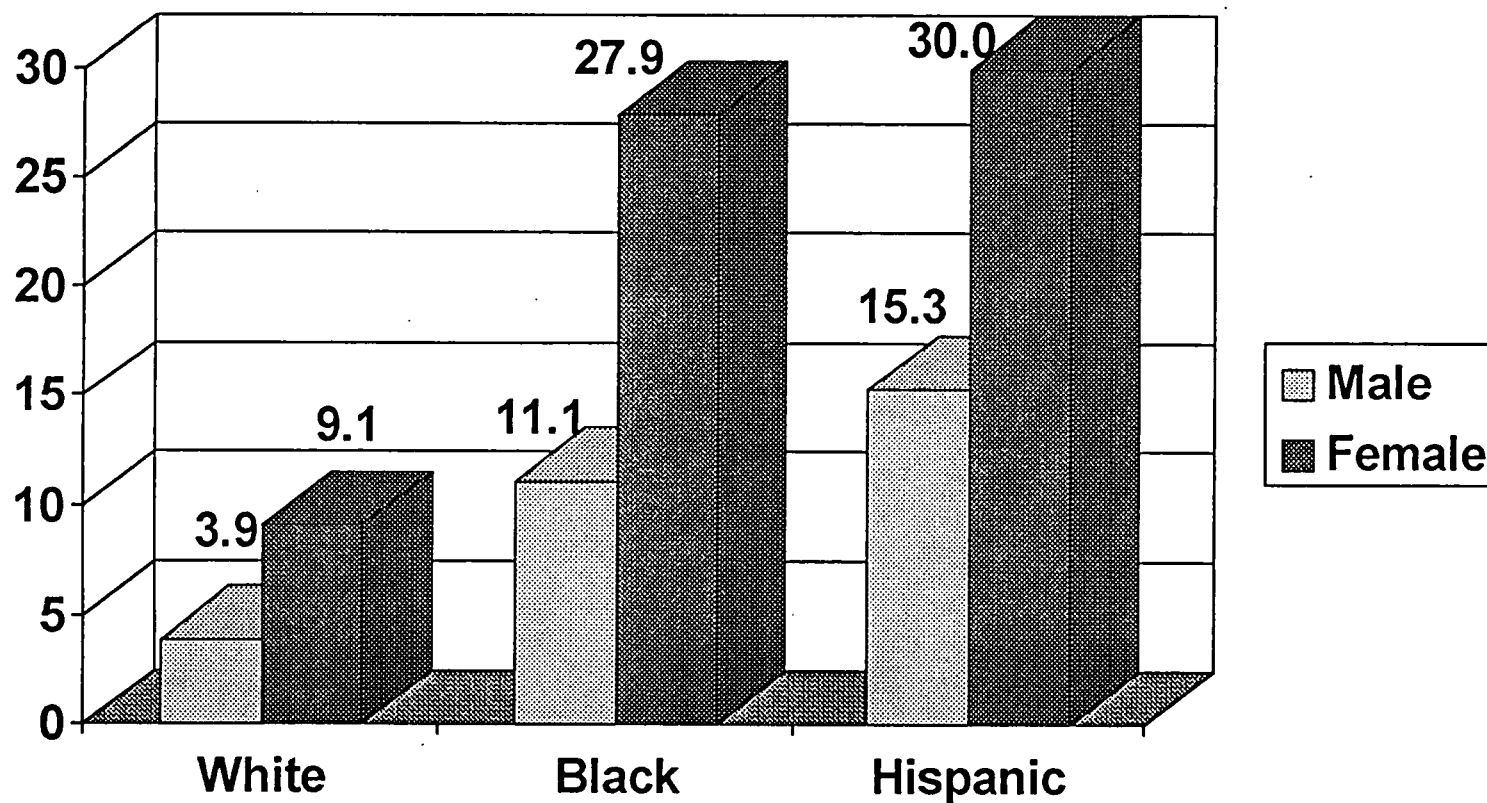
# Figure B1: Risk of Burglary while Away Pct. “Likely” by Sex & Race

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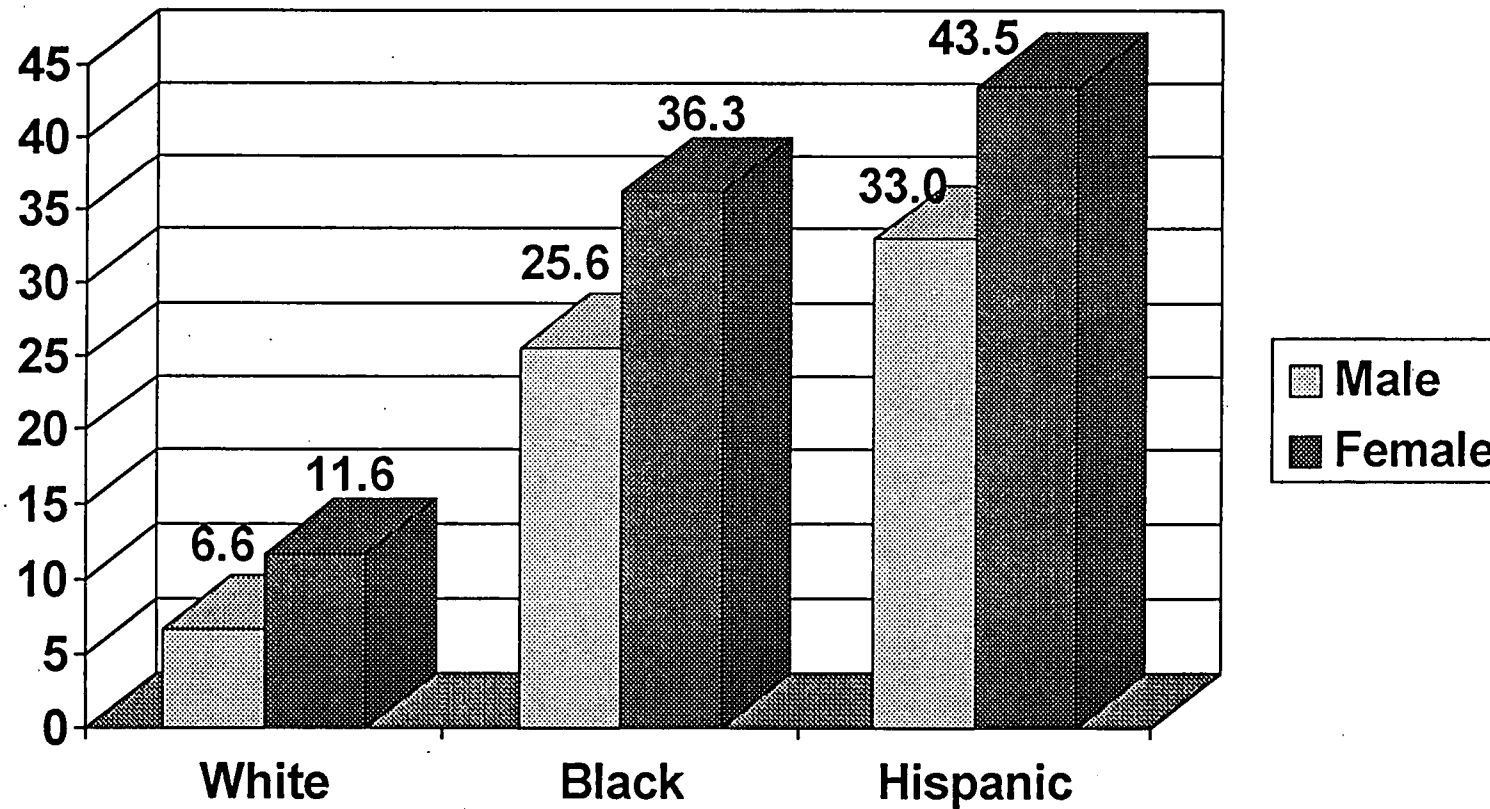
# Figure B2: Risk of Burglary while Home Pct. “Likely” by Sex & Race

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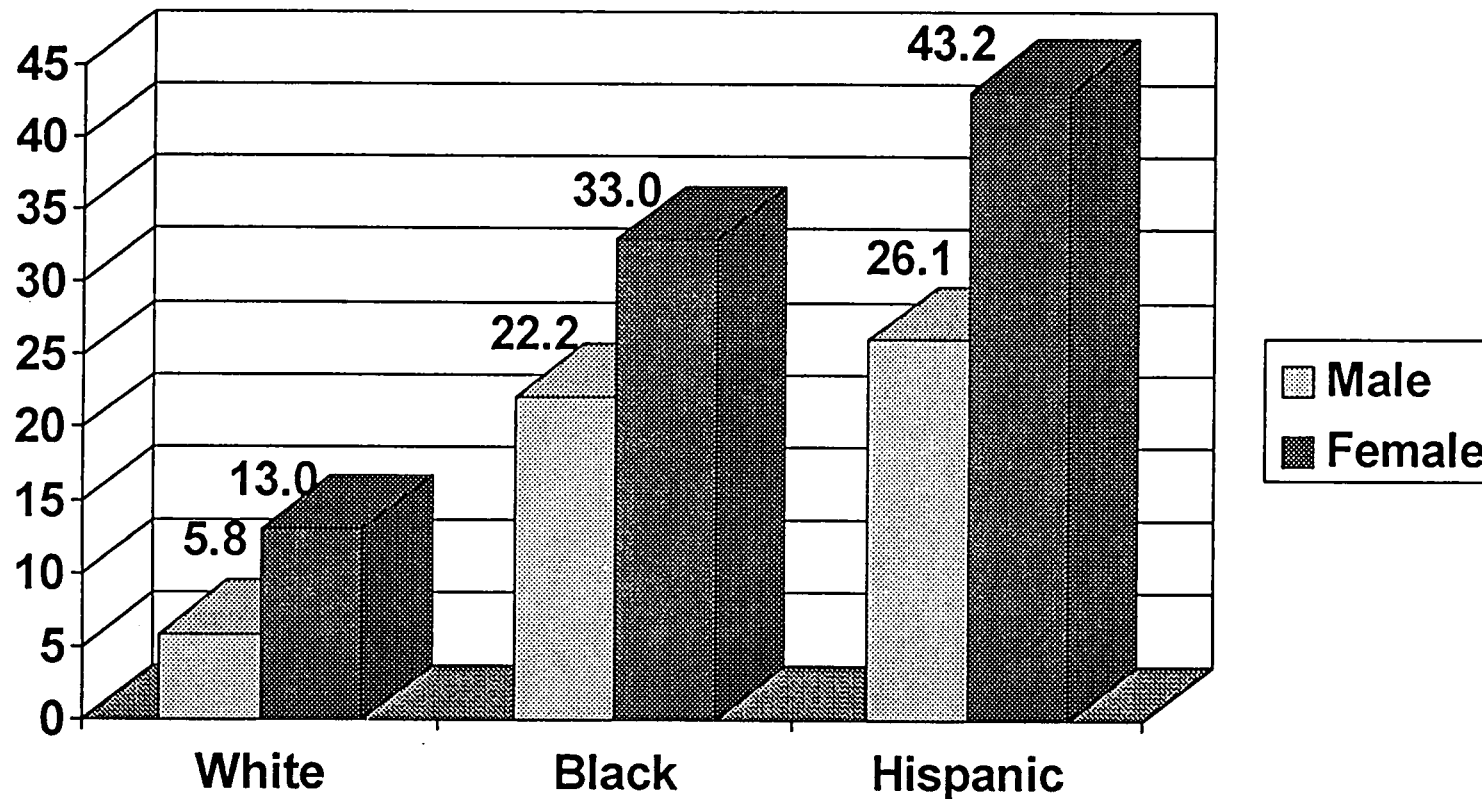
# Figure B3: Risk of Auto Theft Pct. “Likely” by Sex & Race

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# Figure B4: Risk of Being Robbed/ Mugged Pct. “Likely” by Sex & Race

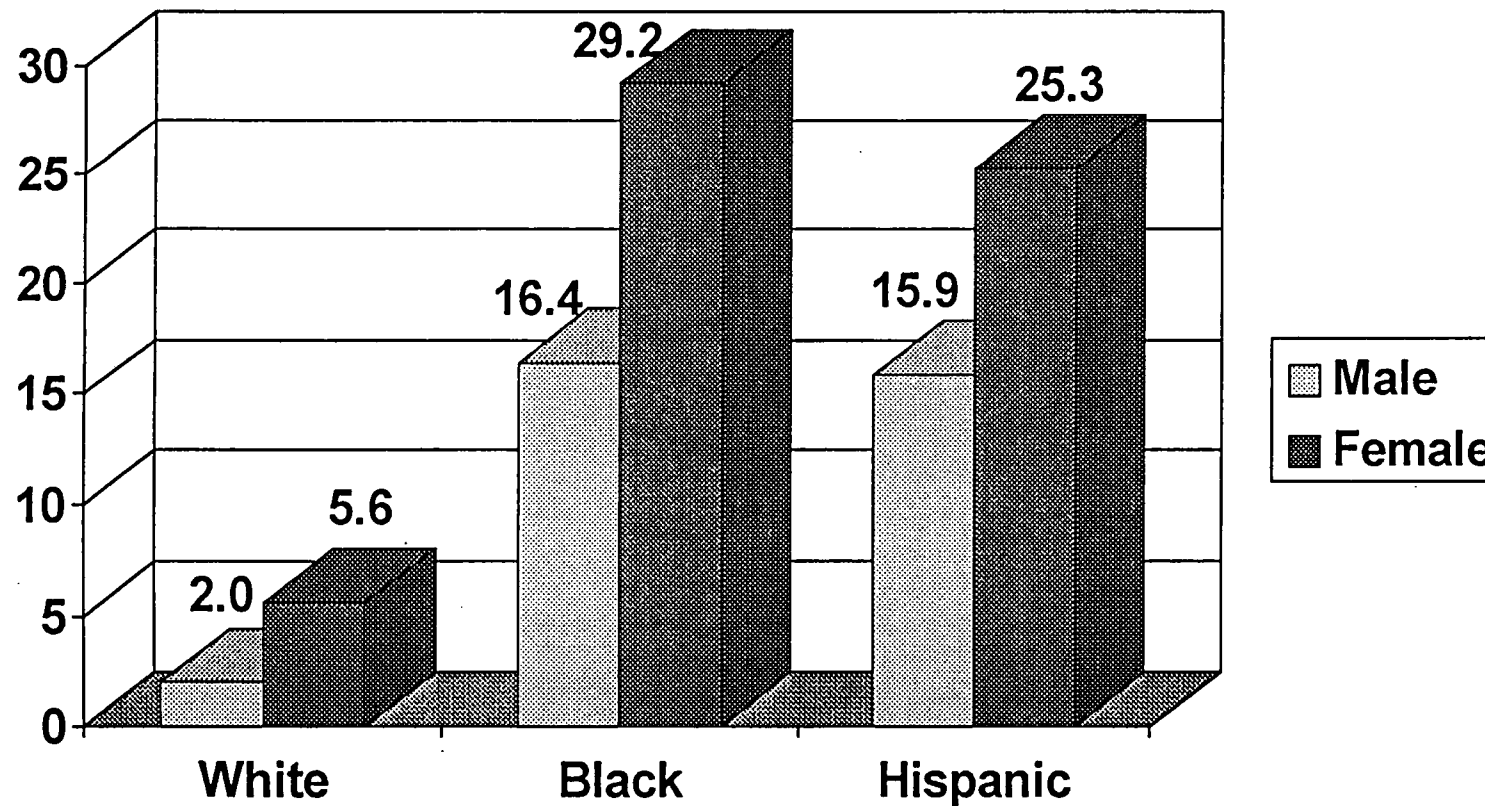
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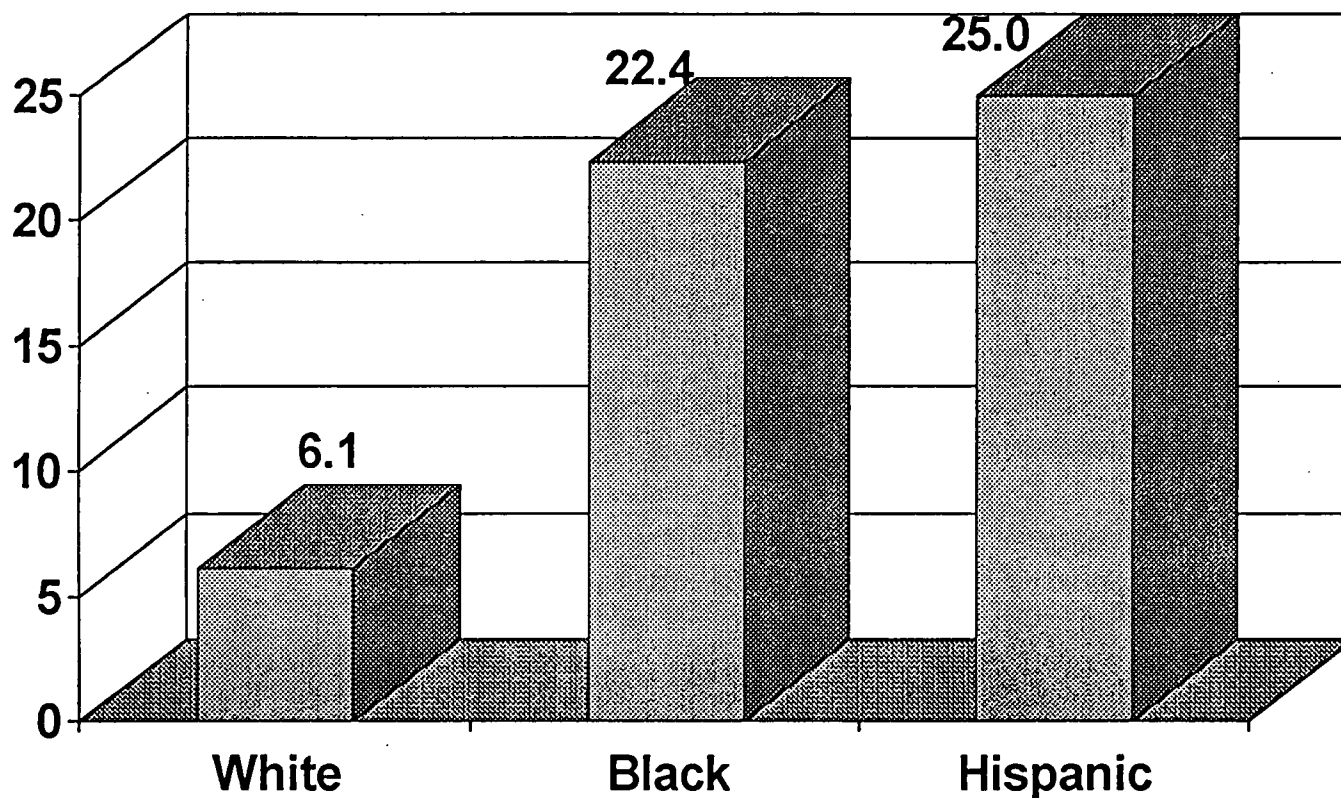
# Figure B5: Risk of Being Murdered Pct. “Likely” by Sex & Race

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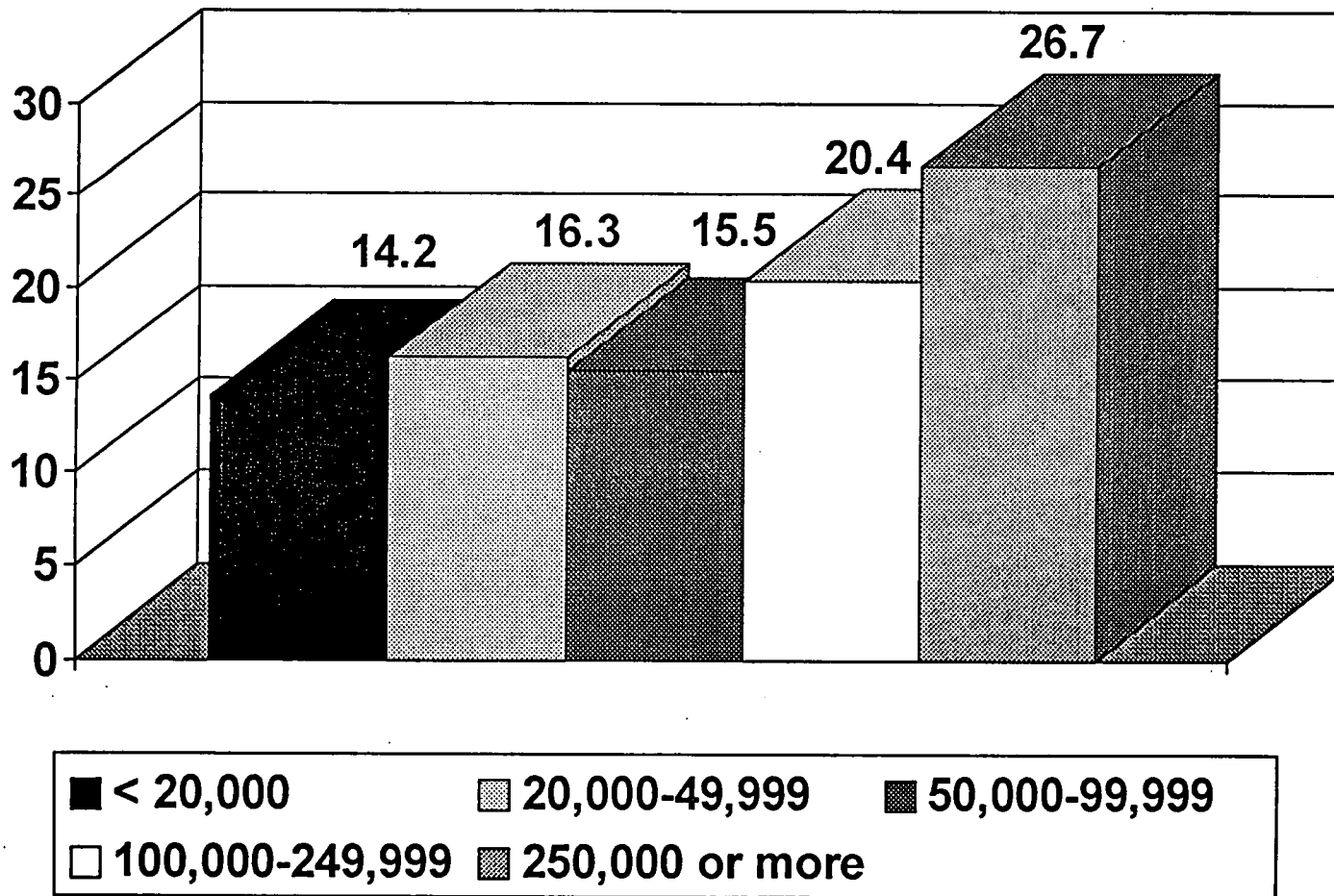
# Figure B6: Female Risk of Sexual Assault Percent “Likely” by Race

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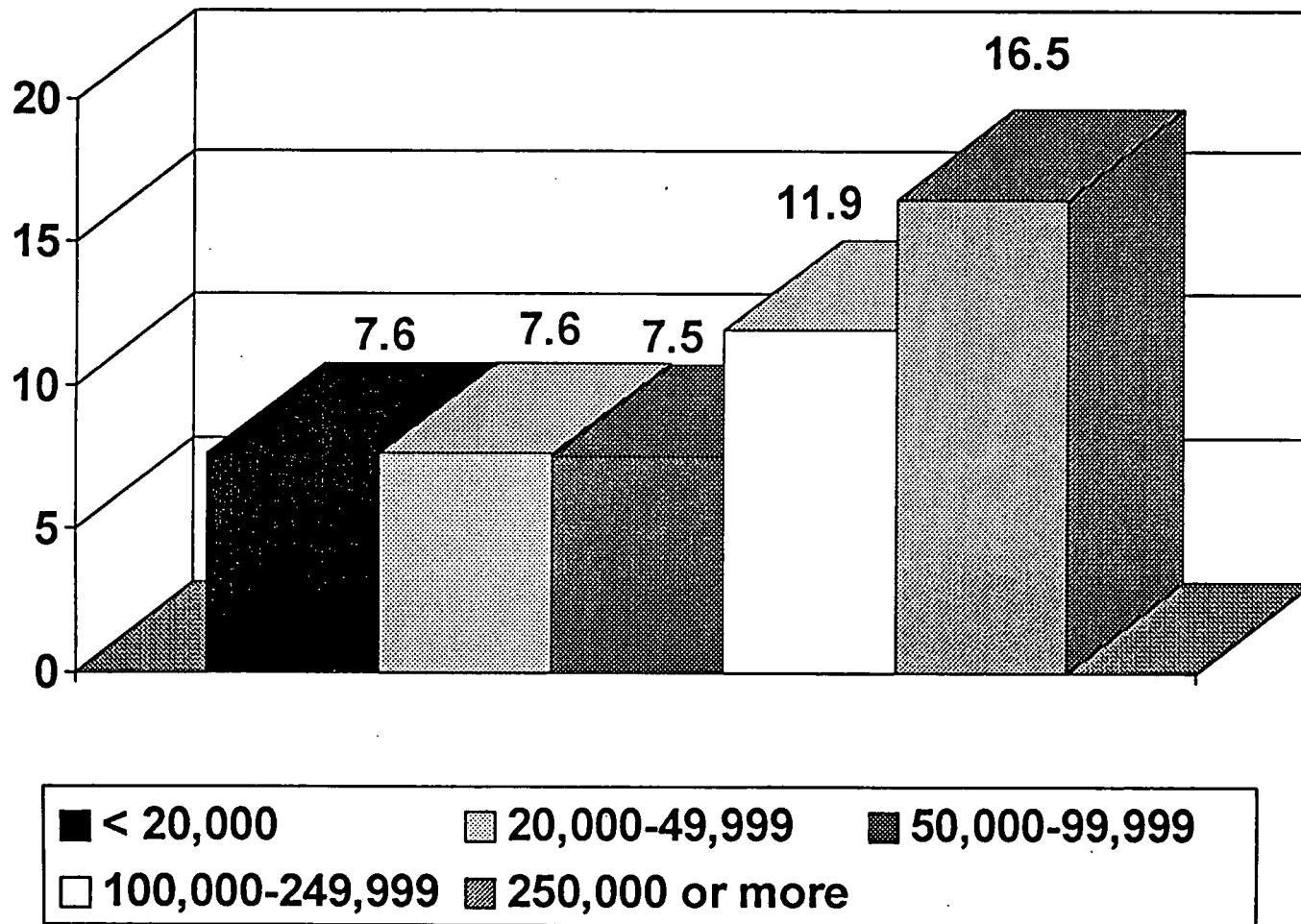
# Figure B7: Risk of Burglary while Away Pct. "Likely" by City Population

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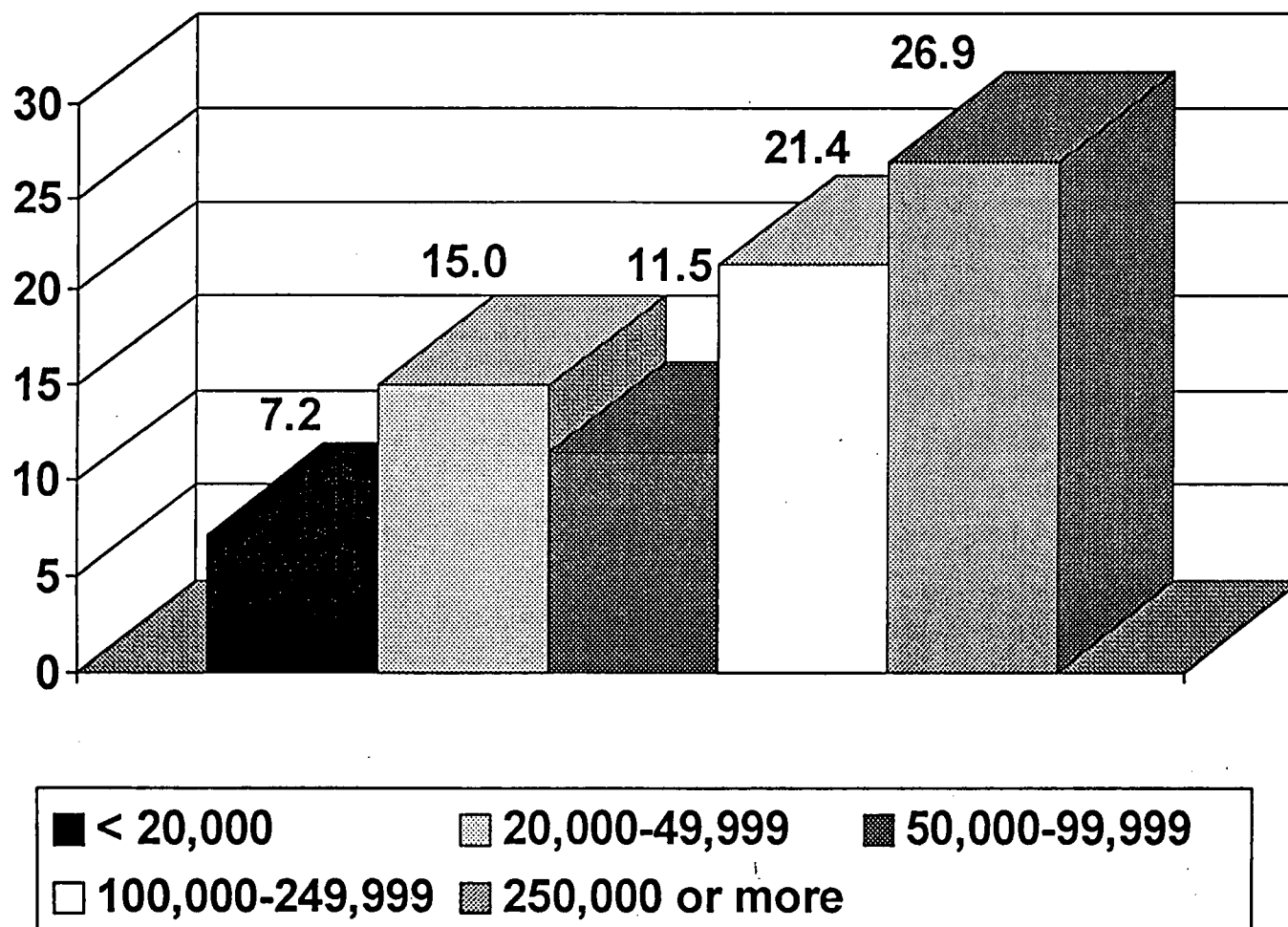
# Figure B8: Risk of Burglary while Home Pct. "Likely" by City Population

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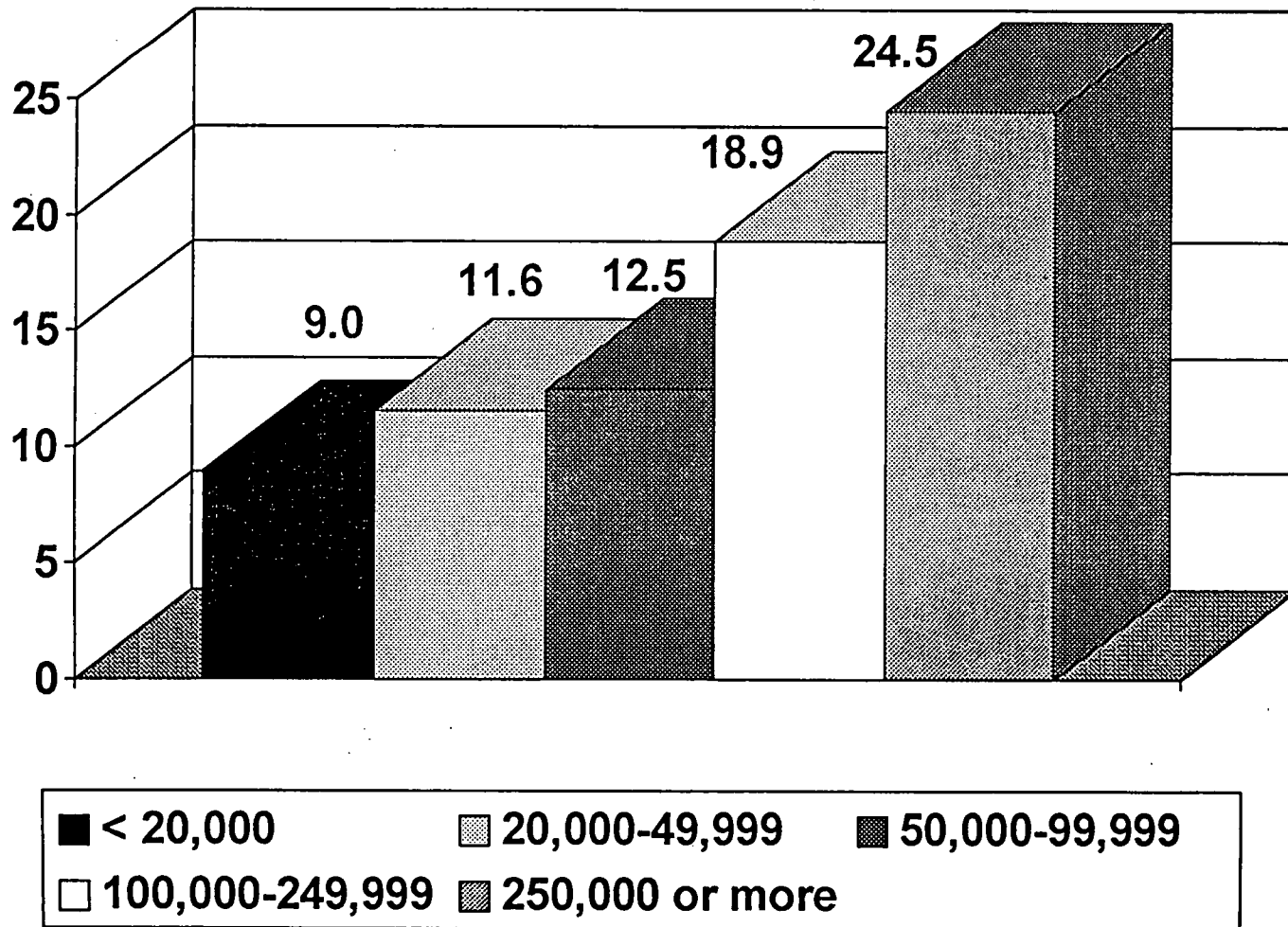
# Figure B9: Risk of Auto Theft Pct. “Likely” by City Population

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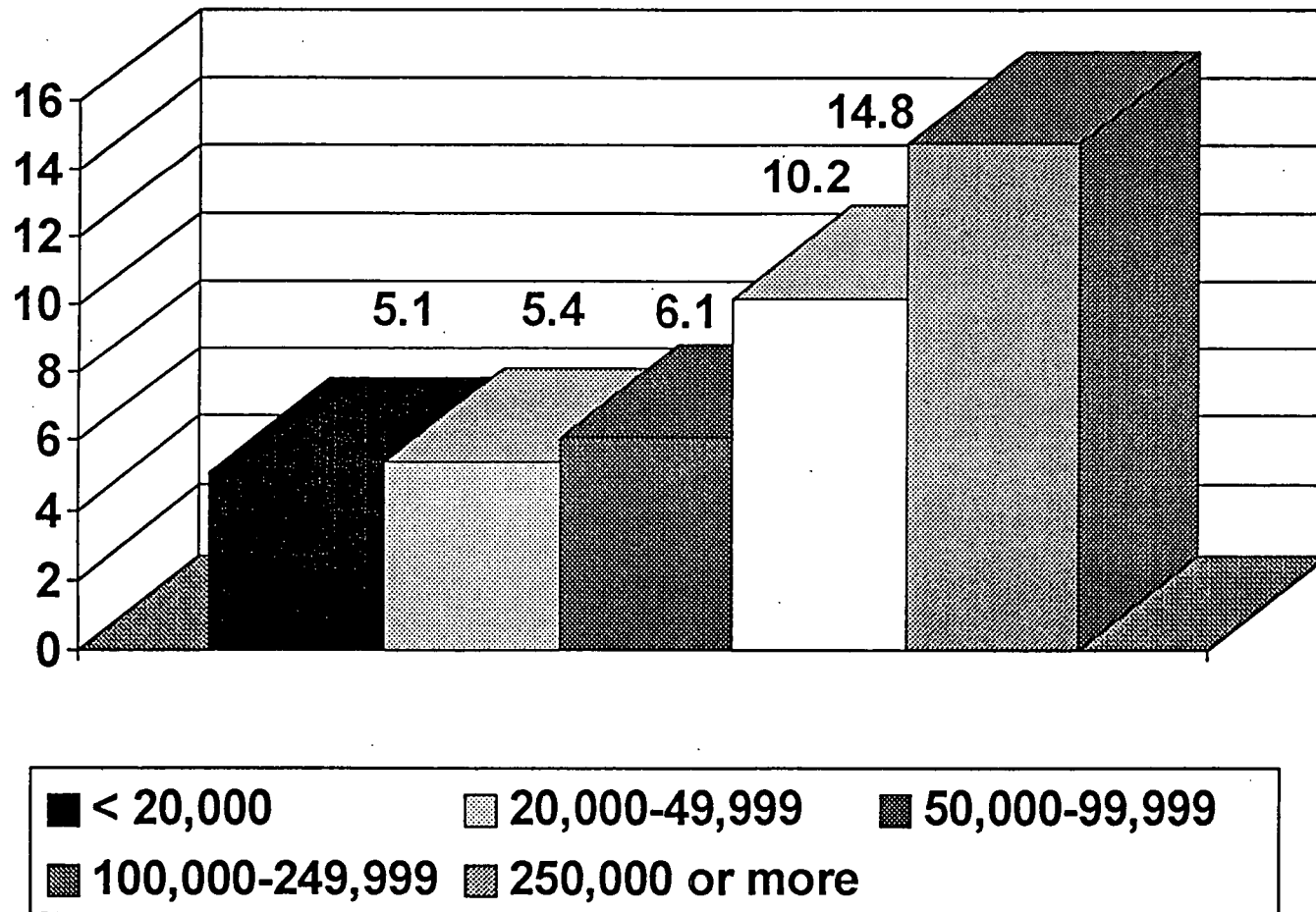
# Figure B10: Risk of being Mugged Pct. “Likely” by City Population

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# Figure B11: Risk of Being Murdered Pct. “Likely” by City Population

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## **Appendix C**

### **Satisfaction With Local Law Enforcement**

**Selected Figures from survey findings**



Figure C1: “Police helpful with problems” Pct. “Agree” by Sex and Race

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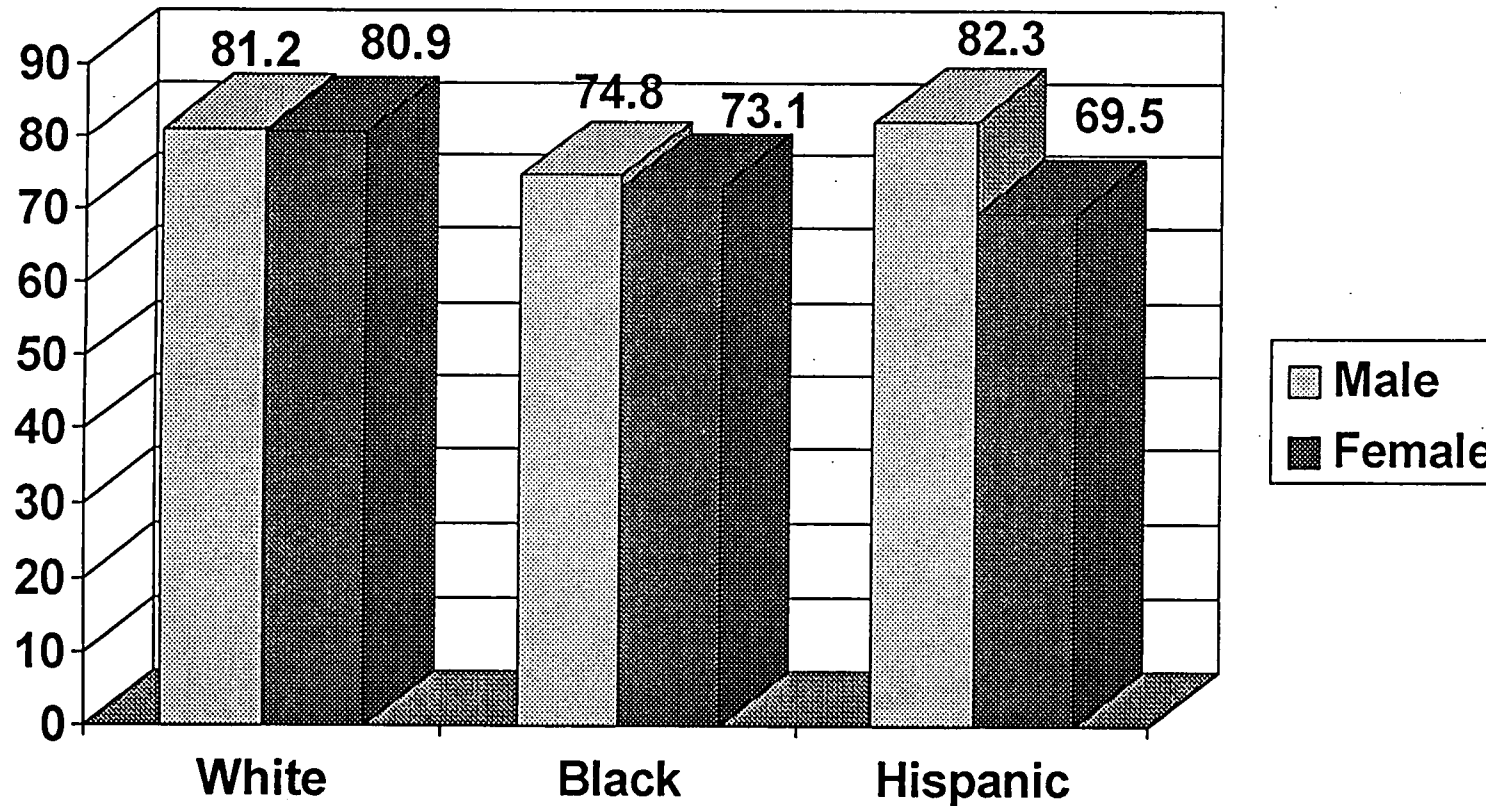


Figure C2: “Satisfied with police protection” Pct. “Agree” by Sex and Race

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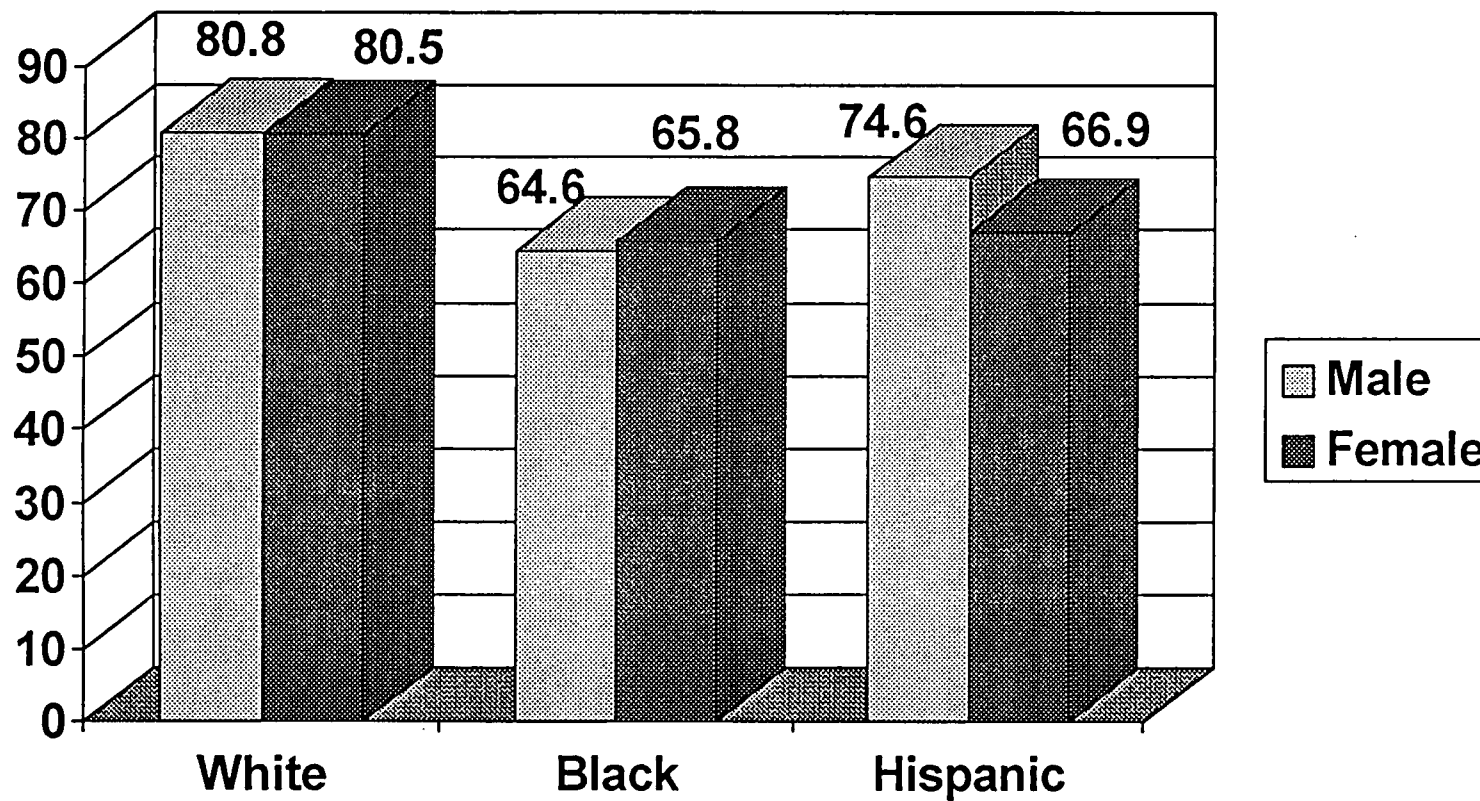


Figure C3: “Police treat everyone the same” Pct. “Agree” by Sex and Race

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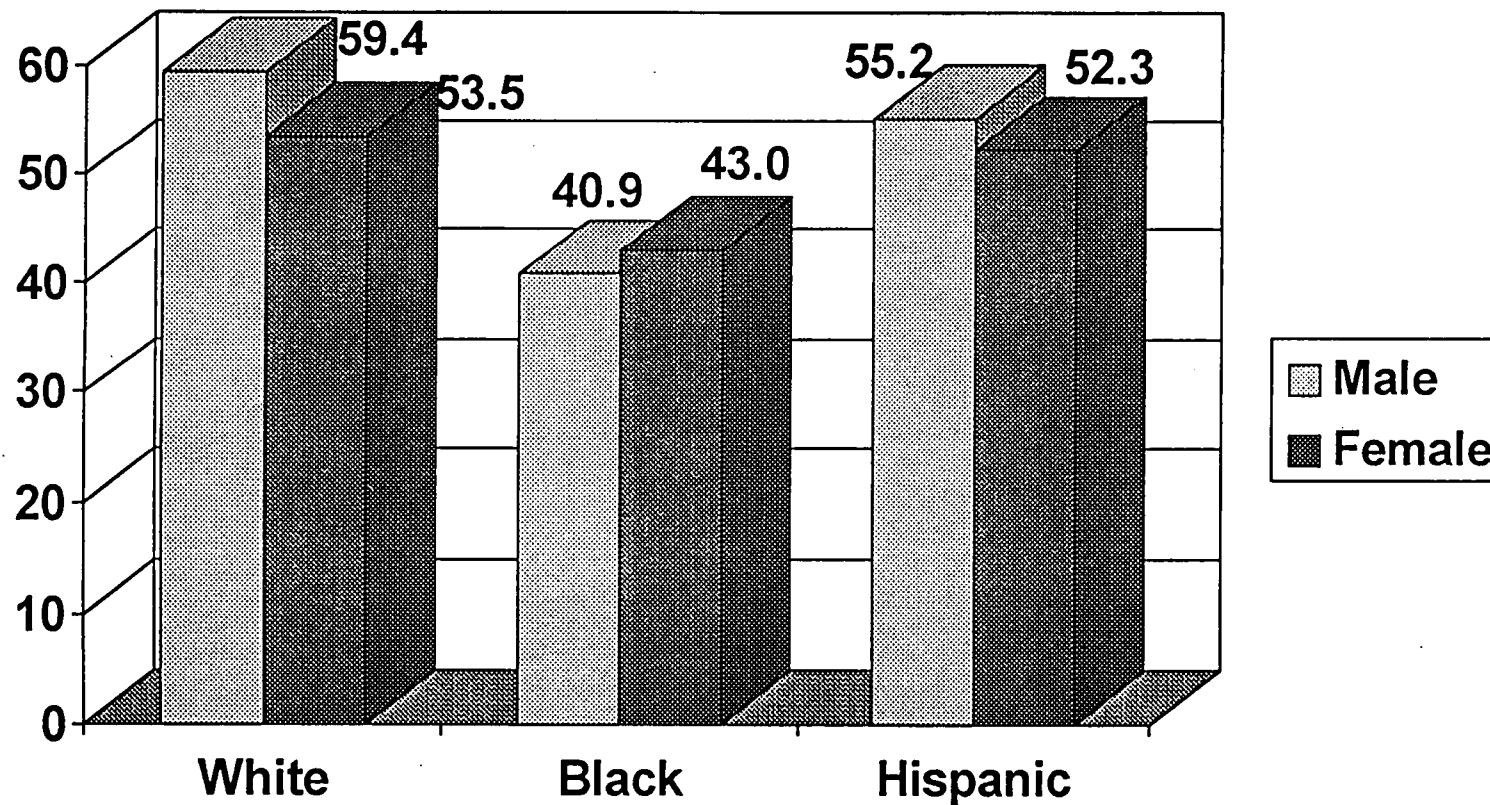


Figure C4: “Seldom see a police officer”  
Pct. “Agree” by Sex and Race

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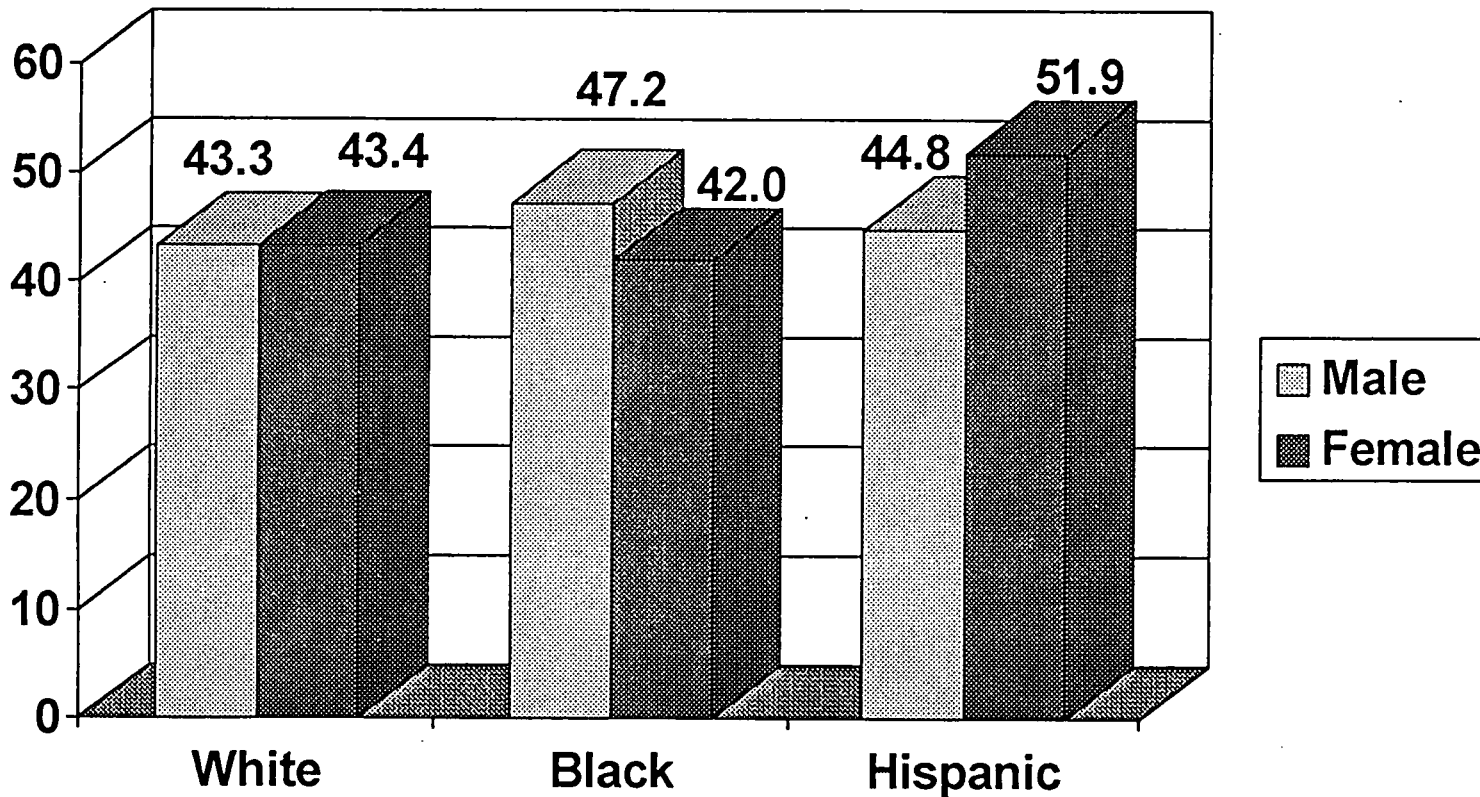
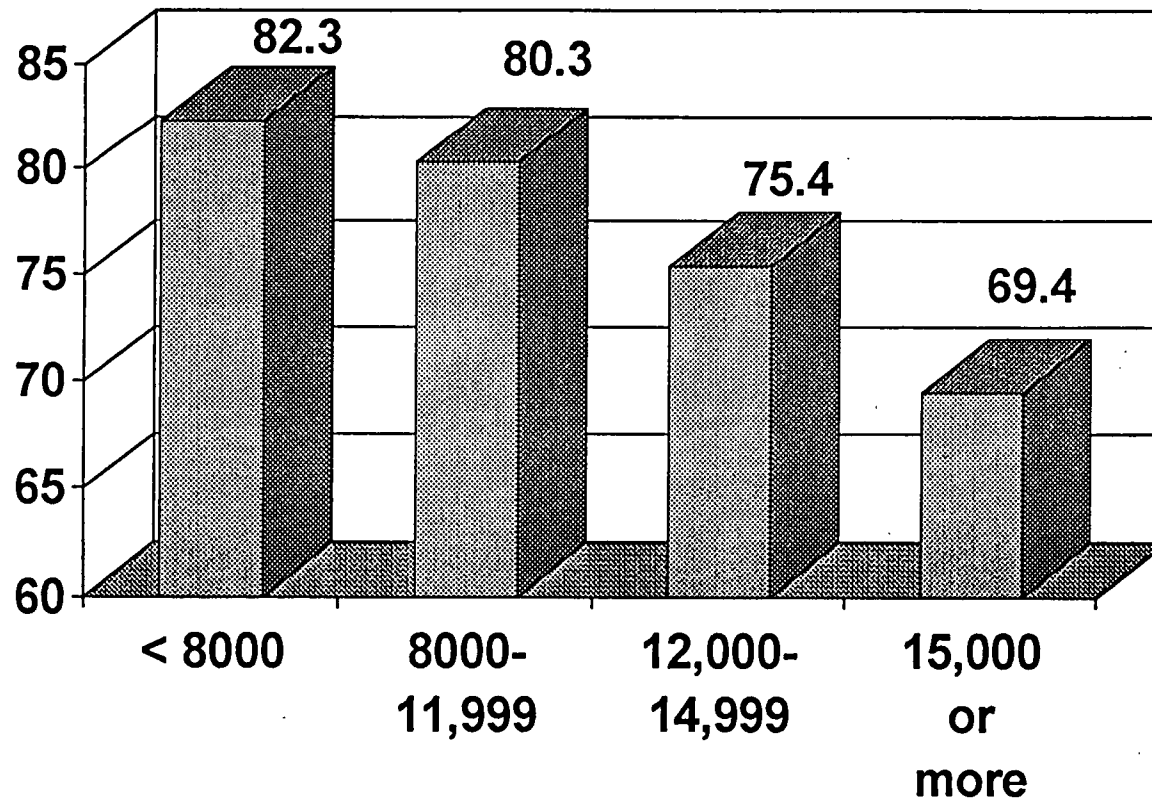


Figure C5: “Satisfied with police protection”  
Pct. “Agree” by City Crime Rate

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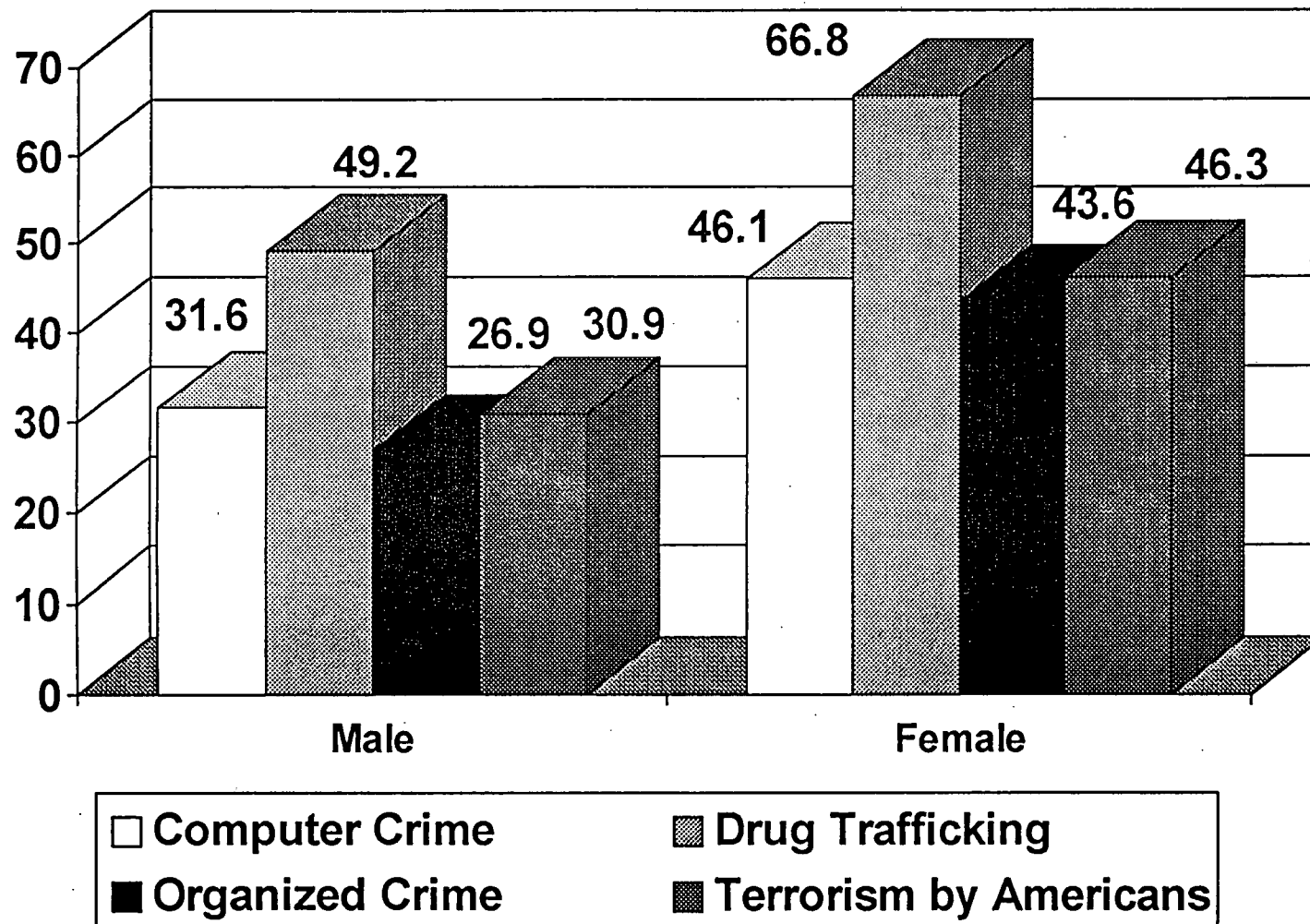
## **Appendix D**

### **Concern About Selected Crimes**

**Selected Figures from survey findings**

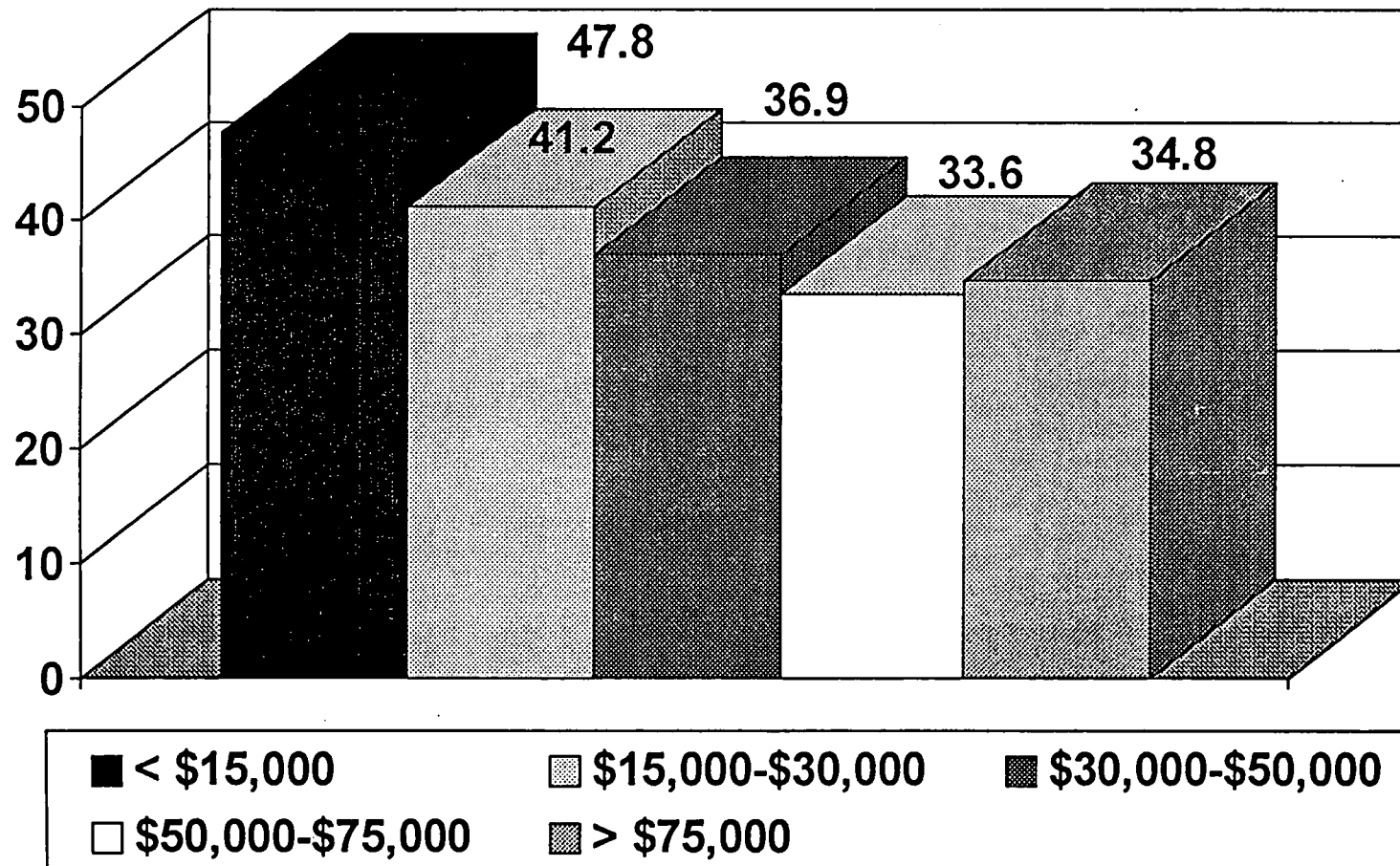
# Figure D1: Percent “High Concern” About Particular Crimes by Sex

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# Figure D2: Pct. “High Concern” About Computer Crime by Income

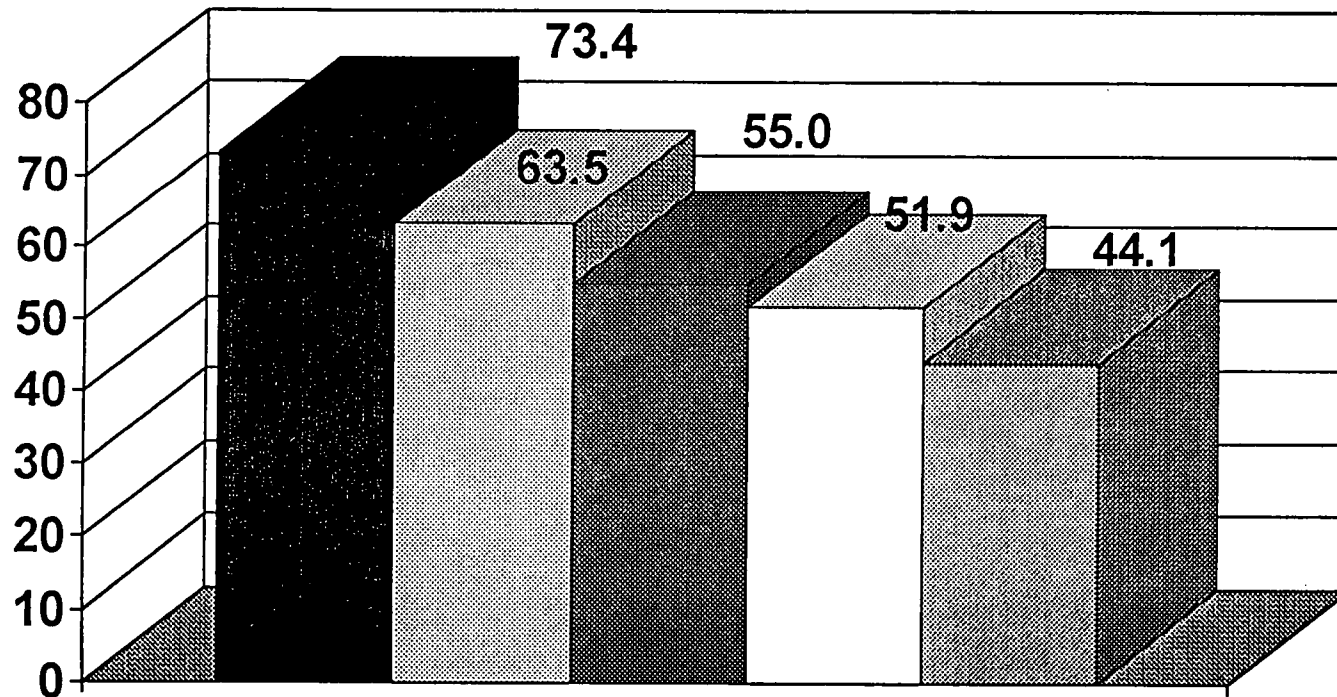
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# Figure D3: Pct. “High Concern” About Drug Trafficking by Income

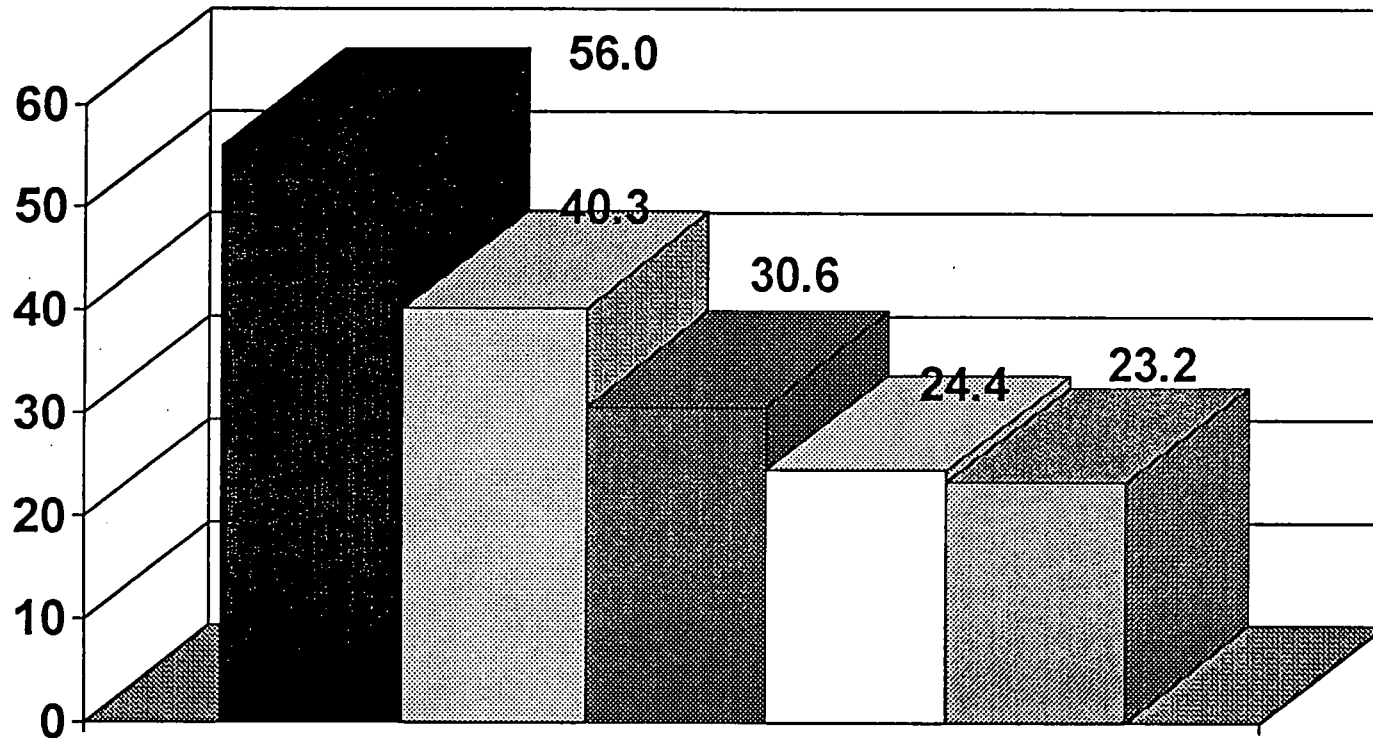
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■ < \$15,000	■ \$15,000-\$30,000	■ \$30,000-\$50,000
□ \$50,000-\$75,000	■ > \$75,000	

# Figure D4: Pct. “High Concern” About Organized Crime by Income

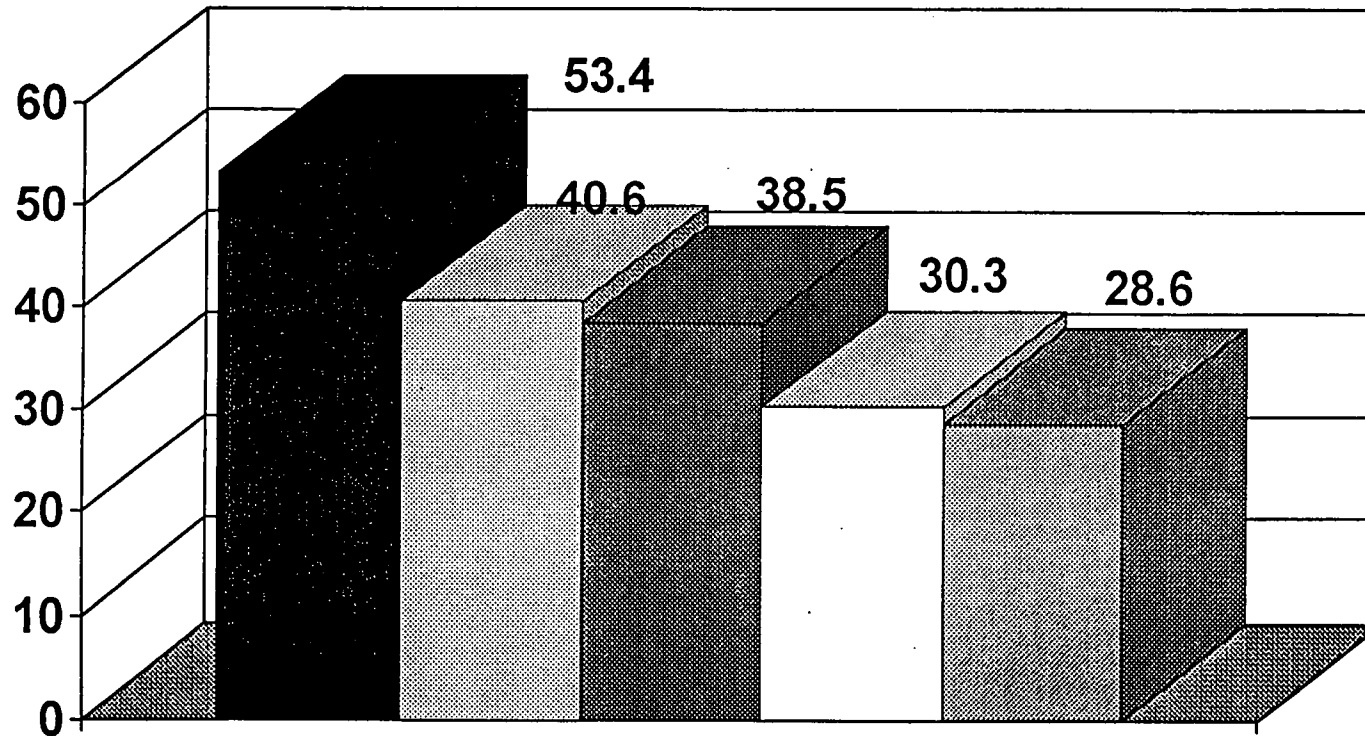
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■ < \$15,000	■ \$15,000-\$30,000	■ \$30,000-\$50,000
□ \$50,000-\$75,000	■ > \$75,000	

# Figure D5: Pct. “High Concern” About Domestic Terrorism by Income

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■ < \$15,000

▤ \$15,000-\$30,000

■ \$30,000-\$50,000

□ \$50,000-\$75,000

▥ > \$75,000

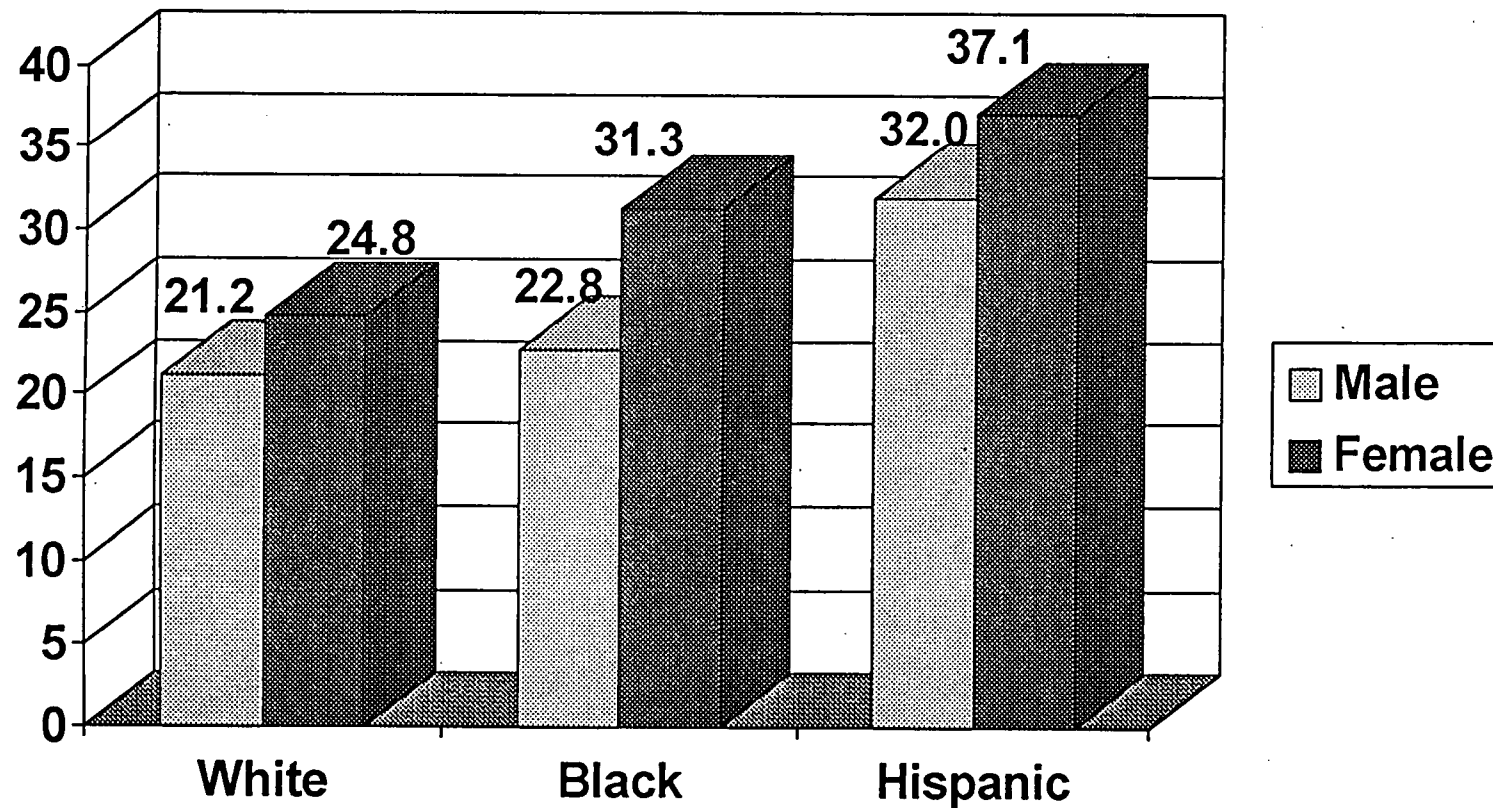
## **Appendix E**

### **Worry About One's Own Children**

**Selected Figures from survey findings**

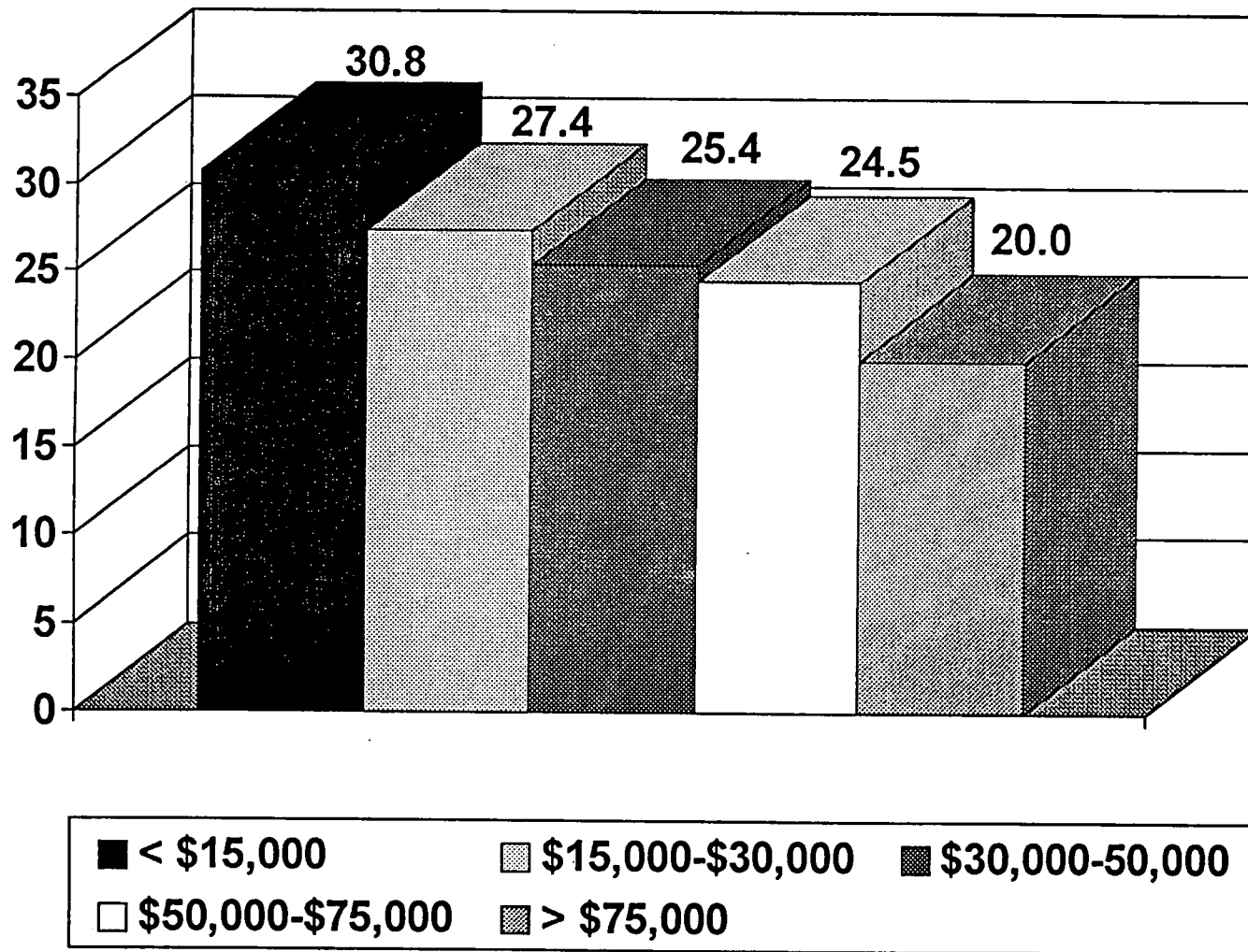
# Figure E1: Mean “Child Worry” by Sex and Race

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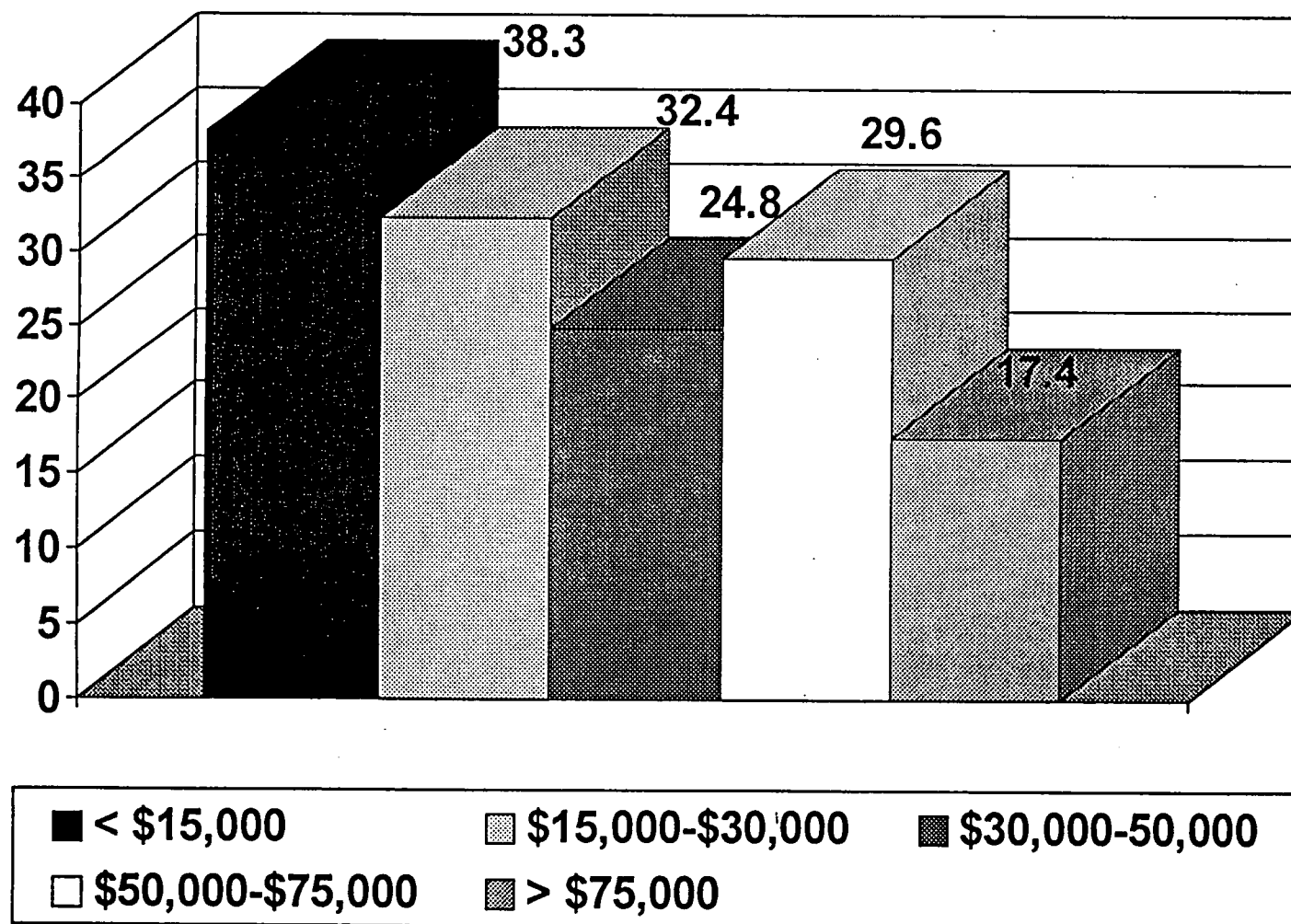
# Figure E2: Mean “Child Worry” by Income

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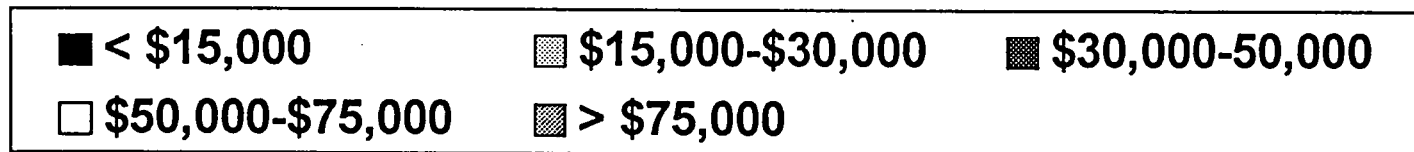
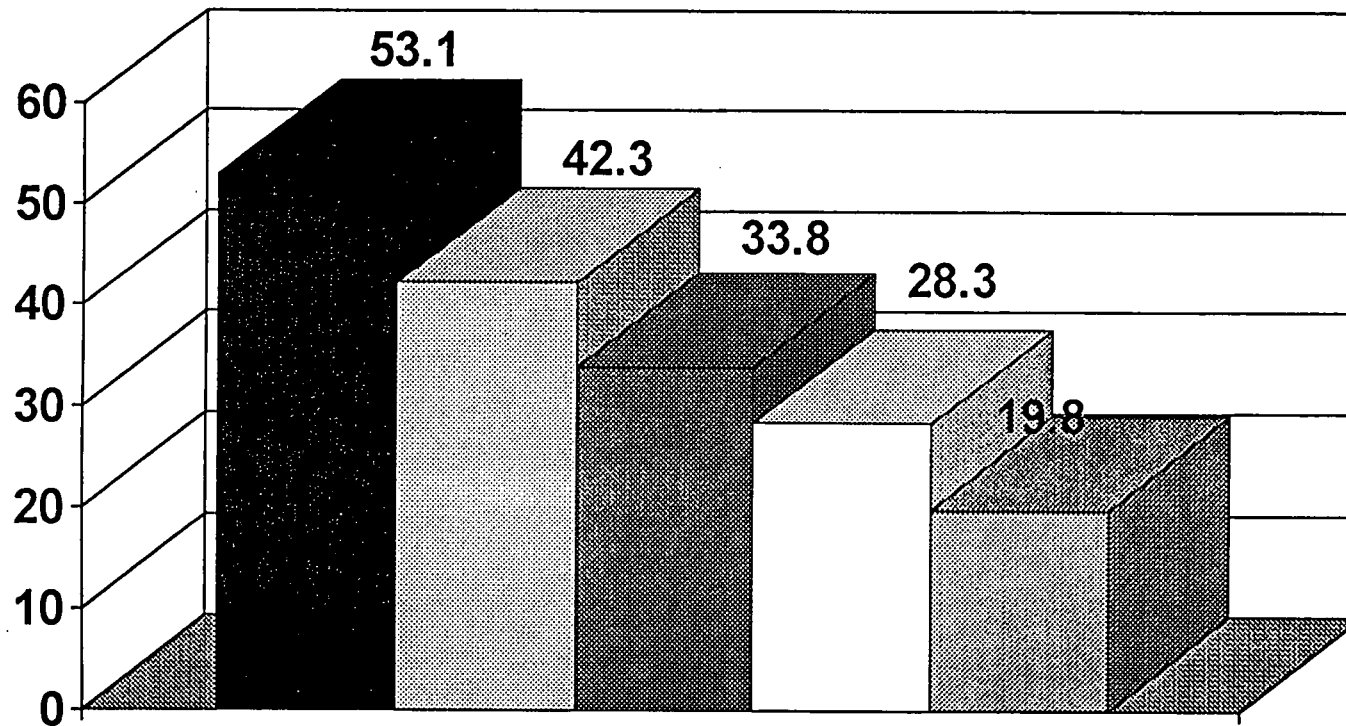
# Figure E3: Worry About Child Becoming Addicted to Drugs by Income

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# Figure E4: Worry About Child Being Attacked by Income

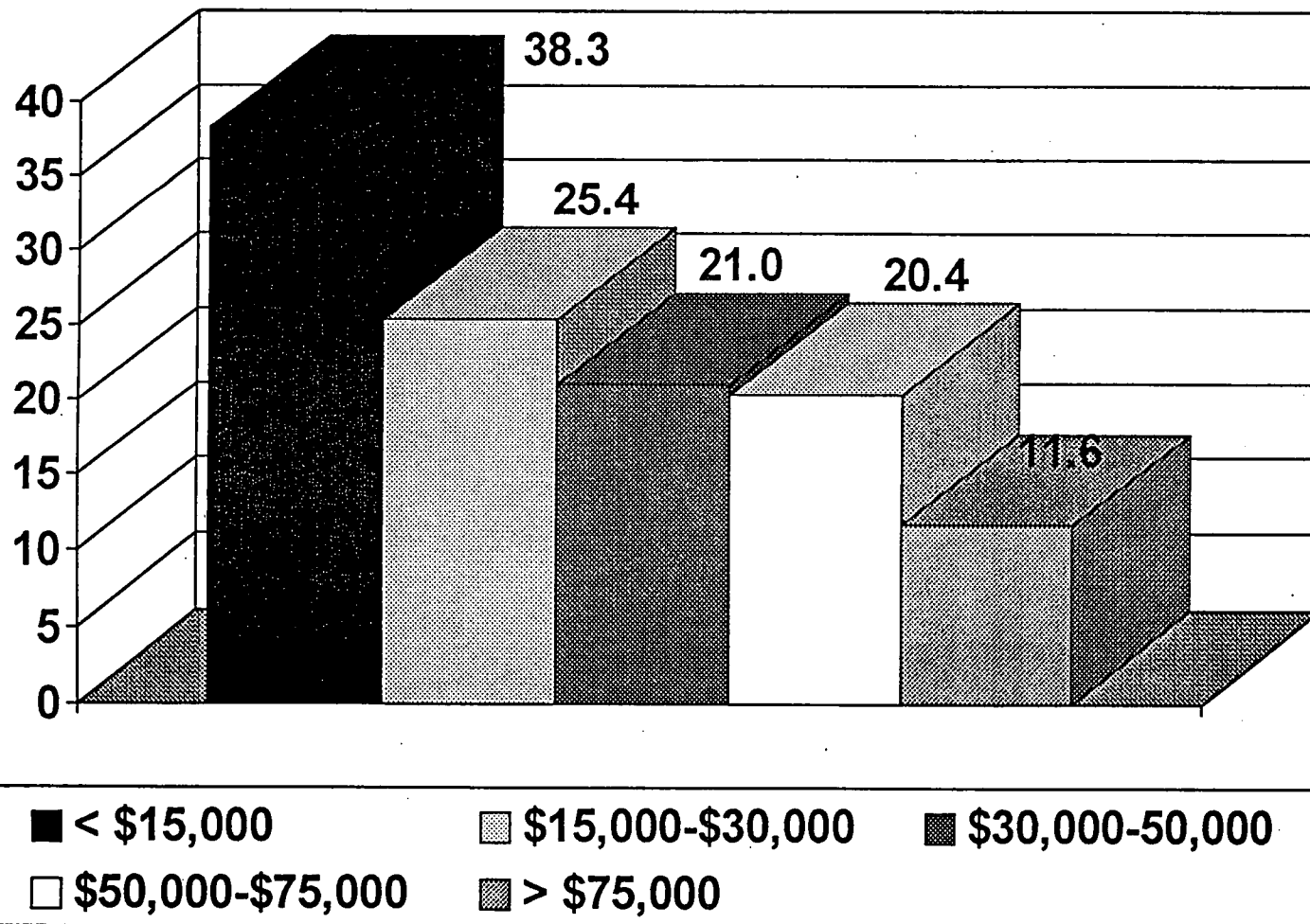
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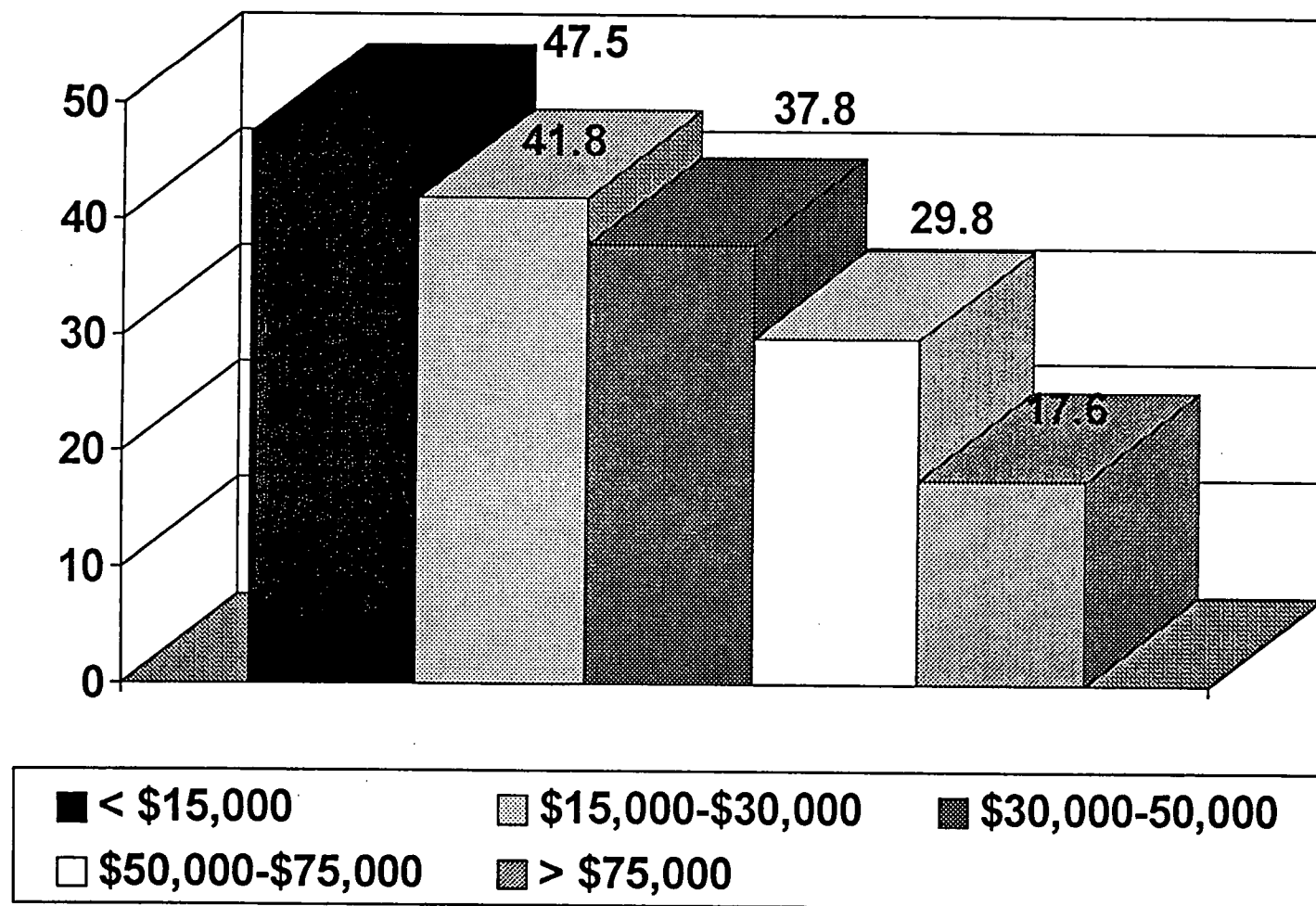
# Figure E5: Worry About Child Joining a Gang by Income

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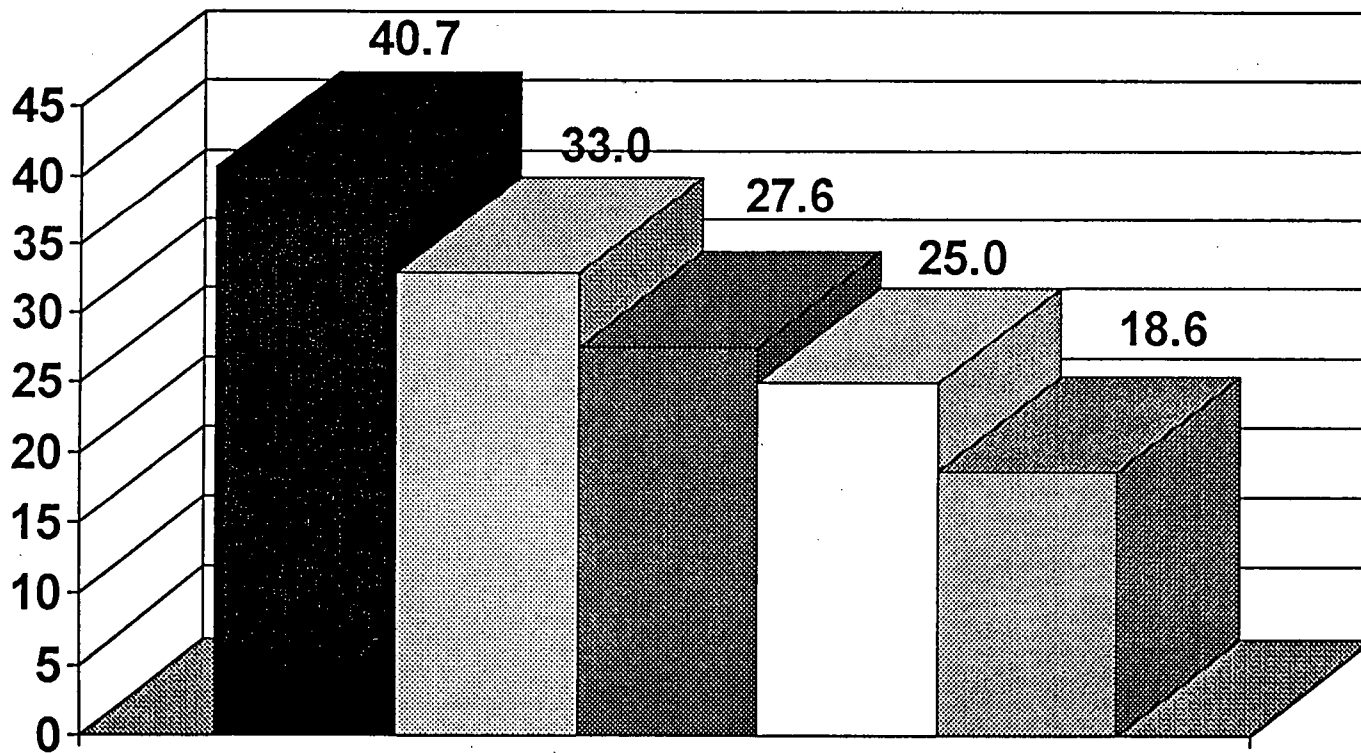
# Figure E6: Worry About Child Being Murdered by Income

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# Figure E7: Worry About Child Being Robbed by Income

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■ < \$15,000

■ \$15,000-\$30,000

■ \$30,000-\$50,000

□ \$50,000-\$75,000

■ > \$75,000

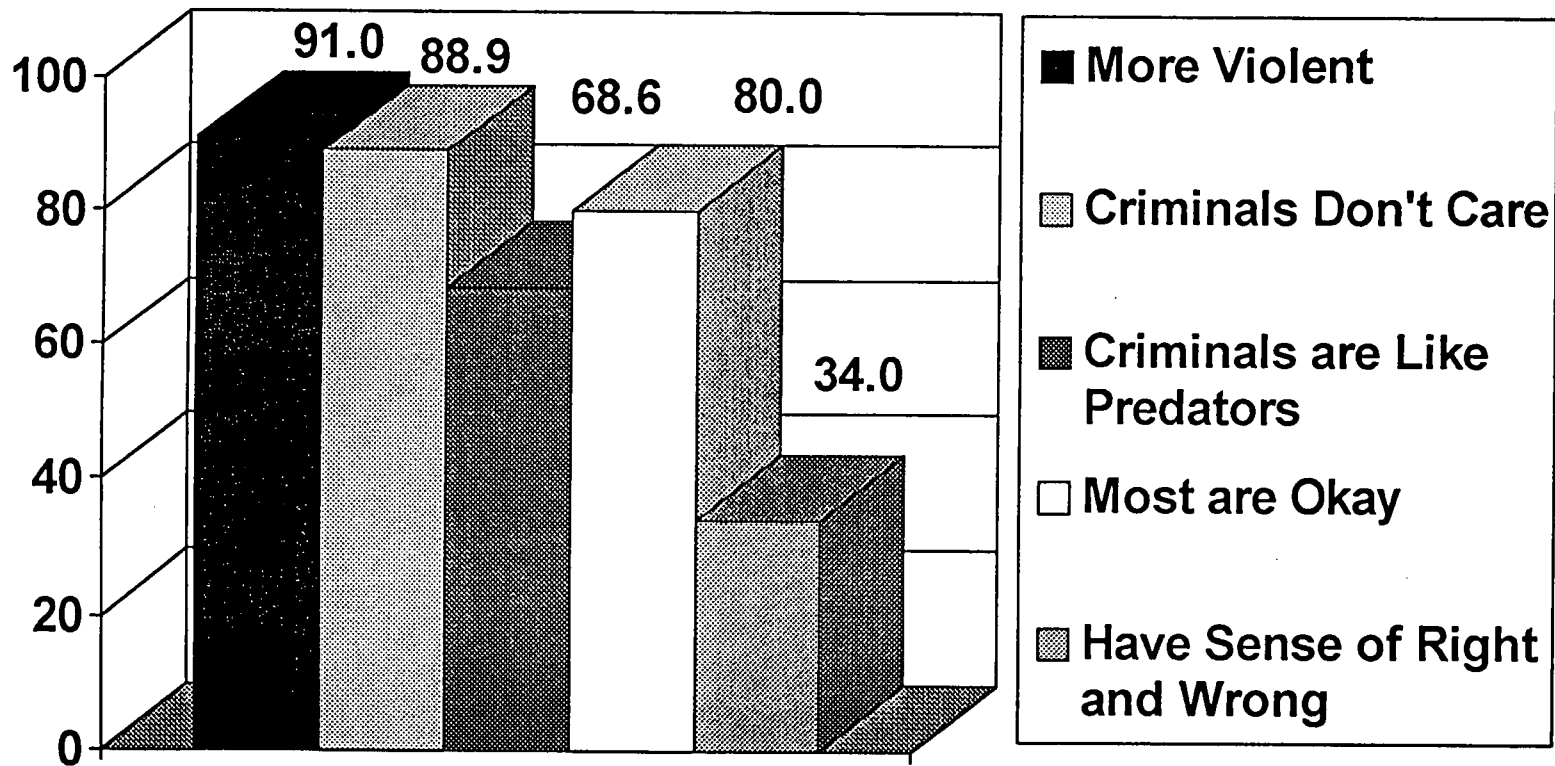
## **Appendix F**

### **Perceptions of Teenagers and Teenage Criminals**

**Selected Figures from survey findings**

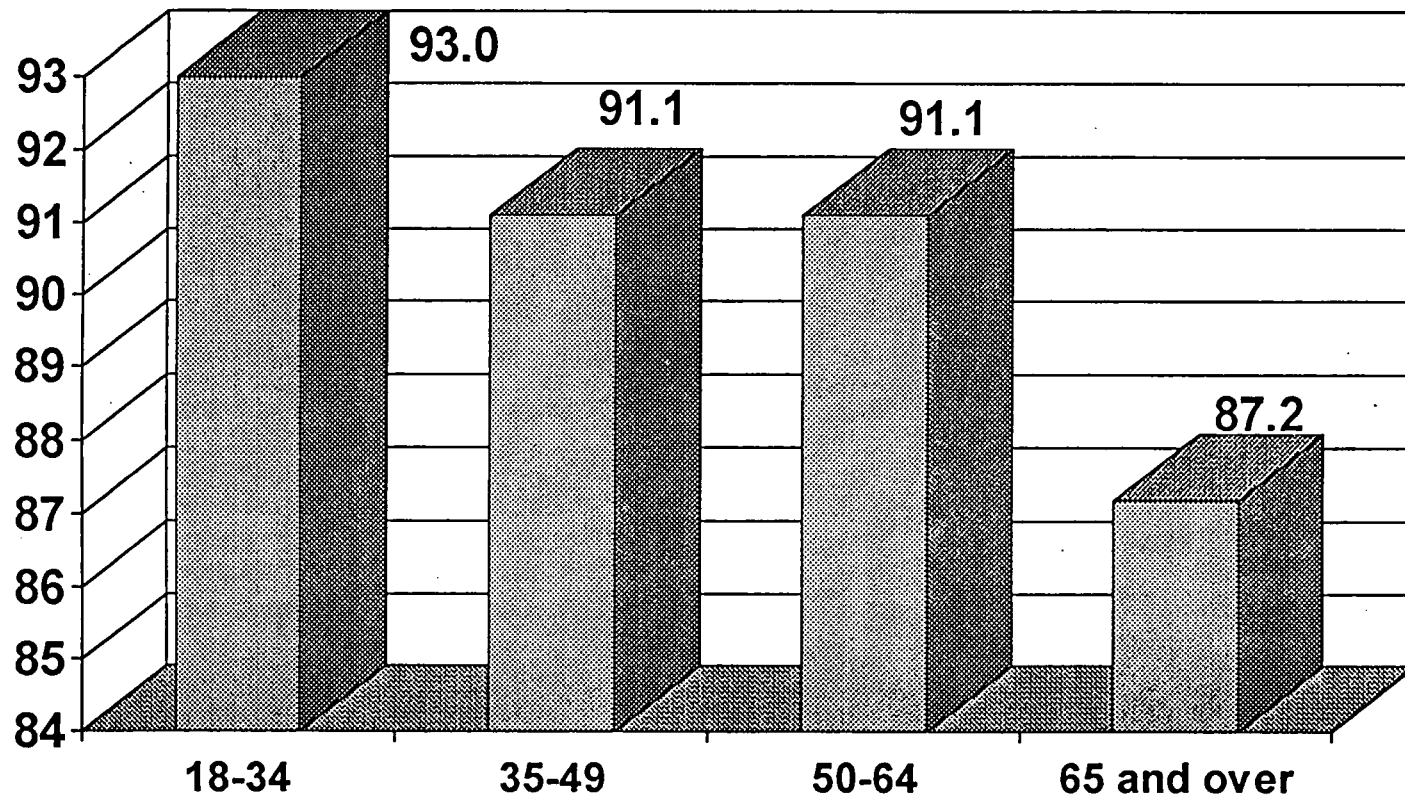
# Figure F1: Opinions of Teenagers, Percent “Agree”

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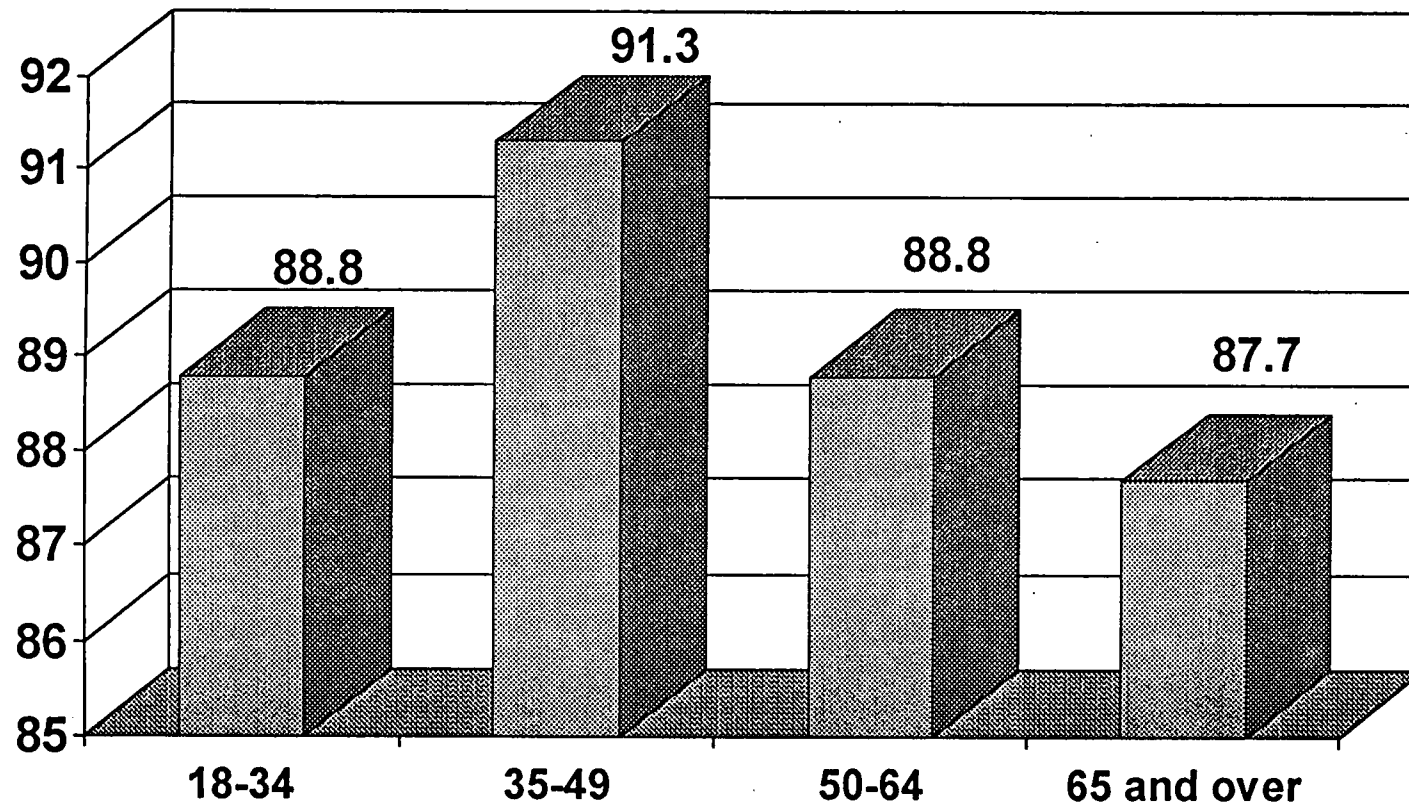
# Figure F2: Teenagers “More Violent” Percent “Agree” by Age

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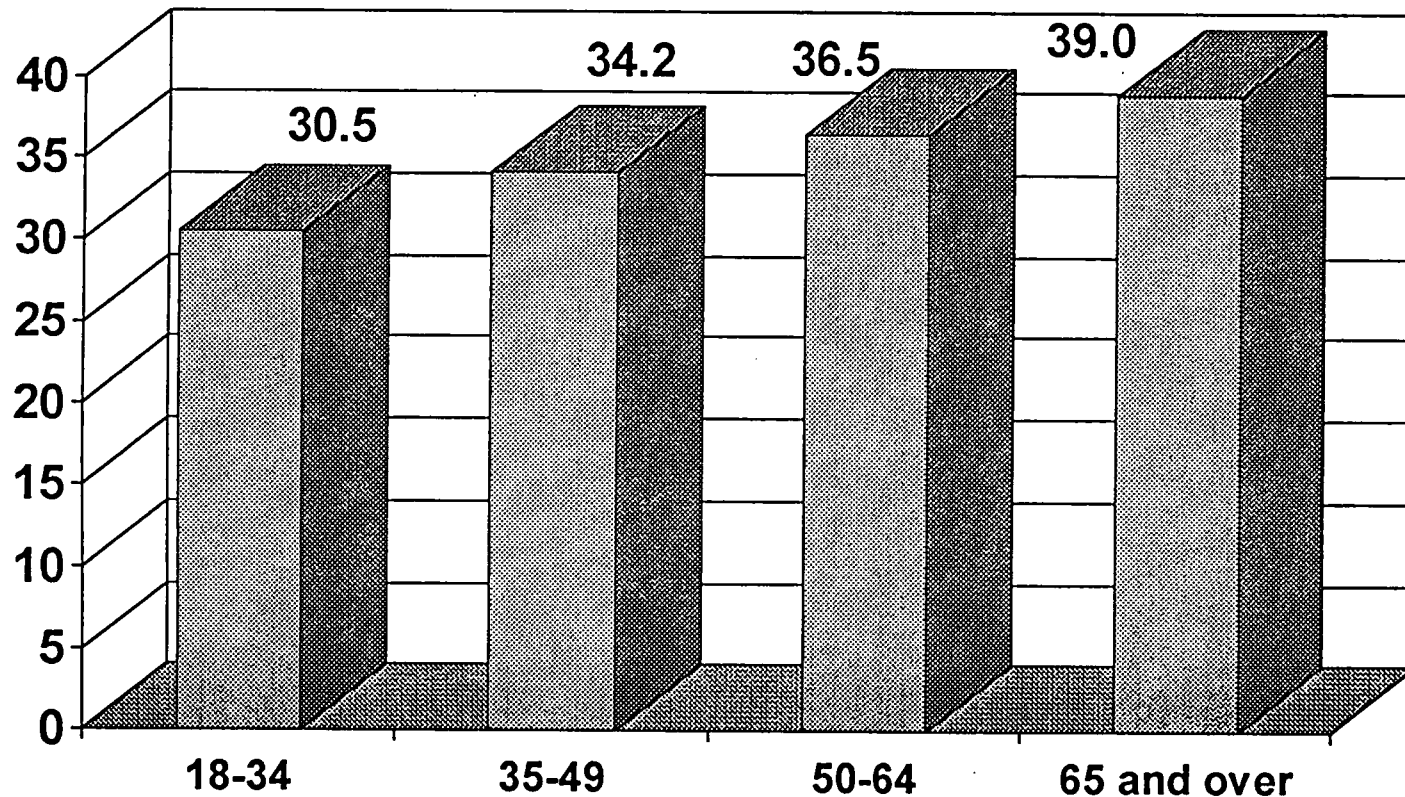
# Figure F3: Teen Criminals “Don’t Care” Percent “Agree” by Age

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# Figure F4: “Teenagers Have a Sense of Right and Wrong” by Age

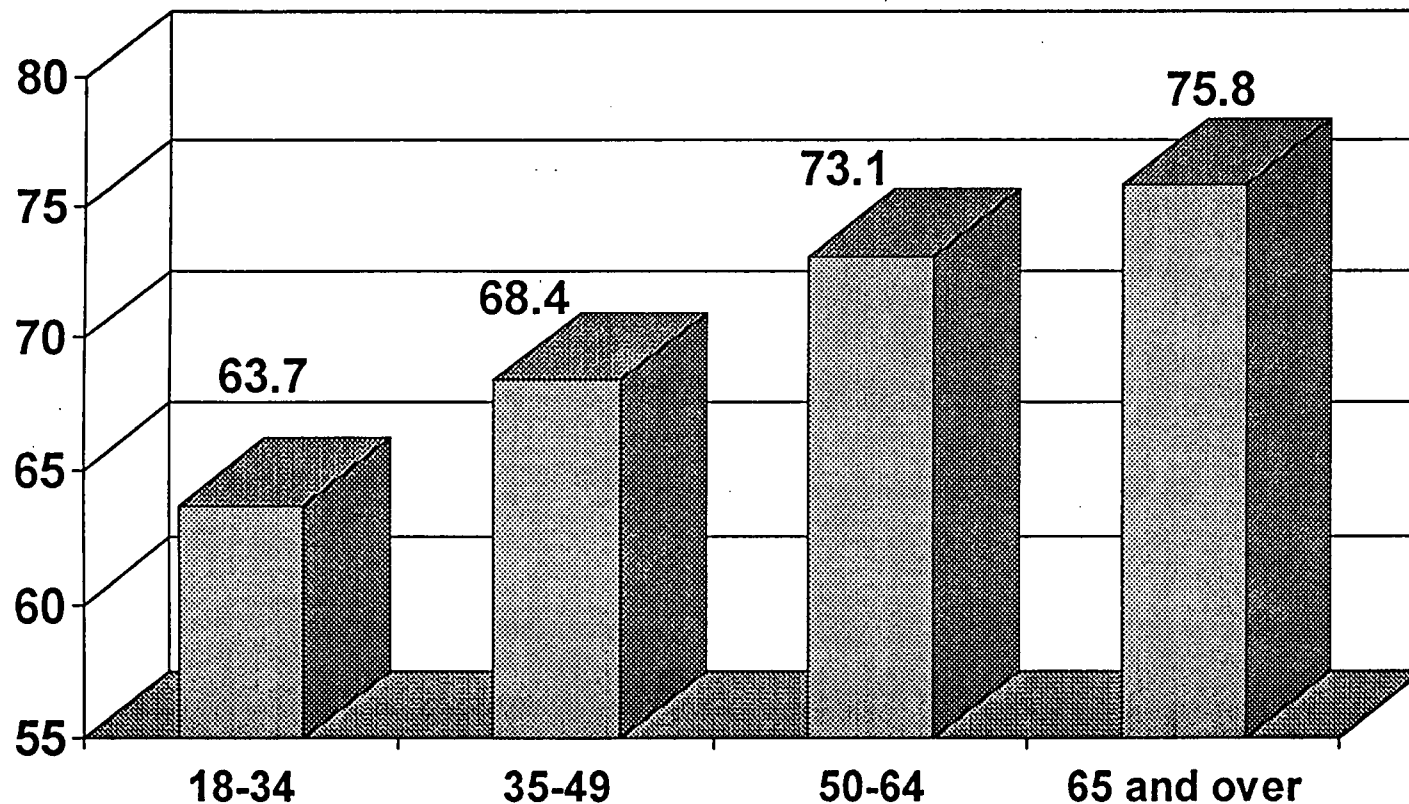
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# Figure F5: Teen Criminals “Like Predators” Percent Agree by Age

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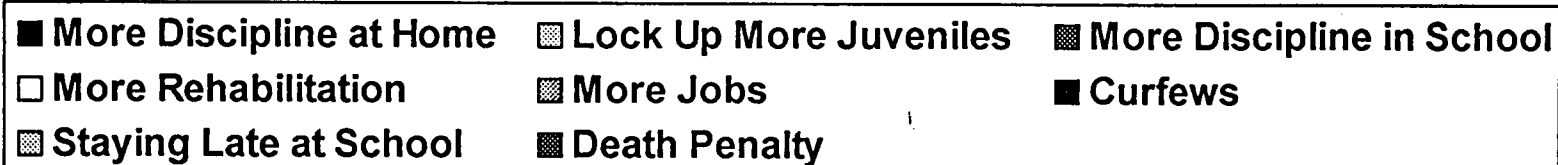
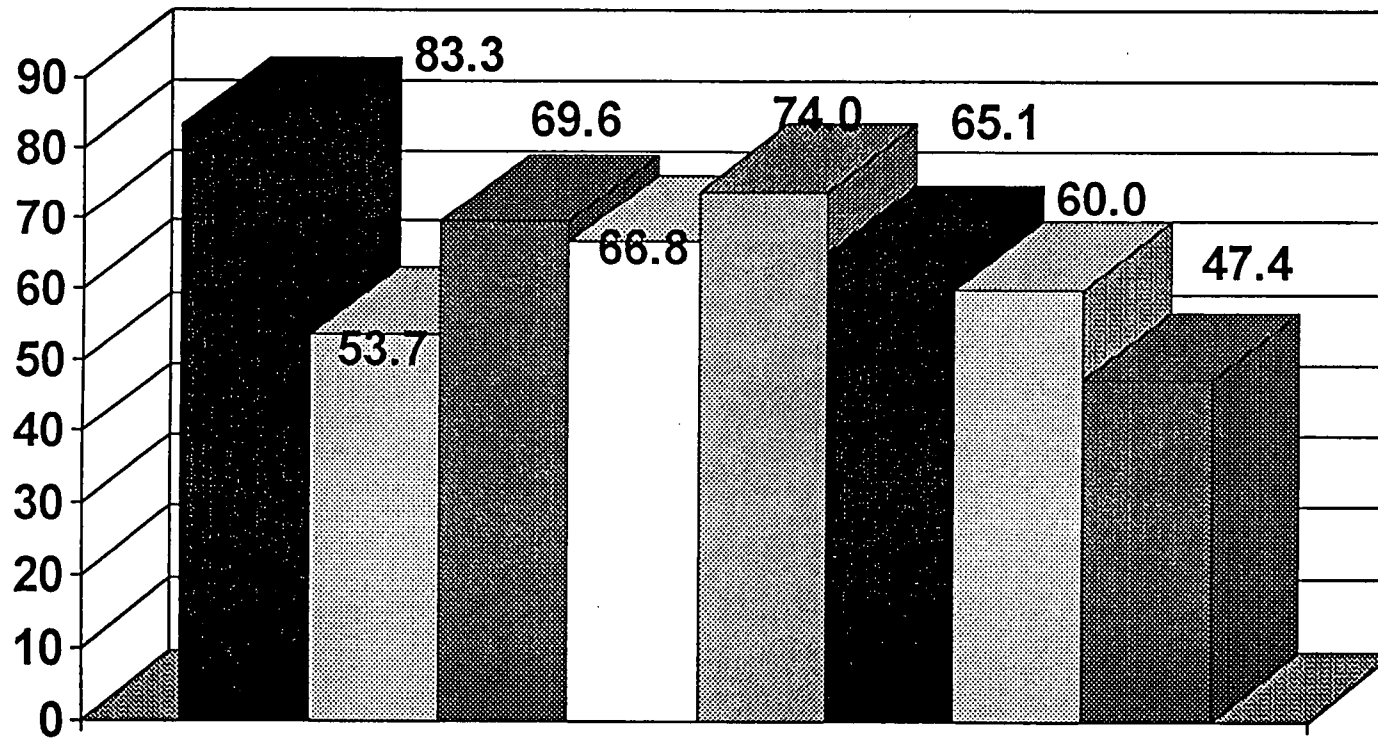


## **Appendix G**

### **What Should Be Done About Juvenile Crime?**

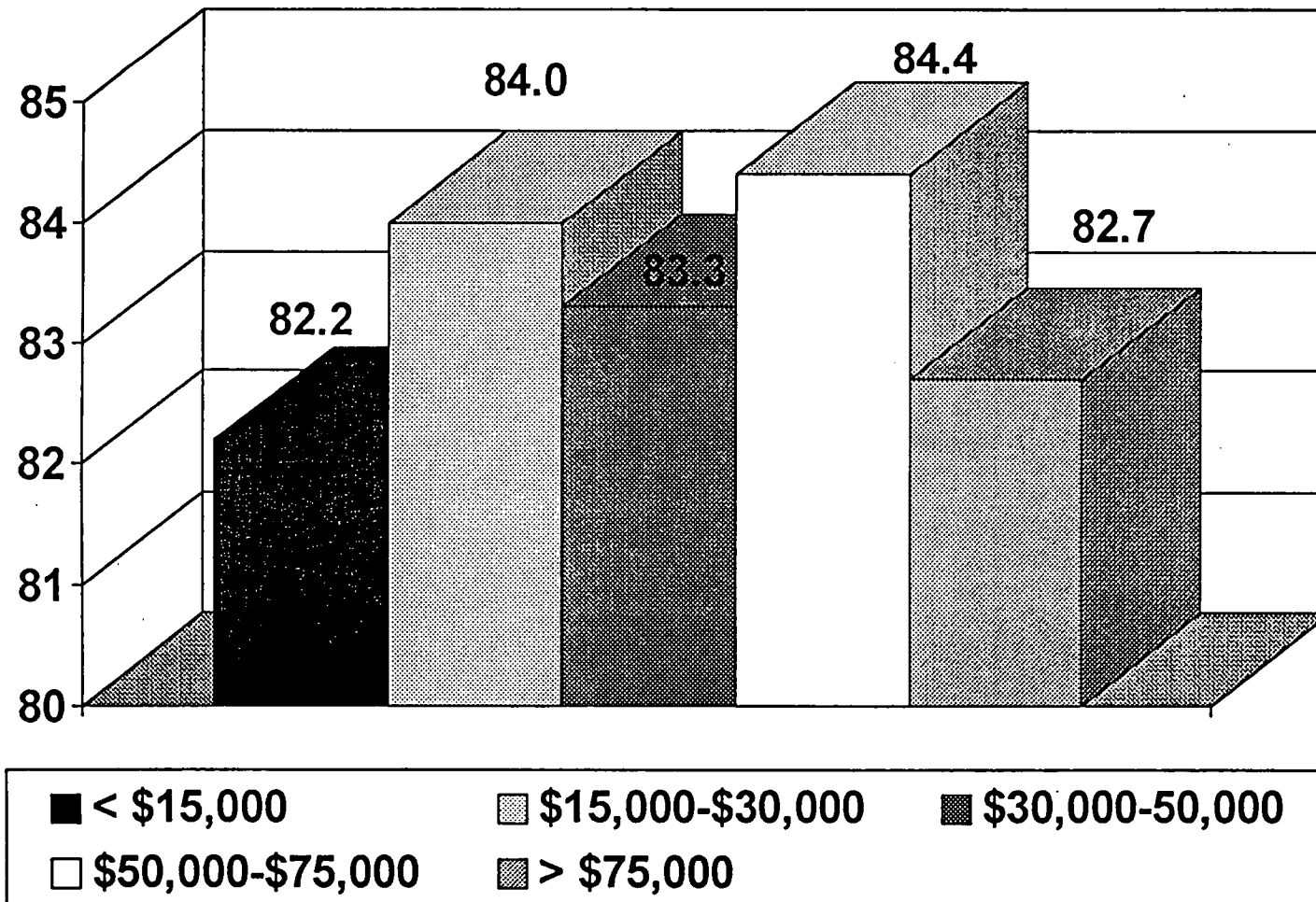
**Selected Figures from survey findings**

# Figure G1: Support for Various Measures to Deal With Juvenile Crime



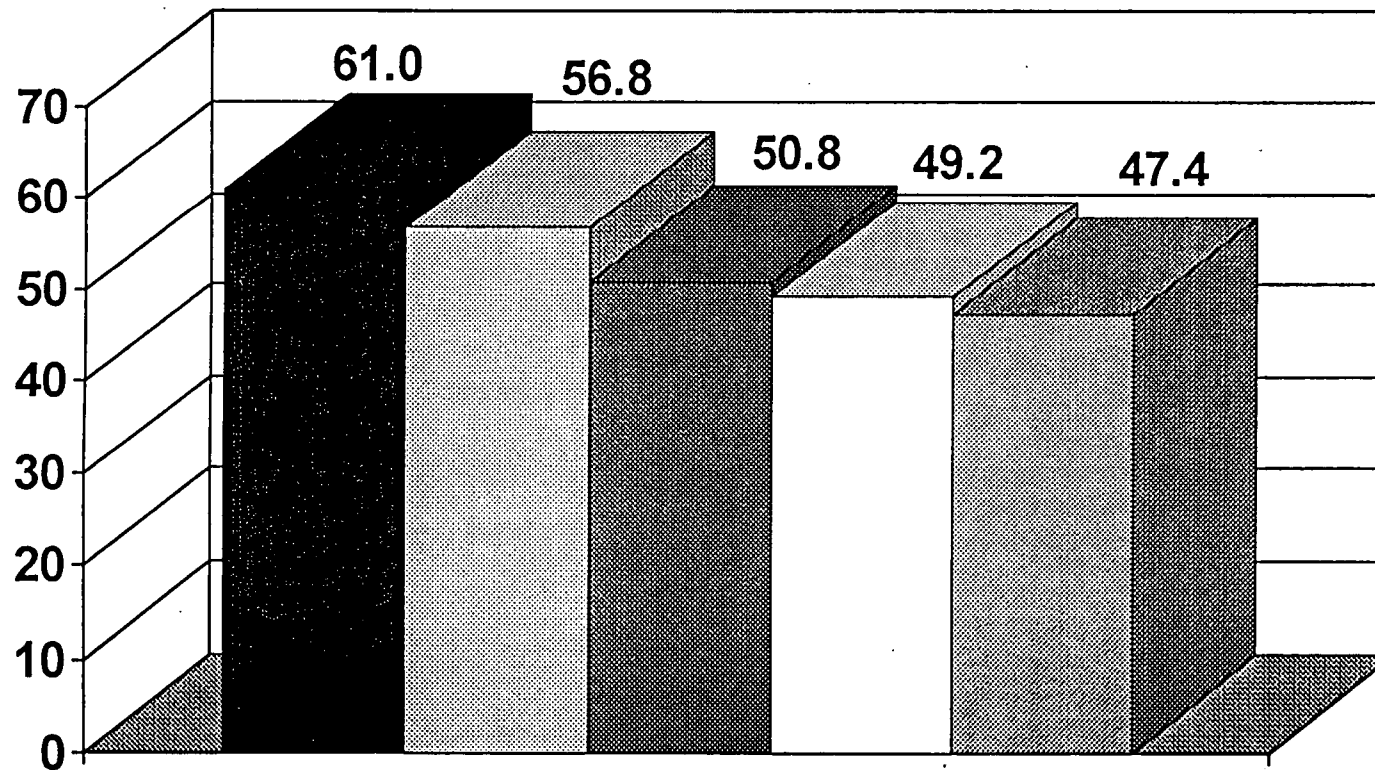
# Figure G2: More Discipline at Home Pct. "High Agree" by Income

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# Figure G3: Lock Up More Juveniles Pct. "High Agree" by Income

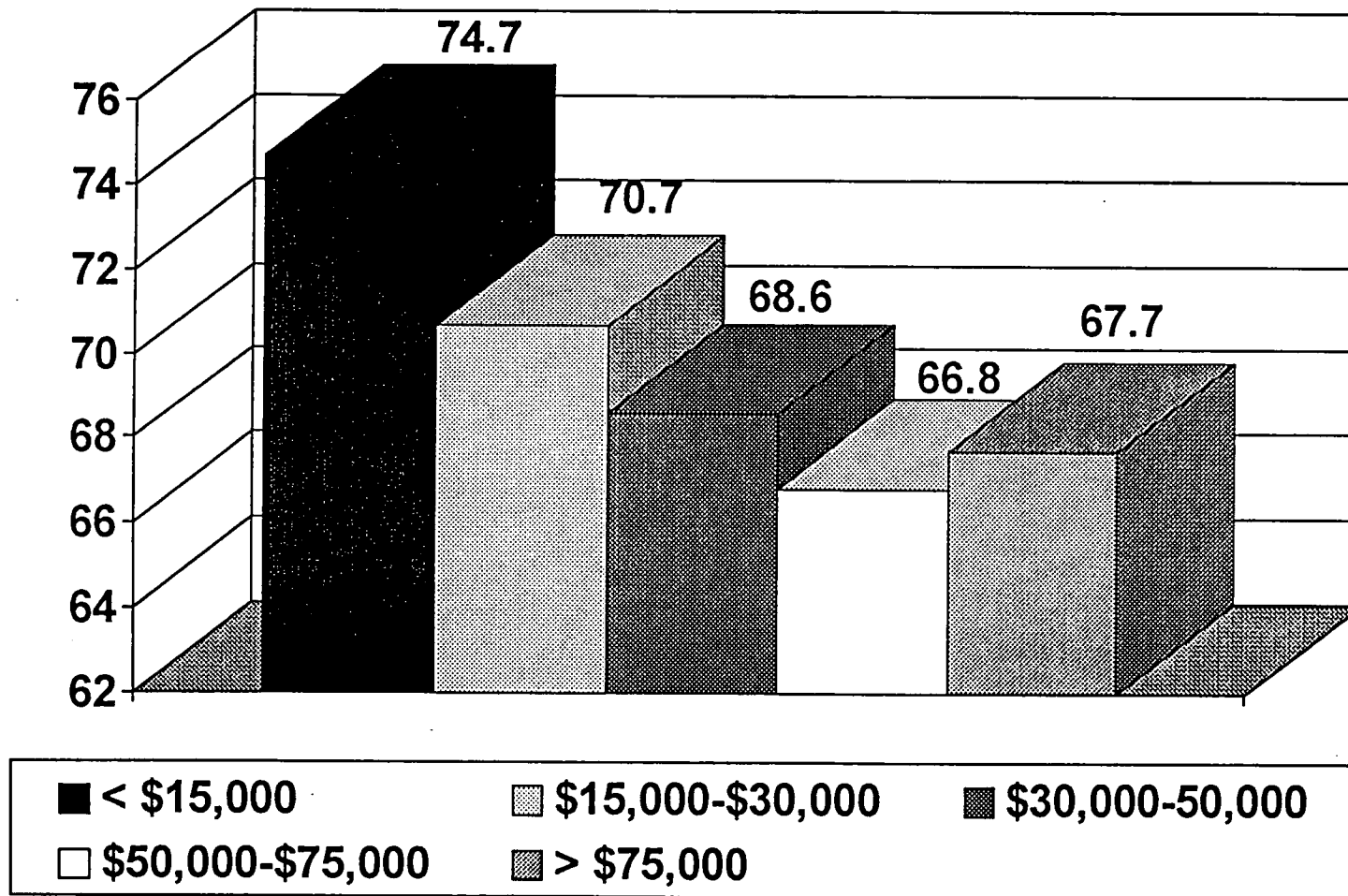
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■ < \$15,000	■ \$15,000-\$30,000	■ \$30,000-\$50,000
□ \$50,000-\$75,000	■ > \$75,000	

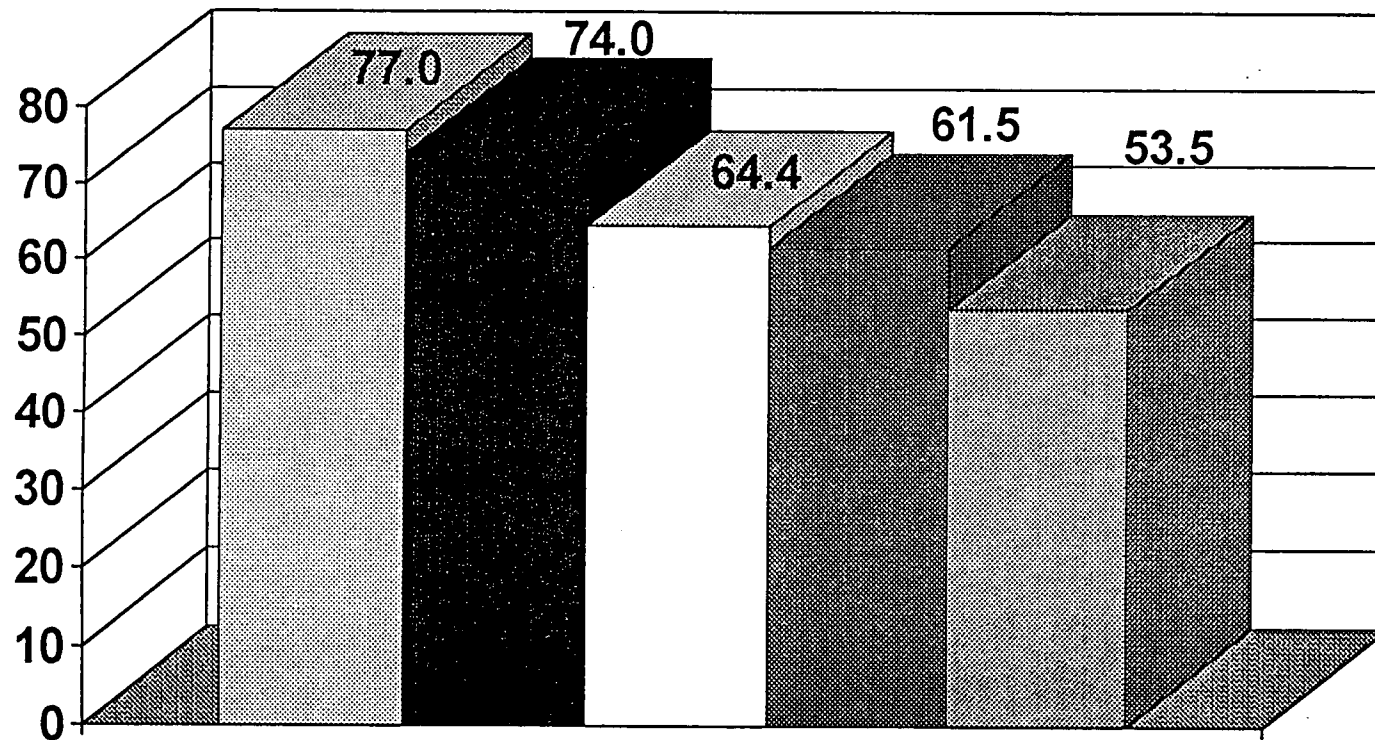
# Figure G4: More Discipline in School Pct. "High Agree" by Income

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# Figure G5: More Rehabilitation for Juveniles Pct. "High Agree" by Income

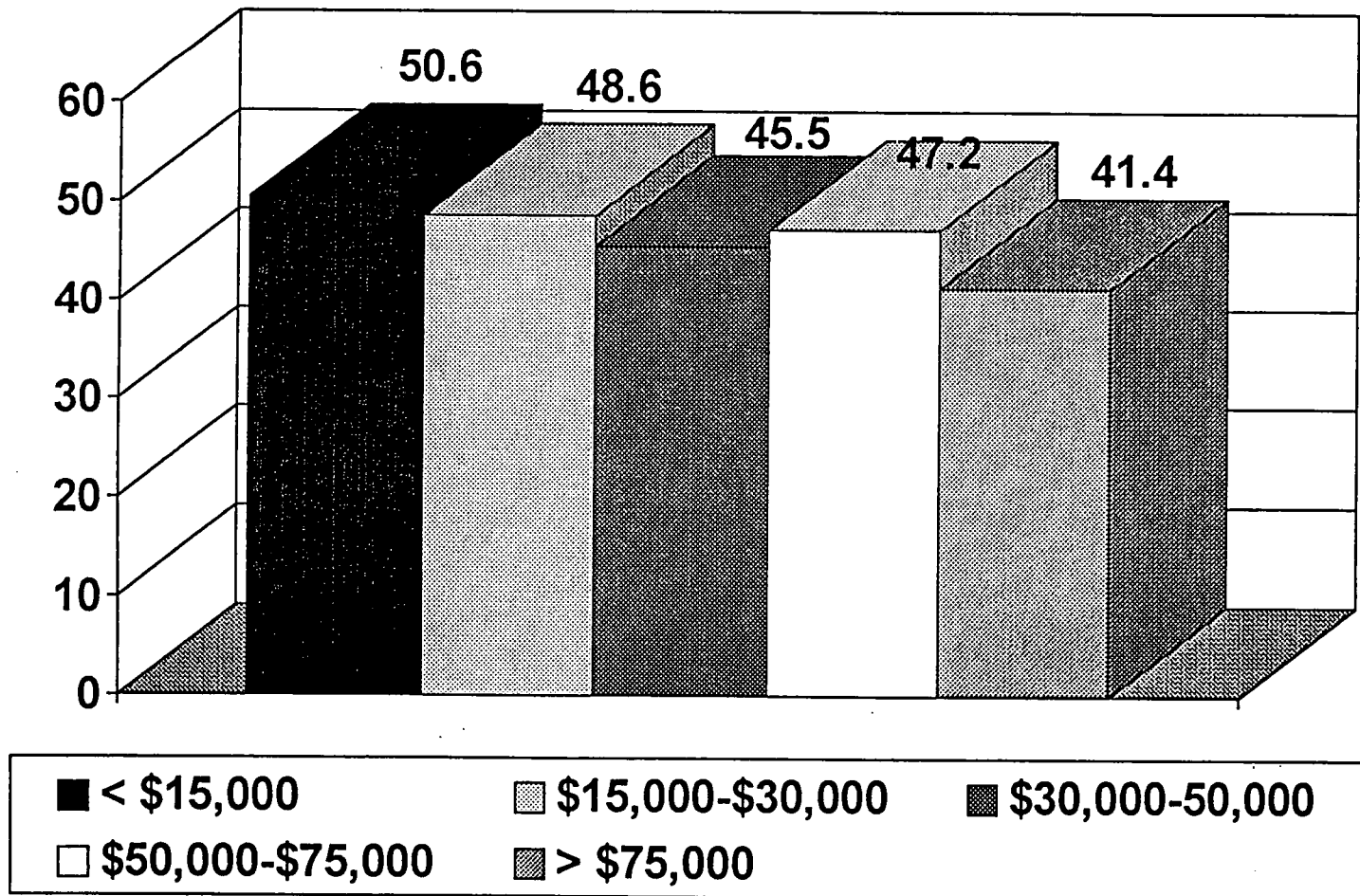
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■ < \$15,000	■ \$15,000-\$30,000	□ \$30,000-\$50,000
■ \$50,000-\$75,000	■ > \$75,000	

# Figure G6: Death Penalty for Juveniles Pct. "High Agree" by Income

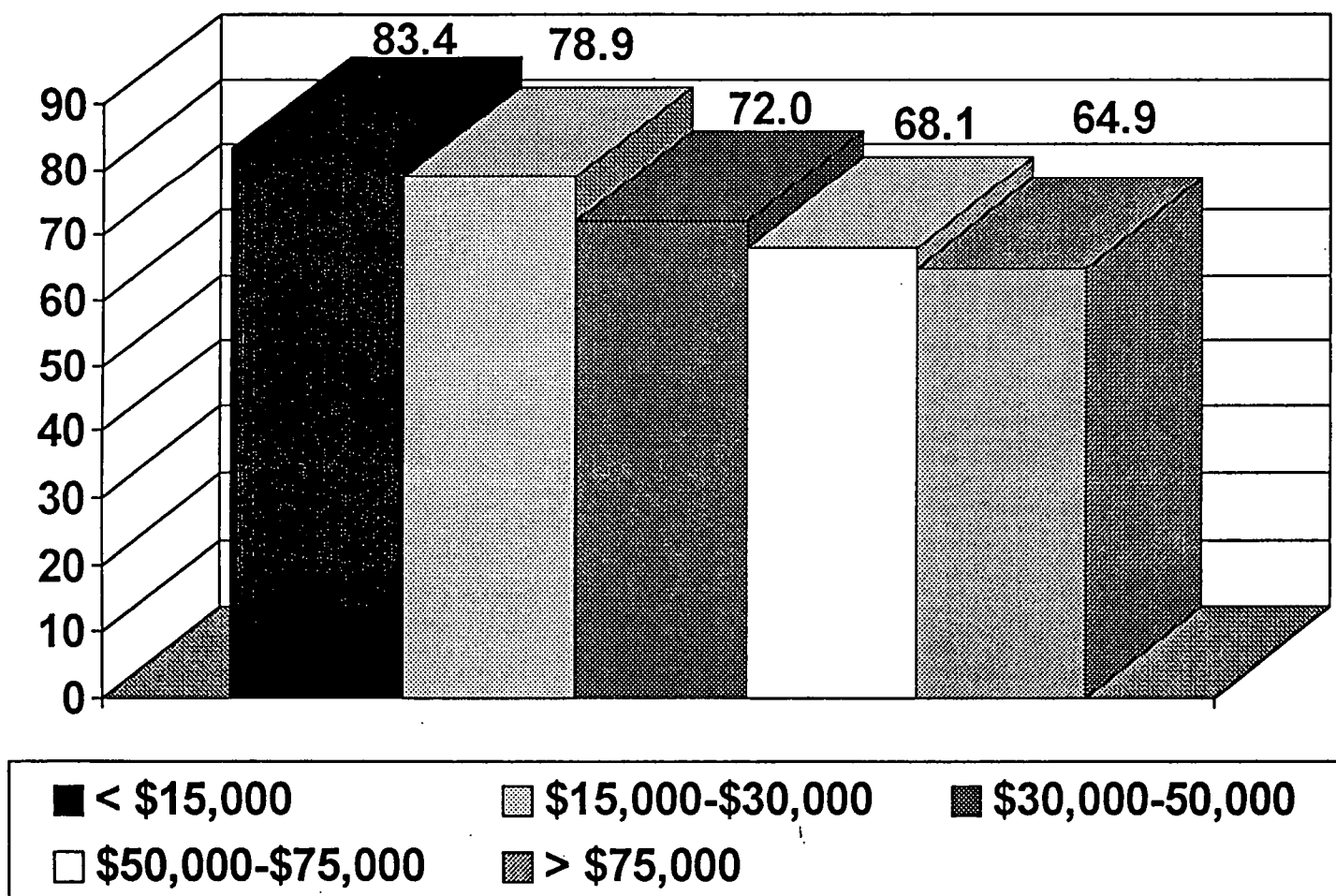
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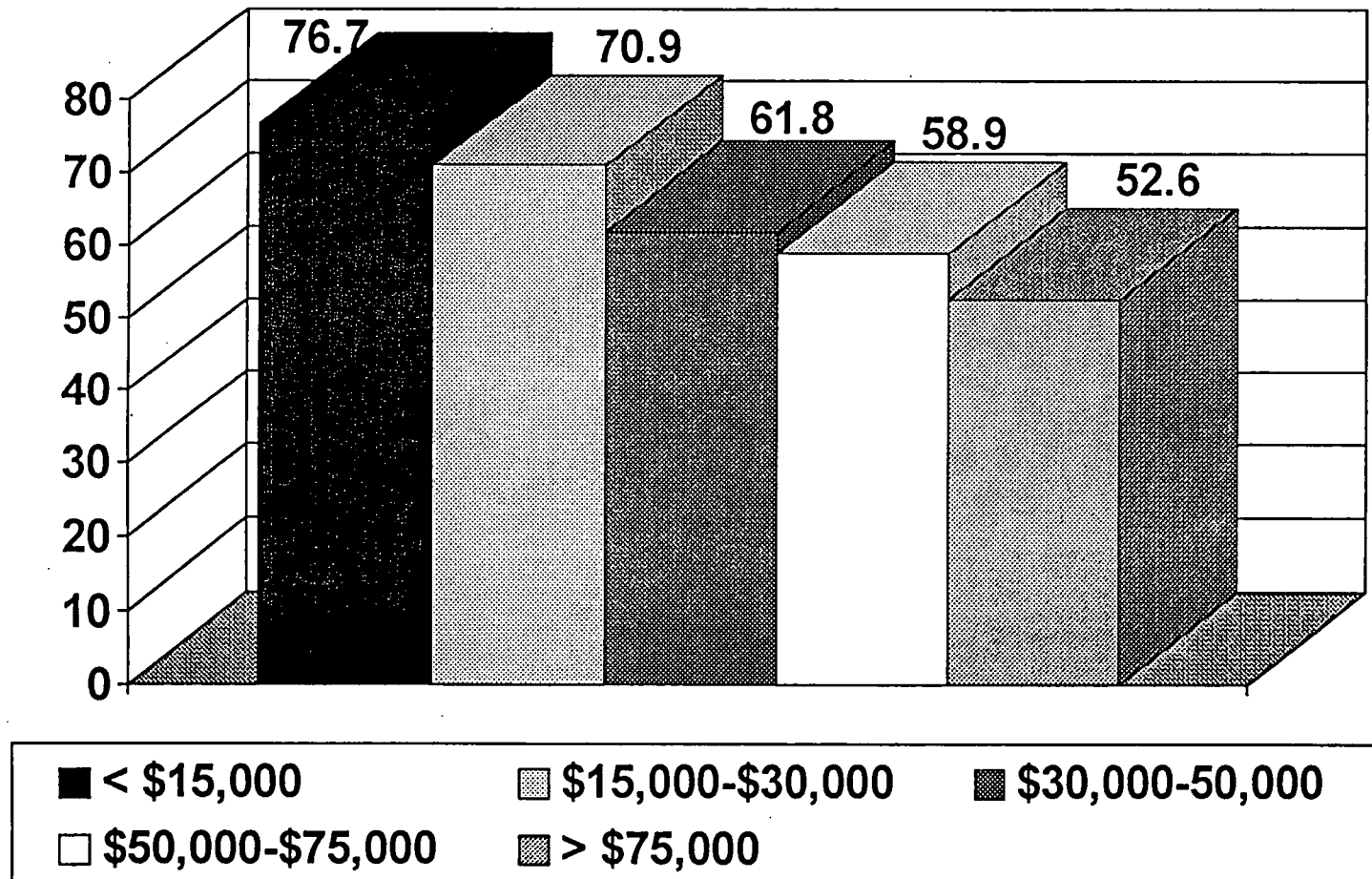
# Figure G7: More Jobs for Young People Pct. "High Agree" by Income

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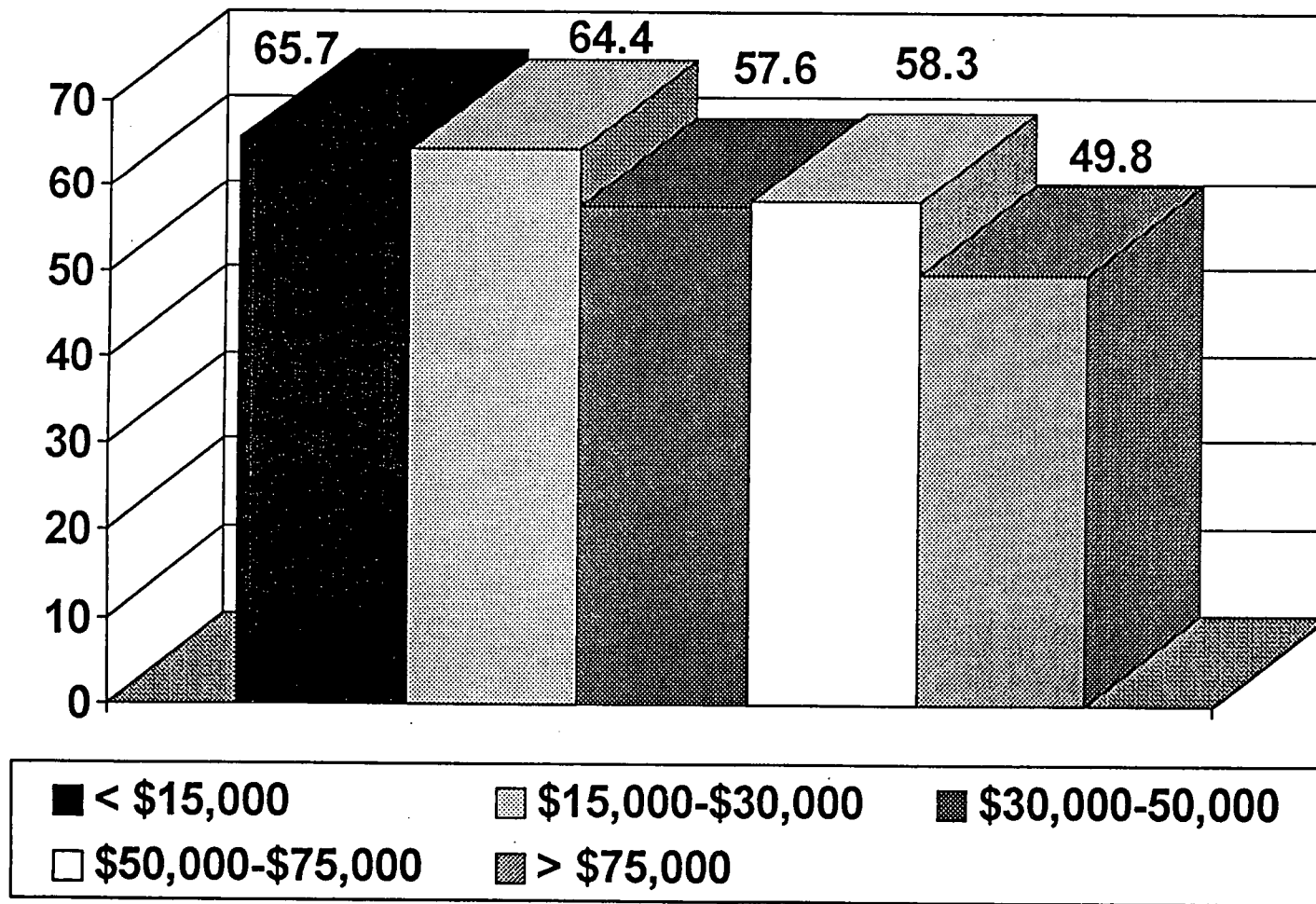
# Figure G8: Curfew Laws for Young People Pct. "High Agree" by Income

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# Figure G9: Let Kids Stay Late at School Pct. "High Agree" by Income

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## **Appendix H**

### **Survey Instrument**

Caller Name \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONDENT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**FEAR OF CRIME SURVEY**

A) Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and we are asking people to give us their opinions about crime as part of a research project at Florida State University.

1) Could you please tell me how many people in your household are 18 years of age or older?

*IF ONE, ASK:* May I please speak to that person?

*IF YOU ARE SPEAKING TO THAT PERSON, READ SECTION (B)*

*IF NEW PERSON COMES TO PHONE, REPEAT SECTION (A) ABOVE AND THEN READ SECTION (B)*

*IF NOT AVAILABLE, RECORD A CALLBACK TIME/DAY IN COMPUTER AND BELOW:*

DAY \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

*IF TWO OR MORE, ASK Q2.*

2) Among these people, may I please speak to the one who most recently celebrated their birthday?

*IF YOU ARE SPEAKING TO THAT PERSON, READ SECTION (B)*

*IF NEW PERSON COMES TO PHONE, REPEAT SECTION (A) ABOVE AND THEN READ SECTION (B)*

*IF NOT AVAILABLE, RECORD A CALLBACK TIME/DAY IN COMPUTER AND BELOW:*

DAY \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

B) This project is co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Community Affairs. Telephone numbers were selected at random by a computer. You are not obligated to answer any questions and you may stop at any time. If you share your opinions with us, they will be kept anonymous and you will be assisting in the completion of a very important project. May we begin?

\*\*\*\*\*

QUESTIONS		RESPONSES			
1	1) First of all, is this your primary or main residence in Florida?	1 Yes		2 No <i>(Terminate call and thank them for their time)</i>	
2	2) In the last two years, would you say that crime in the UNITED STATES has increased or decreased?	1 increased	2 decreased	3 same <i>(if volunteered)</i>	9 don't know/ refused
3	3) By what percent? <i>(STAYED SAME = 0%)</i>	_____ %			999 don't know/ refused
4	4) In the last two years, would you say that JUVENILE CRIME has increased or decreased?	1 increased	2 decreased	3 same <i>(if volunteered)</i>	9 don't know/ refused
5	5) By what percent? <i>(STAYED SAME = 0%)</i>	_____ %			999 don't know/ refused
6	6) Now what about crime in your NEIGHBORHOOD? In the last year would you say that it has increased or decreased?	1 increased	2 decreased	3 same <i>(if volunteered)</i>	9 don't know/ refused
7	7) By what percent? <i>(STAYED SAME = 0%)</i>	_____ %			999 don't know/ refused
8	8) What about JUVENILE CRIME in your neighborhood? In the last year has it increased or decreased?	1 increased	2 decreased	3 same <i>(if volunteered)</i>	9 don't know/ refused
9	9) By what percent? <i>(STAYED SAME = 0%)</i>	_____ %			999 don't know/ refused

# QUESTIONS

# RESPONSES

10) We are interested in how fearful people are of being the victim of different kinds of crimes. On a scale from one to ten, with one being **NOT AT ALL FEARFUL** and ten being **VERY FEARFUL**, how much would you say you fear .....

a. .... having your car stolen?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

b. .... having someone break into your home while you are away?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

c. .... having someone break into your home while you are there?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

d. .... being robbed or mugged on the street?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

e. .... being raped or sexually assaulted?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

f. .... being murdered?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

11) Now I will read a list of four types of people. Could you please tell me on a scale from one to ten, with one being **NOT AT ALL WORRIED** and ten being **VERY WORRIED**, how worried you would be if one of these persons came up to you at night as you were unlocking your car:

a. a male adult whose race is the same as yours?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

b. a male adult whose race is different from yours?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

c. a male teenager whose race is the same as yours?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

d. a male teenager whose race is different from yours?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 99  
don't know

QUESTIONS		RESPONSES		
20	12) Do you have any children? <i>(include step-children)</i>	1 Yes	2 No	9 refused
21	a. <i>IF YES TO Q12, ASK:</i> How many are between the ages of 5 and 17?			9 refused

***IF THEY HAVE CHILDREN BETWEEN AGES 5 AND 17- THEN ASK Q13; OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q14***

13) On a scale from one to ten, with one being <b>NOT AT ALL WORRIED</b> and ten being <b>VERY WORRIED</b> , how much do you worry about the following things happening to your child:												
22	a. your child being robbed by other youths	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
23	b. your child being attacked or beaten up	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
24	c. your child being murdered	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
25	d. your child joining a gang	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
26	e. your child getting addicted to drugs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
14) On a scale from one to ten, with one being <b>NOT AT ALL CONCERNED</b> and ten being <b>VERY CONCERNED</b> , how concerned are you about the following activities:												
27	a. Terrorism by Americans against other Americans	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
28	b. Organized crime	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
29	c. Large scale drug trafficking	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
30	d. Crimes that use computers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know



# QUESTIONS

# RESPONSES

15) You have already rated your fear of different kinds of crimes, now I want you to rate **THE CHANCE THAT A SPECIFIC CRIME WILL HAPPEN TO YOU DURING THE COMING YEAR**. On a scale from one to ten, where one means **NOT AT ALL LIKELY** and ten means **VERY LIKELY** ---- how **LIKELY** do you think it is that you will .....

31	a. .... be raped or sexually assaulted?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
32	b. .... be murdered?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
33	c. .... have someone break into your home while you are there?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
34	d. .... be robbed or mugged on the street?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
35	e. .... have your car stolen?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
36	f. .... have someone break into your home while you are away?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know

16) Now, if the same crimes **ACTUALLY DID HAPPEN** to you, what are the chances that the offender would be a **JUVENILE, THAT IS SOMEONE LESS THAN EIGHTEEN**? Using the same ten-point scale, with one being **NOT AT ALL LIKELY** and ten being **VERY LIKELY** ---- how likely do you think it is that the offender would be a **JUVENILE** .....

37	a. .... if you were murdered?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
38	b. .... if someone broke into your home while you were away?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
39	c. .... if you were raped or sexually assaulted?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
40	d. .... if someone broke into your home while you were there?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
41	e. .... if your car were stolen?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know
42	f. .... if you were robbed or mugged on the street?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know

# QUESTIONS

# RESPONSES

17) Different things have been suggested to reduce juvenile crime. On a scale from one to ten, with one being **LEAST AGREE** and ten being **MOST AGREE**, how much do you agree that the following will reduce juvenile crime?

a. More discipline at home

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

99  
don't know

b. Lock up more juvenile offenders

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

99  
don't know

c. More discipline in school

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

99  
don't know

d. More rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

99  
don't know

e. Death penalty for juveniles who murder

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

99  
don't know

f. More jobs available for young people

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

99  
don't know

g. Curfew laws for young people

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

99  
don't know

h. Let kids who are unsupervised at home stay at school until early evening

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

99  
don't know

18) Next, I will read four statements about law enforcement in your community. Please tell me if you **STRONGLY AGREE**, **AGREE**, **DISAGREE**, or **STRONGLY DISAGREE** with the following:

a. I am satisfied with the level of police protection in my neighborhood.

1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
------------------------	------------	--	---------------	---------------------------

b. I seldom see a police officer on my street.

1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
------------------------	------------	--	---------------	---------------------------

c. The police in this community treat everybody the same, regardless of who they are.

1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
------------------------	------------	--	---------------	---------------------------

QUESTIONS		RESPONSES				
54	d. The police are helpful in dealing with problems in my neighborhood.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
19) Now I am going to read some statements about teenagers. Please tell me if you <b>STRONGLY AGREE</b> , <b>AGREE</b> , <b>DISAGREE</b> , or <b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b> about the following:						
55	a. Teenagers are becoming more violent.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
56	b. Teenagers today have a good sense of right and wrong.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
57	c. Most teenage criminals don't care about the consequences of their actions.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
58	d. Violent teenagers have a conscience.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
59	e. Many teenage criminals are so dangerous that they are like predators.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree
60	f. Most teenagers are okay; it's a few bad ones that get all the attention.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree

QUESTIONS		RESPONSES									
Now we are interested in people's work situation and whether it has changed in recent years.											
61	20) Are you currently employed?	1 Yes			2 No <i>(If NO, go to Q25)</i>				9 refused		
62	21) What type of work do you do?										
63	22) Are you employed full-time, part-time, or self-employed?	1 Full time		2 Part time		3 Self-employed <i>(If so, go to Q25)</i>			9 refused		
64	23) Have there been cutbacks or layoffs in the place where you work in the past two years?	1 Yes			2 No				9 refused		
65	24) Are you worried that you will be laid-off or cut-back in the next year?	1 Yes			2 No				9 refused		
25) For the following questions, please rate how satisfied you are on a scale from one to ten, with one being <b>NOT AT ALL SATISFIED</b> and ten being <b>VERY SATISFIED</b> .											
66	a. When you think about your financial situation today, compared to a year ago, how satisfied are you?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10									99 don't know/ refused
67	b. When you think about your financial situation today, compared to what you think it <b>SHOULD</b> be, given your skills and training, how satisfied are you?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10									99 don't know/ refused

QUESTIONS		RESPONSES											
68	c. When you look ahead to <b>NEXT YEAR</b> , how satisfied do you expect to be with your financial situation?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know/ refused	
69	d. When you look <b>EVEN FURTHER AHEAD</b> , how satisfied do you expect to be with your financial situation when you retire?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	99 don't know/ refused	
<i>IF THEY ARE ALREADY RETIRED, CIRCLE HERE</i>		➤ 98 already retired											
26) Next, I will read three statements about relationships between people of different races. Please tell me for each statement whether you <b>STRONGLY AGREE</b> , <b>AGREE</b> , <b>DISAGREE</b> , or <b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b> .													
70	a. It is better when neighborhoods are racially mixed.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree							
71	b. It would be okay if a member of my family wanted to marry someone of a different race.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree							
72	c. If I had school-aged children, I would have a problem if more than half of the students in their school were of a different race.	1 strongly agree	2 agree	3 neutral / no opinion (if volunteered)	4 disagree	5 strongly disagree							

(CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE)

## QUESTIONS

Now I have just a few more questions before we finish.....

27) Has anyone living in your home been the victim of a crime in the past year?

73

Yes..... 1      No..... 2      (IF NO, GO TO Q31)

74

28) What type of crime was it? \_\_\_\_\_

29) Did the crime happen to you?

75

Yes..... 1      No..... 2

76

30) Was the offender a juvenile?

Yes..... 1      No..... 2      Don't Know..... 9

31) If you think about your neighborhood and the people living within a mile of your house -- what percent of those people would you say are:

77

a. White? \_\_\_\_\_ Refused/ Don't Know..... 999

78

b. African American? \_\_\_\_\_ Refused/ Don't Know..... 999

79

c. Hispanic? \_\_\_\_\_ Refused/ Don't Know..... 999

80

d. Other? \_\_\_\_\_ Refused/ Don't Know..... 999

## QUESTIONS

32) If you think about your neighborhood and the people living within a mile of your house -- what percent of those people would you say are teenagers?

81

\_\_\_\_\_ %

Refused/ Don't Know..... 999

33) Could you tell me the highest level of schooling have you completed?

*(IF RESPONDENT IS UNCERTAIN, INDICATE THAT THESE ARE THE CATEGORIES YOU HAVE AND READ THEM)*

82

1 ..... less than high school

2 ..... high school graduate/GED

3 ..... some college/AA

4 ..... college graduate

5 ..... graduate/professional school

Refused/ Don't Know..... 999

34) Could you tell me the year you were born in? \_\_\_\_\_

83

Refused/ Don't Know..... 999

35) How would you describe your racial or ethnic background? Are you.....

84

1 ..... Hispanic

2 ..... African American

3 ..... Asian

4 ..... White

5 ..... Other

specify \_\_\_\_\_

(9 ..... Refused /Don't Know)

## QUESTIONS

36) Now, please stop me when I come to the category that contains your household income this past year:

1 ..... below 15,000

(9 ..... Refused /Don't Know)

2 ..... between 15 & 29,000

3 ..... between 30 & 49,000

4 ..... between 50 & 75,000

5 ..... over 75,000

37) Could you tell me if you are married?

1 ..... Yes

(9 ..... Refused /Don't Know)

2 ..... No

38) Could you tell me how many other adults are living in your household?

(9 ..... Refused /Don't Know)

39) Could you tell me your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_ (9 ..... Refused /Don't Know)  
(IF ASKED WHY, SAY: "Because we will group responses by general location")

40) (RECORD RESPONDENT'S GENDER)  
(IF UNSURE, ASK: "Are you male or female?")

1 ..... Female

(9 ..... Refused /Don't Know)

2 ..... Male

THAT COMPLETES OUR SURVEY.  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO TALK TO ME.  
HAVE A GOOD DAY (EVENING).







**For More Information:**

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