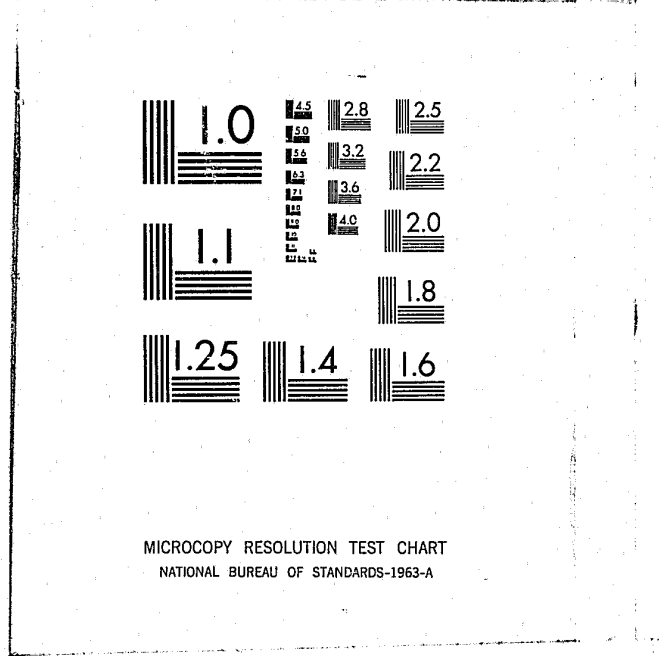


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# AN ASSESSMENT OF CRIME PREVENTION ACTIVITIES IN THE SEMCOG REGION

MAY, 1979



A Background Paper

ABSTRACT

TITLE: An Assessment of Crime Prevention  
Activities in the SEMCOG Region

AUTHOR: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
Public Safety Division

SUBJECT: A survey of crime prevention activities  
in the SEMCOG Region

DATE: May 1979

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AGENCY: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)  
8th Floor Book Building  
1249 Washington Boulevard  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

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ABSTRACT: An assessment of crime prevention activities  
as reported by local jurisdictions in the  
SEMCOG Region. Emphasis is placed on  
existing programs and resources as well as  
an evaluation of future needs.

U.S. Department of Justice  
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AN ASSESSMENT OF CRIME PREVENTION ACTIVITIES IN THE SEMCOG REGION

Division of Public Safety

May 1979

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Prepared by  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
800 Book Building  
Detroit, Michigan  
48226

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PREFACE

The potential of crime prevention as a crime reduction strategy is well documented nationally. Within recent years, recognition has also been given to crime prevention as an important element in neighborhood revitalization.

Based on its documented success, this report provides an assessment of crime prevention activities in the SEMCOG Region. As such, findings are given on the variety of existing programs, evaluative rankings on specific program types, and a crime prevention needs assessment. Lastly, recommendations are suggested for enhancing the coordination of crime prevention efforts and contributing to the goal of neighborhood revitalization on a regional basis.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### PURPOSE

This report provides an overview of crime prevention activities and resources in the SEMCOG Region. As a positive factor in neighborhood revitalization, attention focuses on programs intended to reduce opportunities for crime through public education, community organization and crime analysis on target areas and vulnerable populations. The comprehensiveness of existing crime prevention efforts is also examined in an attempt to enhance the wide spread application of the crime prevention concept.

#### BACKGROUND

Preparation of this survey initially involved a review of the literature. This process not only documented crime prevention as a viable strategy in revitalizing neighborhoods, but supported the contention that crime prevention can effectively reduce the opportunity for crime. From a national perspective, information contained in Appendix A further describes some of the more successful crime prevention strategies.

#### Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Revitalization

The potential impact of crime prevention on neighborhood revitalization has received increasing attention from governments on the local, state and federal levels. A common element of this attention focuses on socio-economic and physical design variables as predictors of crime rate and other social problems. There is a realization that neighborhoods in need of revitalization are often characterized by some or all of the following: deteriorating and aging housing stock; declining household incomes; perceived decline in provision of public services; lack of social cohesion; lack of pride in house and neighborhood; and all too frequently, high crime rates.

Based on the above, a strategy for "revitalization" is intended to address both the physical and socio-economic aspects of a particular neighborhood. In this regard, local policies supported by SEMCOG's Housing and Land Use Plans stress revitalization concepts that embrace stability and enhancement of existing neighborhoods and housing units within a viable living environment. Among other things, this includes improving the social environment through recreational and municipal services, cultural activities, health care,

and improved transportation, as well as crime prevention activities.

Overall, a comprehensive community-wide crime prevention strategy can serve as an important element in revitalizing neighborhoods. This is particularly true when needed resources are made available and emphasis is placed on the rehabilitation and conservation of existing units along with construction of new units. Initially, crime prevention supports those revitalization concepts that give residents a sense of security and community. Crime prevention as a general crime control strategy, moreover, has the flexibility to be applied successfully to individual crime problems in all types of communities.

#### Crime Prevention Concept

Contemporary literature has been consistent in focusing on the potential of crime prevention in neighborhood revitalization. In doing so, particular attention has been given to the three factors associated with crime occurrence, namely: criminal desire, criminal skills, and criminal opportunity. Crime prevention strategies aim to break the "chain of crime" that evolves from these three factors in the following manner:

- by making the potential target unattractive or inaccessible; and,
- by making the crime dangerous or unprofitable for the criminal.

Crime prevention programs have generally involved a wide variety of activities and services to achieve these goals. Basically, most activities focus on making citizens aware of crime problems and the services available to them. They also serve as a vehicle for involving citizens directly in the control and reduction of crime.

Comprehensive community-wide crime prevention, from a broader perspective, requires the active and coordinated participation of citizens and the ability to design projects which complement each other. Thus, the assignment of overall responsibility for crime prevention must be based on the capacity to formulate objectives, target projects to appropriate citizen groups, assess results and the ability to establish and sustain projects on a continuing basis.

Based on the above, it is clear that inter-jurisdictional coordination on a regional level can foster mechanisms for merging crime prevention practice with neighborhood revitalization efforts and thus maximize the utilization of existing resources. Accomplishing this type of coordination, however, requires the

expanded involvement of elected officials, community planners, the media and the entire range of community and citizen organizations.

#### METHODOLOGY

In order to meet the perceived need for regional involvement in crime prevention, a regional crime prevention survey was developed. The survey design gave consideration to the prior review of the literature as well as the current state-of-the-art in southeast Michigan. The specific objectives of the regional crime prevention survey were:

- To serve as an educational tool to make public officials more aware of their role in using crime prevention techniques in neighborhood revitalization efforts;
- To elicit support for the concept of coordinated community-wide crime prevention efforts;
- To provide an overview of the state-of-the-art in crime prevention techniques in southeast Michigan;
- To establish a preliminary data base for use in information sharing among jurisdictions, and to evaluate future progress in regional coordination of crime prevention efforts.

The development of the survey instruments with a position paper on crime prevention and neighborhood revitalization underwent intensive scrutiny through the SEMCOG committee process. Initial efforts were reviewed and amended by the Housing Sub-Committee and Co-Criminal Justice Council. The in-house development process included broad-based staff participation with all relevant planning areas represented.

The survey instrument appearing in Appendix B was designed for dissemination to all chief elected officials in the SEMCOG Region. A cursory analysis of early responses indicated that although the survey was directed to chief elected officials, local police departments were the primary respondents. Of the 135 responses received, 80 were identified as being completed by local law enforcement personnel. In addition, most of the non-responding jurisdictions did not have police departments and relied primarily on Sheriff or State Police agencies for patrol and crime prevention services.

In response to these findings, the survey population was adjusted to reflect the role of law enforcement in crime prevention. Surveys were subsequently sent to the state police posts and directly to local police departments and sheriffs to insure complete information on regional crime prevention activities. Accordingly, Figure 1 indicates the overall distribution of survey respondents by county. Figure 2 depicts the local jurisdictions by type that are represented in the survey responses. In addition to the local jurisdictions, all seven sheriff jurisdictions responded as well as the state police posts serving the four outlying counties of the SEMCOG Region.

FIGURE 1  
DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY RESPONDENTS  
BY COUNTY, 1979

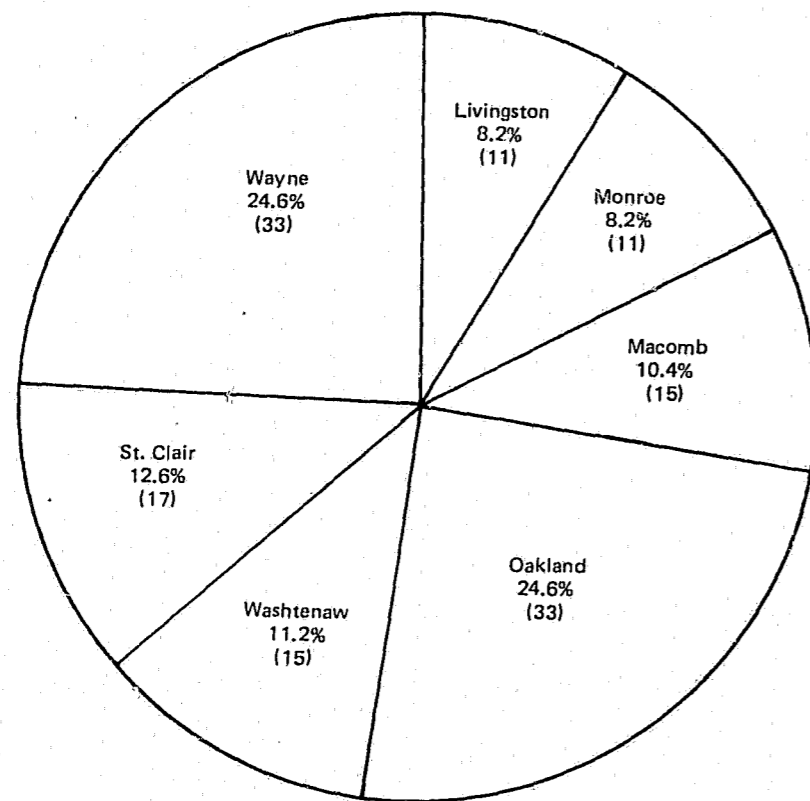
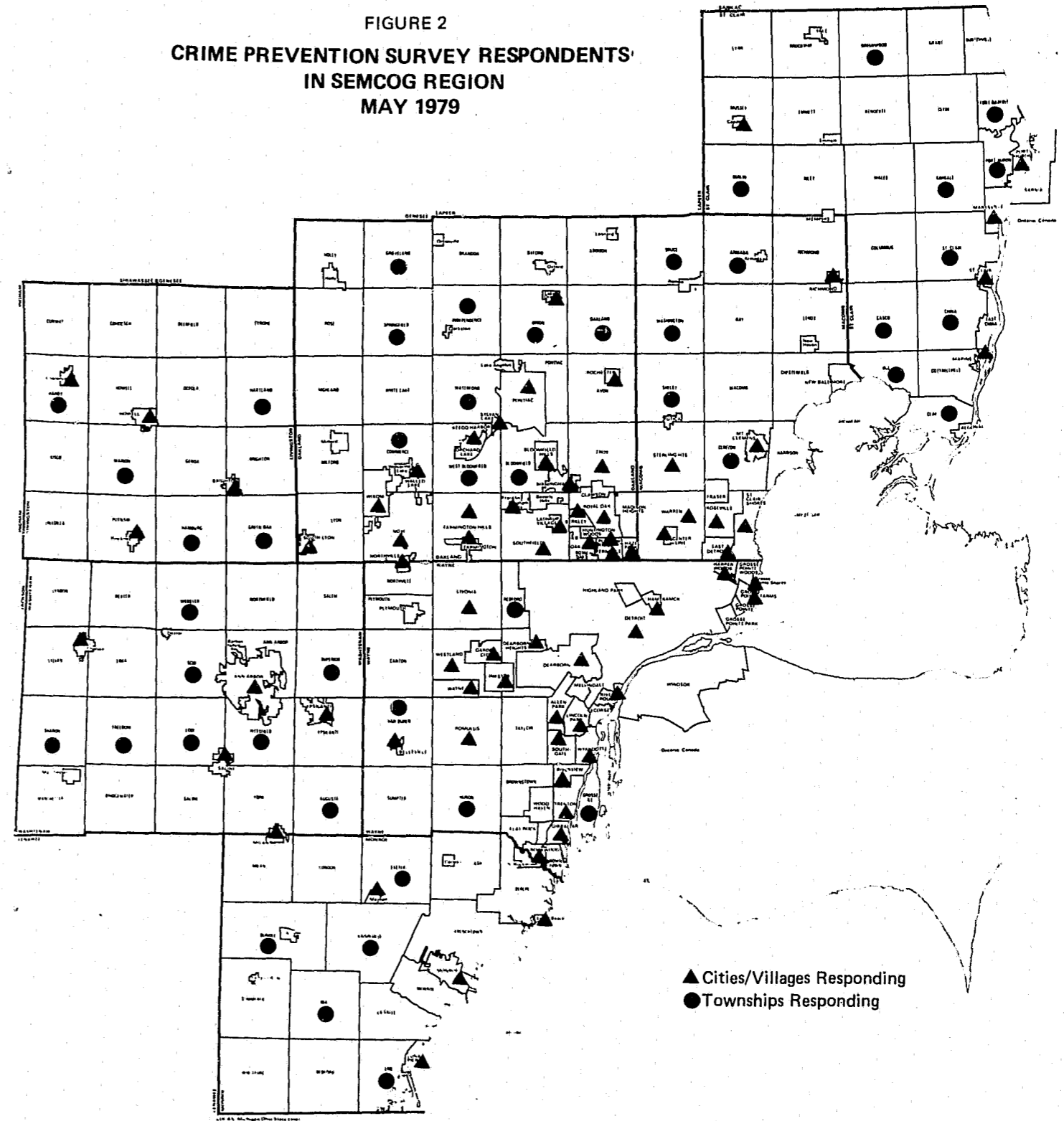


FIGURE 2  
CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY RESPONDENTS  
IN SEMCOG REGION  
MAY 1979



1:750,000  
10 20 30 Kilometres  
10 20 Miles

Source: Units of Government

CHAPTER II

SURVEY FINDINGS

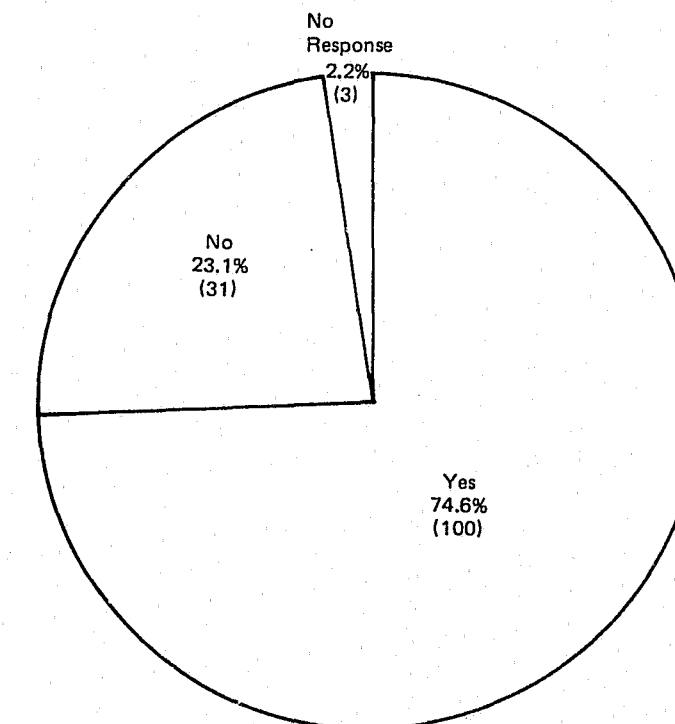
This Chapter examines the results obtained from the seven-county crime prevention survey. As such, it highlights areas of major concern including crime prevention activities, local crime prevention needs and targeting of crime prevention activities in the SEMCOG Region.

Status of Existing Activities in the SEMCOG Region

The state-of-the-art in crime prevention in southeast Michigan was addressed in several ways by the survey questionnaire. Besides an overview of crime prevention activities, information was provided on types of programs available, number of jurisdictions with crime prevention bureaus, and the degree to which crime prevention is used in physical planning.

Initially, the survey attempted to determine which communities are currently involved in crime prevention activities. According to Figure 3, approximately 75 percent of the survey respondents have implemented some type of crime prevention effort.

FIGURE 3  
ASSESSMENT OF CRIME PREVENTION ACTIVITIES IN SEMCOG REGION, 1979





An analysis of those jurisdictions that have not implemented any crime prevention effort reflects the smaller units of government such as villages, townships, and rural communities. The majority of these jurisdictions, moreover, are located in Livingston and St. Clair counties.

#### Types of Crime Prevention Programs Available in the SEMCOG Region

Survey findings revealed that a wide range of crime prevention programs presently exist in the SEMCOG Region. Some 42 programs include activities ranging from small neighborhood watch programs to police crime prevention bureaus and multi-jurisdictional crime prevention organizations. As seen in Figure 4, eleven crime prevention program categories are used to represent this wide range of program types. Appendix C also provides detailed definitions on each category.

In terms of the comparative distribution, Operation I.D. and public information programs represent the most frequently utilized crime prevention programs. A second large grouping consists of building security programs and police crime prevention bureaus. Operation I.D. (80.9 percent) which involves marking property with a number to identify the owner, is a particularly popular -- almost universal program in the SEMCOG Region.

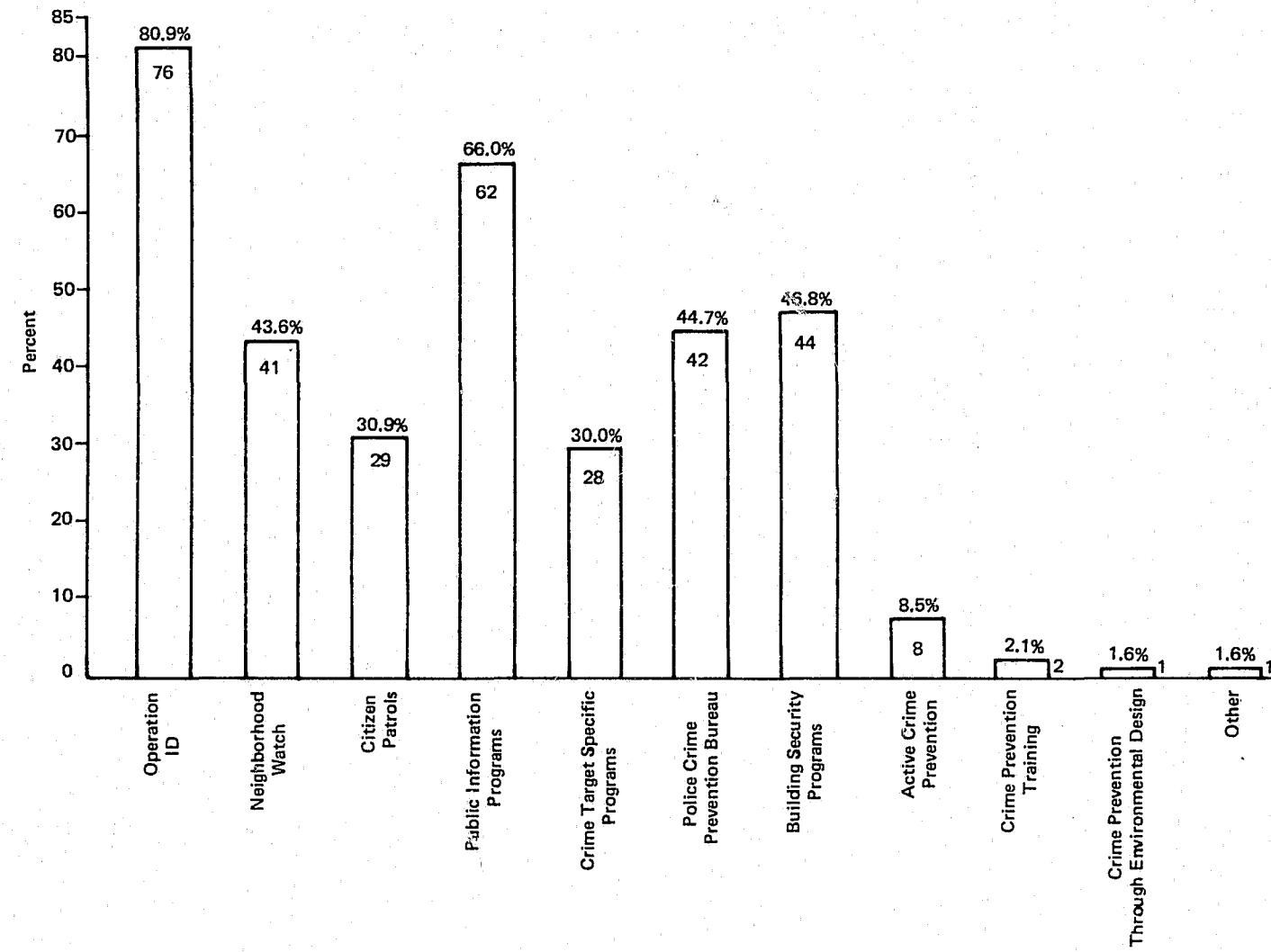
Public information programs (used by 66 percent of responding jurisdictions) include a variety of activities such as lectures to citizens and community organizations. In addition to police agencies, these activities frequently receive support from community service organizations such as 4H programs and Kiwanis Clubs.

Building security programs (44.7 percent) focusing on residential and business security inspections are utilized almost as frequently as police crime prevention bureaus (46.8 percent). This activity, moreover, is often a major function of police crime prevention bureaus.

#### Police Role in Crime Prevention

Based on the number of responses from police agencies (59 percent), it is apparent that law enforcement has a significant role in crime prevention throughout the Region. Additional survey data collectively supports this conclusion.

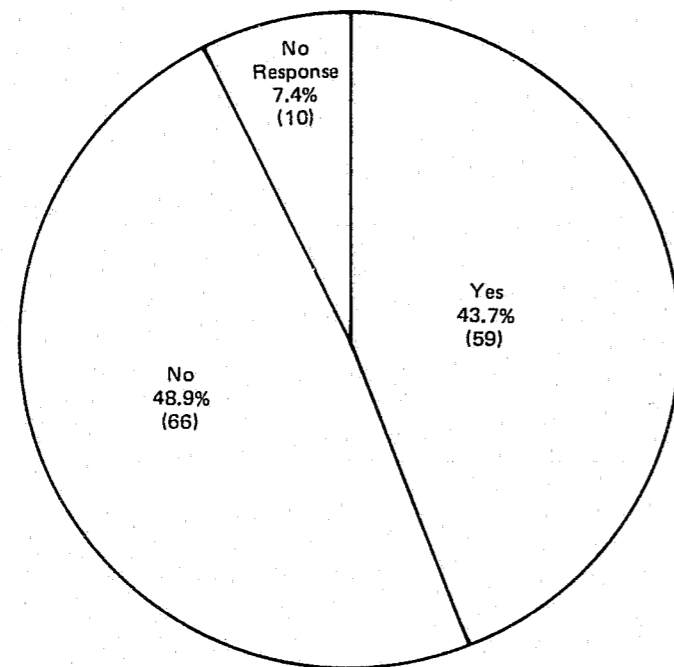
FIGURE 4  
DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE  
IN SEMCOG REGION, 1979



b

Figure 5 indicates that 43.7 percent of the responding jurisdictions have crime prevention bureaus. Generally, these bureaus consist of passive and/or active crime prevention components. As indicated in Appendix A, passive crime prevention focuses on public information and opportunity reduction strategies. In contrast, the active crime prevention component provides a mechanism for follow-up on specific offenses through surveillance, directed patrol and specialized investigative capacity in law enforcement agencies.

FIGURE 5  
**JURISDICTIONS WITH POLICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAUS  
 IN SEMCOG REGION, 1979**



A related survey question further revealed that a large number of police personnel have received specific crime prevention training. As shown in Table 1, 45.2 percent of responding jurisdictions indicated that all law enforcement personnel are provided with some type of

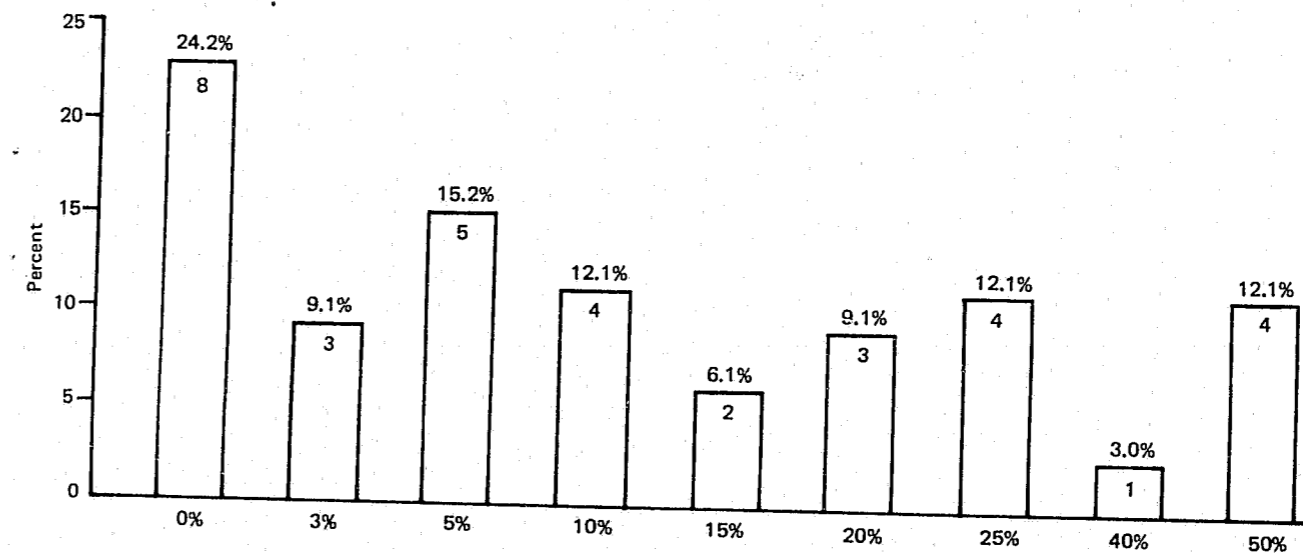
specific training. Generally this training ranged from very basic concepts of crime prevention taught at occasional one-day seminars to the extensive training provided by such institutions as Macomb County Community College and the National Crime Prevention Institute in Louisville, Kentucky.

TABLE 1  
**ARE ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL PROVIDED WITH CRIME PREVENTION TRAINING?**

Yes -----	61	(45.2%)
No -----	65	(48.1%)
No Response --	9	(6.7%)
	<u>135</u>	<u>100%</u>

According to Figure 6, 24.2 percent indicated that they do not provide any crime prevention training at all. However, 54.5 percent of the survey respondents provide crime prevention training to at least 10 percent of their law enforcement personnel.

FIGURE 6  
**PERCENTAGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL  
 PROVIDED WITH CRIME PREVENTION TRAINING, 1979**



Use of Crime Prevention in Physical Planning

While the present focus of most crime prevention activities in the region is law enforcement oriented, recent emphasis has been placed on both physical and social crime prevention strategies. In contrast to programs relying heavily on law enforcement resources, this recent approach requires the mobilization and coordination of a wide variety of existing community resources. In terms of actual implementation, Figure 7 shows the number of communities presently using crime prevention concepts for physical planning. As such, relatively few (27.1%) responding jurisdictions have given consideration to crime prevention in physical planning strategies.

FIGURE 7  
PERCENTAGE OF SEMCOG JURISDICTIONS UTILIZING CRIME PREVENTION IN PHYSICAL PLANNING, 1979

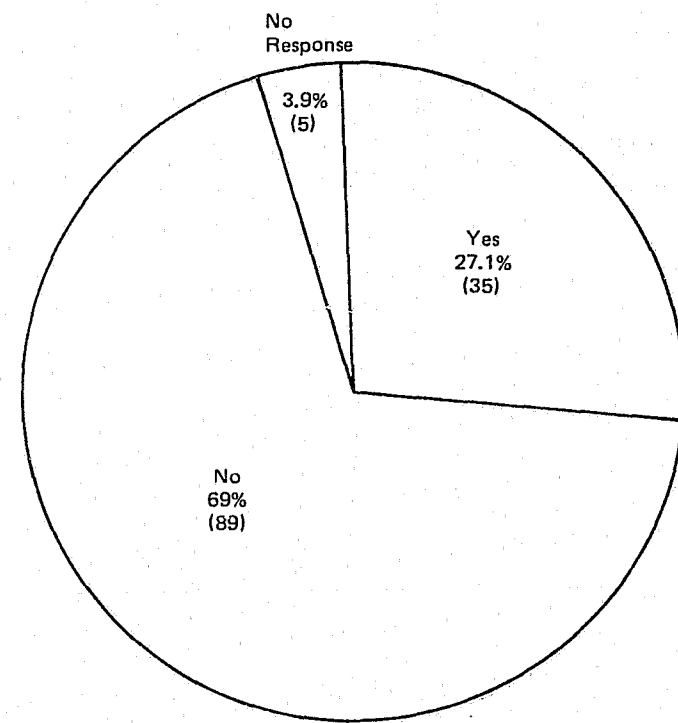
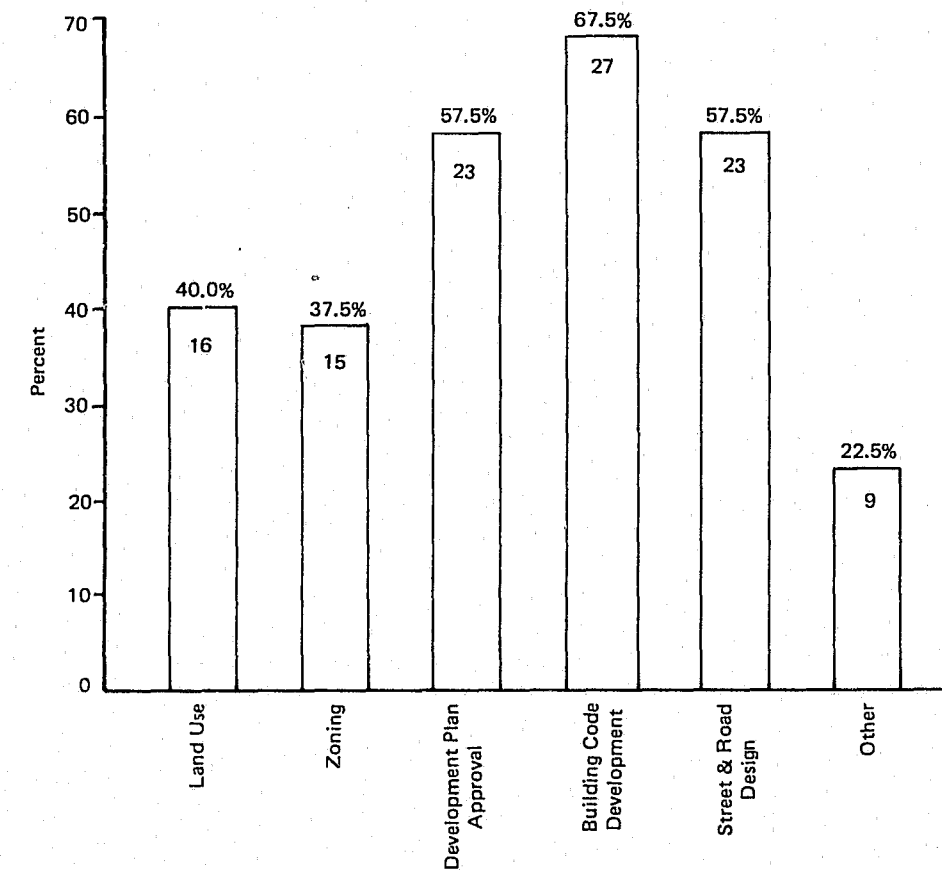


Figure 8 further indicates that crime prevention concepts are most frequently employed in building code development (67.5%), street and road design (57.5%), and development planning (57.5%). To some extent, crime prevention has become a significant factor in land use and zoning. Within the "Other" category, respondents indicated that crime prevention has been used in planning for public lighting, community master planning, recreation and in one case, a mass transit project.

FIGURE 8  
DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME PREVENTION IN PHYSICAL PLANNING PROCESSES, 1979



Regional Crime Prevention Needs

The following survey data provides an overview of needs identified by local communities in relation to crime prevention. This needs assessment encompasses crime prevention programs favored by survey respondents, the distribution of successful crime prevention programs in the region, success factors used to evaluate crime prevention programs, key resources associated with successful crime prevention efforts, and targeting for crime specific impact.

Initially, the survey attempted to determine whether communities felt a need for crime prevention efforts. As indicated by Table 2, almost all (92.5%) respondents felt a need for crime prevention activity. Among those who did not feel the need for further crime prevention efforts were communities with an existing comprehensive community-wide program.

TABLE 2  
IS THERE A NEED IN YOUR COMMUNITY FOR  
CRIME PREVENTION ?

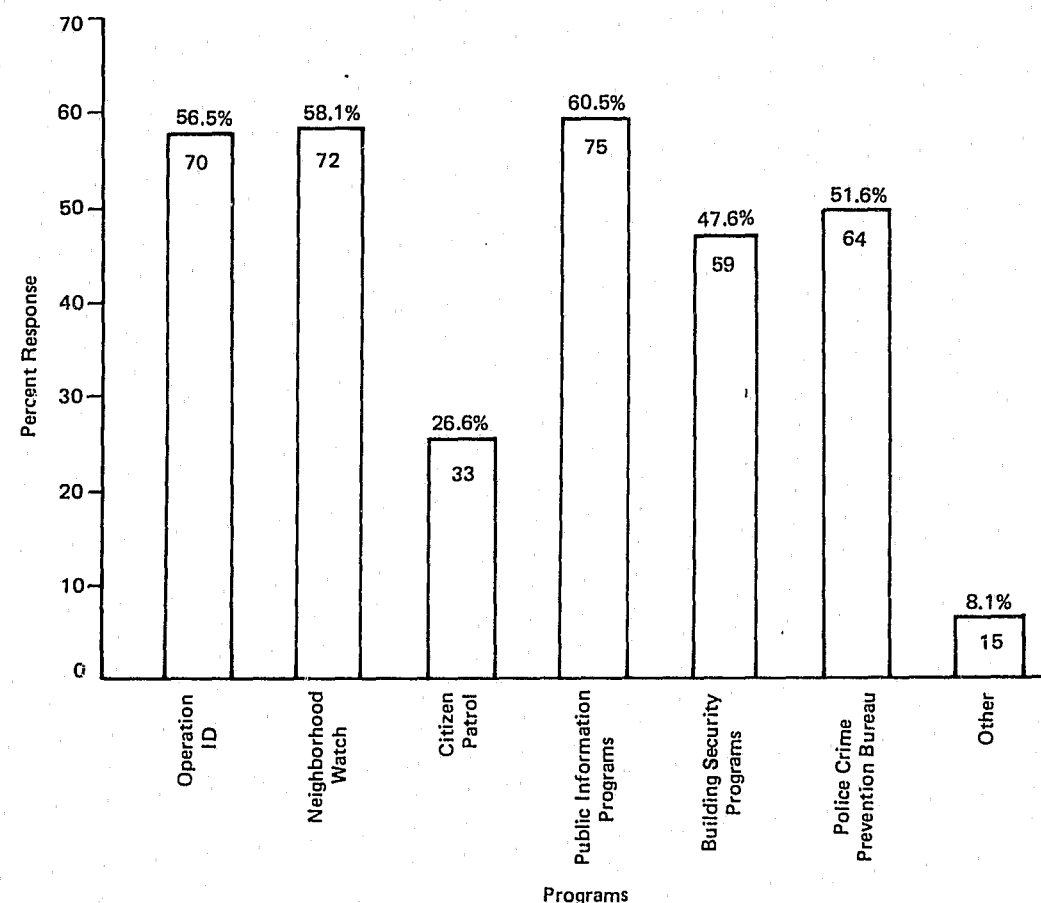
Yes -----	125	(92.5%)
No -----	8	( 6.0%)
No Response --	2	( 1.5%)
	135	100%

Crime Prevention Needs for SEMCOG Region

A wide variety of programs were identified by survey respondents as important to a successful crime prevention effort. Figure 9 shows the relative distribution of the programs identified by survey respondents. From this data, it is apparent that public information programs, Neighborhood Watch, and Operation I.D. are the most favorable crime prevention programs in the SEMCOG Region. This is consistent with data previously analyzed which indicated that these are the crime prevention programs most frequently available in the region. The data in Figure 9 also shows that citizen patrol (26.6%) is the least utilized of the major crime prevention programs. Subjective comments in addition to the survey responses provide several possible reasons for reluctance to develop this type of program. First, there is an inability to gain citizen commitment in terms of time and resources to citizen patrol programs. Secondly, difficulties in gaining commitment of law enforcement resources to train citizens and monitor this activity. Finally, negative experiences in some communities resulting from over-zealous citizens was contributed to the relatively low popular image of the effectiveness of this program.

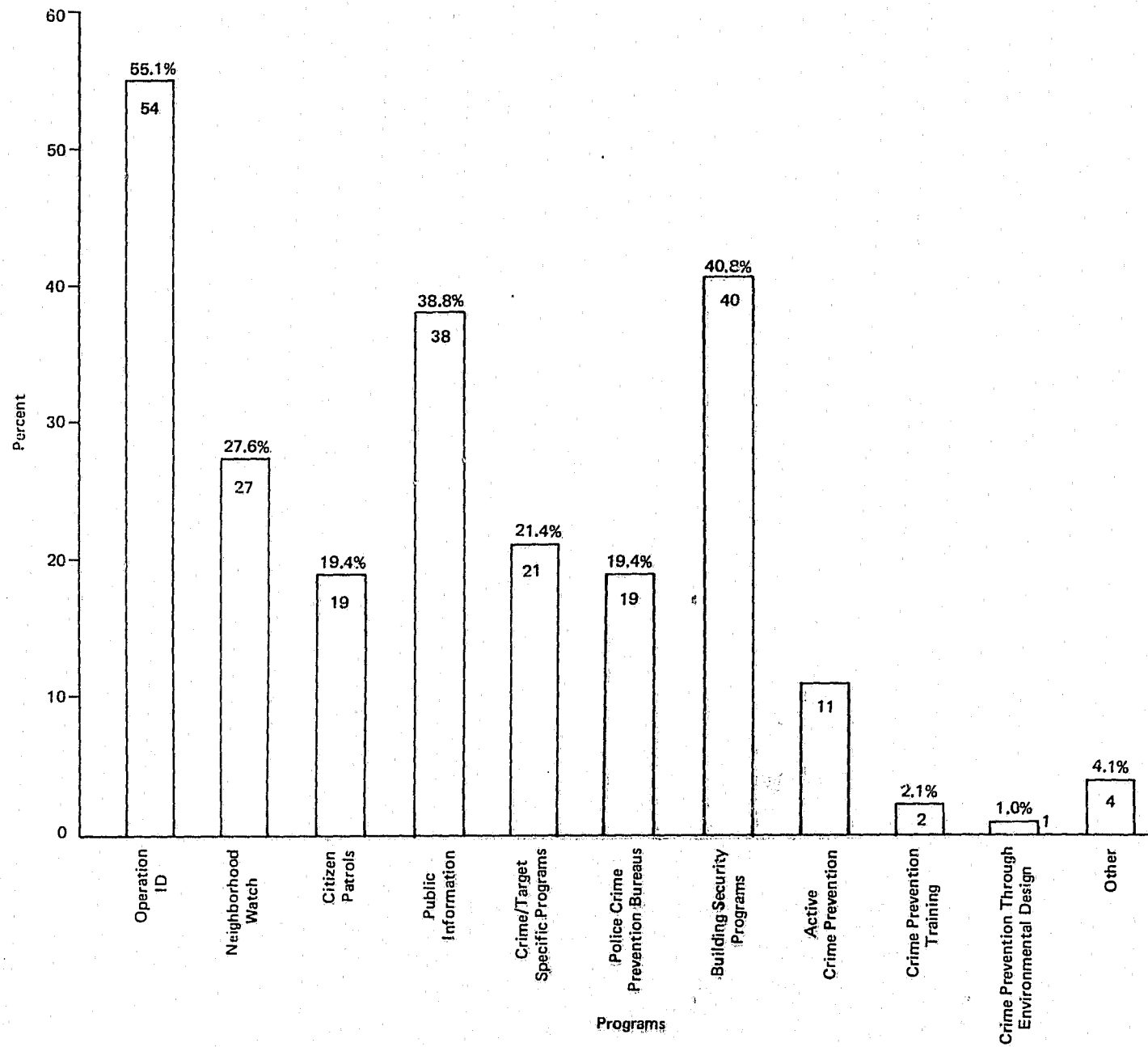
FIGURE 9

**CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS FAVORED  
BY SEMCOG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, 1979**



In order to assess more fully the impact of crime prevention in the SEMCOG Region, survey respondents were asked to indicate the most successful program in their community. Figure 10 depicts the percentage distribution of successful crime prevention programs in the SEMCOG Region. Operation I.D. (55.1%) and building security programs (40.8%) are ranked high among major crime prevention efforts. Public information programs (38.8%) also received a relatively high ranking. Citizen patrols, while ranked low in comparison to other crime prevention activities (19.4%), are considered much more effective when evaluated independently. For example, 57.6 percent of the citizen patrol programs implemented in the SEMCOG Region are considered successful. Thus, it would appear from the data that the image of this program is unjustified in terms of its actual effectiveness.

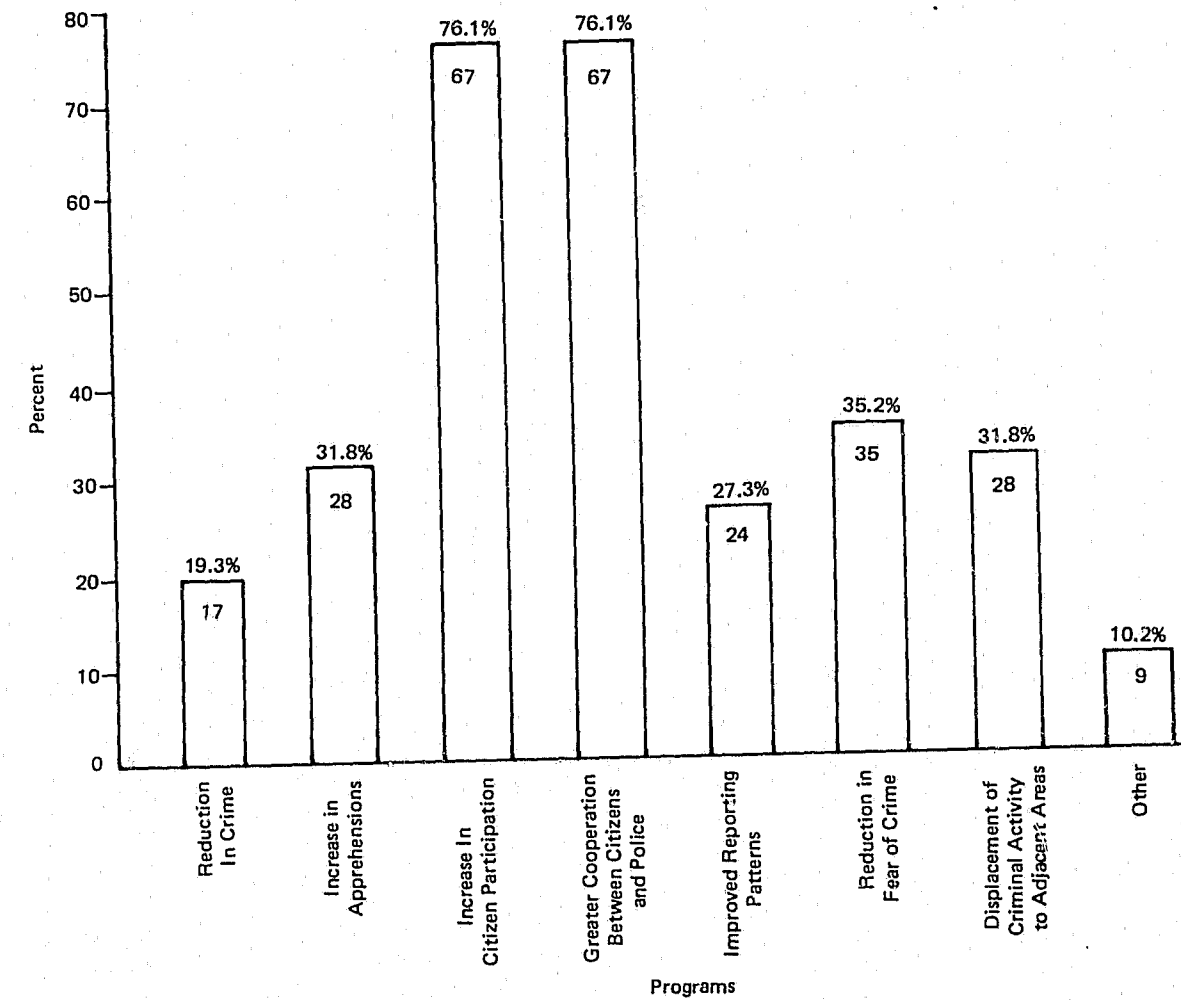
FIGURE 10  
**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCCESSFUL CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN SEMCOG REGION, 1979**



Evaluation of Successful Crime Prevention Programs

A select group of the major criteria used for evaluating crime prevention programs was incorporated into the survey design. Each of the success factors considered is generally related to the overall goal of a reduction in crime and fear of crime. For example, Figure 11 provides the distribution of success factors used for evaluating crime prevention programs in the SEMCOG Region. The greatest benefits anticipated from these programs are an increase in citizen cooperation and greater cooperation between citizens and police (76.1%). Additionally, a reduction in fear of crime (35.2%) and an increase in apprehensions are expected to result from crime prevention programming. Other significant evaluative criteria include a direct reduction in crime and improved crime reporting patterns.

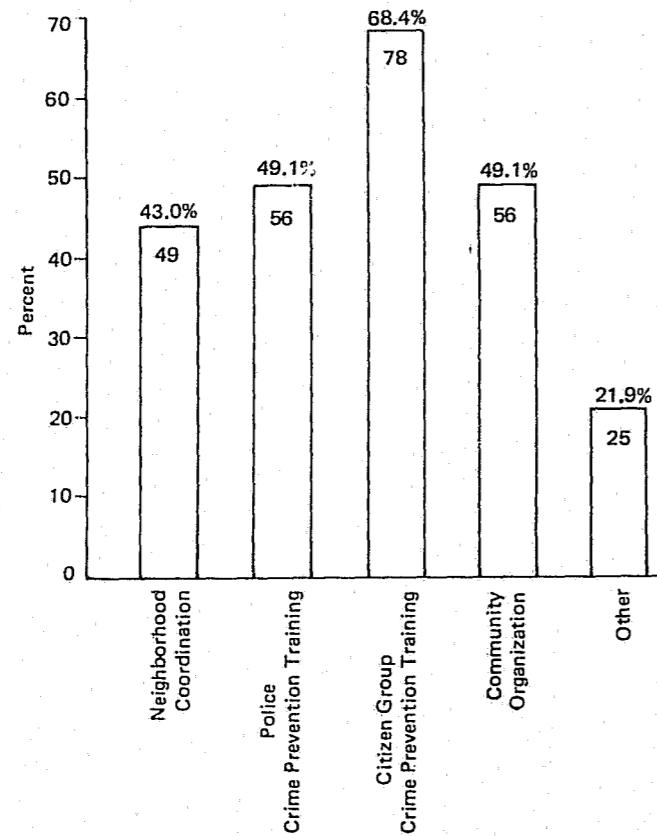
FIGURE 11  
**DISTRIBUTION OF SUCCESS FACTORS FOR EVALUATING CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN SEMCOG REGION, 1979**



Key Resources Associated with Effective Crime Prevention Practice

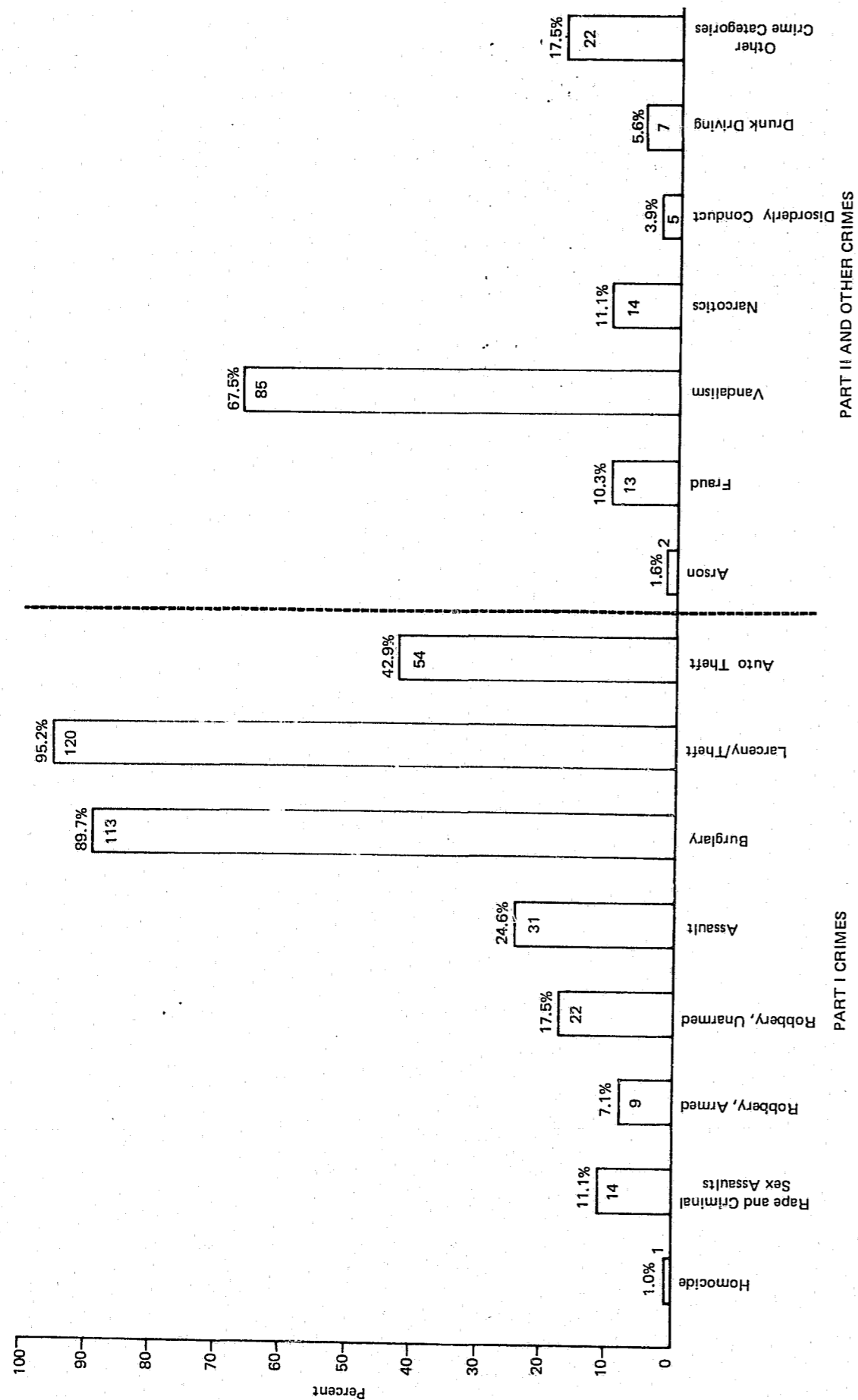
A final area of concern focuses on the resources necessary to make crime prevention an effective strategy of crime control. In this regard, program resources are generally meant to include dollars, equipment, office space, etc. As such, the crime prevention survey attempted to discern the "people" needs and conceptual issues which are unresolved within the region related to crime prevention. Figure 12 shows the relative importance of several key resources associated with successful crime prevention efforts in the SEMCOG Region. The data indicates that survey respondents generally saw crime prevention training for citizen groups (68.4%) as an important resource for effectiveness in crime prevention. Crime prevention training for police (49.1%) was also considered an important focus of attention. Thus, training of both citizens and police appears to be the number one crime prevention priority within the region. Additional related regional crime prevention priorities indicated in Figure 12 include community organization (49.1%) and neighborhood coordination (43%). Other resources identified as important to effective crime prevention include expanded police crime prevention unit services, regional law enforcement, a viable role for the media and law enforcement planning.

FIGURE 12  
KEY RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH  
SUCCESSFUL CRIME PREVENTION EFFORTS IN  
SEMCOG REGION, 1979



Additional survey data shows the specific crimes that are appropriate targets for intensive crime prevention efforts. Overall, Figure 13 shows burglary (89.7%) and larceny/theft (92.2%) to be the most significant crime problem in the region. Auto theft (42.9%) and vandalism (67.5%) also represent significant crime concerns within the region. Moreover, the range of specific crime problems included the entire spectrum of offenses from homicide to disorderly conduct.

FIGURE 13  
 PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MOST PRESSING CRIME PROBLEMS IN SEMCOG REGION, 1979



CHAPTER III  
 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Information provided in this report initially summarized the crime prevention concept and its potential for neighborhood revitalization. Based on a previous review of relevant literature, the crime prevention approach generally involved public education, community organization and crime analysis. In addition to meeting crime reduction objectives, crime prevention provides important side benefits including positive impact on neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Specific findings given in Chapter I focus on the responses to the regional crime prevention survey. While the survey instrument was initially designed for dissemination to local chief elected officials, a cursory analysis revealed that local police departments were the primary respondents. Of 135 responses received, 80 were identified as being completed by law enforcement agencies. Further analysis of survey responses showed that all seven counties were well represented in terms of their proportion of the regional population.

Chapter II highlighted areas of regional concern including crime prevention activities, local crime prevention needs, and targeting of crime prevention programs. Survey findings indicated that a wide variety of crime prevention programs ranging from small neighborhood watch groups to multi-jurisdictional crime prevention organizations presently exist in the SEMCOG Region. The survey further revealed that while most communities in the region are involved in crime prevention activities to some degree, there is a notable lack of comprehensiveness in present efforts. Additional analysis showed that smaller jurisdictions including villages, townships, and rural communities tended to be among the least active in crime prevention.

Additional findings showed that Operation I.D. and building security programs received the highest success ratings throughout the region. SEMCOG communities measure the success of crime prevention activities using a variety of indicators. Among these are an increase in citizen participation and coordination with police, and a reduction in the fear of crime. Additional benefits expected from crime prevention include an increase in apprehensions and improved crime reporting patterns.



Physical planning processes including building code development, street and road design, and development planning do not presently involve crime prevention concepts in most jurisdictions. While many communities in the region are already established in terms of physical infrastructure, widespread revitalization efforts and development of expanding areas can benefit immensely from the application of crime prevention principles in the planning process.

In terms of participation, the police role in crime prevention activities throughout the region is significant. Most law enforcement agencies have provided personnel with crime prevention training, and 43.7 percent of responding jurisdictions have crime prevention bureaus. Available crime prevention training ranged from basic one-day seminars to the comprehensive instruction provided by Macomb County Community College and the National Crime Prevention Institute.

Citizen participation in neighborhood crime prevention activities on a community-wide basis is evidenced in only a few select communities in the region. Thus, crime prevention training for citizens groups and police, and community organization were among the key resources identified by survey respondents as necessary for successful crime prevention efforts.

Based on an extensive review of the literature on neighborhood revitalization and crime prevention, along with the survey findings, the following recommendations are suggested to enhance the coordination and effectiveness of crime prevention activities in the SEMCOG Region. To a large extent, they are also intended to strengthen neighborhood revitalization efforts.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- DEVELOP A SEVEN COUNTY CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE TO STRENGTHEN CRIME PREVENTION EFFORTS THROUGH IMPROVED INFORMATION SHARING, COORDINATION, AND COOPERATION AMONG LOCAL JURISDICTIONS AND NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE SEMCOG REGION.
- ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL CRIME PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER TO IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF CRIME PREVENTION CONCEPTS, IDEAS AND RESOURCES.
- ENCOURAGE GREATER PARTICIPATION ON THE LOCAL LEVEL IN CRIME PREVENTION PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES BY ELECTED OFFICIALS, CITIZENS, PLANNERS, BUSINESSES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

- ENCOURAGE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGIES THAT INCORPORATE BOTH PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION TECHNIQUES.
- ENCOURAGE CRIME PREVENTION PLANNING ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC CRIMES, AFFECTED TARGET POPULATIONS, AND TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMMING IN THE REGION.
- DEVELOP A RESOURCE MANUAL AS A VEHICLE FOR SHARING INFORMATION CONCERNING SUCCESSFUL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES PRESENTLY USED WITHIN THE REGION.

APPENDIX A  
 MAJOR CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPANTS

The reduction of crime and the improvement of living conditions both physical and social are not goals which can be achieved by total reliance on traditional institutions of local government such as the police or housing authority. It requires stimulating and maintaining constructive involvement by all portions of an organized and active citizenry. Some of the major participants and their potential roles in crime prevention are described in the chart below.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME PREVENTION PROJECTS

Major Crime Prevention Participation	Potential Roles and Activities
Law Enforcement	Can provide technical expertise in terms of planning (crime analysis), design of programs such as Operation Identification, training patrol officers, premise surveys, community education.
Local Government Agencies	<p>Planning, community development, public works, and traffic engineering units can stress opportunity reduction principles in both general and specific urban development activities.</p> <p>Housing and building inspection units can stress building security code enforcement.</p> <p>Schools can provide courses of interaction and other educational programs in crime prevention.</p> <p>Fire departments can integrate crime prevention services with current building inspection services.</p>
Insurance Industry	Companies can use premium discounts to encourage crime prevention practice. Conversely, crime prevention practice can provide a basis for insurability.

Community Involvement in Crime Prevention Projects (continued)

Major Crime Prevention Participation	Potential Roles and Activities
Civil Groups	Service clubs, voluntary organizations, professional associations and labor unions can develop educational programs for members and can develop crime prevention service projects for the community.
Communication Media	Can be instrumental in developing public information and education programs in crime prevention.
Citizen Groups	Informal and formal neighborhood groups, community action groups, religious groups, youth groups, fraternal groups and others provide a ready made base for developing projects and programs in crime prevention for their members, their neighborhood, or through coordination and political activity for the community as a whole.

The list of potential participants and the activities and roles that can be undertaken can be expanded indefinitely. The state and federal government, state-wide organizations, national corporations, the local business community, etc., all have a responsibility and a viable role in crime prevention.

A brief survey of some of the more successful strategies utilized in various forms throughout the country will provide additional insight into the practical potential of crime prevention in south-east Michigan. The Block Club and Mobile Patrol concepts were major programs included in a nationwide survey of successful citizen oriented crime prevention strategies. Crime prevention through Environmental Design (CTED) is the systems approach to crime prevention which integrates physical and social considerations in its approach to crime reduction. Finally, crime prevention bureaus were recently evaluated in Michigan by the Office Criminal Justice and found to be effective in reaching citizens and reducing crime.

Block Clubs

The purpose of block clubs is to encourage neighbors to recognize each other. As part of an organized community, they can engage cooperatively with police in activities such as block watch, premise security surveys, Operation I.D., and other locally determined neighborhood improvement projects. Block associations can band together in federations in order to develop more viable organizations and to mutually assist each other. The federations help block clubs to develop crime prevention plans and coordinate action. Such federations exist in many major cities and have been successful in exerting pressure on government to get things done. Areas of concern and action by block clubs and federations have included: better city services; consumer affairs; ecology; zoning; beautification and other things.

Crime prevention objectives which are generally considered appropriate for block club organizations are:

- reduce crime by making it more difficult for criminals to operate in a certain area due to the increased eyes and ears available to the police;
- to build a sense of community among residents with a consequential reduction in the fear of crime.

Mobile Patrols

While block clubs do not usually encompass a large enough geographic area to organize community walks or mobile patrols, federations provide an excellent method for overseeing mobile patrols. Existing organizations can also be used for this purpose. Taxi and trucking companies, CB clubs, etc., are in a good position to set up mobile crime prevention units if they so desire.

Mobile patrols are much more complex than block clubs, and work better in certain types of areas. In some of the highest crime districts, for example, it may be too dangerous for unarmed civilians to patrol in cars or on foot. This would be particularly true where organized youth groups exist and violent crimes is a major problem.

The objectives of mobile groups vary, but are generally concerned with crime prevention. The specific objectives of

one group are: 1) to establish a continuing system of volunteer civilian patrols as a deterrent to crime; 2) to prevent juvenile delinquency; 3) to help organize block groups which will take care of security precautions needed on a block-by-block basis; 4) to alert individuals to security measures which should be taken by every resident; and, 5) to alert people to the availability of federal theft insurance.

#### CTED

While both of the above strategies have been shown to be viable through programs which exist in many parts of the country, a particular problem has been applying these strategies where high concentrations of high-rise and public housing exists. A more comprehensive approach is required due to the density of population and the particular physical features of the environment.

A major approach to these particular problems is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CTED). CTED incorporates physical, social, law enforcement and management techniques to achieve its goal of reducing crime and the fear of crime. These goals are achieved through access control, surveillance, activity support, and motivation reinforcement.

The types of projects which have been successful components of CTED include:

- increased outdoor lighting, sidewalk and landscaping improvements;
- improved streetlighting;
- block watch and neighborhood cleanups;
- residential and business security survey.

#### Police Crime Prevention Programs

The major role of law enforcement in crime prevention is to encourage citizens and community groups, among others, to become active participants in crime opportunity reduction activities. Police agencies most effectively accomplish this through formalized crime prevention bureaus. Conceptually, crime prevention bureaus consist of passive and/or active components. Passive crime prevention involves development and implementation of multiple opportunity reduction strategies particularly suited to a community. Thus it includes such activities as crime analysis, community organization, neighborhood watch, and security surveys. Active crime prevention

involves focusing traditional police resources on specific crime problems through surveillance, directed patrol, and specialized investigation.

APPENDIX B  
SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
800 Book Building, Detroit, Michigan - 48226 - (313) 961-4266

Dear

In order to assist local units of government in their efforts to control crime, the Public Safety Division of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments is conducting a study of crime prevention practices in southeast Michigan. For this purpose, the enclosed survey requests information on crime prevention activities including any specific programs, their documented effectiveness and the extent of crime prevention efforts within the Region.

Upon compiling survey results, local units of government in the SEMCOG Region will be provided with relevant information on advanced crime prevention techniques and suggestions for insuring a comprehensive crime prevention effort. The development of regional crime prevention strategies should also accrue from this effort.

Based on the above, your cooperation in completing the survey on or before February 28, 1979 will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, a glossary of terms and a self-addressed return envelope have been provided. However, if you have any questions on the survey or desire additional information, please do not hesitate in contacting either Jerry Celmer or myself at 313/961-4266.

Sincerely,

Anne Nolan, Program Manager  
Public Safety Programs/SEMCOG

AJN/bar

Enclosures (2)

35

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Mayor, City of Oak Park  
ROBERT L. BOVITZ, Vice Chairperson  
Mayor, City of Trenton

LAWRENCE R. FERNICK, Vice Chairperson  
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Intermediate School District  
MICHAEL M. GLUSAC, Executive Director

MARY ELLEN PARROTT, Vice Chairperson  
Treasurer, Shelby Township  
KATHLEEN M. FOJTIK, Vice Chairperson  
Commissioner, Washtenaw County

**REGIONAL CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY**

Respondent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_

1) Crime prevention is the reduction of opportunities for crime through public education, community organization and crime analysis focusing on target areas and vulnerable populations.

Based on the above, do you believe that there is a need in your community for a crime prevention effort? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

2) If yes, please indicate (circle) the type(s) of crime prevention programs you would like to see developed in your community. (Refer to Glossary of Terms for explanation of program types.)

- a) Operation Identification
- b) Neighborhood Watch
- c) Citizen Patrol
- d) Public Information programs
- e) Building security programs
- f) Police crime prevention bureau
- g) Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

3) Are crime prevention efforts presently underway in your community? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If so, please list the crime prevention program(s) and service(s) available in your community:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

4) Has crime prevention been a consideration in the physical planning of your community? (i.e., Land Use, Zoning, etc.) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

5) If yes, has crime prevention been considered in terms of the following: [check the appropriate line(s)]

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Building code development and enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Streets and road design                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Plan Approval | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                               |

6) Are all law enforcement personnel in your community provided with crime prevention training? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If no, what percentage are provided with crime prevention training? \_\_\_%

7) Does the law enforcement agency in your community have a crime prevention unit? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Number of full time equivalent staff assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

8) In your opinion, what crime prevention program(s) or service(s) have proved successful in your community?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

9) The following are criteria used to evaluate the impact of crime prevention projects. Please check those which apply to your most successful crime prevention program (above):

- Reduction in the proportion of reported versus actual crime.
- Increase in attempted versus successful crime (i.e., more reports of crime in progress).
- Increase in citizen participation in terms of accepting and complying with crime prevention recommendations.
- More feedback and cooperation between citizens who make reports and police who dispatch and respond to those reports.
- Changes in reporting patterns in terms of quality and quantity.
- Reduction in fear and concern for crime.
- Displacement of criminal activity to adjacent areas.
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

10) In your estimation, what resources are needed in your community to make the crime prevention effort more successful? [Circle your choice(s)]

- a) A coordinating mechanism for neighborhood crime prevention projects.
- b) Crime prevention training for police.
- c) Crime prevention training for citizen groups.
- d) Community organization
- e) Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

11) Please rank by frequency and seriousness the five most pressing crime problems in your community:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

12) As part of this regional crime prevention study, specific information regarding the impact of local crime prevention programs is needed. Please list the programs in your community and a contact person if known, to whom a follow-up survey should be sent:

If additional space is needed, please attach extra sheet(s) to back of survey.

- |    |               |                      |
|----|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Program _____ | Contact Person _____ |
|    | Address _____ | _____                |
|    | _____         |                      |
|    | _____         |                      |
| 2. | Program _____ | Contact Person _____ |
|    | Address _____ | _____                |
|    | _____         |                      |
|    | _____         |                      |
| 3. | Program _____ | Contact Person _____ |
|    | Address _____ | _____                |
|    | _____         |                      |
|    | _____         |                      |
| 4. | Program _____ | Contact Person _____ |
|    | Address _____ | _____                |
|    | _____         |                      |
|    | _____         |                      |
| 5. | Program _____ | Contact Person _____ |
|    | Address _____ | _____                |
|    | _____         |                      |
|    | _____         |                      |

APPENDIX C

DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES OF CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**CRIME PREVENTION**—The reduction of opportunities for crime through such activities as: public education, community organization, physical design planning, and crime analysis for target areas and vulnerable populations.

**CITIZEN PATROL**—A crime prevention strategy which involves coordinating citizens who walk or ride (mobile patrol) through specified neighborhoods for the purpose of deterring crime opportunity and reporting incidents that do occur. CB Radios are sometimes used as a means of communication.

**BUILDING SECURITY PROGRAMS**—Consist of activities relating to including crime prevention concepts in design processes, and activities designed to limit access to buildings, particularly multi-family residential complexes and public housing.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**—A program in which neighborhood residents exchange information amongst themselves and with police such as when they are away from home, suspicious activities in the area, and security measures that should be learned by residents.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS**—Provide information to the public generally or through community organizations, neighborhood and civic groups, etc. which assists in maintaining an awareness of the crime problem and provides constructive suggestions for reducing criminal opportunity.

**POLICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU**—A specified division of a police department charged with directing crime prevention efforts within law enforcement. Major activities include both active (surveillance, specialized intensive patrol) and passive (coordination of citizen based crime prevention efforts and assistance as a community resource as needed) crime prevention.

**OPERATION IDENTIFICATION**—A program which seeks to deter theft of property by reducing the opportunity for "fencing" of stolen items. Special marking pens are utilized to identify property. Citizens are encouraged to mark all valuables with a standard ID number such as driver's license number.



DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES OF CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

- 1) OPERATION ID = A program which seeks to deter theft of property by reducing the opportunity for "fencing" of stolen items. Special marking pens are utilized to identify property. Citizens are encouraged to mark all valuables with a standard ID number such as driver's license number.
- 2) NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH = A program in which neighborhood residents exchange information amongst themselves and with police such as when they are away from home, suspicious activities in the area, etc. Includes Helping Hand and neighborhood associations.
- 3) CITIZEN PATROL = A crime prevention strategy which involves coordinating citizens who walk or ride (mobile patrol) through specified neighborhoods for the purpose of deterring crime opportunity and reporting incidents that do occur. CB Radios are sometimes used as a means of communication.
- 4) PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS = Lectures to citizens, public information, encouraging dialer alarms, 4H programs, vacation checklist, Kiwanis programs.
- 5) CRIME OR TARGET SPECIFIC PROGRAMS = School liaison, school safety programs, team policing, youth assistance, MDOP Program, bad check procedures, secret witness, narcotics unit, Kids & Kops, auto theft prevention, rape prevention, child molesting, senior citizens, stranger puppet shows, crime analysis.
- 6) POLICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAUS = Police crime prevention bureaus, sheriff crime prevention units, cooperative crime prevention units, informal services by request.
- 7) BUILDING SECURITY PROGRAMS = Building security programs, inspection (residential and business), vacation house watch, crime prevention vulnerability notices, daily bank checks.
- 8) ACTIVE CRIME PREVENTION = Local police service contracting, heavy patrol, surveillance unit, police decoy car, patrol reorganization, patrol by reserves, use of CB by police.
- 9) CRIME PREVENTION TRAINING = Cadet programs, crime prevention training (institute)

- 10) CRIME PREVENTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED) = Physical development planning.
- 11) OTHER = Vial of life, halloween candy check, Kiwanis programs.

APPENDIX D  
SEMCOG CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY RESPONDENTS

SEMCOG CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY RESPONDENTS\*

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Brighton  
Fowlerville  
Green Oak Township  
Hamburg Township  
Handy Township  
Hartland Township  
Howell  
Marion Township  
Pinckney  
Livingston County Sheriff  
Brighton State Police Post

MACOMB COUNTY

Armada Township  
Bruce Township  
Center Line  
Clinton Township  
East Detroit  
Mount Clemens  
Richmond  
Roseville  
Shelby Township  
Sterling Heights  
St. Clair Shores  
Warren  
Washington Township  
Macomb County Planning Department  
State Police-New Baltimore

MONROE COUNTY

Dundee Township  
Erie Township  
Estral Beach  
Exeter Township  
Ida Township  
Luna Pier  
Maybee  
Monroe  
Raisinville Township  
Monroe County Sheriff  
Erie State Police Post

OAKLAND COUNTY

Berkley  
Bingham Farms  
Birmingham  
Bloomfield Hills  
Bloomfield Township  
Commerce Township  
Farmington  
Farmington Hills  
Ferndale  
Groveland Township  
Hazel Park  
Huntington Woods  
Independence Township  
Lake Orion  
Lathrup Village  
Novi  
Oakland Township  
Oak Park  
Orchard Lake  
Orion Township  
Pontiac  
Rochester  
Royal Oak  
Southfield  
South Lyon  
Springfield Township  
Sylvan Lake  
Troy  
Waterford Township  
West Bloomfield Township  
Wixom  
Wolverine Lake  
Oakland County Sheriff

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Berlin Township  
Capac  
Casco Township  
China Township  
Clay Township  
Fort Gratiot Township  
Greenwood Township  
Ira Township  
Kimball Township  
Marine City  
Marysville  
Port Huron (City of)  
Port Huron Township  
St. Clair (City of)  
St. Clair Township  
St. Clair County Sheriff  
St. Clair State Police Post

\*Respondents listed alphabetically

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Ann Arbor  
Augusta Township  
Chelsea  
Freedom Township  
Lodi Township  
Milan (part)  
Pittsfield Township  
Saline  
Scio Township  
Sharon Township  
Superior Township  
Webster Township  
Ypsilanti  
Washtenaw County Sheriff  
Ypsilanti State Police Post

WAYNE COUNTY

Allen Park  
Belleville  
Canton Township  
Dearborn  
Dearborn Heights  
Detroit  
Garden City  
Gibraltar  
Grosse Ile Township  
Grosse Pointe  
Grosse Pointe Farms  
Hamtramck  
Harper Woods  
Huron Township  
Inkster  
Lincoln Park  
Livonia  
Northville (part)  
Plymouth  
Plymouth Township  
Redford Township  
River Rouge  
Riverview  
Rockwood  
Romulus  
Southgate  
Trenton  
Van Buren Township  
Wayne  
Westland  
Wayne County Sheriff  
Wyandotte  
Flat Rock State Police Post

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## WHAT IS SEMCOG?

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is a voluntary association of governmental units in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

SEMCOG fosters intergovernmental cooperation and resolution of conflict by providing the public forum for local elected officials to coordinate planning and decision-making for issues which don't stop at local jurisdictional boundaries.

SEMCOG's principal activity is long-range planning and the adoption of regionwide plans and policies in the areas of transportation, housing and community development, public safety, land use, recreation, and open space, water and air quality, solid waste disposal, sewage treatment, storm drainage and other environmental concerns. These policies are adopted by local elected officials from member communities.

It helps local communities conserve resources and save tax dollars by generating and providing technical assistance, statistical data and leadership to solve specific regional problems. The Council encourages local governments to make their plans and policies consistent with the adopted regional plans and policies.

In addition, the Council helps local units of government to obtain federal funding for such projects as senior citizen housing, sewers, juvenile aid programs, air pollution control and other projects which communities may not otherwise be able to afford.

The Council acts as the areawide review clearinghouse for federal grants to help avoid wasteful duplication of services, and to insure compatibility with neighboring communities and regional plans and policies.

The Council's meeting and office doors are open to the public, and comments and participation from elected officials and citizens are welcome. The Council's Information Services office distributes technical documents, and adopted policies and plans. For more information about the Council, call 961-4266.

# END