A STUDY OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CRIME IN THUNDER BAY

A STUDY OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CRIME IN THUNDER BAY

Peter B. Worrell M.A.

Alan T. Sparkes Ph.D.

A study funded by the Solicitor General of Canada and sponsored by the Thunder Bay Police Force.

ABSTRACT

A STUDY OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CRIME IN THUNDER BAY

This study examines a number of variables to show how residential areas with higher and lower rates of vandalism differ from one another and how residents of such areas increase or decrease their vulnerability to mischief and property damage.

Police records were used to select four residential areas in Thunder Bay: two with low reported rates and two with high levels of reported vandalism. Interviews were conducted in 361 households. Because of a difference between reported rates of crime and the actual victim experience of the households, the original four areas were reclassified into three (high, medium, and low experience) to reflect their actual victim history.

Several theoretical categories were used to structure the analysis. The three areas were compared on demographic composition, land use, defensible space and social cohesion/neighbourhood watch characteristics. These same characteristics were utilized to compare the experiences of victim and non-victim households.

The areas are differentiated on such variables as socio-economic status, levels of education, and regularity of household occupancy and on the theoretical categories of land use and social cohesion/neighbourhood watch. Significant differences were found to exist on the neighbourhood watch dimensions. The low area has a low victim experience as a result of the presence of an existing informal neighbourhood watch system. As a group, the residents of that area were more likely to take affirmative action when they observed persons damaging neighbourhood property.

Moreover, this project demonstrates that an outside agency can implement a neighbourhood watch system and have an effect on the rates of reported crime.

The findings are presented in eighty-seven (87) tables and the implications of the study as well as recommendations are presented in the concluding chapter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank Chief T. R. Keep of the Thunder Bay Police Force for his continued support.

Cheryl Brooker

Nancy Doetzel

Inez Lazzari

Lena Pecchia

Micheline Tamminen

and Pamela Young were interviewers and coders for this project.

They helped design and implement the research and diligently plowed through the snow during a cold winter. In addition, they wrote and performed a short play for children in three elementary schools.

We also wish to thank the many residents who let us into their homes and volunteered the information for this project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE

PAGE

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In recent years vandalism has received a great deal of community concern throughout North America. At several levels of government ad hoc committees and task forces have directed their attention to this social problem and have sought funding for empirical research studies and other projects to be able to understand or modify the rates of vandalism. In 1979 the Thunder Bay Police Force obtained such a research grant from the Solicitor General of Canada for the study reported here. Data was collected and analysed to test several theories about the characteristics of and responses to property damage in residential neighbourhoods. Vandalism to businesses, educational and other facilities is not part of the focus of this research endeavour. Instead, this study examines a number of variables which, to some degree, are related to the opportunity to commit residential property damage. An attempt is made to show how residential areas with higher or lower rates of vandalism differ from one another and how residents of such areas increase or decrease their vulnerability to mischief and damage.

A number of explanations have been offered as to why residential property damage occurs more frequently in one geographic location than another, but there is only a little research which provides supportive data. Studies of vandalism have often directed their attention to describing its occurrence

with respect to time and place, the principal age group, or the socio-economic status of the group that participates in these acts. Generally these studies have relied on police records and crime statistics and this official information is often quite different from data collected by other methods.

> Until quite recently much of the data available regarding crime and the criminal justice system were based on official records. While these data have been variously employed, the recognition of their methodological and conceptual limitations has stimulated the development of new sources of data to supplement official statistics. The most significant development has been the emergence of victimization survey data . . . It is now recognized that a substantial amount of crime is never reported to the police. Therefore, the ability of victimization surveys to provide estimates of reported as well as unreported crime means that such surveys can produce more extensive estimates of the actual rate of crime than those which are derived from police statistics (Evans & Leger, 1979:167).

While descriptive studies that use official statistics provide the reader with some insights, they do not, by their very nature, explain why property crimes occur more frequently in one geographic area than another or why one household may be more susceptible to being victimized than another.

Theories that purport to explain such geographical differences include social cohesion or neighbourhood watch theories, defensible space or physical design theories, land use theory, socio-economic theories, leisure time theory and the working mother hypothesis. In each explanation either vulnerability to being a victim or the opportunity to vandalize are hypothesized to vary with the degree to which given variables are present or absent in specific locations. For instance, the working mother notion implies that household property damage is more likely to occur when the mother is fully employed outside the household. On the other hand, social cohesion theories

are based on an expectation that neighbourhoods which have some local spirit and a co-operative defensive watchfulness are more likely to experience low rates of property damage compared with neighbourhoods which lack such a protective initiative.

An important feature of each of these theories is the implication that vandalism can be diminished or controlled if significant neighbourhood characteristics can be identified and satisfactorily manipulated. However, researchers first have to establish the factors or theories which best account for differences in the frequency of residential property crimes from one area to another. This study collects and applies a wide spectrum of information to the several theories mentioned above by comparing data from four selected residential areas which have had (according to police reports) varying degrees of damage and mischief. However, more attention is given to the social cohesion theory. It is from this perspective that the Neighbourhood Watch System has developed and is recommended as a major force to combat vandalism (Solicitor General of Canada). It states that community members should be involved, become aware of and accept more responsibility for what occurs in their neighbourhoods. They should act in a partnership with the police, giving rise to such slogans as "Working Together To Prevent Crime." Because of the current interest in this programme, several specific hypothesis were formulated.

1. Residents in areas with high rates of reported property damage have a relatively low degree of community identity, awareness, and sense of responsibility. If community awareness is stimulated through the introduction of a neighbourhood watch system, the rate of reported vandalism will increase.

2. Residents in areas with low rates of reported property damage have a relatively high degree of community identity, awareness, a sense of responsibility, and an existing informal neighbourhood watch system.

3. Rates of reported residential vandalism in a given residential area vary according to the degree to which the local residents have adopted formal or informal neighbourhood watch methods.

Additional questions were asked on this topic pertaining to other theories and these are also discussed in Chapter IV. The survey portion of the research was completed in March of 1980. The analysis of the data was completed in July of 1981.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER

The remainder of the paper will be organized as follows:

CHAPTER II REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY

CHAPTER IV FINDINGS

CHAPTER V SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

One of the more thorough studies of residential crime was conducted by Repetto in the city of Boston. The purpose of the study was to identify and explain, if possible, the variance in the rates and patterns of residential robberies and burglaries (Break and Enter). Repetto selected thirty-nine of the 824 Boston City policing areas thought to be representative according to the stratification of housing types, race, income, and crime rate. In addition to examining approximately 2,000 crimes reported to the police, he sampled 1,000 victims from the thirty-nine areas (Repetto, 1974).

The study can be broken down into three sections; offender behaviour, environmental factors, and social and economic factors.

The findings of this study indicated that residential areas with high crime rates and victim experience were close to the commercial core, consisted of low income residents, exhibited a low degree of social cohesion, were ethno-culturally heterogeneous, and had a relatively high household vacancy rate during the day.

Further, Repetto found that diverse land use patterns effected the distribution of residential crime but did not act uniformally to effect the distribution in all areas. Victims tended to be from high and middle income families.

Hackler, Ho and Urquhart-Ross (1974) studied twelve areas in the city of Edmonton, Alberta, for the purpose of isolating some of the conditions under which people are willing to help someone in distress, or to initiate action to prevent a criminal act.

The results of their research indicated that the degree of social interaction was directly related to the willingness to intervene. Stable communities, or communities with fewer people moving in and out were found to exhibit a high degree of social interaction, a willingness to intervene, and a lower rate of crime (Hackler, Ho and Urquhart-Ross, 1974).

Another American study compared two areas and found that the residents in the low delinquency rate neighbourhood liked the neighbourhood, knew their neighbours, and were willing to take some action if they observed a person committing a criminal act. While the two areas were similar occupationally and educationally, they differed religiously and ethnically with the low area being relatively homogeneous in terms of religiosity and ethnicity (Maccoby and Johnson, 1958).

Thus far, the studies discussed in this chapter have indicated that there is a relationship between social cohesion, cultural and/or demographic homogeneity, and the rate of residential crime in selected areas. None of these studies, however, clearly defined, nor seriously looked at, the nature

of neighbourhood social relations. Herbert Gans has studied the dynamics of neighbour relations and offers this information:

> When people first move in, they do not know each other, or anything about each other, except that they have all chosen to live in this community, and can probably afford to do so. As a result, they will begin to make social contacts based purely on propinquity, and, because they share the characteristics of being strangers and pioneers, they will do so with almost every neighbour within physical and functional distance. As these social contacts continue, participants begin to discover each other's backgrounds, values, and interests so that similarities and differences become apparent. Homogeneous neighbours may become friends, whereas heterogeneous ones soon reduce the amount of visiting and eventually limit themselves to being neighbourly. An analysis of the characteristics of people will show that homogeneity and heterogeneity explain the existence and absence of social relationships more adequately than does the site or architectural deisgn (Gans,566; 1976).

The school of thought associated with environmental psychology and, in particular, environmental design suggests that contemporary physical urban structures and design do not permit the kind of interaction between the neighbourhood inhabitants which is held to be a precondition essential for the development of a sense of community or territoriality, informal social controls, and the maximum effectiveness of formal social controls (Proshansky, 1976; Yancey, 1970; Jacobs, 1961; Newman, 1973; Stanley, 1977). In short, the proponents of the environmental design/defensible space theories believe that architectural design in itself can induce a feeling of territoriality, increase social interaction, and rekindle and cause social controls to become operationalized so that potential offenders or strangers can be recognized and addressed by the neighbourhood inhabitants (Newman, 1973; Yancey, 1970).

Included in this theoretical framework is the idea that specialized activity areas tend to segment the urban host, and, as such, eliminate the capability of citizens to properly keep watch of their fronting streets, and thereby improve the opportunity to commit crimes. Jacobs advocates diverse land use, suggesting that diversified uses will promote maximum street activity and enhance the possibilities for voluntary citizen surveillance (Jacobs, 1961).

Other studies related to this research project were conducted by Engstad in 1975, and by Waller and Okihiro in the mid 1970's.

Engstad examined and compared the frequency of specific crime types of areas with and without licensed hotels and shopping centres. His findings indicated that there was indeed a relationship between specific crime types and specific activity centres and that the absence or presence of these structures within or adjacent to reporting areas accounted for the variance of the specific crimes under study (Engstad, 1975). A study of residential break and enters conducted by Waller and Okihiro examined a number of basic variables such as time, means of entry, the type and value of property stolen, damage confrontation, and the victim's recall ability to reconstruct a profile of the perpetrator. Their findings revealed that residential break and enter did not occur at any particular time, that cash and jewellery were most often stolen, and that doorways were the most common form of entrance. Opportunism per se was not an object of inquiry in this study (Waller and Okihiro, 1980).

Lastly, some mention should be made of the article written by Evans and Leger relating to the methodology of victim and crime distribution studies. In addition to providing a historical review of previous methodologies, the review provides the reader with some food for thought regarding the objectives and purposes of obtaining crime and victim data. Briefly, they are to provide measures of the frequency and distribution of selected crimes, to indicate the impact of the crimes on victims, to provide information relating to the risk of criminal victimization, and to provide some indication of the efficiency of the criminal justice system (Evans and Leger, 1980).

Summary of the Review of the Literature

While there are a number of studies which are indirectly related to this project, the number of directly related studies are not in great abundance. A review of the literature, however, indicates that two major theories have been developed. These are the socio-cultural theory and the socio-urban form theory. The socio-cultural theory suggests that levels of social interaction and social cohesion at the neighbourhood level is directly related to the willingness on the part of a neighbourhood inhabitant to initiate action to prevent a criminal act. Cultural and demographic homogeneity is perceived as being directly related to levels of neighbourhood cohesion. Neighbourhood social cohesion is then considered to be independent of the site or architectural design and the principal determinant of intervention.

The socio-urban form theory also proposes that citizen action or intervention is by and large dependent upon the degree to which a neighbourhood develops a sense of "community" or territoriality. In turn, this sense of community or territoriality is dependent upon the degree of neighbourhood social interaction and cohesion. The major difference between the two theories lies in the variables determined to be of significance in bringing about levels of social interaction and cohesion in the first place. In contrast to the socio-cultural theory, the proponents of the socio-urban form theory do not consider the degree of homogeneity to be as important as the surrounding architectural design and land use patterns. The architectural design or urban form and land use patterns are thought to be directly related to degrees of territoriality, social cohesion, and willingness to intervene.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Generally, projects that arise from a public concern about social problems are not undertaken to collect accurate information which can be used to test theories and analyze the problem.. They stem from a valid desire to uncover solutions to the problems. At issue is the immediate need to "do something". Thunder Bay has reacted with the formation of a city Vandalism Task Force and two projects sponsored by the Police Force.

The first project produced a descriptive report entitled Vandalism, Attacks on Society (Stewart et al.,1978). It was based on interviews with a wide selection of people who might be expected to know about various aspects of vandalism; police officers, school principals, juvenile court judges, school age children, and senior citizens.

> Most of (these interviews) were carried out in order to gain some deeper insights into just how various members of the community perceived the problem of vandalism (Stewart et al., 1978).

In addition, police statistics were used to outline some characteristics, such as the types and location, of reported vandalism in Thunder Bay.

This present study, the second one sponsored by the Thunder Bay Police Force, was motivated by a similar concern about the nature and extent of vandalism. However, it is a controlled and systematic research project

designed to discover if there are differences between residential areas with high and low rates of vandalism and, secondly, if there are measurable differences when a neighbourhood watch program is introduced in some residential areas and not in others.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE RESEARCH AND SELECTION OF THE SAMPLE

A research director and six interviewers were hired to implement the study within the framework established by the Police Force. The six interviewers were fully involved in the early planning stages of the research, suggesting questions and methods, reading about vandalism and deciding on practical matters relating to scheduling and interviewing. This involvement probably contributed to the fact that they remained for the duration of the project.

A questionnaire was developed and pre-tested (see Appendix A). Identifying demographic information was collected for each adult member of the household. Also, the household's experience with vandalism, either as a victim or a witness of neighbourhood incidents, was recorded. An extremely important feature of the later analysis is an examination of the differences (or lack of them) between victims and non-victims of vandalism. Finally, there are a series of questions about attitudes and behaviour in relation to suspected or observed property crime. An effort was made to ensure the smooth flow of questions despite frequent shifts in topics during the interview.

Interviewing took place in four residential areas. For the purposes of policing, the City of Thunder Bay has been divided into nine major patrol areas, consisting of sixty-eight sub-areas. When citizens contact the police the geographical location of an incident is noted on the subsequent report. Statistics pertaining to wilful damage, mischief, break and enter, theft and damage to residences for each of the sub-areas were tabulated from police reports, and form part of the basis for the selection of four sub-areas. A further consideration was that the area had to be primarily residential. The staff toured each proposed area to look at the mix of residential and commercial locations.

Over a twelve month period in these small patrol areas, the rates of reported vandalism against residences varied from a low of one to a high of fifty-nine cases. The average number of cases reported to the police for these patrol areas was 20.1. The four areas selected had 9, 18, 39, 51 cases of residential vandalism, respectively. It must be stressed that these figures are derived from "those cases reported to the police". For a variety of reasons, people do not report all incidents of observed or suspected crime to the police.

The four residential areas were divided into two high report and two low report neighbourhoods and identical interviews were conducted with a sample of the populations in each region. A list of streets and house numbers in each zone was compiled from the City Directory and names were randomly

selected to achieve a 15% sample from each neighbourhood (Thunder Bay City Directory and telephone number guide, 1979). A covering letter describing the project and requesting their assistance was sent to each household on the list. (See Appendix B). Two or three days after each mailing residents were phoned and an appointment made for a morning, afternoon, or early evening interview. The latter was necessary to accommodate those families who were away from their homes during the day.

Most interviews took place at the respondent's home with a few at places of work or even the police station. The interview was conducted by two people; one to ask the questions, and the other to record the answers. They generally lasted an hour and twenty minutes. There were no partially completed interviews and relatively few refusals to participate in the survey. The letter sent to each household was on Police Force letterhead and was personally signed by the Chief of Police. In addition, each project worker firmly indicated the necessity of interviewing that specific household. (See Appendix C). At least three phone calls were made during the weekday, on weekends, or evenings in order to contact those on the list. Only 8% of those on the original list were not contacted or refused to participate.

In two areas, the high vandalism areas, residents were told of the Neighbourhood Watch Program, how to become involved, and involve others in the neighbourhood. They were also asked if they would come to a meeting to have the program explained more fully. In addition, notices were delivered to every household in the high report areas urging them to attend such a

TABLE 1

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE ACTUAL VICTIM EXPERIENCE IN EACH AREA

AREA VANDALISM RATE	ACTUAL VICTIM EXPERIENCE IN EACH AREA		
	NO	YES	TOTAL
HIGH	41.4%	58.6%	
	(41)	(58)	(99)
MIDDLE	51.0%	49.0%	
	(98)	(94)	(192)
LOW	61.7%	38.3%	
	(37)	(23)	(60)
		N =	351

meeting (see Appendix D) for a more detailed presentation of the Neighbourhood Watch Program. All four areas were monitored after the termination of interviewing to detect possible changes in the rate of reporting incidents of vandalism. This data is presented in Chapter IV.

Finally, the questionnaires were coded by the interviewers for computer tabulation, and keypunched by the staff of the City of Thunder Bay Computer Centre. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (S.P.S.S.) was used to construct Bivariate and Multivariate Contingency Tables for the analysis.

A cursory review of these tables revealed that the actual victim experience of one of the low reporting areas was higher than the other three reporting areas. To lend credability to the study, the areas were arranged to reflect actual victim experience. This was accomplished by collapsing the two high reporting areas into the medium category, and relabelling the low reporting area with the high victim experience as the high area. The remaining low reporting area actually had the lowest rate of residential property damage and was left to represent the low area. The rates of household victim experience are presented in Table 1 which indicates that 58.6% of the households in the high area, 49.0% of the households in the medium area, and 38.3% of the households in the low area had been victimized sometime between October 1978 and October 1979.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS

This section presents a considerable amount of data from the interviews with residents in the four selected areas. As indicated in Chapter I we found, as expected, a discrepancy between the police statistics and the data gathered in the interviews. Some 50% of all households in the survey reported being victims, a much higher rate than is indicated by police figures.

The findings are presented in two ways or on two levels of analysis. The first level of analysis focuses on the social and physical characteristics of the specific areas in which the households are situated. Based on the householders self-reporting of their victim experience, the four original areas were reclassified into three categories; high, medium, or low vandalism areas; the main question being "Are there systematic reasons for the different rates of vandalism?"

At the second level of analysis the three areas in which the householders reside are ignored and the focus is on the characteristics of the victim and non-victim households. "Are there certain identifiable precautions or actions taken by non-victims that help prevent vandalism against them?"

In order to make the chore of reviewing the findings easier, Tables have been sectioned and arranged according to several descriptive or theoretical categories as follows: demographic characteristics (including the working mother hypothesis), defensible space or physical design, land use, and social cohesion/neighbourhood watch theories.

Also, the tables for the two levels of analysis are presented together so the reader can compare differences, if any, among the three areas or between victims and non-victims. All of the data from the survey is not presented here. Only the more significant relationships, or those that fit into the major theories are described and other topics or questions on the interview form (Appendix A) yield no fruitful information.

1. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

It is possible to locate families in a social space which places them in relation to other families in the same community. Such characteristics as ethnicity, family size and level of education may also be related to the experience of vandalism in one's neighbourhood.

(i) Ethno cultural Background

Table 2 indicates that the residential areas with both high and low vandalism rates are relatively homogeneous compared to the greater variety of ethnic groups in the residential area with the medium vandalism rate, and as such does not explain the variance in residential property damage among the three areas. Also, when we examine Table 3, the findings further indicate that being a victim or non-victim has virtually no relationship with ethno-cultural background, as evidenced by the relatively equal percentage distributions.

(ii) Socioeconomic Status

The present occupation was listed for all adult members (18 & over) of the household. The data was converted to ratings developed by Blishen and McRoberts (1976) and collapsed into three categories.

TABLE 2

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING ETHNOCULTURAL BACKGROUND

AREA VANDALISM RATE	ETHNOCULTURAL BACKGROUND							
	SCANDANAVIAN	ITALIAN	SLOVAC	ENGLISH	EUROPEAN	CANADIAN	NATIVE CANADIAN	TOTAL
HIGH	7.3% (7)	10.4% (10)	8.3% (8)	51.0% (49)	15.6% (15)	7.3% (7)	--- (0)	(96)
MEDIUM	14.1% (27)	9.4% (18)	25.7% (49)	28.3% (54)	11.5% (22)	10.5% (20)	.5% (1)	(191)
LOW	1.7% (1)	8.5% (5)	18.6% (11)	42.4% (25)	8.5% (5)	20.3% (12)	--- (0)	(59)
							N =	346

TABLE 3

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING ETHNOCULTURAL BACKGROUND

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	ETHNOCULTURAL BACKGROUND							
	SCANDANAVIAN	ITALIAN	SLOVAC	ENGLISH	EUROPEAN	CANADIAN	NATIVE CANADIAN	TOTAL
VICTIM	10.1%	7.8%	20.8%	39.8%	12.6%	8.9%	---	
	(17)	(13)	(35)	(67)	(21)	(15)	(0)	(168)
NON-VICTIM	9.4%	10.5%	19.3%	34.6%	11.6%	14.0%	.6%	
	(16)	(18)	(33)	(59)	(20)	(24)	(1)	(171)
							N =	339

Clearly the residential area with the highest rate of vandalism consists of a greater number of households from a high socioeconomic status background. However, when we examine the residential area with the lowest rate of vandalism, we find that more households from a middle and high socioeconomic status background have been vandalized than the residential area with a medium rate of vandalism. In sum, Table 4 indicates that the rate of vandalism may be partially related to socioeconomic status but this relationship is not constant and may only be a factor in neighbourhood areas which have a large proportion of its households from high socioeconomic backgrounds.

Table 5 lends support to the above. Victims tended to come from middle or high socioeconomic statuses whereas non-victims tended to be predominantly from a low socioeconomic status background.

(iii) Education

The data in Table 6 indicates that the area with the highest rate of vandalism is composed of households with a relatively high level of education; 49.0% having attended community college or university, compared to 15.7% and 27.9% respectively for the areas with medium and low rates of vandalism. Again as with the socioeconomic variable, the relationship between education and rate of vandalism is not consistent, and may only become a factor when a relatively large proportion of respondents in a residential area share a high level of education.

The victim experience results (Table 7) indicate that victims tend to be slightly more educated than non-victims.

TABLE 4

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THEIR SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

AREA VANDALISM RATE	LEVEL OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS			
	LOW*	MIDDLE	HIGH	TOTAL
HIGH	26.5% (27)	33.3% (33)	41.2% (42)	(102)
MEDIUM	57.6% (114)	33.3% (66)	9.1% (18)	(198)
LOW	47.5% (29)	39.3% (24)	13.2% (8)	(61)
			N =	361

TABLE 5

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THEIR SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	LEVEL OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS			
	LOW*	MIDDLE	HIGH	TOTAL
VICTIM	35.4% (62)	42.3% (74)	22.3% (39)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	58.1% (104)	27.9% (50)	14.0% (25)	(179)
			N =	354

* The low socioeconomic status category includes those households where adult members were unemployed, disabled, retired or working.

TABLE 6

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION

AREA VANDALISM RATE	LEVEL OF EDUCATION: LESS THAN GRADE 13	GRADE 13, UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY COLLEGE	TOTAL
HIGH	46.1% (47)	53.9% (55)	(102)
MEDIUM	78.8% (156)	20.2% (40)	(198)
LOW	67.3% (41)	32.7% (20)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 7

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING LEVEL OF EDUCATION

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	LEVEL OF EDUCATION: LESS THAN GRADE 13	GRADE 13, UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY COLLEGE	TOTAL
VICTIM	64.6% (113)	35.4% (62)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	71.5% (128)	28.5% (51)	(179)
		N =	354

(IV) Length of Residence

At least 70.0% of the respondents living in the high and low vandalism areas indicate they have lived in their neighbourhood for seven or more years. On the other hand, only 59.5% of the respondents living in the medium vandalism area indicate that they have lived in their neighbourhood for this period of time.

In any event, there does not appear to be any distinct relationship between the number of years people live in a neighbourhood and the area vandalism rate.

From the victim experience table, we find that victims tend to have lived in their neighbourhood longer than non-victims (Table 9). If the ideas about high social cohesion producing low rates of vandalism are correct, we should expect that the longer people live in an area, the more they know and interact with their neighbours. However, the simple measure of length of residence in an area has no effect on vandalism. In fact, victims may be in a position to have known their neighbours better than non-victims (Table 9).

(v) Number of Adults per Household

A relationship between rates of area or neighbourhood residential vandalism and the number of adults per household in the area is non-existent as evidenced by the data in Table 10. In all areas, the distribution of two and three adult family households is relatively equal.

The victim experience table suggests that slightly more victim households contain three or more adults than non-victim households (Table 11). Again this is unexpected as more people in the household should increase the potential to have someone in the house and therefore be able to view and report acts of vandalism.

TABLE 8

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE LENGTH OF TIME THEY HAVE LIVED IN THE HOUSEHOLD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	LENGTH OF TIME		TOTAL
	1-6 YEARS	MORE THAN 6 YEARS	
HIGH	28.5%	71.5%	
	(29)	(73)	(102)
MEDIUM	40.5%	59.5%	
	(80)	(118)	(198)
LOW	25.6%	74.4%	
	(15)	(46)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 9

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE LENGTH OF TIME THE RESPONDENT LIVED IN THE HOUSEHOLD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	LENGTH OF TIME		TOTAL
	1-6 YEARS	MORE THAN 6 YEARS	
VICTIM	29.7%	70.3%	
	(52)	(123)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	39.7%	60.3%	
	(71)	(108)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 10

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF ADULTS PER HOUSEHOLD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	NUMBER OF ADULTS PER HOUSEHOLD: ONE ADULT	TWO ADULTS	THREE OR MORE ADULTS	TOTAL
HIGH	5.9%	54.9%	39.2%	
	(6)	(56)	(40)	(102)
MEDIUM	10.6%	60.6%	28.8%	
	(21)	(120)	(57)	(198)
LOW	8.2%	57.4%	34.4%	
	(5)	(35)	(21)	(61)
			N =	361

TABLE 11

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF ADULTS PER HOUSEHOLD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF ADULTS PER HOUSEHOLD: ONE ADULT	TWO ADULTS	THREE OR MORE ADULTS	TOTAL
VICTIM	6.9%	57.7%	35.4%	
	(12)	(101)	(62)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	11.7%	60.3%	28.0%	
	(21)	(108)	(50)	(179)
			N =	354

(Vi) The Number of Children per Household

Table 12 provides information which indicates that there are more households with two or more children in the high vandalism area (40.2%) than in the medium (30.8%) and low (31.0%) vandalism areas. There are also slightly more households with children than not, compared with the same two areas.

When we examine the findings in the victim experience table, we discover that a larger percentage of non-victim households have no children, and a slightly larger number of non-victim then victim households have two or more children. From this information we may infer that the distribution of vandalism at the victim level cannot be attributed to the presence or absence of households without children or with two or more children.

(vii) Working Mothers

Table 14 provides data which allows the reader to examine the relationship between victim experience, and the presence or absence of a working mother in the three residential areas. In approximately 53.0% of the households in each area, mothers worked outside the residence.

In the high vandalism area the data indicates that households with working mothers tended to have been victimized more often than households where the mother did not work. This same relationship holds, and is stronger for the residential area with the medium vandalism rate. In the residential area with the lowest rate of vandalism this relationship is reversed, where households with working mothers tended not be victimized.

Summary of Demographics Section

The ethno-cultural composition of residential areas does not

TABLE 12

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF RESIDENT CHILDREN

AREA VANDALISM RATE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER HOUSEHOLD: NO CHILDREN	ONE	TWO OR MORE CHILDREN	TOTAL
HIGH	43.1% (44)	16.7% (17)	40.2% (41)	(102)
MIDDLE	50.5% (100)	18.7% (37)	30.8% (61)	(198)
LOW	47.6% (29)	21.4% (13)	31.0% (19)	(61)
			N =	361

TABLE 13

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF RESIDENT CHILDREN

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER HOUSEHOLD: NO CHILDREN	ONE	TWO OR MORE CHILDREN	TOTAL
VICTIM	46.9% (82)	20.0% (35)	33.1% (58)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	50.4% (90)	15.5% (28)	34.1% (61)	(179)
			N =	354

TABLE 14

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS FROM THREE DIFFERING AREAS WITH WORKING MOTHERS CONTROLLING FOR THE VICTIM EXPERIENCE OF THE HOUSEHOLD

AREA VANDALISM RATE			MOTHER WORKS OUTSIDE HOUSEHOLD YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	VICTIM OF VANDALISM	YES	56.9% (33)	43.1% (25)	(58)
		NO	43.9% (18)	56.1% (23)	(41)
MEDIUM	VICTIM OF VANDALISM	YES	66.0% (62)	34.0% (32)	(94)
		NO	36.7% (36)	63.3% (62)	(98)
LOW	VICTIM OF VANDALISM	YES	47.8% (11)	52.2% (13)	(24)
		NO	56.8% (21)	43.2% (16)	(37)
				N =	351

explain the variance of the frequency of property crime within the three areas as evidenced by the relatively homogeneous similarity shared between the high and low vandalism rate areas. With respect to socioeconomic status, we can infer that neighbourhoods with a relatively high density of households from a high socioeconomic background are more likely to experience higher rates of property damage than neighbourhoods which do not have a high density of high socioeconomic status background households. More victims than non-victim households were from a high socioeconomic background indicating that victim experience on the household level may be directly related to socioeconomic status background.

The level of education may have a more direct effect on the frequency of neighbourhood and household property damage than many of the other demographic variables. Clearly the residential area with the highest vandalism rate is composed of a much greater number of households with a community college or university level of education than households in the other two areas.

The longevity of residence, number of adults in the household, and the number of children in the household do not appear to have any direct effect on the distribution of neighbourhood property crime. On the household level of analysis, more victims than non-victims lived in their household for six or more years, and contained three or more adults. The distribution of children was equal between the victim and non-victim households.

The working mother hypothesis has long been purported, especially in the mass media, to have a direct effect on the distribution of area

and household rates of property damage, but the data in this study only partially supports this hypothesis.

In the high vandalism rate area, we find that the household victim experience is related to having a working mother in the household. This effect became significantly apparent in the medium vandalism rate area with 66.0% of all households with a working mother having been victimized. However, this particular area is relatively heterogeneous in terms of the ethnocultural distribution compared with both the low and high areas. We would suggest that the working mother variable may be more directly related, and more capable of explaining victim experience in neighbourhoods which are culturally heterogeneous. The percentage distributions in the low area are reversed indicating that the absence of a working mother does not act uniformly to affect the distribution of household or area property damage.

2. DEFENSIBLE SPACE/PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

For the purpose of this study, defensible space is defined as a combination of man made obstacles (excluding architectural design) and social behaviours which function to isolate potential target sites by reducing the opportunity for others to commit acts of vandalism, impulsive or otherwise. Fencing one's property, locking house and car doors, and owning a dog, for example, may deter those who would intrude and remove or destroy parts of easily accessible property.

(i) Having Someone in the House Regularly

One way to inhibit property damage or theft is to ensure that someone

TABLE 15

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT SOMEONE IS REGULARLY IN THE HOUSEHOLD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	IS SOMEONE REGULARLY IN THE HOUSEHOLD? YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	22.5% (23)	77.5% (79)	(102)
MEDIUM	32.8% (65)	67.2% (133)	(198)
LOW	42.6% (26)	57.5% (38)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 16

PERCENTAGE DISTRUBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT SOMEONE IS REGULARLY IN THE HOUSE

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	IS SOMEONE REGULARLY IN THE HOUSE? YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	30.9% (54)	69.1% (121)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	32.4% (58)	67.6% (121)	(179)
		N =	354

is regularly present to observe and possibly deter destructive acts. In the low vandalism area, 42.6% of the households indicate that someone is regularly at home compared to 32.8% of the households in the medium and 22.5% in the high area. However, in Table 16, the data indicates little difference in the practice of keeping someone around the households on a regular basis. In sum, having someone in the house regularly appears to affect vandalism rates from one area to another but it does not help to explain victimization at the household level.

(ii) The Number of Hours the Household is Vacant per Day

Another factor is the length of time that a house may be vacant or when someone is not constantly at home. The data in Table 17 indicates that fewer households in the low vandalism area were vacated on a daily basis for any length of time, than households in the high and medium vandalism areas. In the high area, more households were vacated for two to four hours per day than households in the other areas. When we examine the period of more than four hours, we find that a relatively equal percentage distribution of households from all areas are vacated for this length of time on a daily basis.

If the period of time a household is vacant has any effect on the residential area vandalism rate, it may only do so when there is a relatively large number of households within a given area which are seldom or never vacated on a daily basis, for any period of time.

The victim table in this category lends support to this statement with more non-victim than victim households never being vacant

TABLE 17

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF HOURS PER DAY THE HOUSEHOLD IS VACANT

AREA VANDALISM RATE	NUMBER OF HOURS HOUSEHOLD VACANT PER DAY			
	NONE	2-4 HOURS	MORE THAN 4 HOURS	TOTAL
HIGH	22.6%	52.0%	25.4%	
	(23)	(53)	(26)	(102)
MEDIUM	33.4%	37.9%	28.7%	
	(66)	(75)	(57)	(198)
LOW	36.1%	39.3%	24.6%	
	(22)	(24)	(15)	(61)

N = 360

TABLE 18

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF HOURS PER DAY THE HOUSEHOLD IS VACANT

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF HOURS HOUSEHOLD VACANT PER DAY			
	NONE	2-4 HOURS	MORE THAN 4 HOURS	TOTAL
VICTIM	26.3%	42.9%	30.8%	
	(46)	(75)	(54)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	34.7%	41.9%	23.4%	
	(62)	(75)	(40)	(179)

N = 354

and fewer non-victim than victim households having vacancy periods for both two to four hours and more than four hours per day (Table 18).

(iii) Fencing Around Yard

Table 19 indicates that more complete fencing can be found around the yards of households in the low vandalism area than in either the medium or the high vandalism areas. When we consider complete and partial fencing, we find that 90.2% of households in the low area, 70.4% of households in the medium area, and 83.6% of households in the high area have such fencing. From this distribution we can infer that fencing may act as an obstacle but is not a unique feature of the behaviour of residents which may act to affect the distribution of property damage.

Table 20 indicates that there is only a slight tendency for non-victim households to have complete fencing around the yard, while victims tended to have slightly more partial fencing. In the combined total of complete and partial fencing, the percentage distribution of non-victim and victim households is relatively equal.

(iv) Things Left in Yard Overnight

The data in Table 21 indicates that tools, leisure equipment and other objects tended to be left in the yard overnight in the medium and high vandalism areas as opposed to the low vandalism area. From the victim table we find that almost 10% more victim than non-victim households report that they often left things in the yard overnight.

TABLE 19

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS FROM THREE DIFFERING AREAS WITH COMPLETE OR PARTIAL YARD FENCING

AREA VANDALISM RATE	FENCING AROUND YARD			
	COMPLETE	PARTIAL	NONE	TOTAL
HIGH	41.8% (41)	41.8% (41)	16.4% (16)	(98)
MEDIUM	34.2% (67)	36.2% (71)	29.6% (58)	(196)
LOW	52.5% (32)	37.7% (23)	9.8% (6)	(61)
			N =	355

TABLE 20

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS WITH COMPLETE OR PARTIAL YARD FENCING

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	FENCING AROUND YARD			
	COMPLETE	PARTIAL	NONE	TOTAL
VICTIM	37.2% (64)	39.0% (67)	23.8% (41)	(172)
NON-VICTIM	40.3% (71)	37.5% (66)	22.2% (39)	(176)
			N =	348

TABLE 21

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER TOOLS OR LEISURE EQUIPMENT IS LEFT OUT IN YARD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	TOOLS, LEISURE EQUIPMENT LEFT OUT IN YARD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	65.7% (67)	34.3% (35)	(102)
MEDIUM	66.2% (131)	33.8% (67)	(198)
LOW	58.4% (35)	41.6% (26)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 22

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING WHETHER TOOLS OR LEISURE EQUIPMENT IS LEFT OUT IN YARD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	TOOLS, LEISURE EQUIPMENT LEFT OUT IN YARD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	69.1% (121)	30.9% (54)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	60.3% (108)	39.7% (71)	(179)
		N =	354

(v) House Doors locked at Night, and When Away From Home

Slightly more households in the residential area with the lowest vandalism rate indicated that the house doors are locked overnight, or when the house is temporarily vacated. Table 24 indicates that slightly more victims than non-victim households tend to lock their house doors overnight and when the house is temporarily vacated.

(vi) Car Doors Locked Overnight

Eighty-three point six percent (83.6%) of the households in the low vandalism area lock their car doors overnight compared to 80.3% in the medium and 67.1% in the high vandalism rate area.

When we examine Table 26, we find that 84.6% of the non-victims do not lock their car overnight compared to 70.9% of the victim households. People in the low area more often take the precaution of locking cars and homes.

(vii) Damaged Property Repaired Quickly

Unquestionably as indicated in Table 27, more households in the low vandalism area repair damaged property quickly compared with households in the medium and high areas. Also, more of the medium area households tend to repair damaged property more quickly than households located in the high vandalism rate area.

The associated victim and non-victim household table indicates that more victim households take steps to have damaged property repaired more quickly than non-victim households.

TABLE 23

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER HOUSE DOORS ARE LOCKED AT NIGHT OR WHEN AWAY FROM THE HOUSE

AREA VANDALISM RATE	LOCK DOORS AT NIGHT OR WHEN AWAY FROM HOUSE		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	92.2%	7.8%	
	(94)	(8)	(102)
MEDIUM	94.9%	5.1%	
	(188)	(10)	(198)
LOW	96.7%	3.3%	
	(59)	(2)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 24

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING WHETHER DOORS OF HOUSE ARE LOCKED OVERNIGHT OR WHEN AWAY FROM HOUSE

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	LOCK DOORS AT NIGHT OR WHEN AWAY FROM HOUSE		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	96.0%	4.0%	
	(168)	(7)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	93.9%	6.1%	
	(168)	(11)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 25

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT THEY LOCK THEIR CAR DOORS OVERNIGHT

AREA VANDALISM RATE	LOCK CAR DOORS AT NIGHT		
	NOT LOCKED	LOCKED	TOTAL
HIGH	32.9%	67.1%	
	(33)	(69)	(102)
MEDIUM	19.7%	80.3%	
	(39)	(159)	(198)
LOW	16.4%	83.6%	
	(10)	(51)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 26

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT THEY LOCK THEIR CAR DOORS OVERNIGHT

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	LOCK CAR DOORS AT NIGHT		
	NOT LOCKED	LOCKED	TOTAL
VICTIM	29.1%	70.9%	
	(51)	(129)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	15.6%	84.4%	
	(28)	(151)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 27

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT WHEN PROPERTY IS DAMAGED IT IS OR WOULD BE REPAIRED QUICKLY

AREA VANDALISM RATE	DAMAGED PROPERTY REPAIRED QUICKLY YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	44.1% (45)	55.9% (57)	(102)
MEDIUM	74.2% (174)	25.8% (51)	(198)
LOW	93.4% (57)	6.6% (4)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 28

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS THAT STATE THEY REPAIR QUICKLY ANY DAMAGE TO THEIR PROPERTY THROUGH VANDALISM OR OTHER CAUSES TO PREVENT ADDITIONAL DAMAGE THROUGH VANDALISM

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	DAMAGED PROPERTY REPAIRED QUICKLY YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	72.0% (126)	28.0% (49)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	66.0% (119)	34.0% (60)	(179)
		N =	354

(viii) Own a Dog

Thirty-one point two percent (31.2%) of the households in the low vandalism rate residential area own a dog, compared to 18.2% in the medium, and 19.6% in the high rate area. Further, Table 30 indicates that slightly more victim households tend to own a dog than non-victim households.

(ix) Garage on Property

Table 31 indicates that 41.0% of the households in the low area have a garage on the household property compared to 37.8% of the households in the medium, and 26.5% of the households in the high vandalism rate area. Table 32 indicates that slightly more victim households than non-victim households have a garage on the household property.

(x) Sidewalk Fronting Property

A significant percentage (87.9%) of households in the high vandalism area have sidewalks fronting the household property compared to 68.0% of the households in the medium, and 24.6% of the households in the low vandalism area. When we examine Table 34 however, the data indicates that the presence or absence of a sidewalk does not seem to effect the distribution of non-victim or victim households.

(xi) Backlanes Present

More households in the low vandalism area have a backlane (60.7%) than do households in the medium area with 41.9%, or households in the high area with 16.7%. The data in Table 36 indicates that almost 10% more of the victim households than non-victim households

TABLE 29

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING OWNERSHIP OF A DOG

AREA VANDALISM RATE	OWN A DOG YES	OWN A DOG NO	TOTAL
HIGH	19.6% (20)	80.4% (82)	(102)
MEDIUM	18.2% (36)	81.8% (162)	(198)
LOW	31.2% (19)	68.8% (42)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 30

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING OWNERSHIP OF A DOG

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	OWN A DOG YES	OWN A DOG NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	23.4% (41)	76.6% (134)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	18.5% (33)	81.5% (146)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 31

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING A GARAGE IS ON THE HOUSEHOLD PROPERTY

AREA VANDALISM RATE	GARAGE ON PROPERTY YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	26.5% (26)	73.5% (72)	(98)
MEDIUM	37.8% (74)	62.2% (122)	(196)
LOW	41.0% (25)	59.0% (36)	(61)
		N =	355

TABLE 32

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING A GARAGE IS ON HOUSEHOLD PROPERTY

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	GARAGE ON PROPERTY YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	37.8% (65)	62.2% (107)	(172)
NON-VICTIM	31.8% (56)	68.2% (102)	(176)
		N =	348

TABLE 33

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT A SIDEWALK IS FRONTING THE PROPERTY OF THE HOUSEHOLD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	SIDEWALK FRONTING PROPERTY YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	87.9% (87)	12.1% (12)	(99)
MEDIUM	68.0% (134)	32.0% (64)	(198)
LOW	37.7% (26)	57.3% (35)	(61)
		N =	358

TABLE 34

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT A SIDEWALK IS FRONTING HOUSEHOLD PROPERTY

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	SIDEWALK FRONTING PROPERTY YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	68.6% (118)	31.4% (54)	(172)
NON-VICTIM	68.5% (122)	31.5% (56)	(178)
		N =	350

TABLE 35

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE PRESENCE OF A BACK LANE ADJACENT TO THE BACK YARD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	BACK LANE PRESENT		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	16.7%	83.3%	
	(17)	(85)	(102)
MEDIUM	41.9%	58.1%	
	(83)	(15)	(198)
LOW	60.7%	39.3%	
	(37)	(24)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 36

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE PRESENCE OF A BACK LANE ADJACENT TO THE BACK YARD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	BACK LANE PRESENT		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	42.9%	57.1%	
	(75)	(96)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	33.5%	66.5%	
	(60)	(115)	(179)
		N =	354

had a backlane adjacent to the backyard property. This suggests that victim experience may be partially dependent on the presence or absence of a backlane. This is not surprising given that a backlane gives people an opportunity to approach a house unseen.

(xii) Satisfactory Street Lighting

Respondents in all areas were asked if they were satisfied with the street lighting. The high vandalism area, as indicated in Table 37, was the least satisfied compared to the medium area which was the most satisfied. When the victim and non-victim household table is examined, we find that non-victim households tended to be somewhat more satisfied with the quality of the street lighting than victim households.

Summary of Defensible Space/Physical Characteristics Section

More households in the low vandalism area than in the high and medium areas were not vacant, or had someone regularly in the household during the day which indicates that neighbourhood vandalism rates may be directly related to these two factors. The corresponding victim tables lend support to the above by indicating that more non-victim than victim households were not vacant and had someone regularly in the household.

When we examine the series of steps taken by respondents to prevent vandalism we find that at the area level of analysis more households located in the low vandalism area ensure that the house and car doors are locked at night, damaged property is repaired quickly, and they own a dog. Conversely, fewer households in the high vandalism area than in the low vandalism area take such percautions.

TABLE 37

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING SATISFACTION WITH STREET LIGHTING

AREA VANDALISM RATE	SATISFIED WITH STREET LIGHTING		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	81.4% (83)	18.6% (19)	(102)
MEDIUM	88.9% (175)	11.1% (22)	(198)
LOW	85.2% (52)	14.8% (9)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 38

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING SATISFACTION WITH STREET LIGHTING ADJACENT TO THEIR HOUSEHOLDS

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	SATISFIED WITH STREET LIGHTING		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	83.4% (146)	16.6% (29)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	87.7% (157)	12.3% (22)	(179)
		N =	354

Households in the high area, however, are least likely to leave tools or leisure equipment in their yard over night. If the above precaution factors are combined, we can infer that the distribution of specific kinds of property crime at the neighbourhood level may be related to the number of households who take these precautions.

At the household level of analysis however, we find that more victim than non-victim households tended to lock the house and car doors at night, repair damaged property quickly, not leave tools or leisure equipment in their yard over night and own a dog. This indicated that the distribution of property damage at the household level is not directly related to any of these precautionary factors. (It may also be possible that they started these precautions after being victimized.)

The provision of complete fencing around a yard may function to reduce the opportunity to commit specific kinds of property damage. The data in this study partially supports this idea. More households in the low area have complete fencing around their yard than households in the medium and high areas. However, the lack of a consistent increase in the percentage distribution from the low to the high area indicates that fencing does not directly effect the distribution of property damage at the neighbourhood level.

With respect to other physical characteristics, more households located in high vandalism areas tended to have sidewalks fronting the property, and not to have a backlane bordering on the backyard. The consistency of the percentage distribution ascent from the low to the high area for sidewalks and descent from the low to high area

for the presence of backlane, indicates that both sidewalks and backlanes may be related to the distribution of property damage at the neighbourhood level, (i.e. negatively with a sidewalk and positively with backlane). More households in the low area than in the other two areas have a garage on the property, and tend to be relatively satisfied with the quality of the street lighting. The households in the high vandalism area were the least satisfied with street lighting.

A review of victim and non-victim households reveals that victim households tend to border on backlanes more so than non-victim households. Sidewalks are equally distributed and more victims than non-victims tend to have a garage on the property. Lastly, slightly more of the non-victim than victim households have complete fencing and indicate that the street lighting is adequate.

Aside from the backlane variable, only slight differences can be found between victim and non-victim households when other physical characteristics are considered. This suggests that the presence or absence of a backlane may be directly related to the distribution of property damage at the household level. In the case of the individual household, the data suggests that households bordering on backlanes are more likely to be victimized than households which are not. This relationship is reversed at the area level of analysis with more households reporting the presence of a backlane in the low area than in the other two residential area.

3. KNOWLEDGE OF SELECTED INDICATORS

This section will examine and compare the three vandalism areas

on their perception and knowledge of selected variables to determine if the presence or absence of specific kinds of knowledge may promote or diminish the opportunity to commit acts of residential vandalism.

(i) Perception of Vandalism Rate

Respondents in the three selected areas were asked to state whether they thought the occurrence of vandalism was high, medium or low in their respective areas.

As indicated in Table 39 the area with the greatest experience of vandalism perceived the occurrence of residential vandalism to be occurring less often than households in the medium vandalism rate area. In reality, the reverse is true, as indicated in Table 41. Conversely, households in the medium vandalism area perceived the occurrence of vandalism in their area to be relatively high compared to the low and high areas. The area with the low experience of vandalism perceived the occurrence of vandalism to be low in their neighbourhood.

Table 40 indicates that victim households perceive the occurrence of vandalism to be high in their immediate neighbourhood. This is to be expected. People who have been victimized are likely to feel that the rate is high in the entire neighbourhood. While victim experience seems to have an effect on the perception of the level of neighbourhood vandalism, the same does not hold true when areas are compared (Table 39). This is confusing given the relatively high victim experience of one area which perceives the occurrence of vandalism to be quite low. They would appear to have a false sense of security about their neighbourhood.

TABLE 39

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE FREQUENCY OF VANDALISM IN THE AREA

AREA VANDALISM RATE	PERCEPTION OF THE FREQUENCY OF VANDALISM IN AREA			
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL
HIGH	19.6% (20)	2.9% (3)	77.5% (79)	(102)
MEDIUM	28.6% (56)	4.6% (9)	66.8% (131)	(196)
LOW	5.0% (3)	3.3% (2)	91.7% (55)	(60)
			N =	358

TABLE 40

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE LEVEL OF VANDALISM IN THEIR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	PERCEPTION OF THE FREQUENCY OF VANDALISM IN AREA			
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL
VICTIM	32.8% (57)	5.2% (9)	62.0% (108)	(174)
NON-VICTIM	12.4 % (22)	2.8% (5)	84.8% (151)	(178)
			N =	352

TABLE 41

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF VICTIM EXPERIENCE IN EACH AREA

AREA VANDALISM RATE	ACTUAL VICTIM EXPERIENCE IN EACH AREA		
	NO	YES	TOTAL
HIGH	41.4%	58.6%	
	(41)	(58)	(99)
MIDDLE	51.0%	49.0%	
	(98)	(94)	(192)
LOW	61.7%	38.3%	
	(37)	(23)	(60)
		N =	351

(ii) Know Where Kids Hangout

More households in the high vandalism area know where the kids in their neighbourhood hangout, than households in the medium and low areas. The descending percentage distributions are as follows: 75.5% for the high area; 60.1% for the medium area; and 37.7% for the low vandalism area. Furthermore, victim households tend to know where the kids in their neighbourhood hangout than non-victim households. We do not mean to imply that young people are the only age group committing acts of vandalism. However, people who were interviewed certainly implied this in many of their attitudes during the course of the interview.

(iii) Aware of Curfew

The data in Table 44 indicates that 83.6% of the households in the low vandalism area, 78.3% of the households in the medium area, and 64.7% of the households in the high area are aware of the existence of a curfew law. When we examine the victim and non-victim household table however, the percentage distributions are relatively equal.

(iv) Time That a Curfew Begins

In addition to asking respondents if they were aware of the existence of a curfew law for young people, we asked them to indicate the time they thought the curfew began. Table 46 indicates that almost half (48%) of the households in the high area did not know when it began, and only 43.1% knew that the curfew commenced at 10 p.m. In comparison, 66.2% of the medium and 60.7% of the low area households indicated that the curfew commenced at 10 p.m. In the victim and non-victim table an equal distribution of non-victim and victim

TABLE 42

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT THEY KNOW WHERE KIDS HANGOUT IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	KNOW WHERE KIDS HANGOUT		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	75.5%	24.5%	
	(77)	(25)	(102)
MEDIUM	60.1%	39.3%	
	(119)	(79)	(198)
LOW	37.7%	62.3%	
	(23)	(38)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 43

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT THEY KNOW WHERE THE KIDS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HANGOUT

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	KNOW WHERE KIDS HANGOUT		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	71.4%	28.6%	
	(125)	(50)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	50.3%	49.7%	
	(90)	(89)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 44

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THEIR AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF A CURFEW LAW

AREA VANDALISM RATE	AWARE OF CURFEW LAW		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	64.7% (66)	35.3% (36)	(102)
MEDIUM	78.3% (155)	21.7% (43)	(198)
LOW	83.6% (51)	16.4% (10)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 45

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THEIR AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF A CURFEW LAW

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	AWARE OF CURFEW LAW		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	76.6% (134)	23.4% (51)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	73.7% (132)	26.3% (47)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 46

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHAT TIME THEY THINK THE CURFEW BEGINS

AREA VANDALISM RATE	TIME CURFEW BEGINS					
	DON'T KNOW	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	TOTAL
HIGH	48.0%	1.0%	5.9%	43.1%	2.0%	
	(49)	(1)	(6)	(44)	(2)	(102)
MEDIUM	24.2%	--	8.1%	66.2%	1.5%	
	(48)		(16)	(131)	(3)	(198)
LOW	24.6%	--	13.1%	60.7%	1.6%	
	(15)		(8)	(37)	(1)	(61)
					N =	361

TABLE 47

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING WHAT TIME THEY THINK THE CURFEW BEGINS

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	TIME CURFEW BEGINS					
	DON'T KNOW	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	TOTAL
VICTIM	30.9%	.6%	8.6%	57.6%	2.3%	
	(54)	(1)	(15)	(101)	(4)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	31.8%	--	8.4%	58.8%	1.0%	
	(57)		(15)	(105)	(2)	(179)
					N =	354

households indicated that the curfew began at 10 p.m.

(v) Aware of Block Parent Program

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were aware of either the presence or location of a Block Parent in their neighbourhood. Most (75.5%) of the households in the high area indicated that they were aware of such a program, compared to 56.6% of households in the medium, and 68.9% of households in the low vandalism area. Table 49 indicates that a significantly greater number of victim households than non-victim households were aware of the existence of a Block Parent Program in their neighbourhood.

(vi) Is Block Parent Program Active

When asked if the Block Parent Program was active in their neighbourhood, a greater number of households in the high vandalism rate area replied in the affirmative than households in the other two areas. Furthermore, more of the households in the low area tended not to know anything about the activity level than households in the other two areas. Also, Table 51 indicates that more victim than non-victim households perceive the program to be active, while more non-victim than victim households indicated that they were unfamiliar with the activity level.

Summary of Selected Knowledge Indicators

From a series of questions asked, the researchers were able to ascertain the collective knowledge levels of residential areas in regard to selected indicators.

It is very interesting to note that the area with the highest victim

TABLE 48

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER THE HOUSEHOLD IS AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF A BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	AWARE OF BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	77.5%	22.5%	
	(70)	(33)	(102)
MEDIUM	56.6%	43.4%	
	(112)	(76)	(198)
LOW	68.9%	31.1%	
	(42)	(19)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 49

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE HOUSEHOLD IS AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	AWARE OF BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	70.3%	29.7%	
	(123)	(52)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	58.1%	41.9%	
	(104)	(75)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 50

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE BLOCK PARENT ACTIVITY LEVEL

AREA VANDALISM RATE	IS IT ACTIVE			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
HIGH	24.5%	23.5%	52.0%	
	(25)	(24)	(53)	(102)
MEDIUM	12.2%	16.6%	71.2%	
	(24)	(33)	(141)	(198)
LOW	16.4%	9.8%	73.8%	
	(10)	(6)	(45)	(61)
			N =	361

TABLE 51

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE BLOCK PARENT ACTIVITY LEVEL

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	IS IT ACTIVE			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
VICTIM	18.9%	5.1%	76.0%	
	(33)	(9)	(133)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	14.5%	3.9%	81.6%	
	(26)	(7)	(147)	(179)
			N =	354

experience perceives the frequency of property damage in its neighbourhoods to be relatively low compared to medium and low areas. This factor may in itself directly effect the distribution of residential property crime at the area level of analysis. The inhabitants of the high area, by perceiving incorrectly the level of property damage, may be more apt to take fewer defensive precautions of both a physical and social nature. This is supported by the data in the defensible space section of this chapter.

Further, a much greater percentage of households in the high area than the medium and low areas were aware of where the kids hang out. This suggests that places for kids to hang out is unequally distributed, and may help to explain the distribution of residential property damage. If we examine the Land Use section of this chapter, we will note that the distribution of recreational activity centres and service oriented commercial enterprise is also unequally distributed, and as such, constitute places for "kids to hang out".

With respect to the curfew law and commencement time frame, the households in the high area are the least knowledgeable on both counts. However, the high area households indicated that they were aware of the Block Parent Program, and felt that it was active.

At the household level of analysis, more victims than non-victims have an accurate perception of the neighbourhood property damage experience, know where the kids hang out, know more about the Block Parent Program, and perceive it to be active. Both non-victim and victim households are equally aware of the curfew law and time of commencement.

4. LAND USE

This section examines the effect of the presence or absence of various facilities in or adjacent to the residential areas under study. In themselves, they are often targets of damage and theft but the proximity of businesses, schools and churches may contribute to higher or lower rates of vandalism. For example, a church on one's block may mean that residents so take for granted the comings and goings of strangers that they neglect to observe potential or actual crime.

(i) Malls/Supermarkets

A significant number of households in the high vandalism area, 66.7% to be exact, reported the presence of a mall/supermarket in near proximity to their household. Percentages for the medium and low vandalism rate areas are 33.4% and 37.8% respectively. Table 53 indicates that slightly more victims than non-victims have a mall/supermarket in near proximity.

(ii) Restaurants

The data in Table 54 indicates that more households in the high area stated that there was a restaurant within two blocks than households in the other two areas. The corresponding victim and non-victim table indicates that slightly more victims than non-victim households have a restaurant nearby.

(iii) Churches

More households in the high and medium vandalism areas than in the low area indicated that there was a church in or adjacent to their neighbourhood. Also, slightly more non-victim than victim households

TABLE 52

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT A MALL OR SUPERMARKET IS ADJACENT TO OR PART OF NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	MALL OR SUPERMARKET IN OR ADJACENT TO NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	66.7%	33.3%	
	(66)	(33)	(99)
MEDIUM	33.4%	66.6%	
	(68)	(130)	(198)
LOW	37.8%	62.2%	
	(23)	(38)	(61)
		N =	358

TABLE 53

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT A MALL OR SUPERMARKET IS NEAR THE HOUSEHOLD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	MALL OR SUPERMARKET NEAR IN PROXIMITY TO HOUSEHOLD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	52.6%	47.4%	
	(91)	(82)	(173)
NON-VICTIM	50.0%	50.0%	
	(88.5)	(88.5)	(178)
		N =	352

TABLE 54

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT A RESTAURANT IS IN OR ADJACENT TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	RESTAURANT IN OR ADJACENT TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	43.4%	56.6%	
	(43)	(56)	(99)
MEDIUM	23.7%	76.3%	
	(47)	(51)	(198)
LOW	30.0%	70.0%	
	(18)	(43)	(61)
		N =	358

TABLE 55

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT A RESTAURANT IS NEAR IN PROXIMITY TO THE HOUSEHOLD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	RESTAURANT NEAR THE HOUSEHOLD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	31.2%	68.8%	
	(54)	(119)	(173)
NON-VICTIM	29.8%	70.2%	
	(53)	(125)	(178)
		N =	351

TABLE 56

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT A CHURCH IS ADJACENT TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	CHURCH ADJACENT TO AREA		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	63.6%	36.4%	
	(63)	(36)	(99)
MEDIUM	60.6%	39.4%	
	(120)	(78)	(198)
LOW	52.5%	47.5%	
	(32)	(29)	(61)
		N =	358

TABLE 57

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT A CHURCH IS NEAR IN PROXIMITY TO THE HOUSEHOLD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	CHURCH NEAR IN PROXIMITY		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	59.0%	41.0%	
	(102)	(71)	(173)
NON-VICTIM	60.7%	39.3%	
	(108)	(70)	(178)
		N =	351

reported that a church was near the household.

(iv) Pool

A significantly greater number of households (58.6%) in the high vandalism area have a pool in or adjacent to the neighbourhood, compared to 38.9% in the medium, and only 18.0% in the low vandalism area. When we examine Table 59, we find that more victim households than non-victim households have a pool near their households.

(v) Recreation Centre

Again, as Table 60 indicates, a much greater percentage of the households in the high vandalism have a recreational centre in or adjacent to their neighbourhood than do households in the other two areas. Further, the corresponding victim and non-victim table indicates that a slightly greater percentage of victim than non-victim households have a recreational centre adjacent to their households.

(vi) Park

Respondents were also asked if there was a park in or adjacent to their neighbourhood, or near in proximity to their household. Sixty-nine point seven percent (69.7%) of the households in the high vandalism area report the presence of a park compared to 64.6% in the medium, and 57.4% in the low vandalism area. At the household level presented in Table 63, a greater percentage of victim than non-victim households were situated near a park.

Summary of Land Use Section

More households in the high vandalism area than in the medium and

TABLE 58

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT A POOL IS ADJACENT TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	POOL NEAR BY YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	58.6% (58)	41.4% (41)	(99)
MEDIUM	38.9% (77)	61.1% (121)	(198)
LOW	18.0% (11)	82.0% (50)	(61)
		N =	358

TABLE 59

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT A POOL IS ADJACENT TO THE HOUSEHOLD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	POOL NEAR BY YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	41.6% (72)	58.4% (101)	(173)
NON-VICTIM	38.2% (68)	61.8% (110)	(178)
		N =	351

TABLE 60

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT A RECREATIONAL CENTRE IS ADJACENT TO NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	RECREATIONAL CENTRE ADJACENT TO NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	66.7%	33.3%	
	(66)	(33)	(99)
MEDIUM	28.8%	71.2%	
	(57)	(141)	(198)
LOW	11.5%	88.5%	
	(7)	(54)	(61)
		N =	358

TABLE 61

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT A RECREATIONAL CENTRE IS NEAR ADJACENT TO NEIGHBOURHOOD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	RECREATIONAL CENTRE ADJACENT TO THE HOUSEHOLD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	38.7%	61.3%	
	(67)	(106)	(173)
NON-VICTIM	33.7%	66.3%	
	(60)	(118)	(178)
		N =	351

TABLE 62

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS FROM THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT A PARK OR OPEN LOT IS ADJACENT TO IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	PARK ADJACENT TO NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	69.7%	30.3%	
	(69)	(30)	(99)
MEDIUM	64.6%	35.4%	
	(128)	(70)	(198)
LOW	57.4%	42.6%	
	(35)	(26)	(61)
		N =	358

TABLE 63

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT A PARK OR OPEN LOT IS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THEIR HOUSEHOLD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	PARK IS ADJACENT TO THE HOUSEHOLD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	67.6%	32.4%	
	(117)	(56)	(173)
NON-VICTIM	55.6%	44.4%	
	(99)	(79)	(178)
		N =	351

low vandalism rate areas indicated that a mall, restaurant, church, pool, recreation centre, and park was in near proximity to their immediate neighbourhood. It is particularly interesting to note the consistency of the ascending percentage distributions of households in the three vandalism areas reporting the nearness to such facilities. This indicates that at the area level of analysis, the presence or absence of recreational activity centres may be directly related to the frequency of occurrence of property damage within given neighbourhoods. In short, we would expect neighbourhoods close to such centres to experience a higher rate of property damage than neighbourhoods which are not. We should also take into account the nearness of commercial enterprises in the form of restaurants, malls and supermarkets to neighbourhoods which, by and large, function to attract a large number of people not necessarily connected with the neighbourhood. While the percentage distributions are not in a consistent ascending order from the low to the high area the data still indicates that the nearness of such enterprises has an effect on the frequency of property damage within given neighbourhoods.

If we were to couple recreational facilities with the kinds of enterprises mentioned above, we could postulate that neighbourhoods situated in proximity to multi-land use sites designed to attract people at regular times are more likely than not to experience high rates of property damage than neighbourhoods farther away from such attractions.

The percentage distribution within the corresponding victim and non-victim tables lends support to the above. There is only a slight

difference for victim households to report that their household is close to restaurants, malls or a supermarket. However, when the recreational activity centre tables are examined, we find a significantly greater percentage of victim than non-victim households reporting that they are adjacent to a park, pool, or recreational centre.

5. SOCIAL COHESION/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

This section will examine a number of social characteristics and behaviors thought to be related to social cohesion and neighbourhood watch. Social cohesion was defined for the purpose of this study as the degree or level to which households socialize with other households and in general feel a part of the neighbourhood. Neighbourhood watch was defined as a system of co-operative defensive watchfulness over the property of others in the neighbourhood. In view of these definitions, this section will also examine the response to observed criminal behavior at both the area and household levels of analysis.

(i) Number of Families Known by Name

First, an attempt was made to discover the rates of interaction between neighbours. Within the high vandalism area, as indicated in Table 64, more people know the names of three or more families in their immediate neighbourhood than residents in the other two residential areas. Further, fewer households within the medium vandalism area than in the other two know more than three families in their immediate neighbourhood.

In the corresponding victim/non-victim table, we find that victims rather than non-victims tend to know more than three family names in

TABLE 64

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF NEIGHBOURHOOD FAMILIES THEY KNOW BY NAME

AREA VANDALISM RATE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES KNOWN BY NAME		
	1-3	4 OR MORE	TOTAL
HIGH	10.8%	89.2%	
	(11)	(91)	(102)
MEDIUM	23.7%	76.3%	
	(47)	(151)	(198)
LOW	18.0%	82.0%	
	(11)	(50)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 65

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF FAMILY NAMES THEY KNOW IN THEIR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD NEIGHBOURHOOD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES KNOWN BY NAME			
	NONE	1-3	4 OR MORE	TOTAL
VICTIM	1.1%	14.9%	84.0%	
	(2)	(26)	(147)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	1.7%	21.8%	76.5%	
	(3)	(39)	(137)	(179)
			N =	354

their immediate neighbourhood.

(ii) Number of Families Visited

Respondents were also asked how many families they visited in the immediate neighbourhood. Table 66 indicates that a relatively larger percentage of households in the high and medium vandalism areas regularly visited one to three families, compared with families in the low area. However, a relatively equal percentage of households in the low and high vandalism areas visit with more than three families in their immediate neighbourhood. It should be noted that a larger percentage of households in the high area do more visiting than do households in the other two areas. The combined visiting percentages are 82.5% for the high area, 65.2% for the medium, and 72.0% for the low vandalism rate area.

When we examine the victim/non-victim relationship we find that victims and non-victims tend to visit a relatively equal number of families with only slightly more victims than non-victims visiting more than four other households.

(iii) Feel A Part of the Neighbourhood

To discern how the respondents felt in terms of belonging or not belonging to their immediate neighbourhood, a question was posed which asked to what degree they felt a part of the neighbourhood. The data in Table 68 indicates that a feeling of belongingness is slightly stronger in the high and medium areas, than the low vandalism rate area. Table 69 indicates that more non-victims than victims tend to feel that they are a part of their immediate neighbourhood.

TABLE 66

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES THEY VISIT IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES VISITED			
	NONE	1-3	4 OR MORE	TOTAL
HIGH	17.6%	45.0%	37.4%	
	(18)	(46)	(38)	(102)
MEDIUM	34.8%	46.0%	19.2%	
	(69)	(91)	(38)	(198)
LOW	28.0%	36.0%	36.0%	
	(17)	(22)	(22)	(60)
			N =	361

TABLE 67

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF OTHER IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSEHOLDS VISITED

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES VISITED			
	NONE	1-3	4 OR MORE	TOTAL
VICTIM	28.5%	41.3%	31.2%	
	(51)	(74)	(54)	(179)
NON-VICTIM	29.7%	45.7%	24.6%	
	(52)	(80)	(43)	(175)
			N =	354

TABLE 68

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT THEY FEEL A PART OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	FEEL A PART OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	82.3%	17.7%	
	(84)	(18)	(102)
MEDIUM	82.2%	17.8%	
	(180)	(18)	(198)
LOW	78.7%	21.3%	
	(48)	(13)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 69

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING WHETHER THEY FEEL A PART OF THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	FEEL A PART OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	78.1%	21.9%	
	(136)	(39)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	86.0%	14.0%	
	(154)	(25)	(179)
		N =	354

(iv) Have Neighbour or Relative Watch House While Away

While this social characteristic may more properly fall under the Defensible Space/Physical Characteristics section, it also provides some indication as to the degree of neighbourhood dependence and interaction.

Table 70 indicates that more households in the low vandalism area than in the other two areas make use of their neighbours or relatives to watch their house while away. The corresponding victim/non-victim table indicates that a relatively equal percentage of households ask their neighbour to watch their house when they are away.

(v) Should Look After Own Neighbourhood

When asked to what degree of neighbourhood should assume responsibility for protecting itself against property damage, a significantly larger percentage of households in the low and medium vandalism areas than in the high area indicated that the neighbourhood should take a part in protecting itself. It is possible that with their high visiting patterns the high area residents already feel that their neighbourhood is doing this. Table 73 indicates that a relatively equal and high percentage of victim and non-victim households feel that the neighbourhood should take a role in protecting itself.

(vi) Neighbours Do Anything About Someone Hanging Around a Household

Respondents were asked if they thought their neighbours would do anything if they observed a stranger hanging around their house. The data in Table 74 indicates that households in the high and low vandalism areas are more confident than households in the medium vandalism area that their neighbours would take some affirmative action.

TABLE 70

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE NEIGHBOURS OR RELATIVES WATCH HOUSE WHILE AWAY

AREA VANDALISM RATE	HAVE NEIGHBOURS/RELATIVES WATCH HOUSE YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	83.1% (85)	16.9% (17)	(102)
MEDIUM	82.8% (164)	17.2% (34)	(198)
LOW	91.1% (55)	8.9% (6)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 71

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE A NEIGHBOUR OR RELATIVE WATCH THEIR HOUSE WHILE AWAY

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	HAVE NEIGHBOURS/RELATIVES WATCH HOUSE YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	84.4% (149)	15.6% (36)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	83.3% (148)	16.7% (31)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 72

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER THEY FEEL THEY SHOULD LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN NEIGHBOURHOOD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	SHOULD LOOK AFTER OWN NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	83.3%	16.6%	
	(85)	(17)	(102)
MEDIUM	94.5%	5.5%	
	(187)	(11)	(198)
LOW	96.7%	3.3%	
	(59)	(2)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 73

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING WHETHER THEY FEEL THEY SHOULD LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN NEIGHBOURHOOD

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	SHOULD LOOK AFTER OWN NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	91.5%	8.5%	
	(160)	(15)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	92.2%	7.8%	
	(165)	(14)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 74

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT THEY THINK THEIR NEIGHBOURS WOULD DO ANYTHING ABOUT AN UNKNOWN PERSON HANGING AROUND THEIR HOUSEHOLD

AREA VANDALISM RATE	NEIGHBOURS WOULD DO SOMETHING		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	83.3% (85)	17.7% (17)	(102)
MEDIUM	72.6% (143)	17.4% (55)	(198)
LOW	85.2% (52)	14.8% (9)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 75

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THE LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE THEY HAVE ABOUT THEIR NEIGHBOURS TAKING ACTION AGAINST A STRANGER OBSERVED DAMAGING THEIR PROPERTY

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	NEIGHBOURS WOULD DO SOMETHING		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	74.1% (129)	25.9% (46)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	82.2% (149)	16.8% (30)	(179)
		N =	354

The corresponding victim/non-victim table indicates that victims are not as confident as non-victims that a neighbour would take affirmative action.

(vi) Would Phone Police If Someone Was Observed Damaging a Neighbours Property

Respondents were asked if they would phone the police if they observed someone damaging a neighbour's property. An equal and high percentage of the households in all the areas indicated that they would phone the police in the event of such an occurrence. Table 77 shows that an equal and high percentage of victim and non-victim households state that they would phone the police.

(vii) Observed Neighbourhood Vandalism and Actually Reported to the Police

In addition to the above, all respondents were asked whether they had ever observed and reported an act of vandalism to the police. Table 78 indicates that a relatively large percentage of households in all three areas who observed an act of neighbourhood property damage did not report it to the police. If we eliminate the 'Did Not Observe' category we find that approximately 89.0% of the households in the high, 86.0% of the households in the medium, and 91.0% of the household in the low vandalism areas did not report observed vandalism to the police. This reluctance to contact the police is for cases of crime which were directly observed by the respondents.

Table 79 also provides data which indicates that reportability to the police is relatively low. Again, if we eliminate the 'Did Not Observe' category we find that slightly more victims than non-victims did not

TABLE 76

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER THEY WOULD PHONE THE POLICE IF A PERSON WAS OBSERVED DAMAGING A NEIGHBOUR'S PROPERTY

AREA VANDALISM RATE	WOULD PHONE POLICE YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	99.0% (101)	1.0% (1)	(102)
MEDIUM	98.0% (193)	2.0% (4)	(197)
LOW	98.4% (60)	1.6% (1)	(61)
		N =	360

TABLE 77

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING WHETHER THEY WOULD PHONE THE POLICE WHEN A PERSON IS OBSERVED DAMAGING A NEIGHBOUR'S PROPERTY

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	WOULD PHONE POLICE YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	98.3% (171)	1.7% (3)	(174)
NON-VICTIM	98.9% (177)	1.1% (2)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 78

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER VANDALISM HAD BEEN OBSERVED AND REPORTED TO POLICE

AREA VANDALISM RATE	OBSERVED AND REPORTED TO POLICE			
	DID NOT OBSERVE	OBSERVED REPORTED	OBSERVED NOT REPORTED	TOTAL
HIGH	30.4% (31)	7.8% (8)	61.8% (63)	(102)
MEDIUM	40.4% (80)	8.6% (17)	51.0% (101)	(198)
LOW	49.2% (30)	4.9% (3)	45.9% (28)	(61)
			N =	361

TABLE 79

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING WHETHER VANDALISM HAD BEEN OBSERVED AND REPORTED TO POLICE

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	OBSERVED AND REPORTED TO POLICE			
	DID NOT OBSERVE	OBSERVED REPORTED	OBSERVED NOT REPORTED	TOTAL
VICTIM	29.7% (52)	8.6% (15)	61.7% (108)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	48.0% (86)	7.8% (14)	44.2% (79)	(179)
			N =	354

report observed vandalism in their neighbourhood to the police.

(viii) Would Phone A Neighbour If They Observed Someone Damaging A Neighbour's Property

Table 80 indicates that over 10% more of the households in the low vandalism area than in the high vandalism area state that they would phone their neighbour if someone was observed damaging their neighbour's property. A large percentage of households in the medium vandalism area also indicated that they would phone their neighbour if the occasion arose.

The victim/non-victim table indicates that an equal percentage of victim and non-victim households would phone their neighbour if they observed someone damaging their neighbour's property.

(ix) Would Talk to Someone Observed Damaging a Neighbour's Property

When respondents were asked if they would talk to offenders observed damaging their neighbour's property, a significantly greater percentage of households in the low vandalism area indicated that they would talk to the offender, compared to the high vandalism area. A slightly greater percentage of households in the medium than high area indicate that they would talk to the offender.

The data in Table 83 indicates that a slightly greater percentage of victims than non-victims state that they would talk to the offender.

(x) Have Talked to Persons Observed Damaging Neighbour's Property

Table 84 indicates that a very significant percent (78.7%) of the households in the low area have actually talked to persons observed damaging a neighbour's property. Percentage figures for the medium and

TABLE 80

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD PHONE A NEIGHBOUR IF SOMEONE DAMAGED THEIR NEIGHBOUR'S PROPERTY

AREA VANDALISM RATE	WOULD PHONE NEIGHBOUR YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	80.4% (82)	19.6% (20)	(102)
MEDIUM	89.8% (177)	10.2% (21)	(198)
LOW	91.8% (56)	8.2% (5)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 81.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD PHONE A NEIGHBOUR IF SOMEONE HAD DAMAGED THEIR NEIGHBOUR'S PROPERTY

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	WOULD PHONE NEIGHBOUR YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	87.4% (152)	12.6% (22)	(174)
NON-VICTIM	87.2% (156)	12.8% (23)	(179)
		N =	354

TABLE 82

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD TALK TO PEOPLE OBSERVED DAMAGING A NEIGHBOUR'S PROPERTY

AREA VANDALISM RATE	WOULD TALK TO PEOPLE INVOLVED		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	36.3%	63.7%	
	(37)	(65)	(102)
MEDIUM	39.1%	61.1%	
	(77)	(121)	(198)
LOW	47.5%	52.5%	
	(29)	(32)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 83

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIM AND NON-VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD TALK TO PEOPLE OBSERVED DAMAGING THEIR NEIGHBOUR'S PROPERTY

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	WOULD TALK TO PEOPLE INVOLVED		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	43.1%	56.9%	
	(75)	(99)	(174)
NON-VICTIM	37.4%	62.6%	
	(67)	(112)	(179)
		N =	353

TABLE 84

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE TALKED TO PERSONS IN THE PROCESS OF DAMAGING NEIGHBOUR'S PROPERTY TO PREVENT FUTURE DAMAGE TO THEIR OWN PROPERTY

AREA VANDALISM RATE	TALK TO PEOPLE		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	56.8%	43.2%	
	(56)	(46)	(102)
MEDIUM	63.1%	36.9%	
	(125)	(73)	(198)
LOW	78.7%	21.3%	
	(48)	(13)	(61)
		N =	361

TABLE 85

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIMS AND NON-VICTIMS INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD TALK TO PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS OF COMMITTING VANDALISM TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE TO THEIR OWN PROPERTY

VICTIM EXPERIENCE	TALK TO PEOPLE		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
VICTIM	62.8%	37.3%	
	(110)	(65)	(175)
NON-VICTIM	64.8%	35.2%	
	(116)	(63)	(179)
		N =	354

high areas are 63.1% and 56.8% respectively. Table 85 indicates that slightly more non-victim than victim households state that they have actually talked to the offender.

(xi) Have Phoned Neighbour or Police or Talked to Offender

When all the response categories are combined for victims and non-victims in the three vandalism areas, we find that a slightly greater percentage of victims in the high and medium vandalism areas have taken some form of affirmative response by phoning a neighbour, the police, or talking to the offender. What is more significant however, is the distribution of non-victims in each area taking affirmative action to observed criminal behavior. A much greater percentage, or 63.9%, of non-victims in the low area have taken such action, compared to 46.7% of the non-victims in the medium, and 40.5% of the non-victims in the high vandalism area (See Table 86).

Summary of Social Cohesion/Neighbourhood Watch Section

Households in the high vandalism rate area tend to know more family names and visit more families in their neighbourhood than households in the other two areas, but feel less a part of the neighbourhood than households in the medium area which do not know as many family names nor visit as many neighbours. Households in the low vandalism area, however, also know the names of many of their neighbours. An equal percentage of households in the high and medium area feel a part of the neighbourhood. These findings suggest that knowing and visiting neighbours does not necessarily create a feeling of belongingness, nor have any

TABLE 86

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS FROM THREE DIFFERING AREAS INDICATING THEIR RESPONSE TO OBSERVED CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR ON THEIR NEIGHBOUR'S PROPERTY OR IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CONTROLLING FOR VICTIM EXPERIENCE

AREA VANDALISM RATE	PHONED NEIGHBOUR OR POLICE OR TALKED TO OFFENDERS				
			YES	NO	TOTAL
HIGH	VICTIM OF VANDALISM	YES	66.1% (37)	33.9% (19)	(56)
		NO	40.5% (15)	59.5% (22)	(37)
MEDIUM	VICTIM OF VANDALISM	YES	66.7% (62)	33.3% (31)	(93)
		NO	46.7% (43)	53.3% (49)	(92)
LOW	VICTIM OF VANDALISM	YES	60.9% (14)	39.1% (9)	(23)
		NO	63.9% (23)	36.1% (13)	(36)
				N =	337

direct effect on the distribution of property damage at the residential level of analysis. At the household level of analysis, the findings are similar with the exception that victims feel less a part of the neighbourhood despite their knowing and visiting more neighbours.

When the dimensions of neighbourhood watch are examined, we find that a very significant percentage of the households in the low vandalism area ask their neighbours to watch the house while they are away, feel that the neighbourhood has a responsibility to look after itself, are confident that neighbours would take affirmative action to protect their household, indicate that they would phone a neighbour if they observed someone damaging their neighbour's property, would talk to people observed damaging a neighbour's property, and in actual fact have talked to persons observed damaging a neighbour's property. The descending percentage distributions from the low area to the high area for the majority of these variables strongly suggests that the distribution of property damage is directly related to the dimensions of neighbourhood watch.

At the victim level of analysis the percentage distributions of victim and non-victim households along these same neighbourhood watch dimensions, with the exception of the level of confidence regarding neighbours taking affirmative action, are relatively equal with only slight variations.

When we examine the level of confidence held by a household regarding whether they think their neighbour would take affirmative action against someone observed damaging their property, we find that

non-victim households are considerably more confident that such action will be taken.

Lastly, the data in Table 86 is of particular interest and significance for it indicates that non-victims in the low vandalism rate area have been more active in terms of taking affirmative action against persons observed damaging neighbourhood property than non-victims in any other area. The consistent descending percentage distribution for such action taken by non-victim households from the low vandalism rate to the high vandalism rate area indicates that non-victim participation is directly related to victim experience at both the area and household level of analysis. The percentage distributions are as follows: 63.9% for non-victims in the low area; 46.7% for non-victim in the medium area; and 40.5% for the non-victims in the high vandalism rate area.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. SUMMARY

This study examined the distribution of residential property crime at the area and household level of analysis in four residential districts. Sets of questions or variables were combined into several theoretical categories in order to systematically compare the characteristics of each area, and to compare victim and non-victim households. Police records were used to decide upon the selection of areas in which to interview. Two of the residential areas selected had a history of high rates of reporting to the police while two had low reporting histories.

A 15% sample was randomly selected from each of the four residential areas. Questionnaires were administered in all four areas and the ideas of Neighbourhood Watch were explained in the two high reporting areas. The responses were coded, transferred to computer storage and processed by the City of Thunder Bay Computer Centre. The initial analysis revealed that the actual victim experience of one of the low reporting areas was higher than any of the other three residential areas. This area was subsequently relabelled to represent the high vandalism rate area. The two high reporting areas were collapsed and relabelled to represent the medium vandalism area. Only the remaining low reporting area had an actual low experience with vandalism and

was left to stand as the low vandalism area. Multivariate and bivariate contingency tables were compiled while controlling separately for the level of area vandalism and household victim experience.

II. DISCUSSION

Demographic Composition

(i) Ethnic Cultural Background

The findings in this study indicate that cultural homogeneity does not directly effect the distribution of residential property damage at the area or household level of analysis. This finding runs counter to the Repetto Study which suggests that areas which are culturally heterogeneous are more likely to experience high rates of residential property damage than those which are not (Repetto, 1974). Our results are closer to the work of Gans and Hackler et. al. who have suggested in their writings that social cohesion, social interaction, and the willingness to intervene is largely dependent upon the degree of cultural homogeneity, but that this cultural homogeneity may not act uniformally to produce similar social outcomes such as intervention in all residential areas. (Gans, 1976; Hackler et. al., 1974).

(ii) Socio-Economic Status and Educational Background

In contrast to the Repetto Study, property crime was found to occur more frequently in a residential area with more households from high socio-economic backgrounds. This was further supported by the victim data which indicated that victims tended to come from high socio-economic backgrounds. Modern sociological theory suggests that the commission of crime may be a norma-

tive value for those persons living in a relatively deprived material state. This being the case, we should expect more of the offenders to inhabit a residential area composed predominately of households from low socio-economic backgrounds and, further, that this be reflected in the residential property damage rate. This was supported by the Repetto Study (1974), but cannot be supported by this study.

(iii) Working Mother Hypothesis

The data in this research suggests that a fully employed mother, working outside the household, is more likely to have an impact on and affect the frequency of household and area residential property damage in culturally heterogeneous or high socio-economic status background residential areas. Support can be found for this hypothesis in the data for the high and medium vandalism districts. Conversely the working mother was found not to affect the frequency of property damage in the low vandalism area. This suggests that the working mother may have a direct effect on the distribution of residential property crime, but that this effect is more pronounced in the culturally heterogeneous or high socio-economic background areas. In any event, the effect is not constant and, as such, does not substantiate the claim that a working mother acts uniformally to affect the distribution of residential property crime at either the area or household levels of analysis.

Defensible Space

(i) Precautionary Measures

At the area level of analysis we find that more households in the low

vandalism rate area tended to take precautions such as locking doors, having neighbours or relatives watch the house while away, etc. However, when we examine the victim and non-victim households we find generally that victim households were more likely to take such precautions than non-victim households thereby indicating that the distribution of property damage at the household level of analysis is not directly related to the taking of these precautionary factors. We should keep in mind, however, that the taking of precautionary measures by victims may simply be a reaction to having been victimized.

(ii) Physical Characteristics

The existence of complete fencing was found to be more common in the low vandalism area, but the inconsistent percentage distribution indicates that fencing is not directly related to the occurrence of residential property crime.

Also, the presence or absence of back lanes appears to be significant at the household level of analysis with more victim than non-victim households bordering on back lanes. But at the area level of analysis this relationship is reversed, with more households in the low vandalism area reporting the presence of a back lane than households in the medium and high vandalism rate areas.

In sum, the physical household characteristics examined do not explain the variance in the distribution of residential property damage at either the area or household level of analysis.

(iii) Household Behaviour Characteristics

In the defensible space chapter, two variables stand out as having a statistically consistent affect on the distribution of residential property crime at the area and household level of analysis. These are the number of hours the household is vacant during the day and whether or not someone is regularly in the household. More households in the low area than in the medium and high areas were occupied regularly during the day. The consistent increase in the percentage distribution from the high to the low area very strongly suggests that area and household rates of property damage are directly related to these two variables. This is supported by the corresponding victim/non-victim table.

Knowledge

(i) Selected Knowledge Indicators

It is surprising that residents in the high vandalism area perceived the problem of property damage in their neighbourhoods to be relatively low. This false perception may be directly linked to the lack of precautionary measures taken as evidenced by the data in Chapter IV and, as such, may be directly related to the distribution of residential property damage. In

addition, a larger percentage of the households in the high vandalism area were aware of places where the kids hang out suggesting that such places are unequally distributed and perhaps related to the distribution of residential property crime.

Land Use

(i) Land Use Patterns

The works of J. Jacobs and O. Newman indicate that degrees of territoriality, social cohesion, and social interaction are directly related to the physical environment in which one lives. They suggest that diverse land use strategies coupled with specific architectural designs are capable of producing high degrees of social interaction, cohesion, and intervention not to mention the voluntary surveillance of persons traversing the property in or adjacent to the neighbourhood (Jacobs, 1961; Newman, 1973).

The findings of this study indicate that the frequency and distribution of residential property crime is directly related to the absence or presence of recreational and commercial activity centres adjacent to or within the residential area. It is not, however, related in the same manner suggested by Jacobs and Newman (Jacobs, 1961; Newman, 1973). On the contrary, the frequency of residential property damage was found to increase consistently according to the degree to which such centres were present in or adjacent to the residential area or household. More households in the high vandalism rate area, for instance, reported the presence of recreational and commercial activity centres than households in the medium and low areas. This

was further supported by the victim/non-victim household table which indicated that victim households tended to report the presence of a recreational or commercial activity centre nearby. At both the household and area levels of analysis these findings are more pronounced when related only to the presence or absence of recreational centres. This suggests that residents living in shared or multi-use land sites do not develop the heightened degree of territorially and defensive watchfulness suggested by Jacobs and Newman (Jacobs, 1961; Newman, 1973).

In summary, the distribution of residential property crime at both the area and household level of analysis is directly related to the presence of non-residential land use sites in or adjacent to the neighbourhood.

Social Cohesion/Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch may be defined as a co-operative neighbourhood program orientated towards taking affirmative action to reduce and prevent the opportunity to commit residential property crime. Affirmative action may take the form of phoning police, phoning neighbours, or talking to the offending party. This program, as evidenced by the data in this study, does not need to be introduced by a formal institution, but may exist independently of such bodies.

An informal practice of neighbourhood watch was found to be operating in the low vandalism area. This area exhibited a relatively high degree of cultural homogeneity and social interaction. These two characteristics can

also be attributed to the high vandalism area which suggests that the presence of cultural homogeneity and social interaction does not necessarily foster the development of a Neighbourhood Watch Program.

The high vandalism area differed from the low vandalism area demographically in terms of socio-economic status and level of education. A significantly larger percentage of households in the high rather than the low area were from high socio-economic backgrounds and had achieved higher levels of education. We also noted that private property indicators such as being in possession of two or more cars occurred in the high status region. We may assume that residents in the high vandalism area, being in possession of a greater volume of expensive property, would be doing business more frequently with insurance companies than those residents in the other two vandalism areas. Rather than taking affirmative action, residents in the high area may be more likely to follow an institutionally passive route of communicating property damage to their insurance company.

Also, residents in the high vandalism area, in contrast to the low area, more frequently reported that the neighbourhoods and households were close to recreational or commercial activity centres. In all likelihood non-residents utilize the streetways of the adjacent neighbourhoods to travel to these centres. Residents in these neighbourhoods may gradually become accustomed to the presence of non-residents and perhaps become less territorial and defensive. The residents of the low area did not report with any great

frequency that recreational or commercial centres were close by. Non-residents traversing the streetways of the low area neighbourhoods would probably be noticed more quickly and observed by the inhabitants. A sense of territoriality is perhaps considerably stronger in residential neighbourhoods which are not close to or do not contain diverse land use functions designed to attract non-residents.

The low and high areas exhibited significant differences with respect to having someone regularly in the household. Undoubtedly this has an effect on vandalism, but given the relatively large percentage in all three areas in which someone was not regularly in the house, it becomes problematic to determine what level of non-occupancy significantly effects the distribution of residential property crime. However, we may presume that the households which are unoccupied, in addition to being vulnerable, afford little protection from a Neighbourhood Watch perspective to the surrounding households. No doubt this factor has contributed to impeding the development of an informal neighbourhood watch practice particularly during the morning and afternoon periods in neighbourhoods which have a relatively large number of unoccupied households.

Another important feature of the neighbourhood watch program would seem to depend on knowing one's neighbours and, therefore, being willing to do something on their behalf. But the data on this topic indicates that knowing the family names of neighbours, and visiting in their homes is not

related to a feeling of neighbourhood belongingness nor with the frequency of property crime at the area or household level. In fact, residents in the high area knew more families, visited more of their neighbours and more often felt that their neighbours would do something about strangers around their property. But this did not result in the actual practice of watching out for their neighbours' well-being.

However, when some of the other neighbourhood watch dimensions were examined we discovered significant differences between the low, medium and high areas. A greater percentage of residents in the low area indicated an affirmative approach to neighbourhood watch behaviour such as phoning the police or their neighbours, or talking to people they observed doing some damage.

Moreover, when we looked further into the actual response to observed criminal behaviour in the neighbourhood we discovered that a significantly larger percentage of non-victim households in the low vandalism area than in the medium and high areas had taken affirmative action. This indicates that a low rate of residential property crime at the area level of analysis is associated with the willingness of non-victims to intervene. The more that non-victims take action on behalf of themselves and their neighbours, the less vandalism is a problem in their neighbourhood. Also of significance is the fact that more residents in the low vandalism area than in the medium and high areas had spoken to persons observed damaging a

a neighbour's property. All of these factors indicate that an informal neibourhood watch program was active in the low vandalism area.

To this point, we have identified several factors which are directly related to the distribution of residential property crime at the area and/or household level of analysis. In the low and high areas, we have found that the inhabitants exhibited a relatively high degree of cultural homogeneity and social interaction. The two areas differ, however, on a number of factors. These are socio-economic status, level of education, proximity to recreational or commercial activity centres, daily household vacancy periods, regularity of household occupancy, degree of actual intervention, and willingness to take affirmative action.

The principal factors identified as having the greatest effect on the distribution of residential property crime of the area level of analysis were those associated with the dimensions of Neighbourhood Watch.

From the above, we may discern that the existence of an informal and operative Neighbourhood Watch Program in a given residential area may be dependent upon the presence of a high degree of cultural homogeneity, high social interaction; the absence of diverse land use sites designed to attract non-residents to the neighbourhood, a relatively high household occupancy rate; a balanced mixture of socio-economic status backgrounds; and a willingness to intervene at the social level of phoning neighbours, phoning police or talking to offenders.

The Effects of Interviewing

We have seen some of the factors that made an informal watch system operate in an area with a low experience of vandalism. It is also necessary to determine whether such a system can be introduced by an outside agency into areas where the above mentioned prerequisites seem to be lacking. From the beginning of the research it was intended to measure the effect of our presence in the four areas, and the discussion of the idea of neighbourhood watch in the two high reporting areas. We expected that the amount of reporting to the police would increase after we had finished interviewing in the four areas. Unfortunately, we were not able to measure other evidence of increased neighbourhood watch; the frequency of phoning a neighbour, or of speaking to observed offenders.

However, our intervention was not the only possible source of an increase in reporting. A number of other events and activities occurred which might influence the rates of reporting to the police. In 1979, prior to and during the research, there was considerable local publicity given to task force meetings, suggestions, and programs to curtail vandalism. A report of one police force summer project (Stewart, et. al., 1978) was also released and reported in the media. This present study distributed press releases and it's director was interviewed for local television coverage of the 'vandalism problem'. As well, project members wrote to elementary school principals. We visited and talked to the teaching staff of three schools about vandalism in general. In three other elementary schools students attended a play written and performed by the project workers. They were all made members of Vance the Vandal Fighter's Club.

In order to test the effects of our presence and the interviewing, property crime data for the high and low reporting areas were compiled from police computerized records. An eleven month period before and after the interviewing period was compared. In addition, four other randomly selected areas were similarly divided as a comparison with the areas in which our interviewing took place. The following table displays this information.

TABLE 87

THE EFFECT OF INTERVIEWING AND INTRODUCING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ON REPORTING PROPERTY CRIME TO THE POLICE

EFFECT OF INTERVENTION

	REPORTED BEFORE INTERVENTION	REPORTED AFTER INTERVENTION	% INCREASE
TWO HIGH REPORTING AREAS	360	467	29.7%
TWO LOW REPORTING AREAS	154	193	25.2%
FOUR CONTROL AREAS	560	611	9.1%

Because of these activities and media coverage there was bound to be some increase in reports to the police. In fact, the general increase in the reporting of property crime was approximately 12.0%. It was expected that interviewing and discussions with area residents would further increase their tendency to report suspicious events to the police.

The number of cases reported to the police increased in all areas. However, the percentage increase in the interviewed areas was higher than in the control areas. It is more significant to note that the percentage increase is greatest in the two areas where ideas of neighbourhood watch were presented to the residents. This indicates that formal institutional intervention can function to increase the reporting of residential property crimes to the police.

IMPLICATIONS

1. Crime prevention programs, such as the one reported in this study, can have an influence by reaching out to the community and generating a willingness to take affirmative action.

2. Official rates of reported crime merely reflect the willingness on the part of the public to report crime to the police. A high crime reporting rate does not necessarily mean that crime has increased, but rather provides a measurement of how successful or unsuccessful a particular crime strategy is in terms of soliciting that willingness to report.

3. Informal Neighbourhood Watch systems may already exist independently of formal institutional or agency support. The presence of an informal and operational system in the low vandalism area accounted for much of the low victim experience of its residents. It is therefore practical to consider investing resources to implement neighbourhood watch structures in other neighbourhoods which lack such co-operativeness.

4. Neighbourhood Watch concepts were introduced into two neighbourhoods which subsequently reported substantially higher rates of property crime compared to the previous year. This is even more evident when compared to the control groups. This implies that the Neighbourhood Watch program can be an effective crime prevention strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The value of victim surveys cannot be underestimated and should be supported whenever possible. In addition to identifying target areas, they help to uncover information which can provide the basis for constructing tailor-made crime prevention strategies, including effective police deployment.

2. A prerequisite for obtaining or providing funding should be that crime prevention programs be evaluated for their potential contribution to reduce the opportunity to commit acts of crime. In short, only those projects which can be evaluated and may contribute to the understanding of how to reduce this opportunity should be funded.

3. The results of evaluated strategies should be widely distributed to prevent duplication, offer workable solutions, and provide impetus for further innovations.

4. Funding arrangements should be altered to encourage a greater commitment to crime prevention by the hosting jurisdiction. Crime prevention innovations or programming have too often been the victims of intermittent external funding or selection criteria beyond their control. These practices do little to enhance or entrench crime prevention strategies at the community level. Crime prevention must be given sustained life at the community level and therefore requires permanence in terms of funding and commitment at this level. We suggest a cost-sharing arrangement designed to further this commitment at the regional or local level.

REFERENCES

Blishen, B., and McRoberts. "A Revised Socioeconomic Index for Occupations in Canada", The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology, 13:1 (February, 1976), p.p. 71-79.

City of Thunder Bay. Thunder Bay Telephone Directory and Telephone Number Guide, Thunder Bay, June, 1979.

Engstad, P.E. "Environmental Opportunities and the Ecology of Crime", in Silverman, R., and Teevan, J., Crime in Canadian Society, Second Edition, Butterworth and Co., Toronto, 1980.

Evans, J.L., and Leger, G.L. "Canadian Victimization Surveys", in Silverman, R., and Teenan, J., Crime in Canadian Society, Second Edition, Butterworth and Co., Toronto, 1980, p.p. 103-114.

Gans, H. J. "Planning and Social Life: Friendship and Neighbour Relations in Suburban Communities", in Proshansky, H., Ittelson, W., Rivlin, L., Environmental Psychology, Second Edition, Holt, Rinehart, Winston, Toronto, 1976, p.p. 564-573.

Hackler, J.C., Ho, K., Urquhart-Ross, C. "The Willingness to Intervene: Differing Community Characteristics", Social Problems, Vol. 21, No. 3, 1974, p.p. 328-344

Jacobs, J. The Life and Death of Great American Cities, Random House, New York, 1961.

Maccoby, E.E., Johnson, J.P., and Church, R.M. "Community Integration and Social Control of Juvenile Delinquency", Journal of Social Issues, Vol. 14(3), 1958, p.p. 38-51.

Newman, O. Defensible Space: Crime Prevention Through Urban Design, Collier Books, New York, 1973.

Nie, N., et al. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, Second Edition, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1975.

Proshansky, H., Ittelson, W., Rivlin, L. Environmental Psychology, Second Edition, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston Inc., Toronto, 1976.

Repetto, T.A. Residential Crime, Ballinger Publishing Company, Cambridge, Mass., 1974.

Solicitor General of Canada. Neighbourhood Watch (Brochure) Ottawa.

Stanley, P. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, published under the authority of the Solicitor General of Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Stewart, S., et.al. Vandalism Attacks on Society, A Research Project sponsored by the Thunder Bay Police Force, and funded by the Solicitor General of Canada, Thunder Bay, 1978.

Thunder Bay Police Force. Annual Report 1980, Thunder Bay, 1980.

Waller, I., and Okihiro, N. "Residential Burglary in Toronto" in Silverman, R., Teevan, J., Crime in Canadian Society, Second Edition, Canada Butterworth and Co., Toronto, 1980, p.p. 307-316.

Yancey, W. "Architecture, Interaction and Social Control: The Case of the Large Scale Public Housing Project", Environment and Behaviour, Vol. 3, No. 1, March, 1970, p.p. 3-18.

APPENDICES

THUNDER BAY POLICE FORCE APPENDIX A

COOPERATION PREVENTS CRIME:
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Any information that you provide us with will be kept strictly confidential.

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER _____

DATE OF INTERVIEW _____

AREA 1 2 3 4

First of all we would like some information about who lives here, and how long you have lived here. Tell me the total numbers of adults in the house.

_____

	1	2	3	4	5	6
NAME						
RELATIONSHIP						
AGE						
SEX						
OCCUPATION FT/PT						
EDUCATION						
PERSON INTERVIEWED						
ETHNIC BACKGROUND						
GROUPS * ORG.						

* Examples: Curling Clubs, bowling clubs, Toastmaster, Jaycees, church groups, Legion, Lions Club, etc.

1. Number of children under 17 years of age. _____

2. Denomination. _____

3. Attend church regularly? _____

4. What church do you attend? _____

5. How long have you lived in Thunder Bay? _____

6. How long have you lived in this house/apartment? _____

7. Do you own or rent? Own _____ Rent _____

8. Do you own a car? Yes _____ No _____ Number _____

9. Do you own a camp? Yes _____ No _____

   If yes: do you go all summer? Yes _____ No _____
   does everyone in the house go? Yes _____ No _____
   do you go on weekends in winter? Yes _____ No _____

10. Do you go on vacation? Yes _____ No _____

    If yes: is the house/apt. vacant then? Yes _____ No_____

11. Do you think vandalism is high or low in your neighbourhood?

    High _____ Low _____ None _____ Don't know _____

We are seeking information about vandalism and other forms of crime in this area. This includes such things as, marking up property, stealing from gardens, slashing tires, breaking fences, etc. We are interested in the crimes that you personally know about and if any have directly happened to you.

12. Have you been the victim of any vandalism at this house/apt. in the last year? Yes _____ No _____

13. If yes, what was it? What sort of damage?

14. When did it happen? Time of day it occurred.

15. Damage was to: house _____ car _____ yard _____
    garden _____ fences _____ apt. _____
    away from house _____

16. Do you know the amount in dollars of the damage? _____

17. Did you report it to the police? Yes _____ No _____

Your insurance company: Yes _____ No _____ Don't have insurance _____

18. What happened then? or Why didn't you report it?

19. Do you know of any other vandalism in the neighbourhood other than what happened to you? Yes _____ No _____

20. What sort of damage?

21. Did you report it? Yes _____ No _____

22. Do you think individuals guilty of vandalism should repair or repay for the damage? Yes _____ No _____

Next we'd like to get some information about your street or neighbourhood.

23. Is the street lighting adequate? Yes _____ No _____

24. Is there a back-lane? Yes _____ No _____

25. Do people use it for parking their cars? Yes _____ No _____

26. Is it used in the winter? Yes _____ No _____

27. Is it used for a pathway in the winter? Yes _____ No _____

Next, we would like to find out the sorts of things that you do to prevent vandalism against your own property.

28. What do you do to prevent vandalism or theft to your place?

	Mentioned	Probe
1. Don't leave things in yard (bikes, hoses)		
2. Lock doors of house		
3. Lock the car		
4. Have an alarm system		
5. Ask neighbour to watch house when away		
6. Fence around property (including backlane)		
7. Dog (kept outside at night)		
8. Outside house lights on front and back doors		
9. Talk to people you see doing things		
10. Repair damaged areas immediately		
11. Having someone in house at all times		
12. Other		

29. Which of these do you think is most important in preventing vandalism?

_____

30. How many hours a day is your house vacant? _____

What times? _____

The relationship and interaction that you have with your neighbours may influence the rate of vandalism in the area. Please tell us:

31. Do you have any relatives in this neighbourhood? Yes _____ No _____

32. How many of your neighbours on this street would you know by name? _____

33. How many do you visit in their homes? _____

34. Do you feel a part of this neighbourhood? Yes _____ No _____
Somewhat _____

35. Do you think that there is any neighbourhood spirit? Yes _____
No _____ Somewhat _____

36. For example: if a stranger was hanging around your house would your neighbours do anything about it? Yes _____ No _____

37. What do you think your responsibility is when you think some kind of crime is going on?

38. What would you actually do if you saw some vandalism going on?

Would you: talk to people involved _____
phone police _____
phone or talk to neighbour _____
ignore it and not report it _____
if they were children, talk to their parents _____

39. Do you think your response would be different if you saw children involved in some crime?

40. Have you ever done any of the above? Yes _____ No _____

41. What happened in that case?

42. Do you know about the block parent program? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, do you think it is active? is it working? Yes _____
No _____ Don't know _____

43. Do you know about the curfew law in Thunder Bay? Yes _____ No _____
The curfew goes into effect at _____.

44. Do you know of any place where kids hang out in this neighbourhood?
Yes _____ No _____

Ask, if children in home — 45. What do your children do with their spare time? (hobbies, sports, or other activities) Nothing _____

Ask, if children in home

46. Are your children involved in any organized recreational program?
Yes _____ No _____

47. Would your children be interested in such programs? Yes _____ No _____

48. Are local recreational programs adequate? Yes _____ No _____

49. Do you think that there is enough being done for young people?
Yes _____ No _____

People often mention that it is a police responsibility to prevent vandalism.

50. Are the police doing enough to prevent vandalism? Yes _____ No _____

51. What do you think the police should do about vandalism?

	Mentioned	Probe
Wait for people to report acts of vandalism?		
Have more patrols to catch people?		
Clubs to keep young people off streets?		
Encourage people to look after their own neighbourhood?		
I didn't think there is too much that can be done.		

One of the things mentioned a minute ago was that people should take more interest in looking after their own neighbourhood. You did/did not think that was a good idea. We would like to encourage you to become involved in a neighbourhood watch program.

Are there any objections to neighbourhood watch?

House _____ Apartment _____

Single _____

Duplex/Joined _____

Neighbourhood

Corner Store (no more than 2 blocks away) yes _____ no _____

Fire Station (no more than 2 blocks away) yes _____ no _____

Park (type) _____ yes _____ no _____

Pool (type) _____ yes _____ no _____

Recreation Center yes _____ no _____

Churches yes _____ no _____

Schools (type) _____ yes _____ no _____

Other stores (type) _____ yes _____ no _____

Warehouses yes _____ no _____

Service Station yes _____ no _____

Restaurant yes _____ no _____

Abandoned buildings yes _____ no _____

Apt/House Surroundings

Driveway _____

Sidewalks _____

Front yard _____

Back yard _____

Fencing _____ complete _____ partial _____

Gate _____

Garage _____ (apt. indoor parking Yes _____ No _____)

Shed _____ (street parking Yes _____ No _____)

Apartment entrance security buzzer _____

double key _____

single key _____

Upkeep of house and yard poor _____

good _____

excellent _____

things left around (junk) yes _____ no _____

garage and shed painted yes _____ no _____

APPENDIX B

City Of Thunder Bay Police Force

425 EAST DONALD STREET, THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO P7E 5V1 PHONE 807 623-2711

T. R. KEEP, Chief of Police

The Thunder Bay Police Force has begun a program designed to decrease the amount of vandalism and other types of crime in Thunder Bay. As part of this project, we plan to talk to people in your neighbourhood concerning methods to cut down on these crimes.

Your name has been selected at random and an interviewer will be phoning soon to arrange for a suitable time for an interview. This project can be of benefit to the community by reducing the amount of property damage and other crime in your neighbourhood. Your interest and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Alan Sparkes, Project Director, at 623-2711, ext. 440.

Yours truly,

T.R. Keep,
Chief of Police

Address All Correspondence to:
The Chief of Police
Referring to:
Our File No. .....
Your File No. .....

APPENDIX C

APPOINTMENT BOOKING

Hello, my name is _____. I am with the "Co-Operation Prevents Crime" Program, which is sponsored by the Thunder Bay Police Department. We would like to know if you have received our letter outlining our program. (If they have not, outline program as follows. This program is designed to decrease the amount of vandalism and other types of crime in Thunder Bay. As part of this project, we plan to talk to people in your neighbourhood concerning methods to cut down on these crimes.)

What time, in the next few days, would it be most suitable to interview a member of your household? Should a daytime appointment be impossible, we are willing to arrange an evening interview.

GET INVOLVED!

APPENDIX D

COOPERATION PREVENTS CRIME

Help cut down on crime in your neighbourhood.

Come to a neighbourhood meeting.

We have some answers, but we need your help!

when: Thursday, March 20 7:30 P.M.

where: St. Ann's School 1130 Georgina Ave.

The Neighbourhood Watch Program will be presented and explained. Neighbourhood Watch workers and members of the Thunder Bay Police Force will answer questions and offer some solutions to the problem of vandalism. We will be offering ideas on:

- preventing vandalism
- home security
- neighbourhood watch.

If you have any questions, call 623-2711, ext. 440
Neighbourhood Watch Program
Thunder Bay Police Force

COME ON OUT

What else can you do

If you know your neighbour is away and you see an obvious invitation to a burglar, correct it. Close the open garage door and remove the accumulation of newspapers from the doorstep. Why not be friendly?

- Keep an eye on strangers in your neighbourhood. The unauthorized candy seller or the teenager selling newspaper subscriptions may use an unanswered doorbell as the opportunity to enter an unsecured home.
- The person "taking a short-cut" through your backyard may have broken into your neighbour's home. Don't assume someone else has called . . . CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY.
- Write down licence numbers and descriptions of strange vehicles parked at your neighbour's house.

Watch for:

- Suspicious persons or activities
- Write down licence numbers and descriptions
- Vehicles passing by numerous times, suspiciously parked or constantly travelling alleyways.

Protect yourself by:

- Good lighting
- Good lock security
- Secure all doors and windows when house is unoccupied
- Let a trusted neighbour know when you are on vacation
- Join Operation Identification
- MAKE THE EFFORT! BECOME

Contact your police for more information on this or any other crime prevention topic.

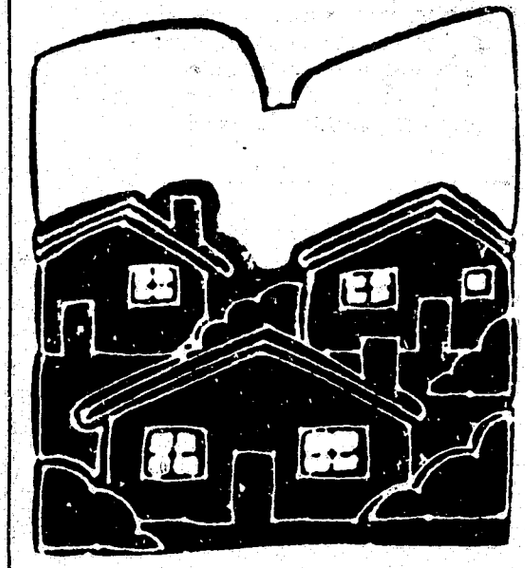
THUNDER BAY POLICE

POLICE EMERGENCY NUMBER

623-6471

Working Together

Neighbourhood Watch



Working Together

"A self-help crime prevention program to reduce threats to you and your neighbour's property."

What is Neighbour hood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is simply a program of neighbours watching other neighbour's property during times when burglaries are likely to occur. A police officer patrolling your community may not recognize a stranger in your yard — but your neighbours would!

How does it work?

The program works through mutual aid — NEIGHBOURS WATCHING OUT FOR NEIGHBOURS. Neighbours know who you are, what type of car you own and may be the first to notice a burglar at your window or door. Each neighbour can effectively watch those homes to each side, the front, and the back of his own home.

How to develop the program

To develop a Neighbourhood Watch program in your neighbourhood, contact your police. They will assist in developing a community plan. For the program to be totally effective, each resident must take an active role in both security improvement and observation.

If you see something suspicious

Write down the description of any suspicious persons. Get the make, model, colour, and licence number of strange vehicles. Call the police and other members of your Neighbourhood Watch Group immediately.

If you are going away

Leave the following information with a trusted friend or neighbour:

- Where you are going.
- How you can be reached, in case of emergency.
- When you expect to return.
- If anybody will be at your home (gardener, repairman).
- Leave a key with your neighbour.