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Document Title: National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign: Police Performance and Neighborhood Safety

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Abstract:

This report describes testing efforts to develop and assess a new National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) instrument. This testing was a part of the NCVS Instrument Redesign and Testing Project, a major multiyear effort to revamp the existing core survey instrument, which was last updated in 1992. The effort had three main goals: modernize the organization and content of the NCVS instrument, increase the quality of information collected and efficiency of the instrument flow, and improve the measurement and classification of crime. This report discusses two new modules on police performance and community safety that are included in the new instrument. It details the performance of the police and community items based on findings from a large-scale national field test.

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NCVS Redesign Research and Development Program Report Series

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) maintains a robust research program geared toward assessing and improving the measurement of key criminal victimization estimates in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and its supplements. BJS has undertaken research in several areas to increase the efficiency, reliability, and utility of the NCVS. The *NCVS Instrument Redesign and Testing Project*, a major multiyear effort, is one such research and development effort. It is designed to revamp the existing core survey instrument, which was last updated in 1992.

The overarching objective of the project is to develop and assess a new instrument through a large-scale national field test. The project aims to modernize the core NCVS instrument, including improving the victimization screener and flow and logic of the instrument, as well as providing new measures of police performance and community safety and expanded measures of correlates of victimization and victim help-seeking.

This report describes two new modules on police performance and community safety that are included in the new instrument. It discusses the development of these modules and recommendations for inclusion in the new NCVS instrument. The report examines the performance of the police and community items based on findings from a large-scale national field test. It presents estimates derived from each module and examines differences in responses and data quality.

This report and others developed under the NCVS Redesign Research and Development Program are part of BJS's efforts to finalize a new core survey instrument. Additional reports and findings from this effort may be found on the BJS webpage at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs/instrument-redesign>.

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National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign: Police Performance and Neighborhood Safety

Final Report

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1.	Introduction	1
Chapter 2.	Contact with the Police and Police Performance	1
2.1	Contact with the Police	4
2.2	Perceptions of the Police	6
2.3	Recommendations	10
Chapter 3.	Community Measures	11
3.1	Fear of Crime	12
3.2	Neighborhood Disorder	15
3.3	Collective Efficacy	17
	Social Control	17
	Neighborhood Cohesion	19
3.4	Scale Identification and Reliability	19
3.5	Recommendations	21
	Fear and Neighborhood Disorder	21
	Collective Efficacy	21
Appendixes		
A	Tables for Chapter 2	A-1
B	Tables for Chapter 3	B-1
Tables		
A-1	Unweighted number of respondents, unweighted and weighted distributions for Police Contact and Police Perception items	A-1
A-2	Percent missing data for Police Perception items by demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics	A-4
A-3	Percent missing data for Police Perception items by contact with the police in the last 12 months	A-5
A-4	Percent missing data for Police Perception items, by demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics	A-6
A-5	Percent reporting negative opinions about Police Performance by type of contact with the police	A-7

Table of Contents (Continued)

B-1	Unweighted and weighted frequencies for the Community Ask-All questions	B-1
B-2	Fear of crime measures by selected personal, violent victimization, and area characteristics	B-6
B-3	Measures of neighborhood disorder by demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics	B-7
B-4	Measures of social control by selected demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics	B-8
B-5	Measures of Social Cohesion by selected demographic, violent victimization and area characteristics	B-9
B-6	Factor Loadings for principal components analysis with Community Safety Ask-All Items	B-10

Figures

2-1	Percent of respondents reporting contact with the police in the prior 12 months, by type of contact	2-5
2-2	Percent missing data on questions about time and attention police give to citizens, by demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics	2-7
2-3	Percent reporting police spend a little or no time and attention to what people have to say by demographic, violent victimization and area characteristics	2-8
2-4	Percent reporting police spend a little or no time and attention to what people have to say, by contact with the police within last 12 months	2-10
3-1	Percent reporting that crime prevents them from doing things they want to do at least several times a month, by person and area characteristics	3-14
3-2	Percent of respondents reporting vandalism, graffiti, or other property damage as a somewhat, very, or extremely common problem, by personal and area characteristics	3-16
3-3	Percent who say neighbors would do something if children or teenagers damaged property by personal and area characteristics	3-18
3-4	Percent who said that people in the local area can be trusted by personal and area characteristics	3-20

1. Introduction

This report is one of a series describing the changes to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) as part of the NCVS Instrument Redesign and Testing Project, or the NCVS Instrument Redesign (NCVS-R). The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) initiated this effort in 2014, through a cooperative agreement with Westat to support the Instrument Redesign and conduct a large-scale national Field Test.

The NCVS-R tested two new sets of questions, on police performance (contacts and opinions about performance) and community safety.¹ Adding these questions addressed two significant priorities. The first was to generate data for local area officials and policymakers (Groves and Cork, 2018). The Crime Indicators Work Group (CIWG)² pointed to police performance and community safety as high priority for local needs. With these new questions, BJS can generate national-level data (and reports) providing an overview of trends on perceptions of the police and community safety. These data will also be used to generate subnational estimates as part of the [subnational program](#) BJS is now implementing. These questions also meet a second priority by providing policy analysts with data to examine further the causes and consequences of victimization (e.g., neighborhood contexts, fear of crime, and reporting incidents to the police).

In addition to fulfilling the above goals, these questions serve a methodological purpose of engaging respondents early in the survey, particularly those who have not been victimized. The goal is to increase and maintain respondent interest in the survey, especially as the household is interviewed multiple times throughout its 3.5 years in the panel. Increased respondent engagement may also lead to better recall of victimizations.

This report summarizes the performance of the police and community items on the NCVS-R Field Test. Chapter 2 describes results for the police items. Chapter 3 addresses the community items. Each chapter includes recommendations for inclusion in the redesigned NCVS instrument.

The results discussed in this report are drawn from the Field Test that was carried out to assess the changes made as part of the NCVS-R. The Field Test, conducted between October 2019 and May 2020, conducted in-person contacts with households, attempting interviews with all household members 12 and over. Most interviews were conducted in person, with some being done over the telephone. The Field Test included six versions of the questionnaire, including the current NCVS, a redesigned version with inter-leaved probing at the screener (IL), a redesigned version with non-interleaved probes after the screener and the IL and NIL version administered over the web (rather than in person). The web version of the redesigned survey was cut short because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The results for the police and community questions discussed in this report are taken from the interviews from the in-person and telephone IL and NIL versions. For more

¹ Development of the police performance items was led by Dr. Wesley Skogan of Northwestern University, in consultation with a working group of Technical Review Panel (TRP) members. The community measures were developed with assistance from Dr. Skogan, Dr. Janet Lauritsen and a working group of TRP members. See *NCVS Instrument Redesign Field Test Methodology* (Giambo et al, 2023), Appendix 10, for a list of TRP members.

² The CIWG was assembled to provide guidance to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in its effort to identify the preferred national indicators of crime.

details on the topline results of the Field Test, see Giambo et al. (2023). For a summary of the major results, see Cantor et al. (2022).

The NCVS Instrument Redesign and Testing Project (NCVS-R) supports BJS research in several areas to increase the efficiency, reliability, and utility of the NCVS instrument. This report is one of a series describing efforts to finalize a new core survey instrument. Other reports present Field Test victimization estimates, assessments of new and revised content, and methodological experiments conducted in the Field Test. Additional reports and findings from the NCVS-R effort may be found on the BJS webpage at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs/instrument-redesign>.

2. Contact with the Police and Police Performance

The items on the police were developed to measure perceptions of the police and their performance. For this purpose, tested questions covered several concepts of procedural justice. Procedural justice encompasses the idea that popular assessment of the criminal justice system is affected by the perceived fairness of the process and how the individual is treated (Tyler, 2017). The original draft of this module included measures of seven dimensions related to procedural justice: voice, trust, respect, neutrality, legitimacy, value alignment, and distributive fairness. Pretesting found the full battery seemed redundant to many respondents. In addition, some respondents were reluctant to state an opinion because they did not have direct (or significant) experience with the police.

Based on this feedback, two changes were made to the items. First, the series was reduced to six questions measuring a subset of the procedural justice dimensions, along with direct measures of police effectiveness. These items are shown below, along with the concept each is intended to measure.

PQ3a. How respectfully do you think the police in your area treat people? **(Respect)**

- Very respectfully
- Somewhat respectfully
- Neither respectfully nor disrespectfully
- Somewhat disrespectfully
- Very disrespectfully

PQ3b. In your opinion, how much time and attention do the police in your area give to what people have to say? **(Voice)**

- A great deal of time
- A lot of time
- A moderate amount of time
- A little time
- No time at all

PQ3c. In your opinion, how fairly do the police in your area treat people regardless of who they are? **(Distributive fairness)**

- Very fairly
- Somewhat fairly
- Neither fairly nor unfairly
- Somewhat unfairly
- Very unfairly

PQ3d. How effective are the police at preventing crime in your area? **(Police effectiveness)**

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Neither effective nor ineffective
- Somewhat ineffective
- Very ineffective

PQ3e. How much do you trust the police in your area? **(Trust)**

- Trust completely
- Somewhat trust
- Neither trust nor distrust
- Somewhat distrust
- Distrust completely

PQ3f. Taking everything into account, how would you rate the job the police in your area are doing? **(Overall effectiveness)**

- A very good job
- A somewhat good job
- Neither a good nor a bad job
- A somewhat bad job
- A very bad job

The second change, based on the pretesting, was to start the module by asking about prior contacts with the police. These questions were intended to provide context and analytic options for the performance measures by distinguishing respondents by the number and nature of their contact with the police. BJS collects extensive data on the prevalence and nature of contacts with the police in the Police Public Contact Survey (PPCS). The questions added in the Instrument Redesign were not meant to produce estimates of police contacts, but to allow analysts to examine perceptions of police performance, controlling for recent experience with the police. The police contact questions are based on the 2015 PPCS (Davis, Whyde, and Langton, 2018).³ The items included in the Field

³ See *Contacts Between Police and the Public, 2015* at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpp15.pdf> for more details.

Test are shown below, with the corresponding PPCS item numbers upon which it is based in parentheses:

- PQ1a. During the past 12 months, have you contacted the police in your area to report a crime, disturbance, or suspicious activity? (PPCS 2a)
- PQ1b. During the past 12 months, have you contacted the police in your area to report something else, such as a traffic accident or medical emergency? (PPCS 2b)
- PQ2a. During the past 12 months, that is, since {DATE 12 MONTHS AGO} have you been stopped by the police when you were driving or when you were a passenger in a motor vehicle? (PPCS 2g & 2h)
- PQ2b. During the past 12 months, that is, since {DATE 12 MONTHS AGO} have you been stopped or approached by the police for some other reason? (PPCS 2j)
- PQ2c. During the past 12 months, that is, since {DATE 12 MONTHS AGO} have you been at a community meeting, neighborhood watch, or other anti-crime activity where the police took part? (PPCS 2c)

Weighted⁴ and unweighted frequencies of both the police contact and police performance items are provided in Table A-1, Appendix A.

2.1 Contact with the Police

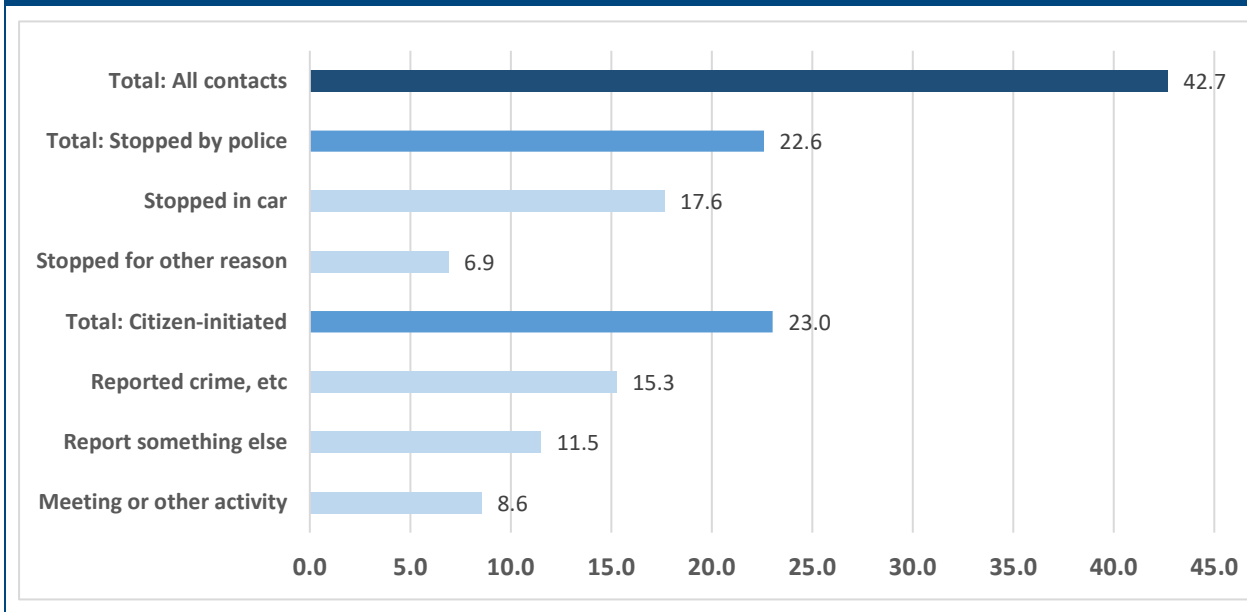
Item nonresponse for the police contact items was generally low (1.0% or less), indicating that the questions were easy for respondents to answer. This rate is comparable to those for Victimization Screener and Person Characteristics questions in other parts of the Field Test interview (Cantor et al, 2022).

Overall, 42.7% of respondents reported having some type of contact with the police in the prior 12 months (Figure 2-1). The Field Test estimated that 23.0% of persons 12 years old or older had contact with the police in the prior 12 months because they reported a crime or something else. A similar percentage (22.6%) reported contact as a result of being stopped by the police. The two most common types of contact are being stopped by police while in a car (17.6%) and reporting a crime, disturbance, or suspicious activity (15.3%).

Contact with the police as measured by the Field Test is much higher than that reported in the 2020 PPCS. As noted above, 42.7% of respondents reported some type of contact. The comparable percentage on the PPCS is 20.6% (Tapp and Davis, 2022). The PPCS parsed the different kinds of contacts somewhat differently from the Field Test, but the estimates of direction of contact (9.8% police-initiated, 11.5% resident-initiated) are almost identical, as are the comparable estimates in Figure 2-1. Again, however, the Field Test estimates are much higher than those from the PPCS. The PPCS is restricted to persons age 16 or older, while the Field Test estimate includes those 12 or older. However, these results do not change significantly when restricting the Field Test data to those 16 or older.

⁴ NCVS-R Field Test weights are design-based and raked (post-stratified) to population totals from the 2019 American Community Survey. See *NCVS Instrument Redesign Field Test Methodology* (Giambo et al, 2023) for details.

Figure 2-1. Percent of respondents reporting contact with the police in the prior 12 months, by type of contact



Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Note: “Stopped by police” is either “Stopped in car” or “Stopped for other reasons” or both; “Citizen-initiated” is “Reported crime, disturbance or suspicious activity.” or “Reported something else” or both.

Potential reasons for differences between estimates from the production PPCS and those from the Field Test include the following:

- The PPCS was administered at the end of the NCVS interview, while the police contact questions were administered at the beginning of the Field Test interview.
- The Field Test had a response rate of 27.0% for Condition 1 and 24.3% for Condition 2, while the response rate for the 2018 PPCS was 50.8%.⁵
- The PPCS included respondents who had been in sample for as many as six prior NCVS interviews. The Field Test was a single interview. Respondents’ interpretation of the questions, their motivation to respond, and fatigue may affect responses. For example, there is a significant decline in victimization rates over the first several NCVS interviews. A similar conditioning effect may also be present for police contact items.
- Field Test interviewing staff were not experienced in administering the NCVS, while most Census Bureau staff are very experienced. At least for the measurement of victimization, research has found that new interviewers generally produce different results when compared to those experienced with the instrument (Morgan and Kena, 2017).

⁵ See Tapp and Davis (2022), page 16.

The differences may also be related to what is generally referred to as “house effects” (Smith, 1978) or procedures idiosyncratic to a particular survey organization that may affect results. For example, there are differences in how Westat and the Census Bureau hire, train, and supervise interviewers.

2.2 Perceptions of the Police

Nonresponse for the questions on perceptions of the police is higher than for the police contact items. It ranges from 2.1% to 13.9% (Table A-1, Appendix A). The questions on “time and attention” (13.9%) and “treat fairly” (9.0%) have the highest levels of missing response. The amount of missing data is correlated with demographic characteristics, as well as with violent victimization (Table A-2, Appendix A). Missing data is also related to characteristics of the respondent’s local area. The Field Test asked interviewers to record observations about the neighborhood related to both fear and disorder. The fear indicator was a 5-point scale: definitely safe, fairly safe, unsure, fairly unsafe, and definitely unsafe. This indicator is presented in Table A-1.⁶ For the disorder indicator, interviewers were asked whether they thought the block and immediate area were well kept or not.

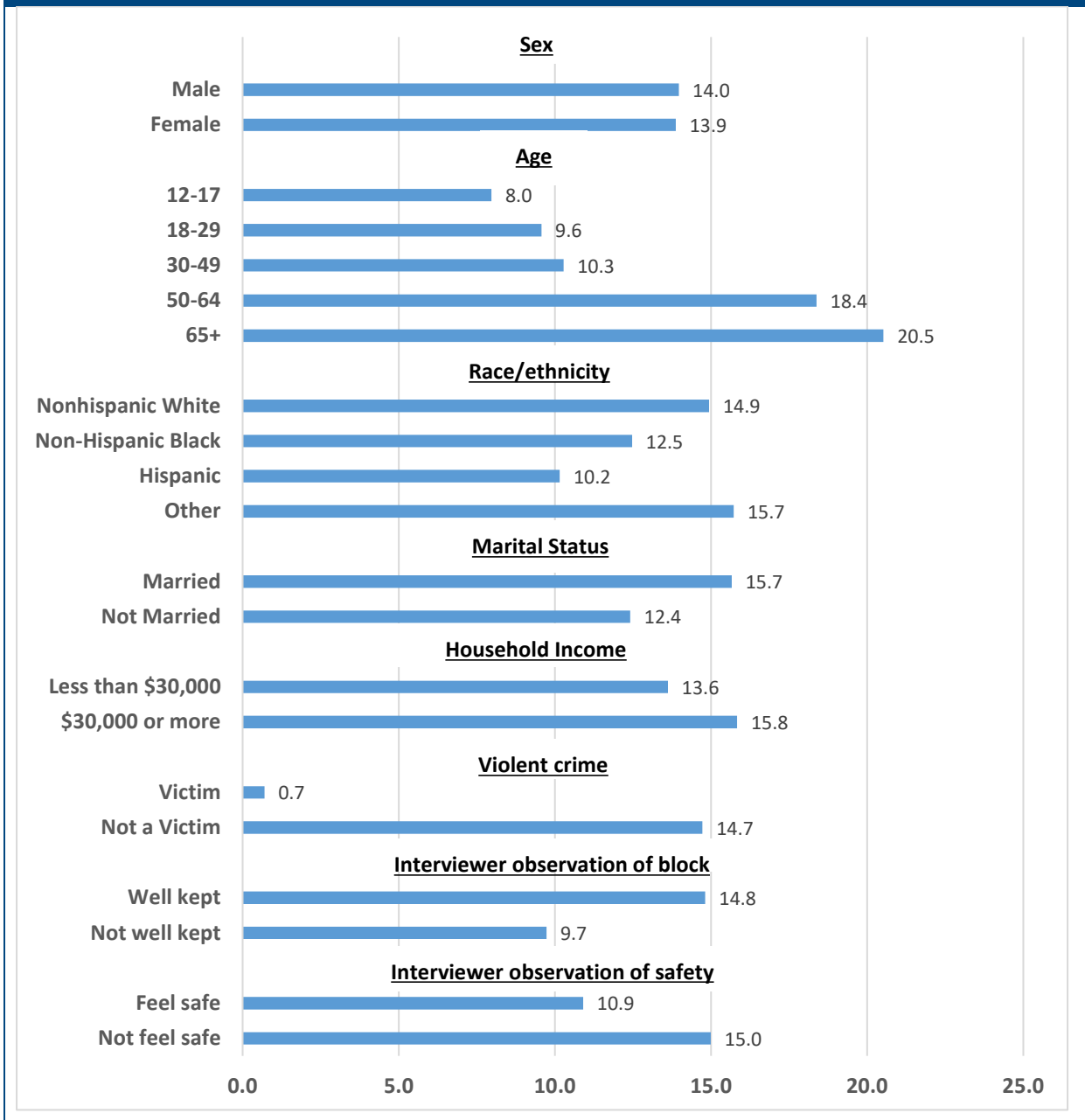
There is also a tendency for missing data to increase with the age of the respondent. For example, the youngest age group has 8.0% missing response for PQ3b (“time and attention”; Figure 2-2) as compared with 20.5% for the oldest age group. Those who reported a violent crime on the survey also tended to have less missing data (0.7%) than those who did not report a violent crime (14.7%).

One reason to include the police contact items was to control for recent contact when analyzing the police perception items. The expectation was that those who had contact with the police would be more likely to answer the perception questions. With a few exceptions, those that report some type of contact with the police in the last 12 months were less likely to skip the perception items (Table A-3, Appendix A). As with the demographic data, none of the differences in missing data by whether contact with the police is statistically significant.

There is a strong relationship between police performance ratings and personal, household, and local area characteristics (Table 2-1).

⁶ The table collapses the “Definitely safe” and “Fairly safe” categories as “Feel safe” and the other three categories as “Not feel safe.”

Figure 2-2. Percent of missing data for items about time and attention police give to citizens, by demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics



Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Table 2-1. Percent reporting negative opinions about Police Perception items, by demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics

	PQ3a. How respectfully do you think the police in your area treat people?		PQ3b. In your opinion, how much time and attention do the police in your area give to what people have to say?		PQ3c. In your opinion, how fairly do the police in your area treat people regardless of who they are?		PQ3d. How effective are the police at preventing crime in your area?		PQ3e. How much do you trust the police in your area?		PQ3f. Taking everything into account, how would you rate the job the police in your area are doing?	
	Percent	Sig	Percent	Sig	Percent	Sig	Percent	Sig	Percent	Sig	Percent	Sig
Male	3.8	0.988	13.5	0.611	5.6	0.285	7.7	0.647	7.0	0.843	4.7	0.223
Female	3.8		12.4		4.6		7.0		6.8		3.4	
12-17	0.0	NA	7.7	0.042	4.5	0.569	6.2	0.346	5.5	0.039	5.3	0.560
18-29	5.1		15.1		6.3		9.6		9.4		3.6	
30-49	2.7		10.1		4.0		6.1		7.1		3.7	
50-64	6.9		15.6		6.5		9.0		8.6		5.6	
65+	2.5		15.4		4.7		5.7		3.1		2.4	
Non-Hispanic White	2.8		0.002		16.7		<.001		2.2		<.001	
Non-Hispanic Black	8.0	9.1		4.0	5.3	4.6		2.5				
Hispanic	5.2	16.7		2.2	8.4	5.7		5.3				
Other	2.5	14.0		6.9	11.9	9.8		4.3				
Married	2.4	0.019	8.4	<.001	3.6	0.008	5.9	0.038	4.4	<.001	2.4	0.016
Not married	5.0		16.7		6.4		8.6		9.1		5.4	
Less than \$30,000	8.2	0.007	21.8	<.001	6.3	0.533	9.6	0.173	10.0	0.280	8.7	0.009
\$30,000 or more	4.0		10.3		4.9		6.9		7.1		3.1	
Violent crime victim	11.0	0.002	24.8	<.001	12.1	0.007	14.7	0.025	11.1	0.185	8.0	0.079
Not violent crime victim	3.4		12.1		4.7		6.9		6.7		3.8	
Well kept	3.1	<.001	10.5	<.001	4.4	<.001	6.2	<.001	6.1	0.004	2.9	<.001
Not well kept	8.8		26.7		10.0		14.0		12.1		12.1	
Feel safe	2.5	<.001	9.2	<.001	4.0	<.001	5.5	<.001	5.8	0.002	3.0	0.016
Not feel safe	8.7		25.4		9.3		13.5		11.0		8.1	

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test. Negative opinions: PQ3a – Somewhat or very disrespectfully; PQ3b – a little or no time at all; PQ3c – Somewhat or very unfairly; PQ3d – Somewhat or very ineffective; PQ3e – Somewhat or very bad job.

Observations from Table 2-1 include the following:

- Non-Whites are more likely to report negative evaluations than Whites across all performance measures. Non-Hispanic Blacks report the most negative ratings, with Hispanics the second most negative. For example, when asked how much time and attention police give to what people say, Hispanics and non-Hispanic Blacks are more likely to report police spend little or no time when compared to non-Hispanic Whites (16.7% Hispanics vs. 25.5% Blacks vs. 9.1% Whites; $p < .0001$)
- Age is not consistently related to perceptions. Differences across the perception items are statistically significant for two items (time and attention; trust of police). For these items, those in the youngest age group (12–17) had the lowest levels of negative opinions.
- Those in the lower income category report more negative ratings than those in the higher category. For time and attention, for example, 21.8% in the lower income group report little or no time compared to 10.3% in the higher income group.
- Violent crime victims are more likely to report negative ratings. For time and attention, for example, 24.8% of victims of violent crime reported police gave little or no time compared with 12.1% of non-victims.
- Respondents living on blocks interviewers identified as not safe or not well kept reported higher negative ratings than those living in other blocks.⁷ For time and attention, 26.7% of those in a block that appeared not well kept reported police gave little or no time compared with 10.5% in well-kept blocks. A similar pattern occurs for blocks identified as unsafe and safe (25.4% vs. 9.2%).

The police perception items are correlated with the police contact items. For most of the perception items, those having contact with the police are somewhat more likely to report negative perceptions, although this is not consistent across items and the differences are not statistically significant (Table 2-2). For example, for the time and attention measure (Figure 2-4) all but two of the contact items follow the pattern that those with contact are somewhat more likely to say that the police pay little or no time and attention to what people say. However, the differences are not statistically significant.

⁷ On their first visit to each sample address, Field Test interviewers recorded their observations of the neighborhood. Including income level, signs that it was not well kept, and whether it was a safe place to live, as well as the type of dwelling unit, indications of children living there, signs it was not well kept, and evidence of any security measures.

Table A-5. Percent reporting negative opinions about Police Perception by type of contact with the police

		PQ3a. How respectfully do you think the police in your area treat people?		PQ3b. In your opinion, how much time and attention do the police in your area give to what people have to say?		PQ3c. In your opinion, how fairly do the police in your area treat people regardless of who they are?		PQ3d. How effective are the police at preventing crime in your area?		PQ3e. How much do you trust the police in your area?		PQ3f. Taking everything into account, how would you rate the job the police in your area are doing?	
		Percent	p-value	Percent	p-value	Percent	p-value	Percent	p-value	Percent	p-value	Percent	p-value
PQ1a	No	2.7	0.216	11.2	0.308	4.6	0.515	6.0	0.277	6.1	0.517	3.2	0.267
	Yes	9.7		21.8		7.7		14.9		11.4		8.8	
PQ1b	No	3.4	0.557	12.0	0.494	4.9	0.844	7.0	0.702	6.5	0.686	3.8	0.805
	Yes	6.6		19.7		6.2		9.7		10.6		5.6	
Stopped by police ¹	No	3.3	0.576	12.4	0.736	4.6	0.722	6.7	0.564	5.8	0.464	3.9	0.849
	Yes	5.6		14.9		6.7		9.4		10.6		4.6	
PQ2a	No	3.4	0.603	12.5	0.783	4.6	0.620	7.1	0.795	5.9	0.426	3.9	0.868
	Yes	5.6		15.0		7.5		8.6		11.6		4.7	
PQ2b	No	3.3	0.342	12.4	0.542	4.8	0.680	6.9	0.408	6.4	0.514	3.8	0.657
	Yes	10.1		20.5		8.8		13.3		14.3		6.5	
Contacted police ²	No	2.4	0.138	11.0	0.308	4.4	0.398	5.9	0.369	5.9	0.433	3.4	0.530
	Yes	8.4		18.9		7.1		11.9		10.5		6.2	
PQ2c	No	3.9	0.873	13.3	0.813	5.1	0.974	7.3	0.902	7.1	0.855	4.2	0.815
	Yes	2.7		10.0		4.9		8.2		5.5		2.7	
Any type of contact ³	No	2.3	0.338	11.4	0.584	4.3	0.701	6.0	0.500	5.5	0.477	3.6	0.758
	Yes	5.7		15.0		6.2		9.1		8.8		4.6	

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Negative opinions: PQ3a – Somewhat or very disrespectfully; PQ3b – a little or no time at all; PQ3c – Somewhat or very unfairly; PQ3d – Somewhat or very ineffective; PQ3f – Somewhat or very bad job.

See Table A-1 for wording of PQ1a through PQ2c.

¹ “Yes” to either PQ1a or PQ1b or to both.

² “Yes” to either PQ2a or PQ2b or to both.

³ “Yes” to any of PQ1a, PQ1b, PQ2a, PQ2b, or PQ2c.

2.3 Recommendations

The police contact items performed as anticipated. They provided a useful context for the perception items. The amount of missing data for the police perception items and the proportion of negative opinions expressed did vary by whether the respondent reported contact with the police. There was minimal item-missing data associated with the contact items (1.0% or less). One possible concern is the difference in contact estimates between the Field Test and the PPCS. The percentage of persons reporting police contact on the Field Test was much higher than that measured by the PPCS. For the reasons discussed above, it is difficult to assess how these differences might translate to the NCVS. Even if there prove to be continuing differences between PPCS estimates and those from the new items, the PPCS provides in-depth information about the nature of the interactions with the police that BJS should continue to publish. The contact information collected from the new items should be used in analyzing the police perception items. BJS should monitor these rates going forward. If there are large differences between the PPCS and the new items, BJS should explore possible reasons for the discrepancies.

The police perception items had higher levels of missing data than the contact items. Three of the items, in particular, had more than 5% missing, with the item on time and attention having the highest level. Pretesting these items indicated that some respondents are reluctant to express an opinion, especially if they have not had direct experience with the police.⁸ The amount of missing data is correlated with whether or not the respondent reported contact with the police in the prior 12 months, although the relationship is not statistically significant.

The items on perceptions of the police are correlated with personal and area characteristics. Hispanics, non-Hispanic Blacks, those with lower income, victims of violent crime, and those in areas interviewers classified as not well kept or unsafe had more negative opinions. Also, those who had contact with the police in the last 12 months generally had more negative opinions, although this relationship was not consistent across all items or types of contact, and none of the differences was statistically significant. The lack of statistical significance is in part because of small sample sizes and the relatively small number of individuals who expressed negative opinions. For example, across the six perception items, the percentage reporting negative opinions ranged from 3.3% to 6.5%. In combination with the relatively small numbers who had contact with the police, the statistical tests have low power. Larger sample sizes will provide more data to test more rigorously how contacts with the police are related to these perceptions. Regardless, these results do provide evidence that future analysis and reporting should consider using police contact as a covariate.

There is some concern whether administering these questions to those under 18 is warranted. Youth may not have formed opinions about the police, especially as they relate to effectiveness and procedural justice. The amount of missing data for those 12–17 was generally lower than for older respondents, which indicates that youth were willing to answer the questions. Their answers to the perception questions stood out for several of the items (e.g., PQ3a and PQ3b), where they reported fewer negative judgments. However, the Field Test sample size and composition for 12-17-year-olds were affected by this group's low response rate. BJS should assess whether youth, or a subset of them (e.g., 16–18), should be asked these items when a larger and more representative sample is available.⁹

⁸ See Giambo et al. (2023), for a description of how these questions were tested.

⁹ For additional information, see *NCVS Juvenile Testing and Redesign Report* (NCJ 304100, BJS, March 2022).

3. Community Measures

Following the recommendation of the CIWG, the TRP recommended including questions on fear of crime, neighborhood disorder, and collective efficacy. Both the fear of crime and neighborhood disorder items are topline indicators of perceived risk of victimization. Both are expected to be part of regular reports providing trends over time and to support small area estimates. Fear of crime is a direct measure of how respondents feel about their immediate risk of being a victim. Disorder is an important indicator of neighborhood stability and may have broad-ranging effects on individuals and neighborhoods.

Collective efficacy is one of several ways to characterize the sociological conditions of a neighborhood as it relates to crime (Sampson, Raudenburg, and Earls, 1997). Collective efficacy is defined as a combination of local “social control” and “cohesion.” Social control is a resident’s beliefs about how others will react to crime in the neighborhood. Cohesion is the willingness of residents to cooperate. The collective efficacy items will serve as predictors of victimization risk at both the individual and neighborhood levels.

The following sections describe the questions related to each of these concepts added during the Instrument Redesign, and present Field Test results.

3.1 Fear of Crime

Fear may be operationalized in many ways (e.g., worry, perceived risk, threat, and self-reported behavior such as avoidance). The Instrument Redesign chose two approaches to measuring fear: (1) a series of questions about “worry” (CA1a – CA1d, CA_1); and (2) a measure of how fear influences behavior (CA2). Field Test questions measuring fear of crime were as follows:

- CA1. How worried are you about . . .
- a. Being mugged or robbed in your local area?
 - b. Being threatened or attacked in your local area?
 - c. Having something stolen from inside your home?
 - d. Having something stolen from your porch, lawn, garage, or other part of your property?

Extremely worried
Very worried
Somewhat or moderately worried
Slightly worried
Not at all worried

- CA_1. Is there any place within a mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?

CA2. How often does concern about crime prevent you from doing things you would like to do?

- Every day
- Several times a week
- Several times a month
- Once a month or less
- Never

Field Test response frequencies for these items are in Table B-1, Appendix B. Item nonresponse was relatively low for these questions, less than 2% for each item.

Between 60% and 65% of respondents were “not at all worried” about being mugged, robbed, threatened, or attacked (CA1a and CA1b). More respondents were worried about being a victim of a property crime: about 60% were at least slightly worried about theft from around their property (CA1d), and about 48% were at least “slightly worried” about having something stolen from their home (CA1c).¹⁰ About 34% were worried about walking alone within a mile of their home at night (CA_1). About 70% of respondents said that they are never prevented from doing things they would like to do because of a concern about crime (CA2).

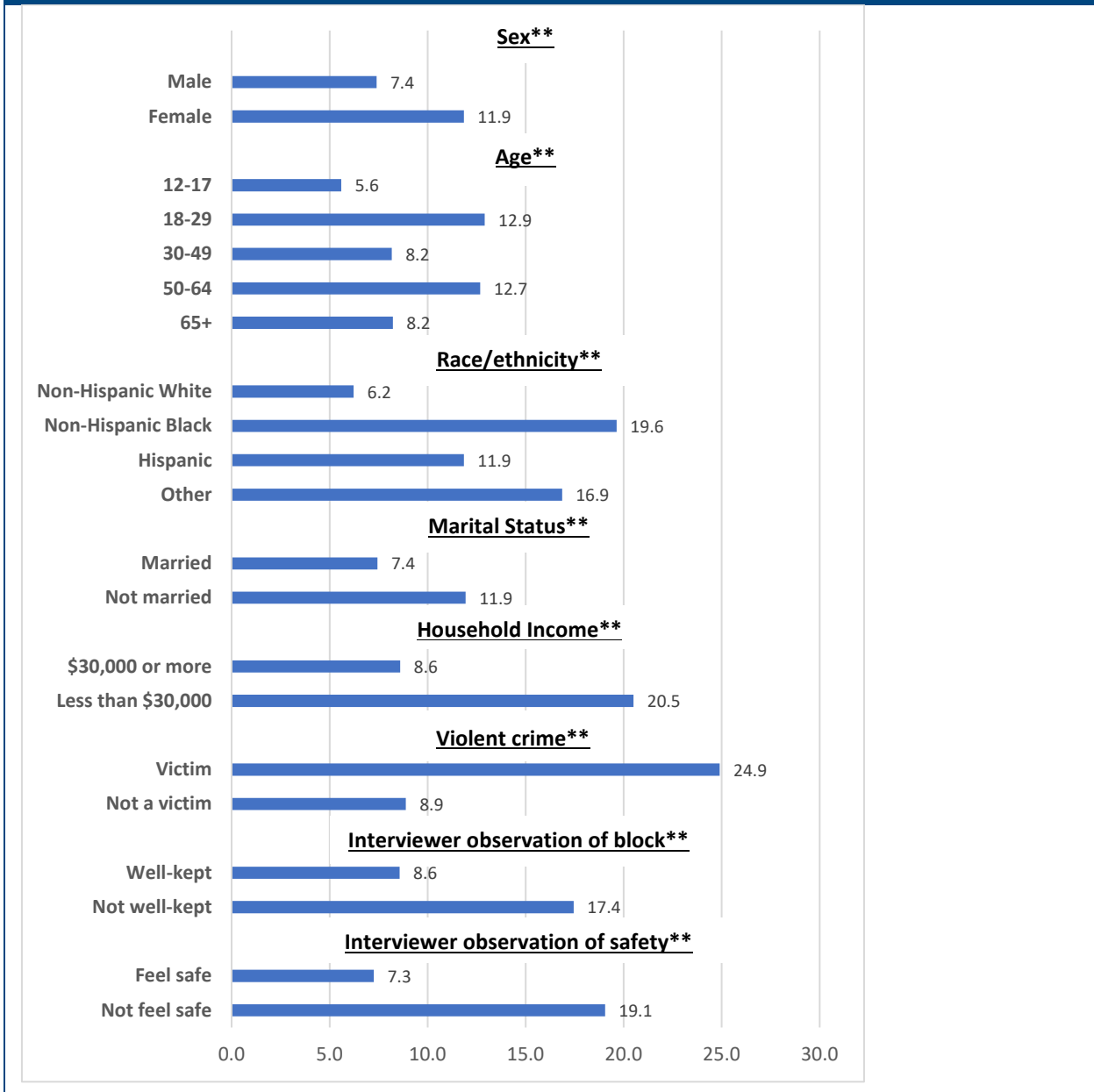
Besides being indicators of fear, the fear questions may also serve as covariates of victimization. Items CA1a and CA1b—worry about of being a victim of violent crime—are significantly related to a range of characteristics often used in the analysis of victimization (Table B-2, Appendix B).¹¹ These two items are highly related to sex (females more worried), race/ethnicity (Hispanic persons and Black persons more worried), marital status (not married more worried), income (low-income more worried), and personal experience with violent crime (victims more worried). Worry about something being stolen from inside the house (CA1c) is related to several characteristics as well, including being a non-Hispanic Black person, not married person, and violent crime victim. Worry about something being stolen outside the house (CA1d) is not significantly related to any of the socio-demographic characteristics or to violent victimization. Fear of walking alone at night (CA_1) has a similar pattern to CA1a and CA1b, except that it is not related to race/ethnicity but does have a significant relationship with age (younger are more worried). The behavior measure (CA2) has the same pattern as CA1a and CA1b, as shown in Figure 3-1.

Both of these indicators are highly correlated with all the fear questions except CA_1.

¹⁰ The 48 percent includes responses of slightly worried, somewhat or moderately worried, very worried, and extremely worried.

¹¹ These analyses use weighted data.

Figure 3-1. Percent reporting that crime prevents them from doing things they want to do at least several times a month, by person and area characteristics



Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Percent is weighted percentage of respondents saying that crime prevents them from doing things they want to do at least several times a month.

**Difference between/across categories is significant, $p < .05$.

3.2 Neighborhood Disorder

Four items measured Neighborhood Disorder in the Field Test, as follows:

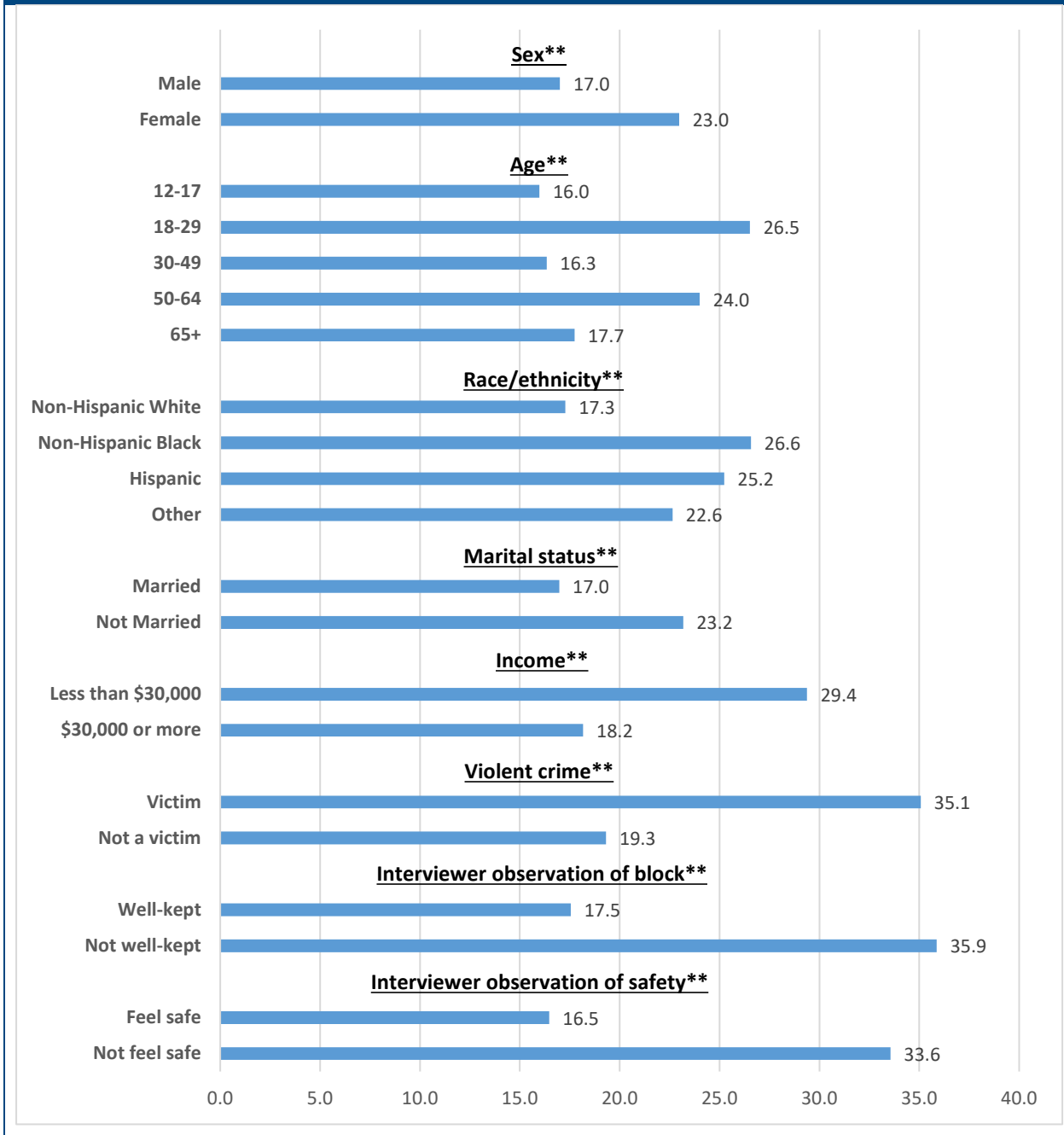
- CA3. In your local area, how common a problem is . . .
- a. Vandalism, graffiti, or other deliberate damage to property?
 - b. People being drunk or rowdy in public places?
 - c. Burned, abandoned or boarded-up buildings?
 - d. People using or dealing drugs illegally?

Extremely common
Very common
Somewhat common
Not too common
Not common at all

For the first three of the disorder questions, item nonresponse was around 1% or 2%, while 4.3% of respondents did not answer the fourth item (CA3d). “Burned, abandoned, or boarded-up buildings” (CA3c) was reported as not a common problem at all by almost two-thirds of respondents (63.5%), while more than 40% of respondents reported that vandalism, people being drunk or rowdy, or using or dealing drugs were not common problems at all (Table B-1, Appendix B).

Most of the socio-demographic, victimization, and area characteristics are significantly related to these items (Table B-3, Appendix B). Race/ethnicity is significantly related to three of the four disorder indicators. Hispanic persons and non-Hispanic Black persons generally report higher levels of disorder than non-Hispanic White persons. Income is negatively related to disorder, with those in low-income households reporting many more signs of disorder. Similarly, violent crime victims were much more likely to report disorder than non-victims. Age is also significantly related to reporting disorder, but the differences between the subgroups are not as large as with the other variables. For two of the disorder indicators (CA3b, c), the 18–29 age group reports much higher levels of disorder. Sex is not statistically significant ($p > .05$) for three of the four disorder indicators. The observational measures of both fear (“Feel safe?”) and neighborhood disorder (“Well kept?”) are highly correlated with all of the disorder items. Observations in areas that felt safe and were well kept had fewer signs of disorder. Figure 3-2 illustrates this relationship for CA3a.

Figure 3-2. Percent of respondents reporting vandalism, graffiti, or other property damage as a somewhat, very, or extremely common problem, by personal and area characteristics



Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Percent is weighted percentage of respondents saying that vandalism, etc., is a somewhat, very, or extremely common problem.

** Difference between/across categories is significant, $p < .05$.

3.3 Collective Efficacy

Collective efficacy is a combination of local levels of “social control” and “cohesion.” Field Test questions measuring each of these concepts were as follows:

CA4. If children or teenagers in your local area were skipping school and hanging out on a street corner, how likely is it that any of your neighbors would do something about it?

CA5. If children or teenagers were damaging others’ property, how likely is it that any of your neighbors would do something about it?

CA6. If there was a crime in your local area, how likely is it that any of your neighbors would call the police?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely

CA7. Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your local area:

- a. People around here are willing to help their neighbors.
- b. People in this local area can be trusted.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

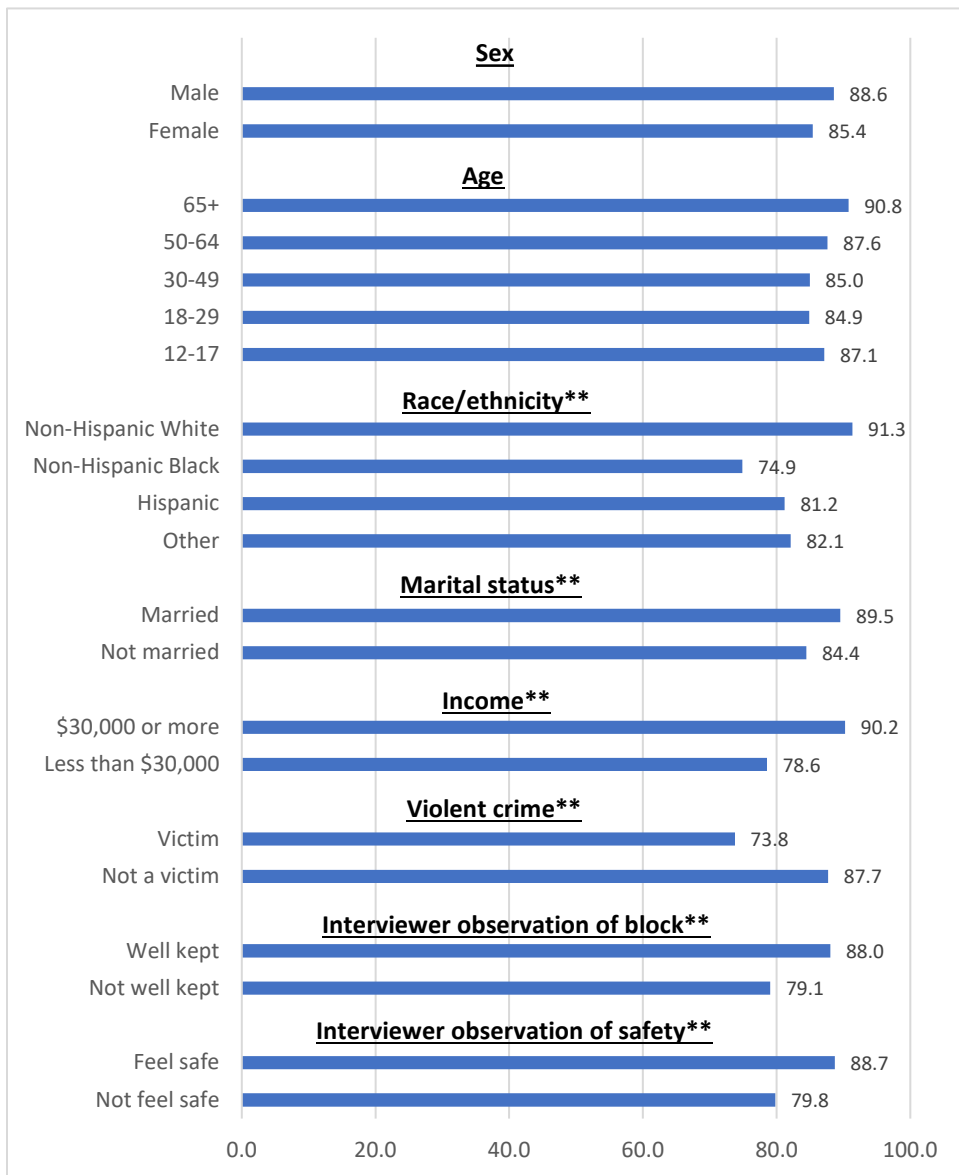
Social Control

Item nonresponse varied among these questions: 5.3% for “children or teenagers in your local area skipping school and hanging out on a street corner” (CA4); 2.8% “children or teenagers damaging others’ property” (CA5); and 2.2% for “if there was a crime in your local area” (CA6) (Table B-1, Appendix B).

Almost three-quarters of respondents thought it was very likely neighbors would call the police if a crime occurred in their local area (CA6) and 58.1% thought neighbors would do something if children or teenagers were damaging others’ property (CA5). The fewest respondents (24.4%) thought it was very likely neighbors would take action if children skipped school and hung out on the street (CA4).

The social control questions are related to the socio-demographic and interviewer observation variables in the same way as those for fear and neighborhood disorder (Table B-4, Appendix B). As predictors of victimization, they are correlated with violent crime victimization. Figure 3-3 provides an example for CA5.

Figure 3-3. Percent who say neighbors would do something if children or teenagers damaged property by personal and area characteristics



Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Percent is weighted percentage of respondents saying very likely or somewhat likely.

**Difference between/across categories is significant, $p < .05$.

Neighborhood Cohesion

Item nonresponse for the two neighborhood cohesion questions was 1.6% or less. Of all respondents, 48.1% strongly agreed that “people around here are willing to help their neighbors” (CA7a), while 38.8% strongly agreed that “people in this local area can be trusted” (CA7b) (Table B-1, Appendix B).

Of the socio-demographics and victimization indicators, all but four relationships are significantly related to the two measures of cohesion at $p < .05$ (Table B-5, Appendix B). Both Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black persons were more likely to disagree that people in their neighborhood would help or be trusted than were those in other race/ethnic groups. This view was also disproportionately held by those in low-income households. Those reporting victimizations were two to three times more likely than non-victims to disagree that people in their neighborhood would help their neighbors. The two observation items are also significantly related to these two questions. Figure 3-4 provides an example of the relationships for CA7b.

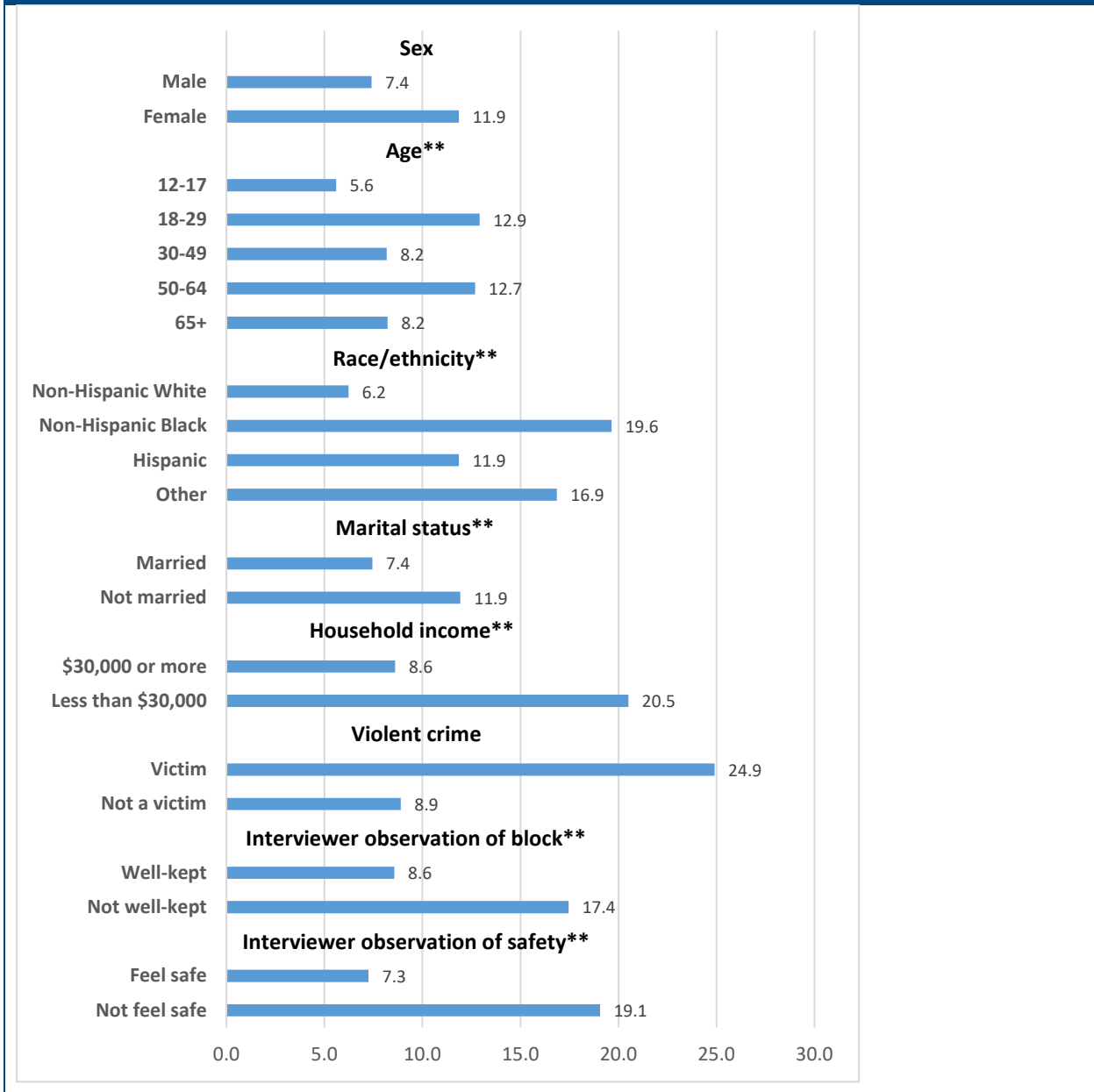
3.4 Scale Identification and Reliability

To assess whether the items measure the intended constructs, a factor analysis was performed with all 13 community measures.¹² The results are shown in Table B-6, Appendix B. Four factors were extracted which correspond to the intended dimensions with several exceptions. The first factor represents Disorder, with CA3a-CA3d all loading heavily. The second factor, Collective Efficacy, includes both the Social Control (CA4-CA6) and Social Cohesion (CA7a, CA7b) variables. The last two factors are a mixture of the different fear of crime variables. The third factor includes the “Worry” fear measures (CA1a-CA1d), with the two items asking about home-based crime (CA1c and CA1d) having the highest loadings (.82). The final factor is a mixture of the worry measures related to violent crime (CA1a and CA1b) and the behavior measures (CA_1 and CA2), with the latter having the highest loadings (.79, .71) for this factor.

Using the factors from the above analysis results in forming four scales, three with four items and one with five. Cronbach’s Alpha was calculated for each of the four scales to assess its reliability. All of the scales have relatively high reliability (alpha > .75). Each item’s contribution to the scale’s reliability was then tested by dropping the item and re-computing the reliability. For three of the four scales, dropping out any single item does not significantly affect the reliability. For example, taking out any item from the Disorder scale (alpha = .80) drops the reliability by at most 8 percentage points (alpha = .72 without CA3d). This result indicates some redundancy within each scale. The exception is the “Worry and Behavior” scale. Taking out either of the “Worry” measures (C1a or C1b) drops the alpha from .79 to .69.

¹² Factor analyses used principal components with varimax rotation. Pairwise deletion was used when computing the correlation matrix as input to the factor routine.

Figure 3-4. Percent who said that people in the local area cannot be trusted by personal and area characteristics



Percent includes responses of “Strongly disagree” and “Somewhat disagree”

** Difference between/across categories is significant, $p < .05$.

3.5 Recommendations

As noted in the introduction, the Community Safety Measures were intended to measure several different aspects of community context as they relate to crime, as well as to engage respondents at the beginning of the interview. Six items were included to measure Fear of Crime and four items to measure Neighborhood Disorder. These items are intended to support periodic reports (i.e., annually) and serve as useful indicators for small area estimates.

Five items were included to measure Collective Efficacy, three for Social Control and two for Neighborhood Cohesion. These items were intended as predictors of victimization.

Fear and Neighborhood Disorder

All of these items are correlated with socio-demographics, victimization, and Field Interviewer (FI) observations. The disorder items all loaded on the same factor in the analysis. The fear measures asking about worrying about home-based crime loaded heavily on a single factor, those related to violent crime loaded about equally between this and the fourth factor, which had the behavior-based measures as the highest loading factor. All of these can be used to construct highly reliable scales, although many of the items are somewhat redundant. Nonetheless, given that these items can serve multiple purposes (e.g., period reports, and small area estimates), the recommendation is to retain them all going forward.

All of the neighborhood disorder items formed a single scale and all were highly related to socio-demographic characteristics. One of the items (CA3c) was redundant with the other three measures. Again, given the multiple purposes of these items, the recommendation is to retain them all going forward.

Collective Efficacy

All of these items should be retained. These items were relatively easy for respondents to answer and did not have excessive levels of missing data. As predictors of crime, they are related to victimization, as well as to other correlates. While the factor analysis did not result in scales that clearly divide into the collective efficacy dimensions, analysts can use some or all of these variables when studying victimization, depending on the intent of the analysis. While these items are not necessarily appropriate for stand-alone reports, they do provide covariates for reports that examine local area topics. In addition, they provide covariates to explain household and personal levels of victimization.

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Appendix A

Tables for Chapter 2

Appendix A

Tables for Chapter 2

Table A-1. Unweighted number of respondents, unweighted and weighted distributions for Police Contact and Police Perception items

	Number	Percent	
		Unweighted	Weighted
PQ1a. During the past 12 months, have you contacted the police in your area to report a crime, disturbance or suspicious activity?			
No	1,780	84.9	84.4
Yes	309	14.7	15.3
Not ascertained	7	0.3	0.3
PQ1b. During the past 12 months, have you contacted the police in your area to report something else, such as a traffic accident or medical emergency?			
No	1,847	88.1	88.2
Yes	240	11.5	11.5
Not ascertained	9	0.4	0.3
PQ2a. During the past 12 months, that is, since {DATE 12 MONTHS AGO} have you...: been stopped by the police when you were driving or when you were a passenger in a motor vehicle?			
No	1,740	83.0	81.8
Yes	342	16.3	17.6
Not ascertained	14	0.7	0.5
PQ2b. ... been stopped or approached by the police for some other reason?			
No	1,948	92.9	92.6
Yes	135	6.4	6.9
Not ascertained	13	0.6	0.5
PQ2c. ... been at a community meeting, neighborhood watch, or other anti-crime activity where the police took part?			
No	1,868	89.1	90.9
Yes	214	10.2	8.6
Not ascertained	14	0.7	0.5
Citizen contacted the police (PQ1a, PQ1b)			
No	1,610	76.8	76.6
Yes	477	22.8	23.0
Not ascertained	9	0.4	0.4

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test. Sample-based weights raked to control totals from the Current Population Survey were created to generalize to the national population (Cantor et al., 2022).

Table A-1. Unweighted number of respondents, unweighted and weighted distributions for Police Contact and Police Perception items (continued)

	Number	Percent	
		Unweighted	Weighted
Police contacted the citizen (PQ2a, PQ2b)			
No	1,642	78.3	76.9
Yes	440	21.0	22.6
Not ascertained	14	0.7	0.5
Any contact with the police (PQ1a-PQ2c)			
No	1,191	56.8	56.7
Yes	889	42.4	42.7
Not ascertained	16	0.8	0.6
PQ3a. How respectfully do you think the police in your area treat people?			
Very respectfully	1,199	57.2	54.2
Somewhat respectfully	576	27.5	29.2
Neither respectfully nor disrespectfully	159	7.6	8.8
Somewhat disrespectfully	48	2.3	2.4
Very disrespectfully	21	1.0	1.2
Not ascertained	93	4.4	4.2
PQ3b. In your opinion, how much time and attention do the police in your area give to what people have to say?			
A great deal of time	328	15.7	14.9
A lot of time	565	27.0	27.0
A moderate amount of time	670	32.0	33.0
A little time	151	7.2	7.8
No time at all	54	2.6	3.3
Not ascertained	328	15.7	13.9
PQ3c. In your opinion, how fairly do the police in your area treat people regardless of who they are?			
Very fairly	1,002	47.8	45.7
Somewhat fairly	645	30.8	32.5
Neither fairly nor unfairly	157	7.5	8.2
Somewhat unfairly	74	3.5	3.6
Very unfairly	18	0.9	1.0
Not ascertained	200	9.5	9.0

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test. Sample-based weights raked to control totals from the Current Population Survey were created to generalize to the national population (Cantor et al., 2022).

Table A-1. Unweighted number of respondents, unweighted and weighted distributions for Police Contact and Police Perception items (continued)

	Number	Percent	
		Unweighted	Weighted
PQ3d. How effective are the police at preventing crime in your area?			
Very effective	763	36.4	35.6
Somewhat effective	860	41.0	41.3
Neither effective nor ineffective	196	9.4	9.9
Somewhat ineffective	93	4.4	4.3
Very ineffective	43	2.1	2.6
Not ascertained	141	6.7	6.4
PQ3e. How much do you trust the police in your area?			
Trust completely	1,015	48.4	44.9
Somewhat trust	702	33.5	34.3
Neither trust nor distrust	217	10.4	12.0
Somewhat distrust	74	3.5	4.0
Distrust completely	48	2.3	2.8
Not ascertained	40	1.9	2.1
PQ3f. Taking everything into account, how would you rate the job the police in your area are doing?			
A very good job	1,034	49.3	47.1
A somewhat good job	754	36.0	36.6
Neither a good nor a bad job	179	8.5	9.4
A somewhat bad job	45	2.2	2.6
A very bad job	22	1.1	1.3
Not ascertained	62	3.0	3.0

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test. Sample-based weights raked to control totals from the Current Population Survey were created to generalize to the national population (Cantor et al., 2022).

Table A-2. Percent missing data for Police Perception items by demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics

	PQ3a. How respectfully do you think the police in your area treat people?	PQ3b. In your opinion, how much time and attention do the police in your area give to what people have to say?	PQ3c. In your opinion, how fairly do the police in your area treat people regardless of who they are?	PQ3d. How effective are the police at preventing crime in your area?	PQ3e. How much do you trust the police in your area?	PQ3f. Taking everything into account, how would you rate the job the police in your area are doing?
Total	4.2	13.9	9.0	6.4	2.1	3.0
Male	3.8	14.0	8.3	5.5	1.6	2.9
Female	4.6	13.9	9.6	7.3	2.5	3.1
12-17	4.3	8.0	4.3	2.6	1.6	1.6
18-29	2.3	9.6	5.8	3.8	0.7	2.7
30-49	3.3	10.3	7.4	4.6	2.3	2.3
50-64	4.3	18.4	10.0	8.0	3.4	3.5
65+	6.8	20.5	14.2	11.7	1.2	4.4
Non-Hispanic White	3.7	14.9	8.9	5.7	1.2	2.9
Non-Hispanic Black	3.7	12.5	5.7	6.3	2.4	2.9
Hispanic	5.8	10.2	10.3	7.6	4.4	2.3
Other	5.1	15.7	10.6	8.5	3.4	4.5
Married	4.3	15.7	9.5	5.5	1.8	3.0
Not Married	4.1	12.4	8.5	7.1	2.4	3.0
Less than \$30,000	2.7	13.6	8.2	8.4	3.3	3.8
\$30,000 or more	3.6	15.8	9.9	5.0	1.6	2.5
Violent crime victim	0.6	0.7	3.5	2.6	0.6	1.5
Not violent crime victim	4.4	14.7	9.3	6.6	2.2	3.1
Well kept	4.1	14.8	9.1	6.3	1.6	2.4
Not well kept	4.4	9.7	8.0	6.7	5.8	5.4
Feel safe	3.7	10.9	7.1	5.2	3.1	2.8
Not feel safe	4.3	15.0	9.5	6.7	1.9	2.8

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Table A-3. Percent missing data for Police Perception items by contact with the police in the last 12 months

		PQ3a. How respectfully do you think the police in your area treat people?	PQ3b. In your opinion, how much time and attention do the police in your area give to what people have to say?	PQ3c. In your opinion, how fairly do the police in your area treat people regardless of who they are?	PQ3d. How effective are the police at preventing crime in your area?	PQ3e. How much do you trust the police in your area?	PQ3f. Taking everything into account, how would you rate the job the police in your area are doing?
PQ1a	No	4.7	15.3	9.3	6.6	1.9	2.9
	Yes	0.7	6.0	7.0	4.9	2.5	2.8
PQ1b	No	4.2	14.5	9.4	6.4	1.9	3.0
	Yes	2.8	9.0	5.6	5.3	2.8	1.8
Stopped by police ¹	No	4.6	14.7	9.8	6.5	2.2	2.9
	Yes	1.4	10.7	5.3	4.9	1.2	2.8
PQ2a	No	4.5	14.3	9.6	6.5	2.0	2.8
	Yes	1.4	11.4	5.3	4.4	1.5	3.2
PQ2b	No	4.0	14.2	9.1	6.2	2.1	2.9
	Yes	2.0	7.8	5.3	5.7	0.0	2.2
Contacted police ²	No	4.7	15.7	9.5	6.7	1.8	3.0
	Yes	1.8	7.9	7.1	4.9	2.7	2.4
PQ2c	No	4.2	14.7	9.1	6.3	1.9	3.0
	Yes	1.0	4.4	5.4	4.3	2.0	1.4
Any type of contact ³	No	5.5	16.9	10.3	7.0	1.9	3.0
	Yes	1.8	9.6	6.7	5.0	1.9	2.6

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

See Table A-1 for wording of PQ1a through PQ2c.

¹ "Yes" to either PQ1a or PQ1b or to both.

² "Yes" to either PQ2a or PQ2b or to both.

³ "Yes" to any of PQ1a, PQ1b, PQ2a, PQ2b, or PQ2c.

Appendix B

Tables for Chapter 3

Appendix B

Tables for Chapter 3

Table B-1. Unweighted and weighted frequencies for the Community Ask-All questions

	Number	Percent	
		Unweighted	Weighted
CA1a. How worried are you about being mugged or robbed in your local area?			
Extremely worried	18	0.88	1.42
Very worried	33	1.61	2.23
Somewhat or moderately worried	200	9.76	10.56
Slightly worried	487	23.77	24.94
Not at all worried	1,301	63.49	60.15
Not ascertained	10	0.49	0.70
CA1b. How worried are you about being threatened or attacked in your local area?			
Extremely worried	21	1.02	1.60
Very worried	29	1.42	1.92
Somewhat or moderately worried	166	8.1	8.63
Slightly worried	436	21.28	22.32
Not at all worried	1,385	67.59	64.75
Not ascertained	12	0.59	0.78
CA1c. How worried are you about having something stolen from inside your home?			
Extremely worried	35	1.71	2.29
Very worried	64	3.12	3.66
Somewhat or moderately worried	300	14.64	14.04
Slightly worried	603	29.43	27.98
Not at all worried	1,033	50.41	51.17
Not ascertained	14	0.68	0.85

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test. Sample-based weights raked to control totals from the Current Population Survey were created to generalize to the national population (Cantor, et al., 2022).

Table B-1. Unweighted and weighted frequencies for the Community Ask-All questions (continued)

	Number	Percent	
		Unweighted	Weighted
CA1d. How worried are you about having something stolen from your porch, lawn, garage, or other part of your property?			
Extremely worried	68	3.32	3.75
Very worried	109	5.32	5.36
Somewhat or moderately worried	415	20.25	19.25
Slightly worried	672	32.8	31.24
Not at all worried	770	37.58	39.48
Not ascertained	15	0.73	0.92
CA_1. Is there any place within a mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?			
Yes	653	31.87	33.92
No	1,369	66.81	64.55
Not ascertained	27	1.32	1.52
CA2. How often does concern about crime prevent you from doing things you would like to do			
Every day	44	2.15	3.01
Several times a week	45	2.2	2.40
Several times a month	74	3.61	4.18
Once a month or less	394	19.23	19.60
Never	1,467	71.6	69.21
Not ascertained	25	1.22	1.59

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Table B-1. Unweighted and weighted frequencies for the Community Ask-All questions (continued)

	Number	Percent	
		Unweighted	Weighted
CA3a. In your local area, how common a problem is {each of the following:/. . .} vandalism, graffiti, or other deliberate damage to property?			
Extremely common	22	1.07	1.32
Very common	66	3.22	4.14
Somewhat or moderately common	290	14.15	14.28
Not too common	729	35.58	35.01
Not common at all	904	44.12	43.07
Not ascertained	38	1.85	2.19
CA3b. {In your local area, how common a problem is people/People} being drunk or rowdy in public places?			
Extremely common	51	2.49	3.80
Very common	86	4.2	4.99
Somewhat or moderately common	324	15.81	16.65
Not too common	625	30.5	29.56
Not common at all	930	45.39	43.25
Not ascertained	33	1.61	1.76
CA3c. {In your local area, how common a problem are burned/Burned}, abandoned or boarded-up buildings?			
Extremely common	21	1.02	1.46
Very common	36	1.76	1.93
Somewhat or moderately common	188	9.18	9.79
Not too common	437	21.33	22.01
Not common at all	1,343	65.54	63.45
Not ascertained	24	1.17	1.36

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Table B-1. Unweighted and weighted frequencies for the Community Ask-All questions (continued)

	Number	Percent	
		Unweighted	Weighted
CA3d. {In your local area, how common a problem is people/People} using or dealing drugs illegally?			
Extremely common	85	4.15	5.37
Very common	143	6.98	7.19
Somewhat or moderately common	400	19.52	19.71
Not too common	414	20.2	20.11
Not common at all	921	44.95	43.33
Not ascertained	86	4.2	4.29
CA4. If children or teenagers in your local area were skipping school and hanging out on a street corner, how likely is it that any of your neighbors would do something about it?			
Very likely	528	25.77	24.42
Somewhat likely	615	30.01	28.07
Neither likely nor unlikely	208	10.15	10.61
Somewhat unlikely	256	12.49	13.41
Very unlikely	333	16.25	18.23
Not ascertained	109	5.32	5.26
CA5. If children or teenagers were damaging others' property, how likely is it any of your neighbors would do something about it?			
Very likely	1,271	62.03	58.13
Somewhat likely	509	24.84	26.33
Neither likely nor unlikely	79	3.86	4.41
Somewhat unlikely	73	3.56	4.37
Very unlikely	64	3.12	3.93
Not ascertained	53	2.59	2.84

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Table B-1. Unweighted and weighted frequencies for the Community Ask-All questions (continued)

	Number	Percent	
		Unweighted	Weighted
CA6. If there was a crime in your local area, how likely is it that any of your neighbors would call the police?			
Very likely	1,551	75.7	71.98
Somewhat likely	347	16.94	18.55
Neither likely nor unlikely	49	2.39	3.12
Somewhat unlikely	38	1.85	1.91
Very unlikely	30	1.46	2.30
Not ascertained	34	1.66	2.15
CA7a. People around here are willing to help their neighbors. {Do you . . .}			
Strongly agree	1,078	52.6	48.10
Somewhat agree	692	33.7	35.25
Neither agree nor disagree	176	8.5	9.94
Somewhat disagree	49	2.3	3.25
Strongly disagree	38	1.8	2.61
Not ascertained	16	0.7	0.85
CA7b. People in this local area can be trusted. {Do you . . .}			
Strongly agree	899	43.88	38.78
Somewhat agree	764	37.29	38.44
Neither agree nor disagree	220	10.74	12.33
Somewhat disagree	90	4.39	5.40
Strongly disagree	49	2.39	3.44
Not ascertained	27	1.32	1.61

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Table B-2. Fear of crime measures by selected personal, violent victimization, and area characteristics

	CA1a. Worried about being robbed or mugged		CA1b. Worried about being threatened or attacked		CA1c. Worried about something being stolen inside house		CA1d. Worried about something being stolen around house		CA_1. Afraid of walking alone at night		CA2. Crime prevents from doing things want to do	
	Percent ^a	P-value ^b	Percent ^a	P-value ^b	Percent ^a	P-value ^b	Percent ^a	P-value ^b	Percent ^a	P-value ^b	Percent ^a	P-value ^b
Male	10.6	0.002	8.1	0.001	19.9	0.977	28.7	0.726	22.2	<.001	7.4	0.042
Female	17.6		15.9		20.4		28.6		45.5		11.9	
12-17	10.0	0.392	8.5	0.093	7.3	0.014	20.8	0.583	37.4	0.001	5.6	0.106
18-29	16.1		15.5		23.5		26.6		43.3		12.9	
30-49	15.0		11.5		19.5		30.9		27.1		8.2	
50-64	16.6		15.3		25.6		31.7		35.7		12.7	
65+	10.8		8.4		17.7		27.5		33.7		8.2	
Non-Hispanic White	10.5	<.001	8.8	<.001	17.6	0.028	28.2	0.177	32.9	0.114	6.2	<.001
Non-Hispanic Black	25.0		23.5		30.5		36.9		39.8		19.6	
Hispanic	20.0		15.2		21.1		26.4		39.4		11.9	
Other	15.3		15.4		22.0		25.7		29.4		16.9	
Married	10.8	0.003	9.7	0.003	17.8	0.013	29.2	0.955	31.4	0.015	7.4	0.008
Not Married	17.6		14.7		22.4		28.0		37.3		11.9	
Less than \$30,000	25.6	<.001	22.3	<.001	27.8	0.117	33.0	0.765	40.8	0.012	20.5	0.001
\$30,000 or more	10.6		9.7		20.8		31.6		31.4		8.6	
Violent crime victim	32.4	<.001	34.5	<.001	19.4	0.003	34.4	0.186	48.9	0.003	24.9	0.001
Not violent crime victim	13.3		11.0		33.6		28.3		33.6		8.9	
Well kept ^b	12.6	<.001	10.5	<.001	31.6	<.001	28.0	0.132	34.1	0.272	8.6	0.002
Not well kept	25.0		22.8		18.4		33.9		38.5		17.4	
Feel safe ^c	11.3	<.001	9.7	<.001	17.6	<.001	26.6	<.001	33.0	0.056	7.3	<.001
Not feel safe	25.5		21.7		29.9		37.1		41.0		19.1	

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

^a Percent is the weighted percentage of respondents saying somewhat or moderately, very, or extremely worried (CA1a-CA1d), afraid (CA_1), or at least several times a month (CA2).

^b Significance tests (p values) are between/across categories of each characteristic.

^c "Well kept" is based on interviewer observation of the neighborhood.

^d "Feel safe" is a recode of definitely safe or fairly safe from interviewer observation of the neighborhood; "Not feel safe" is a recode of unsure, fairly unsafe or definitely unsafe.

Table B-3. Measures of neighborhood disorder by demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics

In your local area, how common a problem is....	CA3a. Vandalism, graffiti or other property damage		CA3b. People being drunk or rowdy in public places		CA3c. Burned, abandoned or boarded-up buildings		CA3d. People using drugs or dealing drugs illegally	
	Percent ^a	p-value ^b	Percent ^a	p-value ^b	Percent ^a	p-value ^b	Percent ^a	p-value ^b
Male	17.0	0.003	24.7	0.288	11.9	0.176	30.8	0.024
Female	23.0		27.0		14.7		36.3	
12-17	16.0	0.007	19.1	<.001	13.8	0.602	31.5	0.027
18-29	26.5		41.2		16.1		43.2	
30-49	16.3		25.1		12.5		30.6	
50-64	24.0		24.9		14.6		34.9	
65+	17.7		16.7		11.2		29.0	
Non-Hispanic White	17.3		22.8		11.0		33.1	
Non-Hispanic Black	26.6	0.009	35.2	0.004	29.4	<.001	39.9	0.504
Hispanic	25.2		32.1		12.4		33.5	
Other	22.6		24.1		11.3		30.4	
Married	17.0		20.2		9.6		29.4	
Not Married	23.2	0.001	31.3	0.001	<.001	37.8	0.025	
Less than \$30,000	29.4	0.001	40.2	<.001	24.6	<.001	50.1	<.001
\$30,000 or more	18.2		21.9		11.2		30.6	
Violent crime victim	35.1	0.002	26.2	<.001	24.5	0.016	55.3	<.001
Not violent crime victim	19.3		24.7.2		12.7		32.5	
Well kept ^c	17.5	<.001	23.54	<.001	10.5	<.001	30.0	<.001
Not well kept	35.9		40.5.5		30.9		55.7	
Feel safe ^d	16.5	<.001	22.0	<.001	10.0	<.001	29.3	<.001
Not feel safe	33.6		39.8		25.5		49.7	

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

^a Percent is the weighted percentage of respondents who said it was a somewhat, very, or extremely common problem.

^b Significance tests (p values) are between/across categories of each characteristic.

^c "Well kept" is based on interviewer observation of the neighborhood.

^d "Feel safe" is a recode of definitely safe or fairly safe from interviewer observation of the neighborhood; "Not feel safe" is a recode of unsure, fairly unsafe or definitely unsafe.

Table B-4. Measures of social control by selected demographic, violent victimization, and area characteristics

How likely is it your neighbors would . . .	CA4. . . do something if children or teenagers in local area were skipping school and hanging out on a street corner?		CA5. . . do something if children or teenagers damaged others' property?		CA6. . . call the police if there was crime in your local area?	
	Percent ^a	p-value ^b	Percent ^a	p-value ^b	Percent ^a	p-value ^b
Male	54.9	0.665	88.6	0.069	92.6	0.931
Female	55.9		85.4		92.4	
12-17	47.6	<.001	87.1	0.244	92.5	0.047
18-29	43.9		84.9		87.8	
30-49	56.8		85.0		92.8	
50-64	61.3		87.6		94.1	
65+	62.4		90.8		94.9	
Non-Hispanic White	57.7	0.357	91.3	<.001	93.9	0.012
Non-Hispanic Black	52.5		74.9		85.8	
Hispanic	51.4		81.2		91.3	
Other	51.4		82.1		93.0	
Married	61.8	<.001	89.5	0.001	93.8	0.071
Not Married	49.4		84.4		91.3	
Less than \$30,000	44.8	<.001	78.6	<.001	86.5	<.001
\$30,000 or more	58.5		90.2		95.6	
Violent crime victim	44.4	0.054	73.8	0.002	84.8	0.026
Not violent crime victim	56.0		87.7		93.0	
Well kept ^c	57.5	<.001	88.0	0.001	93.5	0.002
Not well kept	44.1		79.1		86.4	
Feel safe ^d	59.6	<.001	88.7	0.012	94.3	<.001
Not feel safe	41.1		79.8		85.6	

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

^a Percent is the unweighted percentage of respondents who said it was somewhat or very likely.

^b Significance tests (p values) are between/across categories of each characteristic.

^c "Well kept" is based on interviewer observation of the neighborhood.

^d "Feel safe" is a recode of definitely safe or fairly safe from interviewer observation of the neighborhood; "Not feel safe" is a recode of unsure, fairly unsafe, or definitely unsafe.

Table B-5. Measures of Social Cohesion by selected demographic, violent victimization and area characteristics

	CA7a. People around here are willing to help their neighbors		CA7b. People in this local area can be trusted	
	Percent ^a	p-value	Percent ^a	p-value
Male	5.1	0.505	7.8	0.319
Female	6.6		10.1	
12-17	5.1	0.140	8.4	0.009
18-29	8.2		15.7	
30-49	7.0		9.1	
50-64	5.7		7.9	
65+	2.9		4.3	
Non-Hispanic White	4.1	0.010	6.0	<.001
Non-Hispanic Black	12.9		17.7	
Hispanic	7.7		15.0	
Other	6.7		7.9	
Married	4.2	0.021	6.2	<.001
Not Married	7.6		11.6	
Less than \$30,000	14.7	<.001	19.0	<.001
\$30,000 or more	3.1		5.7	
Victim	18.2	<.001	15.4	0.066
Not a victim	5.2		8.6	
Well kept	4.6	<.001	6.9	<.001
Not well kept	14.2		21.5	
Feel safe	3.7	<.001	5.9	<.001
Not feel safe	14.1		20.2	

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test. Percent that strongly or somewhat disagree with statement.

Table B-6. Factor Loadings for principal components analysis after Varimax rotation with Community Safety Ask-All Items

	Disorder	Social cohesion	Fear: worry	Fear: worry and behavior
CA1a. How worried are you about {each of the following: . } Being mugged or robbed in your local area?	0.26	-0.18	0.54	0.56
CA1b. {How worried are you about being/Being} threatened or attacked in your local area?	0.28	-0.11	0.52	0.59
CA1c. {How worried are you about having/Having} something stolen from inside your home?	0.22	-0.08	0.82	0.20
CA1d. {How worried are you about having/Having} something stolen from your porch, lawn, garage, or other part of your property?	0.23	-0.05	0.82	0.03
CA_1. Is there any place within a mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?	0.17	-0.05	-0.04	0.79
CA2. How often does concern about crime prevent you from doing things you would like to do?	0.19	-0.15	0.26	0.71
CA3a. In your local area, how common a problem is {each of the following: . . .} vandalism, graffiti or other deliberate damage to property?	0.66	-0.08	0.30	0.24
CA3b. {In your local area, how common a problem is people/People} being drunk or rowdy in public places?	0.71	-0.19	0.19	0.20
CA3c. {In your local area, how common a problem are burned/Burned}, abandoned or boarded-up buildings?	0.74	-0.12	0.10	0.12
CA3d. {In your local area, how common a problem is people/People} using or dealing drugs illegally?	0.79	-0.15	0.19	0.13
CA4. If children or teenagers in your local area were skipping school and hanging out on a street corner, how likely is it that any of your neighbors would do something about it?	-0.16	0.62	0.04	0.11
CA5. If children or teenagers were damaging others' property, how likely is it any of your neighbors would do something about it?	0.00	0.78	-0.06	-0.11
CA6. If there was a crime in your local area, how likely is it that any of your neighbors would call the police?	-0.03	0.75	-0.11	-0.09
CA7a. People around here are willing to help their neighbors. {Do you strongly agree . . .}	-0.17	0.69	-0.06	-0.18
CA7b. People in this local area can be trusted. {Do you strongly agree, . . .}	-0.34	0.59	-0.13	-0.17
Eigenvalue	5.5	1.9	1.1	1.0

Source: 2019-2020 NCVS-R Field Test.

Principal components analysis with varimax rotation.