Knowledge Gaps in Reporting

Joel Elson
Erin M. Kearns

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/ncitereportsresearch
Please take our feedback survey at: https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE
Key Questions
• What do people identify as suspicious or threatening?
• How does prior experience relate to willingness to report concerns?
• Where and how would people report or find more info about how to report concerns?

PROJECT OVERVIEW
NCITE researchers conducted a national online survey to better understand the many points in which breakdowns occur during the process of identifying and sharing information about potential terrorism and targeted violence (TTV) threats.

IDENTIFYING BEHAVIOR AS CONCERNING

What We Did
People read three scenarios that included information about a suspect’s gender, age, and behavior. Participants evaluated how threatening and how suspicious each suspect was and indicated whether each should be reported to law enforcement and/or other authorities.

What We Found
• People viewed the scenarios as more suspicious than threatening.
• People were more likely to think the scenarios should be reported to law enforcement than other non-law enforcement authorities.
• People viewed scenarios as slightly less threatening when the suspect was female.

What It Means
Behaviors presented were almost all validated SAR indicators. Thus, they should be viewed as both threatening and suspicious. Further, people should think these are more reportable to law enforcement and non-law enforcement authorities alike. However, results show that the public has a poor awareness of these behaviors and struggle to know what should be reported. This suggests that more education is needed about validated SAR indicators.
What We Found

- Participants first indicated hypothetical willingness to report crime, which was high.
- Participants indicated greater willingness to report a crime they knew had been committed than to report a person who broke the law.
- Looking at experiences witnessing crime and reporting it to police, the picture shifts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Witnessed a crime or potential crime</td>
<td>37.89%</td>
<td>54.04%</td>
<td>8.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been in a situation in which you thought you should called the police</td>
<td>53.69%</td>
<td>41.17%</td>
<td>5.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever called the police to report a crime or a potential crime</td>
<td>45.93%</td>
<td>49.46%</td>
<td>4.61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What It Means

In hypothetical scenarios, people tend to indicate higher willingness to report crime to police. However, most people have not actually witnessed a crime. Further, only about 50% of adults say they have been in a situation in which they thought they should call the police. Of those who have been in a situation in which they thought that they should call the police, 25% did not do so.

Knowing How to Report

What We Did

People answered questions about their knowledge about reporting, what they would do if they wanted to report something, and how they would get information about reporting.

What We Found

- 64.4% of people indicated familiarity with the “See Something, Say Something” campaign.
- Over 60% of people said they would go online if they wanted info about how to report.

What It Means

Despite the “See Something, Say Something” campaign existing for two decades, over 35% of people haven’t heard of it. Further, most people would consult the internet for information about reporting. This suggests that more education is needed about methods of reporting.