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## A Study of Factors Affecting Citizens' Perceptions of Crime in Two Urban Areas in Transition

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A Study of Factors Affecting  
Citizens' Perceptions of Crime in  
Two Urban Areas in Transition

A Thesis

Presented to the  
Department of Criminal Justice  
and the  
Faculty of the Graduate College  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts

by

Karen Gilchrist

November, 1982

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Accepted for the faculty of the Graduate College,  
University of Nebraska, in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree Master of Arts, University  
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Chapter I  
INTRODUCTION

For decades the motivating factors behind criminal behavior have fascinated and perplexed criminologists. Much of the research in criminal justice has focused upon the perpetrator of criminal activities to the exclusion of other areas of study.

Until recently, the victim of a criminal violation was virtually forgotten in criminology research. The concept of victimology took concrete form only after the second world war with the publication of Hans von Hentig's The Criminal and the Victim (1946). Despite the interest generated by the publication, the main thrust of research and public concern remained with the offender rather than the victim of a criminal act until the 1960's. It has been within the past fifteen years that professionals in the field of criminal justice began to recognize that the study of crime victims constitutes a viable area of concern.

Prior to any extensive collection of data on victims, the major source of crime statistics was the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Uniform Crime Reports were initiated in 1930 as a system of data collection and offense

classification. However, the validity of the UCR has been questioned by several people in recent years (Skogan, 1977; Inciardi and McBride, 1976; Hindelang, Gottfredson and Garofalo, 1978). Critics have asserted that the UCR ignores a good deal of possibly relevant criminological data about offenses; that police fail to respond or officially record all citizen complaints; that agencies fail to forward all reports or manipulate their data; and, that victims do not report all crimes to the police. In fact, Inciardi and McBride (1976:148) stated that perhaps the largest source of error in official crime data results from unreported crimes. According to a 1979 survey, one in five of those polled had been a crime victim within the past year (Gallup, 1979:17A).

The impetus behind the renewed interest in victimization research has been the President's Crime Commission. Realizing the potential benefit of victim data, the Commission has been responsible for instituting the "new methodology" in victimology research - the survey technique. The Commission stated that:

.... the survey technique has a great untapped potential as a method for providing additional information about the nature and extent of our crime problems and the relative effectiveness of different programs to control crime (The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, 1968:22).

An important feature of victimology research is the information regarding public attitudes and perceptions about crime and criminal justice agencies. Additional data from the crime victim has the potential for providing professionals in the field of criminal justice with new insights into crime and its victims. Such information can aid in the prevention and control of crime. For example, Inciardi and McBride (1976:147) noted that victim survey research is useful for the following reasons: 1) it provides a more reliable estimate of the crime rate in an area; 2) it helps to evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs; 3) it provides descriptions of victims and high crime areas; 4) it helps to provide a foundation for police training programs aimed at increasing citizen awareness of crime and crime prevention.

#### Statement of the Problem

The contribution of public opinions and attitudes about crime to the field of criminal justice has clearly been established by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. The Commission, recognizing the need for research in victimization, remarked in its 1967 report that "one of the most neglected subjects in the study of crime is its victims" (The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, 1968:135). Others have

qualified the need for research to determine how the concern about and the fear of crime affect the nature of personal victimization (Hindelang, Gottfredson, and Garofalo, 1978:271). One of the deficiencies in relying upon victimization rates alone is that they measure only part of the impact of crime; they tell us which persons are victims, but nothing about changes in the behavior of potential victims as a result of fear of crime (Boland, 1976:33). Recent victimization surveys have attempted to fill this void.

The following research was designed to address these questions:

What is the extent of victimization as measured by citizen responses in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska? How is crime perceived by these citizens? What factors affect this perception of crime?

Thus it was the purpose of this study to contribute to the knowledge of victimization and public perceptions about crime by determining, through survey research, the following objectives:

- 1) the extent of unreported victimizations in the sample area
- 2) the extent of citizens' perceptions about crime in the nation, the city of Omaha, and neighborhoods in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska



- 3) the factors which contribute to citizen perceptions about crime in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska.
- 4) the relationship between citizens' perceptions of crime in two urban census tracts in transition.

#### Definition of Terms

In order to clarify the objectives of the research, it is necessary to provide definitions for certain key words or terms used in the study. The definition of victimization used by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) for the National Crime Survey will be adapted for use in the present research.

victimization - a specific criminal act directed against an individual victim (Ennis, 1967:5).

The President's Crime Commission and other researchers have used fear of crime and concern about crime interchangeably (Furstenberg, 1971:602). However, the two phrases carry different connotations as noted below:

fear of crime - can be measured by a person's perceptions of his/her own chance of victimization; perceived personal risk of becoming a crime victim.

concern about crime - a person's estimate of the seriousness of crime as a social problem.

It is therefore apparent that an individual may be troubled by the crime situation without actually being in fear of personal victimization himself/herself.

loss of interpersonal trust - a feeling of alienation; decreased social interaction among residents in a neighborhood (Conklin, 1971:30).

The need for further research concerning the crime victim was established by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice in 1968. Chapter II summarizes past contributions in the area of victimization and establishes a background for the present research.

## Chapter II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

As previously noted, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice strongly recommended that further research in victimology be conducted. Since the publication of Challenge of Crime in a Free Society in 1968, study in the area of crime victims has increased. The following paragraphs trace the history of victimization research from the postwar years up to the present.

#### The Development and General Findings of Victimology Research

Hans von Hentig was instrumental in calling attention to the victim of a criminal incident in the postwar years. Von Hentig was particularly interested in the role of the victim in what may be termed "victim proneness". An example of victim proneness would be the owner of a car leaving his keys in the ignition. Although von Hentig's speculations were focused upon the victim-offender relationship, he is credited with sparking interest in the further study of crime victims (von Hentig, 1948).

Mendelsohn was the first individual to develop the idea of victimology and to treat it as a separate

discipline. Mendelsohn, like von Hentig, was interested in the victim-offender relationship, and in his basic study of such relationship proposed the term "victimology". Mendelsohn recommended that victimology be a separate and autonomous science (Mendelsohn, 1963).

Little was done until the late 1960's in the way of victim research. At that time, the President's Crime Commission was compiling data on all aspects of the criminal justice system. Recommendations of the Commission were that research involving victims of crime could be of considerable value, especially in the control of crime. For example, victimization studies could yield information indicating which people are more likely than others to become crime victims, and where crime is likely to occur. Increased patrolling of an area, or greater stress on safety precautions by police to residents, could then be pursued more effectively (The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, 1968:136).

In order to examine the relationship between victimization and the demographic characteristics of the victim, as well as to gain a more accurate measurement of the extent of victimization, the Commission initiated a series of surveys known as Field Surveys I, II, and III. Field Survey I (Biderman, 1967) involved collection of data on citizens in Washington, D.C. Biderman and his associates found a rate of approximately 38 victimizations per 100

residents per year. They concluded that women, long-term residents, and young persons were most likely to report victimizations (1967:29). Field Survey II, conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) was the most widely known of the three surveys (Ennis, 1967). The results of the survey revealed that over twice as much major crime was reported by victims as had been reported to the police and was tabulated in the Uniform Crime Reports. Blacks were found to have higher rates of victimization than others. Contrary to Biderman, Ennis reported that women were less likely than men to report victimizations. Biderman's data dealt with all crimes, while Ennis focused on the FBI Index Crimes.

Boston, Chicago, and Washington were the cities surveyed in Field Survey III (Reiss, 1967). The primary focus of the study was to investigate how citizens were affected by the crime problem as the citizens themselves defined it. Less than forty percent of those in high crime areas reported that their daily life had changed because of crime, and men were more likely to report no change than women. A majority of the respondents viewed their neighborhood as no more or less safe than other areas of the city.

The results of the NORC study led the President's Crime Commission to request further victimization studies on a large scale. With the creation of the Law Enforcement

Assistance Administration (LEAA) a project soon developed to provide a continuous, statistical survey of victimization. LEAA and the Bureau of Census instituted the National Crime Survey (NCS) in 1973 and uncovered nearly thirty-seven million victimizations that reportedly occurred (Dodge, Lentzer, and Shank, 1976:3).

For the six years in which the National Crime Survey has measured crime, each of the seven\* offenses (utilizing those offenses listed in the FBI Crime Index) except rape and personal larceny demonstrated some changes. Increases were observed between 1973 and 1978 in the incidents of assault and larceny, as well as motor vehicle theft (U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1979). General findings concerning the relationship between demographic characteristics and victimizations indicated that males were more likely to be victimized than females for most crimes except rape.

The State of Nebraska, as part of a comprehensive 1980 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS) included seventeen questions concerning crime in the state. General findings were that one in four (24%) of the respondents were victims of an offense in the twelve months preceding that research. Forty-five percent of the victimizations

\*Arson, which was recently added to the index crimes by the FBI, was included in the 1978 analysis.

involved larceny theft and thirty-three percent involved vandalism. Young, urban, and middle-income residents were more likely to be victimized than white respondents. However, due to the small number of minority respondents in the survey, race may not be a reliable variable in consideration of the victimization rates (Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, 1980:12)\*

More than one-half (59%) of the offenses were reported to the police. While the survey results are not directly comparable with crime rates derived from the UCR, there were some major differences in the rates reported to the police and those recorded in the survey. For example, NASIS recorded a burglary victimization of 29.7 per 1,000 households compared with a UCR burglary rate of 11.8 per 1,000 households in Nebraska (Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, 1980:7).

#### Reasons for Non-Reporting of Crime

The nonreporting of a criminal violation to the police has created considerable interest. Some authors have commented upon the effects of unreported crime on the criminal justice system, particularly in regard to the police (Skogan, 1977; Conklin, 1971). They have suggested that unrecorded crimes limit the deterrent capability of the system by shielding offenders from police action. Another

result of nonreporting may be the misallocation of police resources if the extent of crime in an area is not accurately determined. Nonreporting may also affect the distribution of programs designed to offer support to crime victims, such as rape crisis centers.

Skogan (1976) attempted to explain why citizens do not report victimizations. Utilizing NCS data collected for a six-month period in 1973, he summarized the major reasons for nonreporting by indicating that social bonds, in terms of friendships or kinships with the offender, inhibit the initial contacting of the police. In addition, the feeling that "little can be done by the police" was related to nonreporting of a crime in Skogan's analysis and in several other studies (Hood and Sparks, 1974:174; Grosby and Spencer, 1979:32; Sparks, Genn and Dodd, 1977:118). Dodge, Lentzer, and Shenk (1976:25) in their interpretation of NCS data, found that approximately 56 percent of all reasons given for not reporting personal victimizations to the police were attributed to the feeling that nothing could/would be done about the crime. The survey of crime in Nebraska also revealed that nonreporting of crimes by victims was due to the belief that crime was not important, or that it was useless to report as nothing could be done. A small number of unreported victimizations (5 percent) went unreported because the



offender was a friend or relative (Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, 1980:14). McIntyre (1967) listed other reasons for nonreporting as victim's reluctance to get involved (fear of spending time in court and away from work), fear of reprisal from the offender or his/her friends, and belief that evidence was insufficient to convince the police or courts that a crime had been committed.

Other researchers have found that certain behaviors may not be perceived as criminal by the victim and therefore not reported to the police (Hood and Sparks, 1974:170). Misbehavior by youth may be defined as pranks; or taking material from the job may be viewed as normal behavior rather than deviant. Sparks, Genn and Dodd (1977:210) advanced the possibility that those who tended to express approval of using violence (in retaliation to provocation) were less likely to feel "something needed to be done" and thus would not report such incidents to the police.

Skogan found, in general, that victims would more readily report an offense if the crime threatened their persons, violated their personal space, inflicted injury or cost them money (1976:544-546).

## Individual Perceptions of Crime and Victimizations

In addition to examining the rate of victimization and the reporting of crimes, researchers have touched upon public perceptions about crime. Two specific areas, the perceived extent of crime, and the fear of crime, will be examined here.

### 1. Extent of Crime

Public concern about crime has been substantiated by various opinion polls (Gallup, 1979:17A; Furstenberg, 1971:601). One interesting factor uncovered in victimization surveys has been the discrepancy between the perceived seriousness of crime on a national level and the perceptions of the local or neighborhood crime situation. The National Crime Surveys questioned respondents as to their perceptions of crime in the country and in their area. The general findings were that while the majority of people indicated crime had increased in the nation, their own neighborhoods were not affected. Even those in high crime areas still felt crime was more dangerous outside their immediate area (Hindelang, Gottfredson and Garofalo, 1978:158). This was true of the early field studies as well (Reiss, 1967). These findings are in accord with a Harris Poll which showed that eighty-nine percent of the respondents believed that crime had increased in the United States, but only thirty-nine percent thought it had risen in their neighborhoods (Furstenberg, 1971:603).

Conklin, in his comparison of urban and suburban areas of the city, concluded that 90 percent of the suburban sample felt crime was lower in their community than in the nation, and 56 percent of the urban residents indicated the same opinion (1971:377). Another study of London neighborhoods found that eighty-seven percent felt their neighborhood had less crime or about the same amount as other parts of the city (Sparks, Genn, and Dodd, 1977:204). In the Nebraska survey, respondents were less likely to indicate crime had increased in their neighborhood (26 percent) as in the United States (46 percent) (Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, 1980:18).

## 2. Fear of Crime

Concerning the fear of crime, several researchers have examined the relationship between fear of crime, concern about crime, and actual incidents of victimization.

Biderman (1967) and Ennis (1967) analyzed data from early field studies and found no significant relationship between the fear of crime and victimization. Sparks, Genn and Dodd (1977:208) concluded that experiences as a crime victim did not in general affect feelings of personal safety. In the NCS surveys, actual victimization experiences appeared to be less strongly related to the fear of crime than to demographic characteristics

(Garofalo, 1977; Gregg and Bratt, 1977; Dogan, Broome and Renshaw, 1977).

Furstenberg (1971) differentiated between fear of crime and concern about crime in his analysis of a Harris Poll in Baltimore, Maryland. He found that those most concerned about crimes are significantly no more or less afraid of victimization than anyone else. In fact, people in low crime areas were more concerned about the problem than people in high crime areas, which are those areas having the greatest incidents of victimization.

Shotland and Hayward (1979:35-43) hypothesized that three major factors affect the fear of crime: 1) type of crime, 2) location of crime, and 3) frequency of crime. They concluded that the type of crime, i.e. physical assault versus burglary, affects personal fear of crime. ✓ The location of the crime impacts on the fear of crime as well. Crimes occurring in areas relevant to a person's safety, i.e. frequented by an individual, create greater fear of crime than in areas never or seldom visited.

✓ Conklin (1971) compared the perceptions of low-crime rate suburban citizens with high-crime rate community residents. He concluded that feelings of safety and perceptions of crime were unrelated in the low-crime rate area, but within the high-crime rate community, those who perceived more crime felt less safe. Thomas and Hyman

(1977) surveyed residents in five cities in Virginia and determined that blacks, females, older citizens, and lower socioeconomic segments of the population are more fearful of victimization than others. However, they found no relationship between actual victimization experiences and concern about crime. In reality, actual victimization was more likely to be reported by younger, educated, upper-socioeconomic class residents. Clements and Kleiman (1976:207) found in their study of the elderly and crime, that although the fear of crime among the aged is high, actual rates of victimization are low when compared to other age categories. In an analysis of crime victim data, Skogan found that incidents of property crime affected the respondent's perception of the amount of crime, but not his/her personal fear of it (Skogan, 1977:7).

Some researchers have found a positive relationship between fear of, or concern about, crime and victimization experiences. The Nebraska study found that a larger percentage of victims than nonvictims were afraid to go out after dark (Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, (1980:20). Victims also saw their town less safe than a few years ago in greater numbers than nonvictims, and responded that crime had increased in greater numbers than nonvictims (Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and

Criminal Justice, 1980:19). Kleiman and David (1973) surveyed residents in a ghetto community. They found that of the four ethnic groups represented in the area (blacks of West Indian extraction, blacks, Puerto Ricans, and whites) all except the whites perceived crime as high when they had been victimized. Skogan (1977:5) determined that there is a positive relationship between reported rates of robbery and the amount of fear of crime expressed by the respondents. However, the relationship was not specific to the actual experience of crime.

Fattah (1979) in a study of crime perceptions among Canadian residents, reached the conclusion that most people are not seriously affected by victimization because the majority of the crimes perpetrated against people are trivial in nature. These experiences have little impact on their lives nor are these experiences major enough to be remembered vividly for any period of time. Sparks, Genn, and Dodd (1977) postulated that:

.... expressed feelings of fear of crime or insecurity appear to have many sources and to be strongly influenced by beliefs, attitudes, and experiences which have nothing whatever to do with crime (p.209).

### Conceptual Framework

Much of the work concerning victimization has been almost entirely empirical in nature. The major purpose of

victimization surveys has been to gather information about the extent of victimization. In addition, demographic data about the victim or potential victim has been collected in order to establish a relationship between these variables and incidents of victimization. This data, however, lends itself to wider application.

On the basis of what is known about crime and its victims, a conceptual framework is provided to aid in the development of subsequent hypotheses regarding the study.

As previously explained, the research had indicated that fear of crime is not always related to actual victimization experiences. Little has been documented with regard to what does affect citizen fear of crime. As one author noted in his criticism of the atheoretical nature of research concerning the fear of crime, "we know who is afraid but very little about why they are afraid" (Baumer, 1978:254).

The NCS data revealed that people are, to a great degree, influenced by media. The survey asked whether respondents thought crime was more, less, or about as serious as the newspapers and television reported. Fewer than ten percent felt that crime was less serious than reflected in the media (Hindelang, Gottfredson, and Garofalo, 1978:171-172). Garofalo, in a further analysis of eight cities surveyed in 1975, found that regardless

of their fear of crime, very few respondents thought that the media was underestimating the seriousness of crime (1979:68). McIntyre (1967:37) concluded that the media tends to draw attention to crime as a social problem, which in turn may create a perceived fear of crime which is not real. As those crimes that generally receive media coverage are violent ones, the public may view the crime picture as more serious than it is in reality. Garofalo (1977) reflected that the threat of crime as perceived by citizens is shaped by media treatment of crime. Wolfgang and Singer (1978:387) remarked upon the role media plays in shaping perceptions. They stated that as concern with crime increases in a society, mass media displays such interest, and a "victim public" emerges. Conklin (1971:374) pointed out that even law enforcement officials can affect public attitudes about crime by presenting data in such a way to imply crime rates are soaring. Skogan (1977) surmised that fear of crime is affected by many social factors that have little to do with victimization. He stated that:

Although it has not been investigated systematically, it seems that the roots of most people's perceptions of crime and knowledge about victimization lie in vicarious sources: television, newspapers and secondhand reports of friends and neighbors (p.9).

Studies of the elderly population and crime have related fear of crime to changes in the neighborhood. For



example, people moving in and out of a neighborhood and less home ownership illustrate change in the area (Clements and Kleiman, 1976:208). Furstenberg (1971) in his analysis also found that social change has an effect on crime perceptions. The study was conducted in 1969 when racial tensions were in the forefront of social problems. Racial integration and impending social change, according to Furstenberg, were associated with high apprehension about the crime situation (1971:606). McIntyre (1967) examined the relationship between attitudes toward crime and victimization using data from the early field studies. She found that blacks, compared to whites, experienced a higher level of anxiety and concern about crime. The black population's perception of crime was consistent with the risk of being victimized suggested by police statistics for that period (1967:38).

Skogan found that the fear of crime is intermingled with racial fear and class-linked differences in behavior. In a sense, people of a different race or class are stranger than those who are not of their race or class (Skogan, 1977:10). Garofalo (1979) summarized eight factors which influence citizen fear of and perceptions about crime. These are race, income, personal victimizations, neighborhood crime rate, age, sex, media and evaluations of local police (p.69).

Of equal importance in determining what factors affect crime perceptions, is the assumed effect fear of crime may have upon individual behavior. It is possible that behavior and attitudes may change because of a "perceived" increase in crime which may not reflect a real increase. The perceived threat of crime and its effect upon citizens has been called "indirect victimization" (Conklin, 1971:314). This refers to the possible change in behavior because of the perceived threat of crime, even when an individual has not directly suffered a personal loss. Examples of indirect victimization would be staying home at night, avoiding certain areas, taking taxi-cabs rather than walking, avoiding strangers, and securing homes with locks.

The NCS surveys were interested in determining if fear of crime had an effect on behavior. A broad question concerning citizen behavior resulted in 46 percent of the respondents claiming they had limited or changed their activities because of crime. In this research, there was a definite positive relationship between fear of crime and behavior responses. Seventy-two percent of those who felt unsafe at night in their neighborhood had limited their activities (Hindelang, Gottfredson, and Garofalo, 1978: 204). It is possible that fear of crime, an affective behavior, can be manifested in personal limiting of activities, a behavioral indicator of fear.

Limiting of behavior and preventive precautions can be applied to the idea of avoidance behavior (Furstenberg, 1971:374). The elderly population, in particular, is the most vulnerable to the fear of victimization in regard to avoiding potential risk situations. Clemente and Kleiman (1976) noted that it is the aged that are:

.... forced to curtail social activities, stay home from church or abandon shopping trips for fear of being robbed. It is this group that is afraid of a strange adult, terrified of two or three youths on the street, and frightened by a dimly lit elevator (p.209).

Fear of crime, as noted, is not limited to the elderly and it has wider implications than the effect upon individual behavior. Furstenberg (1971:608) pointed out that fear of crime represented by changes in behavior is hazardous. Thus, the fear can be transmitted, in a sense, to other persons in an area indicating that their locality is a "dangerous place to live". One study indicated that negative attitudes about the neighborhood, i.e. condition of area, type of neighbors, were associated with a feeling that the neighborhood was unsafe (Sparks, Genn, and Dodd, 1977:271).

Fear of crime not only affects the behavior of citizens in an area, but it may also lead to isolation of newcomers from long-term residents. The Kleiman and David (1976) study of a community indicated that long-time residents were more likely than short-term residents to

perceive crime as high, except among whites. The long-term white population of that study who experienced a high fear of crime were more likely to avoid strangers and stay home after dark than other respondents in the study (1976:331-332). In general, within the white population the less contact with the larger community, the higher the fear of crime (1976:333).

Such reactions as staying indoors, etc., may result in a deterioration of social solidarity in the community. For example, as McIntyre (1967:39) pointed out, when people stay at home out of fear, the general level of sociability is limited. People are afraid to talk to those they do not know. As social interaction is reduced and fear of crime becomes "fear of stranger" the quality of living of an area may be damaged. As McIntyre (1967) stated:

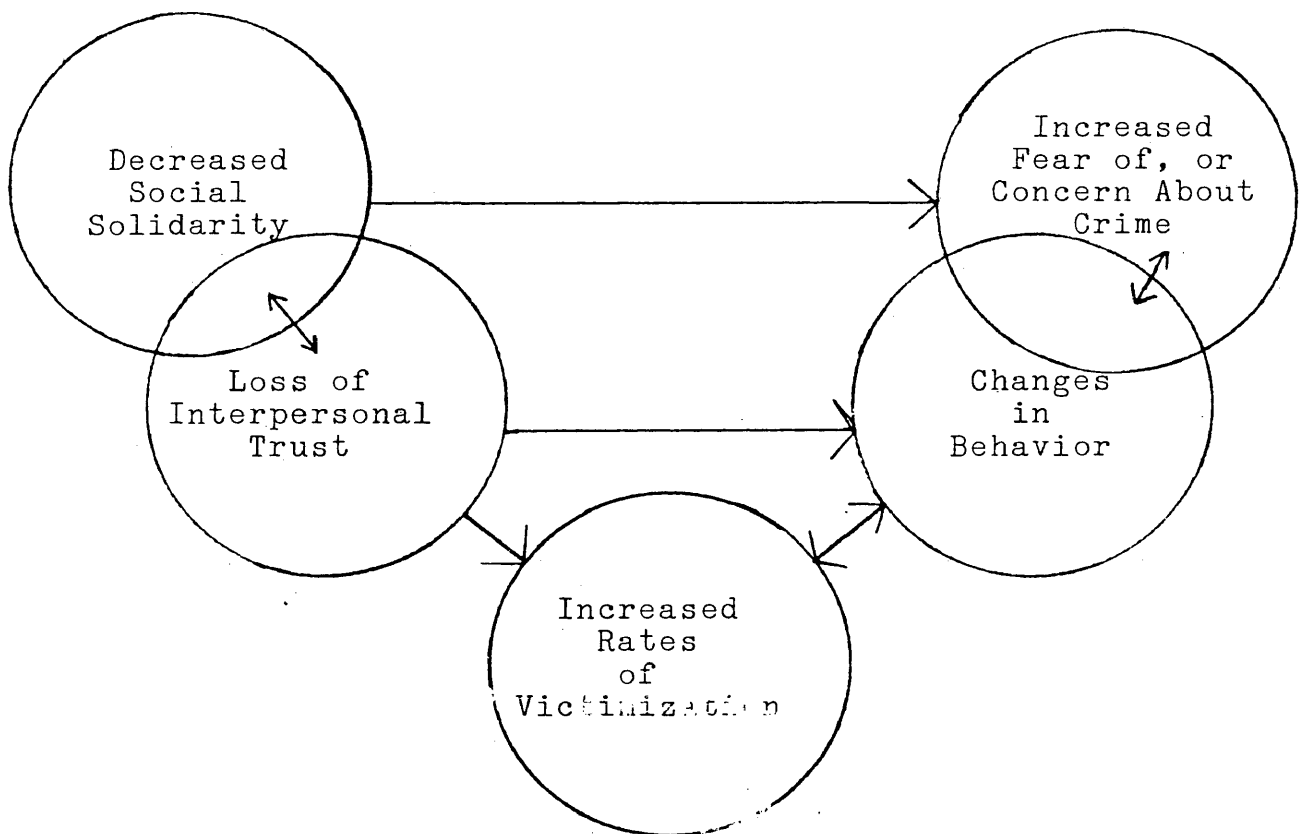
.... the logical consequences of reduced sociability, mutual fear, and distrust can be seen in the reported incidents of bystanders' indifference to cries of help (p.40).

Conklin (1971:380) referred to the feeling of alienation and lack of involvement as loss of "interpersonal trust." He points out that lack of trust among neighbors can lead to reduction of social interaction. When social bonds are attenuated, social control is diminished. One possible outcome may be a subsequent rise in crime. Therefore,

the negative outcome of fear of crime among citizens is the possible increase of victimization in the area.

Based on the above discussion, a schematic representation of this conceptual framework could be formulated and reflected as it appears in Figure I.

Figure I. A Graphic Illustration of the Inter-relationship Between Five Variables



Decreased social solidarity, shown in the sphere above, illustrates what may occur within an area when, for example, the media draws increased attention to crime. As social solidarity decreases due to apprehension about

individual safety, fear of or concern about crime may increase as demonstrated in the figure.

Associated with the sphere of decreased social solidarity is loss of interpersonal trust. This sphere represents the lack of trust among neighbors, leading to a decrease in social interaction among people in a neighborhood.

As social solidarity decreases due to apprehension about individual safety, fear of, or concern about crime, may increase as demonstrated in the figure. Lack of interpersonal trust may result in measurable, if subtle changes in behavior. For example, negative feelings about a neighborhood may cause individuals to take greater precautions such as buying guard dogs, installing alarm systems, or refusing to talk with strangers in the neighborhood. Individuals, in a sense, "lose touch" with residents in their neighborhood.

Thus we can see how an increased fear of crime or concern about crime, may be linked to actual changes in behavior.

When social bonds are weakened or severed as demonstrated in decreased social solidarity and loss of interpersonal trust, a subsequent rise in victimization may result. For example, one neighbor may not notice that

a truck in the driveway of another is not an ordinary occurrence but a burglary in progress.

This conceptual framework provides a basis for the hypotheses enumerated in Chapter III. Further discussion of the framework will occur in the final chapter.

## Chapter III

### RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design employed in this study was the survey technique. The survey, as previously noted, was used with success in the National Crime Survey research conducted by LEAA and the Bureau of Census. This chapter will describe the sampling frame, selection of respondents, and the instrument used in the study.

#### Selection of Sampling Frame

Omaha, Nebraska is a city of approximately 300,000 residents. Two census tracts in Omaha were selected as the sampling frame.

Tract 58 and 59.01 are located in the northeast sector of the city (Appendix A). The following information regarding the two tracts provides a demographic picture of the sampling frame.

The statistics referred to in the following paragraphs were obtained from three sources: Preliminary 1980 Census data summarized by DiMartino (1981:1-4); U.S. Bureau of Census (1972:8-10); and the Intercensal Estimating Services (ICES) (1980).



Tract 58

The total population of Tract 58 in 1970 was 5,782. Of that number 3.1 percent of the residents were black. According to preliminary 1980 reports, the total population of Tract 58 decreased 16.7 percent from 1970 to 4,819 in 1980. However, the black population increased to 1,261 or 26.2 percent of the total population.

The number of owner-occupied dwellings in Tract 58 increased somewhat from 1970 at 1,181 to 1,320 in 1980, while the number of renter-occupied housing decreased from 754 in 1970 to 618 in 1980. The average housing value in Tract 58 has increased in the last decade from \$13,600 to \$24,944. The vacancy rate decreased from 5 percent in 1970 to 3.8 percent in 1980.

Tract 59.01

The total population of Tract 59.01 decreased 13.7 percent from 1970 to 1980. In 1970, residents numbered 3,471 compared to 2,997 in 1980. As in Tract 58, the percent of blacks in the population increased, from 52.5 percent in 1970 to 71.6 percent in 1980.

Owner occupied housing decreased from 731 in 1970 to 694 in 1980. The number of renter occupied dwellings increased slightly during the ten-year period from 288 to 310. Housing values increased on the average from \$10,000

in 1970 to \$16,500 in 1980. The vacancy rate decreased by one-half from seven percent in 1970 to 3.5 percent in 1980.

Table 1 provides a comparison of these factors for Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01.

Table 1. Comparison of Census Tract 58 with Census Tract 59.01 on Six Demographic Variables

	Total Population		% Black		Owner Occupied		Renter Occupied		Housing Value		% Vacancy Rate	
	1970	1980	1970	1980	1970	1980	1970	1980	1970	1980	1970	1980
Tract 58	5782	4819	3.3	26.2	1181	1320	754	618	13600	24944	5	3.8
Tract 59.01	3471	2997	52.5	71.5	731	684	288	310	10000	16500	7	3.5

### Respondents for the Study

A sampling ratio of 2.38 percent, or 115, was selected for Tract 58, and a sampling ratio of 3.16 percent, or 95, was chosen for Tract 59.01.

A listing of all streets, avenues, etc. within the boundaries of each census tract was obtained. The Polk Directory, which contains addresses and telephone numbers of Omaha residents by area of the city, was used to select the respondents of the survey. A random numbers table (McCall, 1979) provided the initial selection, and every tenth name was selected from that point. This type of procedure is referred to as systematic selection.

### Procedure and Instrumentation

Data was collected through the use of the telephone questionnaire (Appendix B). Use of the telephone interview has been criticized for primarily three reasons:

- 1) It contains inherent class bias because the lower income families are less likely to have a telephone (Babbie, 1975:90).
- 2) It fails to reach people with unlisted numbers (Simon, 1969:42).
- 3) It allows for only brief and superficial questioning of respondents (Simon, 1969:42).

The first criticism is probably the most common. However, the percentage of households in the United States with telephones was 92 percent in 1972. As to the second criticism, indications are that only ten percent of the telephone subscribers in an area will not be listed in the directory (Gregg, Bratt, and Renshaw, 1977:22).

Telephone interviewing has certain advantages over other types of survey methods. It is less costly than personal or mail interviews. Telephone interviewing can be less threatening for both the respondent and the interviewer. The respondent does not have to admit someone into his/her home, and the interviewer need not be fearful of venturing into certain neighborhoods to obtain interviews (Tuchfaber, 1974:208). Another advantage of telephone interviewing is the high response rate possible as compared to mail questionnaires (Weisberg and Bowen, (1977:59).

Research carried out by LEAA as to the effectiveness of telephone interviewing for victim surveys indicates that it is a promising, relatively low-cost technique for data collection (Gregg, Bratt, and Renshaw, 1977:23).

The following guidelines were used when interviewing respondents on the telephone:

- 1) The interviewer introduced herself and briefly explained the purpose of the call.
- 2) The questions were read to the respondent by the interviewer, and the responses were marked on the questionnaire. The order in which the questions were read did not vary from one interview to the next.
- 3) If no one answered the telephone after the eighth ring, N/A was placed by the name and a second attempt was made to contact the resident at a later time.
- 4) If the telephone number listed had been changed to another number, the resident was not contacted. A new number could mean the resident was no longer living in the particular tract area.
- 5) Excluded from the analysis were questions answered by persons under age 16.

#### Summary of Sampling Frame Selection

Two census tracts, 58 and 59.01, of Omaha, Nebraska, were selected as the sampling frame for the present research.

Both of the census tracts experienced a decrease in total population during the past decade. Despite these population losses, the tracts gained a higher percent of

black residents; from 3.1 percent to 26.2 percent in Tract 58, and from 52.5 percent to 71.6 percent in Tract 59.01. One analysis of the 1980 census data labelled Tract 59.01 as an area of declining succession and Tract 58 as a new entry area (Frost, 1981:14). Tract 59.01 is seen as declining because of population losses in both the number of blacks and the number of whites, even though the percent of black residents increased significantly in proportion to the total population.

Population gains in Omaha were experienced almost entirely west of 72nd Street (both tracts are northeast of 72nd Street). There has been some indication that in urban areas, minority group members are slowing moving in the direction of suburban areas (McCord and McCord, 1977:174). Tract 58 is slightly west of Tract 59.01 and is experiencing a greater influx of black residents, thus the label "new entry". Those areas labelled new entry in regard to the percent of black residents of Omaha appear to be moving in a westernly direction (Appendix C).

The area of greatest difference between the census tracts is in the percentage of black residents to the total populations. Therefore, because Tract 58 has experienced a significant increase in blacks within the last ten years, compared to Tract 59.01 (although it too has demonstrated an increase in the percent of black residents), the two

census tracts provide an interesting basis for comparison. Further elaboration on the comparisons of Tract 58 with Tract 59.01 may be found in Chapter IV, Research Findings.

#### Research Hypotheses

For purposes of investigation of the four objectives stated in Chapter I, the following hypotheses are posited:

- 1) Fear of crime and concern about crime are related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 58 of Omaha, Nebraska.
- 2) Fear of crime and concern about crime are related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska.
- 3) There is a significant relationship between fear of crime and interpersonal trust in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska.

#### Null Hypotheses

In addition, the following null hypotheses are given:

- 1) Fear of crime is not related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 58 of Omaha, Nebraska.
- 2) Concern about crime is not related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 58 of Omaha, Nebraska.
- 3) Fear of crime is not related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska.
- 4) Concern about crime is not related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska.
- 5) There is no significant relationship between fear of crime and interpersonal trust in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska.

The dependent variables, "fear of crime", and "concern about crime", will be compared with the following independent variables:

- x1 age
- x2 sex
- x3 race
- x4 marital status
- x5 number of children
- x6 type of residence
- x7 own or rent
- x8 education
- x9 income

Chapter III, Research Findings, contains the analysis of the data. In examining the tables, please note that in some instances the numbers do not total 100 percent due to the occurrence of missing responses.

Chapter IV  
RESEARCH FINDINGS

This chapter summarizes first, the responses by percent and actual frequency to each of the questions contained in the questionnaire (Appendix B), and second, comparisons of the two census tracts on several variables.

1. General Findings

Respondents to the questionnaire represented several age groups. The following table gives the percentage of respondents in each age category.

Table 2. Percent of Respondents in Each Age Category by Census Tract

Age Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
16-19	13.3	(12)	3.2	( 3)
20-24	11.1	(10)	8.5	( 8)
25-34	16.7	(15)	14.9	(14)
35-49	16.7	(15)	33	(31)
50-64	20	(18)	19.1	(18)
65+	22.2	(20)	20.1	(19)

In Tract 58, 13.3 percent were ages 16-19, 11.1 percent were 20-24, 16.7 percent were ages 25-34, 16.7 percent were



35-49, 20 percent were 50-64, and 22.2 percent were ages 65 and over. In Census Tract 59.01, 3.2 percent of the respondents were ages 16-19, 8.5 percent were 20-24, and 14.9 percent were ages 25-34. The largest percentage of respondents (33 percent) were ages 35-49; 19.1 percent were 50-64, and 20.1 percent were ages 65 and over.

A higher percentage of women than men answered the questionnaire in both census tracts as illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3. Percent of Respondents by Sex in Census Tracts 58 and 59.01.

Sex	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Male	30	(27)	37.2	(35)
Female	70	(63)	62.8	(59)

In Tract 58, 30 percent of the respondents were male and 70 percent were female. Over 60 percent (62.8) of those surveyed in Tract 59.01 were women and 37.2 percent were male.

Among those residents surveyed, the majority in both census tracts were white, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Percent of Respondents by Race in  
Census Tracts 58 and 59.01

Race	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
White	82.2	(74)	53.2	(50)
Black	17.8	(16)	45.7	(43)

The majority of respondents in Tract 58 were white (82.2%) with blacks representing 17.8 percent of those surveyed. Whites comprised 53.2 percent and blacks 45.7 percent of the total respondents in Tract 59.01.

Regarding marital status, those surveyed were asked which of four categories pertained to the current state. Responses to the question are given in Table 5.

Table 5. Percent of Respondents in each Marital Status  
Category by Census Tract

Marital Status	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Married	61.1	(55)	52.1	(49)
Single	21.1	(19)	19.1	(18)
Divorced	4.4	( 4)	11.7	(11)
Widowed	13.3	(12)	16	(15)

The marital status of respondents in Tract 58 resulted in 61.1 percent as married, 21.1 percent as single, 4.4

percent as divorced, and 13.3 percent as widowed. In Tract 59.01, 52.1 percent were married, 19.1 percent were single, 11.7 percent were divorced, and 16 percent were widowed.

The majority of respondents in both Census Tract 58 and 59.01 were parents.

Table 6. Percent of Children in Each Category by Census Tracts

Age Category	Tract 58 N=51		Tract 59.01 N=58	
	%	N	%	N
Under 5 years	12.2	(11)	10.6	(10)
6-13 years	21.1	(19)	18.1	(17)
14-18 years	11.1	(10)	12.8	(12)
19-24 years	10	( 9)	9.6	( 9)

Over fifty percent (56.7) of the respondents in Tract 58 and 61.7 percent in Tract 59.01 had children. Of those who had children in Tract 58, 12.2 percent of the children were under age 5, 21.1 percent were ages 6-13, 11.1 percent were ages 14-18, and 10 percent were ages 19-24. In Tract 59.01, 10.6 percent of the children were under age 5, 18.1 percent were ages 6-13, 12.8 percent were ages 14-18, and 9.6 percent were ages 19-24.

Those surveyed were asked what type of housing they resided in at the time of the survey. A large majority of the respondents lived in houses compared to apartments or other types of residences (i.e. trailer houses).

Table 7. Type of Residence by Census Tract

Type of Residence	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
House	94.4	(85)	89.4	(84)
Apartment	3.3	( 3)	7.4	( 7)
Other	2.2	( 2)	3.2	( 3)

Over ninety (94.4) percent of the respondents in Tract 58 resided in houses compared with 3.3 percent residing in apartments, and 2.2 percent in other types of residences. In Tract 59.01, 89.4 percent lived in houses, 7.4 percent in apartments and 3.2 percent in other housing.

In addition to the question regarding type of housing, those surveyed were also asked whether they owned or rented their home. The following table gives the percentage of home ownership by census tract.

Table 8. Percent of Home Ownership  
by Census Tract

	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Own home	81.1	(73)	72.3	(68)
Rent home	17.8	(16)	18.1	(17)

The majority of respondents in both census tracts living in houses owned their own homes (81.1 percent in Tract 58; 72.3 percent in Tract 59.01). Houses were rented by 17.8 percent of the respondents in Tract 58 and 18.1 percent of the respondents in Tract 59.01. No response was given 1.1 percent of the time in Tract 58 and 8.5 percent of the time in Tract 59.01.

Those residents responding to the questionnaire represented several categories of educational levels. The majority of respondents in both census tracts had obtained at least a high school education.

Table 9. Educational Levels of Respondents  
by Census Tract

Educational Level	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Below 12 years	14.4	(13)	26.6	(26)
High School Graduate	41.2	(38)	46.8	(44)
College or College Graduate	40	(36)	19.1	(18)
More than 4 years of College	3.3	( 3)	3.2	( 3)

The educational levels of those surveyed varied within both census tracts. In Tract 58, 14.4 percent of the respondents had below 12 years of school, 41.2 percent graduated from high school, 40 percent had some college or had graduated from college, and 3.3 percent had beyond four years of college. In Tract 59.01, 26.6 percent received less than 12 years of school, 46.8 percent graduated from high school, 19.1 had some college or had graduated, 3.2 percent had beyond four years of college, and 3.2 percent gave no response.

The annual incomes for those surveyed were distributed across several categories, as shown in the table below.

Table 10. Percent of Respondents in Income Categories  
by Census Tract

Income Categories	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Under 5,000	12.2	(11)	12.8	(13)
\$5-10,000	22.2	(20)	20.2	(19)
\$11-15,000	21.1	(19)	31.9	(30)
\$16-20,000	22.2	(20)	12.8	(12)
Over 20,000	8.9	( 8)	12.8	(12)

The annual income ranges for respondents in Tract 58 were 12.2 percent earning under \$5,000, 22.2 percent earning \$5-10,000, 21.1 percent earning \$11-15,000, 22.2 percent earning \$16-20,000, 8.9 percent earning over \$20,000, and 13.3 percent giving no response. In Tract 59.01, 12.8 percent earned an annual income of under \$5,000, 20.2 percent earned \$5-10,000, 31.9 percent earned \$11-15,000, and 12.8 percent earned \$16-20,000, 12.8 percent earned over \$20,000 yearly, and 8.5 percent did not respond to the income question.

Over sixty percent of the respondents had resided at their present address for more than five years, indicating that most of those surveyed were long-term residents.

Table 11. Percent of Respondents by Length of Time at Address in Each Census Tract

Years at Present Address	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Less than one year	8.9	( 8)	3.2	( 3)
1-2 years	8.9	( 8)	16	(15)
3-5 years	15.6	(14)	18.1	(17)
More than 5 years	66.7	(60)	69.7	(58)

In Tract 58, 8.9 percent of those surveyed had lived at their present address less than one year, 8.9 percent for 1-2 years, 15.6 percent for 3-5 years, and 66.7 percent for more than five years. For those surveyed in Tract 59.01, 3.2 percent resided at their present address for less than one year, 16 percent for 1-2 years, 18.1 percent for 3-5 years, and 69.7 percent for more than five years.

The remainder of this section contains data on responses to other questions in the survey.

The following table gives the respondents levels of satisfaction with several factors regarding their areas.



Table 12. Satisfaction of Respondents With Factors About Neighborhood by Census Tract

	% Very Sat.	N	Tract 58		% Unsat.	N	Tract 59.01		% Unsat.	N		
			% Sat.	N			% Sat.	N				
Traffic	4.4	( 4)	72.2	(65)	20	(18)	6.4	( 6)	75.5	(71)	13.8	(13)
Personal Safety	10	( 9)	71.1	(64)	18.9	(17)	3.2	( 3)	64.9	(61)	26.6	(25)
Public Transportation	18.9	(17)	55.6	(50)	7.8	( 7)	14.9	(14)	69.1	(65)	4.3	( 4)
Schools	16.7	(15)	52.2	(47)	2.2	( 2)	3.2	( 3)	53.2	(50)	14.9	( 4)
Condition of Neighborhood	22.2	(20)	57.8	(52)	20	(18)	2.1	( 2)	64.9	(61)	31.9	(30)
Type of Neighbors	33.3	(30)	62.2	(56)	4.4	( 4)	10.6	(10)	78.7	(74)	9.6	( 9)

The respondents were asked how satisfied they were with several factors about their neighborhood. When asked about the traffic, 4.4 percent of the respondents in Tract 58 said they were very unsatisfied, 72.2 percent were satisfied, and 20 percent were unsatisfied. Regarding personal safety, 10 percent were very satisfied, 71.1 percent were satisfied, and 18.9 percent were unsatisfied. The majority of respondents in Tract 58 were satisfied with the public transportation: 18.9 percent were very satisfied, 55.6 percent satisfied, 7.8 percent unsatisfied, and 17.8 percent gave no response. In reply to satisfaction of schools in their area, 16.7 percent were very satisfied, 52.2 percent were satisfied, and 2.2 percent were unsatisfied; 28.9 percent gave no answer

to the question. Twenty-two percent of the respondents were very satisfied with the condition of their neighborhood, 57.8 percent were satisfied, and 20 percent were unsatisfied. Regarding the type of neighbors in their neighborhood, 33.3 percent were very satisfied, 62.2 percent were satisfied, and 4.4 percent were unsatisfied.

Those surveyed in Tract 59.01 responded to the factors about their neighborhood as follows: Regarding traffic in the area, 6.4 percent were very satisfied, 75.5 percent were satisfied, and 13.8 percent were unsatisfied. The majority were satisfied with their personal safety; 3.2 percent were very satisfied, 64.9 percent were satisfied, 26.6 percent were unsatisfied, and 5 percent had no reply to the question. Regarding public transportation, 14.9 percent were very satisfied, 69.1 percent were satisfied, 4.3 percent were unsatisfied, and 11 percent had no response. Approximately three percent (3.2) were very satisfied and 53.2 percent were satisfied with schools in the area; 14.9 percent were unsatisfied and 28 percent had no response. In reply to a question about the condition of their neighborhood, 2.1 percent were very satisfied, 64.9 percent were satisfied, 31.9 percent were unsatisfied. The majority of respondents were satisfied with the type of neighbors with 10.6 percent responding as very satisfied, 78.7 percent as satisfied, and 9.6 percent as unsatisfied.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements about people in general and in their neighborhood.

Table 13. Percent of Respondents Who Agreed or Disagreed with Statements About Their Neighborhood by Census Tract

Statement	Tract 58			Tract 59.01		
	Agree	Disagree	N/A	Agree	Disagree	N/A
Most people in this neighborhood can be trusted	76.7 (69)	17.8 (16)	5.6 ( 5)	74.5 (70)	19.1 (19)	6.4 ( 6)
Most people in this neighborhood are truthful and dependable	78.9 (71)	15.6 (14)	5.6 ( 5)	72.3 (68)	17 (16)	10.6 (10)
Nice as it may be to have faith in your fellow man, it seldom pays off	30 (27)	62.2 (56)	7.8 ( 7)	39.4 (37)	52.1 (49)	8.5 ( 8)

Those surveyed responded to the statements as follows: "Most people in this neighborhood can be trusted", in Tract 58 76.7 percent agreed, 17.8 disagreed, and 5.6 percent gave no response; in Tract 59.01 74.5 percent agreed, 19.1 percent disagreed, and 6.4 percent had no response. When asked if they agreed or disagreed to the statement, "Most people are truthful and dependable", those surveyed in Tract 58 responded with 78.9 agreeing, 15.6 disagreeing, and 5.6 percent giving no answer; in Tract 59.01 72.3 percent agreed,

17 percent disagreed, and 10.6 percent had no response. When asked to respond to the question, "Nice as it may be to have faith in your fellow man, it seldom pays off", 30 percent of the respondents in Tract 58 agreed, 62.2 percent disagreed, and 7.8 percent did not answer. In Tract 59.01, 39.4 percent agreed, 52.1 percent disagreed, and 8.5 percent did not respond to the statement.

The survey contained a question concerning the respondents' view of the extent of crime in three locations: the country, Omaha, and their neighborhood. Responses to this question are given in the following table.

Table 14. Percent of Respondents Who Viewed Crime as Increased, Decreased or Remain Same In Three Locations by Census Tract

View of Crime	Country		Tract 58 Omaha		Neigh.		Country		Tract 59.01 Omaha		Neigh.	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Increased	85.6	(77)	81.1	(73)	36.7	(33)	87.2	(82)	80.9	(76)	46.8	(44)
Decreased	1.1	(1)	2.2	(2)	4.4	(4)	3.2	(3)	4.3	(3)	8.5	(8)
Remained Same	10	(9)	16.7	(15)	56.7	(51)	9.6	(9)	13.8	(13)	43.6	(41)

When asked how they viewed crime within the past year or two, 85.6 percent in Tract 58 felt it has increased in

the country, 1.1 percent felt it had decreased, 10 percent felt it had remained the same, and 3.3 percent did not answer. In Omaha, 81.1 percent felt crime had increased, 2.2 percent felt it had decreased, and 16.7 percent viewed it as remaining about the same. Regarding crime in their own neighborhood, 36.7 percent of the respondents in Tract 58 felt crime had increased, 4.4 percent felt it had decreased, and the majority (56.7 percent) felt it remained the same.

For those who responded in Tract 59.01, 87.2 percent viewed crime as increased in the country, 3.2 percent felt it had decreased, and 9.6 percent felt it had remained about the same over the past year or two. The majority of respondents (80.9 percent) felt that crime in Omaha had increased, 4.3 percent felt it had decreased, 13.8 percent saw it as the same, and 1.1 percent had no response. Over forty percent (46.8) felt crime in their neighborhood had increased, 8.5 percent felt it had decreased, 43.6 percent viewed it as about the same, and 1.1 percent gave no response.

The respondents were asked which of several types of crimes had increased in their neighborhood. Table 15 shows the responses to each crime category.

Table 15. Percent of Responses to Increase  
In Certain Crimes by Census Tract

Type of Crime	Tract 58				Tract 59.01			
	Yes To Increase		No To Increase		Yes To Increase		No To Increase	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Burglary	48.9	(44)	51.1	(46)	56.4	(53)	41.5	(39)
Rape	7.8	( 7)	90	(81)	6.4	( 6)	90.4	(85)
Robbery	41.1	(37)	58.9	(53)	34	(32)	62.8	(59)
Auto Theft	13.3	(12)	83.3	(75)	23.4	(22)	72.3	(69)
Homicide	6.7	( 6)	92.2	(83)	6.4	( 6)	89.9	(84)
Arson	5.6	( 5)	91.1	(82)	3.2	( 3)	89.4	(84)

The majority of those surveyed in Tract 58 did not feel any of the crimes had increased in their area; for burglary 51 percent said no to an increase, and 48.9 percent said yes; for rape 90 percent responded no and 7.8 percent said yes, for robbery, 58.9 felt there was no increase compared to 41.1 percent who responded yes. For auto theft, 83.3 percent saw no increase and 13.3 percent felt it had increased. For homicide 92.2 percent said no to an increase and 6.7 percent said yes; and for arson 91.1 percent said no, while 5.6 percent felt there was an increase in this offense.

The majority of respondents in Tract 59.01 also felt that the crimes had not increased in their neighborhood. Burglary was the only type of crime in which the majority (56.8 percent) of those surveyed viewed as increased; 41.5

percent felt it had not increased. For rape, 90.4 percent said there was no increase, and 6.4 percent said yes; for robbery 62.8 percent said no and 34 percent said yes. Over seventy percent (72.3) of the respondents felt that auto theft had not increased in their area; 23.4 percent felt it had increased. For homicide, 89.9 percent saw no increase while 6.4 percent felt that there was an increase. Regarding arson, 89.4 percent said no increase, and 3.2 percent said yes.

Another question aimed toward determining individual perceptions of crime asked how safe the respondents would feel being out alone in their neighborhood at night. The following table illustrates the percent of responses in each category.

Table 16. Percent of Responses by Category to Question "How would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood at night?"

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
very safe	4.4	( 4)	7.4	( 7)
reasonably safe	38.9	(35)	34	(32)
somewhat safe	20	(18)	27.7	(26)
very unsafe	36.7	(33)	27.7	(26)

When asked how would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood at night, only 4.4 percent of the respondents in Tract 58 felt very safe, 38.9 percent felt reasonably safe, 20 percent felt somewhat safe, and 36.7 very unsafe. In Tract 59.01, 7.4 percent of the respondents felt very safe, 34 percent felt reasonably safe, 27.7 percent very somewhat safe, and 27.7 percent felt very unsafe out alone at night.

Those surveyed were also asked how safe they felt being out alone in their neighborhood during the day.

Table 17. Percent of Responses by Category to the Question, "How would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood during the day?"

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
very safe	53.3	(48)	30.9	(29)
reasonably safe	34.4	(31)	53.2	(50)
somewhat safe	11.1	(10)	12.8	(12)
very unsafe	1.1	( 1)	3.2	( 3)

In Tract 58, 53.3 percent of the respondents felt very safe, 34.4 percent felt reasonably safe, 11.1 percent felt somewhat safe, and only 1.1 percent felt very unsafe out alone during the day. In Tract 59.01, 30.9 percent of those surveyed felt very safe, 53.2 percent felt reasonably safe,



12.8 percent felt somewhat safe, and 3.2 percent felt very unsafe.

Another question concerning perceptions of the seriousness of crime yielded the following results:

Table 18. Percent of Responses by Category to Question, "Do you think crime is a serious problem in your neighborhood?"

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	23.3	(21)	34	(32)
No	76.7	(69)	61.7	(58)

When asked the question, "Do you think crime is a serious problem in your neighborhood?", 23.3 percent said yes and 76.7 percent said no in Tract 58. In Tract 59.01, 34 percent of the respondents said yes and 61.7 percent said no, and 4.3 percent gave no response.

The respondents were asked how their neighborhood compared with others in Omaha in terms of crime.

Table 19. Percent of Responses by Category to Comparison of Own Neighborhood to Others in Omaha

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
More Dangerous	10.0	( 9)	12.8	(12)
Average	50	(45)	53.3	(50)
Less Dangerous	38.9	(35)	30.9	( 9)

Only 10 percent of those surveyed in Tract 58 felt their area was more dangerous than other neighborhoods in Omaha. Fifty percent felt it was average, 38.9 percent viewed it as less dangerous, and 1.1 percent gave no response. Similar percentages resulted with Tract 59.01 residents: 12.8 percent saw their neighborhood as more dangerous, 53.3 percent as average, 30.9 percent as less dangerous and 3.2 percent did not answer the question. Approximately fifty percent of the respondents in both tracts felt their neighborhood was no more or less dangerous than others in Omaha.

A question pertaining to changes in behavior as a result of fear of crime yielded the following results:

Table 20. Percent of Responses by Category to Question, "Have you limited or changed your activities in the past year because of crime?"

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	27.8	(25)	31.9	(30)
No	71.1	(64)	68.1	(64)

In Tract 58, 27.8 percent of the respondents indicated that they had changed or limited their activities because of crime, 71.1 percent said they had not, and 1.1 percent did not respond to the question. Over 30 percent (31.9) of those surveyed in Tract 59.01 responded yes, and 68.1 percent said that crime had not affected their activities.

The same question regarding their neighbors' activities was asked to those surveyed. The responses are given in Table 21.

Table 21. Percent of Responses by Category to Question, "Do you think most people in this neighborhood have limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime?"

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	35.6	(32)	29.8	(28)
No	57.8	(52)	67	(63)

When asked if they felt crime had affected the activities of most people in their neighborhood, 35.6 percent of the respondents said yes, 57.8 percent said no, and 6.7 percent did not answer in Tract 58. Of those surveyed in Tract 59.01, 29.8 percent said yes, 67 percent said no, and 3.2 percent gave no response to the question.

An attempt was made to gather data concerning the number of crime victims, or members of the family who had been crime victims, among those surveyed.

Table 22. Percent of Responses by Category to Question, "During the last 12 months have you or any family members been a victim of a crime?"

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	7.8	( 7)	17.0	(16)
No	92.2	(83)	81.9	(77)

A small number of the respondents or members of their families had been a crime victim in the twelve months prior to the survey. In Tract 58, 7.8 percent answered yes to the victim question and 92.2 percent responded no to being a victim. Seventeen percent of those surveyed in Tract 59.01 had been a crime victim (or members of their family

had been victimized), and 81.9 percent had not been a victim in the past year.

In addition to the victim question, those surveyed were asked if anyone had threatened to harm them or members of their family. Table 23 lists the percentages of responses in each category.

Table 23. Percent of Responses by Category to Question, "During the last 12 months did anyone threaten to harm you or members of your family?"

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	12.2	(11)	16	(15)
No	87.8	(79)	81.9	(77)

When asked if anyone had threatened to harm them or family members, 12.2 percent of the respondents in Tract 58 replied yes and 87.8 percent said no to the question. Of those surveyed in 59.01, 16 percent indicated that they or members of their families had been threatened, while 81.9 percent replied no to the question, and 2.1 percent had no answer.

Respondents who stated that they or family members had been crime victims were asked whether the crime was against the person or involved property. Responses to

the question are given in Table 24.

Table 24. Percent of Crime Victims  
By Type of Crime

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Property Crime	42.9	( 4)	50	( 7)
Crime Against Person	57.1	( 3)	50	( 7)

In Tract 58, 42.9 percent of the respondents who had been crime victims (or members of their families) indicated that the offense involved property, while 57.1 percent stated that the incident involved person. In Tract 59.01, 50 percent of the responses occurred in each category.

In order to examine the extent of nonreporting of a crime to the police, those surveyed were asked whether anything had happened in the last 12 months which they considered a crime but did not report to the police. The majority responded no, as demonstrated in the following table.

Table 25. Percent of Responses by Category to Question, "Did anything happen to you in the last 12 months which you thought was a crime but did not report to the police?"

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	6.7	( 6)	7.4	( 7)
No	92.2	(83)	91.5	(86)

In Tract 58, 6.7 percent of those surveyed responded yes and 92.2 percent responded no to the question. Percentages were comparable in Tract 59.01: 7.4 percent said yes and 91.5 percent responded no to the question.

Those respondents who indicated that they had not reported the incident to the police were asked why it was not reported.

Table 26. Percent of Responses by Category to Reasons Why Crime Was Not Reported to Police

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Nothing Could Be Done	33.3	( 2)	42.9	( 3)
No Direct Affect	33.3	( 2)	42.9	( 3)
Too Trivial	33.3	( 2)	14.3	( 1)

In Tract 58, the responses occurred at the same rate (33.3 percent) across all categories. In Tract 59.01, 42.9 percent felt nothing could be done by the police, 42.9 percent saw no direct affect of the crime, and 14.3 percent felt the incident was too trivial to report to the police.

#### Summary of General Findings

The respondents in both Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 represented several age groups. The largest percentage of those surveyed in Tract 58 were ages 65 and over (22.2 percent). In Tract 59.01, 31 percent of the respondents were ages 35 to 49 years. The remainder of the respondents were spread across all age categories. The majority of those surveyed in both census tracts were female (70 percent in Tract 58 and 62.8 percent in Tract 59.01). Over eighty percent of the respondents in Tract 58 were white compared with 53.2 percent white respondents in Tract 59.01.

The majority of respondents were married with children. A large percentage lived in houses rather than apartments, and the majority owned their homes. Over forty percent of the respondents in both census tracts had graduated from high school. In Tract 58, 40 percent of those surveyed were college graduates or had some college compared with 19.1 percent in Tract 59.01. Annual incomes of the respondents in both tracts were not concentrated in one



category. In Tract 58, three income categories each contained approximately 20 percent of the responses: \$5-\$10,000, \$11-\$15,000, and \$16-\$20,000. In Tract 59.01, the largest percentage of responses were in the \$11-\$15,000 income range. Approximately 20 percent of the respondents earned \$5-\$10,000 annually in Tract 59.01. Over sixty percent of all surveyed had resided at their present address more than five years.

The majority of those surveyed in the census tracts were satisfied with several factors about their neighborhoods: traffic, their personal safety, public transportation, schools, the condition of their neighborhood, and type of neighbors. Over seventy percent of the respondents in both tracts felt that people in their neighborhoods were truthful, dependable and could be trusted. The majority disagreed with the statement, "Nice as it may be to have faith in your fellow man, it seldom pays off."

When asked their views of the extent of crime, over 80 percent in both census tracts felt it had increased in the country and in Omaha, while 36.7 percent in Tract 58 and 46.8 percent in Tract 59.01 perceived an increase in their neighborhoods. Of the six crimes listed, only one received a majority of "yes" responses to an increase. Over fifty percent (56.4) of the respondents in Tract 59.01 felt burglary had increased.

A question relating to perceptions of crime asked the respondents how safe they felt being out alone in their neighborhood at night, and during the day. Few of the respondents in both tracts felt very safe out alone at night; over thirty percent felt reasonably safe. Approximately 36 percent of the respondents in Tract 58 and 27 percent in Tract 59.01 felt very unsafe out alone in their neighborhood at night. As might be expected, a larger percentage of the respondents felt very safe out alone during the day: 53 percent in Tract 58 and 30 percent in Tract 59.01. Few of the respondents felt either somewhat safe or very unsafe in their area during the day. The majority of those surveyed (over 60 percent) felt crime was not a serious problem in their neighborhood. They also felt that their neighborhood was no more or less dangerous than others in Omaha.

When asked if they had limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime, the majority of respondents in both census tracts replied they had not; and they also felt that crime had not impacted on their neighbor's activities. Few of those surveyed or members of their families had been crime victims: 7.8 percent in Tract 58 and 17 percent in Tract 59.01. A small percentage of the respondents or members of their families had been threatened with harm in the last twelve months as well.

Those individuals who had been a crime victim (or members of their families) were asked if the crime involved property or was against the person. In Tract 58, approximately 40 percent involved property and 60 percent involved the person; in Tract 59.01 the responses were evenly divided between the categories.

The majority of the respondents indicated that nothing had happened in the last twelve months which they considered a crime but did not report to the police. Of those who responded "yes" to the question, each category contained approximately 33 percent of the responses in Tract 58. In Tract 59.01, 42.9 percent felt that nothing could be done, 42.9 percent felt no direct affect of the crime, and 14.3 percent felt that the crime was too trivial to report to the police.

The following section contains crosstabulation analysis by census tracts of responses to the questions by the independent variables.

2. Factors Affecting Perceptions of Crime in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01

One of the objectives of the study listed in Chapter I is to examine those factors which contribute to citizens' perceptions of crime in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01.

Perceptions of crime were determined by analyzing the responses to two categories of questions: "fear of crime" and "concern about crime". These questions were cross-tabulated with the nine independent variables. Cross-tabulations found to be significant are discussed below.

A. Fear of Crime

Significant differences were obtained when income was crosstabulated with ratings of satisfaction with the safety of their neighborhoods. Responses from Tract 58 are given in the following table.

Table 27. Satisfaction With Safety of Neighborhood by Income in Census Tract 58

Satisfaction Rating	Income Categories									
	Under \$5,000		\$5-\$10,000		\$11-\$15,000		\$16-\$20,000		Over \$20,000	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Satisfied	9.1	( 1)	--	--	5.3	( 1)	--	--	37.5	( 3)
Satisfied	63.6	( 7)	85	(17)	68.4	(13)	80	(16)	50	( 4)
Unsatisfied	27.3	( 3)	15	( 3)	26.3	( 5)	20	( 4)	12.5	( 1)

$\chi^2=17.189$  d.f.=8 p<.05

In Tract 58, 9.1 percent of those earning under \$5,000 annually were very satisfied with the safety of their neighborhood, 63.6 percent were satisfied, and 27.3 percent were unsatisfied. None of the respondents earning \$5,000 to \$10,000 yearly felt very satisfied with the safety; 85 percent were satisfied and 15 percent were unsatisfied. In the \$11,000 to \$15,000 income range, 5.3 percent of the respondents felt very satisfied, 68.4 percent responded as satisfied, and 26.3 percent were unsatisfied. None of those surveyed in the \$16,000 to \$20,000 annual income category were very satisfied, 80 percent were satisfied, and 20 percent were unsatisfied with the safety factor. Those surveyed earning over \$20,000 responded as follows: 37.5 very satisfied, 50 percent satisfied, and 12.5 percent unsatisfied.

A higher percentage of respondents earning under \$5,000 a year appeared to be unsatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood than respondents in other income categories. A significantly higher percentage of the respondents earning over \$20,000 annually were very satisfied with the safety of their neighborhood when compared with the respondents in the other income ranges. A chi-square of 17.189 was obtained with 8 degrees of freedom. This is significant at the .05 level.

When the safety question was asked of respondents in Tract 59.01, significant differences were found in the responses when crosstabulated with income.

Table 28. Satisfaction With Safety of Neighborhood by Income in Census Tract 59.01

Satisfaction Rating	Income Categories									
	Under \$5,000		\$5-\$10,000		\$11-\$15,000		\$16-\$20,000		Over \$20,000	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Satisfied	20	( 2)	--	--	--	--	9.1	( 1)	--	--
Satisfied	70	( 7)	57.9	(11)	62.1	(18)	81.8	( 9)	83.3	(10)
Unsatisfied	10	( 1)	42.1	( 8)	37.9	(11)	9.1	( 1)	16.7	( 2)

$\chi^2=19.250$  d.f.=8  $p<.05$

Of those who earned under \$5,000 annually, 20 percent were very satisfied with the safety of their neighborhood, 70 percent were satisfied, and 10 percent were unsatisfied. In the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range, none of those surveyed responded as very satisfied, 57.9 percent were satisfied, and 42.1 percent were unsatisfied. None of the respondents in the \$11,000 to \$15,000 income category were very satisfied with the safety factor, 62.1 percent were satisfied, and 37.9 percent were unsatisfied. Of those respondents earning \$16,000 to \$20,000 yearly, 9.1 percent were very satisfied, 81.8 percent were satisfied, and 9.1 percent were unsatisfied. None of those surveyed in Tract 59.01

earning over \$20,000 annually felt very satisfied, 83.3 percent were satisfied, and 16.7 percent responded as unsatisfied with the safety of their area.

The majority of the respondents in all income categories felt satisfied with the safety of their neighborhood. However, those individuals earning \$5,000 to \$15,000 annually were significantly less likely to respond as satisfied compared with the other income categories. Also, none of the respondents in the middle-range income categories responded as very satisfied with the safety factor. A chi-square of 19.250 was obtained with 8 degrees of freedom, and this is significant at the .05 level.

Age and marital status were also found to be significant in how those surveyed in Tract 59.01 responded to the safety question. Table 29 gives the responses to the question by age.

Table 29. Satisfaction With Safety of Neighborhood by Age in Census Tract 59.01

Satisfaction Rating	Age Categories											
	16-19		20-24		25-34		35-49		50-64		65 and over	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Satisfied	33.3	( 1)	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.9	( 1)	5.9	( 1)
Satisfied	66.7	( 2)	75	( 6)	53.8	( 7)	93.3	(28)	41.2	( 7)	58.8	(10)
Unsatisfied	--	--	25	( 2)	46.2	( 6)	6.7	( 2)	52.9	( 9)	35.3	( 6)

$\chi^2=26.699$  d.f.=10 p<.05

Those surveyed between ages 16-19 were most likely to respond as very satisfied (33.3 percent); 66.7 percent in that age category were satisfied. Of those respondents ages 20-24, none were very satisfied with the safety, 75 percent were satisfied, and 25 percent were unsatisfied. None of the respondents ages 25-34 felt very satisfied, 53.8 percent were satisfied, and 46.2 percent were unsatisfied. Of those respondents 35-49 years of age, none felt very satisfied, 93.3 percent were satisfied, and 6.7 percent were unsatisfied. Approximately six percent (5.9) of those individuals ages 50-64 responded as very satisfied with the safety; 41.2 percent were satisfied, and 52.9 percent were unsatisfied. Of those ages 65 and older, 5.9 percent felt very satisfied, 58.8 percent were satisfied, and 35.3 percent were unsatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood.

None of the respondents ages 20 through 49 felt very satisfied with the safety aspect of their area. However, the majority in those age categories did respond as satisfied. Individuals ages 35-49 were most likely to respond as satisfied with their safety (93.3 percent). Respondents ages 50 through 64 were most likely to feel unsatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood. A chi-square value of 26.699 with 10 degrees of freedom represents a significant difference in the responses at the .05 level.



When the safety question was crosstabulated with marital status, some significant differences were found. Table 30 gives the results in Tract 59.01.

Table 30. Satisfaction With Safety of Neighborhood by Marital Status in Census Tract 59.01

Satisfaction Rating	Marital Status							
	Married		Single		Divorced		Widowed	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Satisfied	2.1	( 1)	6.3	( 1)	--	--	7.1	( 1)
Satisfied	76.6	(36)	81.3	(13)	72.7	( 8)	28.6	( 4)
Unsatisfied	21.3	(10)	12.5	( 2)	27.3	( 3)	64.3	( 9)

$$X^2=14.544 \quad d.f.=6 \quad p<.05$$

Only 2.1 percent of the married respondents felt very satisfied with the safety of their neighborhood; 76.6 percent responded as satisfied and 21.3 percent as unsatisfied. Of the single respondents, 6.3 were very satisfied, 81.3 were satisfied, and 12.5 percent were unsatisfied. Among those surveyed who were divorced, none indicated that they were very satisfied with the safety. The majority were satisfied (72.7) and 27.3 were unsatisfied. Of the widowed respondents, 7.1 percent were very satisfied, 28.6 were satisfied, and 64.3 percent were unsatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood.

Widowed respondents were more likely to indicate that they were unsatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood than respondents in other categories. Single people appeared to be the most satisfied with the safety aspect. A chi-square value of 14.544 with 6 degrees of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

All respondents were asked how safe they felt out alone in their neighborhoods at night. When age was cross-tabulated with the question there appeared to be significant differences in the responses from both census tracts. Table 31 gives the responses of Tract 58.

Table 31. Feeling of Safety When Out Alone in Neighborhood At Night by Age in Census Tract 58

Response Category	Age											
	16-19		20-24		25-34		35-49		50-64		65 and over	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	8.3	( 1)	--	--	13.3	( 2)	--	--	--	--	5	( 1)
Reasonably Safe	58.3	( 7)	60	( 6)	20	( 3)	73.3	(11)	27.8	( 5)	15	( 3)
Somewhat Safe	25	( 3)	20	( 2)	53.3	( 8)	13.3	( 2)	5.6	( 1)	10	( 2)
Very Unsafe	8.3	( 1)	20	( 2)	13.3	( 2)	13.3	( 2)	66.7	(12)	70	(14)

$\chi^2=48.724$  d.f.=15  $p<.05$

Of those respondents ages 16-19, 8.3 percent felt very safe, 58.3 percent felt reasonably safe, 25 percent felt somewhat safe, and 8.3 percent felt very unsafe. Respondents between ages 20-24 years replied as follows: none

felt very safe, 60 percent reasonably safe, 20 percent somewhat safe, and 20 percent very unsafe. The age category of 25-34 years had the highest percentage of respondents who felt very safe (13.3 percent). Twenty percent responded as reasonably safe, 53.3 percent as somewhat safe and 20 percent as very unsafe. None of those surveyed between ages 35 and 49 felt very safe out alone at night; 73.3 percent felt reasonably safe, 13.3 percent felt somewhat safe, and 13.3 percent felt very unsafe. None of the respondents surveyed in the 50-64 years of age category responded as feeling very safe, 27.8 percent felt reasonably safe, 5.6 percent felt somewhat safe and 66.7 percent felt very unsafe. In the final age category, 65 years and older, 5 percent felt very safe, 15 percent felt reasonably safe, 10 percent felt somewhat safe, and 70 percent felt very unsafe.

Of the respondents in Tract 58, a significantly higher percentage of citizens 50 years and older felt very unsafe out alone in their neighborhood at night when compared with other age groups. A chi-square value of 48.784 with 15 degrees of freedom indicates a significant difference in the responses at the .05 level.

Responses to the question concerning feelings of safety when out alone at night were also found to differ significantly between age groups in Tract 59.01.

Table 32. Feelings of Safety When Out Alone in Neighborhood at Night by Age in Census Tract 59.01

Response Category	Age											
	16-19		20-24		25-34		35-49		50-64		65 and over	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	--	--	12.5	( 1)	--	--	13.8	( 4)	--	--	11.1	( 2)
Reasonably Safe	33.3	( 1)	37.5	( 3)	21.4	( 3)	55.2	(16)	38.9	( 7)	5.6	( 1)
Somewhat Safe	66.7	( 2)	50	( 4)	42.9	( 6)	20.7	( 6)	38.9	( 7)	5.6	( 1)
Very Unsafe	--	--	--	--	35.7	( 5)	10.3	( 3)	22.2	( 4)	77.8	(14)

$\chi^2=43.727$  d.f.=15  $p<.05$

None of those surveyed in Tract 59.01 between ages 16 and 19 felt very safe out alone; 33.3 percent felt reasonably safe, 66.7 percent felt somewhat safe, and none of the respondents in that age group felt very unsafe. In the age category of 20-24 years, 12.5 percent felt very safe, 37.5 percent felt reasonably safe, 50 percent felt somewhat safe, and none of those surveyed felt very unsafe. None of the respondents age 25-34 years indicated they felt very safe; 21.4 percent felt reasonably safe, 42.9 percent felt somewhat safe, and 35.7 felt very unsafe. Of those ages 35-49 years, 13.8 percent responded as very safe, 55.2 percent as reasonably safe, 20.7 percent as somewhat safe, and 10.3 percent as very unsafe. Of the respondents ages 50-64, none indicated that they felt very safe out alone at night;

38.9 percent felt reasonably safe, 38.9 percent felt somewhat safe, and 22.2 percent felt very unsafe. Over 10 percent (11.1) of those ages 65 and over felt very safe, 5.6 percent felt reasonably safe, 5.6 percent felt somewhat safe, and 77.8 percent felt very unsafe out alone at night.

While none of those surveyed ages 16-19 years felt very safe out alone in their neighborhood at night, all of the respondents felt either reasonably or somewhat safe. None of those ages 20-24 felt very unsafe out alone at night. Except for respondents in the 25-34 years of age category, the older the respondents, the higher the percentage of those feeling very unsafe. A large majority (77.8) of those surveyed 65 years and older felt very unsafe out alone at night. A chi-square value of 43.724 with 15 degrees of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

When sex was crosstabulated with the question regarding feelings of safety when out alone in their neighborhoods at night, some significant differences were found in both of the census tracts. Table 33 shows how those surveyed in Tract 58 responded to the question.

Table 33. Feelings of Safety When Out Alone in Neighborhood at Night by Sex in Tract 58

Response Category	Male		Female	
	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	11.1	( 3)	1.6	( 1)
Reasonably Safe	40.7	(11)	38.1	(24)
Somewhat Safe	29.6	( 8)	15.9	(10)
Very Unsafe	18.5	( 5)	44.4	(28)

$$\chi^2=9.144 \quad \text{d.f.}=3 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 58, 11.1 percent of the males felt very safe compared to 1.6 percent of the females. Approximately forty percent (40.7) of the males and 38.1 percent of the females felt reasonably safe; 29.9 percent of the males and 15.9 percent of the females felt somewhat safe, and 18.5 percent of the males compared to 44.4 percent of the females felt very unsafe out alone at night.

A significantly lower percentage of females than males in Tract 58 indicated that they felt very safe out alone in their neighborhood at night. In addition, a significantly higher percentage of females felt very unsafe out alone at night than the male respondents. A chi-square of 9.144 with three degrees of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

Similar results were obtained with the respondents in Tract 59.01.

Table 34. Feelings of Safety When Out Alone in Neighborhood at Night by Sex in Tract 59.01

Response Category	Male		Female	
	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	14.7	( 5)	3.5	( 2)
Reasonably Safe	38.2	(13)	33.3	(19)
Somewhat Safe	32.4	(11)	26.3	(15)
Very Unsafe	14.7	( 5)	36.8	(21)

$$\chi^2=7.540 \quad \text{d.f.}=3 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 59.01, 14.7 percent of the males felt very safe compared to 3.5 percent of the females. Over thirty percent (38.2) of the males and 33.3 percent of the females responded as reasonably safe. Similar percentages felt somewhat safe: 32.4 percent of the males and 26.3 percent of the females. A higher percentage of females (36.8 percent) than males (14.7 percent) felt very unsafe out alone in their neighborhood at night.

As in Tract 58, female respondents of the study in Tract 59.01 were significantly more likely to feel very unsafe out alone in their neighborhood at night than the male respondents. A chi-square value of 7.540 with 3 degrees of freedom was obtained. This is significant at the .05 level of significance.

In Tract 59.01, significant differences in responses were found when the question concerning feelings of safety when out alone at night was crosstabulated with another independent variable. When responses to the question were examined by race, the following results were obtained.

Table 35. Feelings of Safety When Out Alone at Night by Race in Tract 59.01

Response Category	Black		White	
	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	11.9	( 5)	4.2	( 2)
Reasonably Safe	50	(21)	22.9	(11)
Somewhat Safe	28.6	(12)	29.2	(14)
Very Unsafe	9.5	( 4)	43.8	(21)

$$X^2=18.130 \quad d.f.=6 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 59.01, 11.9 percent of the black respondents and 4.2 percent of the white felt very safe; 50 percent of the blacks and 22.9 percent of the whites felt reasonably safe; 28.6 percent of the blacks responded as somewhat safe compared to 29.2 percent of the white respondents. The greatest difference in responses occurred with the very unsafe category: 9.5 percent of the blacks compared to 43.8 of the whites felt very unsafe out alone at night.



Fewer of the white respondents felt very safe out alone at night in their neighborhood compared to the black respondents. Significant differences were found between black and white respondents in the percent of those who felt very unsafe. The white respondents were much more likely to indicate that they felt very unsafe than the black respondents. A chi-square value of 18.130 was obtained with six degrees of freedom and this is significant at the .05 level.

When the question was crosstabulated with whether or not those surveyed had children, the following results were obtained.

Table 36. Feeling of Safety Out Alone in Neighborhood at Night by Whether or Not Respondents Had Children in Tract 59.01

Response Category	Yes to Children		No to Children	
	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	5.3	( 3)	14.3	( 4)
Reasonably Safe	45.6	(26)	17.9	( 5)
Somewhat Safe	28.1	(16)	32.1	( 9)
Very Unsafe	21.1	(12)	35.7	(10)

$$X^2=7.487 \quad d.f.=3 \quad p<.05$$

Of those respondents who had children, 5.3 percent felt very safe out alone at night, 45.6 percent felt reasonably safe, 28.1 percent felt somewhat safe, and 21.1 percent felt very unsafe. Those individuals surveyed who had no children responded as follows: 14.3 percent very safe, 17.9 percent reasonably safe, 32.1 percent somewhat safe, and 35.7 percent very unsafe.

Respondents who had no children were more likely to feel very safe, or very unsafe out alone in their neighborhood at night compared with respondents who were parents. Childless respondents were less likely to respond as reasonably safe to the question than respondents with children. A chi-square of 7.487 with 3 degrees of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

Respondents were also asked how safe they felt out alone in their neighborhood during the day. When the question was crosstabulated with the independent variable, marital status, significant differences in the responses were found in both census tracts. Table 37 gives the results in Tract 58.

Table 37. Feelings of Safety When Out Alone  
in Neighborhood During the Day by  
Marital Status in Tract 58

Response Category	Marital Status							
	Married		Single		Divorced		Widowed	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	60	(33)	57.9	(11)	75	(3)	8.3	(1)
Reasonably Safe	30.9	(17)	36.8	(7)	25	(1)	50	(6)
Somewhat Safe	7.3	(4)	5.3	(1)	--	--	41.7	(5)
Very Unsafe	1.8	(1)	--	--	--	--	--	--

$$\chi^2=19.096 \quad \text{d.f.}=9 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 58, 60 percent of the married respondents felt very safe, 30.9 percent felt reasonably safe, 7.3 felt somewhat safe, and 1.8 percent felt very unsafe out alone during the day. Over fifty percent (57.9) of the single respondents felt very safe, 36.8 responded as reasonably safe, 5.3 percent as somewhat safe, and none felt very unsafe. All of the divorced respondents felt either very safe (75 percent) or reasonably safe (25 percent). Of the widowed respondents, 8.3 percent felt very safe, 50 percent felt reasonably safe, 41.7 percent felt somewhat safe, and none responded as very unsafe.

Few of the respondents felt very unsafe out alone in their neighborhood during the day. Divorced respondents were most likely to feel very safe; widowed respondents were the least likely to respond as very safe but the most likely to feel reasonably or somewhat safe out alone during the day. A chi-square value of 19.096 was obtained with 9 degrees of freedom and this is significant at the .05 level.

Significant differences were also obtained in Tract 59.01.

Table 38. Feelings of Safety When Out Alone in Neighborhood During the Day by Marital Status in Tract 59.01.

Response Category	Marital Status							
	Married		Single		Divorced		Widowed	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	28.6	(14)	44.4	( 8)	36.4	( 4)	20	( 3)
Reasonably Safe	67.3	(33)	33.3	( 6)	54.5	( 6)	26.7	( 4)
Somewhat Safe	4.1	( 2)	11.1	( 2)	9.1	( 1)	46.7	( 7)
Very Unsafe	--	--	11.1	( 2)	--	--	6.7	( 1)

$$\chi^2=29.363 \quad d.f.=9 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 59.01, married individuals responded as follows: 28.6 percent very safe, 67.3 percent reasonably safe, 4.1 percent somewhat safe, and none very unsafe.

Of the single respondents, 44.4 percent felt very unsafe, 33.3 percent felt reasonably safe, 11.1 percent felt somewhat safe, and 11.1 percent felt very unsafe. Over thirty percent (36.4) of the divorced respondents felt very safe, 54.5 percent felt reasonably safe, 9.1 percent felt somewhat safe, and none of the divorced respondents felt very unsafe out alone during the day. Twenty percent of the widowed respondents felt very safe, 26.7 percent felt reasonably safe, 46.7 percent felt somewhat safe, and 6.7 percent felt very unsafe out alone during the day.

The majority of respondents in Tract 59.01 felt either very safe or reasonably safe out alone in their neighborhood during the day. However, widowed respondents were less likely to feel either very safe or reasonably safe, and more likely to respond as somewhat safe than those in other marital categories. Only the single and widowed categories contained a percentage of respondents who felt very unsafe out alone during the day. A chi-square value of 29.363 with 9 degrees of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

When income was crosstabulated with the question regarding feelings of safety out alone during the day, a significant difference in the responses of Tract 59.01 was obtained.

Table 39. Feelings of Safety When Out Alone in Neighborhood During the Day by Income in Tract 59.01

Response Category	Income									
	Under \$5,000		\$5-\$10,000		\$11-\$15,000		\$16-\$20,000		Over \$20,000	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	16.7	( 2)	31.6	( 6)	26.7	( 8)	25	( 3)	66.7	( 8)
Reasonably Safe	33.3	( 4)	47.4	( 9)	66.7	(20)	66.7	( 8)	33.3	( 4)
Somewhat Safe	25	( 3)	21.1	( 4)	6.7	( 2)	8.3	( 1)	--	--
Very Unsafe	25	( 3)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

$\chi^2=34.047$  d.f.=15  $p<.05$

For those individuals earning less than \$5,000 a year, 16.7 percent responded as very safe, 33.3 percent as reasonably safe, 25 percent as somewhat safe, and 25 percent as very unsafe. Over thirty percent (31.6) of those earning \$5,000-\$10,000 annually felt very safe, 47.4 percent felt reasonably safe, 21.1 percent felt somewhat safe, and none responded as feeling very unsafe. Of the respondents in the \$11,000-\$15,000 income range, 26.7 percent felt very safe, 66.7 percent felt reasonably safe, 6.7 percent felt somewhat safe, and none of the respondents felt very unsafe out alone during the day. Twenty-five percent of the respondents earning \$16,000-\$20,000 a year felt very safe, 66.7 percent felt reasonably safe, 8.3 percent felt somewhat safe, and none felt very unsafe. All of those surveyed earning over \$20,000 annually responded in two categories: 66.7 percent felt very safe and 33.3 percent felt reasonably safe.

The higher-income respondents were significantly more likely to respond as very or reasonably safe out alone in

their neighborhood during the day than individuals in other salary categories. A chi-square value of 34.047 with 15 degrees of freedom was obtained, and this is significant at the .05 level.

The respondents were asked whether they felt crime was a serious problem in their neighborhood. Significant results were found when the question was crosstabulated with age and race in Tract 59.01.

Table 10. Responses to Question, "Do you think crime is a serious problem in your neighborhood?" by Age in Tract 59.01

Response Category	Age											
	16-19		20-24		25-34		35-49		50-64		65 and Over	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	--	--	14.3	( 1)	64.3	( 9)	10.3	( 3)	61.4	(11)	44.4	( 8)
No	100	( 3)	85.7	( 6)	35.7	( 5)	89.7	(26)	38.9	( 7)	55.6	(10)

$\chi^2=21.761$  d.f.=5  $p<.05$

None of the respondents ages 16 through 19 years viewed crime as a serious problem. Of those ages 20 through 24, 14.3 replied yes to the question and 85.7 percent said no. The majority (64.3 percent) of the respondents ages 25-34 years felt crime was a serious problem; 35.7 percent felt it was not a problem. The majority (89.7 percent) of the respondents 35-49 years of age answered no to the question, 10.3 percent said yes. Of those individuals ages 50 through 64 years, 61.4 percent said yes to the question and 38.9 percent said no. Those surveyed ages 65 years and over responded with 44.4 percent yes, and 55.6 percent no to the question.

Of those surveyed in Tract 59.01, respondents ages 25-34 years and 50-64 years were most likely to view crime

as a serious problem in their neighborhood. Respondents 16-24 years of age and 35-49 years of age were least likely to feel crime was a problem in their area. A chi-square value of 21.761 with 5 degrees of freedom was obtained. This is significant at the .05 level.

When the crime question was crosstabulated with race, the following results were obtained.

Table 41. Responses to Question, "Do you think crime is a serious problem in your neighborhood?" by Race in Tract 59.01

Response Category	Black		White	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	20	( 8)	46.9	(23)
No	80	(32)	53.1	(26)

$$\chi^2=8.807 \quad \text{d.f.}=2 \quad p<.05$$

Twenty percent of the black respondents felt crime was a serious problem in their area compared to 46.9 percent of the white respondents. Eighty percent of the black respondents replied no, and 53.1 percent of the white respondents answered no to the question.

A significantly higher percentage of white respondents than black respondents in Tract 59.01 felt crime was a serious problem in their neighborhood when compared with black respondents. A chi-square value of 8.807 was obtained with 2 degrees of freedom and this is significant at the .05 level.



Respondents were asked whether they had limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime. Table 42 gives the responses to the question in Tract 59.01 when crosstabulated with whether or not the respondents had children.

Table 42. Responses to Question, "Have you limited or changed your activities in the past year because of crime?" by Whether or Not Respondent Had Children in Tract 59.01

Limited or Changed Activities	Children			
	Yes		No	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	22.4	(13)	48.3	(14)
No	77.6	(45)	51.7	(15)

$$\chi^2=4.893 \quad \text{d.f.}=1 \quad p<.05$$

Respondents with children answered yes to the question in 22.4 percent of the cases and no in 77.6 percent of the cases. Of those respondents who were not parents, 48.3 percent indicated that they had limited or changed their behavior and 51.7 percent stated that crime had not impacted on their behavior.

Respondents without children were significantly more likely to limit or change their activities because of

crime. A chi-square value of 4.893 with 1 degree of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

Significant differences in responses in Tract 59.01 were found when the question was crosstabulated with whether the respondent owned or rented his/her housing.

Table 43. Responses to Question, "Have you limited or changed your activities in the past year because of crime?" by Home Ownership in Tract 59.01

Limited or Changed Activities	Own		Rent	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	26.5	(18)	58.8	(10)
No	73.5	(50)	41.2	( 7)

$$X^2=6.971 \quad d.f.=2 \quad p<.05$$

Over twenty percent (26.5) of the respondents owning their home indicated that they had limited or changed their behavior compared to 58.8 percent of the respondents who rented their homes.

The majority of home owners (73.5 percent) responded no to the question compared with 41.2 percent of the renters. A chi-square value of 6.971 with 2 degrees of freedom was obtained, and this represents a significant difference at the .05 level.

Age appeared to be a factor in whether or not crime had impacted on activities among those surveyed in Tract 59.01.

Table 44. Responses to Question, "Have you limited or changed your activities in the past year because of crime?" by Age in Tract 59.01

Limited or Changed Activities	Age											
	16-19		20-24		25-34		35-49		50-64		65 and Over	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	--	--	25	( 2)	71.4	(10)	22.6	( 7)	27.8	( 5)	31.6	( 6)
No	100	( 3)	75	( 6)	28.6	( 4)	77.4	(24)	72.2	(13)	68.4	(13)

$\chi^2=12.949$  d.f.=5  $p<.05$

One-hundred percent of those surveyed ages 16-19 years old responded no to the question. Of those ages 20-24 years, 25 percent said yes and 75 percent said no. Over 70 percent (71.4) of the respondents ages 25-34 years replied yes and 28.6 percent replied no to the question. Of those ages 35-49 years, 22.6 percent gave a yes response and 77.4 said no to the question. The majority of respondents ages 50-64 years did not feel crime had an effect on their activities: 27.8 percent said yes and 72.2 percent said no. Of those surveyed 65 years and over, 31.6 percent replied yes and 68.4 percent said no to the question.

Those individuals ages 25 through 34 were significantly more likely to feel that crime had affected their behavior than respondents in the other age categories. A chi-square of 12.949 was achieved with 5 degrees of freedom. This is significant at the .05 level.

The same question was asked of the respondents regarding the behavior of their neighbors. Table 45 gives the responses in Tract 58 when the question was cross-tabulated with sex.

Table 45. Responses to Question, "Have your neighbors limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime?" by Sex in Tract 58

Neighbors Limited or Changed Activities	Male		Female	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	20.8	( 5)	45	(27)
No	79.2	(19)	55	(33)

$$X^2=4.245 \quad d.f.=1 \quad p<.05$$

Males were less likely than females to feel that crime had impacted on the behavior of their neighbors. Slightly over twenty percent (20.8) of the males responded yes compared to 45 percent of the females. Almost eighty percent (79.2) of males said no compared with 55 percent of the females. A chi-square value of 4.245 with 1 degree

of freedom was obtained, and this is significant at the .05 level.

In Tract 59.01, age appeared to be a factor in the responses to the question.

Table 46. Responses to Question, "Have your neighbors limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime?" by Age in Tract 59.01

Neighbors Limited or Changed Activities	Age											
	16-19		20-24		25-34		35-49		50-64		65 and Over	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	--	--	25	( 2)	71.4	(10)	13.3	( 4)	35.3	( 6)	33.3	( 6)
No	100	( 3)	75	( 6)	28.6	( 4)	86.7	(26)	64.7	(11)	66.7	(12)

$\chi^2 = 16.716$     d.f.=5     $p < .05$

All of the respondents ages 16-19 in Tract 59.01 felt that their neighbors had not limited or changed their activities because of crime. Of those ages 20 through 24 years, 25 percent said yes and 75 percent said no to the question. For those respondents in the 25-34 years of age category, 71.4 percent replied yes and 28.6 percent said no. Of those individuals ages 35-49 years, 13.3 percent replied yes to the question, and 86.7 percent replied no. Over thirty percent (35.3) of those surveyed ages 50-64 years felt crime had impacted on their neighbors' behavior and 64.7 percent felt it had not. For those respondents 65 years and over, 33.3 percent replied yes, and 66.7 percent

responded no to the question.

The respondents 25-34 years of age in Tract 59.01 were significantly more likely to feel that crime had affected the behavior of their neighbors than individuals in other age categories.

Those surveyed ages 35 through 49 were least likely to feel that their neighbors had limited or changed their activities because of crime. A chi-square value of 16.716 with 5 degrees of freedom is significant at the .05 level of significance.

#### Summary of Significant Findings Relating to Fear of Crime

The following significant results were obtained when questions pertaining to the dependent variable, fear of crime, were crosstabulated with the nine independent variables.

In Tract 58, the lower the income, the more likely those surveyed responded as unsatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood. Respondents earning over \$20,000 annually were more likely to feel very satisfied with the safety factor when compared with respondents in other income categories: In Tract 59.01, a significantly higher percentage of respondents earning \$5,000 to \$15,000 a year felt unsatisfied with the safety of their area. Also in Tract 59.01, individuals ages 35-49 years were more likely to respond as satisfied with their safety than respondents

in other age groups; those respondents 50-64 years of age were more likely to feel unsatisfied. Widowed respondents in Tract 59.01 were more likely to feel unsatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood. Single people appeared to be most satisfied with the safety aspect.

When asked how safe they felt out alone in their neighborhood at night, respondents in Tract 58 50 years of age or older were more likely to feel very unsafe. In Tract 59.01, a significantly higher percentage of older respondents felt very unsafe out alone at night. A significantly higher percentage of females compared to males felt very unsafe out alone at night in Tract 58 and in Tract 59.01. In Tract 59.01, white respondents were significantly more likely to feel very unsafe out alone compared to black respondents. Respondents with children were more likely to feel very safe out alone in Tract 59.01, but they were also more likely to feel very unsafe when compared to childless respondents.

When asked how safe they felt out alone in their neighborhood during the day, divorced respondents were the most likely to feel very safe in Tract 58. Widowed respondents in both census tracts were least likely to respond as feeling very safe out alone during the day. In Tract 59.01, a significantly higher percentage of high-income individuals responded as feeling very or reasonably

safe out alone in their area during the day than respondents in other income categories.

Respondents of the survey were asked if they felt crime was a serious problem in their neighborhood. In Tract 59.01, respondents ages 25-34 years and 50-64 years were most likely to view crime as serious. A significantly higher percentage of white respondents compared to black respondents viewed crime as serious in Tract 59.01.

Respondents in Tract 59.01 without children were significantly more likely to have limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime. Renters compared to homeowners in Tract 59.01 were more likely to respond with yes when asked if they had limited or changed their activities. In Tract 59.01, respondents ages 25-34 years were more likely to feel crime had impacted upon their behavior than individuals in other age groups. Females were significantly more likely than males in Tract 59.01 to feel their neighbors had limited or changed their activities because of crime. Respondents 25-34 years of age in Tract 59.01 were more likely to feel crime had affected the activities of their neighbors than respondents in other age categories.

The following subsection details the significant findings pertaining to concern about crime.



## B. Concern About Crime

When the questions relating to concern about crime were crosstabulated with the independent variables, significant differences in the responses were found in both census tracts. The results are given in the following paragraphs.

Respondents were asked how they viewed the extent of crime in three locations: the country, the city, and their neighborhood. Table 47 gives views of crime in the country by sex in Tract 58.

Table 47. Extent of Crime in the Country  
in the Past Year by Sex in Tract 58

Extent of Crime	Male		Female	
	%	N	%	N
Increased	77.8	(21)	93.3	(56)
Decreased	--	--	1.7	( 1)
Remained the Same	22.2	( 6)	5	( 3)

$$\chi^2=6.297 \quad d.f.=2 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 58, 77.8 percent of the males and 93.3 percent of the females felt crime had increased in the country; none of the males and 1.7 percent of the females felt crime had decreased, and 22.2 percent of the males compared to 5 percent of the females felt the crime rate had remained the same in the past year.

A significantly higher percentage of females than males felt crime had increased in the country in the past year. A chi-square value of 6.297 was obtained with 2 degrees of freedom, which is significant at the .05 level.

Significant differences were found in Tract 58 when marital status was crosstabulated with the extent of crime in Omaha.

Table 48. Extent of Crime in Omaha  
In the Past Year by Marital  
Status in Tract 58

Extent of Crime	Marital Status							
	Married		Single		Divorced		Widowed	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Increased	76.4	(42)	78.9	(15)	100	( 4)	100	(12)
Decreased	--	--	10.5	( 2)	--	--	--	--
Remained the Same	23.6	(13)	10.5	( 2)	--	--	--	--

$$X^2=13.040 \quad d.f.=6 \quad p<.05$$

Of the married respondents in Tract 58, 76.4 percent felt crime in Omaha had increased, none felt it had decreased, and 23.6 percent felt it had remained the same. Almost eighty percent (78.9) of the single respondents viewed crime in Omaha as increased, 10.5 percent as decreased, and 10.5 percent as remaining the same. All of the divorced and widowed respondents felt crime in Omaha

had increased during the past year.

Divorced and widowed respondents were significantly more likely to view crime as increased in Omaha during the past year than individuals in other marital categories: married respondents were least likely to feel that crime had increased in Omaha, and most likely to view crime at the same rate over the past twelve months. A chi-square value of 13.040 with 6 degrees of freedom represents a significant difference at the .05 level.

In Tract 59.01, significant differences in responses to the extent of crime in the neighborhood were found when the question was crosstabulated by age.

Table 49. Extent of Crime in Neighborhood in the Past Year by Age in Tract 59.01

Extent of Crime	Age					
	16-19 % N	20-24 % N	25-34 % N	35-49 % N	50-64 % N	65 and Over % N
Increased	33.3 ( 1)	50 ( 4)	64.3 ( 9)	16.7 ( 5)	83.3 (15)	52.6 (10)
Decreased	-- --	-- --	7.1 ( 1)	16.7 ( 5)	-- --	10.5 ( 2)
Remained the Same	66.7 ( 2)	50 ( 4)	28.6 ( 4)	66.7 (20)	16.7 ( 3)	36.8 ( 7)

$\chi^2 = 24.729$  d.f. = 10  $p < .05$

For those individuals ages 16-19 years, 33.3 percent felt crime in their neighborhoods had increased, none saw a decrease, and 66.7 percent felt crime in their neighborhood had remained the same. Fifty percent of the respondents

ages 20-24 years felt crime had increased and 50 percent felt it had remained at the same rate. Of those respondents in the 25-34 years of age category, 64.3 percent felt crime in their neighborhoods had increased, 7.1 percent felt crime had decreased, and 28.6 percent viewed the crime rate as unchanged over the past year. For those respondents ages 35-49 years, 16.7 percent felt crime had increased, 16.7 percent felt it had decreased, and 66.7 percent felt crime had remained the same in their neighborhoods. The majority (83.3 percent) of those surveyed ages 50-64 years felt crime had increased in their neighborhoods; 16.7 percent felt it had remained the same.

Slightly over fifty percent (52.6) of the respondents 65 years of age and older viewed crime in their neighborhoods as increased, 10.5 percent felt crime had decreased, and 36.8 percent felt it had remained the same in the past year.

Respondents ages 50-64 years were most likely to feel that crime had increased in their neighborhoods in the past year. Those individuals ages 35-49 were significantly less likely to feel crime had increased in their area. Few respondents in any age category felt crime had decreased over the past twelve months. A chi-square value of 24.729 was obtained with 10 degrees of freedom. This is significant at the .05 level of significance.

Respondents were asked which of several types of crimes had increased in their neighborhoods in the past year. When responses to burglary were crosstabulated with race in Tract 58, a significant difference was found in the responses.

Table 50. Responses to Increase in Burglary in Past Year by Race in Tract 58

Increase in Burglary	Black		White	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	75	(12)	43.2	(32)
No	25	( 4)	56.8	(42)

$$X^2=4.114 \quad d.f.=1 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 58, 75 percent of the black respondents and 43.2 percent of the white respondents felt burglary had increased in their area in the past year. Twenty-five percent of the blacks and 56.8 percent of the whites did not perceive an increase in the crime.

A significantly higher percentage of black compared to white respondents felt burglary had increased in their neighborhoods in the past year. A chi-square value of 4.114 with 1 degree of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

In Tract 59.01, the responses were also significant when burglary was crosstabulated with race.

Table 51. Responses to Increase in Burglary in Past Year by Race in Tract 59.01

Increase in Burglary	Black		White	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	41.9	(18)	70.8	(34)
No	58.1	( 1)	29.2	(14)

$$\chi^2=8.540 \quad \text{d.f.}=1 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 59.01, 41.9 percent of the black and 70.8 percent of the white respondents felt burglary had increased in their neighborhood in the past year. Over fifty percent (58.1) of the black compared with 29.2 percent of the white respondents did not perceive any increase in burglary.

A significantly higher percentage of white compared with black respondents felt burglary had increased in their neighborhood in the past year. A chi-square value of 8.540 with 1 degree of freedom was obtained, and this is significant at the .05 level.

A significant difference between the responses of blacks and whites in Tract 59.01 was also found when race was crosstabulated with the crime of robbery.

Table 52. Responses to Increase in Robbery Over the Past Year By Race in Tract 59.01

Increase in Robbery	Black		White	
	%	N	%	N
Yes	23.3	(10)	44.7	(21)
No	76.7	(33)	55.3	(26)

$$\chi^2=6.385 \quad \text{d.f.}=1 \quad p<.05$$

Approximately twenty percent (23.3) of the black respondents compared to 44.7 percent of the white respondents perceived an increase in robbery. A larger majority of blacks (76.7 percent) felt robbery had not increased compared to 55.3 percent of the white respondents.

A significantly higher percentage of white compared to black respondents in Tract 59.01 felt robbery had increased in their area. A chi-square of 6.385 with 1 degree of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

When asked how their neighborhood compares with others in Omaha in terms of crime, the following results were obtained in Tract 58.

Table 53. Comparison of Neighborhood With Others in Omaha in Terms of Crime by Whether or Not Respondents Had Children in Tract 58

Comparison of Neighborhood	Children			
	Yes		No	
	%	N	%	N
More Dangerous	10	( 5)	10.5	( 4)
Average	62	(31)	34.2	(13)
Less Dangerous	28	(14)	55.3	(21)

$$X^2=7.375 \quad d.f.=2 \quad p<.05$$

Ten percent, of the respondents who had children viewed their neighborhood as more dangerous compared to 10.5 percent of the respondents who were not parents. Over sixty percent (62) of the parents felt their neighborhood was average in terms of crime compared to 34.2 percent of the respondents who did not have children. Twenty-eight percent of those with children compared with 55.3 percent of those without children felt their neighborhood was less dangerous.

Approximately the same percentage of respondents with and without children felt their neighborhood was more dangerous than others. However, those respondents with children were more likely to view their neighborhood as average. A significantly higher percentage of childless



respondents felt their neighborhood was less dangerous than those individuals with children. A chi-square value of 7.375 with 2 degrees of freedom was obtained. This is significant at the .05 level.

Significant differences also resulted in responses from Tract 59.01. Table 54 gives the results.

Table 54. Comparison of Neighborhood With Others in Omaha in Terms of Crime by Whether or Not Respondents Had Children in Tract 59.01

Comparison of Neighborhood	Children			
	Yes		No	
	%	N	%	N
More Dangerous	8.6	( 5)	25	( 7)
Average	62.1	(36)	39.3	(11)
Less Dangerous	29.3	(17)	35.7	(10)

$$X^2=5.670 \quad d.f.=2 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 59.01, 8.6 percent of the respondents with children compared with 25 percent of those without children viewed their neighborhood as more dangerous. Over sixty percent (62.1) of the respondents with children and 39.3 percent without children felt their neighborhood was average. Almost thirty percent (29.3) of the respondents who were parents perceived their neighborhood as less

dangerous than others compared with 35.7 percent of childless respondents.

A significantly higher number of respondents without children in Tract 59.01 felt their neighborhood was more dangerous than others in Omaha. A chi-square value of 5.670 with 2 degrees of freedom is significant at the .05 level.

Race appeared to be a significant factor in how the respondents in Tract 59.01 felt their neighborhood compared with others in Omaha.

Table 55. Comparison of Neighborhood With Others in Omaha in Terms of Crime by Race in Tract 59.01

Comparison of Neighborhood	Black		White	
	%	N	%	N
More Dangerous	2.4	( 1)	22	(11)
Average	48.8	(20)	58	(29)
Less Dangerous	48.8	(20)	18	( 9)

$$\chi^2=15.410 \quad d.f.=2 \quad p<.05$$

In Tract 59.01, 2.4 percent of the black respondents perceived their neighborhood as more dangerous compared with 22 percent of the white respondents. Almost fifty percent (48.8) of the blacks and 58 percent of the whites viewed their neighborhood as average. Of the black respondents,

48.8 percent felt their neighborhood was less dangerous than others in Omaha compared with 18 percent of the white respondents

A significantly higher percentage of white respondents than black respondents in Tract 59.01 perceived their neighborhood as more dangerous than others in Omaha in terms of crime. A chi-square value of 15.410 was obtained with 2 degrees of freedom. This is significant at the .05 level.

#### Summary of Significant Findings Relating to Concern About Crime

Those surveyed were asked how they perceived the extent of crime in the nation, in the city of Omaha, and in their neighborhoods. In Tract 58, a significantly higher percentage of females than males perceived an increase in crime in the country in the past year. Divorced and widowed respondents in Tract 58 were more likely to view crime as increased in Omaha than individuals of other marital statuses.

In Tract 59.01, respondents 50-60 years of age were more likely to feel that crime had increased in their neighborhood in the past twelve months.

When respondents were asked which crimes had increased in their neighborhoods, significant differences were found in the responses to burglary by race in Tract 58. A significantly higher percentage of blacks compared to

whites felt burglary had increased in their area in the past year prior to the survey. In Tract 59.01, the reverse was true: a higher percentage of white respondents compared to blacks perceived an increase in burglary in their neighborhoods. When asked how their neighborhood compares with others in Omaha in terms of crime, whether or not the respondents had children affected the responses to the questions. In Tract 58, a higher percentage of childless respondents felt their neighborhood was less dangerous than others in Omaha than respondents with children. In Tract 59.01, childless respondents were more likely to view their neighborhood as more dangerous.

In Tract 59.01, a significantly higher percentage of white respondents compared to black respondents perceived their neighborhood as more dangerous than others in Omaha.

The following section describes the significant findings concerning perceptions of crime between respondents in Tract 58 and Tract 59.01.

### 3. Comparison Between Census Tracts of Citizen Perception of Crime.

In the previous section, the factors which contribute to perceptions about crime in Census Tracts 58 and 59.01 were discussed. Another objective of the research is to examine the relationship of those perceptions between the census tracts.

Questions pertaining to three categories were cross-tabulated with the nine independent variables. These categories are: fear of crime, concern about crime, and interpersonal trust. The following paragraphs give a description of the results.

#### A. Fear of Crime

The questions dealing with fear of crime were analyzed to determine if any significant differences exist between the responses of those surveyed in the two census tracts.

When asked how the respondents felt about being out alone in their neighborhood during the day, a significant difference was found between the responses of the two tracts.

Table 56. Comparison Between Census Tracts 58 and 59.01 to Feelings of Safety Out Alone in Neighborhood During the Day

Response Category	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Very Safe	53.3	(48)	30.9	(29)
Reasonably Safe	34.4	(31)	53.2	(50)
Somewhat Safe	11.1	(10)	12.8	(12)
Very Unsafe	1.1	( 1)	3.2	( 3)

$$X^2=10.244 \quad \text{d.f.}=3 \quad p<.05$$

As might be expected, a higher percentage of the respondents in both tracts viewed themselves as feeling very safe out alone in their neighborhood during the day than at night: 53.3 percent in Tract 58 and 30.9 percent in Tract 59.01. In Tract 58, 34.4 percent felt reasonably safe compared with 53.2 percent in Tract 59.01. Similar percentages of respondents in both tracts felt somewhat safe; 11.1 percent in Tract 58 and 12.8 percent in Tract 59.01. Only 1.1 percent in Tract 58 and 3.2 percent in Tract 59.01 felt very unsafe out alone during the day.

A higher percentage of the respondents in Tract 58 felt very safe out alone in their neighborhood when compared to respondents in Tract 59.01. However, almost twenty percent more of those surveyed in Tract 59.01 felt

reasonably safe than those in Tract 58. The chi-square value of 10.244 with three degrees of freedom is significant at the .05 level of significance.

Of the questions pertaining to the dependent variable, "fear of crime", only one was found to have a significant difference in the responses between the two census tracts. When asked how they felt about being out alone in their neighborhood during the day, a significantly higher number of respondents felt very safe in Tract 58 as compared to the respondents in Tract 59.01. Thus, with the majority of variables concerned with fear of crime, there was no significant difference in the responses from Tract 58 residents and the responses from those in Tract 59.01.

The following paragraphs will examine the relationship between responses of the two census tracts with the dependent variable "concern about crime".

#### B. Concern About Crime

The questions related to concern about crime were crosstabulated by census tract to determine if significant differences existed between responses from the tracts.

There was no significant difference between the census tracts in the way in which the respondents answered the questions pertaining to fear of crime. The questions

dealing with interpersonal trust will be discussed in the next subsection.

### C. Interpersonal Trust

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the condition of their neighborhood, a significant difference in the responses between the census tracts was obtained.

Table 57. Comparison Between Census Tracts 58 and 59.01 to Satisfaction With Neighborhood Condition

Satisfaction Rating	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Very Satisfied	22.2	(20)	2.2	( 2)
Satisfied	57.8	(52)	65.6	(61)
Unsatisfied	20	(18)	32.3	(30)

$$X^2=18.399 \quad d.f.=2 \quad p<.05$$

Over twenty percent (22.2) of the respondents in Tract 58 were very satisfied with the condition of their neighborhood compared to only 2.2 percent of the respondents in Tract 59.01. Over fifty percent (57.8) of those surveyed in Tract 58 felt satisfied compared to 65.6 percent in Tract 59.01. Twenty percent of the respondents in Tract 58 and 32.3 percent in Tract 59.01 were unsatisfied with the condition of their neighborhood.



A significantly higher percentage of those surveyed in Tract 58 responded as very satisfied to the question compared to Tract 59.01. A chi-square value of 18.399 with 2 degrees of freedom was obtained, and this is significant at the .05 level.

When asked about their satisfaction with the type of neighbors in their area, the responses between the two tracts were found to differ significantly.

Table 58. Comparison Between Census Tracts 58 and 59.01 to Satisfaction With Neighbors

Satisfaction Rating	Tract 58		Tract 59.01	
	%	N	%	N
Very Satisfied	33.3	(30)	10.8	(10)
Satisfied	62.2	(56)	79.6	(74)
Unsatisfied	4.4	( 4)	9.7	( 9)

$$X^2=14.370 \quad \text{d.f.}=2 \quad p<.05$$

Over thirty percent (33.3) of those surveyed in Tract 58 responded as very satisfied with their neighbors compared with 10.8 percent in Tract 59.01. In Tract 58, 62.2 percent were satisfied compared with 79.6 percent in Tract 59.01. Few respondents were unsatisfied in Tract 58 (4.4) compared with 9.7 percent in Tract 59.01.

A chi-square value of 14.370 with 2 degrees of freedom was obtained. Therefore, the difference in the percent of respondents being very satisfied with their neighbors is significantly higher in Tract 58 than in Tract 59.01.

Of the questions relating to the variable interpersonal trust, two were found to yield significant differences in the responses between the tracts. Regarding the condition of the neighborhood, a significantly higher percentage (22.2) of the respondents in Tract 58 were very satisfied with that factor compared to only 2.2 percent of the respondents in Tract 59.01. When asked about the satisfaction with the types of neighbors, again residents in Tract 58 were more satisfied (with 33.3 percent of the responses) than the respondents in Tract 59, which yielded 10.8 percent of the total responses for that tract.

Further discussion of the research and findings can be found in Chapter V, Summary, Conclusions and Implications.

## CHAPTER V

### Summary, Conclusions and Implications

This chapter contains a brief summary of the research problem, design and findings. Conclusions derived from the findings will be discussed as well as the implications of the research.

#### Summary

##### A. Research Problem

As previously noted, research in victimization has evolved over the past fifteen years with the implementation of the National Crime Survey conducted by LEAA and the Bureau of Census. Emphasis has been placed primarily on the extent of unreported crime and victim characteristics. Little attention has been directed toward factors which contribute to citizens' perceptions of crime.

The purpose of this research was three-fold: 1) to examine the extent of victimization in the sample population of two census tracts in Omaha, Nebraska, 2) to determine citizen perceptions of the extent of crime in the country, the city and the neighborhoods of the census tracts, and 3) to identify factors which affect citizens' perceptions of crime in the census tracts.

Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 were selected as the sampling frame. The tracts are located in the north-east section of the city (Appendix A) and were selected for the study because of their population characteristics: a comparison of the 1970 and 1980 Bureau of Census data shows that both areas experienced a loss in population in the past decade. However, the percent of black residents increased in the two tracts. The increase was most significant in Tract 58: from 3.1 percent in 1970 to 26.2 percent in 1980. Tract 58 has been labelled as an area of "new entry", and Tract 59.01 as an area of "declining succession" (Frost, 1981:4).

#### B. Research Design

Respondents for the study were selected by taking a systematic random sample of residents in Census Tracts 58 and 59.01. The total number of respondents from both tracts equalled 184. In order to research the questions presented in the study, a telephone survey instrument was developed incorporating questions from the National Crime Survey (Appendix B). The questions were grouped into five areas pertaining to: 1) fear of crime, 2) concern about crime, 3) interpersonal trust, 4) incidents of victimization, and 5) demographic characteristics.

### C. General Findings

In Census Tract 58, the largest percentage of those surveyed were 65 years of age and older; in Tract 59.01 respondents ages 35-49 years of age comprised the largest group. The majority of respondents in both tracts were female, white, married with children, and living in their own home for more than five years. The majority of those surveyed had graduated from high school, and earned between \$5,000 and \$20,000 annually.

In both census tracts the majority of respondents were satisfied with several aspects about their neighborhoods: the traffic, safety, public transportation, school, condition of their neighborhoods, and the type of neighbors.

Regarding the extent of crime, the majority of respondents in the tracts felt crime had increased in the country and in Omaha, but not in their neighborhoods. These findings agree with results from the National Crime Survey (Hindeland, Gottfredson, and Garofalo, 1978:158). Of the six crimes listed, only burglary was perceived as increased in the neighborhoods.

Few respondents in both tracts felt very safe out alone in their neighborhoods at night; a higher percentage (53 percent in Tract 58 and 30 percent in Tract 59.01) felt very safe out alone during the day. The majority of those surveyed felt crime was not a serious problem in

their neighborhoods, nor did they feel that their neighborhood was any more or less dangerous than others in Omaha. The majority of respondents had not limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime and did not feel their neighbors had changed their behavior. The National Crime Survey found that 46 percent of those surveyed had limited or changed their activities because of crime (Hindeland, Gottfredson, and Garofalo, 1978:204).

Only a small percentage of those surveyed or members of their families were crime victims in the twelve months prior to the survey. Few respondents or members of their families had been threatened with harm. Approximately one-half of the crimes pertained to property and one-half were against the person.

The majority of respondents indicated that nothing had happened within the past year which they considered a crime but did not report to the police. Of those who did not report an incident, reasons were evenly divided among categories in Tract 58; in Tract 59.01, the majority of respondents felt either nothing could be done or they felt no direct affect of the crime. Dodge, Lentzer, and Shenk (1976:25) found that the major reason for not reporting a crime was that nothing could be done.

### Conclusions

Three hypotheses were posited for the purpose of investigating the research problem. The hypotheses will

be listed below, and conclusions will be presented to either support or reject the hypotheses.

Hypothesis 1 Fear of crime and concern about crime are related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 58 of Omaha, Nebraska.

The Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS) reported that 24 percent of those surveyed in 1980 were crime victims (Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, 1980:12).

The rate of victimization\* in Census Tract 58 was 7.8 percent of the total respondents. The majority of victims were white, female, 35-49 years of age, and married with children. Over ninety percent lived in their own homes. Almost ninety percent had a high school education and some college, and the majority had family incomes of over \$16,000 annually.

There were no significant differences in the responses of the victims compared with nonvictims to questions relating to fear of and concern about crime. Thus, the null hypothesis is supported: fear of crime and concern about crime are not related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 58.

\*The victimization rate was measured by the percent of yes responses to the question, "Have you or any members of your family been a victim of crime in the past twelve months?"

Incidents of victimization do not appear to impact on perceptions of crime. However, other factors were found to be of significance in how the respondents answered questions relating to fear of and concern about crime. Those factors will be examined in the following paragraphs.

Concerning fear of crime in Census Tract 58, individuals earning over \$20,000 a year were more likely to feel very satisfied with the safety aspect. Respondents 50 years of age or older were more likely than others to feel very unsafe out alone in their neighborhood at night. Clemente and Kleiman found that the elderly have a greater fear of crime than people in other age groups (1976). Females were more likely than males to feel unsafe out alone at night. Divorced respondents were the most likely, and widowed respondents the least likely, to feel very safe out alone in their neighborhood during the day.

Income, age, and sex and marital status seem to influence fear of crime. The following factors impacted on citizens' concern about crime in Census Tract 58.

A significantly higher percentage of females than males felt crime had increased in the country over the past year. Divorced and widowed respondents were more likely to perceive an increase in crime in Omaha. Blacks were more likely than whites to feel burglary had increased in their area. A significantly higher percentage of



respondents without children felt their neighborhood was less dangerous than others in Omaha.

Sex, marital status, race and whether or not respondents had children affected their concern of crime in Census Tract 58.

Hypothesis 2. Fear of crime and concern about crime are related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska.

The rate of victimization among those surveyed in Census Tract 59.01 was 17 percent of the total respondents. All victims in Tract 59.01 were female. The majority of victims in Tract 59.01 were ages 35-49 years, white, with a high school education. Over eighty percent owned their own homes, and forty percent had family incomes of \$16,000 to \$20,000 annually.

The responses of the victims relating to fear of or concern about crime did not differ significantly from the responses of nonvictims. Therefore, the null hypothesis is supported: fear of crime and concern about crime are not related to the rate of victimization in Census Tract 59.01. The following paragraphs summarize the factors which appear to impact on perceptions of crime.

Concerning fear of crime in Tract 59.01, low to middle income respondents ages 35-49 years were more likely to respond as satisfied with the safety of their

neighborhoods. Widowed respondents, and those individuals ages 50-64 were more likely to feel unsatisfied with the safety aspect.

A significantly higher percentage of older respondents, females, and individuals with children felt very unsafe out alone in their neighborhood at night. High-income respondents were more likely to feel very safe out alone in their neighborhoods at night than respondents in other income categories. Those surveyed 25-34 years of age, and 50-64 years of age were more likely to view crime as serious in their neighborhood. Whites were more likely than blacks to view crime as serious.

A higher percentage of respondents ages 25-34 years with children, who rented rather than owned a home, indicated they had limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime.

Income, age, marital status, sex, type of housing, and whether or not respondents had children were factors which influenced fear of crime in Census Tract 59.01. The following results were significant when questions relating to concern about crime were crosstabulated with the independent variables.

Respondents 50-64 years of age were more likely to feel crime had increased in their neighborhoods over the past twelve months. A higher percentage of whites than

blacks perceived an increase in burglary in their neighborhoods. Childless respondents and black respondents were more likely to view their neighborhoods as more dangerous than other neighborhoods in Omaha.

Age, race, and whether or not the respondents were parents appeared to impact on concern about crime in Tract 59.01.

Findings of the study showed that the rate of victimization is not related to the fear of, or concern about crime in Census Tracts 58 and 59.01. The demographic factors appeared to have an influence on citizen perceptions of crime. Other studies have also found that victimization does not affect fear of crime as much as other factors. In an analysis of victimization data by Skogan, he concluded the fear of crime has little to do with victimization. Skogan felt that perceptions of crime were rooted in vicarious sources, such as the media, or reports of friends or relatives (1977:9). He also related fear of crime to race and class (1977:10). Garofalo felt that race, income, age, sex, crime rate and media impacted on the fear of crime (1979:69). Fattah (1979) reached the conclusion that most people are not seriously affected by victimization because the majority of crimes are trivial in nature. The experiences have little impact on the victims' lives.

Hypothesis 3. There is a significant relationship between fear of crime and interpersonal trust in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 of Omaha, Nebraska.

Of the question concerning fear of crime, only one was found to have a significant difference in the responses between the two tracts. A significantly higher percentage of respondents in Tract 58 felt very safe out alone in their neighborhood during the day compared to respondents in Tract 59.01.

Responses to two of the questions pertaining to interpersonal trust were found to differ significantly between the tracts. A higher percentage of respondents in Tract 58 than in Tract 59.01 felt very satisfied with the condition of their neighborhood and with the type of neighbors in their areas.

The null hypothesis, that there is no significant relationship between fear of crime and interpersonal trust in Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01 is supported. Only three questions resulted in significantly different responses between the two tracts. However, reference can be made to the conceptual framework presented in Chapter II. As noted in the graphic illustration, it was suggested that decreased social solidarity was related to a loss of interpersonal trust, which is linked to fear of crime and changes in behavior. Respondents in Tract 59.01 were less likely to feel very satisfied with the condition

of their neighborhood and with the types of neighbors in their area, and they were also less likely to feel very safe out alone in their neighborhood during the day, than respondents in Tract 58. Thus, it is possible that fear of crime and interpersonal trust are related in Tract 59.01, but the data is insufficient to support the hypothesis.

One limitation of the study is the low number of victimizations reported by the respondents. A larger sample population may have yielded more incidents of victimization, and allowed the use of other statistical techniques to determine the significance of the responses.

Another limitation of the study is the instrument itself. It was not possible, in many instances, to compare the responses of one question to the responses of another. Thus, standardization was needed to allow for a more sophisticated analysis of the data.

A third limitation was a lack of official crime statistics to compare with the rates of victimization found in the study. Reports are not compiled by census tract, and it was not within the scope of this study to retrieve that information.

### Implications

Much knowledge has been gained about the victim of a criminal offense since the inception of the National Crime Survey in 1973. However, documentation with regard to what affects citizens' perceptions of crime is limited.

The present research has contributed to the body of knowledge of the factors affecting fear of crime and concern about crime in two census tracts of Omaha, Nebraska. Researchers in victimization have found that there is a significant relationship between incidents of victimization and fear of crime. Other studies, however, have shown a stronger relationship exists between demographic characteristics such as age or race, and fear of crime. The results of this research support such findings.

Results of the study indicate that further investigation of perceptions of crime is needed. A similar study with a larger sample population may yield significant findings concerning victims and nonvictims. A survey of other areas of Omaha experiencing population changes would contribute to the present knowledge of factors affecting perceptions of crime.

Findings from the present study indicate that fear of and concern about crime are not related to incidents of victimization. The factors which do affect citizens' perceptions of crime should be of interest to such agencies

as city housing and planning departments, social services, and the police. For example, knowledge of these factors could aid in developing police programs aimed at citizen awareness and crime prevention. The development of neighborhood groups organized to involve neighbors in crime prevention may help to minimize the fear of crime in an area. In Census Tract 58 and Census Tract 59.01, over 85 percent of the respondents were not aware of any group efforts to deal with crime in their neighborhoods. The possibility of establishing such an organization warrants further investigation.

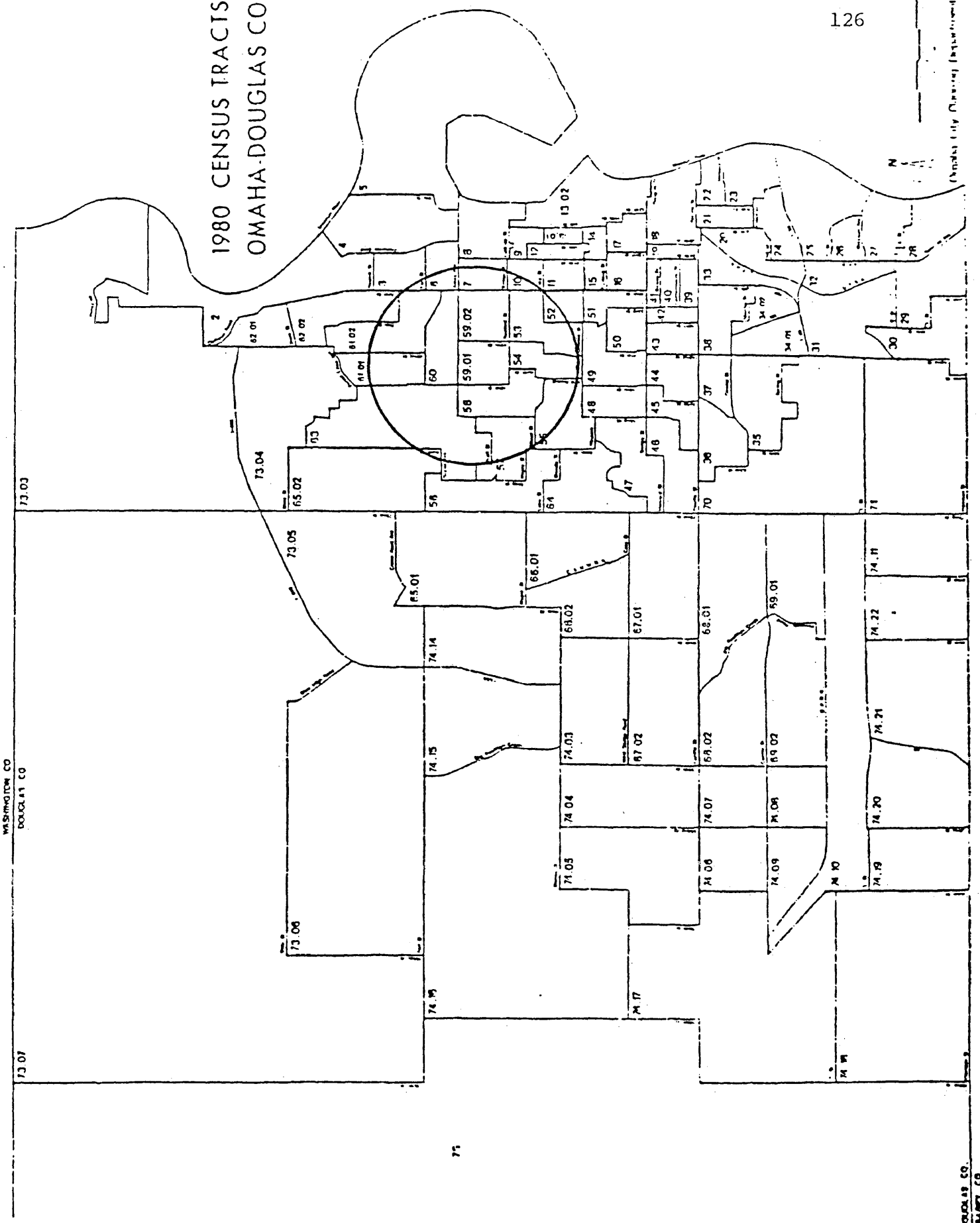
This study was an attempt to investigate the factors which affect citizens' perceptions of crime in two census tracts of Omaha, Nebraska. It is hoped that the findings will expand present knowledge of the subject as well as encourage further research.

## Appendixes



Appendix A  
Location of Census Tract 58  
and Census Tract 59.01  
of Omaha, Nebraska

1980 CENSUS TRACTS  
OMAHA-DOUGLAS COUNTY



WASHINGTON CO  
DOUGLAS CO

Nebraska Co  
Blaine Co

Appendix B

Research Instrument

1. How long have you lived at your present address

less than 1 year	_____
1-2 years	_____
3-5 years	_____
more than 5	_____

2. How satisfied are you with the following factors about your neighborhood?

	very satisfactory	satisfactory	unsatisfactory
traffic	_____	_____	_____
personal safety	_____	_____	_____
public transportation	_____	_____	_____
schools	_____	_____	_____
condition of neighborhood	_____	_____	_____
type of neighbors	_____	_____	_____

3. Please rate the following statements:

Most people in this neighborhood can be trusted.	SA ___ A ___ U ___ D ___ SD ___
Most people in this neighborhood are truthful and dependable	SA ___ A ___ U ___ D ___ SD ___
Nice as it may be to have faith in your fellow man, it seldom pays off.	SA ___ A ___ U ___ D ___ SD ___

4. Within the past year or two, do you think crime had:

	in the country	in Omaha	in neighborhood
increased	_____	_____	_____
decreased	_____	_____	_____
remained the same	_____	_____	_____

5. Which of the following types of crime has increased in your neighborhood? Answer yes if it has increased, no if it has not increased.

	Yes	No
burglary	_____	_____
rape	_____	_____
robbery	_____	_____
auto theft	_____	_____
homicide	_____	_____
arson	_____	_____
other _____	_____	_____

6. Would you feel (responses) being out alone in your neighborhood at night?

very safe \_\_\_\_\_  
 reasonably safe \_\_\_\_\_  
 somewhat safe \_\_\_\_\_  
 very unsafe \_\_\_\_\_

What about during the day, would you feel:

very safe \_\_\_\_\_  
 reasonably safe \_\_\_\_\_  
 somewhat safe \_\_\_\_\_  
 very unsafe \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think crime is a serious problem in your neighborhood?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you considered moving because of the crime problem?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

8. How do you think your neighborhood compares with others in Omaha in terms of crime? Would you say it is:

much more dangerous \_\_\_\_\_  
 more dangerous \_\_\_\_\_  
 about average \_\_\_\_\_  
 less dangerous \_\_\_\_\_  
 much less dangerous \_\_\_\_\_

9. In general, have you limited or changed your activities in the past year because of crime?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you think most people in this neighborhood have limited or changed their activities in the past year because of crime?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

11. During the last 12 months, have you or any immediate members of your family been a victim of crime?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

12. During the last 12 months, did anyone threaten to harm you or any members of your immediate family?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Did anything happen to you during the last 12 months which you thought was a crime but did NOT report to the police?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Why was it not reported to the police? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Are you aware of any efforts by groups in your neighborhood to prevent crime?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, then:

Please rate the following statement.

Group efforts to prevent crime in my neighborhood have been satisfactory.

SA \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ U \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ SD \_\_\_

15. What is your age:

16-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
 20-24 \_\_\_\_\_  
 25-34 \_\_\_\_\_  
 35-49 \_\_\_\_\_  
 50-64 \_\_\_\_\_  
 64+ \_\_\_\_\_

16. Sex:

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

17. Race:

Black \_\_\_\_\_  
 White \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Marital status:

Married \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single \_\_\_\_\_  
 Divorced \_\_\_\_\_  
 Separated \_\_\_\_\_  
 Widowed \_\_\_\_\_

19. Do you have any children?  
 If yes, then what are their ages?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Under 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 6-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
 14-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
 19-24 \_\_\_\_\_

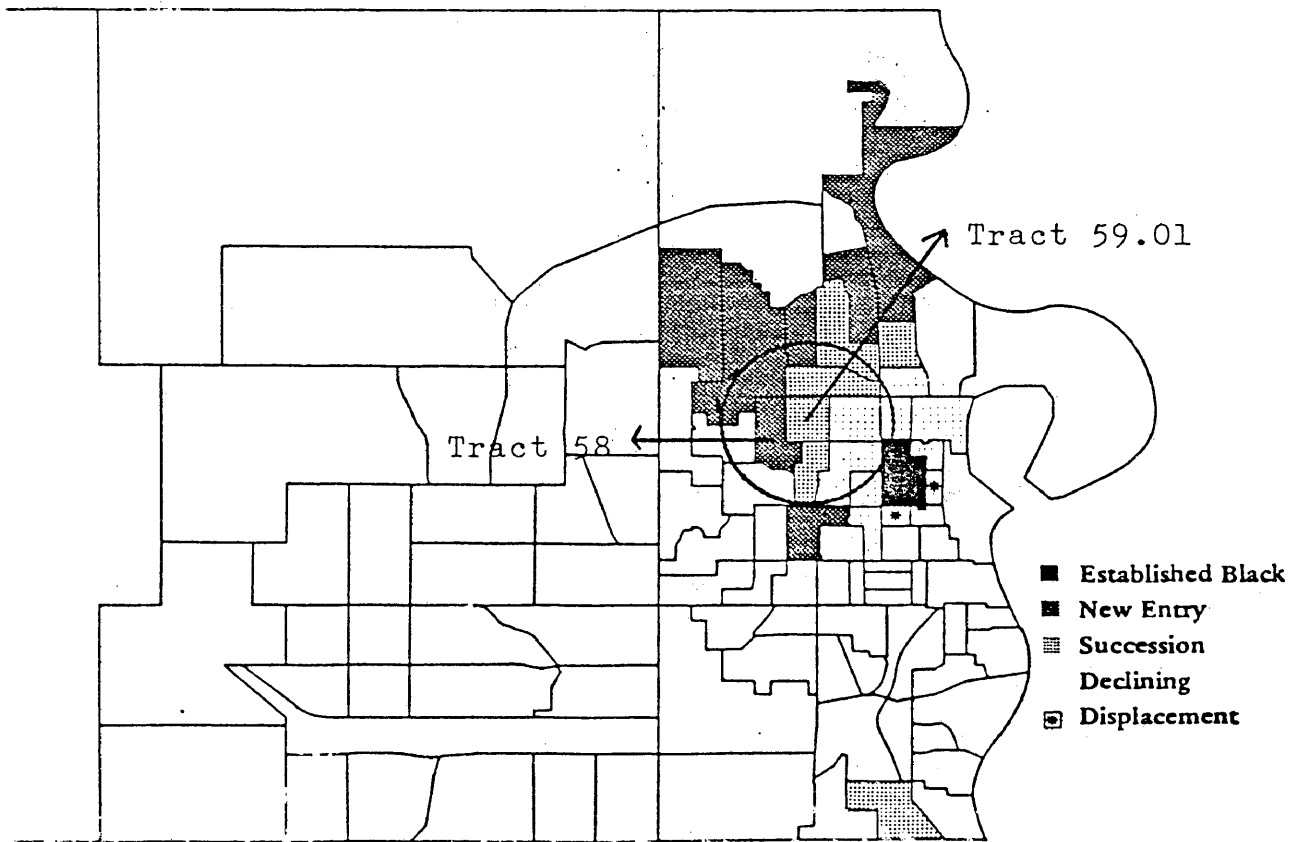


Appendix C

Changes in Black Population

1970-1980





\*from Review of Applied Urban Research, 9 (6) (July, 1981).

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