

## *Chapter Five*

### **CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION**

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To the extent they are known, numerous factors contribute to a high or low crime rate for a given community. Minority group status, geographic and social mobility, age and gender distribution, the unemployment rate, and family income, have all been linked with differential crime rates. At the beginning of the study, a review of the 1986 Census suggested that demographic factors were unlikely to contribute to a higher rate of crime in the Annapolis Valley. To take one example, Kentville is relatively typical of most small towns in Nova Scotia with respect to the population distribution, namely an aging and quite homogeneous population. In so far as there are any demographic differences relative to the province or the county, they favour a tendency toward a slightly lower crime rate. Like the county as a whole, there are relatively few members of visible minority groups in Kentville—although an African-Canadian presence is apparent. The two First Nations reserves in Kings County are small, and people of aboriginal descent are not significantly visible in the small towns. Language is also not a divisive issue as 96.4% of the residents of Kentville (compared with 93.2% in the province), in 1986, were unilingual English. The corresponding figures for those who have declared themselves unilingual French are 3.5% and 1.2% in Nova Scotia and Kentville, respectively. With respect to language and ethnicity, then, there is considerable homogeneity in the town.

While crimes can be committed by any age group, generally speaking, a youthful population would have a greater tendency to be involved in criminal activity (and certainly more in activity defined as relevant for policing, such as order maintenance). In Kentville, the proportion of people between the ages of 15 and 34 (33.0%) is slightly lower than in either Kings County or Nova Scotia as a whole (34.7%). The greatest difference is in the older population, usually the least criminogenic. In Nova Scotia, 11.9% are aged 65 or over, substantially the same as in Kings County. In Kentville, however, 17% of the population are in this category (Census of Canada, 1986). This disproportionately older population is, in part, caused by the growth of a modest nursing home industry in the region's small towns such as Wolfville and Berwick.

Many of these artefacts are evident in criminal statistics in Kentville, particularly in the 1980s. In contrast to this period, in the middle 1990s there has been a decline in the crime rate. Between 1980 and 1989, total offences in the Town of Kentville increased by 88.6%.<sup>1</sup> Part of this increase can be accounted for by the inclusion of municipal By-Law offences in 1985 when these duties were re-initiated (as a police officer's duty) by Chief Innes. This increase in total offences was not reflective of two non-Criminal Code offence types: drug offences and violations of the provincial Liquor Control Act. On the other hand, all three major Criminal Code categories (Property, Violence and "Other") increased

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<sup>1</sup> Juristat (July, 1987) statistics indicate that nationally (and yearly since 1969) Criminal Code offences have grown faster than the number of police officers.

during the decade; property crimes by 87 crimes of violence by 1,420, and "other criminal code" by 223%).

The increase in violent crime was primarily the result of changes in the assault pattern, especially with regard to Level 1 (common) assaults and similar level sexual assaults. In examining the data, it is evident that there was a dramatic change in the pattern of assaults between 1984 and 1985. In part this represented a change in the definition of these offences.

With respect to property crimes, in the 1980s minor thefts and frauds accounted for the majority of the increase in property crimes. The number of break and enters fluctuated throughout the decade. The majority were breaks into businesses, although proportionately during the decade there was a slight with an increase in the percentage of breaks into private dwellings.

The third major category of Code offences consists of those other than property or violent crimes and include two most frequent categories - damage to property, and disturbing the peace. Much vandalism is listed as damage or more generally as "mischief". Damage offences nearly doubled in the 1980s. "Disturbing the Peace" offences also increased considerably, by 340%, during the decade. Unlike most other Code offences, this is a "public order" offence. The increase counters, to a degree, the decline in Liquor Act violations (from 238 to 173 during the past decade), which reflected the shift from traditional, small town policing, emphasizing provincial statutes, to the contemporary model with greater emphasis on crime-fighting. It is unlikely, however, that this increase in disturbance offences represents any real increase in the number of disturbances.

Equally important is the possibility of an increased propensity to record "disturbance" calls and to respond to them officially rather than informally. While tavern brawls might have made it into the annual reports of an earlier policing age, other types of disturbances were more likely to be dealt with unofficially. The increase in disturbance offences likely arises from the adoption of the legalistic model as much as the continued importance of order maintenance, which has traditionally been part of small town policing.

The towns of Berwick and Middleton are quite similar with respect to population, police department size, and demographics. This is reflected in the similarities in the occurrences between the two towns. Many of the comments concerning calls for service in the two towns, then, would be similar.

Over the last two decades, variations in the pattern of offences in Middleton have resulted from a number of factors, including the increase in the size of the police force from four to six members, as well as the changes brought about by police administrators. For example, in 1980, then Chief Boutilier indicated to Town Council that there had been significant decreases in criminal code offences between 1978 and 1979 corresponding with a rise in MVA and Liquor Control offences, both of which he attributed to the increased strength of the department. Offence reporting stabilised in 1983, following the appointment of Chief Cook. Over the next decade, there was general rise in criminal code charges and a considerable decline, as elsewhere in the Valley, of offences under the Liquor Control Act.

Between 1980 and 1990, violent offences followed a u-shape curve, declining in the middle of the decade and then rising towards the end. No homicides or attempted

murders occurred in the town in this decade. There was also only one robbery, in which no offensive weapon was used. The increase in violent crimes towards the end of the decade is accounted for by a greater number of assaults, which peaked in 1982 (16), declined to five in 1985, and then increased in 1990 to 28. The great majority of these assaults are indicated to be Level 1 (24). The tendency to lay more low-level assault charges is common among all jurisdictions and does not necessarily indicate a more violent population. In Middleton the rise in the percentage of crimes of violence should also be interpreted in the context of their relatively small number. Violent crimes comprised only about 9% of total code offences in 1990. Property crimes made up a greater proportion.

The pattern of property offences was more inconsistent during the decade. There was no pattern, only were relatively higher peaks in certain years and lower in others. There were very few thefts over \$1000, although there appeared to be a small increase in thefts under \$1000 in the second half of the decade. Similarly, there was an increase in frauds in the second half of the decade, particularly cheque frauds, although these also had declined in the latter years of the decade. Break and enters follow the same inconsistent pattern. They were highest in 1981 (25). In 1990 there were only ten. The only discernible pattern is that, in 1990, the character of the offence appeared to have changed. In 1981, 15 of the 25 were breaks into business premises; by 1989 and 1990, the most common target was a private residence (7 of the 10).

In Berwick, common complaints involve noise, especially from youth parties. Occasionally, the police have to call in off-duty officers to disperse crowds of young people. On more than one occasion, the police department has had to request R.C.M.P. back-up to help clear the streets or quell disturbances at the local tavern. Another common small-town complaint is damage to property although officers reported that there was less vandalism than in the past. Loitering was not an important issue. Public concern over traffic was more common and usual in a small town. The department conducts traffic checks at various points throughout the town, compiling the statistics for the monthly reports to the Police Commission.

Over the course of a year, most of the common Criminal Code offenses do occur in Berwick; only some occur with regularity. Armed robberies, murder and attempted murder, for example, are rare in the Valley generally. Incidents of mischief and minor property damage are more common, and are difficult to clear. Overall, there did not appear to be a pattern to criminal Code violations, with some year-to-year variations. The majority of Code offences are classified in the "other" category (neither crimes against property nor persons), primarily mischief and disturbance charges. Some criminal activity in Berwick, as in the Valley generally, is caused by criminals from the metropolitan area who find stores in the outlying small towns relatively easy to victimize. Predictably, more criminal activity will result from people outside the town as people increasingly commute to work and as the rural life-style gradually gets transformed. Over the years, however, there has not been a great increase in the number of offenders thought to be from outside the Valley.

## **OFFENCE PATTERNS, NEW MINAS DETACHMENT, 1980-90**

Most of Kings County, including the greatest proportion of the population, is outside the incorporated towns. In this more expansive, rural area, policing is provided by the RCMP out of two detachments: New Minas in the east (the third largest in the province in and Kingston in the west. The New Minas is one of the busiest in the province. Examining the uniform crime reports for New Minas during the 1980s, total offences followed a "U" shaped curve. The highest number of offences was recorded in 1980 (3151). Between 1980 and 1982, total offences declined, remaining constant between 2300 and 2400 between 1983 and 1985, then climbed until the 1989 figures equalled those of 1982. In certain respects, however, this is the least meaningful figure and it is important to look at variations in the main crime and offence categories. The greater changes appear to be in the category of municipal offences, which increased, and in provincial statutes which declined considerably.

One difference is found in the enforcement of municipal by-laws. Between 1980 and 1982 there was an average of one municipal offence per year. Enforcement of municipal by-laws became more frequent in 1983 although at a relatively low level (an average of about 19 offences per year). Enforcement was considerably stepped up in 1988 and 1989, however, with 42 and 66 offences were reported, respectively. This enhanced "municipal" role for the New Minas Detachment is primarily a change in reporting and, perhaps, investigation. In 1989, for example, only one charge was laid under Municipal By-Laws, while 51 of the 66 offences (77.3%) were cleared otherwise. Municipal offences, in conclusion, account for only a small part of the year-to-year variation in Total Offences

Perhaps the most dramatic change lies in the enforcement of Provincial Statutes. Between 1980 and 1984, offences under Provincial Statutes declined by over one third, from 1076 to 292. Thereafter, enforcement increased, peaking at 483 offences in 1987 (still well less than half the 1980 total), and then dropping again to 333 in 1989. This general if not linear drop accounts for the great majority of the variation in Total Offences. Specifically, the majority of these charges were under the Provincial Liquor Control Act and it is a decline in Liquor Act offences which accounts for the overall decline. In fact, until 1988 there had been a steady increase in the enforcement of other provincial statutes (such as the Wildlife Act), without which the decline in the category would have been greater.

Among federal statutes, some of the increase towards the end of the 1980s can be attributed to a rise in the number of drug offences reported, again a reversal of the decline in these offences during the middle of the decade. Criminal Code violations also tended to diminish between 1980 and 1983. Thereafter there was a steady if not linear increase. The two years with the greatest number of Code offences were 1989 and 1988 (with a 9.11 % increase between the two years).

Criminal Code Offences are divided into three main categories: violent crimes, property crimes, and "other" crimes. Each of these classifications will be examined in more detail below. The Other Crimes total appears to vary from year to year and

shows little overall pattern. For example, there has been a slight decline from 1986 (763) to 1989 (705) in these "Other" offences.

Both other major crime categories, however, increased in the 1980s. With the exception of 1984 (which, as will be indicated below, is anomalous because of the number of sexual offences resulting from one interconnected investigation), the years with the highest number of violent crimes have been, in order, 1989 (220), 1988 (207) and 1987 (188) (a 6.28 % increase from 1988 to 1989).

By far the single largest category of offences since 1983 (previous to which it was "provincial Statute Offences) has been Property Crimes. Again, there has been a considerable year-to-year variation. However, the highest year is, again, 1989 (1,184 offences, a 18.28 % increase over 1988).

In sum, most of the decline in Total Offences between 1980 and 1983 can be accounted for by a substantial drop in the actual number of Provincial (particularly Liquor Act) offences. More significantly, towards the end of the decade, there has been an increase in Criminal Code offences, including both violent crimes and property crimes, which increased 6.28% and 18.28% respectively from 1988 to 1989.

Additional information can be learned by looking at specific offence categories, below.

### **Violent Crime**

On average there is only one murder or attempted murder per year in the detachment area. During the decade there were 29 robberies, 6 of which involved firearms and an additional 6 which involved another offensive weapon -- about one per year. Since "Abduction" was added to this crime category in 1985, there have been about two abductions per year. These serious offences, then, are infrequent in the detachment area and do not constitute the bulk of crimes of violence.

The majority of violent crimes are assaults. In 1989, for example, there were 218 assaults, comprising all but 2 of the violent crimes (the other two were abductions).

There are two main types of assaults, sexual and non-sexual, each of which is classified according to severity as levels 1, 2 or 3. These categories were written into the Criminal Code in 1983.

The largest category consists of non-sexual assaults, which generally increased annually (with variations) from 115 in 1980 to 172 in 1989 (a 49.6% increase). The majority of these were level 1 assaults (or "Other Assaults" between 1980 and 1982). The number of level 1 assaults ranged between 85 and 117 between 1980 and 1988, and peaked at 151 in 1989 (a 77.6% increase from 1980 to 1989). Only an average of one assault a year was classified as "wounding" or aggravated (level 3). There has been, however, a considerable fluctuation year-by-year in level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm), which peaked at 44 in 1986 and declined to 9 in 1989 (down from 43 in 1988). Finally, on average, about 2 assaults on police officers or other peace officers occur every year.

With regard to sexual offences, there are two main categories: sexual assault (classified as "Rape" and "Indecent Assault" between 1980 and 1982), and "Other Sexual Offences". Disregarding momentarily the year 1984, reference to which has

been made above, there has been a general increase in sexual assaults, especially in the last two years. Of these, very few (5 during the decade) were aggravated or involved a weapon. From 1983 to 1989, however, the number of sexual assault offences has about tripled (15 to 46).

With the exception of 1984, Other Sexual Offences have numbered about 2 per year, with none being recorded for 1988 or 1989.

In 1984 a major investigation of a series of related sexual offences, which occurred in an area of the South Mountain, Kings County, led to multiple charges of sexual assault and other sexual crimes against a number of related individuals. Most of these charges involved children. In that year, 198 sexual offences were reported as being founded, 145 of which involved Other Sexual Offences.

In short, violent crimes are increasing in the detachment area. Particularly, there are increased numbers of level one assaults, including sexual assaults.

### **Property Crime**

Break and enter offences is one of the main categories of property crimes and entail major investigation time in the detachment. While the largest number of offences occurred in 1989 (263, an increase over the 187 offences in 1988), there have been considerable year-by-year variations.

Breaks are sub-classified according to whether they occur in a residence, a business premise, or another building (such as a church or a garage). The majority of breaks (from 41 to 67%) occur to private residences and there has been a slight tendency for this category to increase relative to the other two. With respect to break and enter offences into various types of premises, no clear pattern emerges and there is no substantial trend towards increased house breaks.

The proportion of breaks which have occurred in business premises have largely followed a "U" curve. While they increased substantially in 1989, they were even slightly higher at the beginning of the decade. However, there is some tendency for this category to be increasing relative to the other two.

Thefts comprise the largest category of property crimes. Among thefts, motor vehicle thefts have tended to decline somewhat in number over the decade. The highest number of thefts occurred between the years 1980 and 1982. There was, however, a considerable increase from 1988 to 1989 (from 29 to 49). With respect to the type of motor vehicle stolen, there was a slight tendency for more motorcycles to be stolen in the latter half of the decade.

Theft over \$1000 increased from 26 to 31 between 1986 and 1989. Thefts of \$1000 or under increased a similar amount over these four years, from 528 to 556. There was some variation in the category of theft offences, however. The single greatest increase occurred in thefts from motor vehicles, rising from 107 in 1986 to 160 in 1989. "Other Thefts" also increased, from 243 to 271. However, there was a decline in the number of shoplifting cases reported, from a high of 165 in 1986 down to 141 in 1988 and 112 in 1989. The trends found in theft offences may reflect tendencies in differential reporting. For example, shop-lifting offences may not be reported by stores on many grounds, including the time and expense of appearing in court or attending a

diversion hearing. On the other hand, more awareness about thefts from motor vehicles and a greater crime prevention consciousness may be reflected in the greater number of reports of thefts from motor vehicles.

Like thefts, fraud offences have also been increasing. Between 1980 and 1984 there was an average of 164 fraud offences. For the next five years, this increased to an annual average of 227. Part of this increase may also be attributed to a greater tendency among merchants to turn to the police in an effort to either have the money returned or to punish those who commit theft in this fashion. The increase may also reflect the increased tendency to report to credit in the purchase of goods and services. As the number of non-cash transactions increase, so too does the opportunity to commit fraud.

The main pattern which is apparent from an inspection of the data is the increase in the number of cheque frauds, from 72 in 1980 to 234 in 1989 (a 225% increase). Otherwise, there are particularly anomalous years. For example, in 1985 there were 149 reported cases of credit card fraud -- substantially higher than the average. As a consequence, the greatest number of total frauds occurred in 1985. Similarly, there were 79 "other frauds" in 1981, pushing the total in that year to 160.

### **Other Criminal Code**

Offensive weapons crimes in the detachment area remained relatively constant over the decade and, in contrast to some other parts of the province, they were relatively few. In fact, looking at 5-year averages, there was a slight drop from an average of 20 between 1980 and 1984 to 17 between 1985 and 1989.

It is worthy of note, in addition, that there was only one reported prostitution-related offence and only one gaming and betting offence during the decade.

In the "Other Criminal Code Offences" category, on first inspection there appears to be a considerable drop in the number of offences, from 902 in 1980 to 705 in 1989. A more clear picture is apparent, however, if we examine the overall figures for 1981 to 1989. During these years the number of offences has followed a gentle bell-shaped curve, increasing to 1986 (with the exception of 1985), and then decreasing somewhat over the last four years (1986-1989). Again, there are interesting variations within this general category.

Two types of crimes make up the majority of the reported offences in the "Other Criminal Code Offences" category: disturbing the peace and damage/mischief.

The trend among disturbance offences is opposite that of most categories: 1989 and 1988 had the fewest disturbance crimes, while 1980 had the most. The number of cases of disturbing the peace is higher in each of the years 1980 to 1984 than in any of the last five years of the decade, and the fewest offences occurred in 1989. This resembles the trend towards the reduction of the number of provincial statute offences, particularly under the Liquor Act, reflecting a move away from an orientation on the maintenance of order towards more of a crime-fighting model. It is also noteworthy that the proportion of disturbance offences cleared by charge have tended to decrease, with the lowest rates coming in 1987 and 1989, 7.2% and 4.3% respectively. The

majority of disturbance calls are cleared otherwise, between 68.7 % (1987) and 52.4% (1988).

The second most common offence in this category involves damage or mischief. This category was also reclassified in 1986. Previously it was specified as "damage", and a distinction was drawn between damage done to private or public establishments. In 1986, the category was broadened to "Mischief", while retaining a primary focus on property damage, with the distinction being the value of the damage rather than the type of ownership.

Again, as with the theft offences, the damage/mischief offences can be combined. Inspecting the Total Damage/Mischief data, no apparent pattern emerges, although the highest number of these offences was recorded in 1980. Since 1986, about 30% of these offences are cleared, with about 10% resulting in the laying of charges.

Two other offences have tended to increase: trespass at night and a residual category, "Other Code Offences", which have more than doubled over the decade (from 94 to 213).

### **Drug Offences**

It was noted above that drug offences had tended to decline in the decade from 246 in 1980 reaching a low of 100 in 1987. Two years later, however, there were 219 actual drug offences, an increase in 100 offences over 1988, and more than double the 1987 figure.

There have not been any founded offences involving heroin in the detachment area. There is, however, an apparent increase in the number of cocaine offences, from 1 reported in 1985 to 9 in 1989. The number of cases involving "Other Drugs" has also increased sharply in the last two years, growing to 23 in 1988 and doubling to 47 in 1989. Similarly, there is a growth -- albeit a more modest one -- in the number of offences involving controlled drugs. Cases of restricted drugs, which peaked in 1982 and 1983, also appear to be on the increase.

The majority of drug offences, however, involve cannabis. The number of trafficking offences peaked in 1989 (doubling the 1988 figure), although this offence varies year-by-year. The most significant variation concerns the charge of possession. Until 1988 there was a steady decline in the cases of possession (from 191 to 33). Since then, they have more than doubled, totalling 72 in 1989.

To the extent that recorded offences represents a change in the number of violations, these data suggest that drug use may have declined until the mid 1980s, but since then it has increased, both with respect to quantity and quality -- more offences, as well as greater numbers involving cocaine and other prohibited drugs. Of course, police statistics are not always a reliable guide to the actual rate of many offences, including illegal drug use, and may reflect differential enforcement.

## **CRIME PATTERNS IN THE VALLEY, 1991-2001**

These data were derived from Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reports 1991-2001, for

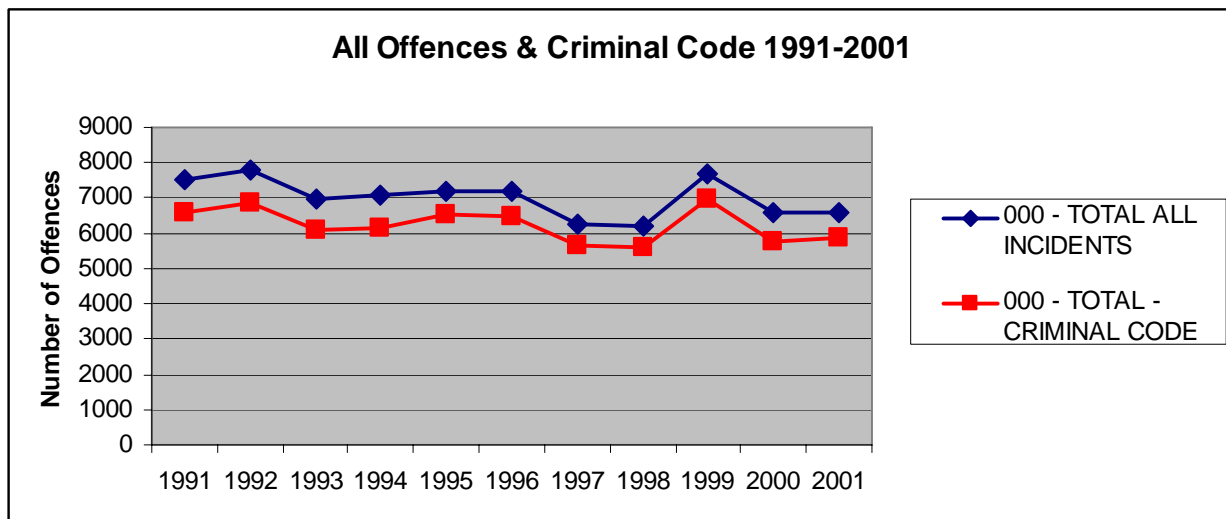


the police reporting agencies in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia (specifically: Bridgetown, Middleton, Kingston, Berwick, Kentville, New Minas, Wolfville, Hantsport, and Windsor). The data were amalgamated to provide overall trends for the Valley region.

## Overall Crime and Violent Crime

A slight general decline in the number of offences and Criminal Code offences in the Valley (exclusive of traffic violations) is apparent from Chart 1, from 6,612 Code offences to 5,872. What appears to be an anomaly occurred in 1999 when the total spiked back to 6,952, a phenomenon we can trace in the breakdown of offences, below.

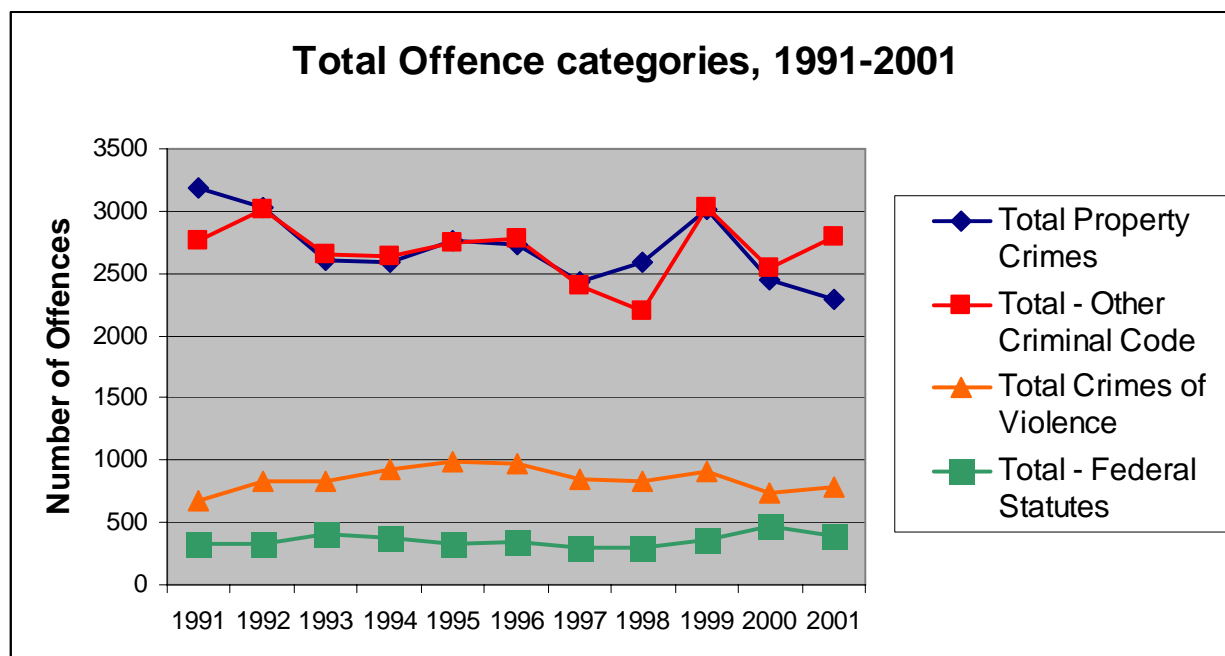
Chart 1



The simplest breakdown of violations distinguishes among crimes of violence, property crimes, and then a residual category of "Other Criminal Code". Other non-traffic offences are categorized as Federal Statutes, including primarily the drug enforcement statistics. The overall decline in total offences and Criminal Code offences is apparent in Table 1, which provides the average number of offences for two periods, 1991-1995 and 1996-2001.

As Chart 2 demonstrates, violent crimes rose slightly in number in the middle of the 1990s before again declining in 2001 to levels similar to a decade earlier. With the exception of 1999, property crimes have declined, primarily accounting for the general trends apparent from Chart 1. Federal statutes (primarily drugs) have risen very slightly. The offences classified as "Other Criminal Code" declined in the middle years, also spiked in 1999, but tended to increase slightly again in 2000 and 2001.

Chart 2

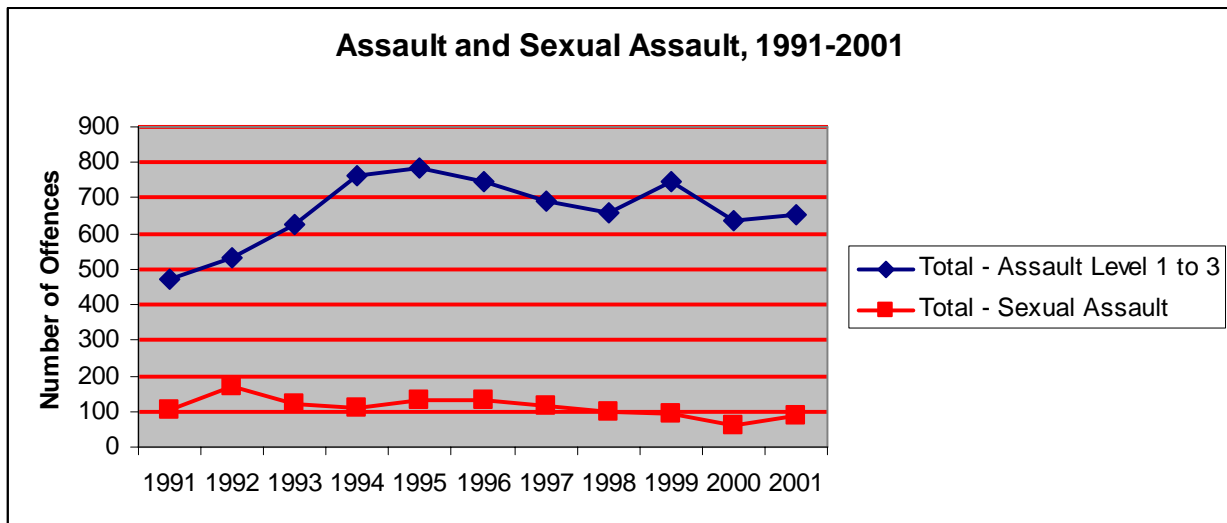


The majority of crimes of violence are physical assaults of a non-sexual nature, 83% of all violent crimes in 2001 (77.1% of all violent crimes are Assault Level One). As Chart 3 demonstrates, there was a significant increase in non-sexual assaults in the early 1990s, followed by a gradual decline towards the end of the period (with the exception of 1999). During this period, an average of 57 higher level assaults occurred in the Valley, with a small elevation in the middle 1990s before returning to the frequency of the early years of the decade. Robberies are also infrequent, averaging 6.5 per year, with year-to-year variations with no discernible pattern.

Sexual assaults have varied over the period (from a high of 162 in 1992 to 61 in the year 2000), but overall have declined slightly. There was a low average of two higher level sexual assaults per year, from 1995-2001 an average of one per year.

Homicides are a rare occurrence in the Valley, making any generalization premature, though they were more common in the early 1990s than later. Between 1991 and 1995, seven homicide offences occurred in the Valley: 3 First Degree Murder, 1 Second Degree Murder, 1 Manslaughter, and 2 cases of Infanticide. During the six years between 1996 and 2001, there were three homicides: two cases of First Degree Murder and one of Infanticide.

Chart 3



The average offence levels, reported in Table 1, tell a slightly different story. The number of violent crimes during the two periods (1991-95, 1996-2001) were very stable, averaging 852 and 850 respectively, a figure replicated by the number of assaults of all types (835 and 830). Within this common pattern, however, while the average number of sexual assaults declined (from 128 to 98) there was an increase in the average number of non-sexual assaults (from 636 to 689), most of which is accounted for by an increase in the number of level 1 (common assault) charges. The increase in the frequency of assaults is the main counter-trend in the Uniform Crime Statistics.

**Table 1 – Average Number of Offences, 1991-95 and 1996-2001**

	1991-95	96-2001
Offences		
TOTAL ALL INCIDENTS	7311	6750
TOTAL - CRIMINAL CODE (Excluding Traffic)	6445	6057
Total CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	852	850
Total - Assault	835	830
Total - Sexual Assault	128	98
204 - Sexual Assault	125	97
Total - Assault Level 1 to 3	636	689
205 - Assault Level (1)	584	629
Total - Other Sexual Offences	6	10
Total - Robbery	7	6

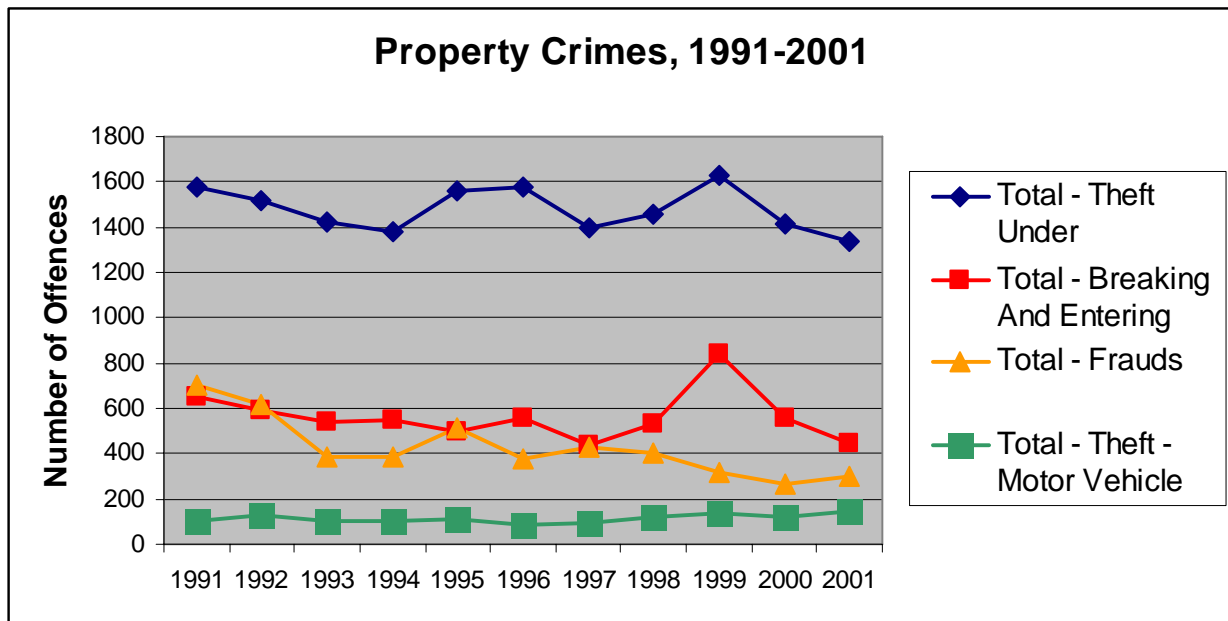
## Property Crimes

The two largest categories of crimes in the Valley are property offences and the "Other Criminal Code" classification, which are about equal in number. Chart 4 examines the trends for four types of property crime. The overall decline in property offences that was apparent from Chart 2 is partly replicated here with respect to Theft Under and Break and Enter offences, although the 1999 spike is apparent in both of these crime categories. Overall for these two types of offences, with some variations, the decline occurred early in the period and then tended to level off.

Theft Under \$5000 is the most common property crime, representing 58.5% of the total in 2001. A significant decline occurred in the number of theft offences over \$5000, a trend apparent from Table 2, showing that the average number of major thefts declined from 80 in 1991-95 to 34 between 1996 and 2001.

Most Break and Enters occur in a private residence (57.6% of all breaks in 2001) as opposed to a business or other place (such as a church or school), a trend that increased slightly over the period (from 50.4% in 1991).

**Chart 4**



Comparing the five/six-year averages, it is apparent that there has been a decline (from 2832 offences to 2585). Examining a selection of crimes from Table 2, the most obvious finding is the stability of the frequency of most of these offences over the two periods. The most significant exception, other than the major thefts (discussed above) is the decline on the number of frauds, averaging 520 per year between 1991 and 1996, but down to an annual average of 349 between 1996 and 2001. As Table 2

indicates, the decline is primarily the result in a fewer number of cheque frauds reported as “actual crimes” in the Uniform Crime Reports.

**Table 2 – Average Number of Property Offences, 1991-95 and 1996-2001**

	1991-95	96-2001
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	2832	2585
Total - Breaking And Entering	566	562
024 – Residence	298	295
Total - Theft - Motor Vehicle	111	117
Total - Theft Over	80	34
Total - Theft Under	1492	1468
038 - From motor vehicles	339	333
039 – Shoplifting	237	236.0
Total - Have Stolen Goods	63	48
Total – Frauds	520	349
043 – Cheques	333	150

### Other Criminal Code Offences

The residual category “Other Criminal Code” offences equal property crimes in frequency. Mischief (damage to property under \$5000) and Disturbing the Peace are the two major offences in this category. Of these, there has been a very slight increase in the number of lower-level mischief crimes (primarily damaging property), which is clearer from the 5/6-year averages (Table 3). This indicates, as well, a decrease in the major damage crimes (Mischief Over), from an annual average of 37 down to 12. The major decline is in the number of incidents of Disturbing the Peace, from an annual average in the early 1990s of 588 down to an average of 398 in the years between 1996 and 2001.

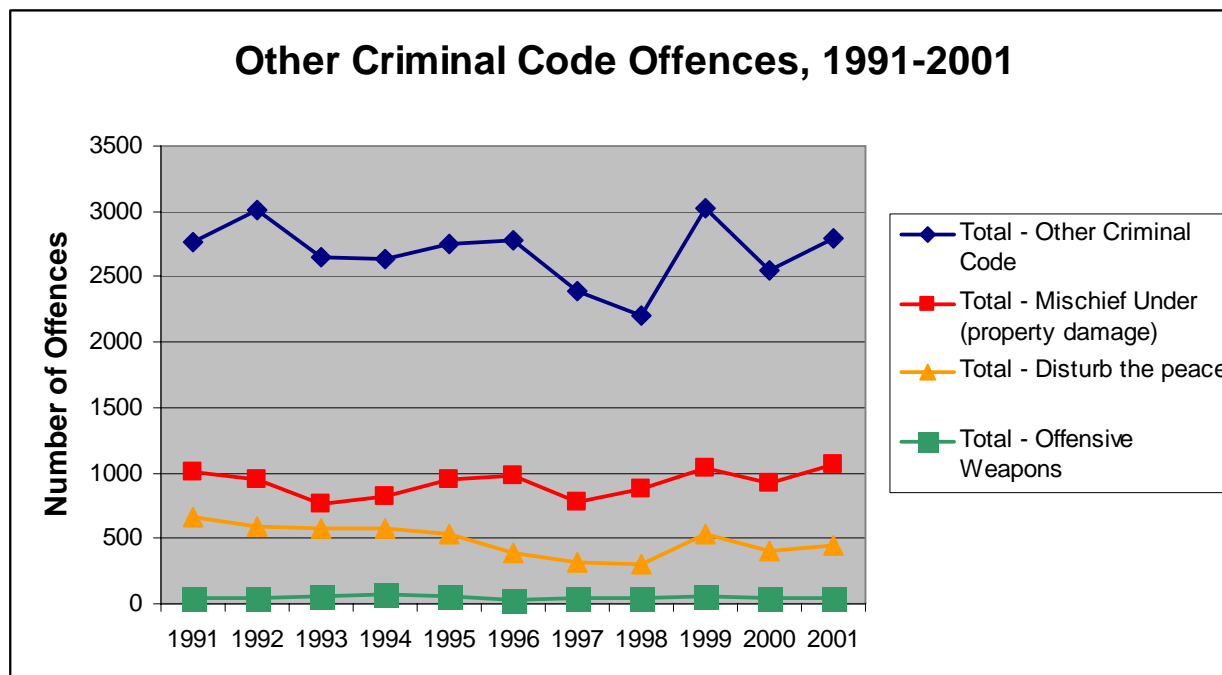
**Table 3 Other Criminal Code Offences, Annual Averages, 1991-95, 1996-2001**

	1991-95	96-2001
TOTAL - OTHER CRIMINAL CODE	2761	2622
Total - Offensive Weapons (055 to 058)	53	42
Total – Arson	22	25
Total - Disturb the peace	588	398
Total - Mischief Over (property damage)	37	12
Total - Mischief Under (property damage)	898	946
Total - Other Criminal Code Offences	1019	1031

The single largest grouping of crimes in the “Other” category is itself a residual of the

residual "Other". As Table 3 indicates, there has been a tendency to increase the number of complaints that the police classify as "other".

**Chart 5**



## Federal and Drug Offences

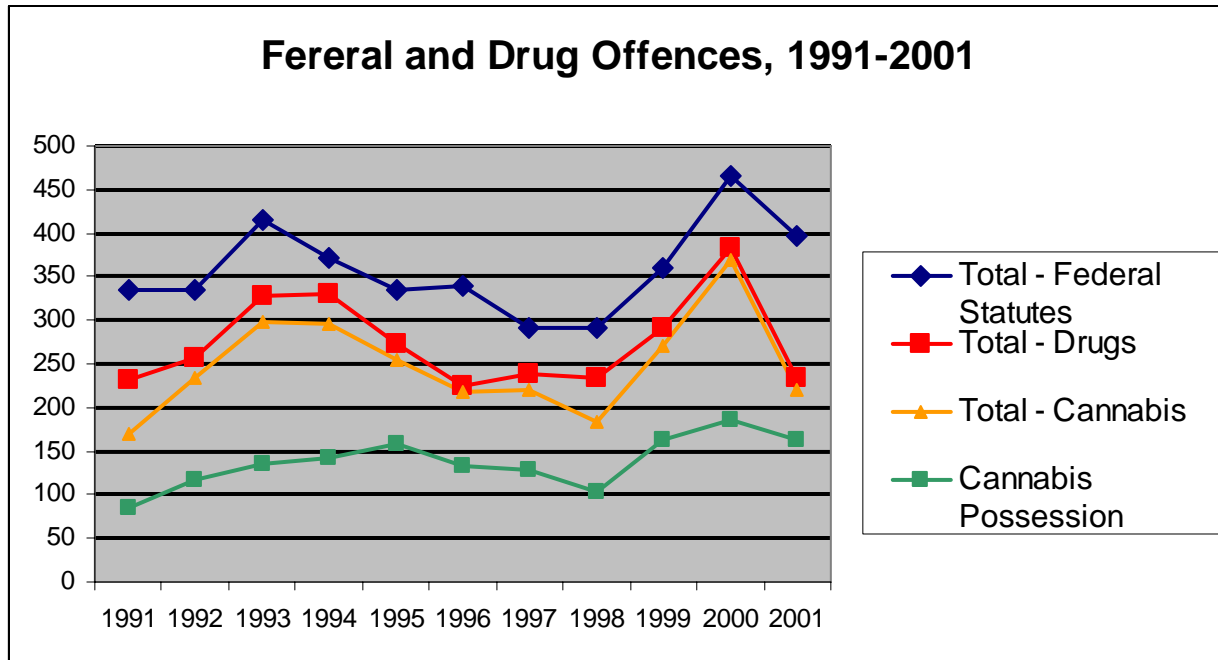
The Uniform Crime Reports, exclusive of traffic offences, also indicate a number of other "criminal law" crimes reported under federal offences, the most important group of which are violations of the drug laws, comprising the majority of this category (see Chart 6). This Chart (6) indicates that the majority of drug offences involve cannabis, of which the primary offence (62% of cannabis offences) is simple possession. Drug offences (and hence the Federal Crime category generally) have tended to follow a u-shaped curve, with increased enforcement apparent towards the end of the 1990s and relatively more lenient enforcement in the middle years (see Table 4).

**Table 4 Federal Statute Offences, Including Drugs, 1991-95, 1996-2001**

	1991-95	96-2001
TOTAL - FEDERAL STATUTES	335	357
Total – Drugs	273	268
Total - Cannabis	254	247
087 – Possession	158	146
Total - Other Federal Statutes	62	82

In 2001, of the 220 cannabis offences, 25 were for trafficking and 32 for production. Otherwise, there were no heroin offences, two cases of possession of cocaine, and four incidents of possessing and 9 of trafficking other illegal drugs.

**Chart 6**



As Table 5 shows, only two heroin offences were found over the eleven-year period, and none since 1996. There has also been a decline in the occurrences of cocaine offences since 1991 (n = 21) down to an average of about three per year since 1996.

**Table 5 Heroin and Cocaine Offences, 1991-2001**

	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01
Heroin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Importation/ Possession	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cocaine	21	9	13	13	4	2	3	1	7	2	2
Possession	8	6	1	4	1	2	0	1	4	1	2
Trafficking	12	3	12	7	3	0	3	0	3	1	0
Importation/ Possession	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The average increase in the number of Federal Statute crimes is accounted for by the "Other Statutes" grouping. This category includes, with the number of offences reported for 1991, Canada Customs Act (2), Bankruptcy Act, Canada Shipping Act (48),

the Excise Act (2), the Immigration Act (2), and "Other" (48). In 2001, of the Acts listed in the Statistics Canada Report, only two offences appeared (under Canada Shipping Act); the number of "other" violations of Federal Statutes, however, had jumped to 154.

The overall crime trend, then, is slightly down between the years 1991 and 2001. The most important exceptions to this trend is the number of non-sexual assaults, particularly level one (common assault), minor property damage (Mischief), and an increase in the detection of offences falling under Federal Statutes. Many other serious crimes have remained relatively stable in frequency over the period, including violent crimes overall, Break and Enter, Theft Under \$5,000 (including both theft from automobiles and shoplifting). Drug offences are also quite consistent, although there are fewer cases of "hard drugs", a minor part of the overall pattern of drug offences in the Valley.

Certain trends need further explanation. There are significantly fewer cases of Fraud, particularly frauds involving cheques. There has also been a considerable drop in the number of cases of Disturbing the Peace, as well as some decline in the numerically smaller Theft Over and Mischief Over \$5,000 offences.

## PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

The perceptions of the nature of crime and disorder in rural society is one other aspect of the policing scene which is necessary to document. Rural society has long been seen as a relatively crime-free environment in contrast to the blight of urban social problems. Rural orderliness and low levels of official crime (Kaill 1986) have been attributed to a number of factors, including the persistence of traditional values, close-knit communities, cultural uniformity, effective social control institutions, and high levels of social integration (Wilson 1985; Murphy and Clairmont 1990). It has been well established in research that not all victimization people experience is reported to the police, particularly in situations of intimate violence. This under-reporting may be especially characteristic of rural populations (Smith 1980, Murphy and Clairmont 1990).

The data below were analyzed from two different surveys that are not exactly comparable. The suggestions of comparisons, then, are speculative. In addition to differences in methodology, the 1989 survey expanded the boundaries beyond Kings County (the sole Valley area surveyed in 2000) by including residents from two towns outside the County (but within the study of community policing: Hantsport and Middleton). It is also not possible to break down the G.P.I. data to reveal the residence locations of the respondents, including a measure such as whether they were living in an incorporated town or in the rural area of the County.

In 1989, we conducted a telephone survey of Valley residents, asking them a number of questions related to crime and justice. The specific details of this survey are outlined in Chapter One. Nine per cent of the respondents in the Valley survey indicated they had personally been a victim of crime over the past two years (Table 6). This figure was lowest in the smaller towns (Berwick, Middleton, and Hantsport) and highest in the larger towns of Kentville and Wolfville, with the RCMP figures in between.



As discussed in Chapter One, a sub-group of survey respondents in 1989 was questioned about victimization and asked whether three specific crimes had happened to them or to someone they knew over the last year. This additional question widened the population to include close “secondary victims”, those who knew someone who had been a crime victim. These results are also reported in table 6. Of the three crimes specified, theft was experienced (personally or secondarily) the most often, by 20.5% of respondents. Violent personal crimes were, as expected, considerably less frequent, experienced first or second-hand by 4.2% and 2.3% of respondents respectively. Finally, Table 6 reveals that the majority of these crimes known to the respondents were reported to the police, though property crime at a slightly higher rate: Theft 72.1%, assault 63.6%, and robbery 66.7%.

**Table 6 - Personal Victimization and Specific Victimization of Persons Known to Respondent (1989)**

	Personally Victim	Robbery		Assault		Theft	
		You/Other	Call Police	You/Other	Call Police	You/Other	Call Police
RCMP	61	7	6	13	8	75	56
	8.30%	2.00%	85.70%	3.70%	61.50%	21.60%	76.70%
Hantsport	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
	4.30%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.40%	100.00%
Middleton	2	4	2	2	1	7	6
	3.50%	11.80%	50.00%	5.90%	50.00%	20.60%	85.70%
Berwick	3	0	0	1	0	3	1
	8.10%	0.00%	0.00%	4.50%	0.00%	13.60%	33.30%
Wolfville	12	0	0	2	1	7	4
	14.60%	0.00%	0.00%	4.80%	50.00%	16.70%	66.70%
Kentville	17	1	0	4	4	15	7
	13.30%	1.90%	0.00%	7.50%	100.00%	28.30%	50.00%
Missing	8	0	0	2	1	8	7
TOTAL	97	12	8	22	14	108	75
	9.00%	2.30%	66.70%	4.20%	63.60%	20.50%	72.10%

The 2000 GPI survey asked respondents to compare crime in their neighbourhood with other areas in Canada. Most Kings County respondents in 2000 felt that crime was lower in their neighbourhood (76.2%). Only 1.2% said that they believed it to be higher than overall in Canada. There were no appreciable differences in perception of men and women, or for age. The more education respondents had, however, the more likely it was that they deemed crime in their neighbourhood to be lower than in Canada generally.

Most Kings County residents who were surveyed in 2000 believed that crime had remained about the same for the previous five years (68.9%). Only 6.8% believed that it has decreased, while 24.3% perceived an increase in crime over the previous half decade. Again, only slight differences were found for sex and age; in addition, there

was no significant difference by educational attainment, although those with university education tended slightly to believe that crime had remained about the same.

## Profile of Crime Victims, 2000

The G. P. I. survey asked respondents to self-identify themselves as having been victims of crime or not, according to three measures of time: over the last 12 months, the last three years, and the last five years. Logically, the longer the time examined, the larger the proportion of individuals who would have been victimized. Of the 1828 people who responded to the question, 266 (14.6%) said they had been victimized at least once over the past five years. Of these, 196 (10.7%) reported that the crime(s) occurred during the last three years (137 reporting one occasion), while 144 (7.9%) had become victims of crime over the last 12 months (95 reporting one victimization). These figures were comparable to the 1989 study, which found that 9% of Valley respondents had been victimized at least once over the previous two years.

The largest sub-sample consists of those victimized over the five-year period. The following table (7) provides a summary of victim characteristics, describing those who had been a victim at any time over the past five years. While more women than men (55% vs. 45%) reported themselves victims, this reflected the skewed nature of the survey, for which more women responded than men. Among age groups, the middle age category (25-54) was victimized more frequently than was consistent with its relative proportion of the population. Proportionately, fewer in the older group, those 55 or over, were victims of crime: these more senior citizens composed 33.8% of the respondents but only 20.7% of the victims.

With respect to education, there was a tendency for crime victimization to be higher among those who were high school graduates and, in general, those with higher educational qualifications.

Compared to other general levels of economic activity (defined in the survey as the respondent's "main activity"), those who were employed were over represented among crime victims, as well as the student category to a lesser extent. The unemployed, home-makers, and particularly the retired respondents (the last being consistent with the variation by age) were underrepresented.

**Table 7 - Victim of Crime at any Time Over the Last Five Years (2000)**

		<b>Yes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Pop.</b>	<b>%</b>
Sex	Male	120	45.1	813	44.7
	Female	146	54.9	1005	55.3
	Total	266		1818	
Age	15-24	21	7.9	143	7.9
	25-54	190	71.4	1059	58.3
	55+	55	20.7	613	33.8
	Total	266		1815	
H Sch Grad	Yes	190	78.8	1162	71.2

	No	51	21.2	470	28.8
	Total	241		1632	
Education	Grade 1-8	7	2.9	95	5.8
	9-12	84	34.6	662	40.5
	College Dip	68	28.0	390	23.9
	Univ Deg	63	25.9	323	19.8
	Other	21	8.6	164	10.0
	Total	243		1634	
Main Activity	Employed	171	64.3	913	50.3
	Unemployed	6	2.3	69	3.8
	Student	20	7.5	122	6.7
	Home maker	26	9.8	230	12.7
	Retired	38	14.3	419	23.1
	Other	5	1.9	61	3.4
	Total	266		1814	
Lab Force	Employed	180	67.9	1017	56.0
	Unemployed	23	8.7	147	8.1
	Not in Lab F	62	23.4	651	35.9
	Total	265		1815	

While only six people had declared their “main activity” to be “unemployment”, twenty-three respondents had been unemployed in the week prior to the survey. Being unemployed, however, was not associated with a greater likelihood of victimization. Again, it was those who were not in the labour force (including the elderly and the retired) who were less likely to be victimized.

Different occupational groups also experienced varied rates of victimization. There was very little difference among those who were paid workers, self employed, or unpaid workers in a family business. Higher rates of crime occurred to respondents who classified their occupation as (1) business, financial, and administrative (19.3 vs. 12.9%) a group that included accountants, financial advisors, secretaries, receptionists, etc., and (2) occupations in social science, education, government service and religion, including lawyers, counselors and social workers (18.8 vs. 12.7%). Otherwise, the various groups were, in general, proportionately victimized. Only those who reported their occupation to be “Other” indicated lower rates of victimization (7.4 vs. 15.1%).

## Nature of Crime

Respondents who were victims of crime over the last 12 months were asked to complete a table which asked about the number of incidents, whether they called the police, the dollar loss from crime, and where the crime took place. The following table (8) summarizes the results:

**Table 8 - Nature, Reporting, and Location of Crime (2000)**

Nature of Crime	Incidents Reported To Police (n)	Incidents Not Reported (n)	Total	Home (n)	Neighbourhood (n)	Kings County (n)	Outside Kings County (n)
Theft Under \$5000	62	23	85	53	4	18	11
Theft Over \$5000	4	1	5	1	1	3	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	12	19	7	0	0	1
Robbery	6	13	19	8	0	0	2
Fraud	5	11	16	5	2	1	1
B&E While Away	9	12	21	12	-	-	-
B&E While At Home	2	10	12	3	-	-	-
Sexual Assault	4	13	17	2	2	0	2
Assault	6	16	22	7	1	1	0
Other	16	17	33	12	2	7	3

Some inconsistencies appear in the results indicated above. In most cases, fewer incidents were indicated on "location" than on the question of being reported to the police. Considering only the previous 12 months, the most frequently indicated crime in 2002 was theft under \$5,000, suffered by 85 victims (4.7% of respondents), 62 of whom reported the incident to the police. Otherwise, in addition to the 33 "other" crimes, a category that is wide and slowly growing in the Uniform Crime Reports, there were fairly even numbers of assaults, break and enters, robberies, and thefts of motor vehicles, and only slightly fewer frauds and sexual assaults. Most crimes, of all types occurred in the home, including assaults, though sexual assaults (that were indicated) were more evenly distributed.

The 1989 survey asked respondents specifically to report their victimization over the last year within three crime categories. Nine respondents (0.5%) claimed that they had been "held-up", 1.1% (12) had been assaulted, and 42 (3.9%) were victims of theft under \$5000.

Two-thirds (66.9%) of the Theft Under incidents in 2002 involved amounts under \$500, while one quarter (24.2%) were more than \$1000. The robbery amounts were all under \$500, presumably reflecting the likelihood that respondents would not be carrying large amounts of cash on their persons. There were two large frauds, one over \$6000. Three of the break and enters caused substantial losses, between \$2000 and \$6100. Among the "other crimes", two major incidents cost the victims between \$4800 and \$12,100. If the median figure for each category is taken as the likely mean loss, and all the incidents are summed together, 121 incidents caused a loss of \$126,990, or about \$1050 per incident.

## Effects of Victimization

Insurance cannot compensate for many effects of crime on victims, and may not cover even the monetary loss. In Kings County, 17.8% of people who reported themselves victimized over the last twelve months were compensated by insurance for loss of money or property. Of these, 27.1% (6/22) received <75% of the value lost, while a further 39.1% (11/28) recovered 50% or less.

The GPI survey attempted to measure other consequences of crime on victims. For some it means loss of work and, potentially, income. Thirteen people took days off due to crime; of these, most (61.5%) took only one day off. This loss of work time may be due to a summons to appear during the trial of the accused, though most criminal prosecutions do not involve trials.

More seriously, time off may be due to a personal injury sustained during the crime. Of those who reported victimization over the last year, almost no one (a very small number) was injured seriously enough to spend time in hospital. Nine visited a health professional, and ten reported taking medication as a result of their victimization. for as long as two-thirds of a year. Twelve received counselling. A further 4.7% spent time in bed to recover following the crime, with a maximum of nine days spent recuperating.

Crime disrupts people's lives in other ways. In some cases, victims are obliged to cancel activities they otherwise would have done. Among victims, 15% (19/127) cancelled activities due to the crime. Of these, 6 of 17 (35.3%) cancelled 14 days or more.

Finally, 86 or 33.9% said that they changed their approach to life because of the crime. A further 67 or 26.3% do things now they normally would not have done as a result of their victimization. Finally, 24 (9.3% of 258 victims) said that, as a result of crime over the last five years, they suffered another tragedy that could be attributed directly to the crime.

## Assistance for victims of crime

To whom do you turn after being victimized by crime? Informally, people often turn to relatives, friends, and neighbours for help after a crime. In Kings County, approximately 25 to 30% of respondents who were victimized over the last 12 months reported seeking assistance from those personally closest to them – their relatives, friends or neighbours.

There are also a number of formal agencies that are designed specifically to assist crime victims. About three per cent of victims turned to a local service club, or to a senior's support network – the latter clearly applicable only to the more elderly victims in the County. The provincial government, through the Department of Justice, has established a Victims' Services organization which is run by paid professionals with the assistance of volunteers. Less than 40% of those who were victimized were aware of the existence of this organization whose mandate is specifically to assist crime victims. Despite the awareness of many, only 5% of victims sought help from this provincial

body.

In addition, police departments – particularly the RCMP – coordinate their own victims' services units, which are usually run by volunteers under the supervision of police personnel. This was the most widely used service. Of those victimized, 61% were aware of the service, and 32% took advantage of its assistance. The greater awareness of the service is likely brought about by police contact with the victim. In cases where the police are called, it is likely to be the policy of the force that the officers should inform the victim of the availability of the police-run assistance service. They could, conceivably, also provide information about Victims' Services at the Department of Justice, although the data suggest they may be less likely to divulge this information, preferring their in-house operation.

**Table 9 - Assistance Sought by Crime Victims (2000)**

	Received Help		Knew About	
	n	%	n	%
Assist from Pol/RCMP Victim Services	35	32.1%	60	61.3
Assist from Dept of Justice Victim Serv.	5	5.2%	34	38.7
Assist from Seniors Support Network	3	3.2%	23	28.4
Assist from local volunteer groups	3	3.1%	53	61.6
Assist from neighbours	26	25.2%		
Assist from relatives	32	30.5%		
Assist from others (pastor, friends)	17	23%		

## Knowledge of Wider Victimization

There are degrees of victimization depending on how close the crime occurs to the individual. You may be deeply affected by a crime that occurs to someone close to you. The indirect effects can be equally devastating. Even knowing someone who has been victimized can have an effect on how we live our lives and how safe we feel in our community. In addition to asking respondents about their own victimization, research routinely widens the scope of the investigation by asking whether the respondent knows others who have been victimized.

In Kings County, the GPI data revealed that 481 people (26.8% of 1792) reported that they knew someone who had been a victim of crime over last 12 months. Again, the older respondents (55 or more) were the least likely to know someone who had been victimized over the previous year. Just under half of these (43% or 199) knew of one incident affecting an individual. In addition, 120 (25.9%) knew of two incidents, while a further 69 (15%) reported three incidents. The maximum number reported was knowledge of 20 crime incidents affecting friends, relatives, or acquaintances.

Two hundred sixty respondents indicated that the crime that had occurred to

someone they know was violent. Most (65%) knew of one incident, while 3.8% were aware of more than three violent incidents. Given the normative distribution of types of crime, most respondents (423) who were aware of at least one crime incident affecting someone they knew indicated that it was a property crime, about 30% being aware of more than three incidents.

## Domestic Violence

Reporting personal victimization is an extremely difficult thing for victims to do, even in a survey that claims to be confidential. This reticence is normal and understandable. The result is that personal victimization, especially in an intimate context, is not likely to be reported even on a questionnaire. The number of incidents revealed in a self-report survey may be higher than those reported to the police, because the latter will certainly result in consequences, many of which the victim may not desire.

The point is that reported incidents of family violence are very likely to seriously under report the actual frequency of domestic violence. In order to obtain a picture of domestic violence in the County, the GPI survey asked people to self-report their own victimization: Has your spouse/partner, ex-spouse/partner, or other family member, assaulted you at any time in the past 5 years? In order to specify more precisely what was meant by the term "assault", the survey specified the following: "This includes threatening to hit you, or doing anything that could hurt you, like throwing something, pushing, grabbing, hitting, kicking, biting, choking, or threatening to use a weapon, etc."

In response to this question, 61 individuals (3.4% of 1811) said they had been assaulted by a spouse, an ex-spouse, or another family member in the last five years.

For the second question, which asked the number of times such violent domestic incidents had occurred over the last five years, the number claiming victimization dropped to 39. Of these, just over one third (35.7%) experienced abuse more than three times. Only seven victims reported the crime to the police.

**Table 10 - Reported Incidents of Violence in the Home (2000)**

	Number who rep't Incidents	Reported them To Police	Spouse/ Partner	Ex-spouse/ Partner	Other Family member
Past 12 months	26	5	17	5	13
Past 3 years	38	6	20	5	15
Past 5 years	39	7	22	9	14

Additional information was sought from respondents, who were asked to identify their domestic victimization over the past three years and past year, and also to indicate who perpetrated the violence. As Table 10 indicates, victims most frequently receive abuse from their spouse or partner, followed by other family members. These

numbers are not wholly consistent. There is a drop from 61 to 39 who indicate their victimization over five years from one question to the next. For each year, for example, the sum of those victimized by spouses, ex-spouses, and family members is greater than the number who report themselves to have been victimized by family members. This is understandable in the general uncertainty about answers on surveys about personal victimization.

Looking more closely at these numbers, while fewer cases involved ex-spouses or ex-partners, this does not mean that these relationships are likely to be less violent because there are fewer of them. (Only 7.4% of respondents said that they were divorced at the time of the survey, although no information was gathered about marital history – remarried people could have one or more ex-spouses.)

When asked whether they were physically injured in any of these incidents, 19 said they had been injured, 64.7% one time and 6% more than three times.

Examining the 61 respondents who reported being the victim of domestic assault over the last five years, the survey results indicated that 40 (65.6%) were women. There were marked differences by age.

**Table 11 - Domestic victimization by age (2000)**

	15-24	25-34	35-54	55 or >	Total
Victims (n)	13	13	30	5	61
Victims (%)	21.3	21.3	49.2	8.2	
Group % Of Total	5.4	12.5	48.2	33.9	

Those aged 15 to 24 were the most likely to report having been victimized. In the survey, 21.3% of those who reported being assaulted were in the youngest age group although they comprised only 5.4% of the total number surveyed. Similarly, students were more likely to be victimized, comprising 21.3% of all victims, yet only 6.1% of the total respondents. Those aged 25 to 34 also reported a disproportionate number of victims. Finally, the older age group (> 54) was less likely to report victimization – the older group comprised 33.9% of the survey population, but only 8.2% of the victims of domestic assault.

With respect to marital status, consistent with the findings relative to age, those who were never married were more likely to suffer domestic violence than those who were currently married. It stands to reason that the group who were most likely to indicate their victimization were those who were divorced or separated: 7.4% of all respondents indicated they were divorced or separated, but this category accounted for 26.2% of the victims of domestic assault.

Rate of victimization was inconsistently related to education. Among those with high school or less, the rate of victimization approximated the proportion in the total survey. On the other hand, those with community college diplomas tended to be somewhat more likely to indicate their victimization than those with a college degree. Being unemployed was not disproportionately linked to domestic victimization.

In a later question, Kings County respondents in 2000 were asked to agree or



disagree with the statement that “violence against spouses” was a “big problem” in their county. Of those who responded, 50.4% strongly agreed or agreed. Of 12 choices of “problems”, however, this was the lowest proportion of those who agreed (tied with “bullying”, with the exception of noise complaints and concern about fighting between groups. There was no significant gender difference in the identification of violence against spouses as a big problem: 52.3% of women and 4% of men agreed that it was a “big problem”.

Finally, Kings County residents were asked in 2000 whether or not they agreed with the statement, “Police should more often press charges for spouse battering.” Overall, there was substantial agreement (Table 12): 80.2% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. Even with this high level of acceptance for the laying of charges, statistically significant differences emerged among gender categories. Women more than men agreed with pressing charges in cases of spouse battering. The differences among age categories was not systematic; the main differences being the greater likelihood that respondents under 25 more than those over 25 expressed a neutral attitude, while those 55 or over tended to slightly more likely to disagree and more likely to indicate agreement rather than strong agreement. These differences are not substantively significant. Agreement that the police should pursue a policy of pressing charges did not appear to be affected by education. Respondents with different types of educational attainment were not statistically significant.

**Table 12 - Police Should Press Charges for Spousal Battery, by Sex and Age (2000)**

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	St. Agree	n
Gender					
males	3.4	20.7	50.7	25.2	783
females	2.2	14	50.9	32.9	964
Age					
15-24	1.5	20.4	46.7	31.4	137
25-54	2.6	16	49.4	32	1023
> 54	3.3	17.8	54.5	24.5	584

## PERCEPTION OF CRIME PROBLEMS

Both sample groups, Valley residents and the select sample, were asked whether specific types of offences were problems in their area. While the public generally considered the Valley to be a lower crime area than the select group, as indicated above, more respondents in the select sample tended to perceive the specific offence categories as being either a “big problem” or of being “somewhat” a problem.

**Table 13 - Specific Offences as Problems in Respondent's Area (1989)**

Offence	Sample	Big Problem	Somewhat Problem	No Problem	Total
Break & Enter	Public	3% (38)	32% (360)	65% (742)	n=1140
	Select	18% (7)	55% (21)	26% (10)	n=38
Traffic Prob.	Public	16% (178)	30% (347)	54% (617)	n=1142
	Select	26% (10)	47% (18)	26% (10)	n=38
Vandalism	Public	5% (52)	32% (368)	63% (723)	n=1143
	Select	13% (5)	74% (28)	13% (5)	n=38
Drug Use	Public	15% (155)	41% (423)	44% (455)	n=1033
	Select	38% (14)	57% (21)	5% (2)	n=37
Fighting Groups	Public	2% (26)	14% (160)	83% (930)	n=1116
	Select	3% (1)	13% (5)	84% (32)	n=38
Wife/Child Abuse	Public	6% (58)	26% (277)	69% (729)	n=1064
	Select	24% (9)	63% (24)	13% (5)	n=38
Noise/Loud Parties	Public	5% (52)	23% (267)	72% (825)	n=1144
	Select	5% (2)	40% (15)	55% (21)	n=38
People hanging around	Public	6% (71)	23% (265)	71% (805)	n=1141
	Select	24% (9)	50% (19)	26% (10)	n=38
Contact between Police & citizens	Public	4% (47)	17% (183)	79% (844)	n=1074
	Select	8% (3)	40% (15)	53% (20)	n=38
Drink & Driving	Public	16% (176)	43% (470)	41% (443)	n=1089
	Select	34% (13)	61% (23)	5% (2)	n=38
Bootlegging	Public	4% (42)	17% (178)	79% (806)	n=1026
	Select	0% (0)	33% (12)	67% (24)	n=36
Illegal Hunting	Public	9% (88)	24% (247)	68% (706)	n=1041
	Select	8% (3)	44% (16)	47% (17)	n=36

The 1989 public survey revealed that the biggest problems from the point of view of residents were traffic, drinking and driving, and drug use. In 2000, the GPI asked a similar compound question, though with different and largely non-comparable answer categories (see Table 13). That makes assessing any difference or changes

particularly problematic. Nevertheless, some similarities seem apparent. The GPI survey did not ask about traffic problems; however, the two major concerns reported were drinking and driving (75.6% agreed or strongly agreed was a “big (problem)” and drug use and/or trafficking (71.5%). The other most serious problems in 2000 were “increasing number of crimes involving young offenders” (69.9% agree) and “under-age drinking” (68.7%), neither of which was asked in 1989.

**Table 14 - The following are big problems in Kings County (2000)**

	St. Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	St. Agree	n
Places being broken into	1.6	10.8	25.9	47.6	14.1	1758
Vandalism or property destruction	1.3	8.6	23.5	50.9	15.7	1762
Fighting among different groups	5.3	31.2	45.8	14.3	3.4	1746
People hanging around	2.5	15.4	30.3	37.2	14.5	1754
Noisy parties, quarrels, music	3.2	26.2	45.5	19.1	6	1753
Increasing crimes involving youth	1.2	7.7	21.1	49.2	20.7	1755
Drug use and/or trafficking	1.1	5.6	21.7	45.3	26.2	1754
Violence against spouses	0.9	6.6	42.1	40.2	10.2	1745
Child abuse	1.3	7.6	47.8	32.9	10.3	1741
Bullying	1	7.7	41.1	36.8	13.4	1743
Under-age drinking	0.7	5.5	25.1	46.2	22.5	1752
Drinking and driving	0.7	5.1	18.6	47.3	28.3	1751

The main differences appear to be the relative emphases respondents give these questions. On break and enters, for example, in 1989 65% of respondents claimed it was “no problem”; in 2000, 61.7% agreed or strongly agreed that “homes or other places being broken into” was a “big problem”. Vandalism was “no problem” for 63% in 1989, and a “big problem” for 66.6% in 2000. A similar disparity appears for wife and child abuse (treated as separate questions in 2000). The difference was slightly less for noise, loud parties, and concern about people “hanging around”; and the results were reasonably similar for fighting among different groups. It would be premature, however, to conclude that the different results indicate a greater concern with problems in 2000 than 1989, given the different way in which respondents may have answered these questions. The most important background variable on these measures was age; gender had a small effect. For example, on the question of whether or not breaking and entering were a “big Problem” in Kings County, more women than men agreed (63.3% vs. 60%), but age differences were highly significant. Of those 15-24, 62.3% disagreed B&Es were a big problem. This contrasts with 38.5% and 31.6% for those 25-54 and 55 or more, respectively.

In general, however, it is interesting to note that the differences between the “select sample” in 1989 and the 2000 sample are much narrower.

In almost all categories in 1989, the select sample was likely to rate problems as more serious than the public rated them. The main exceptions were bootlegging and illegal hunting, largely rural crimes. The select group, generally, were less likely than

the general public to rate specific potential areas of complaint as not being a problem in their area. Twenty-six per cent of the select sample versus 65% of the public thought that "homes and other places being broken into" was not a problem; traffic was not a problem for 54% of the public and 26% of the select group; the comparable figures for other offences were as follows: vandalism, 63% vs. 13%; drug use, 44% vs. 5%; spouse and child abuse, 69% vs. 13%; people hanging around, 71% vs. 26%; illegal hunting (68% vs. 47%); and drinking and driving, 41% vs. 5%. The differences were less marked for bootlegging (79% vs. 67%) and noisy parties (72% vs. 55%). There was no difference concerning fighting among various groups in the community with slightly over 80% of both groups seeing this as "no problem".

In some cases, differences of opinion existed among the three sub-groups reported as "select" respondents. For example, 75% of controllers saw drugs as "somewhat a problem" while 73% of "collaborators" regarded drugs to be "a big problem". Similarly, 40% of controllers and 80% of collaborators and users thought the police should spend more time enforcing drug laws. In addition, controllers regarding drinking and driving as "somewhat" a problem while collaborators viewed it as a "big problem." Collaborators have what might be described as a police perspective on these questions because they work closely with the police and are often enforcement officers themselves.<sup>2</sup>

Finally, Kings County residents were asked in 2000 whether "More resources should be put into fighting 'white collar crime' (fraud, embezzlement, corporate crime, etc.)." Just over half (55.2%) agreed with expending more resources on this type of crime (Table 15). It indicates that it is not a great priority among respondents. There were, in addition, significant differences among gender and age groups. Men more than women, and the older more than younger groups thought more resources should be expended on white-collar crime. More men than women reported owning a business (14.1% vs. 10.7%). Among age groups, those aged 25 to 54 were the most likely to own or manage a business (16%). There was virtually no difference between those who owned/managed a business and those who did not on this question. Almost the same proportion of business owners/managers had their business victimized by crime over the previous 12 months (16.5%). Of those victimized, there was a slight tendency to wish for more resources to fight white-collar crime (50% vs 56.7%), but this difference was not significant statistically.

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<sup>2</sup> The responses of the "select sample" were also tested for variations by such factors as age and education. Generally, only small differences were found. In this group of questions, however, the problem of people hanging around in the streets was regarded as more of a problem by those with a lower level of educational attainment.

**Table 15 - More Resources Should be Put into Fighting White Collar Crime, by Sex and Age (2000)**

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	St.Agree	n
Gender					
males	8.2	30.7	42.7	18.4	782
females	10.9	38.6	38.2	12.3	958
Age					
15-24	11.8	46.3	33.8	8.1	136
25-54	11.3	41	35.7	12	1019
> 54	6.4	21.6	49.8	22.2	582

## CRIME RATES: LOCAL COMPARISONS

Typically, surveys ask people to compare the amount of crime in their neighbourhood relative to a variety of comparison points. Respondents in the valley survey were asked their perceptions of crime in their neighbourhood, and in their area in relation to other areas. Most regarded their area to have a low (45.4%) or average (46.4%) rate of crime. When comparing their area with others, Kentville stood out as the one residents felt had a bigger crime problem than other areas around it. Kentville respondents were also the most likely to believe that crime had increased over the last two years.

The G.P.I. survey of 2000 asked respondents to compare their neighbourhood with other areas in Canada. Only 1.2% (22 of 1789) of Kings County respondents said that crime was higher in their neighbourhood. By far the largest majority (76.1%) believed it was lower than in other areas of Canada. The remainder, 22.6% believed it was much the same.

There was almost no difference in the response by gender, and very slight differences by age and marital status (with the older respondents and those widowed slightly more likely to claim crime was the same in their neighbourhood as elsewhere. These differences were statistically insignificant. There was a slight (and also insignificant) tendency for a smaller proportion of the unemployed (64.2%) to judge crime to be lower in their area. On the other hand, those with more education were, again slightly, more likely to see crime in their neighbourhood as lower (for example, 83% of those with a college degree).

Being victimized in the last five years, as might be expected, was statistically associated with a tendency to claim less frequently that crime in their area was lower than elsewhere in Canada, most of the variation being accounted for by those who felt crime was about the same as elsewhere. Still, 68.3 of victims felt crime was lower in their area.

**Table 16 – Perceived Amount of Crime by Victimization (2000)**

	Higher		About Same		Lower		n
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Victim (5 yrs)	7	2.6	77	29.1	181	68.3	265
Not Victim	15	1.0	327	21.5	1181	77.5	1523

Similarly, respondents are routinely asked whether crime in their neighbourhood has increased or decreased over a certain period, in the G.P.I. survey, the comparison framework was five years. While most respondents felt that it had remained the same (56%), more believed it had increased (19.7%) than the proportion who thought it had decreased (5.5%) – the remainder indicated “don’t know”.

Looking at only those who expressed an opinion, men were slightly more likely to think crime had decreased; women to think it had remained the same. Looking at age groups and marital status, those 15-24 as well as those separated or divorced were slightly more likely to think crime had increased; those 25-54 as well as those who were widowed, were more likely to believe that it had remained the same. Those with university degrees were the least likely to think crime had increased, and the most likely to think it had remained the same. Finally, being victimized was significantly correlated with a higher tendency to believe crime had increased, while fewer believed it had remained the same.

**Table 17 - Perceived Change in Crime by Victimization (2000)**

	Increased		Decreased		About Same		n
	n	%	n	%	N	%	
Victim, last 5 yrs	86	38.4	13	5.8	125	55.8	224
Not victim	267	21.7	86	7.0	879	71.3	1232

## FEAR OF CRIME

A common measure of the fear of crime is to ask how safe the respondent feels walking alone in their area after dark. This question was asked in the 1989 survey.

Nine out of ten Valley respondents felt very safe walking alone in their area in the daytime, and 80% felt “very” or “reasonably safe” walking at night. One in five Valley residents (20.1%) felt “somewhat” or “very unsafe” at night.

**Table 18 - Fear of Walking Alone by Day and at Night (1989)**

	By Day	At Night			
	Very Safe	Very Safe	Reasonably Safe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe
RCMP	656	398	185	87	52
	89.50%	55.10%	25.60%	12.00%	7.20%
Hantsport	45	29	8	9	1
	95.70%	61.70%	17.00%	19.10%	2.10%
Middleton	54	32	14	8	3
	94.70%	56.10%	24.60%	14.00%	5.30%
Berwick	35	19	5	8	3
	97.20%	54.30%	14.30%	22.90%	8.60%
Wolfville	76	42	20	16	2
	93.80%	52.50%	25.00%	20.00%	2.50%
Kentville	111	58	44	21	5
	86.70%	45.30%	34.40%	16.40%	3.90%
Missing	51	34	20	6	1
TOTAL	977	578	276	149	66
	90.30%	54.10%	25.80%	13.90%	6.20%

There were variations among groups in the sample. Only about 35% of women felt “very safe” at night while 34.3% felt “somewhat” or “very unsafe”. Only 5.1% of men felt unsafe. Fear also varied by income, with fear varying inversely with reported annual income.

**Table 19 - How Safe Respondents Feel Walking Alone at Night by Background Variables (1989)**

		Very Safe	Reasonably Safe	Somewhat/Very Unsafe
Gender	Male	416	121	29
		73.50%	21.40%	5.10%
	Female	196	174	193
		34.80%	30.90%	34.30%
Income	Less than \$20,000	151	72	84
		49.20%	23.50%	27.40%
	\$20,000-\$40,000	245	131	73
		54.60%	29.20%	16.30%
	40,000+	125	55	24
		61.30%	27.00%	11.80%
Age	53-89	202	71	95
		54.90%	19.30%	25.80%
	34-54	196	115	66
		52.00%	30.50%	17.50%
	18-33	204	106	54
		56.00%	29.10%	14.80%

Finally, fear also varied directly with age: the older respondents were more fearful than the younger groups, although the major difference, as Table 19 reveals, is that the older group is more likely to report feeling "somewhat or very unsafe" rather than "reasonably safe".

The question about perceived safety was also asked of the Valley knowledgeable (or "select") sample: those who used police services, collaborated with the police, or were in a position of control over policing. Comparing this sample of "knowledgeables" with the general public, differences were also found between the two samples. While about half of both groups felt "very safe" at night, about a further half of the select sample and only a quarter of the public felt "reasonably safe"; 20% of the public and none of the select group felt "somewhat" or "very unsafe".

**Table 20 - Respondent Feels Safe Alone at Night: Public vs. Select (1989)**

	Public #	Public %	Select #	Select %
Very Safe	612	54%	18	49%
Reasonably Safe	296	26%	19	51%
Somewhat Unsafe	155	14%	0	0%
Very Unsafe	67	6%	0	0%
Total	1130	100%	37	100%

One major demographic difference between the two groups was age; the "select sample" uniformly was employed, represented a relatively "middle-aged" group rather than the "older" group which was the most fearful overall, and was primarily men. Fear of victimization, as noted above, is closely related to being older, less well-off financially, and female. The difference may also reflect the observation that many members of the select sample were middle class and relatively comfortable, particularly among the controllers and, as well, among many of the collaborators. They might be expected to be less anxious generally and have more resources to help them avoid potentially dangerous situations. On the other hand, there was a slight tendency for the select group to report having been victimized over the last two years (16% replied "yes" as opposed to 9% of the public). This difference is small and may not be meaningful, although it also may be worth pointing out that many of the "users" were owners of small businesses and the law enforcement out that some of the "collaborators" who work in enforcement or service occupations often place themselves in positions of criminal contact and potential danger.

In 2000, as Table 21 indicates, overall 86% of Kings County residents felt very or reasonably safe walking alone at night in 2002. Considerably more men than women (43.7% vs. 15.3%) feel "very safe" while more women feel somewhat unsafe. In addition, more than three times as many women than men say they do not walk alone after dark. This may not be due to fear but could be caused by problems of mobility, if



it is assumed that men may have more access to transportation than women.

**Table 21 - Fear of Walking Alone at Night, by Sex (2000)**

	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat /Very unsafe	Total (n)
Male	46.7	46.6	6.7	751
Female	19.6	59.5	21.0	782
Total	32.9	53.2	14.0	1533

While the general trend was similar with respect to gender, the 1989 public survey found that a higher proportion of both men and women felt “very safe” walking alone at night, 73.5% of men compared with 34.8% of women. The proportion of men feeling somewhat or very unsafe was similar in the two surveys (6.7% in 1989; 6.2% in 2002), but 34.3% of women felt unsafe in 1989 compared with 21% in 2002. In 1989, then, more men and women felt very safe than those who reported in 2002, but more women in 1989 also felt somewhat or very unsafe than in 2002.

Fear of walking alone is associated with age. More residents who are older stay home and do not venture out at night. From the 2002 findings, among those who do, the age group 55 or more were the least likely to report they felt very safe, but also the least likely to say they felt very unsafe. The latter finding is possibly because many others who would feel very unsafe go out seldom, indicating that fear of being victimized is a possible factor in their lower mobility. The Valley survey of 1989 similarly reported a significant difference in fear among the older rather than the younger residents. Similarly, among economic groups the most fearful group was those who were retired. The university educated group was also anomalous, in this case being the least fearful group. Those with high school or less, or community college diplomas were more likely to claim they were “reasonably” rather than “very safe”. Looking at groups according to their reported “main activity”, homemakers were the least likely to feel very safe, and the most likely to say they felt reasonably safe.

More women than men (19.5% vs 24.7%) agreed that they would be more willing to walk at night if they felt safer from crime. Crime, then, was not the main factor inhibiting outdoor activity after dark.

**Table 22 - Fear of Walking Alone at Night, by Age (2000)**

	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat/ Very unsafe	Total (n)
15-24	34.3%	50.7%	14.9%	134
25-54	34.1	52.1	13.8	936
>54	30.2	55.7	14.1	401
Total	504	813	214	1531

The youngest group (aged 15-24) was more likely to say that they would walk more at night if they were less afraid of crime. Eighteen per cent of the 55+ age group, and 40.9% of the 15-24 group would walk more if they feared crime less. At least for the younger group, fear appears to be a factor inhibiting their activity.

Consistent with the above findings, previous victimization is associated with greater fear (Table 23). A higher proportion of those who were not victimized say they do not walk at night, most likely reflecting the tendency for older respondents both to be less victimized and to be less mobile. If we examine only those who claim they do walk at night, logically very few feel "very unsafe". Otherwise, victimization has a considerable and significant effect making people more fearful.

**Table 23 - Fear of Walking Alone at Night, by Previous Victimization (2000)**

	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Total (n)
Victimized	26.8%	50.2%	21.3%	1.7%	
Not Victim	33.8	53.9	10.7	1.6	
Total	504	821	190	25	1540

Employing the measure of education, the university educated were the least fearful.

## Worry About Specific Crimes

More than half (53.9%) of Valley residents in 1989 did not worry at all about being a victim of crime in 1989. People in the smaller towns are least likely to express worry while Kentville residents were the most fearful. Gender, income, and age had predictable effects. Women and men were somewhat different: 5.1% of men and 8.9% of women worry "very much" or "much" about being victimized. Considering age, the older group was more likely to say they did not worry at all, while the middle and youngest groups expressed "some" worry.

**Table 24 - Worry about Being a Victim (1989)**

	Much	Some	Not at all	Missing	TOTAL
RCMP	52	282	399	0	733
	7.10%	38.50%	54.40%		100.00%
Hantsport	1	11	35	0	47
	2.10%	23.40%	74.50%		100.00%
Middleton	2	20	35	0	57
	3.50%	35.10%	61.40%		100.00%
Berwick	1	9	27	0	37
	2.70%	24.30%	73.00%		100.00%

Wolfville	6	37	39	0	82
	7.30%	45.10%	47.60%		100.00%
Kentville	17	62	49	0	128
	13.30%	48.40%	38.30%		100.00%
Missing	1	21	40	1	63
TOTAL	79	421	584	1	1084
	7.30%	38.80%	53.90%		

When asked about specific worries, residents were most concerned about break and enters and vandalism, and less concerned about being robbed or attacked.

In 2000, respondents were asked how worried they were about a set of specific crimes. The overall results appear in Table 25. Logically, respondents tended to be more worried about property than violent crimes. Although far fewer acts of violent crime occur, the worry about them may be greater because of the severe potential impact they may have. The greatest proportion said they were worried about “having my vehicle, residence or other property broken into” or “vandalized”. It would have been useful to separate out residence from vehicle, since vehicles are more vulnerable and more frequently broken into than residences. Theft from automobiles has been a frequent occurrence in some neighbourhoods.

**TABLE 25 - Respondent's Degree of Worry About Specific Crimes (%) (2000)**

Questions I worry About:	Not at All worried	Not Too worried	Some- What worried	Very worried	n
Held-up or mugged	49.2	38.5	11.5	0.8	1778
Being assaulted	46.5	39.9	11.7	1.8	1780
My vehicle or prop. broken into	28.1	38.6	40.6	5	1778
My vehicle or prop. vandalized	18.1	43.2	34.5	4.3	1775
Family member victim of break-in	29.9	45.1	22	3	1763
Fam. member victim of home invasion	32	44.3	20.4	3.2	1761
Fam. member victim of violent crime	33	44.7	19.3	3	1758
Fam. member victim of property crime	24	45.2	27.8	2.9	1764

Examining the question, “I worry about being held up or mugged”, women are more fearful. Sixty percent of men versus 40% of women were “not at all worried”, while 7.4% of men and 14.6% of women were “somewhat worried”. Similarly, the pattern held for “homemakers”. While the disparity was narrower, a similar pattern was found for age groups, with the older group (55+) being the most likely (14.4%) to claim being “somewhat worried”. Those with university degrees were the least worried: 5.6% versus 11.5% (overall) being “somewhat worried”.

Considering the question about whether the respondent was worried about being assaulted, there was very little difference by age (with the 15-24 age group being slightly more fearful), although gender differences were strong, as Table 26 shows.

**Table 26 - Worry About Being Assaulted, by Gender (2000)**

	Not at all Worried	Not too worried	Somewhat worried	Very worried	Total
Males	59.4	33.6	5.6	1.4	791
Females	36.1	45.1	16.6	2.1	980
n					1771

Respondents were most concerned about property crime, logically given its higher rate of incidence. In 1989, Valley residents worried the most about break and enters and vandalism. Almost half (45.6%) of the respondents in 2002 were somewhat worried or very worried about having their vehicle, residence or other property broken into, while 39.8% were concerned about being vandalized. The results varied significantly by gender with more women (50.3%) being somewhat or very worried, than men (40.0%). The results by age were inconsistent and not significant, although the 15-24 age group was the least fearful, perhaps reflecting their lower degree of property ownership. Similarly, students and the unemployed expressed the least worry. Those victimized by crime in the last five years were also more likely to express some or much worry about being broken into than those not victimized (62.6% vs. 42.6). Finally, Table 27 shows that those who felt that their neighbourhood had a lower rate of crime than Canada generally expressed less worry than those who felt that their neighbourhood had about the same amount of crime, or a higher amount. Logically, those who felt crime had increased in their neighbourhood also felt more worried about property crime.

**Table 27 - Fear of Break-in, by Victimization and Attitudes about Neighbourhood Crime (2000)**

		Not at all Worried	Not too worried	Somewhat worried	Very worried	TOTAL
Victim over last 5 years	Crime victim	8.4%	29.0	51.5	11.1	262
	Not crime victim	17.1%	40.3	38.6	4.0	1515
Crime in Neighbourhood	Higher, Same	12.9%	28.0	47.6	11.5	418
	Lower Amount	16.5%	42.1	38.4	3.0	1350
Change in Neighbourhood crime	Increased Over 5 yrs	7.4%	25.4	52.7	14.5	351
	Decreased/ or the same	16.8	41.3	39.3	2.7	1090

Examining the fear that a member of the respondent's household may be the victim of a home invasions, women were more fearful than men (25.8% vs. 21.1%). Worry also varied directly with age, though the relationship was less strong. The 15-34 age group being the least worried in comparison with other groups. Those victimized by crime in the last five years were also more likely to express some or much worry about a home invasion than those not victimized (28.7% vs. 22.7%), though the differences were narrower than on the question of property crime (see above).

## Protective Measures

Another measure of worry about crime asks people how they protect themselves. Asking whether people take active measures to ward off crime is more potentially useful than asking them about worry. Of 1805 respondents, almost two thirds (63.5%) said they lock their residence more often than they used to. One-third (33.7) do so even if they are home during the day. Asked about whether they lock their vehicles more often, 59.7% agreed that they did.

Considering only those who are more likely to lock their home even during the day when they are home, women were more likely than men (40.5% vs. 25.5%) to do so as were those 55 and over, who were more likely than younger respondents as a single group (42.3% vs. 29.6%). Homemakers and the retired followed the same pattern. Those with more education tended to be less likely to lock their home while they were inside.

Respondents were asked whether they had taken a number of other measures to protect themselves from crime over the last twelve months, from changing their routine, installing alarms, or actually changing residences. The results from Table 28 show that changing your routine (11.5%) and target-hardening measures such as installing locks, alarms, or lights, or obtaining a dog, were the most common measures taken.

In addition, Table 28 also lists other measures that respondents were asked whether they had taken to make themselves safer from crime. About half of the respondents said they locked the car door for personal safety when they were alone (46.7%) and checked the back seat when they returned alone to a parked vehicle to check for intruders (50.5%). One third (33.7%) said that they planned their route with safety in mind, although the question did not specify driving route or walking route.

**Table 28 - Activities Undertaken, last 12 Months, for Protection (2000)**

	Yes	(n)
Changed routine, activities, or avoided certain places	11.5	1707
Installed new locks or security bars	9.9	1710
Installed home burglar alarms or motion detector lights	10.4	1709
Installed a new car alarm	1.5	1704
Taken a self-defence course	1.4	1705

Changed your phone number	0.9	1703
Obtained a dog	5.4	1707
Obtained a gun	0.4	1702
Changed residence or moved	0.6	1696
Carry something for defence or to alert other people	9.5	1747
Lock the car door when alone in the car	46.7	1761
Check back seat of car when returning to it alone	50.5	1762
Plan your route with safety in mind	33.7	1753
Stay at home at night out of fear to go outside	4.9	1762

Looking at the question of whether the respondent plans his or her route with safety in mind, more women (43.5%) than men (21.6%) claimed that they did. Among age groups, those under 25 were the least likely to plan their route (16.7%) compared to those 25 or over (35.2%). Those victimized by crime were also more likely to plan their route, although the difference was narrower than for sex and age (39.2% vs. 32.7%).

Finally, the survey asked, in general, how satisfied Kings County residents felt with their personal safety from crime. Women, the elderly, and those victimized by crime were significantly more likely to be “somewhat” rather than “very” satisfied with their personal level of security. In addition, those who were students, and those with a university degree were also more likely than their comparison groups to be “very satisfied”.

**Table 29 - Level of Satisfaction with Safety, by Background Variables (2000)**

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat or Very Dissatisfied	(n)
Men	58.9	38.7	2.4	793
Women	43.4	53.1	3.5	975
Age: 15-24	59.7	37.4	2.9	139
Age: 25-54	52.0	45.1	2.9	103
Age 55 or >	45.1	51.7	3.2	594
Victimized Last 5 yrs	36.4	57.1	6.5	261
Not Victimized	52.7	44.8	2.4	151