

**THE JAMAICAN NATIONAL
CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY**

FINAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Methodology

- The 2006 Jamaican National Victimization Survey (JNVS) is the first victimization survey conducted in Jamaica that is based on a representative sample of the general Jamaican population.
- The survey instrument and sampling strategy were designed by researchers from the Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto in collaboration with officials from the Ministry of National Security and the Statistical Survey of Jamaica (STATIN).
- All field work was conducted by STATIN. The final victimization survey was completed by a random sample of 3,112 Jamaican residents, 16 years of age or over.
- Interviews were conducted between May and June 2006. Data entry and data cleaning were completed by the end of October 2006.
- The final response rate (the proportion of households contacted by STATIN that participated in the survey) was approximately 87%. This response rate is excellent by international survey research standards.
- All respondents were asked questions about their personal background, their perceptions of community crime and disorder problems, their personal victimization experiences, crimes that they may have witnessed, fear of crime, attitudes towards the criminal justice system, attitudes towards crime prevention, their own use of alcohol and illicit drugs and their own involvement in various criminal activities.
- The final sample is broadly representative of the Jamaican population. However, there may be a slight under-representation of young people between 16 and 29 years of age.

Community Crime Problems

- Respondents were asked to what extent different types of crime and disorder problems existed within their local communities.
- The results suggest that drug use and drug trafficking are the most common type of crime problem. Almost half of all respondents (48%) indicated that drug use

was at least sometimes a problem in their communities and over one quarter (28%) indicated that it was often a problem. Similarly, over one third of all respondents (35%) indicated that drug dealing was at least sometimes a problem in their communities and almost 20% stated that it was often a problem.

- Robbery also appears to be a relatively common problem in Jamaican communities. For example, over a third of respondents indicated that robbery was sometimes a problem in their communities and one out of every 14 respondents indicated that robbery is often a problem.
- Other types of crime problems appear to be less widespread. For example, only 3% of respondents claimed that prostitution was often a problem in their communities and only 2.7% reported that vandalism was often a problem. Similarly, less than one percent of all respondents felt that rape or sexual assault was often a problem in their communities.
- Respondents were also asked if any of their neighbours had moved out of their community because of crime. The vast majority of respondents (76%) claimed that nobody had moved because of crime or the threat of crime. However, one out of every fifteen respondents (6.5%) claimed that many people had moved out of their community because of crime and an additional 11% indicated that at least a few people had moved.
- Respondents were also asked if outside friends or relatives would be safe to visit them in their current communities. Most felt that outside visitors would be either very safe (33%) or safe (59%) visiting their communities. However, one out of sixteen respondents (6.4%) felt that outside visitors would not be safe in their neighbourhoods.
- Respondents were asked how often they heard gunshots in their communities. Approximately one third of the respondents claimed that they never heard gunshots in their community. An additional 41% claimed that they only heard gunshots a few times per year. However, 14% of respondents claimed that they heard gunshots in their communities at least once per month and an additional 13% claim that they heard gunshots once per week or more often.
- Gunshots were most likely to be reported by respondents living within the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA). For example, 46% of respondents living in Kingston reported hearing gunshots in their community once per week or more often, followed by 22% of the respondents from St. Andrew. By contrast, less than one percent of the respondents from St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, Manchester and Portland reported hearing gunshots once per week or more.
- Respondents were asked if there was a corner crew operating within their neighbourhoods. Over one third of all respondents (39%) indicated that their communities had a corner crew.

- Those respondents who stated that their communities had corner crews were asked whether these crews had a positive or negative impact on their neighbourhoods. A third of these respondents (33%) indicated that the corner crews did positive things for their communities, while only 27% claimed that they had a negative impact.
- Finally, respondents were asked if their communities had Area Dons. Only 4% of all respondents indicated that their communities had Area Dons. Area Dons appear to be far more prevalent in the Parish of Kingston than other areas of Jamaica. Indeed, 28% of the respondents from Kingston claimed that their community had an Area Don, compared to only 6% of the respondents from St. Andrew (the next most common location for Area Dons).
- Those respondents who stated that their community had an Area Don were asked whether this Don had a positive or negative impact on their neighbourhoods. According to the respondents, Area Dons apparently do more good than harm. For example, 43% of those respondents who live in communities with Area Dons claimed that Dons had done positive things for their communities. By contrast, only 25% claim that their Area Dons had a negative impact.

The Prevalence of Criminal Victimization

- All respondents were asked whether they had experienced 18 different types of criminal victimization. Respondents were also asked whether their last victimization experience had taken place within the past year or at some other point in their lives.
- The results indicate that almost two out of every three respondents (61%) had been victims of a crime at some point in their lives. Almost one out of every four respondents (24%) had been victims of a crime within the past twelve months. By contrast, 39% of the respondents claimed that they have never been crime victims.
- Praedial larceny (defined as the theft of food or agricultural products) is the most common type of victimization. One of every six respondents (17.5%) had been the victim of praedial larceny at some point in their lives and 8.1% had been victims of this type of crime in the past year.
- Other relatively common forms of property victimization included larceny and burglary. Overall, 16.5% of the respondents indicated that they had been victims of larceny (personal theft) at some point in their lives and 3.0% claimed that they were victims of larceny within the past twelve months. Similarly, 14.0% of all respondents indicated that they had been victims of a burglary or break-in at some point in their lives and 2% indicated that they had been victims of this type of crime in the past year.

- Other forms of property victimization were far less common. For example, only 4.9% of the respondents indicated that they had been victims of motor vehicle theft at some time in their lives and less than one percent (0.6%) indicated that they had been victims of motor vehicle theft in the past year.
- Threats not involving a weapon were the most frequently reported type of violent victimization, followed by threats with a weapon, robbery at gunpoint, physical assault, assault with a weapon, robbery without a firearm and sexual assault.
- One out of every eight respondents (12%) reported that they had been threatened by someone without a weapon at some point in their lives. By comparison, 8.3% have been threatened by someone with a weapon, 7.9% had been victims of an armed robbery (at gunpoint), 6.7% had been victims of a physical assault (no weapon involved), 6.4% had been victims of a robbery that did not involve a firearm and 6.2% had been victims of an assault involving a weapon. Only 2.4% of the respondents indicated that they had been victims of a sexual assault or rape at some time in their lives.
- In the past twelve months, 3.1% of all respondents reported that they had been victims of a threat that did not involve a weapon, 2.3% had been victims of a threat involving a weapon, 1.6% had been victims of an assault involving a weapon, 1.3% had been victims of a gunpoint robbery, 0.8% had been victims of a physical assault (no weapon involved) and 0.8% had been victims of a robbery that did not involve a firearm. Only one out of every 1,000 respondents (0.1%) indicated that they had been the victim of a sexual assault in the past year.
- In general, the survey results suggest that male respondents were somewhat more likely to be victims of car theft, theft from motor vehicles, bike (or motorcycle) theft, armed robbery, threats involving a weapon, assault involving a weapon and fraud. By contrast, women were much more likely to report being victims of sexual assault. Women were also slightly more likely to report being victims of larceny (personal theft) and physical assaults not involving a weapon.
- In general, younger people (under 40 years of age) were more likely to report being recent (past year) victims of a violent crime (threats, physical assaults, assaults with weapons, robberies, etc.). However, older respondents were much more likely to report praedial larceny and were just as likely to report property crimes including burglary and motor vehicle theft.
- A comparison of the results from the 2006 Jamaica National Victimization Survey with the results from 2005 United States National Crime Victimization Survey suggests that Jamaicans are at greater risk of violent victimization than their American counterparts. While the rate of sexual assault is similar between the two countries (approximately 1 per 1,000), the robbery victimization rate in Jamaica (20 per 1,000) is almost seven times higher than in the United States (3 per 1,000). Similarly, the Jamaican assault rate (68 per 1,000) is almost four

times greater than the American assault rate (18 per 1,000). Nonetheless, the difference in the overall property victimization rate between the two nations (171 per 1,000 for Jamaica compared to 156 per 1,000 in the United States) is quite small.

- Thus, consistent with official crime statistics, the results of this victimization survey indicate that although the rate of violent victimization in Jamaica is quite high, the rate of property victimization in Jamaica is similar to that in other Western democracies.

Details of Recent Victimization Experiences

- Respondents were asked to provide details about victimization experiences that took place within the past twelve months.
- Overall, information on 973 recent victimization incidents was collected.
- The results suggest that victimization experiences were most likely to occur in December, January, February, March and May. Victimization was least likely to occur in June, July and September.
- The results suggest that victimization, particularly violent victimization, was somewhat more likely to occur on weekends rather than during the week.
- The results suggest that crimes can occur at any time during the day. However, victimization was somewhat more likely to occur in the late evening (between 9:00 pm and Midnight) than other time periods.
- According to the respondents, over half of all recent victimization incidents took place within their own home. An additional 13% took place on the street near their homes or within their communities. Approximately 8% of all victimization incidents took place on the street outside of the respondents' community and an additional 5% took place at work. According to the survey results, victimization rarely took place in other public locations (i.e., bars, restaurants, the beach, etc.).
- Respondents were asked about the number of offenders that were involved in each recent victimization incident. The results suggest that in 44% of all victimization incidents the respondent could not identify the number of offenders. However, in 33% of all cases there was only one offender, in 11% of all cases there were two offenders and in 9% of all cases there were three or more offenders. It appears that robberies and assaults are more likely to involve multiple offenders than other types of crime.
- Respondents were unable to identify the sex of offenders in 46% of all cases. However, the data also indicate that – when identified -- offenders were usually

male. Indeed, the respondents identified their offender as male in 46% of all cases. By contrast, only 6% of all cases involved female offenders and an additional 2% of all cases involved both male and female offenders.

- The data indicate that the respondent could not identify the age of the offenders in 48% of all cases. However, when identified, offenders were typically reported to be young adults. For example, in 22% of all cases the respondent claimed the offender (or offenders) was between 25 and 39 years of age and in 16% of all cases they claimed the offender was between 18 and 24 years of age. By contrast, only 1.3% of offenders were over 55 years of age and only 4% were 17 years of age or younger.
- Respondents were also asked whether or not they knew the offender. In 47% of all cases the offender was not identified. However, in 24% of all cases the offender was identified as a stranger. Personal acquaintances (13%), neighbours (8%) and friends (4%) were reported to be the next most common offenders, followed by co-workers (1.2%), cousins (1.1%), siblings (0.9%) and boyfriends or girlfriends (0.9%). According to respondents, victimization rarely occurred at the hands of parents, children or other relatives.
- A closer examination of the data indicates that over 90% of all robberies involved strangers. By contrast, physical assaults and threats were more likely to involve friends and acquaintances than strangers.
- The results suggest that the victim was injured in 8.4% of all recent victimization incidents. A closer analysis of the data indicates that injury was most likely to occur following physical assaults (65%) and robberies (17%). Injury rarely resulted from threats or property crimes.
- Almost half (42%) of those injured during a crime had to visit a hospital as a result of their injuries.
- One third (35%) of those who were injured as the result of a crime had to miss work or school because of their injuries.
- Respondents were asked whether or not they reported specific victimization incidents to the police. The results suggest that the police were notified in less than a third (32%) of all cases. In other words, respondents failed to report their victimization to the police in 68% of all recent incidents.
- The data suggest that the more serious the crime, the higher the likelihood of reporting. Respondents, for example, were more likely to report robberies and serious assaults -- especially if they resulted in injury -- than property crime. Respondents were also more likely to report property crimes that resulted in significant financial loss than property crimes involving inexpensive items or small amounts of money. Interestingly, motor vehicle theft was more likely to be

reported to the police than any other type of crime. It is likely that many respondents report motor vehicle theft for insurance purposes.

- When the crime was reported to (or discovered by) the police, respondents were asked about the actions taken by the police. The results suggest that the police visited the scene and talked to the victim in 59% of these cases. The police talked to the victim over the phone in an additional 13% of all cases. Less than half of the respondents in these cases claimed that the police conducted an investigation and only 20% of respondents claimed that the police talked to the offender.
- With respect to case outcome, respondents believe that arrests were made in only 8% of all cases and charges were laid in an additional 7%.
- For those incidents in which the crime was reported to the police, respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction with how the police dealt with their case. Satisfaction with police performance was quite low. Only 19.7% of these respondents claimed that they were “very satisfied” with the police and an additional 17.4% stated that they were “satisfied.” By contrast, almost half of these respondents were either “not very satisfied” with the police (14.2%) or “not satisfied at all” (32.5%).
- When a crime was known to the police, respondents were asked if they thought the police should have done more to deal with the incident. Two out of every five respondents (41.5%) indicated that they felt that the police could not have done anything more. However, 26.2% felt that the police should have treated the crime more seriously, 22.6% felt they should have conducted a better investigation, 13.2% felt that they should have responded more quickly and 11.2% felt that the police should have arrested or charged the offender.
- Those respondents who did not report recent victimization experiences to the police were asked why they did not report these crimes. Almost one out of every three of these respondents (29.7%) claimed that they did not report the crime because they felt that it was not serious enough. An additional 24.1% claimed that the police could not do anything. One out of seven of these respondents (14.3%) did not report the crime to the police because they felt that they could deal with the incident on their own. An additional 14% felt that the police would not care. Other reasons for not reporting the crime to the police included fear of the offenders (5.6%), not trusting the police (3.4%), not wanting to be a snitch or informer (3.0%), fear of getting into trouble with the police (2.7%), fear of the offender’s family or friends (2.1%), a desire to seek revenge (2.1%) and to protect the offender (1.5%).
- Almost one out of every 50 victims (1.8%) claimed that they sought their own revenge against the offenders.

- Further analysis revealed that recent victimization incidents had a significant impact on the crime victims. For example, 66% of all victims claimed that they were “very upset” by the crime, while an additional 26% indicated that they were at least a little upset. Only 7% of victims claimed that they were not upset at all.
- In addition, 37.2% of recent crime victims claimed that they were very frightened by the incident, 10.6% were frightened and 21.1% claimed they were a little frightened. Only 29.5% reported that they were not frightened at all. Respondents were more frightened by robberies and assaults than by threats or property crimes.
- Other feelings that emerged as the result of recent victimization experiences include anger (56.4%), hurt or disappointment (30.7%), shock or disbelief (20.8%), depression (10.8%), problems sleeping (8.9%), financial problems (7.2%), feelings of helplessness (5.9%), fear for family or children (2.8%), anxiety attacks (2.5%), shame or guilt (2.1%) and lowered self-esteem (1.3%).
- Almost a third of all crime victims (28.9%) claimed that they changed their way of life as a result of a recent victimization experience.

Indirect Exposure to Crime

- Almost one out of every ten respondents (8.4%) reported that they had witnessed a murder at some time in their lives. One out of every fifty respondents (2%) claimed to have witnessed a murder in the past twelve months.
- Only 12.3% of the respondents who witnessed a murder reported the incident to the police. Over 80% did not talk to the police.
- Reasons for not talking to the police about a murder that had been witnessed included the feeling that it is “none of my business” (cited by 38.7% of non-reporting respondents); there were other witnesses (29%); the respondent did not want to be an informer (17.1%); fear of the offenders (15.7%); the belief that the police cannot provide adequate protection from the offenders or their associates (13.8%); the fact that there were already police witnesses to the crime (11.9%); feelings of distrust towards the police (10.3%); the fact that the offender was arrested (10.1%); not wanting to appear in court (7.4%) and fear of the police (3.2%).
- One out of every eight respondents (12.3%) reported that they had witnessed a shooting or gun battle at some time in their lives. One out of every twenty respondents (4%) claimed to have witnessed a shooting or gun battle in the past twelve months.

- Only 9.9% of the respondents who witnessed a shooting or gun battle reported the incident to the police. Over 85% did not talk to the police.
- Reasons for not talking to the police about a shooting that had been witnessed included the feeling that it “is none of my business” (cited by 37.8% of non-reporting respondents); there were other witnesses (16.9%); the respondent did not want to be an informer (15.1%); fear of the offenders (12.9%); the belief that the police cannot provide adequate protection from the offenders or their associates (9.5%); the fact that there were already police witnesses to the crime (16.3%); feelings of distrust towards the police (11.4%); the fact that the offender was arrested (2.5%); not wanting to appear in court (3.7%) and fear of the police (3.1%).
- One out of every six respondents (17.3%) reported that they had witnessed a robbery at some time in their lives. One out of every seventeen respondents (5.8%) claimed to have witnessed an armed robbery in the past twelve months.
- Only 12.3% of the respondents who witnessed an armed robbery reported the incident to the police. Over 83% did not talk to the police.
- Reasons for not talking to the police about an armed robbery that had been witnessed include the feeling that it “is none of my business” (cited by 44.4% of non-reporting respondents); there were other witnesses (22.8%); the respondent did not want to be an informer (9.4%); fear of the offenders (14.5%); the belief that the police cannot provide adequate protection from the offenders or their associates (8.0%); the fact that there were already police witnesses to the crime (3.1%); feelings of distrust towards the police (10.3%); the fact that the offender was arrested (5.6%); not wanting to appear in court (5.6%) and fear of the police (1.3%).
- One out of every four respondents (25.4%) reported that they had witnessed a serious assault or beating at some time in their lives. One out of every ten respondents (9.3%) claimed to have witnessed a serious assault or beating in the past twelve months.
- Less than 10% of the respondents who witnessed a serious assault or beating reported the incident to the police. Approximately 88% did not talk to the police.
- Reasons for not talking to the police about a serious assault or beating that had been witnessed include the feeling that it “is none of my business” (cited by 51% of non-reporting respondents); there were other witnesses (24.5%); the respondent did not want to be an informer (14.7%); fear of the offenders (7.2%); the belief that the police cannot provide adequate protection from the offenders or their associates (7.1%); the fact that there were already police witnesses to the crime (5.5%); feelings of distrust towards the police (9.4%); the fact that the offender

- The results further suggested that respondents from the Kingston Metropolitan area were more likely to witness murders, gun battles and armed robberies than respondents who lived in other areas of Jamaica.
- Another way of measuring indirect exposure to crime is to ask questions about the victimization of family members or friends. All respondents were asked whether any of their family members or friends had been murdered in Jamaica. The results suggested that one out of every three respondents (32.3%) had lost a family member or friend as the result of a homicide. In fact, one out of every eight respondents (12.9%) reported that they had lost more than one person to homicide.

Fear of Crime

- The vast majority of respondents (84%) felt that their community has less crime than other areas of Jamaica. Only 4% of respondents felt that their communities had more crime than other areas of Jamaica.
- One out of every five respondents (19.6%) felt that crime had increased in their communities over the past five years. However, one out four respondents (24%) felt that crime in their areas had decreased.
- Respondents felt safest when they are in their own homes or in their own neighbourhoods. For example, only 16% of respondents felt unsafe or very unsafe when they were home alone at night. Similarly, only 25% of respondents felt unsafe or very unsafe when they walked in their own communities at night.
- However, a high proportion of respondents felt unsafe when they engaged in various public activities outside of their own communities. For example, more than half of respondents (51.6%) reported that they felt unsafe or very unsafe when they went to a bar, nightclub or concert. Similarly, 50.6% of respondents felt unsafe or very unsafe when they used public transportation at night, 48.5% felt unsafe or very unsafe when they went to school or work at night, 47.9% felt unsafe or very unsafe when they went to a restaurant after dark and 44.5% felt unsafe or very unsafe when they went shopping after dark.
- Many respondents were also fearful of experiencing certain types of violent crime. For example, 64% of respondents were worried that they could be the victim of an armed robbery, 61% were worried about being attacked by a stranger in public, 56% were worried about home invasions, 41% were worried about becoming the victim of a sexual assault (63% of female respondents vs. 18% of

male respondents) and 37% were worried about being attacked by someone they knew.

- In general, fear of crime was greater among female respondents. Contrary to international research trends, the data also suggest that fear of crime was greater among younger respondents than older respondents.

Personal Crime Prevention Strategies

- Survey results suggest that respondents took a variety of actions to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime. One out of every four respondents (27.3%) had changed their routine or avoided certain areas, 20.3% had installed security locks, 16.3% had installed security bars on their home, 15.3% carried a weapon (other than a gun) for protection, 7.6% had installed security fences, 4.6% had obtained guard dogs and 3.7% had installed an alarm system.
- One out of every 42 respondents (2.4%) claimed to have purchased a gun for protection from crime. Interestingly, one out of every thirty-four respondents (2.9%) claims to have carried a gun in public for protection.
- In general, the various crime prevention strategies described above were more likely to be adopted by men, older people and those with higher levels of education.

Attitudes Towards the Police

- Respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the police, the criminal courts and correctional system in Jamaica. The respondents were quite divided in their opinions about the performance of the Jamaican criminal justice system. Some felt that the police, criminal courts and corrections were doing a good job; others felt that they were doing a poor job performing their duties.
- Two out of every three respondents (68.4%) felt that the police were doing either a good job or an average job enforcing the law. However, slightly less than a third of respondents (31.6%) felt that the police were doing a poor job enforcing the law.
- Seven out of every ten respondents (71.3%) felt that the police are doing a good job or an average job being approachable and easy to talk to. However, one out of four respondents (28.6%) felt that the police were doing a poor job in this capacity.
- Over two-thirds of all respondents (68%) felt that the police are doing a good job or an average job ensuring the safety of the people in their community. However,

one out of every three respondents felt that the police were doing a poor job ensuring the safety of local residents.

- The majority of respondents (62.1%) felt that the police were doing either a good job or an average job treating people fairly and with respect. Nonetheless, over a third of respondents (37.8%) felt that the police were doing a poor job treating people fairly.
- Over half of all respondents (52.5%) felt that the police were doing either a good job or an average job responding quickly to calls for service. However, slightly less than half of the respondents (47.9%) felt that the police were doing a poor job responding quickly.
- Over half of all respondents (52.1%) felt that the police were doing either a good job or an average job supplying information on ways to reduce crime. However, the other half of the respondents (47.9%) felt that the police were doing a poor job providing this service.
- Almost half of the respondents (44.8%) felt that police corruption – at the local level -- is a “very big problem” in their community. An additional 26.4% believe that corruption involving the local police is a “big problem.” Only 13.4% of respondents felt that local police corruption is not a problem in Jamaica.
- Although the perception of local police corruption is quite widespread, relatively few respondents cited problems with police brutality or police harassment. For example, only 5.7% felt that police brutality is a very big problem in Jamaica and only 5.7% felt that police harassment is a very big problem. By contrast, 76.5% of the respondents felt that police brutality is not a problem at all and 74.5% felt that police harassment is not a problem.
- Many respondents believed that the police treat some Jamaicans better than others. For example, eight out of every ten respondents (79.2%) believed that the police treat poor people worse than wealthy people, two-thirds (66.6%) believed that the police treat younger people worse than older people and 60.2% believed that the police treat men worse than women.
- In general, older people rated the police more positively than younger people.

Attitudes Towards the Criminal Courts

- Six out of every ten respondents (61.6%) felt that the criminal courts in Jamaica are doing a good job or an average job ensuring fair trials for people charged with a criminal offence. One out of two respondents (50.5%) felt that the criminal courts in Jamaica are doing a good job or an average job providing justice quickly

and 55% think the courts are doing a good job or an average job helping crime victims .

- Nonetheless, criticism of the criminal courts is quite widespread. For example, half of the respondents (49.5%) felt that the criminal courts were doing a poor job providing justice quickly, 45.0% felt that the courts were doing a poor job helping crime victims and 38.3% felt the courts were doing a poor job ensuring fair trials for people charged with a crime.
- In general, older people evaluated the performance of the criminal courts more positively than younger people.
- In general, the results of this survey suggest that Canadians and Americans are more likely than Jamaicans to feel that their criminal court system provides fair trials.
- Almost two-thirds of the respondents (62%) felt that the sentences handed down by the criminal courts in Jamaica are too lenient. Only 7% indicated that they believed the sentences are too harsh.
- Over 80% of the survey respondents believed that death penalty should be used in Jamaica for individuals convicted of murder.
- Compared to younger respondents, older respondents were more likely to think that current sentences are too lenient and more likely to support the death penalty.
- As with the police, many respondents believed that the criminal courts treat some Jamaicans better than others. For example, two-thirds of the respondents (67.4%) felt that the criminal courts treat poor people worse than wealthy people, 53.4% felt that the courts treat young people worse than older people and 53.1% believed that the courts treat men worse than women.

Attitudes Towards the Correctional System

- Most respondents (55.4%) felt that Jamaican prisons are doing a poor job punishing offenders and deterring them from committing crimes in the future. Only 14.0% felt that the prisons are doing a good job deterring offenders.
- More than half of the respondents (50.5%) felt that Jamaican prisons are doing a poor job supervising and controlling inmates within correctional institutions. Only 16.6% felt that the prisons are doing a good job in this capacity.
- The respondents were quite split in their assessment of prison conditions within Jamaica. While almost half the respondents believed prison conditions are “about

right,” almost 30% believed prison conditions are too harsh and 22% felt that conditions are not harsh enough.

- Many respondents were also critical of the parole system. For example, over half (55.4%) felt that the parole system is doing a poor job when it comes to supervising offenders once they are released into the community. By contrast, only 14.6% believed that the parole system is doing a good job supervising offenders in the community.
- Similarly, almost half of the respondents (44.9%) felt that the parole system is doing a poor job deciding on what offenders to release into the community. Only 17.9% believed that the parole system is doing a good job making such decisions.

Attitudes Towards Crime Prevention

- The majority of respondents (57.9%) agreed or strongly agreed that more police officers need to be hired in order to reduce crime in Jamaica. However, a significant minority (37.7%) did not believe that more police are needed.
- Almost three out every four respondents (72.8%), however, felt that the police need more resources and better equipment to reduce crime. Only 24.4% disagreed with the idea that the police need more resources and better equipment.
- Eight of every ten respondents (80.1%) felt that judges need to give out harsher sentences in order to reduce crime in Jamaica. Only 14.1% of respondents disagreed with the argument for harsher sentences.
- Although respondents seem to want harsher sentences for offenders, only a quarter of the sample (26.3%) felt that, in order to reduce crime, more prisons need to be built. Indeed, almost seventy percent the respondents (68.6%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the idea that Jamaica needs more prisons.
- Although the majority of the respondents supported criminal justice strategies for reducing crime, they were even more supportive of social programs. For example, almost all respondents (96.9%) either agreed (21.9%) or strongly agreed (75.0%) with the idea that the Jamaican government needs to create more jobs in order to reduce crime. Similarly, 95.5% agreed that the government needs to improve the education system and two-thirds (65.9%) felt that, in order to reduce crime, the government needs to provide welfare payments to poor people.
- Almost 80% of respondents felt that government efforts to reduce poverty would be more effective at reducing crime than hiring more police officers or increasing the severity of punishments.

- In general, older people were somewhat more supportive of criminal justice strategies for reducing crime than younger people. On the other hand, younger people were more supportive of government social programs than older people.

Police Complaints

- The majority of respondents (60%) indicated that they know where citizens can file formal complaints against the police. However, a sizeable minority (40%) did not know where to file complaints against the police.
- The 1,875 respondents who indicated that they knew where to file complaints were asked where a citizen of Jamaica could file a complaint against the police if they had a reason to do so. The majority (57.9%) said that a person could lodge a complaint at the local police station, 34.3% identified the Police Public Complaints Authority, 21.8% identified the Bureau of Special Investigations and 14.5% identified a specific human rights organization.
- Over 80% of the respondents stated that they would file a complaint if they had a negative experience with the police such as unfair treatment, police brutality or harassment. Less than 10% of respondents claimed they would not make a complaint.
- Respondents who stated that they would not make a complaint against the police were asked why they would not complain. Over a third of these respondents (36%) claimed that they would not complain because they feel it would not do any good. An additional 24% feared police retaliation and 19% felt that the police would cover themselves and lie.

Experiences with Corruption and Police Brutality

- All respondents were asked: “Has a government official – like a Customs officer, police officer, politician or inspector – ever asked you or expected you to pay a bribe?” Only 6% of respondents stated that they had been asked to pay a bribe at some point in their lives.
- Males and older respondents were somewhat more likely to report being a victim of government corruption than women and younger people.
- Respondents who claim that they have been the victim of corruption are slightly more likely to believe that local police corruption is a big problem in Jamaica (84.4%) than those who have not been a victim (70.2%).
- However, it is important to note that although 71% of the survey respondents *believe* that local police corruption is a big problem in Jamaica, only 6% claim to

have been the victim of corruption. In fact, 92% of those respondents who feel that local police corruption is a big problem admit that they have never actually been the victim of corruption themselves. In other words, the data suggest that perceptions of local police corruption are often not based on personal experiences.

- Respondents were also asked if they had ever been the victim of police brutality. Only 5% of respondents indicated that they had been the victim of police brutality at some point in their life.
- Male respondents were significantly more likely to report being the victim of police brutality than female respondents. Nonetheless, more than 90% of the male respondents claimed to have never been the victim of police brutality.
- Respondents who claim that they have been the victim of police brutality (42.3%) are much more likely to think that police brutality is a big problem in Jamaica than those who have not been a victim (10.4%). However, over 80% of the respondents who believe that police brutality is a big problem have never been the victim of brutality themselves.

Awareness of the Victim Support Unit

- Respondents were asked if they had ever heard of the Victim Support Unit (VSU) – a special government initiative designed to aid the victims of crime. The majority of respondents had not heard of the VSU (58.1%). However, a significant minority of respondents (41.8%) had heard of this program.
- Respondents who had heard of the program were asked if they thought the Victim Support Unit was doing a good job helping the victims of crime. One out of three of these respondents (30%) felt that the VSU was doing a good job and an additional 32% feel that this program was doing an average job helping victims. Only 12.4% of respondents who are aware of the VSU felt that the program was doing a poor job.
- Only 25 respondents -- less than 1 percent of the sample – claimed to have used the services of the Victim Support Unit. Nonetheless, 100% of those who had used the VSU were either very satisfied (80%) or satisfied (20%) with the services they received.

Awareness of the Citizen Security and Justice Program

- The Citizen Security and Justice Program (CSJP) is a special government initiative that is designed to reduce crime in selected communities with the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA). Only 19% of respondents indicated that they had heard of the Citizenship Security and Justice Program. Interestingly,

although the program is only offered within the KMA, awareness of the CSJP was just as high among respondents who lived outside of Kingston as it was among respondents who lived within the Kingston region.

- The 579 respondents who had heard of the CJSP were asked whether they thought the program was doing a good job reducing crime. Almost half of these respondents (45%) felt that the CSJP was doing a good and an additional 28% felt that the program was doing an average job reducing crime. Only 7% of these respondents felt the program was doing a poor job.
- Only 17 respondents – only 0.5% of the total sample – claimed to have used the services provided by the Citizenship Security and Justice Program. The majority of these 17 respondents (94.2%) were either very satisfied (47.1%) or satisfied (47.1%) with the services they had received. Only one respondent was dissatisfied.

Self-Reported Gang Affiliation

- Although the primary focus of the survey was to explore patterns of criminal victimization, fear of crime and attitudes towards the justice system, a small section focused on self-reported involvement in criminal gangs, self-reported alcohol and drug use, and self-reported involvement in various criminal activities.
- Only 1.2% of all respondents claimed to have belonged to a criminal gang at some point in their lives. Only one out of every thousand respondents (0.1%) claimed that they were a current gang member. The vast majority of current and former gang members were male.
- Although personal involvement in gangs was very rare, one out of every 20 respondents (4.7%) reported that they had a close friend or family member who was currently the member of criminal gang.

Self-Reported Alcohol and Drug Use

- Over half of all respondents (54.4%) claimed they had not consumed an alcoholic beverage in the past twelve months. Only 18.6% indicated they had consumed alcohol once per week or more. This self-reported level of alcohol use is much lower than that observed in other western countries.
- Only 15.0% of respondents claimed to have used marijuana in the past twelve months. Respondents were more likely to report the daily use of marijuana (6.3% of all respondents) than the daily use of alcohol (3.7%).

- The self-reported use of other illicit drugs was extremely rare among the survey respondents. Indeed, less than half a percent of the respondents (0.4%) claimed to have used cocaine or crack in the past year and the self-reported use of other illicit drugs was even lower (0.2%).
- In general, the use of alcohol, marijuana and other illicit drugs was much more prevalent among males than among females. Alcohol and marijuana use was also more prevalent among younger people than older people.

Self-Reported Criminal Activity

- Almost half of all respondents (45.7%) reported that they had been in a fight at some point in their lives. Self-reported involvement in all other types of violent and property crime was far less common. For example, only 7.3% of respondents reported that they had assaulted someone in their lives and only 5.1% claimed that they had assaulted someone with a weapon. Personal theft was the most commonly reported property crime. However, only 4.6% of all respondents claimed to have engaged in theft at some time in their lives. Lifetime involvement in all other forms of criminal activity was below the three percent level.
- Very few respondents claimed to have engaged in criminal activity in the past twelve months. However, 7.2% of respondents reported involvement in a fight in the past year and one out of every fifty respondents (2%) claimed they had seriously assaulted someone in the past twelve months. An equal proportion of the sample (1.9%) claimed that they had carried a gun in the past year and 1.6% claimed that they assaulted someone with a weapon. Past year involvement in all other types of crime was below the 1.5% level.
- In most cases, self-reported criminal activity was more likely to be reported by male respondents than female respondents. Personal involvement in crime in the last twelve was more likely to be reported by younger people than older people.
- Consistent with previous international research, respondents who engaged in criminal activity within the past year were significantly more likely to report being the recent victim of a crime. This finding suggests that involvement in a criminal lifestyle may increase a person's vulnerability to criminal victimization.

Conclusion

- The 2006 Jamaican National Victimization Survey (JCVS) is the first major victimization survey in Jamaica that involves a large, random sample of the general population.

- The JCVS provides valuable baseline estimates of important social phenomena including: rates of personal victimization; the proportion of crimes that are reported to the police; reasons for not reporting crimes to the police; indirect exposure to crime; fear of crime; attitudes towards the police, the criminal courts and the correctional system; experiences with brutality and corruption; attitudes towards government crime prevention efforts; estimates of self-reported alcohol and drug use; and estimates of personal involvement in criminal activity.
- The baseline estimates produced by this survey can be compared with the results of subsequent victimization surveys to determine changes in crime trends, police reporting practices, fear of crime and attitudes towards the justice system.
- The current survey, combined with the results of subsequent studies, can be used to evaluate the operation of the criminal justice system, evaluate government crime prevention efforts and identify emerging crime problems.
- Combined with official justice statistics, victimization surveys can be a valuable resource in the development of effective criminal justice and crime prevention strategies.

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION¹

One of the most important advances in criminological methodology over the past few decades has been the development of victimization surveys. Estimates of crime from victimization surveys complement official crime statistics because survey estimates are not prone to the same types of biases. The most obvious advantage of survey reports, in comparison with official crime statistics, is that the former include victimization incidents judged to be crimes by the victims, but which are not reported to or recorded by police agencies. This is often referred to as the “dark figure” of crime. Not all crimes are reported to or discovered by the police. People may be reluctant to report offences to the police for a wide variety of reasons (Brown et al., 1984). As such, the level of criminal activity indicated by victimization surveys typically exceeds that recorded in official records. Furthermore, victimization surveys are capable not only of assessing overall levels of criminal victimization, but can also gather rich information about the characteristics of victims and offenders, whether victimization incidents are reported to the police or not, why victimization incidents are not reported and the psychological impact of victimization experiences. In addition, victimization surveys are often used to measure attitudes towards the criminal justice system (i.e., evaluations of the police, the criminal courts, corrections, etc.), fear of crime, and perceptions about neighborhood safety and disorder.

Crime in Jamaica: The Official Statistics

In 2003, the World Bank published a report entitled *Jamaica: The Road to Sustained Growth* (Report No. 26088-JM). Chapter Six begins with the following comparison of rates of officially recorded crime in Jamaica with those in other countries:

¹ The authors would like to thank the Ministry of National Security, Government of Jamaica for the opportunity to participate in this research project. They are especially grateful to Simeon Robinson and Annmarie Barnes for their assistance throughout the project. They would also like to thank the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) for conducting the field-work. Special thanks to Isbeth Bernard and Douglas Forbes for coordinating the project and responding to all inquiries. The authors are grateful to all the STATIN interviewers, field supervisors and data entry personnel for their excellent work. Finally the authors thank the 3,112 respondents who took part in the study. Their willingness to talk about their experiences and perceptions of crime has made this survey a success.

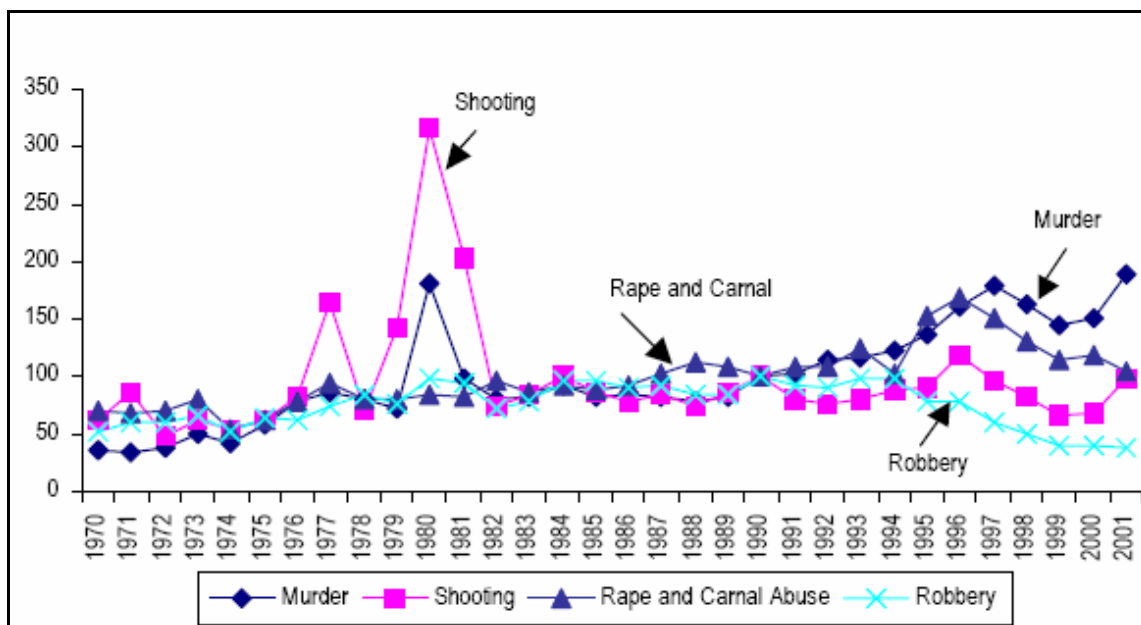
“Jamaica has one of the highest rates of violent crime in the world, but a relatively low rate of property crime. In 2000, the recorded intentional homicide rate was 33 per 100,000 inhabitants, lower only than Colombia (63 per 100,000) and South Africa (52 per 100,000). In terms of recorded major assaults, Jamaica experienced 215 such incidents per 100,000 (versus 665 in South Africa and 95 in Dominica). Recorded drug offences are also among the highest in the world, at 452 per 100,000 (370 in Dominica and highest at 987 in Norway). In contrast, property crimes are relatively low in Jamaica: recorded burglaries occur at a rate of only 92 per 100,000 (1,777 in Dominica, 922 in South Africa and 134 in Mauritius), and total robberies at 89 per 100,000 (78 in Dominica, 460 in South Africa and 98 in Mauritius).”

The report goes on to indicate that, according to official crime statistics, in the year 2000 Jamaica had a lower overall crime rate (1,488 recorded crimes per 100,000 population) than many other developing countries. For example, Dominica’s rate was 10,763 crimes per 100,000, South Africa’s rate was 7,997 crimes per 100,000, and Mauritius’ rate was 3,030 crimes per 100,000. Jamaica’s low overall crime rate, however, is a function of Jamaica’s relatively low rates of non-violent crimes. As the World Bank report concluded, according to official statistics, the violent crime rate in Jamaica at the turn of the twenty-first century was higher than that in most other countries.

Moreover, Jamaica’s violent crime problem has not improved over time. Official statistics show that rates of most types of violent crime in Jamaica were higher at the turn of the twenty-first century than they had been in previous decades (with the exception of the years between 1976 and 1982, a period of violent partisan politics). Employing Crime Rate Indices², trends in shooting, rape, robbery and homicide in Jamaica are graphically represented in Figure 1.1 (source: World Bank Report, 2003, with data derived from Harriott et al., 2003 and the website of the Office on Drugs and Crime, Centre for International Crime Prevention, United Nations).

² Developed for Jamaica by Francis et al. (2001); the Crime Rate Index includes only violent crimes, i.e. murder, shooting, robbery, and rape and carnal abuse.

FIGURE 1.1:
Trends in the Rates (per 100,000) of Major Violent Crimes in Jamaica,
Official Statistics, 1970 - 2001



The official World Bank statistics provided in Figure 1.1 suggest that violent crime in Jamaica rose significantly from 1970 through 1990. However, since the mid-1990s, robbery, rape and shootings have declined slightly. The homicide rate, however, continued to increase through 2000.

Overall, official crime statistics from Jamaica suggest a significant decline in most forms of crime between 1990 and 2005. This decline has been particularly sharp with respect to property crime (see Barnes et al. 2006). However, certain types of crime have increased in Jamaica over this same period. For example, between 1990 and 2005 recorded incidents of drug-related crime in Jamaica increased by 94% (from 3,200 incidents in 1990 to 6,215 incidents in 2005). However, no other crime has increased as dramatically as homicide. Table 1.1 reveals that the recorded number of major crime incidents in Jamaica was cut in half between 1990 and 2005 (from a high of 18,361 recorded crimes in 1990 to 8,461 recorded crime incidents in 2005). However, the murder rate in Jamaica exploded during the same period. In 1990, for example, Jamaica recorded only 542 murders. By contrast, in 2005, Jamaica recorded 1,674 homicides.

This represents a 308% increase in the murder rate over a fifteen-year period. Thus, according to official police statistics, property crime and some types of violent crime appear to be going down in Jamaica. However, drug related crimes and homicides and have increased significantly over the past decade and a half.

**TABLE 1.1:
Total Number of Major Crimes and Total Number of Murders
Recorded by the Jamaican Government, 1990 to 2005**

Year	All Recorded Crimes	Murders
1990	18,361	542
1991	18,106	561
1992	15,552	629
1993	16,744	654
1994	16,401	690
1995	15,298	780
1996	15,527	925
1997	12,578	1,031
1998	10,591	953
1999	8,392	849
2000	8,234	887
2001	8,061	1,139
2002	7,501	1,045
2003	6,797	975
2004	8,800	1,471
2005	8,461	1,674

It is likely that the true rate of crime is substantially higher than the estimates provided by official statistics, since many people do not report crimes if they deem them not to be serious enough, or if they are fearful of negative repercussions for reporting. Among other things, the victimization survey described in this report will be able to estimate the level of underreporting, and by extension, produce more accurate estimates of the volume of crime committed in Jamaica. This survey will also be able to determine the most important reasons people do not report crimes to the police.

The Cost of Crime in Jamaica

Another way to appreciate the impact of criminal victimization is to look at the costs associated with crime. The World Bank Report (2003) estimates that in 2001, crime cost Jamaica approximately 12.4 billion (\$JA), or 3.7% of its GDP. This total cost was composed of health costs (\$1.3 billion; with expenditures in the public health system amounting to \$995.7 million and private health expenditures estimated at \$254.5 million), lost production (\$0.5 billion; with losses from mortality amounting to \$194.1 million and from injuries resulting in lost productivity worth \$337.2 million) and public expenditures on security (\$10.5 billion). While these figures are instructive, it is important to bear in mind that they are only estimates. The true cost of crime, including psychological costs, is quite difficult to estimate.

Even if the violent crime rate has not continued to increase since 2001, the total number of violent crimes will have been greater in Jamaica in 2006, simply because of an increase in the population. (The population of Jamaica in 2005 was estimated at over 2.7 million, according to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, compared to a population of 2.6 million documented by the 2001 Jamaica Census.) Therefore, the costs of crime documented in 2001 will also have increased. Notwithstanding this, the Jamaican government has made important strides in combating crime. For example, added security at sea and airports, coupled with the arrest of several major drug traffickers in 2004 (including two “kingpins”), have led to a subsequent reduction in cocaine transiting through Jamaica and a significant reduction in the amount of cannabis being supplied by Jamaica.

While official statistics tend to indicate a general increase in crime, it is difficult to determine what proportion of this increase is due to actual increases in crime and what proportion is due to expanded efforts of Jamaican law enforcement agencies. The victimization survey described in this report offers an alternative way to estimate the prevalence of crime in Jamaica.

The Social Impact of Criminal Victimization

Crime can have severe consequences for the local economy. Crime can deter both foreign and local investments, and hence economic growth. Criminal victimization

increases business costs since it often results in higher security costs. The threat of victimization may also lead to changes in economically-related behaviours that result in less than optimal operating strategies. For example, high crime rates have been shown to reduce business hours. In addition, business losses may occur directly through looting, arson, theft, extortion and fraud or through the reluctance of consumers to venture into particular communities after dark. Worker productivity can also be reduced either temporarily (through crime-related injuries), or permanently if workers are killed (in the case of murder). Victimization may also result in the movement of businesses away from some areas, as well as business closures when the costs of crime and security become too high.

Criminal victimization and the fear of crime it engenders dramatically reduce the quality of life of citizens and may prompt out-migration and slow the rate of return of those who have previously migrated (see “NDM Predicts Brain Drain,” *Jamaica Gleaner*, January 6, 1999). Crime and outbreaks of violence can result in unrest in the community and a decrease in social trust. High levels of criminal victimization tend to reduce social cohesion, by weakening the effectiveness of informal social controls, decreasing rates of civil participation, reducing the frequency of collective community events, and consequently increasing social isolation among residents (Kubrin and Weitzer, 2003; Skogan, 1986; Skogan and Maxfield, 1981; Warr, 1994). A range of societal institutions, such as the educational system, are also undermined by crime. For example, an outbreak of violence can also cause the temporary closure of schools. Moreover, home and community instability is not conducive to learning and other educational objectives.

Another consequence of crime is that resources, which may have otherwise contributed to social development and growth, are often funneled into the criminal justice and health care systems (for the treatment of violence-related injuries and trauma). For example, between 1988/89 and 2001/02, Jamaica’s budgetary expenditure for health, in nominal terms, grew 23% annually, whereas the budget for national security and justice grew by 62%. Furthermore, since 1999, the total budget for Justice and Correctional Services, plus police expenditures, have exceeded the entire budget allocation for health care (Planning Institute of Jamaica, various years). For private citizens, crime can also

divert financial resources away from potentially useful expenditures (such as education) to spending on the treatment of crime-related injuries and private security.

Crime, Perceptions of Crime and Jamaica's Tourism Industry

Crime also has a negative effect on the tourism industry. Tourists may become victims of crime in several ways. Ryan (1993) offers a useful typology that identifies five types of scenarios, four of which are applicable to crime and tourism in Jamaica. The first sees the tourist as an accidental victim who happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and is specifically targeted because he or she is seen as an easy mark. The second sees the tourist location as a criminogenic venue, with its high life, hedonistic culture and myriad potential victims. The third sees tourism as the provider of victims. This occurs because tourists are much more prone to take risks on vacation and less likely to observe security measures. As such, there is a tendency by criminal elements to rob and assault tourists. Ryan's fourth scenario sees tourists as producing an imported demand for deviant activities, whereby visitors escape for a few days or weeks and indulge in anti-social and destructive behaviours such as drug-taking and prostitution.

It is difficult to accurately estimate how much crime involves tourists in Jamaica, although it certainly does not exceed that among local inhabitants.³ Nonetheless, potential tourists' perceptions of crime risk have had a negative effect on Jamaica's tourism industry. During the 1960s and at the beginning of the 1970s, Jamaica became an increasingly popular tourist destination. With an influx of visitors from the USA, Canada and Europe in the 1970s, tourism became the second largest source of income in the country (after the bauxite trade). Tourism played a vital role in terms of its employment generating capacity and was a catalyst in stimulating socio-economic change within communities.

The importance of tourism for Jamaica's economy has, however, declined over time. Some have argued that this decline is directly related to foreigners' concerns about crime in Jamaica. Alleyen and Boxill (2003), for example, investigated the relationship

³ Ajagunna (2006) investigated the impact of crime on the tourism and hospitality industry in Jamaica. This study employed a qualitative approach and surveyed residents, business entrepreneurs, and tourists at two resort areas in Jamaica. In contrast with Ryan (1993), Ajagunna (2006) concluded that the majority of crimes in Jamaica are either domestic, or motivated by drugs, and very few involve tourists.

between tourist arrivals and changes in the crime rate in Jamaica over the period 1962–1999. Specifically, they employed a transfer function to account for variations in total arrivals and arrivals from the European market, owing to changes in the crime rate. The transfer function allowed for the modeling of the immediate and delayed effect of crime rates on tourist arrivals. They found that crime rates in Jamaica had a negative impact on tourism arrivals in both markets. Ironically, while the general crime rate may have increased, crimes against tourists appear to have decreased in Jamaica. For instance, former Police Commissioner Francis Forbes noted that crime incidents involving tourists were down in 1988, to fewer than 200, from 612 in 1992 (Meyers, 1999). Nonetheless, perceptions of the risks of crime, along with actual levels of victimization, are factors that can negatively affect tourism in Jamaica.

Criminal Victimization and Fear of Crime

Fear of crime refers to feelings and cognitive judgments about the likelihood of victimization, and to behavioural adaptations, such as avoiding walking alone at night (Hale, 1996; Gabriel and Greve, 2003). Although fear of crime may bear little relationship to the actual risk of being victimized, it is the former, rather than actual risk, which affects people's behaviour. Women, for example, are more fearful of crime, even though studies suggest that – with the exception of sexual assault -- they are less likely to be victims of violent crime than men (Ferraro, 1996; Fisher and Sloan, 2003). But because they may feel more vulnerable to the consequences of crime (such as being raped) and feel less control over risky situations (e.g., because they are physically weaker), women may be less likely to walk alone around their neighbourhood at night. As a consequence, they lower their exposure to risk. Age is another common predictor of both fear of crime and perceptions of risk (Hale, 1996). Like women, older people have lower victimization rates but tend to have a much more pronounced fear of crime (Hale, 1996).

Lemard and Hemenway (2006) confirmed that women and the aged in Jamaica have lower risks of at least one type of victimization -- homicide. In their study of police records on homicides from 1998 – 2002, they discovered that “The majority of homicide victims were male (over 89%), and 15 - 44 years old (80%). The rate of homicide for

males age 15 - 44 years was 121 per 100,000, compared with a rate of 12 per 100,000 for females in the same age group” (p. 15). Without survey data, it cannot be determined whether these gender and age differences in violent victimization in Jamaica are consistent with gender and age differences in the fear of crime. Exploring this relationship is one of the objectives of the current study.

The Psychological Consequences of Criminal Victimization

Considerable research shows that people with previous exposure to criminal victimization, either as victims or witnesses, are more likely to report various forms of psychological maladjustment -- including depressed mood, aggressive behaviour, post-traumatic stress disorder and interpersonal problems (Scarpa, 2003). Other studies have found that those who report exposure to criminal victimization are more likely to be classified by trained clinicians as having depressive symptoms reflecting clinical concern. These symptoms include low self-esteem, depressed mood, morbid thoughts, and excessive weeping (Freeman, Mokros, and Poznanski, 1993). Others have confirmed findings of increased distress, trauma-related symptomatology, and sadness (e.g., Boney-McCoy and Finkelhor, 1995; DuRant, Getts, Cadenhead, Emans, and Woods, 1995; Singer, Anglin, Song, and Lunghofer, 1995).

A recent example of research examining the psychological consequences of victimization is that by Demaris and Kaukinen (2005), who investigated the link between criminal victimization and women’s physical and mental health in a sample representative of the United States. In this sample of 7,700 women, criminal victimization was found to increase depressive symptomatology, concern for personal safety, self-assessments of illness and the occurrence of heavy episodic drinking. Many of these negative consequences can have a powerful impact, both physically and mentally, on the person experiencing them. For example, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th edition), characteristic symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder include persistent re-experiencing of the trauma through intrusive thoughts and memories, avoidance of associated stimuli, numbing of general responsiveness, and increased arousal (American Psychiatric Association, 1994).

International Research

Research outside Jamaica has found that exposure violence over the lifetime, either as a victim or a witness, is relatively high. For example, the percentage of people who have been exposed to traumatic violence during their lifetimes in the United States, Canada and Europe ranges from approximately 60% to 80% (i.e., 67% in Bernat, Ronfeldt, Calhoun, and Arias, 1998; 72% in Elliott, 1997; 57% in Holman, Silver, and Waitzkin, 2000; 69% in Resnick, Kilpatrick, Dansky, Saunders, and Best, 1993; and 84% in Vrana and Lauterbach, 1994). In a recent review of criminal victimization studies, Scarpa (2003) concluded that between 76% and 82% of young adults had been a victim of violence at some point in their lifetimes. In addition, 93% to 96% of young adults report that they have been a witness to at least one act of violence. Overall, these studies suggest that exposure to violence among young adults is relatively common in most Western countries. One of the goals of this study is to determine levels of exposure to violence in Jamaica.

Previous Victimization Research in Jamaica

Although crime is clearly a major issue in Jamaica, previous victimization research is limited. One example is the *Business Victimization Survey*, carried out for the first time in Jamaica in 2002 by the World Bank (published in 2003). The survey assessed the perceptions of and experiences with crime among managers from over 400 Jamaican firms. It focused on the impact that crime has on local businesses and the national economy. The survey results were used to describe basic patterns of criminal victimization among Jamaican businesses and business managers' perceptions of risk. The study also examined coping strategies and the degree of institutional support given to them by the Jamaican criminal justice system. The World Bank found that 65% of all firms in the Jamaican sample reported that they had experienced one or more forms of criminal victimization during 2001; 33% of all firms were violently victimized (robbery, extortion and protection); 52% suffered various forms of theft, 50% experienced fraud, and 7% experienced other forms of criminal victimization.

The results suggest that some Jamaican firms experience crime on a regular basis and in multiple forms. About 27% of firms faced incidents of theft at least on a quarterly

basis, of which 9% were on a weekly basis. Approximately 22% experienced fraud, 9% suffered from violent victimization, and 7% were otherwise victimized on a quarterly basis.

Theft of cash or of goods was the most prevalent crime encountered by firms (20% and 43% of firms respectively). Fraud was also quite prevalent and takes the form of the use of counterfeit money (27%), presentation of forged checks (18%), the use of forged credit cards (9%), the sale of counterfeit products (7%), weight and measures fraud (13%), solicitation of funds for charitable organization (8%), and manipulation of payrolls and invoices (7%). The main perpetrators of some of these types of fraud were employees of these firms.

The World Bank survey also investigated managers' perceptions of their risk of victimization. About 42% of all managers felt that they were either highly likely (11%) or likely (31%) to be murdered at the workplace; and 50% felt that an assault on them was either highly likely (13%) or likely (37%). Moreover, 66% felt that they were either highly likely (25%) or likely (41%) to be robbed; 11% of respondents felt at risk of being a victim of extortion; and 62% and 33% felt that they were likely to be burglarized or victimized by fraud respectively.

Given the high rate of victimization of business firms, and high levels of the fear of crime among managers, institutional support from the criminal justice system and, in particular, the police is vital. Reporting is the first step in appealing for institutional support. The World Bank (2003) survey showed that reporting was high for robbery-burglary (85%) and fraud (60%), and low for extortion. Only 37% of managers regarded the performance of the police as being good. The majority of managers from these victimized firms regarded their performance as fair (32%) or poor (31%). Furthermore, the criminal courts were seen as not giving adequate institutional support to deal effectively with both criminal and civil cases. The process was seen as being too long and time consuming.

The World Bank survey offered important insight into criminal victimization among businesses and businessmen in Jamaica. However, the study was purposely limited in scope and thus does not capture the extent and character of victimization among the general population of Jamaica. A review of the literature revealed only one

other Jamaican victimization survey – the *2001 Kingston Metropolitan Area Crime Victimization and Perception Survey* (Development Options Limited 2002). That survey involved interviews with a sample of 1,005 residents from the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA). It found that rates of criminal victimization over the past five years ranged from 22.8% for the theft of bicycles and motorcycles, to 14.9% for personal theft, to 12.4% for physical assaults, to 8.9% for motor vehicle theft, to 7.5% for rape (see Development Options Limited 2002). The results of the survey also indicated that respondents rarely reported victimization experiences to the police, respondents generally had a poor opinion of the police and the criminal justice system, and fear of crime was high in the selected communities.

The KMA study represents an important step in the development of victimization research in Jamaica. However, the survey was limited to certain socially disadvantaged, high-crime neighbourhoods in the Kingston region. Thus, the KMA survey, as with the World Bank's *Business Victimization Survey*, does not provide findings that are representative of the general population of Jamaica. By contrast, the survey presented in this document is based on a national sample of Jamaican citizens. Furthermore, the current survey asks more detailed questions about victimization experiences, indirect exposure to crime, fear of crime, attitudes towards the criminal justice system and beliefs about crime causation and crime prevention.

Strengths and Limitations of Victimization Surveys

Crime victimization surveys, as noted above, have a number of advantages over official statistics on crime. For example, they allow the measurement of crime that does not come to the attention of legal officials, they gather information on why people do not report crime to the police, and they document the consequences of victimization for the victims of crime. Moreover, police statistics generally provide little if any information about victim characteristics, beyond sex and age. In victimization surveys, respondents are asked questions about their social and demographic characteristics, which can provide insights into how crime risks differ among groups in the population. At the same time, victimization surveys have certain limitations. For instance, some crimes are difficult to measure through victimization surveys, because they do not have individual victims who

are aware of their victimization (e.g. some corporate crimes or white collar crimes) or because the victim is dead or severely disabled. Some types of crime victims can be difficult to contact and interview by survey methods, such as the homeless, people in prisons or mental health institutions, people involved in criminal lifestyles (e.g., gang members) or very young persons. In addition, some victims may not want to talk about their experiences because they are too traumatized, fearful, or unwilling for other reasons to share this information with strangers. Both the strengths and weaknesses of victimization surveys have been well documented (see, for example, Skogan, 1981; Johnson and Sacco, 1990; Nieuwbeerta, 2002; McShane and Williams, 1997).

Despite their limitations, victimization surveys are recognized as one of the best ways to gather information on crime in order to document its incidence, prevalence, correlates, and consequences. As noted above, victimization surveys have become increasingly popular, such that most developed countries now conduct their own victimization surveys on a regular basis. For example, since 1988, Canada has conducted a national victimization survey every five years as part of its General Social Survey; the latest such survey was conducted in 2004 (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005). The United States has conducted its National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) on an annual basis since the 1970s, although the survey has changed substantially over time. In addition, since the 1980s, the International Crime Victimization Survey has been conducted five different times and includes data from over 200,000 respondents in over 60 countries around the world (Nieuwbeerta, 2002).

The Jamaican National Victimization Survey, discussed in this report, is both distinctive from and comparable to other national and international victimization surveys. It is distinctive in that it incorporates topics that are not covered in other victimization surveys. For example, the JNCVS includes questions about indirect victimization through the witnessing of crimes and about respondents' own involvement in crime and their use of drugs and alcohol. On the other hand, it is comparable to other surveys in that it covers topics that are common to other major victimization surveys, such as the extent and nature of both violent and non-violent victimization, perceptions and fears of crime, reasons for not reporting crimes to police, and assessments of the criminal justice

system. Having these basic questions in common will allow comparisons to results from other victimization surveys.

One of the particular strengths of the JNCVS in measuring crime victimization is that questions were asked about both the experience of victimization in the past year and the experience of victimization over respondents' lifetimes. In contrast, many victimization surveys only ask about recent victimization experiences. Asking about both recent and life-time victimization allows two portrayals of the crime problem in Jamaica. Also, since criminal victimization has been shown to have long-term consequences, as discussed above, it is important to have an estimate of how many respondents have ever experienced victimization, not just those who have recently experienced victimization. At the same time, victimization incidents occurring in the previous year are likely to be more salient and more clearly remembered than earlier victimization experiences; as such, the detailed information on these incidents that is collected in this survey is likely to be more accurate than would information on incidents occurring further back in time. In other words, memory problems will have less of an effect on the validity of this information.

One problem with reports about victimization in the last year is that sometimes respondents report on incidents that occurred prior to this time period, due to a process called 'telescoping'. Allowing respondents to report on their life-time victimization experiences will tend to reduce the chances of telescoping. Thus, reports of both recent and life-time victimization experiences have particular uses and limits; having information on both types of experiences provides a more comprehensive view of criminal victimization in Jamaica.

Research Questions

The 2006 *Jamaican National Crime Victimization Survey* (JNCVS) was designed to address a variety of research questions related to issues of crime, victimization and criminal justice. The analysis presented below addresses the following twenty-two research questions:

1. What proportion of Jamaicans have been the victim of selected violent crimes in their lifetime, in the past five years, and in the past year?
2. What proportion of Jamaicans have been the victim of selected property offences in their lifetime, in the past five years, and in the past year?
3. Where and when do victimization experiences take place? What days of the week? What times of the day? In what locations?
4. What are the general characteristics of criminal offenders? What is the typical age of offenders? What proportion is male? What proportion is female?
5. What is the relationship between the victim and offender? Are offenders more likely to be strangers, friends, acquaintances or family members? Does the nature of the victim-offender relationship vary by the type of crime?
6. What proportion of respondents report their victimization incidents to the police?
7. To what extent are victims satisfied or dissatisfied with the police response to their victimization?
8. Why do victims fail to report victimization experiences to the police? What reasons do they provide for not reporting? Does the likelihood of reporting crimes to the police vary by the type of crime or the nature of the victim-offender relationship?
9. What impact does crime have on individual crime victims?
10. To what extent are Jamaicans exposed to crime and other social problems in their local communities? Does community exposure to crime vary by region?
11. What proportion of Jamaicans have witnessed a serious crime? What proportion of Jamaicans have witnessed a murder, a shooting or gun battle, an armed robbery or a serious physical assault?
12. What proportion of Jamaicans talk to the police about the crimes they have witnessed?
13. Why do some Jamaicans decide not to talk to the police about the crimes they have witnessed? What are their reasons for not reporting?
14. What proportion of Jamaicans have lost a family member or friend as the result of a homicide? Does this proportion vary by region?
15. To what extent do Jamaicans fear crime? To what extent do Jamaicans feel safe when they engage in certain public activities?

16. What actions do Jamaicans take to protect themselves from criminal victimization?
17. How do Jamaicans evaluate the performance of the criminal justice system? How do they evaluate the performance of the police, the criminal courts and the prison/parole system?
18. How do Jamaicans feel about crime prevention? What do they think the government must do to reduce crime in Jamaica?
19. To what extent do Jamaicans perceive problems with discrimination, corruption and brutality within the criminal justice system?
20. To what extent are Jamaicans familiar with the police complaints system in Jamaica? To what extent do Jamaicans trust the police complaints system?
21. To what extent are Jamaicans familiar with the Victim Support Unit? How do Jamaicans evaluate the performance of the Victim Support Unit?
22. To what extent are Jamaicans familiar with the Citizen Security and Justice Program? How do Jamaicans evaluate the performance of the Citizen Security and Justice Program?

Overview of the Report

The next section of this report briefly outlines the research methodology and provides a description of the sample. Part Three discusses problems of crime and disorder within the respondents' local communities. Part Four provides details on the respondents' personal victimization history – including crimes that have taken place over the past year. Part Five provides details on all victimization experiences that have occurred within the past twelve months – including information on the nature of the victim-offender relationship and whether the incident was reported to the police. Part Six documents the extent to which respondents have witnessed serious criminal incidents and whether they reported such incidents to the police. Part Seven discusses Jamaican residents' fear of crime and activities taken to prevent criminal victimization. Part Eight documents the respondents' attitudes towards the police, the criminal courts, the prison system and the parole system. Part Nine documents the respondents' attitudes and beliefs with respect to crime prevention. Part Ten outlines respondents' experiences with the police complaints system and their exposure to corruption and brutality. Part Eleven documents the

respondents' familiarity with both the Victim Support Unit and the Citizen Security and Justice Program. Part Twelve examines respondents' involvement in criminal activity and their substance use. The report concludes with an overview of the results and the study's limitations, and a discussion of prospects for future research.

PART TWO: METHODOLOGY

This section of the report provides a brief description of the methodology used to conduct the 2006 *Jamaican National Crime and Victimization Survey* (JNCV). A more detailed description of the sampling procedures and interviewing techniques employed during this research project will be provided in a forthcoming technical manual provided by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).

Survey Design

The 2006 *Jamaican National Crime Victimization Survey* (JNCV) was designed by Professor Scot Wortley and Professor Rosemary Gartner from the Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto (Canada). The survey instrument was finalized after extensive consultations with Jamaican officials from the Ministry of National Security and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN). The final survey instrument was divided into five distinct sections. The first section was designed to produce information on the respondents' demographic characteristics as well as information on local crime and disorder problems. The second section of the survey asked respondents about their experiences with eighteen different types of violent and property victimization. The third section of the questionnaire (the Crime Incident Report) asked respondents for details about all victimization experiences that took place within the past twelve months – including the nature of the victim-offender relationship, whether they reported the crime to the police, why they did not report the incident and the impact of the crime on their well-being.

The fourth section of the questionnaire asked respondents about the major crimes they had witnessed in the past; about the murder of family members and friends; about their general fear of crime; about actions they may have taken to prevent crimes; about their attitudes towards the criminal justice system (i.e., the police, the courts, the prison probation system, etc.), their exposure to and evaluation of specific criminal justice programs (i.e., the Victim's Support Unit); and about their opinions with respect to how to prevent or reduce crime in Jamaica. Finally, the fifth section of the report presents

information on respondents' own involvement in drug and alcohol use and in various criminal activities.

Although the Jamaican National Crime Victimization Survey should be viewed as a unique project, specific questionnaire items are quite similar to those used in previous surveys including the United States National Crime Victimization Survey (see Catalano 2006), the Canadian General Social Survey (see Gannon and Mihorean 2005), and the International Crime Victimization Survey (see Nieuwbeerta, 2002). It should also be noted that some items are identical to those used in Jamaica's only previous victimization survey – the *2001 Kingston Metropolitan Area Crime Victimization and Perception Survey* (Development Options Limited 2002). The use of similar items will help researchers compare the results of the present survey with the results of previous Jamaican and international studies.

Interviewer Training

Interviewer training was conducted by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica. Training for the survey was held at four locations: Kingston, St. Ann's Bay, May Pen and Sav-la-mar. The training lasted for four days at each location and took place near the end of April 2006. A total of 120 persons were invited to the training sessions. This number included office staff from STATIN who were subsequently responsible for the editing, coding and keying of the data. The training was conducted by 10 different trainers. At the end of the training the participants were evaluated and 95 persons were offered contracts to do the field work. Of the number chosen 15 were recruited as supervisors and 80 as interviewers.

Sampling and Fieldwork

The final sample was produced using standard random household sampling techniques. All known households in each parish were first entered into a statistical dataset. A random sample of households within each parish was then produced. The number of households selected within each parish reflected the proportion of the total Jamaican population that resided within each region.

Once a household had been selected, interviewers first made contact with an adult (16 years of age or older) within each household. The interviewer then constructed a list of all individuals, 16 years of age or older, who were permanent residents of the chosen household. The household resident with the next birthday was then selected to take part in the victimization survey. The “birthday technique” ensures that respondents were randomly selected within each household.

The fieldwork began during the week of May 8, 2006 and was completed on June 10, 2006. According to STATIN, the interviews were completed with very few problems. However, some problems were experienced in St. Andrew, where access to households was difficult (and impossible in some cases) in areas with gated or guarded entrances. The number of households visited and the response rate within each parish is provided in Table 2.1. The response rate (defined as the proportion of households contacted for the survey that participated in the research) ranges from 78.9% in Manchester to 91.8% in Kingston. Overall, 86.7% of all households contacted by STATIN agreed to take part in the study. By international standards this overall response rate is quite high. Indeed, North American survey researchers typically agree that a response rate of 60% or higher is acceptable.

TABLE 2.1: Overall Response Rate and Response Rate within each Parish

PARISH	Number of Households Selected for Study	Number of Interviews Completed	Final Response Rate
Kingston	160	147	91.8%
St. Andrew	850	747	87.9%
St. Thomas	130	117	90.0%
Portland	106	84	79.2%
St. Mary	141	129	91.5%
St. Ann	198	179	90.4%
Trelawny	90	80	88.9%
St. James	243	219	90.1%
Hanover	88	78	88.6%
Westmoreland	186	161	86.5%
St. Elizabeth	185	154	83.2%
Manchester	244	192	78.9%
Clarendon	289	236	81.7%
St. Catherine	680	589	86.6%
TOTAL	3,590	3,112	86.7%

Field checks were held during the period May 12 to May 24, 2006. All parishes were visited and the work of each interviewer thoroughly checked by STATIN officials. Discussions were held with each team and areas of uncertainty were cleared up. The interviewers reported that the level of cooperation was quite good. They felt, however, that there was considerable fear about participating in the survey in some areas. In those instances, the interviewers felt that some of the responses were evasive and did not give fully accurate answers. Interviewers believed many of the ‘Don’t Know’ or ‘No’ responses were a result of this fear. This was so particularly in sections of the Kingston Metropolitan Area and Spanish Town. As discussed below, the fear or reluctance of some respondents may have affected the levels of victimization documented by this survey.

Data Processing

Data entry for this project began in late June 2006. Information from all questionnaires was entered into a SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences)

dataset for analysis. All data entry was completed by early November 2006. The final dataset for this project was cleaned and ready for data analysis by mid-November 2006.

Sample Description

Table 2.2 provides information on the general demographic characteristics of the final sample. The average age of survey respondents was 41.7 years of age (median age=39.0 years). One quarter of respondents (25.6%) were under 30 years of age, one quarter (23.7%) were between 30 and 40 years of age, 31.9% were between 40 and 59 years of age, and 16.6% were 60 years of age or older. A comparison with estimates from the 2005 Jamaican Census reveals that the sample is significantly older than the general population of Jamaica. For example, 2005 Census estimates suggest that there are 1,815,000 Jamaican residents over 15 years of age. Census data further suggest that 16.0% of the over-15 population is between 15 and 19 years of age, compared to only 7.2% of survey respondents. Similarly, 28.3% of the Jamaican population (15 years of age or older) is between 20 and 29 years of age, compared to only 18.4% of survey respondents. Among survey respondents, 48.5% were 40 years of age or older. By contrast, Census estimates suggest that only 36.1% of the population of Jamaica (over 15 years of age) falls within this age bracket. It should be noted that younger people tend to have much higher criminal victimization levels than older people. Thus, the fact that the sample produced by this study is older than the general population may result in an under-estimation of the true extent of criminal victimization in Jamaica.

Slightly less than half of survey respondents were male (47.7%) and slightly more than half were female (52.3%). This gender distribution is almost identical to 2005 Census estimates. Indeed, males are only slightly more represented in the general population (48.7% of all Jamaicans 15 years of age or older) than they are in the sample (47.7%). This raises confidence that the findings produced by this survey can be generalized to the Jamaican population.

Almost half of the respondents (48.1%) indicated that they were single (never married). Almost a quarter were currently married (23.1%) and an additional 12.4% were

living in a common law relationship. By contrast, only 4.3% of the respondents were divorced or separated and 4.9% had been widowed.

With respect to educational attainment, more than a third of the respondents in the sample had completed secondary school (38.2%). However, almost half (44.8%) had not completed secondary school. Almost one in ten (8.7%) had not completed primary school. By contrast, only 3.4% of the respondents had earned a university degree and less than 1% had completed a graduate or professional degree.

Almost two-thirds of the sample (63.5%) indicated that they were currently working on either a full-time (47.9%) or a part-time basis (15.6%). By contrast, 17.6% were either unemployed (14.6%) or “hustling” on the street (3.0%) to earn a living. An additional 6.6% were currently retired, 6.1% were students and 4.2% were homemakers.

A large proportion of the sample appears to have been economically disadvantaged. Indeed, almost one out of every five respondents (16.8%) indicated that they made less than \$10,000 JA in the past year. By contrast, only 4.1% indicated that they made \$50,000 JA or more. However, it must be stressed that almost half (43.2%) of the respondents refused to provide information on their personal income. Thus, estimating the true economic standing of the majority of respondents is difficult with the current data.

Respondents identified with a variety of religious backgrounds. The Church of God (23.5%), Seventh Day Adventist and Pentecostal were the most common denominations. By contrast, only 12.2% of respondents stated that they had “no religion.”

Respondents were drawn from all fourteen of the parishes of Jamaica. Importantly, it appears that the proportion of respondents from each parish approximates Census estimates. For example, Census statistics reveal that 21.3% of Jamaica’s population resides within the parish of St. Andrew, compared to 23.8% of survey respondents. Similarly, 3.7% of the population of Jamaica resides within the parish of Kingston, compared to 4.7% of the survey respondents. Finally, 2.8% of Jamaica’s population resides within the parish of Trelawny, compared to 2.6% of the survey respondents. The fact that the distribution of respondents across parishes is consistent

with Census estimates increases confidence that the results of this study can be generalized to the Jamaican population.

Finally, most respondents had resided in their current communities for substantial periods of time. Indeed, 71.7% of respondents had resided in their current community for ten or more years and an additional 14.5% had resided in their current community for more than five years. By contrast, only 3.7% of the respondents claimed to have lived in their current neighbourhood for less than one year. This finding increases confidence that the answers to the research questions reflect respondents' experiences in their current communities and not their experiences in communities from which they have recently moved.

Summary

As noted in this and the previous section, the sampling, data collection, and measurement methods used in the JNCVS are broadly similar to those used in other major crime victimization surveys. The first section of this report described some of the strengths and weakness common to victimization surveys in general. The JNCVS shares these with other surveys, as well as having some particular strengths and limitations. Among the distinctive strengths of the JNCVS are its use of random household sampling, its very high response rate, its coverage of both rural and urban areas, and evidence showing that its sample is broadly representative of the Jamaican population. These features allow greater confidence that the results from the survey are a reasonably accurate representation of the victimization experiences of Jamaicans in general. Among its particular limitations are evidence that respondents in some of the more dangerous areas of Jamaica may have been fearful or reluctant to participate in the survey and the under-representation of younger people in the sample. Both of these may reduce the estimates the incidence and prevalence of victimization obtained by the survey.

**TABLE 2.2: Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents
(Sample Size=3,112)**

CHARACTERISTIC	%
AGE	
16-19 years old	7.2%
20-29 years old	18.4%
30-39 years old	23.7%
40-49 years old	20.5%
50-59 years old	11.4%
60 years of age or older	16.6%
<i>Missing</i>	2.1%
MEAN AGE	41.7 years
MEDIAN AGE	39.0 years
GENDER	
Male	47.7%
Female	52.3%
MARITAL STATUS	
Married	23.1%
Common Law	12.4%
Divorced/Separated	4.3%
<i>Widowed</i>	4.9%
Visiting	6.8%
Single (never married)	48.1%
<i>Missing</i>	0.4%
EDUCATION	
Some Primary School	8.7%
Completed Primary School	14.2%
Some Secondary School	21.9%
Completed Secondary School	38.2%
Some College	2.4%
College Diploma	5.9%
Some University	1.4%
Undergraduate University Degree	3.4%
Graduate or Professional Degree	0.7%
Other Training	2.4%
<i>Missing</i>	0.6%

**TABLE 2.2 (continued): Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents
(Sample Size=3,112)**

CHARACTERISTIC	%
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	
Working Full-time	47.9%
Working Part-time	15.6%
Unemployed (looking for work)	9.0%
Unemployed (not looking for work)	5.6%
Full-time Student	5.4%
Part-time Student	0.7%
Homemaker/Housewife	4.2%
Retired	6.6%
Disabled	1.9%
Hustling/Other	3.0%
<i>Missing</i>	0.1%
PERSONAL INCOME (JA\$)	
Less than \$10,000	16.8%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	17.5%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	10.1%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	5.5%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	2.8%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	1.3%
\$60,000 or More	2.8%
<i>Missing</i>	43.2%
RELIGION	
No Religion	12.2%
Anglican	3.7%
Pentecostal	11.8%
Baptist	8.2%
Roman Catholic	3.3%
United Church	2.0%
Methodist	2.2%
Seventh Day Adventist	13.0%
Jehovah's Witness	2.1%
Church of God in Jamaica	4.2%
Church of God of the Prophecy	5.3%
New Testament Church of God	6.4%
Other Church of God	7.6%
Rastafarian	2.7%
Other	14.6%
<i>Missing</i>	0.7%

**TABLE 2.2 (continued): Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents
(Sample Size=3,112)**

CHARACTERISTIC	%
PARISH	
Kingston	4.7%
St. Andrew	23.8%
St. Thomas	3.7%
Portland	2.7%
St. Mary	4.2%
St. Ann	5.8%
Trelawny	2.6%
St. James	7.2%
Hanover	2.5%
Westmoreland	5.3%
St. Elizabeth	4.9%
Manchester	6.2%
Clarendon	7.5%
St. Catherine	19.0%
LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN CURRENT COMMUNITY	
Less than Six Months	2.0%
Six Months to One Year	1.7%
One to Two Years	3.1%
Two to Five Years	6.9%
Five to Ten Years	14.5%
<i>More than Ten Years</i>	71.7%

PART THREE: PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY CRIME AND DISORDER

This section presents information on respondents' perceptions of crime and disorder in their communities, and their judgments about how local problems affect out-migration from and visits to their neighborhoods. It also examines respondents' estimates of how often they hear gun shots in their area, and whether or not corner crews or area dons are present in their area. Responses to this series of questions are presented for the various parishes in Jamaica to determine whether some areas are perceived to have more problems with crime and disorder than others.

Problems with Community Crime and Disorder

This exploration of crime and disorder in Jamaica begins by analyzing respondents' answers to questions about how often fifteen specific events or problems occurred in their local communities. These conditions range from problems with neighbors, to homelessness and public drunkenness, to criminal behavior and drug use, to other distressing community conditions. The results suggest that respondents perceive both drug dealing and drug use as among the most common problems in their communities (see Table 3.1 and Figures 3.1 and 3.2). For example, 28% of respondents felt that drug use occurs often, very often or always in their communities. Similarly, almost 1 out of 5 (18.9%) felt that drug dealing often occurs in their area. However, drug problems were not perceived to exist in all regions of Jamaica: 25.4% of respondents stated that drug use "never" occurs in their area and 31.4% said that drug trafficking "never" takes place. Nonetheless, respondents felt that drug-related offences were more common than other types of crime, such as robbery, prostitution, sexual assault and vandalism. For example, only 7.1% felt that robbery occurred often, very often, or always in their communities; and less than 1% believed that sexual assaults occurred often, very often, or always in their area.

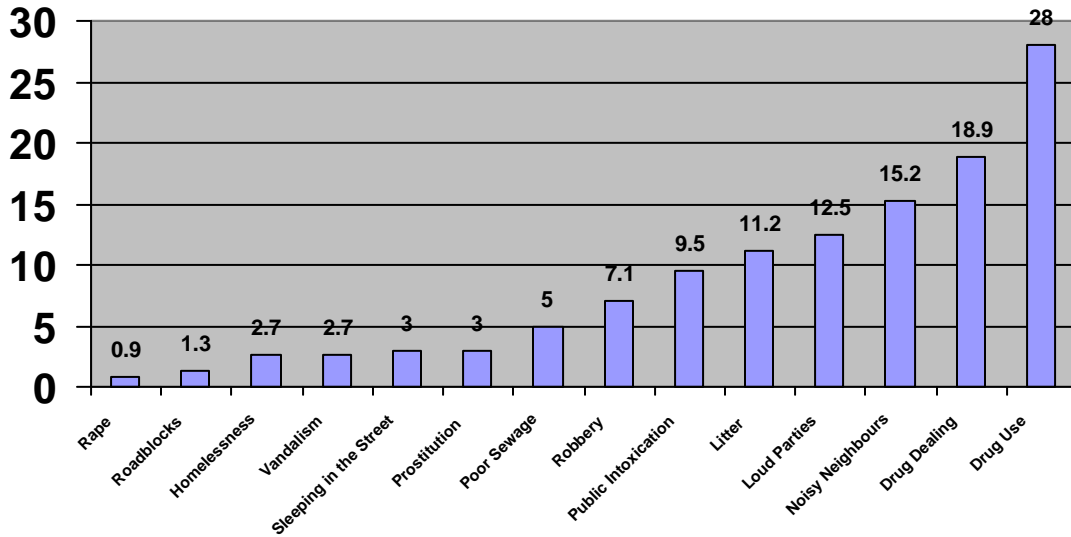
As illustrated in Figure 3.1, other frequently cited community disorder problems included noisy neighbours, loud parties, litter or garbage in the streets, and public intoxication. Between 10% and 15% of respondents saw these as occurring frequently in their area. By contrast, less than 5% of respondents felt that their community often had

problems with poor sanitation, prostitution, people sleeping in the street, vandalism, homelessness, roadblocks or demonstrations, or sexual assault.

**TABLE 3.1:
Percent of Respondents Perceiving Various Problems in Their Community,
by Frequency of Occurrence (Sample Size=3,112)**

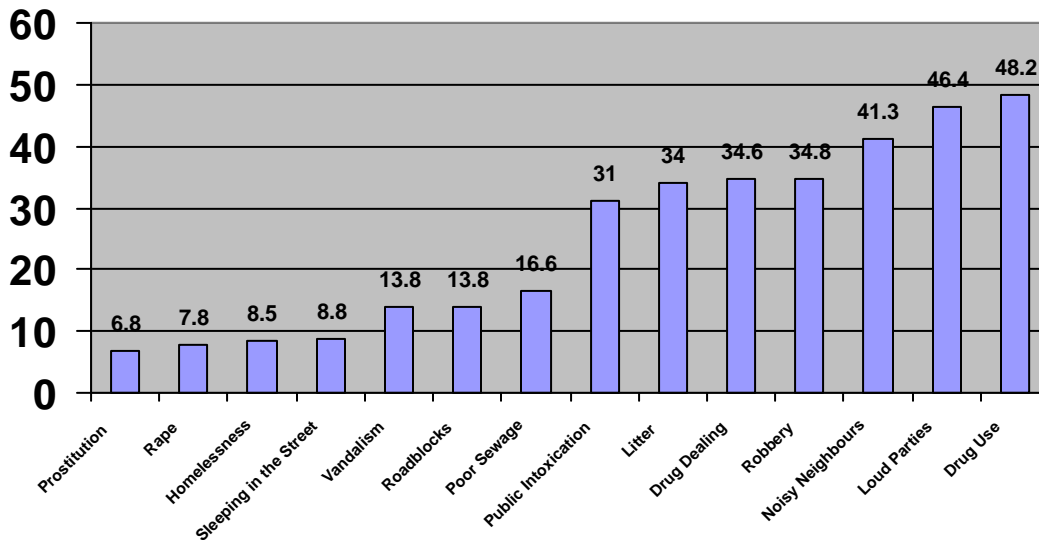
TYPE OF PROBLEM	Never	Almost Never	Some-times	Often	Very Often	Always	Don't Know
Noisy Neighbours	38.2	19.5	26.1	5.2	6.5	3.5	1.0
Loud Parties	31.4	21.3	33.9	4.9	5.8	1.8	0.9
People sleeping in the street.	78.1	9.1	5.8	1.0	1.1	0.8	4.0
Litter in the streets	46.0	18.8	22.8	4.2	3.8	3.2	1.1
Vandalism	66.2	15.7	11.1	1.3	0.9	0.5	4.4
Drug Use	25.4	5.4	20.2	9.1	8.5	10.4	21.0
Drug Dealing	31.4	4.9	15.7	6.2	6.1	6.6	29.1
Prostitution	60.0	4.8	3.8	1.0	1.1	0.9	28.5
Robbery	37.8	18.2	27.7	3.7	2.4	1.0	9.2
Sexual Assault	63.3	13.7	6.9	0.4	0.4	0.1	15.2
Homelessness	72.7	10.4	5.6	1.2	0.8	0.7	8.6
Public Intoxication	49.4	14.3	21.5	4.3	3.1	2.1	5.3
Roadblocks and Demonstrations	67.9	16.5	12.5	0.7	0.6	0.1	1.8
Poor Sewage	69.2	10.9	11.6	2.0	1.4	1.6	3.3

**Figure 3.1:
Percent of Respondents Who Perceive that Various
Problems "Often", "Very Often" or "Always" Occur
in Their Community**



Nonetheless, although most respondents reported that crime and disorder problems did not occur frequently in their communities, a large proportion claimed that their communities sometimes have problems with these issues. For example, while only 7.1% of respondents said that robbery is often, very often or always a problem in their area, 34.8% felt that robbery is at least sometimes a problem. Similarly, while less than 1% of respondents felt that sexual assault (rape) was often a problem, 7.8% said that it was sometimes a problem. Overall, a third or more of respondents felt that their communities at least sometimes had a problem with drug use (48.2%), loud parties (46.4%), noisy neighbours (41.3%), robbery (34.8%), drug dealing (34.6%), litter in the streets (34.0%) and public intoxication or drunkenness (31%). Prostitution was the least commonly perceived disorder problem. Only 6.8% of respondents felt that prostitution was sometimes a problem in their area.

Figure 3.2:
Percent of Respondents Who Perceive that Various Problems at Least "Sometimes" Occur in Their Community
(includes those who answered sometimes, often, very often and always)



Perceptions of community crime and disorder problems were not equally distributed across parishes (see Table 3.2). For example, 58% of the respondents from St. Mary indicated that drug use often, very often or always occurred in their community, followed by 47% of the respondents from Clarendon, 46% of the respondents from Hanover and 45% of the respondents from Portland. By contrast, only 17% of the respondents from St. Catherine felt that drug use often, very often or always occurred in their neighbourhoods. Similarly, 54% of the respondents from St. Mary felt that drug dealing often takes place in their community, compared to only 12% of the residents of St. Catherine. It is difficult to determine whether these regional variations are due to actual regional differences in drug-related activity, regional differences in the perceptions of respondents, or regional differences in the respondents' willingness to discuss drug related issues with STATIN interviewers.

TABLE 3.2: Percent of Respondents Who Perceive that Various Crime Problems “Often,” “Very Often” and “Always” Occur in Their Community

<i>PARISH</i>	Drug Use	Drug Dealing	Prostitution	Robbery	Sexual Assault
Kingston	23.8	17.0	4.1	8.2	2.0
St. Andrew	22.9	13.7	1.9	7.4	1.1
St. Thomas	25.9	19.0	5.2	3.4	0.9
Portland	45.2	28.6	0.0	2.4	0.0
St. Mary	57.7	53.8	0.8	6.9	0.0
St. Ann	23.5	17.9	7.8	2.8	0.0
Trelawny	21.3	15.0	1.3	11.3	0.0
St. James	20.9	15.1	2.2	10.7	1.3
Hanover	45.9	10.4	2.2	6.5	0.0
Westmoreland	38.8	33.3	9.1	4.2	0.6
St. Elizabeth	25.0	7.9	2.0	3.3	0.0
Manchester	37.0	22.4	4.7	5.7	1.0
Clarendon	47.4	33.2	1.3	6.9	0.4
St. Catherine	16.8	12.4	2.4	9.5	1.4

Responses to the community crime and disorder questions were combined to create two scales or indexes. The Perceived Community Disorder Index combined all 15 disorder items into a single scale ranging from 0 to 90. The higher the score on this index, the higher the overall level of perceived community disorder. Respondents in the Parish of Kingston had the highest scores on this index (mean=22.8), while those in St. Ann Parish (mean=12.9) had the lowest scores (see Figure 3.3)

FIGURE 3.3:
Mean Score on Perceived Community Disorder Index,
by Parish

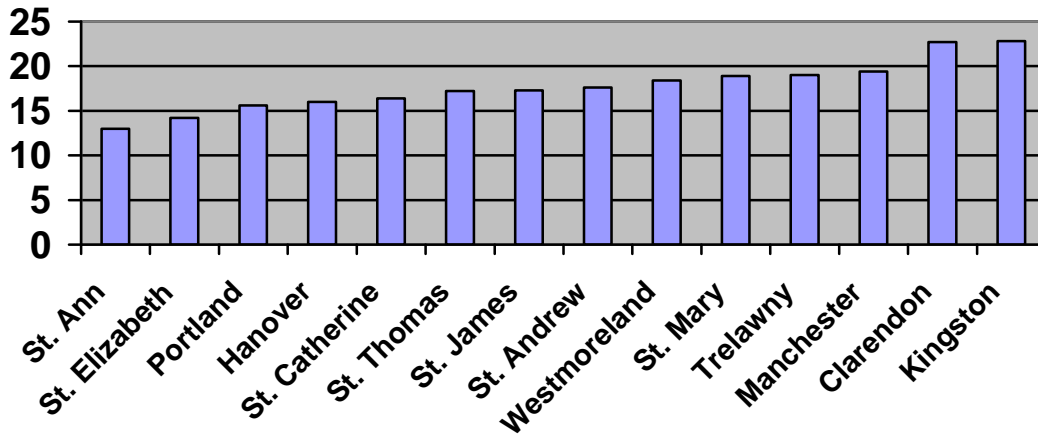
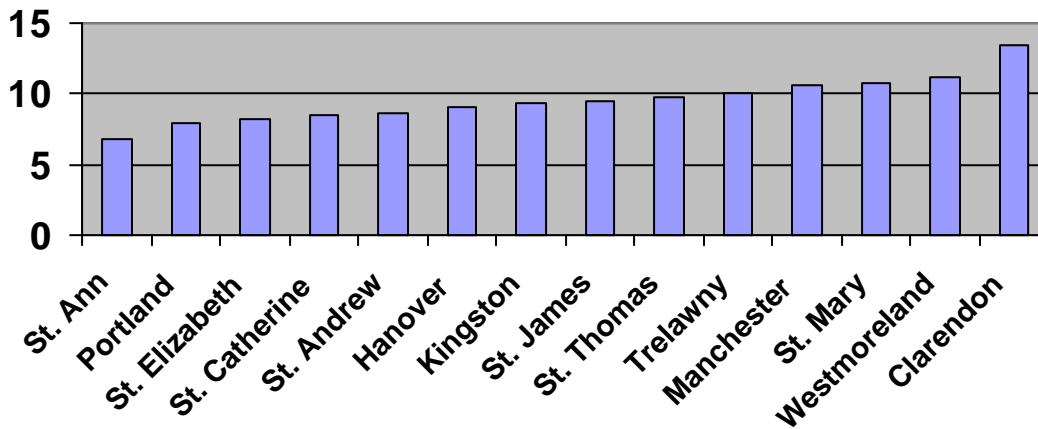


FIGURE 3.4:
Mean Score on the Perceived Community Crime Index,
by Parish



The Perceived Community Crime Index was created by combining the six questions that dealt specifically with community crime (vandalism, drug use, drug dealing, robbery, sexual assault and prostitution). The scale ranges from 0 to 36; the higher the score on the scale the higher the perceived level of community crime. The

results suggest that community crime is perceived to be the highest among respondents from Clarendon and lowest among respondents from St. Ann (see Figure 3.4).

Community Flight Due to Crime Problems

Another way of measuring community crime problems is to determine the extent of out-migration from a community. To measure this, all respondents were asked: “In your opinion, in the past year, have some people moved from your community because of violence or fear of crime?” The results suggest that three out of four respondents felt that nobody had moved from their communities because of fear of crime or violence. However, one out ten respondents (10.5%) felt that some people had moved from their area because of fear of crime and an additional 6.5% felt that many people had moved. Across all areas, then, few respondents believed crime or the fear of crime resulted in decisions to leave.

FIGURE 3.5: Percent of Respondents Who Feel That People Have Moved Out of Their Community Because of the Fear of Crime and Violence

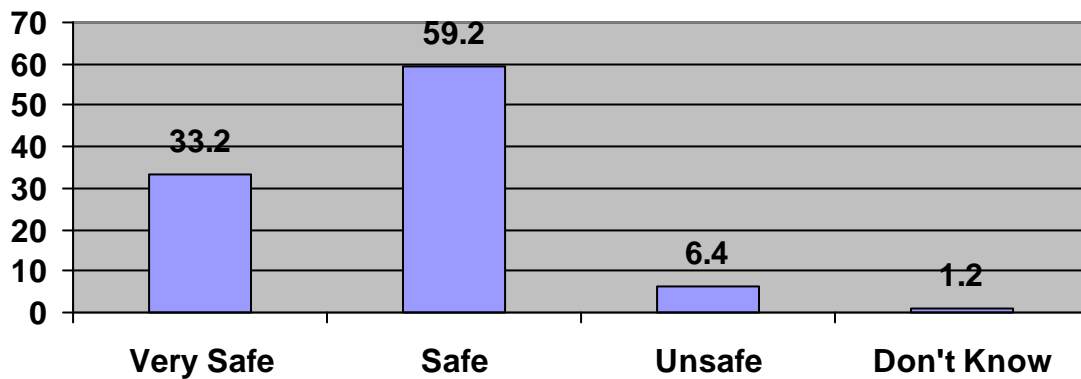


The Safety of Outsiders

Another way of measuring community crime is to determine the relative safety of outsiders who venture into the neighbourhood. Therefore, all respondents were asked: “In your opinion, if relatives or friends who do not live in this community came to visit you

in your neighbourhood (or area) would they be safe or unsafe?” The majority of respondents felt that their friends or relatives would be either very safe (33.3%) or safe (59.2%). However, approximately one out of every 20 respondents (6.4%) felt that their friends or relatives would be unsafe if they came to visit (see Figure 3.6).

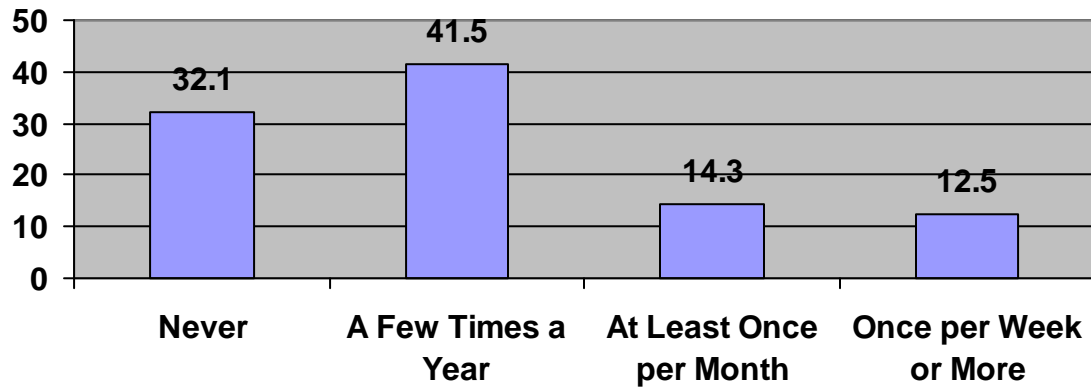
FIGURE 3.6: Percent of Respondents Who Feel That Outside Friends and Relatives Would be "Safe" or "Unsafe" Visiting their Community



Gunshots in the Community

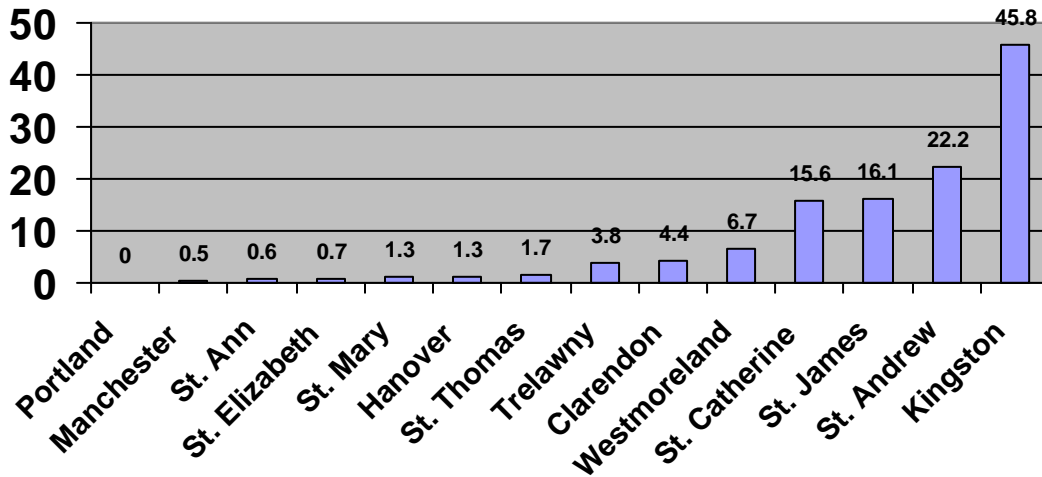
Another way of assessing community safety is determining the prevalence of gunfire or shootings in the area. All respondents were therefore asked: “How often do you hear gunshots in your community?” Nearly one third of respondents (32.1%) had never heard gunshots in their communities (see Figure 3.7). However, 41.2% of respondents indicated that they heard gunshots a few times a year and 14.3% heard gunshots at least once per month. Disturbingly, one out of every eight respondents (12.5%) claimed to have heard gunshots in their communities at least once per week. This finding suggests that firearms and gun-related violence is quite common in certain areas of Jamaica.

Figure 3.7: Percent of Respondents Who Hear Gunshots in Their Community



Further analysis reveals that exposure to gun violence may be concentrated in certain areas of the country. For example, almost half (45.8%) of the respondents from Kingston Parish claimed to hear gun shots once per week or more, followed by 22.2% of respondents from St. Andrew, 16.1% of those from St. James and 15.6% of those from St. Catherine (see Figure 3.8). By contrast, gunshots were heard once per week or more by less than 10% of the residents of all other parishes. Indeed, the figure drops to less than 1% for the residents of St. Mary, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, Manchester and Portland.

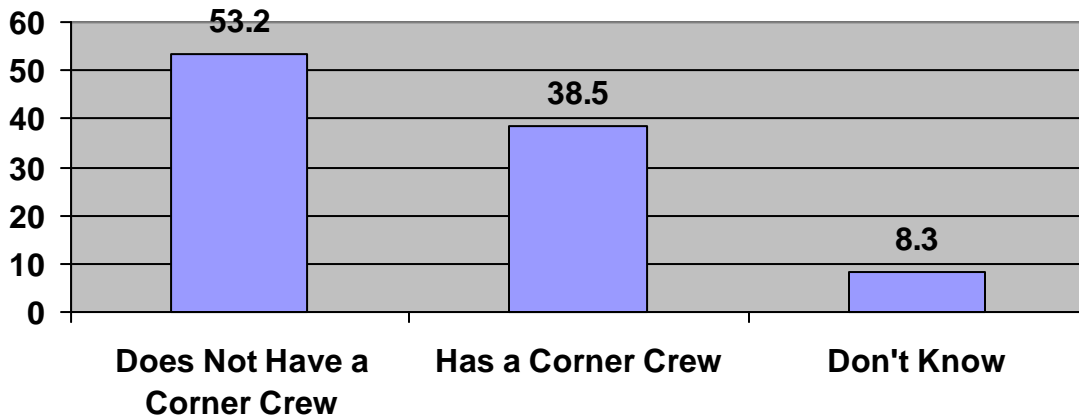
FIGURE 3.8:
Percent of Respondents Who Hear Gunshots in their
Community Once a Week or More, by Parish



Corner Crews

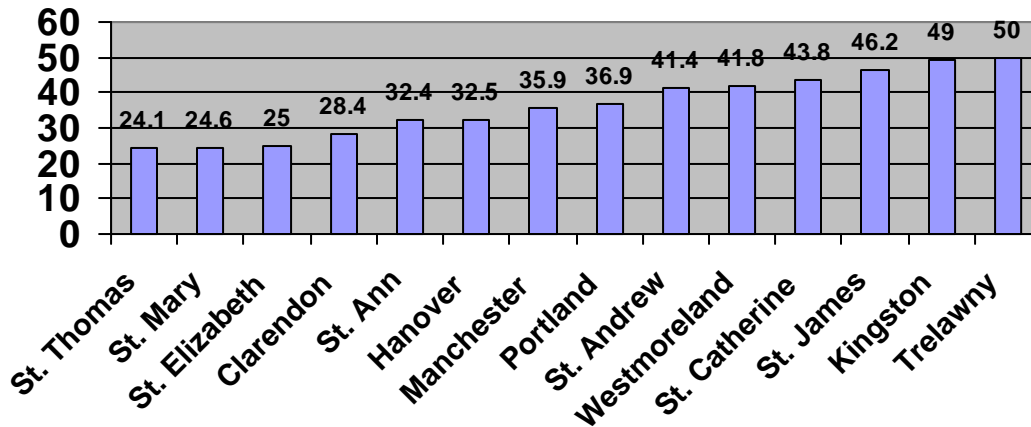
Corner crews are an enigma in Jamaican society. Some feel that corner crews represent criminal gangs and that their presence increases various forms of criminal activity in their communities. Others feel that corner crews are harmless social groups that provide young men with companionship and a sense of belonging. In order to explore the prevalence of the corner crew phenomena all respondents were asked: “Are there any corner crews in your community?” Over half of all respondents (53.2%) stated that their communities did not have any corners crews. However, 38.5% claimed that corner crews were present in their communities. Finally, 8.3% of respondents claimed that they did not know if their communities had corner crews (see Figure 3.9).

FIGURE 3.9: Percent of Respondents Who Believe that Their Community Has a Corner Crew



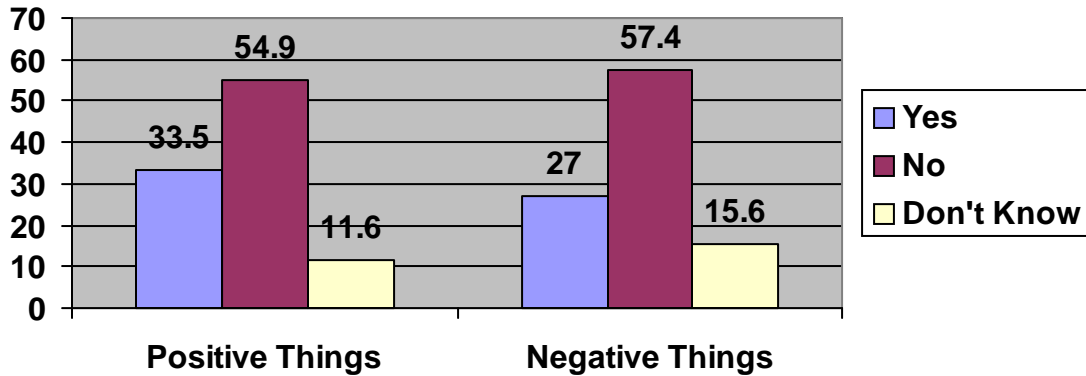
Based on respondents' perceptions, it appears that corner crews are much more prevalent in some areas of Jamaica than others. For example, 50% of respondents from Trelawny Parish claimed that their community had corner crews, followed closely by 49% of respondents from Kingston, 46.2% from St. James, 43.8% from St. Catherine, 41.8% from Westmoreland, and 41.4% from St. Andrew. By contrast, less than a quarter of the respondents from St. Mary or St. Thomas claimed that their communities had corner crews.

FIGURE 3.10:
Percent of Respondents Who Believe that their Community
has a Corner Crew, by Parish



Those respondents who claimed that their communities had corner crews were asked whether the corner crews did anything positive or beneficial for their area. Respondents were also asked if the corner crews did any bad or negative things in their communities. Over half of respondents felt that corner crews did positive things for their communities, whereas over one-third said they did nothing positive. Similarly, over half of respondents said that corner crews also did negative things for their community, compared to about one quarter who said corner crews did not do negative things. Clearly, respondents were ambivalent about the influence of corner crews. In addition, between 11% and 15% of respondents said they did not know what kind of effects corner crews had on their communities.

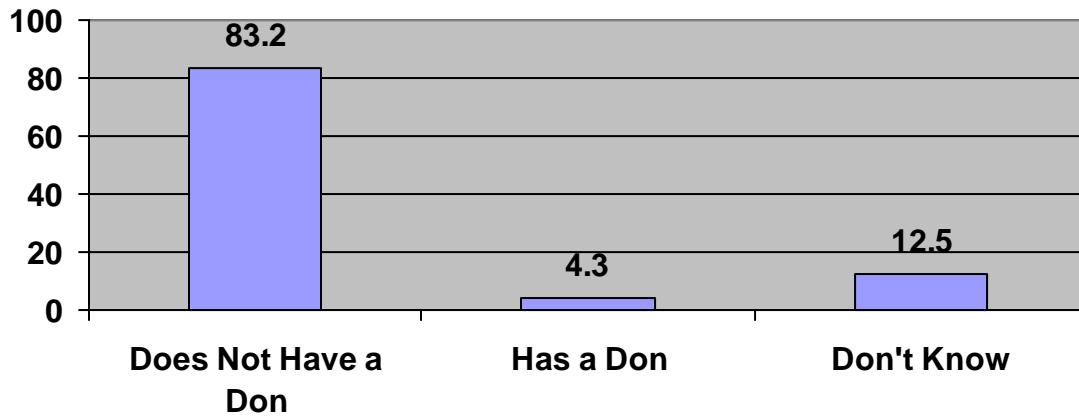
FIGURE 3.11: Percent of Respondents Who Believe that Corner Crews Do Positive and Negative Things for Their Community



Area Dons

Area dons are another controversial issue in Jamaica. Some feel that area dons provide valuable resources and social stability to disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Others feel that area dons are behind much of the crime and violence that has plagued certain communities over the past decade. To assess respondents’ views on this issue, they were asked: “Does your community have an area don?” Eight out of ten respondents (83.2%) claimed that their neighbourhoods did not have area dons. However, almost one out of every 20 respondents (4.3%) claimed that their community did have a don. Another 12.5% of respondents were unaware of whether their communities had area dons or not.

FIGURE 3.12: Percent of Respondents Who Believe that Their Community Has an Area Don



Area dons are perceived to be much more common in some areas of Jamaica than others (see Figure 3.13). For example, one out every four respondents from Kingston Parish (27.9%) claimed that their communities had area dons. St. Andrew has the next highest representation – 5.9% -- which is far below the Kingston estimate. Indeed, with the exception of those who reside in Kingston and St. Andrew, the proportion of respondents who felt that their communities had area dons falls below 5%. According to respondents, some parishes (Hanover and Portland) did not have any area dons at all.

FIGURE 3.13:
Percent of Respondents Who Believe that their Community
has an Area Don, by Parish

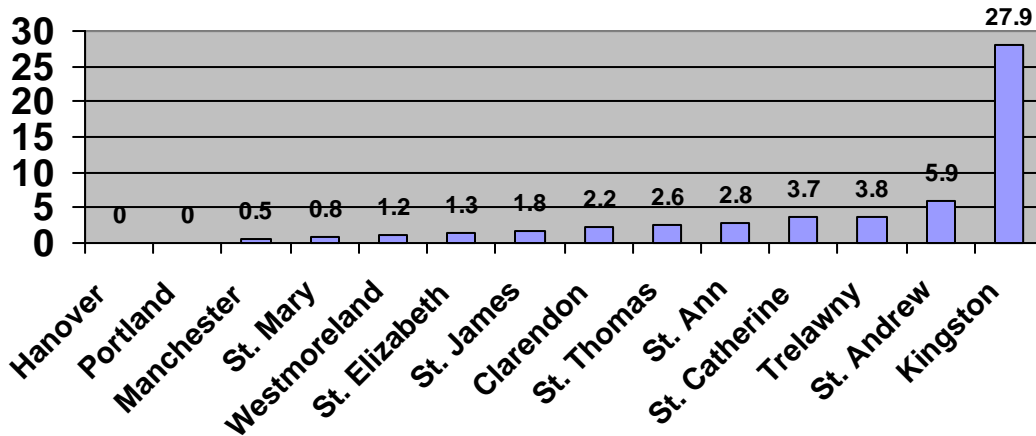
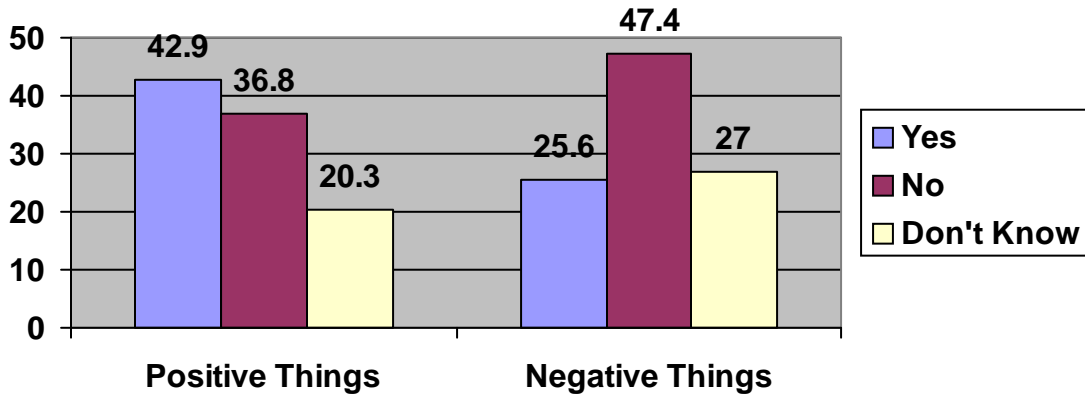


FIGURE 3.14: Percent of Respondents Who Believe that
Their Area Don Does Positive and Negative Things
for Their Community



Those respondents who claimed that their communities had area dons were asked whether the don did anything positive or beneficial for their area. Respondents were also asked if area dons did any bad or negative things in their communities. The results suggest that respondents were more likely to feel that area dons had a positive rather than a negative impact on their community. For example, 42.9% of respondents felt that area

dons had made a positive contribution to their community. By contrast, only 25.6% believed that area dons had a negative impact. Similar to their attitudes toward corner crews, a substantial proportion of respondents said they did not know whether area dons had made a positive or negative contribution to their communities.

Summary

Most respondents to this survey did not believe their own communities were plagued by problems of crime and disorder. When asked about how common a set of 15 different problematic conditions were in their communities – conditions such as public drunkenness, prostitution, robbery, rape, vandalism, and noisy neighbours – the majority of respondents said that 13 of the 15 never or almost never occurred in their communities. Consistent with these assessments, over three-quarters of respondents also said that no one had left their neighbourhoods because of fear of crime and violence; and 90% said that visitors to their communities would be safe or very safe. More than half of respondents said their communities did not have corner crews or area dons.

There were some departures from this picture of relatively orderly and crime-free communities. Firstly, over 60% of respondents said they had heard gunshots in their community at least a few times in the previous year; more than one in four respondents heard gun shots at least monthly. Secondly, perceptions of community problems and safety also varied considerable across communities. Respondents in some parishes reported relatively high levels of disorder, crime, gunshots, and the presence of corner crews and dons.

PART FOUR: CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION IN JAMAICA

The Jamaican National Crime Victimization Survey (JCVS) asked respondents to indicate whether they had been the victim of eighteen different types of criminal offences. Respondents were asked about eight different types of violent crime (robbery with a gun, robbery without a gun, serious weapons threats, other serious threats, assaults with a weapon, assaults without a weapon, sexual assault and kidnapping) and ten property crimes (motor vehicle theft, theft of items from a motor vehicle, theft of bicycles or motorbikes, burglary/break-ins, attempted burglary, larceny or personal theft, praedial larceny, vandalism, arson and fraud). Questionnaire items were derived from a number of international crime surveys including the American National Crime and Victimization Survey, the Canadian General Social Survey and the International Crime Victimization Survey.

This section of the report discusses the prevalence of each type of criminal victimization in Jamaica – with a focus on victimization experiences that took place over the past twelve months. It then examines whether the extent of victimization varies by region within Jamaica (parish) and discusses both gender and age differences in exposure to crime. The section concludes by comparing rates of violent and property victimization in Jamaica with American rates derived from the 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey. The following section (Part Five) presents a closer examination of the details of all victimization experiences that took place over the past twelve months (including where and when victimization incidents take place, the nature of the victim-offender relationship, whether the respondent reported the incident to the police, why respondents do not report crime and the impact that different types of crime have on crime victims).

Motor Vehicle Theft

All respondents were asked: “At sometime in your life, have you or another member of your household ever had a car, truck or van stolen?” The results suggest that one out of every twenty respondents (5.0%) has been the victim of motor vehicle theft at some time in their lives. One out of every 200 respondents (0.5%) has been the victim of car theft on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). It should be noted, however, that less

than one% of survey respondents indicated that they had been the victim of car theft within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one in a thousand (0.1%) were the victim of motor vehicle theft on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Theft From Motor Vehicles

All respondents were asked: “At sometime in your life, have you or another member of your household ever had money or other items stolen from your motor vehicle? This might include something from inside your car – like money, a purse or a bag – or a specific car part like a stereo, a wheel or a mirror?” The results suggest that one out of every thirteen respondents (7.4%) has been the victim of this type of theft at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 42 respondents (2.4%) has been the victim of theft from a motor vehicle on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). It should be noted, however, that only 1.7% of respondents indicated that they had been the victim of this type of crime within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every 500 respondents (0.2%) were the victim of theft from a motor vehicle on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Theft of Bicycles or Motorcycles

All respondents were asked: “At sometime in your life, have you or another member of your household ever had a motor cycle or bicycle stolen?” The results suggest that almost one out of every ten respondents (9.2%) has been the victim of a bicycle/motorcycle theft at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 62 respondents (1.6%) has been the victim of this type of theft on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). It should be noted, however, that only 1.3% of respondents indicated that they had been the victim of this type of crime within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every thousand respondents (0.1%) were the victim of bicycle/motorcycle theft on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Burglary or Break-ins

All respondents were asked: “At some time in your life, has anyone ever broken into your home and stolen or tried to steal something? The results suggest that one out of every seven respondents (14.0%) has been the victim of a burglary or break-in at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 20 respondents (5.0%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). It should be noted, however, that only 2.0% of respondents indicated that they had been the victim of a burglary or break-in within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every two hundred respondents (0.5%) were the victim of this type of crime on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Attempted Burglary or Break-ins

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever found evidence to suggest that someone tried to break into your home but failed? For example, have you ever discovered damage to doors, locks or windows that would suggest that someone tried to get into your home without permission?” The results suggest that one out of every fifteen respondents (6.8%) has been the victim of an attempted burglary or break-in at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 55 respondents (1.8%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). It should be noted, however, that only 1.6% of respondents indicated that they had been the victim of an attempted burglary or break-in within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every two hundred and fifty respondents (0.4%) were the victim of this type of crime on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Armed Robbery – Robbery with a Gun

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever been robbed by someone with a gun? Has anyone ever tried to take money or something else from you by threatening you with a gun or using a gun on you?” The results suggest that one out of every thirteen respondents (7.9%) has been the victim of an armed robbery (defined as a robbery in which the offender used a gun) at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 62 respondents (1.6%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions

(see Table 4.1). However, only 1.3% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of an armed robbery within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every five hundred respondents (0.2%) were the victim of this type of crime on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Robbery without a Gun

All respondents were then asked: “Apart from the cases that you have already told me about, has anyone ever tried to mug you or rob you without using a gun? For example, has anyone ever tried to take something from you by threatening to beat you, threatening to hurt you with a knife or some other weapon, or by actually attacking you?” The results suggest that one out of every sixteen respondents (6.4%) has been the victim of this type of robbery at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 58 respondents (1.7%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). However, only 0.8% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of this type of robbery within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every one thousand respondents (0.1%) were the victim of this type of crime on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Larceny (Personal Theft)

All respondents were then asked: “There are many other types of theft that do not involve robbery or the threat of violence. These crimes include things like pick-pocketing or stealing things – like a purse, wallet, jewelry, clothing or other items. These things can happen at home, work, at school, on the street, at the beach, on the bus or in other public places. Have you ever been the victim of this type of larceny or theft? Has someone ever stolen money or other items from you?” The results suggest that one out of every six respondents (16.5%) has been the victim of larceny or personal theft at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every seventeen respondents (5.8%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). However, only 3.0% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of larceny or theft within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every one hundred and forty-three

respondents (0.7%) were the victim of this type of crime on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Praedial Larceny

All respondents were then asked: “Have you ever been the victim of praedial larceny? In other words, has anyone ever stolen fruit, vegetables, animals or other agricultural supplies from your property?” The results suggest that one out of every six respondents (17.6%) has been the victim of praedial larceny at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every eight respondents (12.8%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). Over eight% of all respondents indicated that they had been a victim of praedial larceny within the past year (see Table 4.2). In fact, one out of every twenty-one respondents (4.8%) was the victim of this type of crime on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Vandalism

All respondents were asked: “Has anyone ever purposely caused damage to your home or property? For example, has anyone ever purposely broken windows at your home, damaged fences or defaced your property with graffiti? Has anyone ever broken or damaged something else that you own like a motor vehicle?” The results suggest that one out of every twenty-two respondents (16.5%) has been the victim of vandalism at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every seventy-one respondents (1.4%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). However, only 0.9% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of vandalism within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every three hundred and thirty-three respondents (0.3%) were the victim of this type of crime on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Serious Threats with a Weapon

All respondents were asked: “Apart from the cases that you have already told me about, has anyone ever seriously threatened to cause you harm with a gun, a knife or some other kind of weapon? Has anyone ever threatened to hurt you by throwing

something on you like boiling water or acid? Remember, I only want you to tell me about threats that you took seriously. These threats could be made by family members, friends, acquaintances or strangers.” The results suggest that one out of every twelve respondents (8.3%) has been the victim of a serious threat involving a weapon at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every twenty-six respondents (3.9%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). However, only 2.3% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of a serious weapons threat within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every two hundred (0.5%) were the victim of this type of crime on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Serious Threats without a Weapon

All respondents were asked: “Apart from the cases that you have already told me about, has anyone ever seriously threatened to harm you without a weapon? For example, has anyone ever threatened to harm you by punching you or kicking you? Remember, I only want you to tell me about the threats that you took seriously. These threats could be made by family members, friends, acquaintances or strangers.” The results suggest that one out of every eight respondents (11.8%) has been the victim of a serious threat (not involving a weapon) at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every fourteen respondents (7.0%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). However, only 3.1% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of this type of threat within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every eighty-three respondents (1.2%) were the victim of this type of serious threat on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Assaults with a Weapon

All respondents were asked: “Apart from the cases that you have already told me about, has anyone ever attacked you or assaulted you with a weapon like a gun, a knife, or a bat or has anyone tried to hurt you by throwing something on you like boiling water or acid? Once again, these assaults or attacks could be made by family members, friends, acquaintances or strangers.” The results suggest that one out of every sixteen Jamaican

respondents (6.2%) has been the victim of an assault involving a weapon at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 67 respondents (1.5%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). However, only 1.5% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of an assault involving a weapon within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every five hundred respondents (0.2%) were the victim of a weapons assault on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Physical Assaults (Assaults without a Weapon)

All respondents were asked: “Apart from the cases that you have already told me about, has anyone ever hit, attacked or assaulted you without a weapon? For example, has anyone ever kicked you, punched you, slapped you, pushed you or attacked you using some other kind of force? Once again, these assaults or attacks could be made by family members, friends, acquaintances or strangers.” The results suggest that one out of every fifteen respondents (6.8%) has been the victim of a physical assault (not involving a weapon) at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 17 respondents (5.9%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). However, only 0.8% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of a physical assault within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every five hundred respondents (0.2%) were the victim of a physical assault on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Further analysis reveals that responses to the questions about physical assault may seriously under-estimate the actual level of interpersonal violence in Jamaica. For example, in another area of the questionnaire all respondents were asked: “Have you ever been in a physical fight with another person?” Almost half of all respondents (45.1%) indicated that they had indeed been in a fight at some point in their lives. However, only 6.8% of respondents indicated that they had ever been physically assaulted. Similarly, 7.2% of all respondents indicated that they had been involved in a fight against another person within the past twelve months. However, less than 1% of all respondents indicated that they had been the victim of a physical assault in the past twelve months. Thus, despite the fact that fighting --by its very definition --involves physical assault (i.e.,

punching, kicking, pushing, grabbing, etc.), the respondents appear to be much more willing to admit that they were in a fight than admit to being the victim of physical assault. It may be that many respondents are interpreting the term “physical assault” as a passive event – being punched, hit or physically attacked without fighting back. A fight, on the other hand, is perhaps being interpreted as a form of combat that involves the mutual exchange of blows. In other words, the respondent was an active participant in the violence.

Sexual Assault

All respondents were asked: “I now want to ask you about crimes called sexual assault or rape. Has anyone ever forced you or tried to force you into unwanted sexual activity by threatening you, holding you down or hurting you in some way? This would include acts committed by family members, friends, acquaintances or strangers.” The results suggest that one out of every 42 Jamaican respondents (2.4%) has been the victim of a sexual assault at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 250 respondents (0.4%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). However, only four respondents (or 0.1% of the sample) indicated that they had been the victim of a sexual assault within the past year (see Table 4.2). No respondent had been sexually assaulted more than once over the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Kidnapping

All respondents were asked: “Sometimes people are kidnapped and held for ransom or taken for some other reason. Have you or any member of your household ever been kidnapped?” The results suggest that kidnapping is very rare in Jamaica – despite the fact that other Caribbean nations – including Trinidad and Tobago – have identified it as a growing crime problem. The results suggest that only one out of every 250 Jamaican respondents (0.4%) has been the victim of kidnapping at some time in their lives. It appears that no respondent has been the victim of kidnapping on more than one occasion (see Table 4.1) and no respondent has been the victim of a kidnapping within the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Arson

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever been the victim of arson? For example, has anyone ever tried to burn down your home or any other property that you own?” The results suggest that one out of every forty Jamaican respondents (2.5%) has been the victim of arson at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 250 respondents (0.2%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). Less than half a% of all respondents (0.4%) indicated that they had been the victim of arson within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every thousand respondents (0.1%) was the victim of arson on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

Fraud

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever been the victim of fraud? For example, has someone ever tried to do things like use your personal identification, use your credit cards or banking cards without your permission, or tried to cash cheques in your name? Has anyone tried to rip you off in some other way?” The results suggest that one out of every 26 Jamaican respondents (3.8%) has been the victim of fraud at some time in their lives. Furthermore, one out of every 111 respondents (0.9%) has been the victim of this type of crime on two or more occasions (see Table 4.1). Only half a% of all respondents (0.5%) indicated that they had been the victim of fraud within the past year (see Table 4.2) and only one out of every five hundred respondents (0.2%) was the victim of a fraud on more than one occasion in the past twelve months (see Table 4.3).

TOTAL VICTIMIZATION

The results of this victimization survey suggest that almost two-thirds of all Jamaican respondents (61.4%) have experienced at least one incident of criminal victimization in their lifetime. Approximately 18% of the sample had experienced only one victimization incident, an additional 10.1% had had two victimization experiences and one out of every three respondents (33.0%) had three or more experiences with criminal victimization.

The results further suggest that one out of every four respondents (23.7%) was victimized in the past twelve months (see Table 4.2). Indeed, one out of every 9 respondents to this survey (11.3%) experienced two or more incidents of criminal victimization in the past year (see Table 4.3).

Figures 4.1 illustrates that praedial larceny is the most common form of criminal victimization in Jamaica, followed closely by regular larceny (personal theft) and burglary. In terms of property crime, bike theft and theft from motor vehicles is also quite common. Motor vehicle theft, vandalism and fraud, according to the survey respondents, are much less common. Serious threats (not involving weapons) are the most common form of violent victimization, followed by weapons threats, armed robbery, physical assault, robbery (without a gun), assault with a weapon and sexual assault. Figure 4.2 presents information on victimization incidents that took place over the past twelve months. The ranking of crimes is quite consistent with the results for lifetime victimization. However, it is interesting to note that, in the past year, serious threats were more common than personal theft and assaults with a weapon were more common than physical assaults without a weapon.

TABLE 4.1:
**Percent of Respondents Who Have Experienced Various Types of Criminal
Victimization in Their Lifetimes**

Type of Victimization	Number of Times Victimized in Lifetime			
	NEVER (%)	ONCE (%)	TWICE (%)	THREE OR MORE TIMES (%)
Car Theft	95.0	4.5	0.4	0.1
Theft from Vehicles	92.6	5.0	1.7	0.7
Bike/Motorcycle Theft	90.8	7.6	1.0	0.6
Burglary	86.0	9.0	3.0	2.0
Attempted Burglary	93.2	5.0	1.1	0.7
Robbery (at gunpoint)	92.1	6.4	1.2	0.4
Robbery (without a gun)	93.6	4.6	1.2	0.5
Larceny/Theft	83.5	10.7	2.8	3.0
Praedial Larceny	82.4	4.7	2.7	10.1
Vandalism	95.5	3.1	0.8	0.6
Threats (with a weapon)	91.7	4.4	1.6	2.3
Threats (without a weapon)	88.2	4.8	2.0	5.0
Assaults (with a weapon)	93.8	4.7	0.8	0.7
Assaults (without a weapon)	93.2	2.9	1.0	2.9
Sexual Assault	97.6	1.9	0.3	0.1
Kidnapping	99.6	0.4	0.0	0.0
Arson	97.5	2.2	0.1	0.1
Fraud	96.2	2.9	0.4	0.5
Any Type of Victimization	38.6	17.9	10.5	33.0

Sample Size=3,112

TABLE 4.2:
**Percent of Respondents Who Have Experienced Various Types of Criminal
Victimization, by Most Recent Victimization**

Type of Victimization	Most Recent Victimization			
	NEVER (%)	PAST YEAR (%)	PAST FIVE YEARS (%)	MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AGO (%)
Car Theft	95.0	0.6	2.3	2.0
Theft from Vehicles	92.6	1.7	3.7	2.0
Bike/Motorcycle Theft	90.8	1.3	4.1	3.7
Burglary	86.0	2.0	6.7	5.3
Attempted Burglary	93.2	1.6	3.1	2.0
Robbery (at gunpoint)	92.1	1.3	3.2	3.3
Robbery (without a gun)	93.6	0.8	2.7	2.8
Larceny/Theft	83.5	3.0	7.2	6.3
Praedial Larceny	82.4	8.1	7.5	2.0
Vandalism	95.5	0.9	2.5	1.0
Threats (with a weapon)	91.7	2.3	4.3	1.7
Threats (without a weapon)	88.2	3.1	6.2	2.4
Assaults (with a weapon)	93.8	1.5	2.7	1.9
Assaults (without a weapon)	93.2	0.8	3.2	2.7
Sexual Assault	97.6	0.1	0.9	1.5
Kidnapping	99.6	0.0	0.2	0.3
Arson	97.5	0.4	1.1	0.9
Fraud	96.2	0.5	1.1	0.8
Any Type of Victimization	38.6	23.7	29.1	8.6

Sample Size=3,112

TABLE 4.3:
Number of Victimitizations in the Past Year, by Type of Victimitization

Type of Victimitization	Number of Times Victimitized in Past Year			
	NEVER (%)	ONCE (%)	TWICE (%)	THREE OR MORE TIMES (%)
Car Theft	99.4	0.5	0.1	0.0
Theft from Vehicles	98.3	1.5	0.1	0.1
Bike/Motorcycle Theft	98.7	1.2	0.0	0.1
Burglary	98.0	1.5	0.3	0.2
Attempted Burglary	98.4	1.1	0.3	0.1
Robbery (at gunpoint)	98.7	1.1	0.2	0.0
Robbery (without a gun)	99.2	0.7	0.0	0.1
Larceny/Theft	97.0	2.2	0.4	0.3
Praedial Larceny	91.9	3.3	1.4	3.4
Vandalism	99.1	0.6	0.1	0.2
Threats (with a weapon)	97.7	1.7	0.1	0.4
Threats (without a weapon)	96.9	1.9	0.6	0.6
Assaults (with a weapon)	98.5	1.3	0.1	0.1
Assaults (without a weapon)	99.2	0.5	0.1	0.2
Sexual Assault	99.9	0.1	0.0	0.0
Kidnapping	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arson	99.6	0.3	0.1	0.0
Fraud	99.5	0.3	0.1	0.1
Any Type of Victimitization	76.3	12.4	4.4	6.9

Sample Size=3,112

Figure 4.1:
Percent of Respondents Who Have Experienced Different
Types of Criminal Victimization in their Lifetime

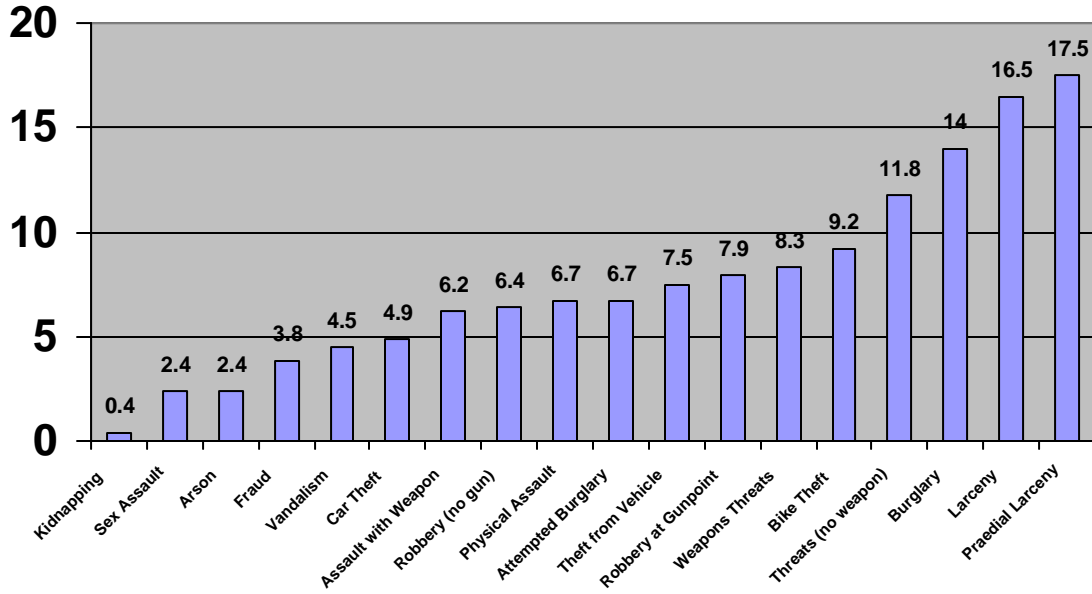
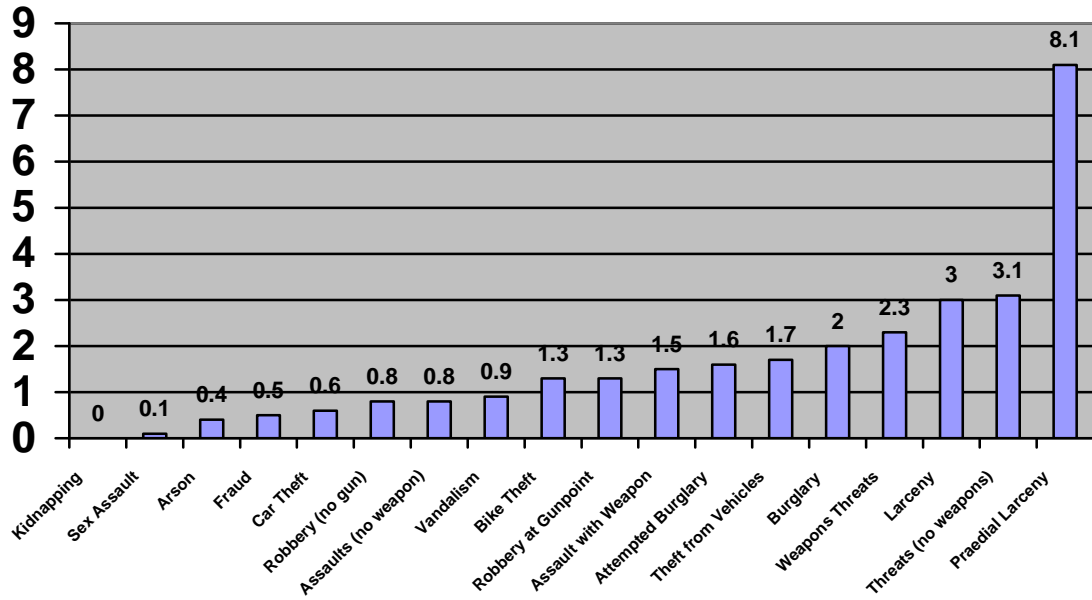


Figure 4.2:
Percent of Respondents Who Have Experienced Different
Types of Criminal Victimization in the Past Year



Victimization by Parish

Table 4.4 provides information on the level of criminal victimization by parish. The results strongly suggest that the likelihood of experiencing specific types of victimization varies from region to region. For example, armed robbery (robbery at gunpoint) is most likely to be reported by the residents of the Kingston Metropolitan area (KMA). Indeed, one in five respondents from the Parish of Kingston indicate that they have been the victim of an armed robbery at some time in their life, followed by 11.1% of the residents of St. Andrew and 9.5% of the residents of St. Catherine. By contrast, none of the respondents from Portland reported being the victim of an armed robbery. Armed robbery also appears to be quite rare among the residents of St. Mary, St. Ann and Manchester. Car theft, burglary, weapons threats and assaults with a weapon also appear to be more prevalent in the KMA region. On the other hand, rates of praedial larceny appear much higher in rural parishes. For example, 35% of the respondents from St. Thomas and 30% of the respondents from St. Elizabeth report that they have been the victim of praedial larceny, compared to only 6% of the residents of Kingston.

In order to summarize the results by parish, three victimization scales were created. The Total Victimization Scale was created by combining responses to all eighteen victimization questions (scores range from 0 to 108). The Violent Victimization Scale was created by combining responses to the eight questions on violent crime (scores range 0 to 48). Finally, the Property Victimization Scale was created by combining responses to the ten questions on property crime. Mean scores on the Total Victimization Scale are presented in Figure 4.3. Mean scores on the Violent Victimization Scale are presented in Figure 4.4. Mean scores on the Property Victimization Scale are provided in Figure 4.5.

Mean scores on the Total Victimization scale are highest in St. Thomas and St. Andrew Parishes. Total victimization, on the other hand, is lowest in St. Mary, Portland, St. Elizabeth and Manchester. Mean scores on the Violent Victimization Scale are highest within the Kingston Metropolitan Area (Kingston, St. Catherine and St. Andrew Parishes). However, overall rates of violent victimization are also relatively high in Westmoreland and St. Thomas. As with total victimization, the data suggest that violent crimes are least likely to occur in St. Mary, Portland, St. Elizabeth and Manchester.

Property crime, by contrast, appears to be quite low in the KMA. Kingston, in fact, has the third lowest score on the Property Crime Index and St. Catherine has the fifth lowest score. This result may reflect the impact that praedial larceny (the most common type of property victimization documented by the survey) has on overall property crime scores. It appears that property crime is most prevalent in St. Thomas, Hanover and Trelawny.

**TABLE 4.4:
Percent of Respondents Experiencing Various Types of Victimization in their Lifetimes,
By Parish**

PARISH	TYPE OF VICTIMIZATION														
	Car Theft	Theft from a Motor Vehicle	Bike Theft	Burglary	Attempted Burglary	Gunpoint Robbery	Robbery (no gun)	Larceny	Praedial Larceny	Vandalism	Weapons Threats	Threats (no weapons)	Assaults With a Weapon	Assaults (no weapon)	Sex Assault
Kingston	4.8	8.2	11.6	8.2	5.4	19.7	8.2	11.6	6.1	4.1	10.1	11.6	4.1	6.1	1.4
St. Andrew	8.9	11.5	12.1	15.5	8.0	11.1	10.6	18.6	12.1	6.7	8.6	14.8	9.0	9.8	2.6
St. Catherine	6.3	8.0	10.7	14.2	8.0	9.5	6.9	16.2	13.2	3.4	9.5	13.5	4.7	5.8	2.7
St. Thomas	0.9	5.2	13.8	12.9	11.2	7.8	6.9	22.4	34.5	4.3	8.6	13.8	6.9	5.2	3.4
Portland	1.2	0.0	11.9	8.3	3.6	0.0	1.2	4.8	19.0	3.6	2.4	9.5	2.4	3.6	0.0
St. Mary	2.3	2.3	2.3	6.9	4.6	1.5	1.5	8.5	13.8	2.3	4.6	5.4	3.1	1.5	0.8
St. Ann	3.4	6.7	5.6	16.8	8.9	3.9	5.0	19.0	21.2	3.9	10.1	14.0	5.0	13.4	3.9
Trelawny	8.8	5.0	7.5	10.0	7.5	3.8	1.3	10.0	28.8	7.5	2.5	8.8	6.3	1.3	6.3
St. James	2.7	11.1	8.4	18.7	6.2	8.0	9.3	16.9	10.2	4.9	7.1	9.8	7.6	5.3	1.8
Hanover	1.3	2.6	7.8	20.8	3.9	5.2	2.6	23.4	28.6	3.9	9.1	5.2	9.1	2.6	2.6
Westmoreland	0.0	4.8	9.7	10.3	2.4	5.5	4.2	15.2	18.8	3.6	8.5	15.8	7.3	15.2	1.2
St. Elizabeth	2.6	5.3	7.2	12.5	4.6	3.9	1.3	12.5	29.6	2.6	6.6	5.9	6.6	3.9	2.0
Manchester	2.6	5.7	3.1	16.7	7.3	3.1	4.2	24.0	24.0	4.7	7.6	7.3	4.2	2.6	3.6
Clarendon	4.3	3.9	5.2	12.1	4.3	6.9	2.2	13.8	28.9	3.0	7.8	9.1	3.9	3.4	1.3

CHART 4.3:
Mean Score on Total Victimization Index, by Parish

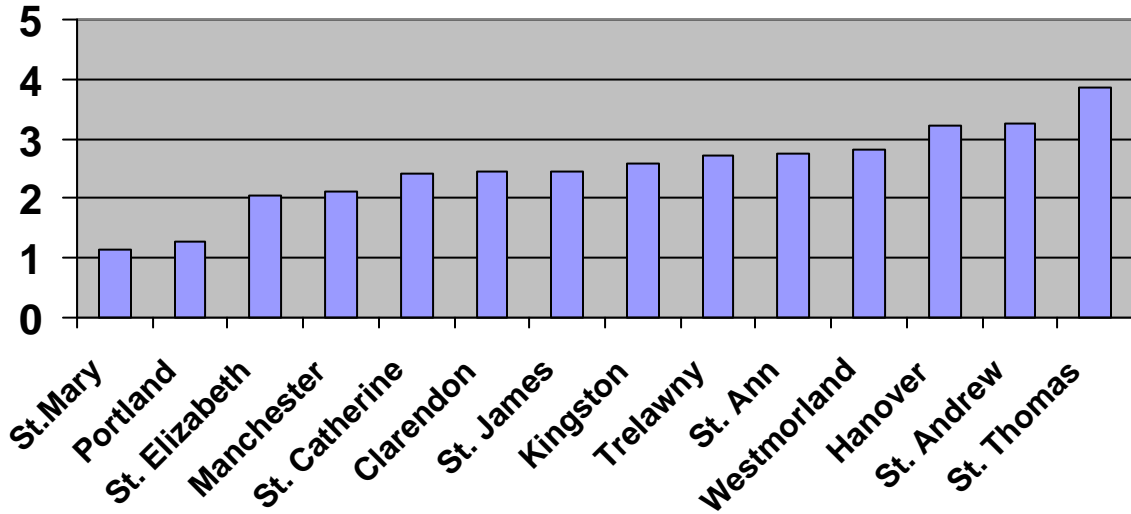


CHART 4.4:
Mean Score on the Violent Victimization Index, by Parish

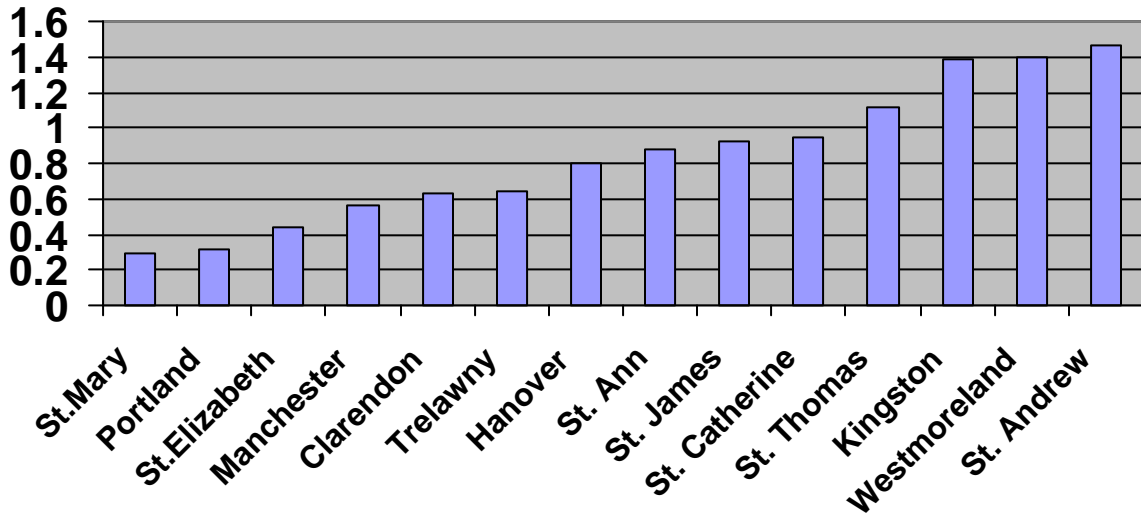
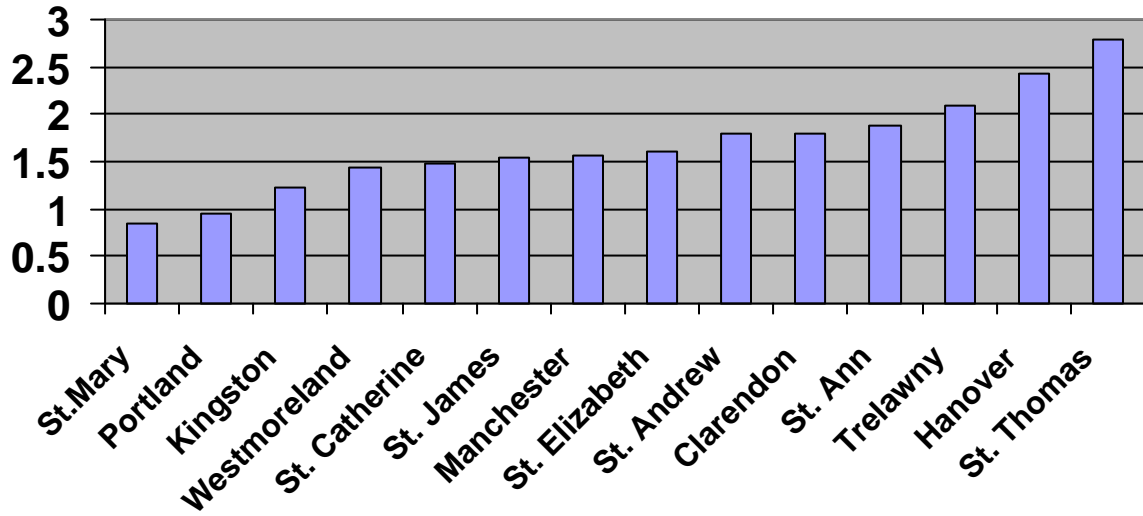


CHART 4.5:
Mean Score on Property Victimization Index, by Parish



Gender and Victimization

Table 4.5 provides lifetime victimization rates by gender. Table 4.6 examines gender differences in victimization over the past year. Overall, the results suggest that males are somewhat more vulnerable to criminal victimization than women. Approximately two-thirds of men have experienced a victimization incident in their lifetime, compared to 58.4% of women. Similarly, 26% of males have been victimized in the past year, compared to 21% of females.

Males are particularly vulnerable to certain violent offences. For example, one out of every ten male respondents (10.2%) indicates that they have been the victim of an armed robbery at some point in their life, compared to one out of every 17 female respondents (5.8%). Similarly, 10.4% of males indicate that they have received serious weapons threats at some time in their life and 7.6% have actually been assaulted by someone with a weapon. By contrast, only 6.4% of females have received serious weapons threats and 4.8% have been assaulted by someone with a weapon. Male respondents are also slightly more likely to motor vehicle theft, theft from vehicles, bike/motorcycle theft and vandalism.

On the other hand, female respondents are eight times more likely to report a sexual assault than their male counterparts. Female respondents are also slightly more likely to report being victims of larceny, physical assaults (without a weapon) and attempted burglary. Overall gender differences, especially with respect to violent crime, are somewhat smaller than expected.

In general, the survey results suggest that women in Jamaica are almost as likely to report violent criminal victimization as men. Even when a different line of questioning was used, gender differences remain rather small. For example, 50% of male respondents report that they have been in a physical fight at some time in their life, compared to 40% of female respondents (a difference of only 10 percentage points). Similarly, males were only slightly more likely to report being involved in a fight during the past year (7.6%) than their female counterparts (6.9%).

TABLE 4.5:
**Percent of Respondents Who Have Experienced Various Types of Criminal
Victimization in their Lifetime, by Gender**

Type of Victimization	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Car Theft	5.5	4.5
Theft from Vehicles	8.3	6.7
Bike/Motorcycle Theft	11.9	6.6
Burglary	14.6	13.4
Attempted Burglary	6.0	7.4
Robbery (at gunpoint)	10.2	5.8
Robbery (without a gun)	6.5	6.3
Larceny/Theft	15.8	17.0
Praedial Larceny	18.5	16.6
Vandalism	5.3	3.8
Threats (with a weapon)	10.4	6.4
Threats (without a weapon)	12.3	11.3
Assaults (with a weapon)	7.6	4.8
Assaults (without a weapon)	6.4	7.1
Sexual Assault	0.5	4.2
Kidnapping	0.1	0.7
Arson	2.4	2.5
Fraud	4.7	2.9
Any Type of Victimization	64.6	58.4

Sample Size=3,112

TABLE 4.6:
**Percent of Respondents Who Have Experienced Various Types of Criminal
Victimization in the Past Year, by Gender**

Type of Victimization	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Car Theft	0.7	0.6
Theft from Vehicles	2.0	1.4
Bike/Motorcycle Theft	1.5	1.0
Burglary	2.2	1.8
Attempted Burglary	1.1	2.0
Robbery (at gunpoint)	1.6	1.0
Robbery (without a gun)	0.9	0.6
Larceny/Theft	3.4	2.6
Praedial Larceny	9.0	7.3
Vandalism	1.3	0.6
Threats (with a weapon)	2.9	1.8
Threats (without a weapon)	3.5	2.7
Assaults (with a weapon)	2.0	1.1
Assaults (without a weapon)	0.3	1.3
Sexual Assault	0.1	0.2
Kidnapping	0.1	0.0
Arson	0.3	0.5
Fraud	0.7	0.3
Any Type of Victimization	26.2	21.4

Sample Size=3,112

Age and Victimization

Table 4.7 documents age differences in lifetime victimization rates. Table 4.8 documents age differences in victimization over the past year. As with gender, overall age differences in criminal victimization rates appear to be quite small. However, in terms of lifetime victimization, older respondents (40 years of age or over) are more likely to report motor vehicle theft, burglary, armed robbery, praedial larceny and fraud. Age differences in lifetime exposure to property crime may be explained by the fact that older people have been around longer and therefore have had more opportunities to become a victim. However, older people are also much more likely to report praedial larceny in the past year than their younger counterparts. It may be that older people are more likely to own the types of property that become the target of this type of crime.

Younger respondents (39 years of age or younger), on the other hand, are more likely to report both lifetime and recent (past year) exposure to violent crime. Age differences in violent victimization are particularly evident when examining recent experiences with violent crime (see Table 4.8). Overall, compared to older adults, younger people are significantly more likely to report serious threats with a weapon, serious threats without a weapon, assaults with a weapon, physical assaults (without a weapon) and sexual assault.

TABLE 4.7:
**Percent of Respondents Who Have Experienced Various Types of Criminal
Victimization in their Lifetime, by Age Group**

Type of Victimization	15-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60 Years or Older
Car Theft	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.1	7.9	7.5
Theft from Vehicles	6.7	6.5	7.9	8.8	7.6	7.1
Bike/Motorcycle Theft	8.9	10.5	9.2	9.5	8.1	7.3
Burglary	10.7	12.8	11.7	15.3	16.0	17.6
Attempted Burglary	5.8	7.0	5.6	6.9	8.7	7.5
Robbery (at gunpoint)	3.6	7.0	8.7	9.2	11.2	6.4
Robbery (without a gun)	4.9	5.8	8.5	6.6	5.6	4.8
Larceny/Theft	16.9	17.0	15.4	16.1	14.9	18.5
Praedial Larceny	10.7	11.4	14.2	19.6	19.9	29.0
Vandalism	3.6	3.5	3.8	6.1	4.8	4.6
Threats (with a weapon)	9.8	9.4	9.1	9.5	5.9	5.6
Threats (without a weapon)	14.2	12.4	14.6	12.5	10.1	6.0
Assaults (with a weapon)	7.1	5.4	6.5	7.5	5.9	4.4
Assaults (without a weapon)	5.8	8.6	9.3	6.4	6.2	2.1
Sexual Assault	2.7	4.4	2.4	1.9	1.7	1.4
Kidnapping	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.6
Arson	4.4	1.2	2.6	2.7	2.5	1.9
Fraud	0.9	2.6	4.6	3.6	5.9	4.1
Any Type of Victimization	58.2	60.1	62.6	62.8	60.7	62.2

Sample Size=3,112

TABLE 4.8:
**Percent of Respondents Who Have Experienced Various Types of Criminal
Victimization in the Past Year, by Age Group**

Type of Victimization	15-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60 Years or Older
Car Theft	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.0
Theft from Vehicles	1.3	2.3	1.8	1.6	2.2	1.2
Bike/Motorcycle Theft	0.9	2.1	1.4	1.6	0.8	0.2
Burglary	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.2	1.9
Attempted Burglary	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.4	0.6
Robbery (at gunpoint)	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.6	0.6	0.6
Robbery (without a gun)	1.8	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.2
Larceny/Theft	6.7	4.5	3.0	2.7	1.7	1.2
Praedial Larceny	4.4	5.4	6.6	8.6	11.8	12.2
Vandalism	0.0	0.9	0.7	1.4	0.8	1.2
Threats (with a weapon)	5.8	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.5
Threats (without a weapon)	4.4	3.8	4.2	3.1	1.4	1.0
Assaults (with a weapon)	3.1	1.9	1.8	1.1	1.4	0.8
Assaults (without a weapon)	0.9	1.0	1.6	0.5	0.0	0.2
Sexual Assault	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0
Kidnapping	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Arson	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2
Fraud	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
Any Type of Victimization	26.2	26.6	24.6	23.2	22.2	20.7

Sample Size=3,112

Criminal Victimization in Jamaica and the United States

This section of the report compares the victimization rates documented by the 2006 Jamaica National Victimization survey with the results of the 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey in the United States. There are two reasons to focus on the Jamaica-US comparison. First of all, these surveys were conducted only one year apart. Thus, the crime dates documented by these surveys are from approximately the same time period. Furthermore, the victimization questions used by the National Crime Victimization Survey are very similar to those that were employed in the Jamaica study.

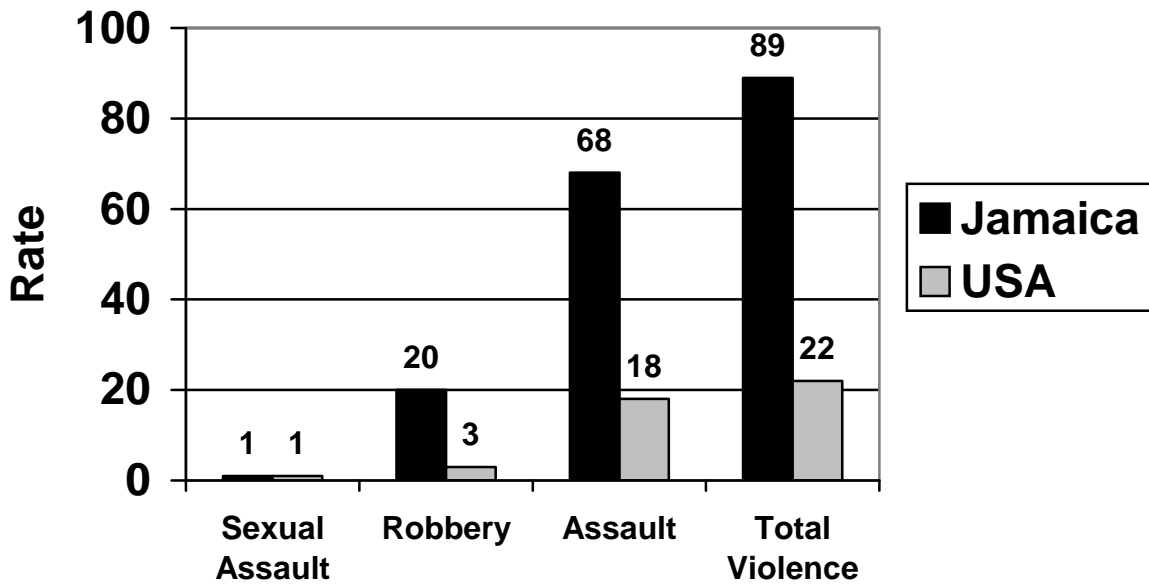
It should be noted that, in the following analysis, the term “robbery” refers to both armed robbery (robbery with a gun) and robbery without a gun. The term “assault” refers to assaults with a weapon, physical assaults without a weapon, serious threats with a weapon and serious threats without a weapon. The term “burglary/B&E” refers to both burglary and attempted burglary. Finally, the measure of “personal theft” for Jamaica includes larceny, bike theft, praedial larceny and theft from motor vehicles. These definitions are identical to the definitions used in the American survey. The US victimization rates per 1,000 were taken directly from a 2006 report published by the American Bureau of Justice Statistics (Catalano 2006). The Jamaican rates, per 1,000 population, were calculated by taking the percentage of respondents who had experienced a certain type of victimization and multiplying that figure by ten. For example, if 5% of the population experienced an assault in the past year, that would translate into an assault rate of 50 per 1,000.

The results suggest that, in general, Jamaicans are much more vulnerable to violent victimization than their American counterparts (see Figure 4.6). While the rate of sexual assault documented by the two surveys is identical (1 per 1,000 in both Jamaica and the United States), the rate of robbery is 6.7 times greater in Jamaica than the United States (20 versus 3 per 1,000) and the rate of assault is 3.8 times higher (68 versus 18 per 1,000). Overall, the 2006 rate of violent victimization documented by the Jamaican National Victimization Survey (86 per 1,000) is 4.1 times greater than the rate of violent victimization documented by the 2005 U.S National Crime Victimization survey. Interestingly, the differences in violent victimization documented by these two victimization surveys are strikingly similar to national differences in official homicide

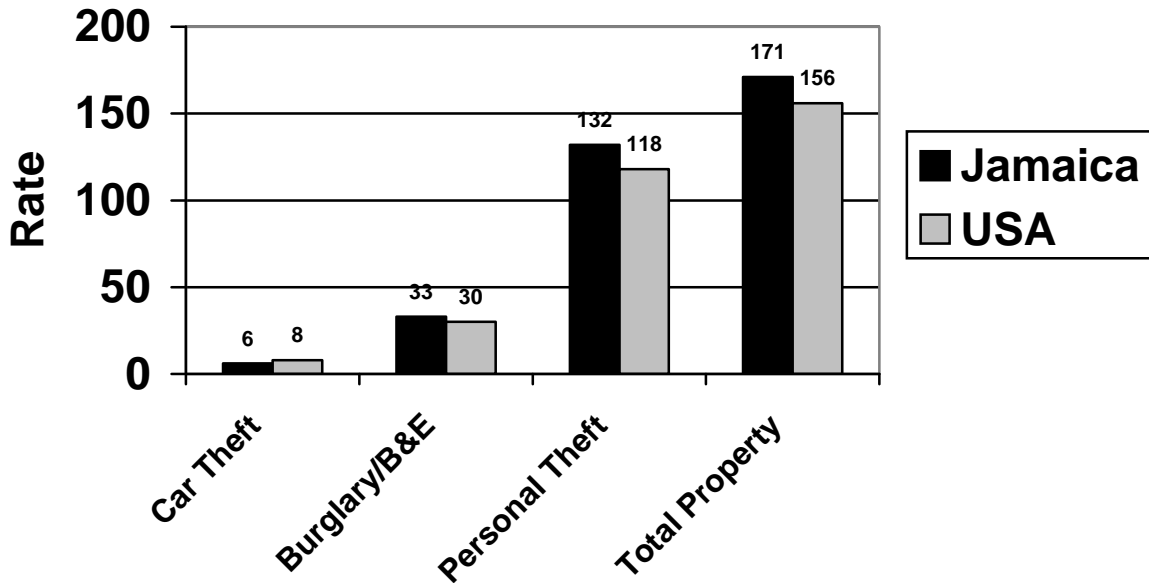
statistics. For example, in 2000 the official homicide rate for Jamaica (33 per 100,000) was six times higher than the official homicide rate for the United States (6 per 100,000).

As documented in Figure 4.7, differences between Jamaica and the United States in property crime victimization are much less pronounced. For example, the American rate of motor vehicle theft (8 per 1,000) is only slightly higher than the Jamaican rate (6 per 1,000). Similarly, Jamaican rates for burglary (33 per 1,000) and personal theft (132 per 1,000) are only slightly higher than the American rates for these crimes (30 per 1,000 and 118 per thousand respectively). Jamaica's overall property victimization rate (171 per 1,000), as measured by the 2006 Jamaican National Victimization Survey, is only slightly higher than the overall property victimization rate in the United States (156 per 1,000) as measured by the 2005 U.S National Crime Victimization Survey.

FIGURE 4.6:
Violent Criminal Victimization Rates Per 1,000,
USA (2005) and Jamaica (2006)



**FIGURE 4.7:
Property Victimization Rates Per 1,000,
USA (2005) and Jamaica (2006)**



SUMMARY

To the extent that the respondents to this survey are representative of the Jamaican population, the results of the 2006 Jamaican National Victimization Survey suggest that almost two-thirds of the Jamaican population (61.4%) has suffered from some form of criminal victimization in their lifetime and that one out of every four Jamaicans (23.7%) had a victimization incident in the past twelve months. Although the rate of violent victimization appears to be quite high, rates of property victimization are similar to those found in the United States (and likely other Western countries). Although the results of this victimization survey, along with official homicide statistics, suggest that interpersonal violence is relatively common in Jamaican society, the data also suggest that over 90% of the Jamaican population was free from *violent* victimization in the past year.

How valid are the crime estimates produced by this study? Do the statistics produced by this survey actually reflect the true level of violent and property victimization in Jamaica? These are questions that often plague victimization researchers.

One concern is that the sample produced for this study appears to be significantly older than the general population of Jamaica (see the discussion in the methodology section). For example, Jamaican Census estimates indicate that approximately 29% of the Jamaican population (over 15 years of age) is between 15 and 29 years of age. By contrast, only 18% of the respondents to this survey fall into this age category. This is important to note because previous research suggests that criminal victimization, particularly violent victimization, is concentrated among young people. Therefore, the fact that younger people are under-represented in this study may mean that the survey findings somewhat under-estimate the true level of crime in the country.

This survey was also based on a random sample of Jamaican households. Thus, the survey does not capture people who are either homeless or transient at the time of the study. It also appears that the survey may have largely over-looked people living in extreme poverty. Indeed, STATIN interviewers indicated that only 4 of the 3,112 people who took part in the survey resided in an “improvised housing unit.” The rest either resided in a detached house (83%) or an attached house (15%). Previous research suggests that homeless people and people living in extreme poverty suffer from much higher rates of victimization than those who have a permanent residence (see Tanner and Wortley 2002; Hagan and McCarthy 1997). Thus, since the current survey under-counted homeless people and other people living in extreme poverty, the victimization rates discussed above should be viewed as conservative.

Additional research suggests that young men and women involved in criminal gangs or other deviant lifestyles are especially vulnerable to violent victimization. Research also suggests that these types of individual are often reluctant to take part in government-sponsored surveys. Indeed, only 34 of the 3,112 respondents to this survey (1.1% of the total sample) indicated that they had been the member of a gang at some point in their life and only 3 respondents (0.1% of the sample) admitted to being a current gang member. Thus, to the extent that the current study may have under-counted gang members or those involved in criminal organizations, the levels of victimization documented by the above statistics should be viewed as modest.

Finally, it is important to consider the possibility that some respondents may have been uncomfortable discussing their victimization experiences with the STATIN

interviewers. The under-reporting of victimization experiences is a problem that has been previously identified by researchers conducting victimization surveys in other countries (see discussion in Part One of this report). Previous research suggest that some respondents feel embarrassed or ashamed about talking about their experiences with strangers, while others may have feel that information about criminal victimization could be used against them or their community. Furthermore, as discussed thoroughly in the next two sections, many respondents to this survey refused to report crimes that they had witnessed or experienced to the police. If some respondents are reluctant to report victimization incidents to the police, it must at least be acknowledged that some respondents may also feel reluctant to report their victimization experiences to survey researchers. Thus, to the extent that the respondents to this survey under-reported victimization experiences, the rates of victimization documented by this study should be seen as conservative. It should be stressed, however, that under-reporting is a potential problem with all victimization surveys. There is little reason to assume that it is more of an issue with this study than others.⁴

The section above documented the prevalence of different types of criminal victimization in Jamaican society. The next section examines the details of specific victimization incidents that took place over the past twelve months. This analysis will help us understand the basic characteristics of criminal victimization (including where and when victimization incidents take place, the nature of the victim-offender relationship, etc.), the impact of victimization and how respondents deal with personal encounters with crime.

⁴ Of course over-reporting could have exaggerated the levels of victimization documented by this survey. Some respondents, for example, could have reported victimization incidents that never occurred or reported recent victimization experiences that actually occurred a long time ago (the problem of telescoping). However, it is generally accepted that by asking respondents to report on both lifetime and past year victimization experiences, the problem of telescoping is diminished.

PART FIVE: DETAILS OF RECENT VICTIMIZATION INCIDENTS

Recent Victimization Incidents

The previous section documented the prevalence of different types of criminal victimization in Jamaica over the respondents' lifetime and over the past year. This section, on the other hand, examines specific details about incidents of criminal victimization that took place over the past twelve months -- including where and when the crime took place, the nature of the victim-offender relationship and whether the incident was reported to the police or not. These cases are referred to as 'recent' incidents of victimization. The details about crimes that occurred beyond this twelve-month period were not addressed by the survey.

As discussed in the previous section, 736 of the 3,112 respondents (23.7%) indicated that they had been a victim of a crime within the past twelve months. In fact, the 736 respondents who were victimized reported a total of 973 different victimization incidents in the past year, indicating that some respondents were victimized more than once. One "crime incident report" was completed for each *type* of criminal victimization that occurred in the past year. For example, if a person was robbed and assaulted within the last twelve months, two crime incident reports were completed -- one for the robbery and one for the assault. When respondents experienced the same type of victimization more than once in the past year, a single report was filled out for only the most serious of the incidents. For example, if a respondent experienced a robbery and two assaults, one crime incident report was filled out for the robbery and another for the more serious of the two assaults.

In sum, as discussed in the previous section, three quarters of the total sample (76.3%) did not experience a criminal victimization in the past year. However, 17.9% of all respondents experienced one incident of victimization in the past year, while 4.2% experienced two incidents within the last twelve months, 1.2% of respondents experienced three incidents of victimization, 0.3% experienced 4 incidents and 0.2% experienced 5 incidents.

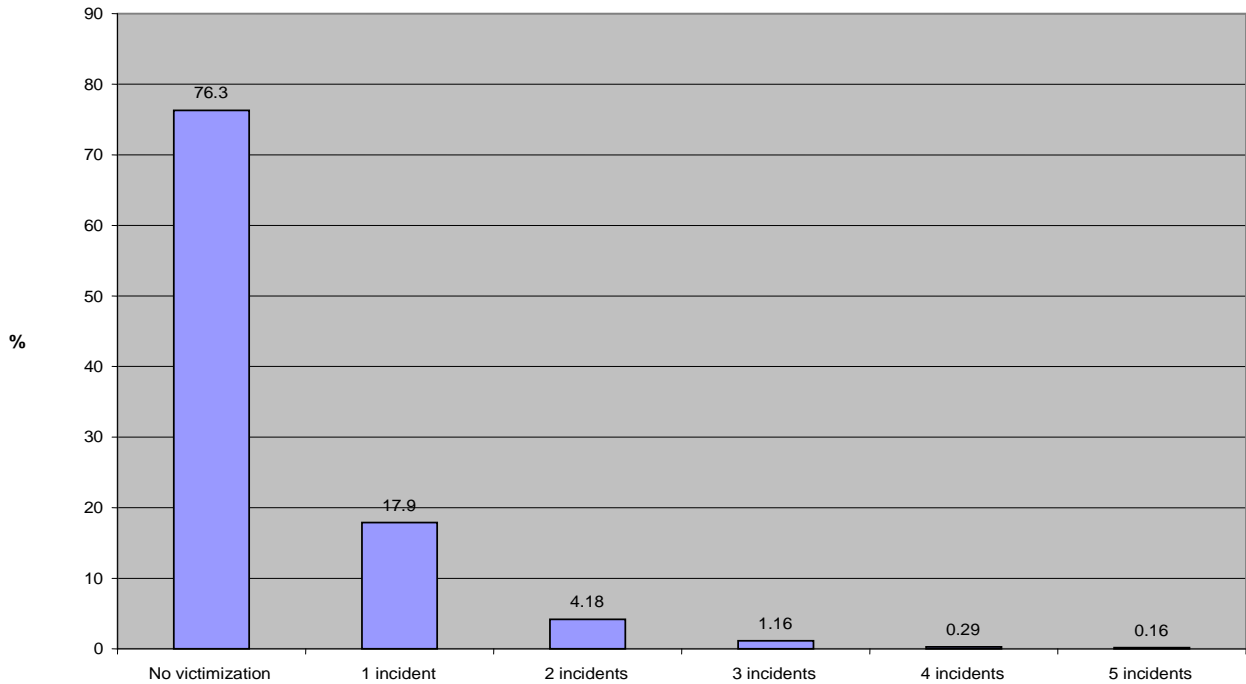
Table 5.1
Percent of persons experiencing different levels of victimization
in the last 12 months

(N = 3112; total sample interviewed)

Number of victimization incidents per person	%
0	76.3
1	17.9
2	4.2
3	1.2
4	0.3
5	0.2
Total%	100
Total number of persons	3112

Figure 5.1
% of persons who experienced different numbers of victimization experiences
within the last 12 months

(N = 3112 persons)



Types of victimization reported within the last twelve months

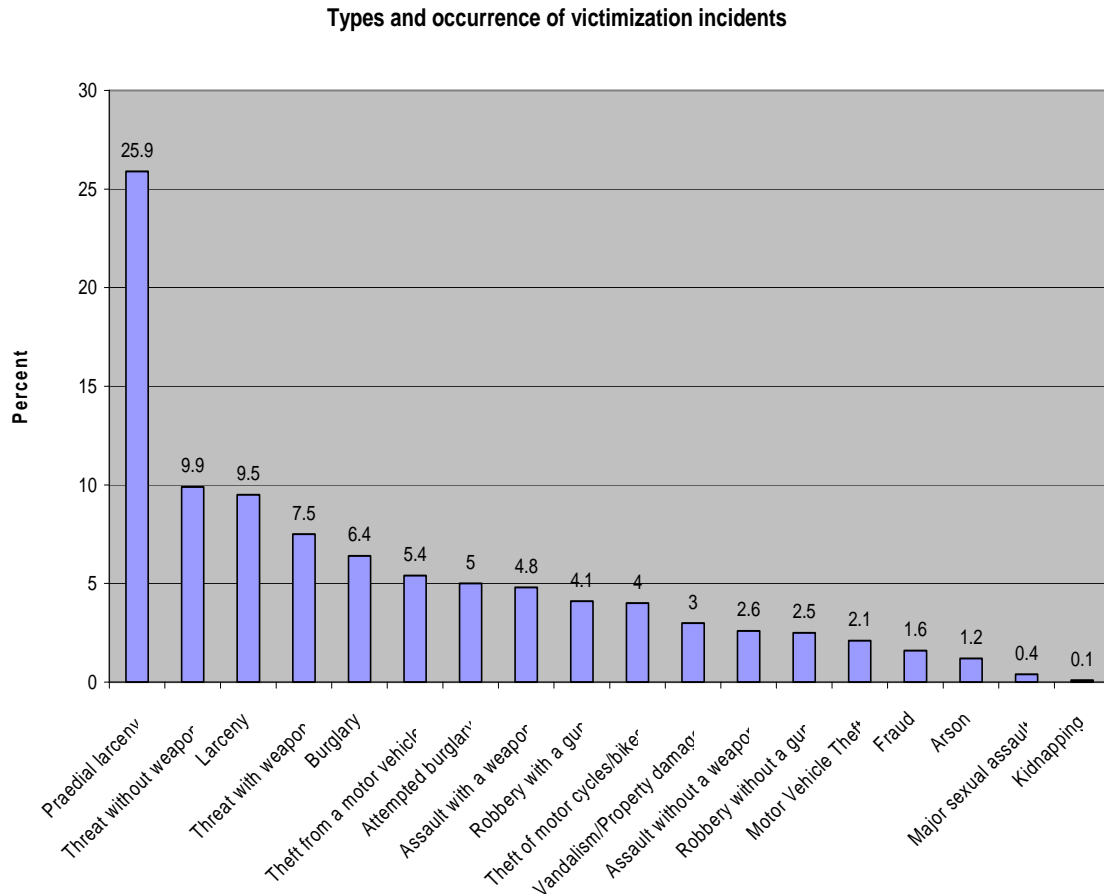
In total, 973 incidents of victimization were reported to have occurred within the last 12 months. These 973 recent victimization incidents are the unit of analysis in this section of the report. Praedial larceny, accounted for 25.9% of all incidents of recent victimization. Threat without weapons was next in frequency (9.9%), followed by larceny (9.5%) and serious threats with a weapon (7.5%). Other notable types of victimization include burglary (6.4%) and theft from a motor vehicle (5.4%). Motor vehicle theft accounted for 2.1% of the victimization incidents, while robbery with a gun accounted for 4.1% of the incidents. The least frequent type of victimization was kidnapping (0.1%) and major sexual assault (0.4%). Note that the former may be under-reported if victims of kidnapping are frequently killed or are less likely to have public contact due to fear of crime (hence reducing the likelihood that such victims would be interviewed), while the latter may be prone to under-reporting due to personal or social reasons.

Table 5.2: Type of recent victimization experienced as a % of the total number of incidents of victimization (N = 973)

Type of Victimization	%
Praedial larceny	25.9
Threat without weapon	9.9
Larceny	9.5
Threat with weapon	7.5
Burglary	6.4
Theft from a motor vehicle	5.4
Attempted burglary	5.0
Assault with a weapon	4.8
Robbery with a gun	4.1
Theft of motor cycles/bikes	4.0
Vandalism/Property damage	3.0
Assault without a weapon	2.6
Robbery without a gun	2.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	2.1
Fraud	1.6
Arson	1.2
Major sexual assault	0.4
Kidnapping	0.1
Other	4.0
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.2
Type of recent victimization experienced as a% of the total number of incidents of victimization

(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



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Simplifying the crime categories

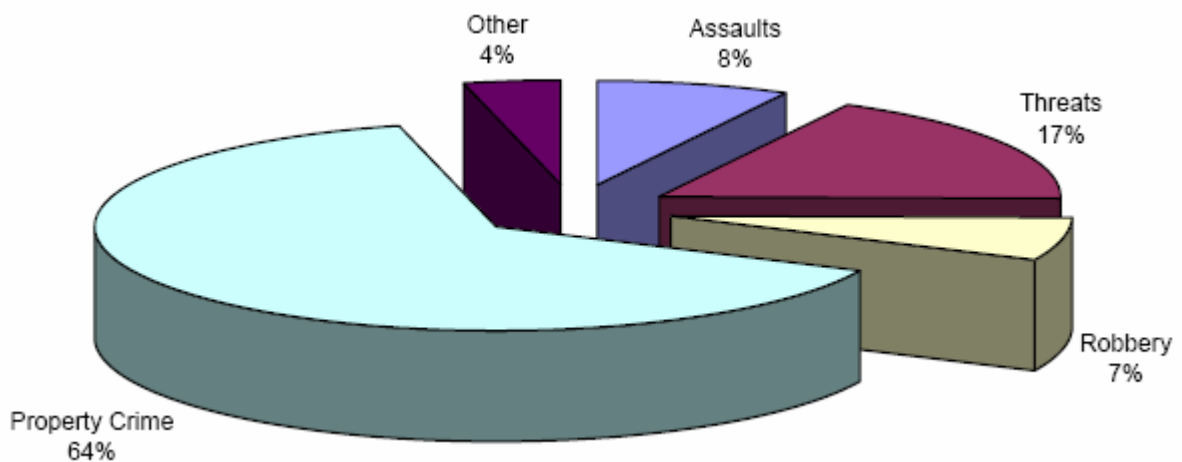
In order to determine the relationship between different types of crime and other variables examined later in this section, the full range of crimes in Table 5.2 have been simplified into four categories; Assaults, Threats, Robbery and Property Crime. The crimes which belong to each category are as follows: Assaults (assault with a weapon, assault without a weapon, major sexual assault); Threats (threat with weapons, threat without weapons); Robbery (robbery with a gun, robbery without a gun, kidnapping) and Property Crime (motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of motor cycles/bikes, burglary, attempted burglary, larceny, praedial larceny, vandalism/property damage, arson, fraud). Alternate categorizations could have been created; nevertheless,

previous research on crime has indicated that this typology is useful as the different crime categories are related to different motivational and causal factors (Liska et al., 1981). It is also recognized that some of the crimes do not fit as neatly as one would have liked into the categories in which they were placed, for example kidnapping. For such ‘problematic’ crimes, they were placed into the category which most closely approximated the nature of the crime. The percentage of each crime type is shown in Table 5.3, and is represented diagrammatically in Figure 5.3.

Table 5.3
Type of Crime: Conflated to assaults, threats, robbery and property crime
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Type of Crime	%
Assaults	7.8
Threats	17.4
Robbery	6.7
Property Crime	64.1
Other	4.0
Total%	100
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.3
Type of Crime: Conflated to assaults, threats, robbery and property crime
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Victimization as a function of month of occurrence

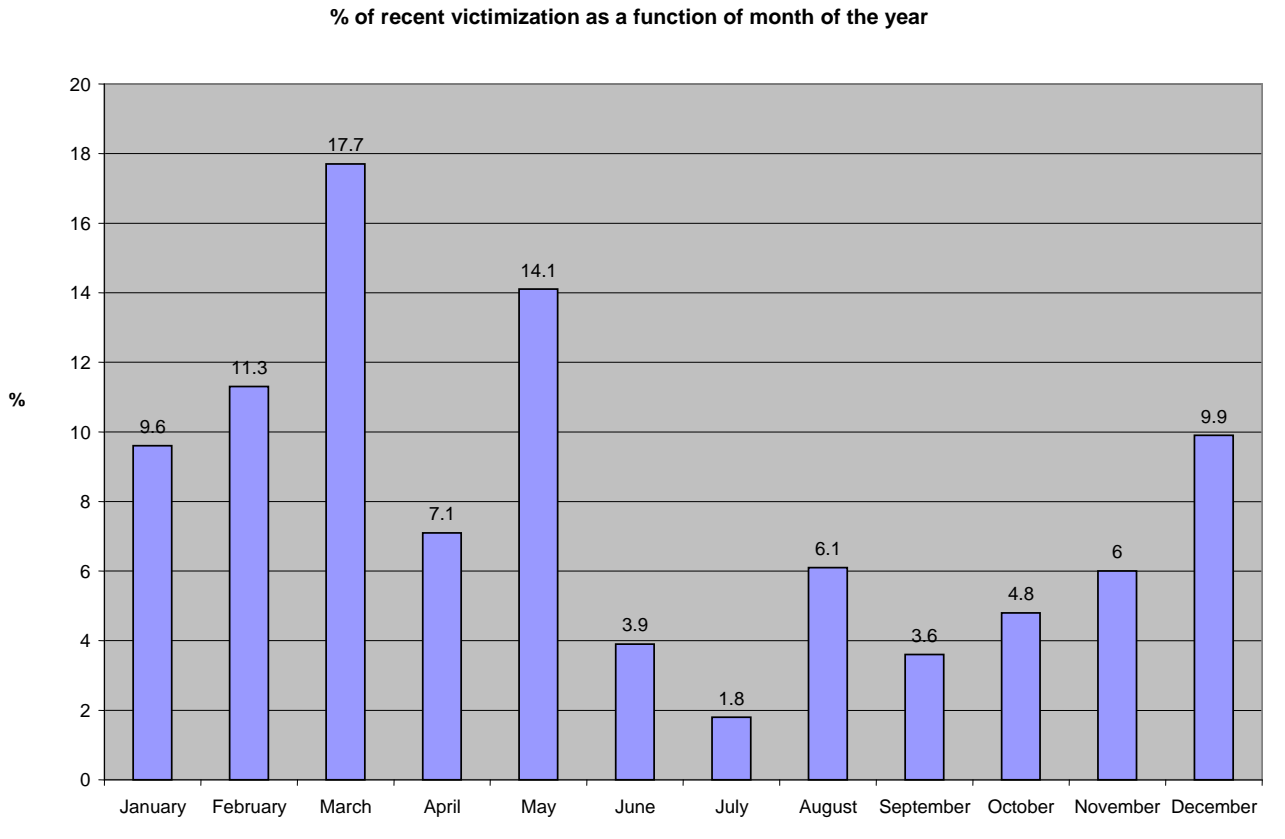
When asked to report the month in which victimization occurred, many more respondents indicated victimization in February (11.3%), March (17.7%) and May (14.1%) than in other months. The lowest rates of victimization occurred in July (1.8%), September (3.6%) and June (3.9%). A clearer pattern emerges if this data are graphically represented. Research has demonstrated that temperature is a factor which affects crime (Anderson and Anderson, 1984). Specifically, hotter temperatures are associated with higher levels of crime, with the relationship being stronger for violent than for non violent crimes (Anderson, 1987; Cotton, 1986). The earlier parts of the year correspond to the dry season, with accompanying increased temperature, while the latter months of the year during the rainy season are accompanied by lower temperatures. One confounding factor here is amount of rainfall; rainy weather may reduce the activity of both potential victims and offenders, thus reducing the opportunity for crime.⁵

Table 5.4
% of recent victimization incidents as a function of month of the year
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Month	%
January	9.6
February	11.3
March	17.7
April	7.1
May	14.1
June	3.9
July	1.8
August	6.1
September	3.6
October	4.8
November	6.0
December	9.9
No report found	.8
Don't know	3.4
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

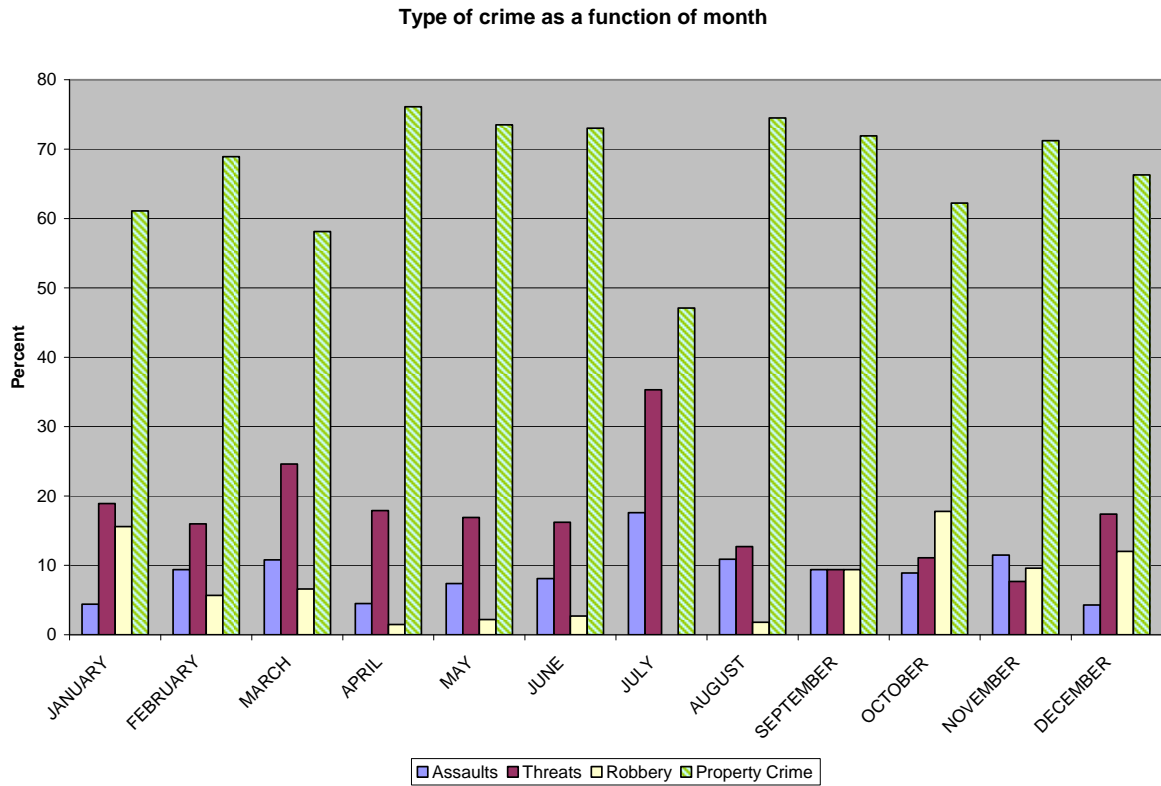
⁵ Official statistics, not presented in this report, suggest that murder rates in Jamaica decline during periods of rainfall. North American research conducted by Field (1992), however, demonstrated that violent crime is related to temperature, not rainfall.

Figure 5.4
% of recent victimization incidents as a function of month of the year
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



An alternate explanation for the observed pattern may relate to seasonality. Perhaps, some people may spend excessively at the end of the year and during the Christmas season, and for a few months after, may engage in crime as a means to compensate for this excessive spending. If this explanation is correct, there should be differences in the pattern of property crime in the early parts of the year, which are beyond the observed overrepresentation of property crime in the incidents of victimization. In addition, it should also be the case that other types of crime do not have the same seasonal variation. The examination of relevant cross-tabulations does not support the seasonality hypothesis. This information is graphically represented in Figure 5.5, where it is clear that property crime does not exhibit the hypothesized seasonal pattern, and instead remains somewhat constant throughout they year.

Figure 5.5
Type of crime as a function of month of the year
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Victimization as a function of day of the week

Based on answers to the question “Can you remember what day of the week this crime took place?” responses tended to indicate that Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays had a somewhat higher incidence of victimization than the other days. This finding should however be interpreted with caution, since 11.1% of the incidents took place on a ‘weekend’ (respondents could not recall whether the incident took place on Saturday or Sunday) and 14.2% of the incidents took place on a ‘weekday’ (respondents could not recall what day of the week the incident occurred).

Table 5.5
% of recent victimization during different days of the week
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Day	%
Monday	8.6
Tuesday	7.5
Wednesday	11.0
Thursday	8.4
Friday	14.3
Saturday	11.0
Sunday	5.8
Weekend	11.1
Weekday	14.2
Don't know/Refused	8.1
Total%	100
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Table 5.6
% of recent victimization during weekdays and weekends
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Day	%
Total Weekend	27.9
Total Weekday	64.0
Don't know/Refused	8.1
Total%	100
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Victimization as a function of time of day

An examination of the frequency of victimization as a function of time of day indicates that victimization is more likely to occur between 8 am to 12 noon and between 9 pm to midnight. In contrast, rates of victimization are lowest between 12 midnight to 8 am. Research has shown that opportunity is a factor which impacts on the incidence of crime (Cloward and Ohlin, 1966; Cohen and Felson, 1979). On average, many people may tend to be at home after late evening until early morning and may thus not fall victim to crime. In contrast, during the morning, as people travel to work, and during the

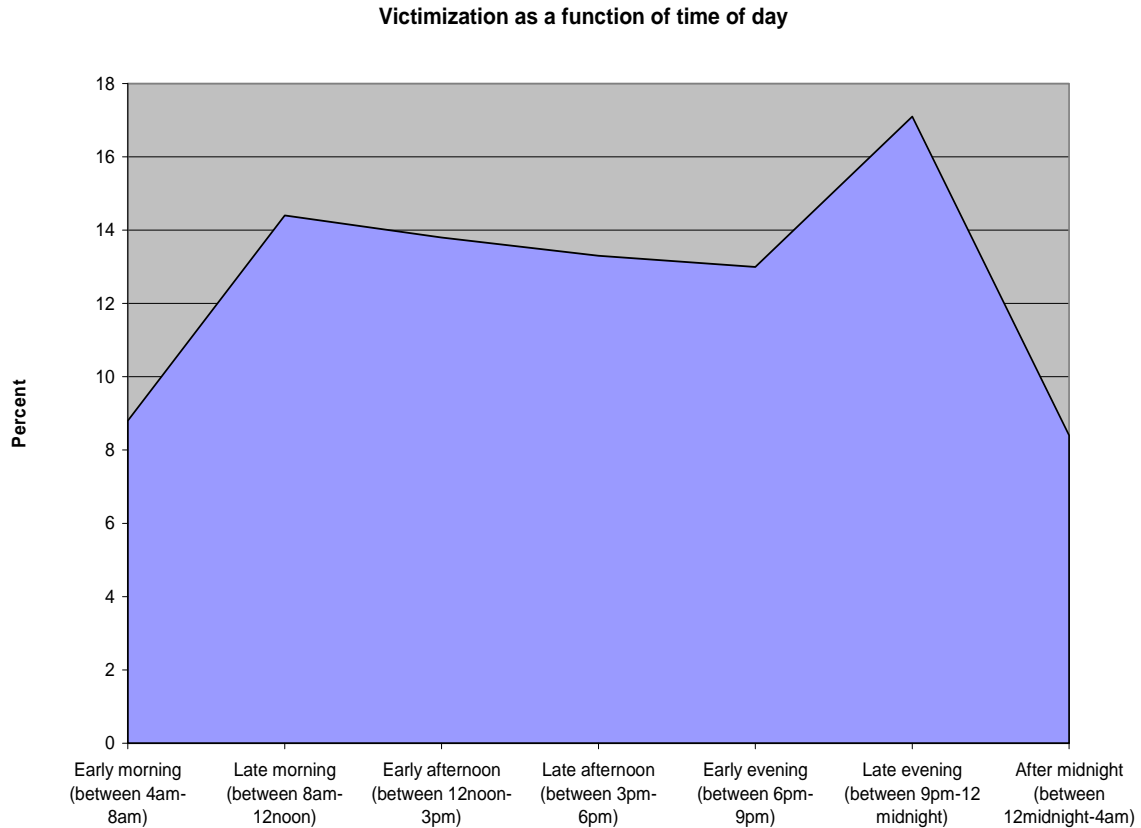
afternoon after working hours, people may be in a number of environments which increase their vulnerability to criminal victimization.

Table 5.7

% of recent victimization as a function of time of day
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Time of day	%
Early morning (between 4am-8am)	8.8
Late morning (between 8am-12noon)	14.4
Early afternoon (between 12noon-3pm)	13.8
Late afternoon (between 3pm-6pm)	13.3
Early evening (between 6pm-9pm)	13.0
Late evening (between 9pm-12 midnight)	17.1
After midnight (between 12midnight-4am)	8.4
Don't know/Refused	11.3
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

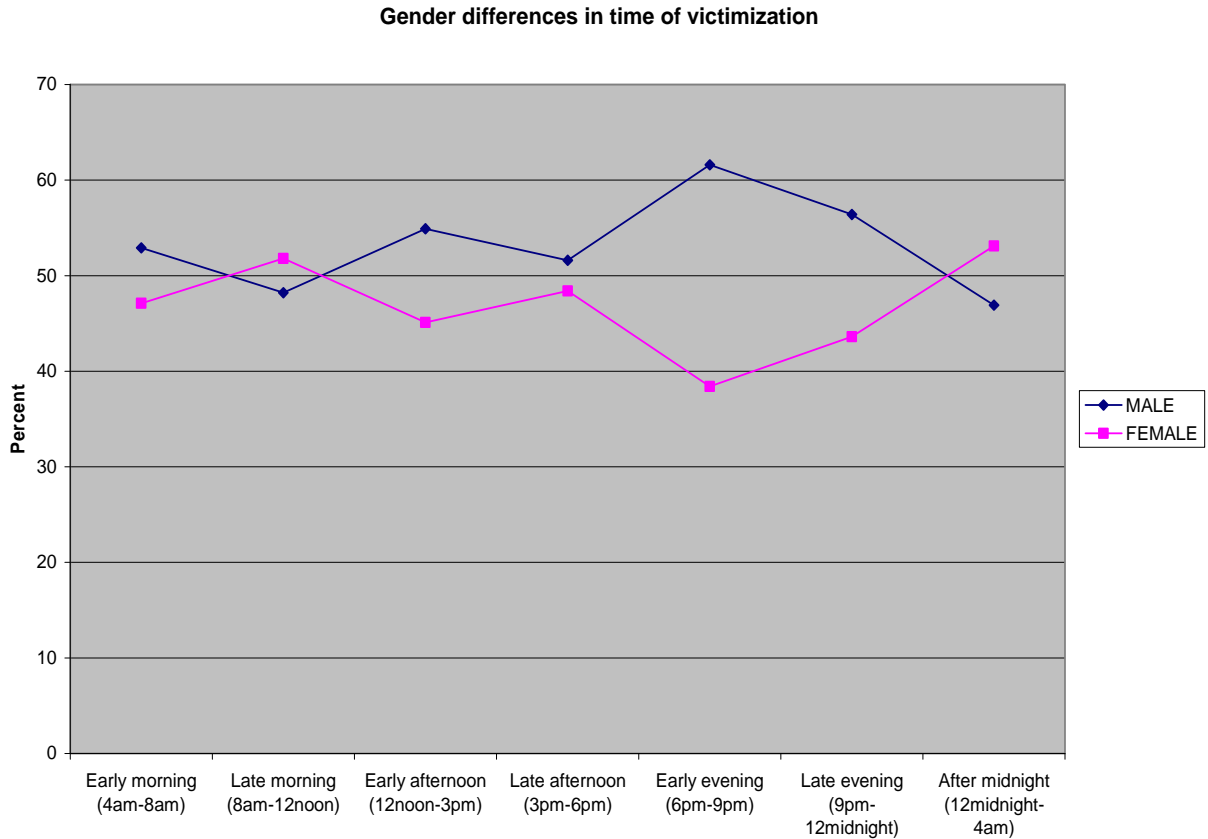
Figure 5.6a
% of recent victimization as a function of time of day
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Gender differences in time of victimization

Interestingly, cross-tabulation of gender with time of day of victimization revealed that the pattern of victimization for males was somewhat similar to that of females, except that during the late afternoon to night period (6pm - midnight) females were less likely to be victimized than males. This may indicate that females are more cautious in their activities, or are more likely to be at home during these hours than males.

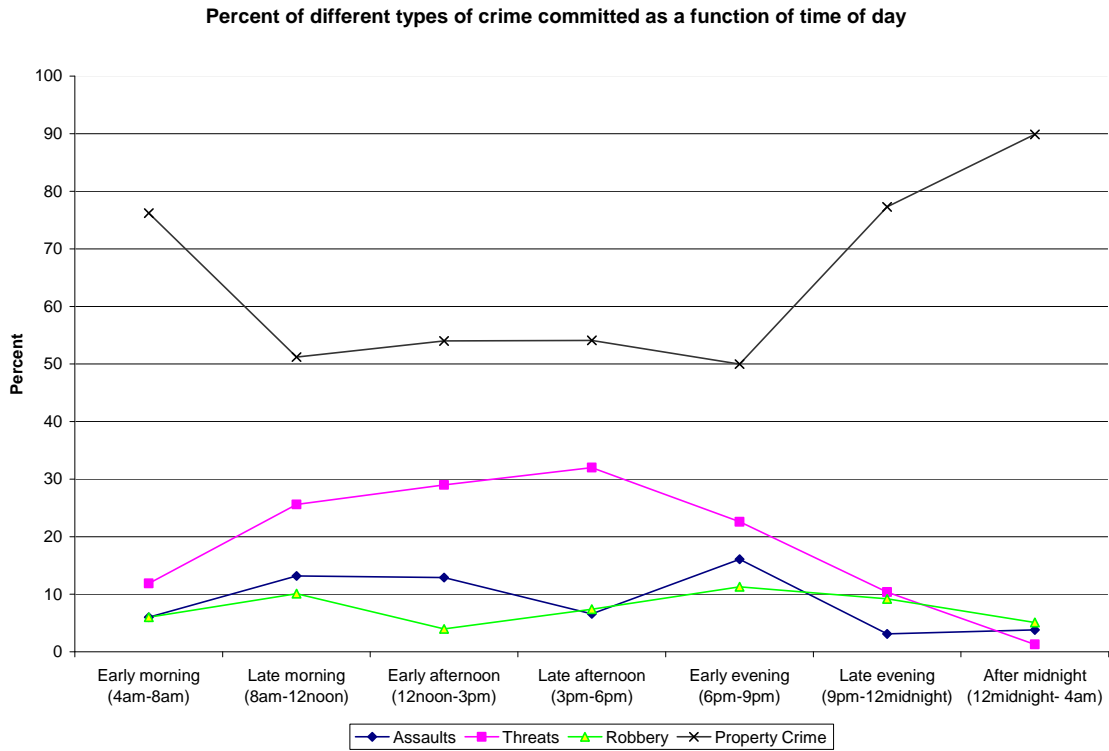
Figure 5.6b
Gender differences in time of victimization
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Types of recent victimization incidents as a function of time of day

An examination of the type of crimes committed at different times of the day revealed that for assaults, threats, and robbery, there was a gradual increase during daylight hours, and a decrease during night time hours. This perhaps occurred since people became less active during the night, and may have been more likely to be at home. The incidence of property crime however, rose sharply during the night, especially between 6pm to midnight, and gradually decreased as morning drew near. This may reflect the need to conceal acts of property theft, hence the higher incidence during the night.

Figure 5.6c
% of different types of crime committed as a function of time of day
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Location of the incident of victimization

Respondents were asked “Where did this crime take place?” It is interesting that the vast majority of incidents of victimization took place in respondents’ homes (53%). This was followed by locations on the streets outside of respondents’ communities (8.2%) and locations on the streets near to respondents’ homes (7.9%). Interestingly, many incidents of victimization took place at work (5.2%). Some incidents took place at school (1.3%) and at bars or nightclubs (0.8%). It is interesting that some of the places which may appear to be high risk places, such as bars/nightclubs, at ATMs, or in parking lots, have comparatively lower rates of victimization compared to other places such as at work, which one would expect to be almost risk free.

Table 5.8
% of recent victimization incidents which occurred in various locations
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Location	%
At own home	53.0
On street outside of community	8.2
On street near home	7.9
At work	5.2
On street in own community	5.0
At someone else's home	2.1
On your way to/from work or school	2.0
At school	1.3
In public parking lot	1.1
At a store or shopping mall	1.0
In bar or nightclub	0.8
At a bank or ATM	0.3
At the beach	0.2
At church	0.1
At the park	0.1
Other/Refused	11.7
Total%	100
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Property loss and damage

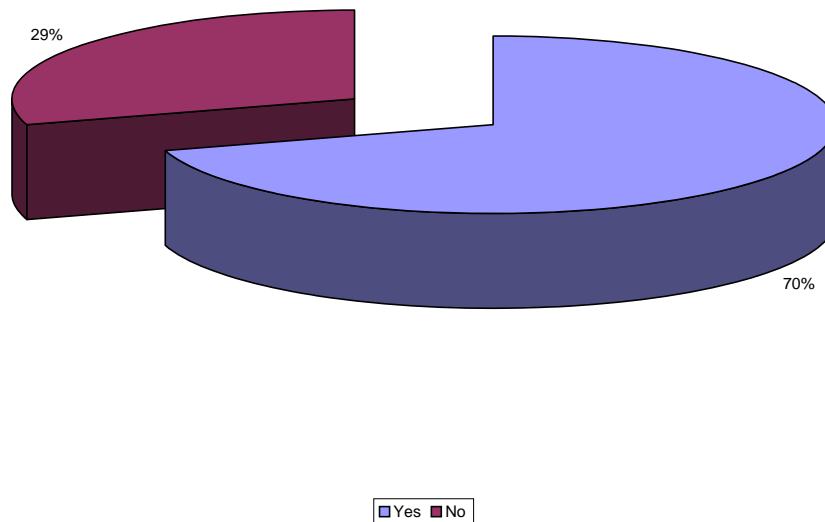
When asked if anything was stolen or damaged as a result of the crime, 69.6% of respondents answered 'yes' while 29.4% answered 'no'. A few respondents did not know or refused to answer this question.

Table 5.9
Was anything stolen or damaged as a result of this crime?
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Response	%
Yes	69.6
No	29.4
Don't know/Refused	0.9
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.7
Was anything stolen or damaged as a result of this crime?
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Was anything stolen or damaged as a result of this crime?



Loss or damage as a result of the crime

For the 672 incidents in which things were stolen or damaged, respondents were asked “Exactly what was stolen or damaged as a result of the crime?” A wide range of responses were given. The following table lists the items and the percentages reporting

such items. Of the listed items, money was the most frequently stolen (20.8%), followed by food (14.3%), cell phones (10.9%), clothing (6.7%) and jewelry (6%). Note that a large number of ‘other’ items which were not specified were also stolen or damaged, hence the total percentage is less than 100. While many respondents reported only one incident of something damaged or stolen, 14.7% of the respondents indicated that they had such experiences twice within the last year, while 4.5% of the respondents indicated that they experienced such incidents three or more times.

Table 5.10
% of various things stolen or damaged
(N = 672 incidents of recent victimization in which things of value were lost)

Thing stolen or damaged	%
Money	20.8
Food	14.3
Cell phone	10.9
Clothing	6.7
Jewelry	6.0
Car	2.7
Motor cycle	2.2
Bike	2.1
Truck or van	0.3
Other/Refused	34.0
Total%	100
Number of Incidents	672

Amount of money or the value of property stolen

The 672 respondents who had things stolen or damaged were asked to indicate, in Jamaican dollars, the value of money or goods stolen when they were victimized. The responses ranged from a low of \$88 to a high of \$800,000. The mean amount of money stolen per incident was \$23,445.

In 26.9% of the incidents, respondents had less than \$1,000 stolen, while in 30.9%, they lost between \$1,001 and \$5,000. In 15% respondents lost between \$5,001 and \$10,000 while in 11.2% of the incidents they lost between \$10,001 and \$20,000. Many people lost very large sums of money. In 3.4% of the incidents, victims lost

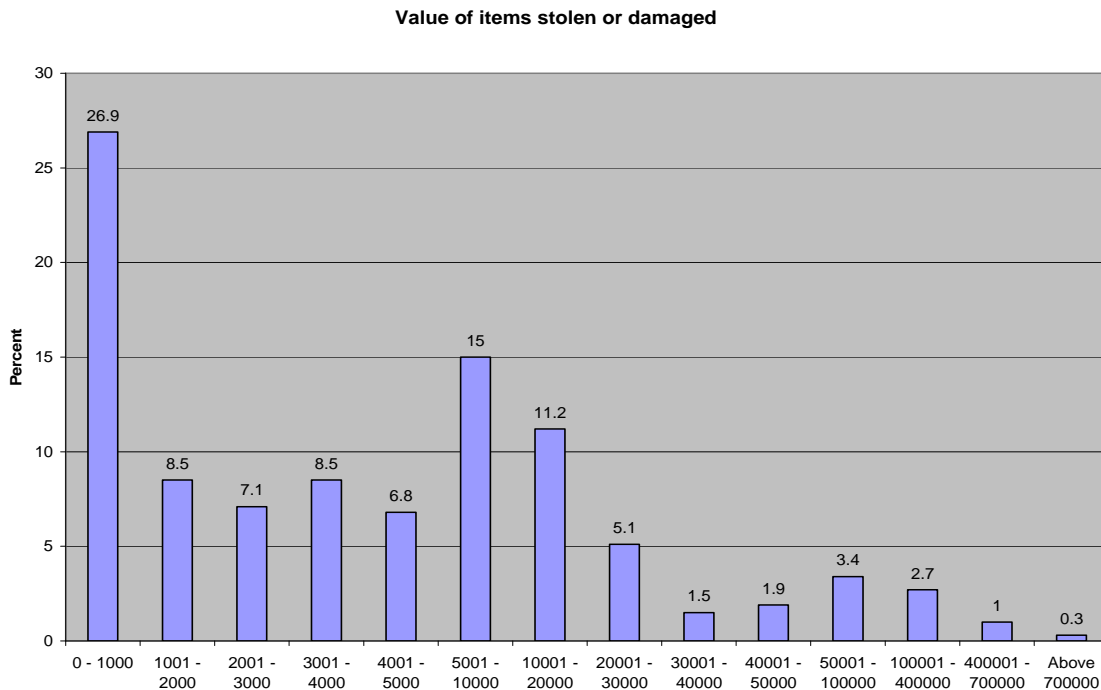
between \$50,001 - \$100,000, in 2.7% they lost between \$100,001 - \$400,000, in 1% they lost between \$400,001 and \$700,000 while in 0.3% of the incidents, victims lost over \$700,000. When the total amount lost is considered, the true extent of financial harm caused can be appreciated. In the 672 incidents where the value of money or property lost was reported, a total of approximately \$15,750,000 was lost. This information is summarized in the table below and thereafter graphically represented.

Table 5.11

What was the approximate value of the item/s that was/were stolen or damaged?
(N = 672 incidents of recent victimization in which things of value were lost)

Value \$JA	%
0 – 1000	26.9
1001 - 2000	8.5
2001 - 3000	7.1
3001 - 4000	8.5
4001 - 5000	6.8
5001 - 10000	15.0
10001 - 20000	11.2
20001 - 30000	5.1
30001 - 40000	1.5
40001 - 50000	1.9
50001 - 100000	3.4
100001 - 400000	2.7
400001 - 700000	1.0
Above 700000	0.3
Total%	100.0
Number of Incidents	672

Figure 5.8
What was the approximate value of the items that were stolen or damaged?
 (N = 672 incidents of recent victimization in which things of value were lost)



Recovery of stolen money or property

For those who lost property or money, they were asked whether or not they ever recovered the money or property that was stolen. For 8.5% (n = 57) of the incidents, respondents replied yes while for 88.4% (n = 594) of the incidents, respondents said no. 3.1% of the respondents refused to answer this question.

The Number of offenders

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of offenders involved in the act of victimization. For 32.7% of the incidents, respondents indicated that the offence was committed by a single offender. One third as much (10.5%) were committed by pairs of offenders. Much less incidents of victimization involved three or more offenders. In a

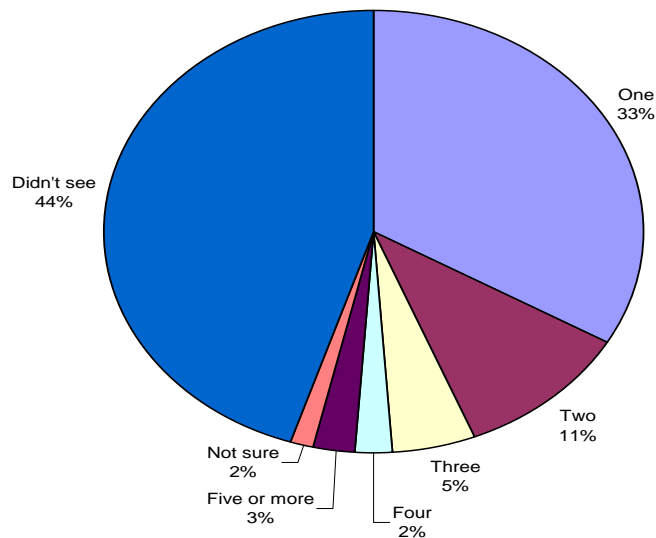
large number of cases however (44.1%), respondents never saw the offenders and thus did not know how many were involved.

Table 5.12
How many offenders were involved in this crime?
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Number of offenders	%
One	32.7
Two	10.5
Three	4.8
Four	2.1
Five or more	2.5
Saw offenders , not sure how many	1.4
Never saw offenders	44.1
No response	1.9
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.9a
How many offenders were involved in this crime?
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

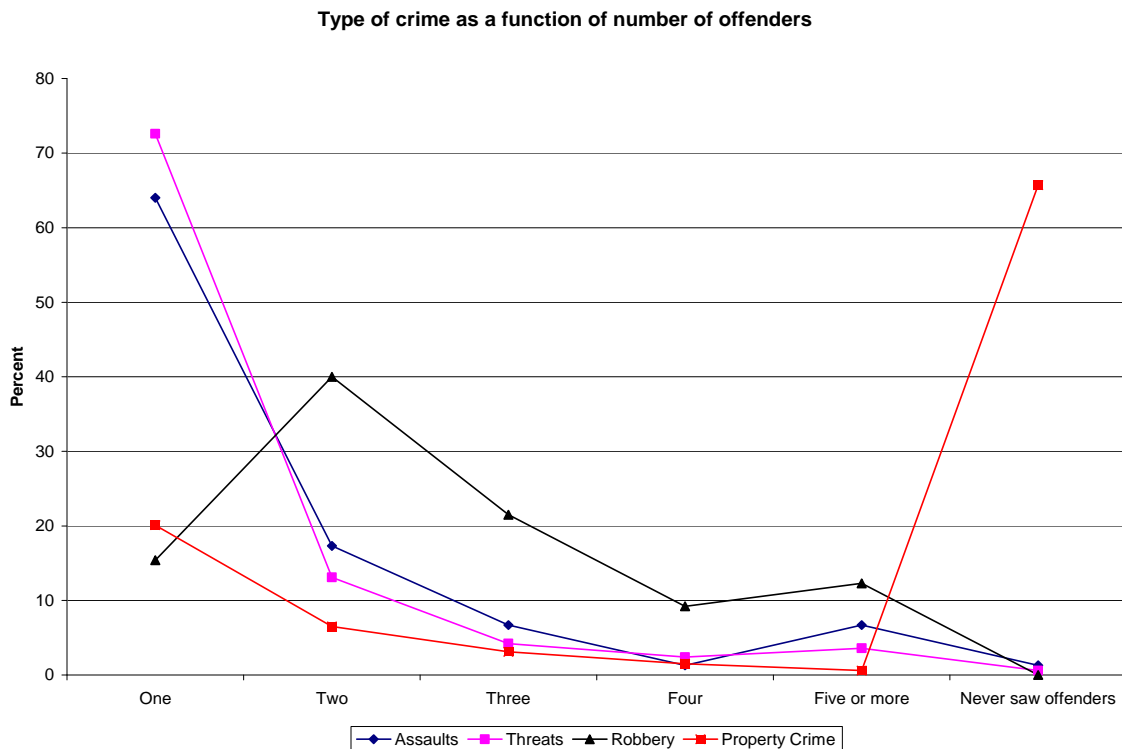
Number of offenders involved in victimization incident



Type of crime as a function of number of offenders

Cross-tabulation revealed that assaults and threats were much more likely to be committed by individuals, than by multiple offenders. Property crimes were somewhat as likely to be committed by individuals as by groups, though there was a gradual decline in the percentage of property crimes committed as groups became larger. Notable, in a large percentage of property crimes, the offenders were not seen. Unlike property crime, offenders were typically seen for assaults, robberies and threats. Robberies tend to be committed more often than not by pairs of assailants. Fewer amounts of robberies were committed by single offenders and groups of 3 or more. Figure 5.9b displays this graphically.

Figure 5.9b
Type of crime as a function of number of offenders
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



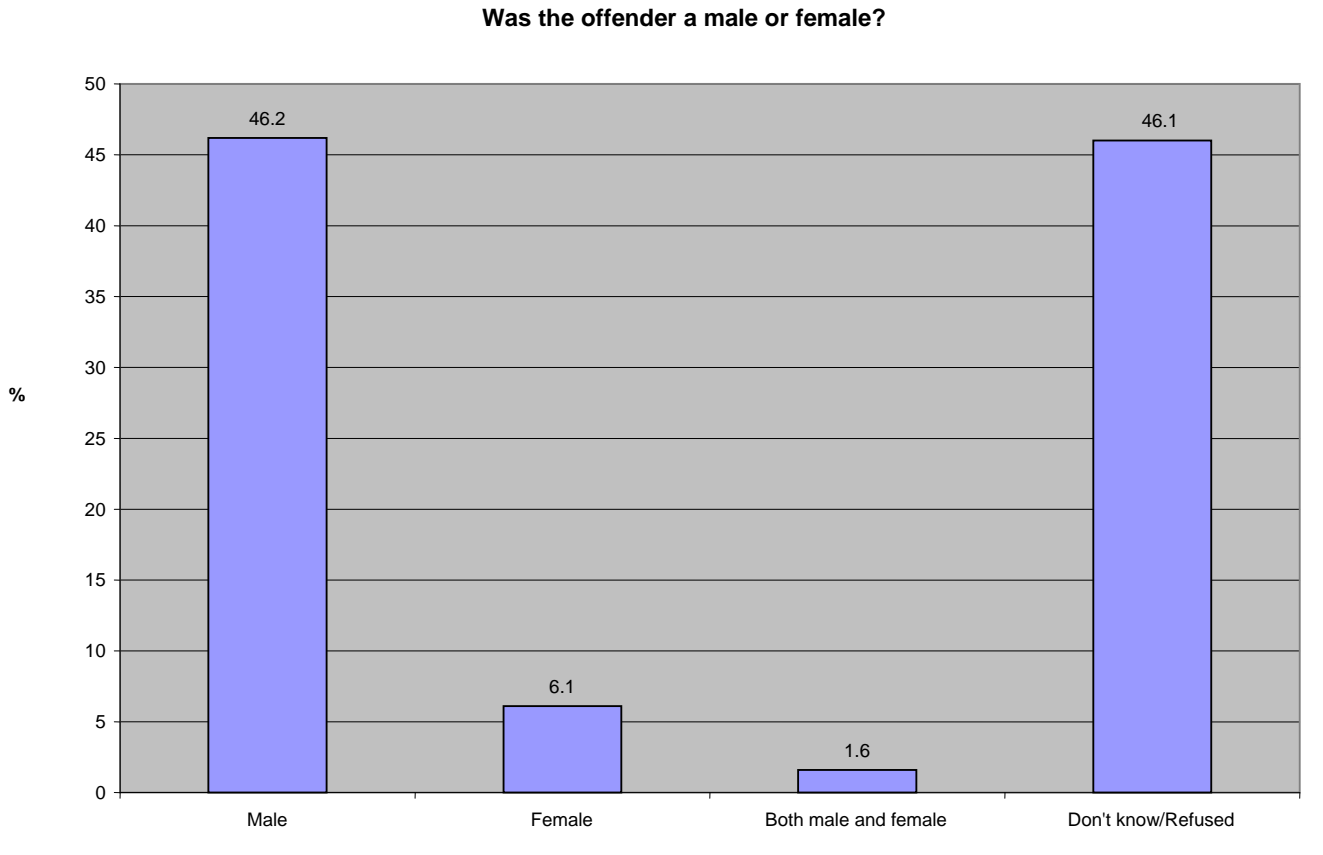
Gender of the offender

For 525 incidents of victimization (53.9% of the total amount), respondents were able to answer the question “Was the offender a male or female?” In 84% of these cases, the offenders were male, while in 11% the offenders were female. In 3%, the offenders were both male and female. Expressed as a percentage of the entire sample of victimization incidents (Table 5.13), this implies that in 46.2% of the incidents, the offenders were identified as males, in 6.1% as females, and in 1.6% as both males and females. For the entire sample, the gender of the offender could not be identified in 46.1% of the incidents of victimization.

Table 5.13
% of offenders who were male/female
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Gender	%
Male	46.2
Female	6.1
Both male and female	1.6
Don't know/Refused	46.1
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.10a
% of offenders who were male/female
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

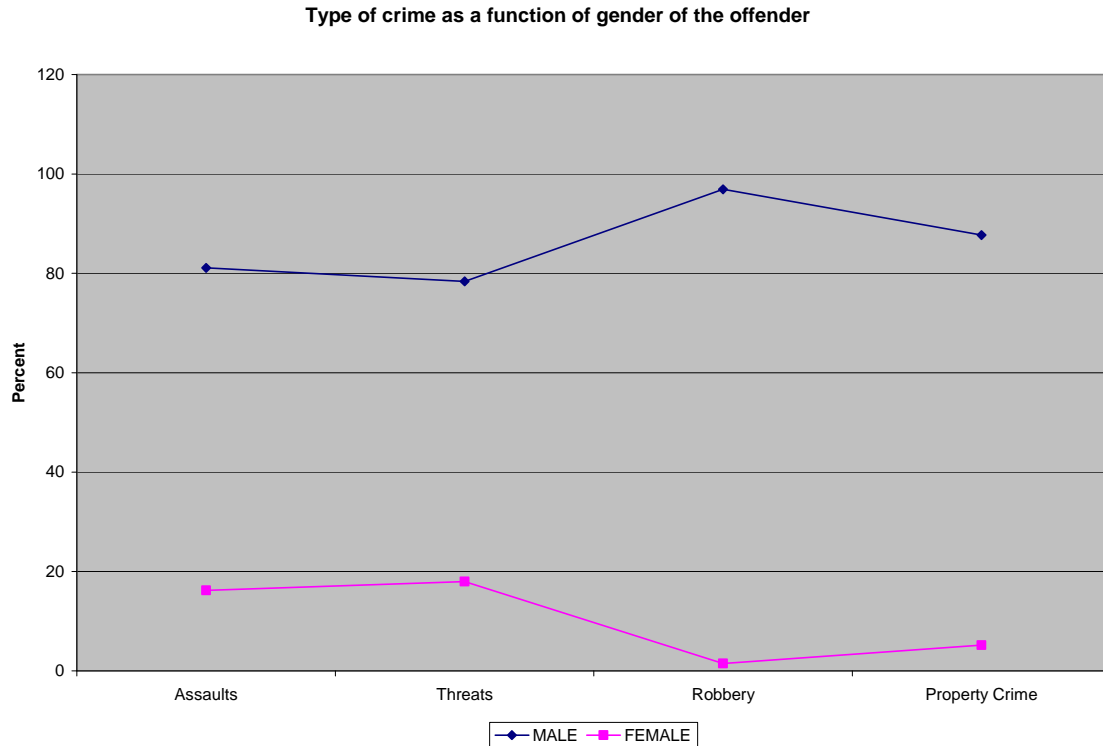


Type of crime as a function of gender of the offender

To determine if the gender of the offender was related to the type of crime committed, a cross-tabulation of these variables was conducted. This analysis revealed, as expected, that males committed many more of all types of crimes than females, but it also revealed that males were more likely than females to engage in robbery and property crime, whereas the gap between males and females was somewhat narrower for assaults and threats. Figure 5.10b demonstrates this graphically.

Figure 5.10b
Type of crime as a function of gender of the offender

(N = 509; all incidents of victimization for which the gender of the assailant could be identified as male or female)



Age of offenders

The modal age of offenders in the 973 incidents of victimization was between 18 to 39 years old, with 16.3% of the cases being committed by assailants between the ages of 18-24, and 21.5% of the cases committed by offenders between the ages of 25-39. It is noteworthy that 0.6% of the offences were committed by children 12 years or younger and in a somewhat larger number of cases (3.3%) by juveniles between the ages of 13-17. An appreciable number of incidents (6.2%) were committed by assailants between the ages of 40-50, while 1.3% of the incidents of victimization were attributable to persons older than 55.

Table 5.14: Age of offenders

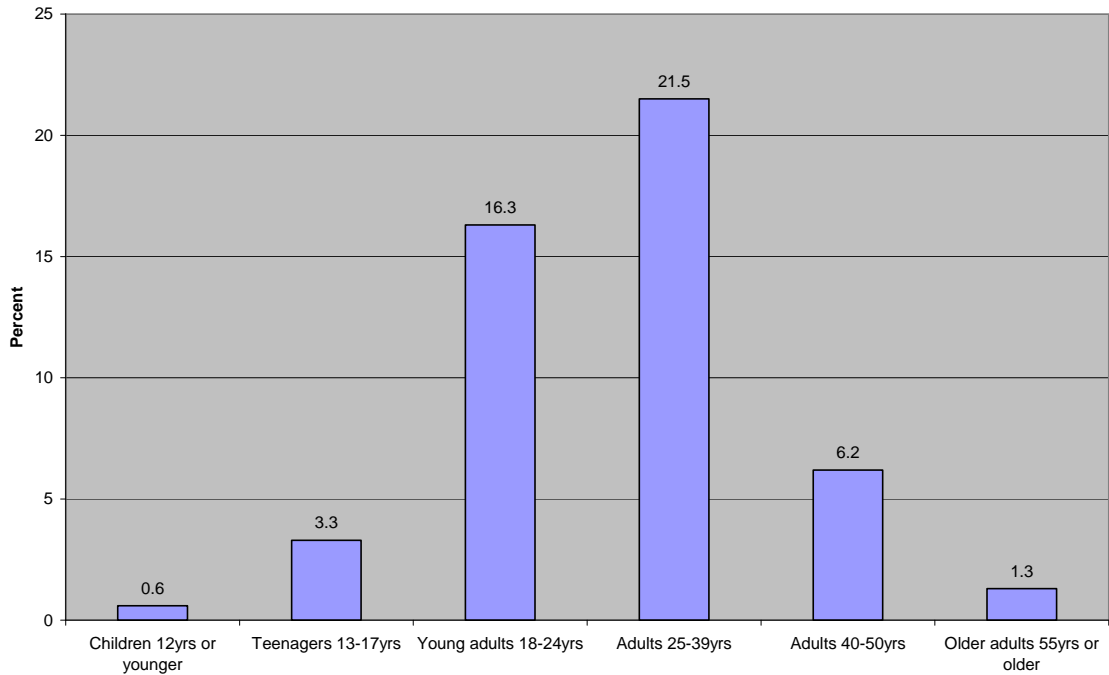
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Age	%
Children 12yrs or younger	0.6
Teenagers 13-17yrs	3.3
Young adults 18-24yrs	16.3
Adults 25-39yrs	21.5
Adults 40-50yrs	6.2
Older adults 55yrs or older	1.3
Mixed ages	3.1
Don't know	47.7
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.11a

Age of offenders for those cases in which respondents could identify age
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Age of offenders



Age of offenders and type of crime

A cross-tabulation of age of offender by type of crime is displayed in Table 5.15 and graphically represented in Figure 5.11B percentages are displayed in each cell. This reveals that young children were involved only in property crimes. This is not surprising, given their level of both physical and psychological development, as well as their limited access to situations which may result in more serious crimes. Teenagers, between 13-17 tended to be involved mainly in threats and property crime, and only in a few cases were teenagers involved in assaults or robbery. Young adults (18-24) and adults (25-39) were widely involved in all four categories of crime. Robbery for the adult group, however, appeared to be substantially lower than for the young adult group. As offenders got older (40-50) they became much less involved in assaults and robbery, but were comparatively more involved in threats and property crime. The pattern of offending for the 55 and older group indicates an absence of robbery, equal participation in assaults and threats, and higher participation in property crime.

It is critical to note here that these figures represent the percentages of each type of crime committed within each age group, thus these percentages cannot be used to compare the various age ranges across the various categories of crime. These percentages are only meaningful within each age group separately (i.e. vertical comparisons in Table 5.15 are meaningful, but not horizontal comparisons). It is thus incorrect, for example, to infer that people 55 years and older commit the most assaults, or that children commit the most property crimes. To make such comparisons, data that reflect the relative frequencies of each type of crime committed need to be analyzed. For clarification, the same data, reflecting relative frequencies, is displayed in Figure 5.11C. This representation clearly demonstrates the age/crime curve, where the very young and very old commit comparatively fewer crimes than adolescents, young adults, and adults. It also shows, for example, that all of the crimes committed by children were property crimes, as in Table 5.15 and Figure 5.11B, though here it is clear that overall, children commit very few crimes. This representation also shows that robbery peaks when offenders are between 18-24 years old, while assaults, threats and property crime are highest when offenders are between 25-39 years old.

Table 5.15
Cross-tabulation of age of offenders and type of crime

Type of crime	Age of offender					
	12yrs or younger	13 to 17yrs	18-24yrs	25-39yrs	40-50yrs	55yrs or older
Assaults	0	10.7	13.5	15.2	13.8	25.0
Threats	0	28.6	27.1	35.8	43.1	25.0
Robbery	0	10.7	23.9	6.9	3.4	0
Property Crime	100.0	50.0	35.5	42.2	39.7	50.0
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	5	28	155	204	58	12

Figure 5.11b
Type of crime as a function of age

Type of crime as a function of age

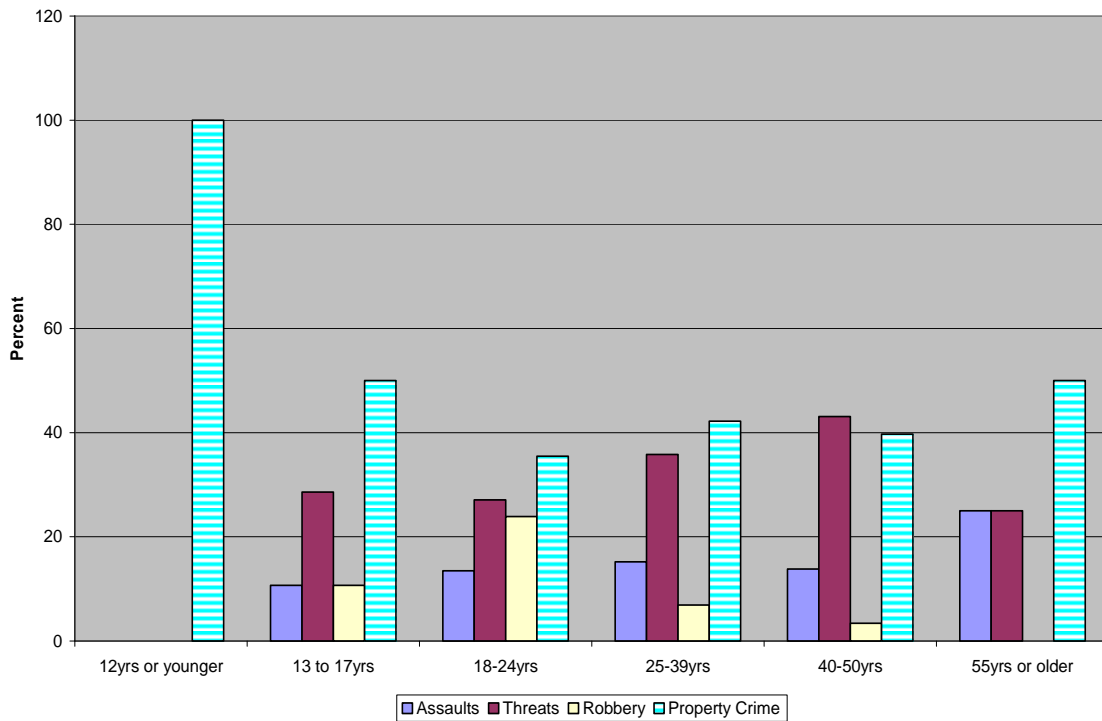
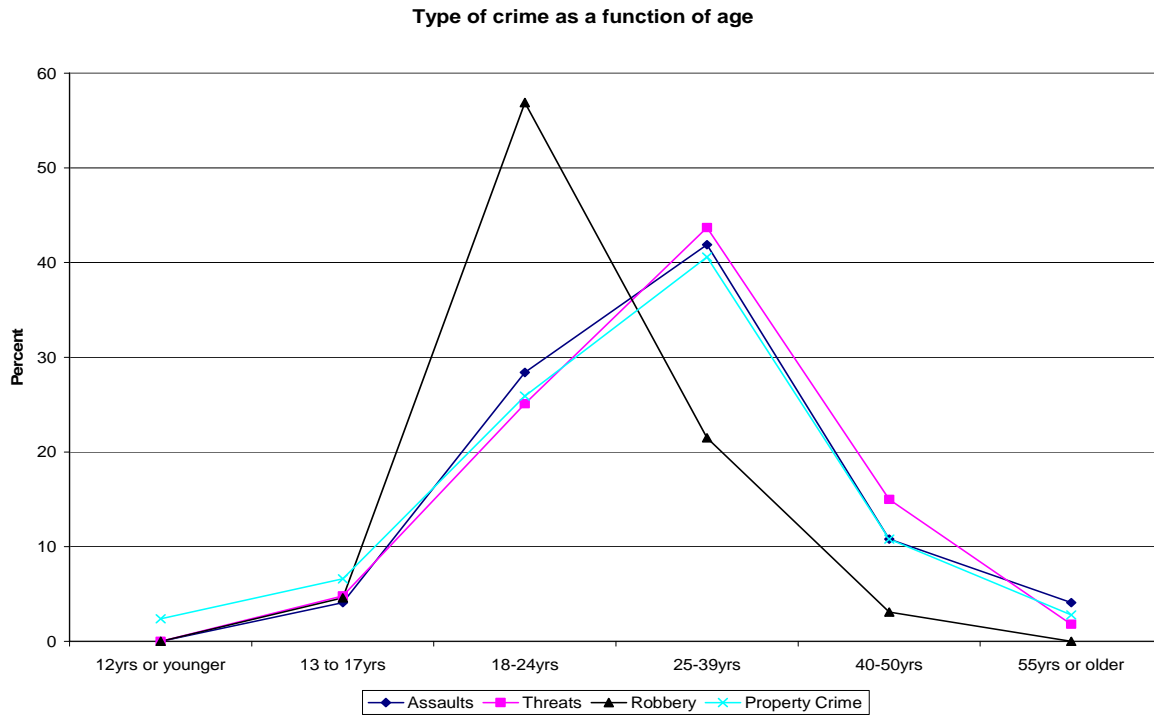


Figure 5.11c
Type of crime as a function of age
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Victim-Offender relationship

Within the last 12 months, respondents were victimized by a wide range of people. Table 5.16 lists the percentage of offenders which belong to the various categories. The largest number of offences (23.5%), unsurprisingly, was committed by strangers. It is important to note here that a large number of respondents either did not respond to this question, or responded ‘don’t know’, ‘other’ or ‘refused’. For some of these categories, the offender might have been strangers. As such, the number of offenders who were strangers may be somewhat underestimated by the 23.5% figure indicated in Table 5.16. If, for example, the response of ‘stranger’ is considered within the context of only those who responded to the question (i.e. if all ‘missing’ responses are excluded) then the percentage who were strangers increases to 40.6%. Nevertheless, to preserve consistency, all analyses here will utilize the full sample, thus as indicated in Table 5.16, 23.5% of the incidents of victimization were committed by ‘strangers’. The other categories, excluding ‘other/refused/don’t know’, represent people known to the

victim, and account for 29.8% of the total victimization. This indicates that approximately one third of all victimization incidents are perpetrated by people known to the victims. Interestingly, family members (cousins, brothers/sisters, sons/daughters, parents, spouses, aunt/uncle and nieces/nephews) account for a small but noticeable amount of incidents of victimization; 3.7% in all.

Table 5.16
Victim-Offender relationship
Did you know the offender or was it a stranger? Please give a detailed description of the offender.

(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Offender	%
Stranger	23.5
Acquaintance	12.6
Neighbour	7.1
Friend	3.8
Co-worker	1.2
Cousin	1.1
Brother/Sister	0.9
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	0.9
Son/Daughter	0.6
Spouse	0.4
Fellow student	0.4
Aunt/Uncle	0.3
Parent	0.2
Niece/Nephew	0.2
Ex-spouse	0.1
Other/refused/Don't know	46.7
Total%	100
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Simplifying the victim-offender relationship categories

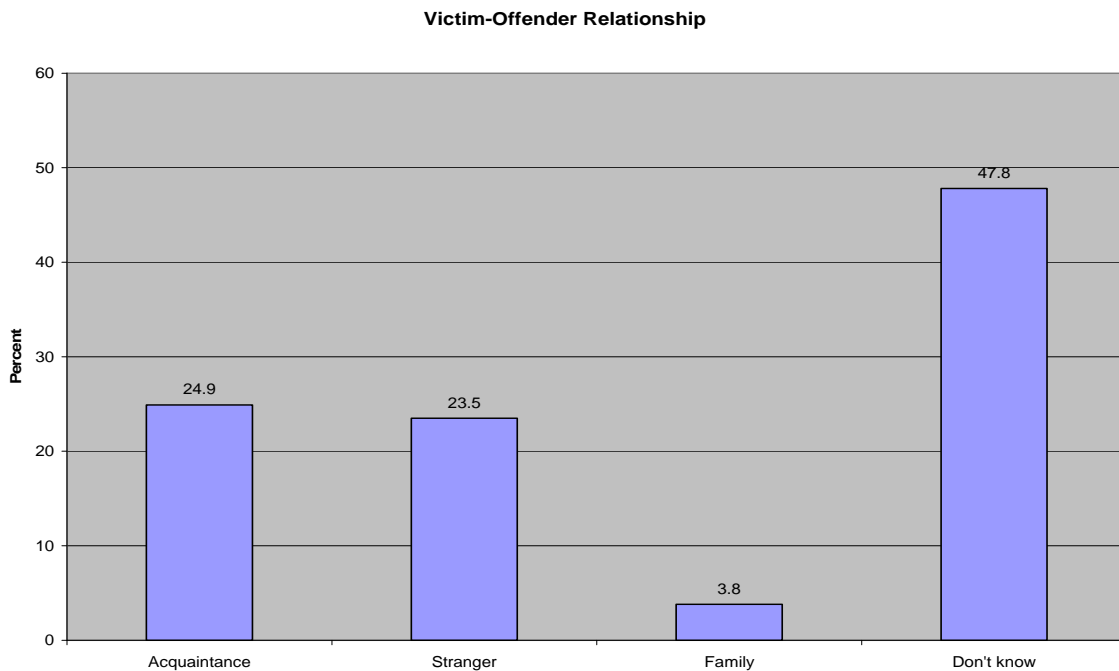
To examine whether there were differences in the types of offences committed by strangers versus persons who known to the victim, the categories in Table 5.16 were conflated, into three categories; strangers, family, and acquaintances. The category of ‘strangers’ was left as is, and two new categories were created by conflating the responses as follows: ‘family’ (sons/daughters, parents, brothers/sisters, grandparents,

grandchildren, aunts/uncles, nieces/nephews, cousins, spouse, ex-spouse) and ‘acquaintances’ (boyfriend/girlfriend, ex-boyfriend/girlfriend, friends, neighbours, co-workers, boss/supervisor, fellow students, acquaintances, roommate/housemate). A residual category of ‘don’t know’ contains ‘other/refused/don’t know’. Table 5.17 shows this information while Figure 5.12A displays this graphically.

Table 5.17
Victim-Offender relationship categories simplified
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Victim-Offender relationship	%
Acquaintance	24.9
Stranger	23.5
Family	3.8
Don't know	47.8
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

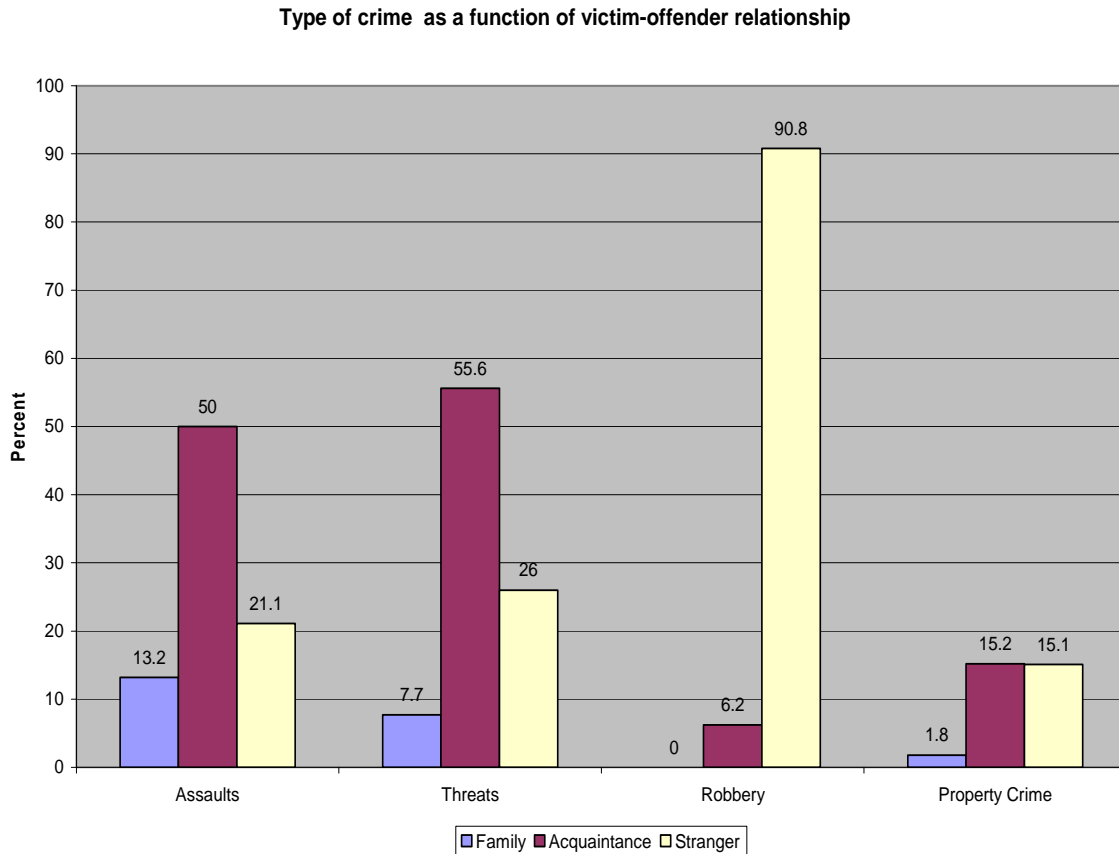
Figure 5.12a
Victim-Offender relationship categories simplified
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Victim-Offender relationship and type of crime

Figure 5.12b shows the relationship of victim-offender relationship to type of crime. Family members were underrepresented in all types of crimes, and surprisingly, acquaintances were involved in substantially more threats and assaults than strangers. For property crime, strangers and acquaintances were equally likely to victimize respondents. Only for robbery, were strangers the most important group of victimizers. No robberies were committed by family members.

Figure 5.12b
Type of victimization compared to whether the offender is a stranger, family member or acquaintance
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



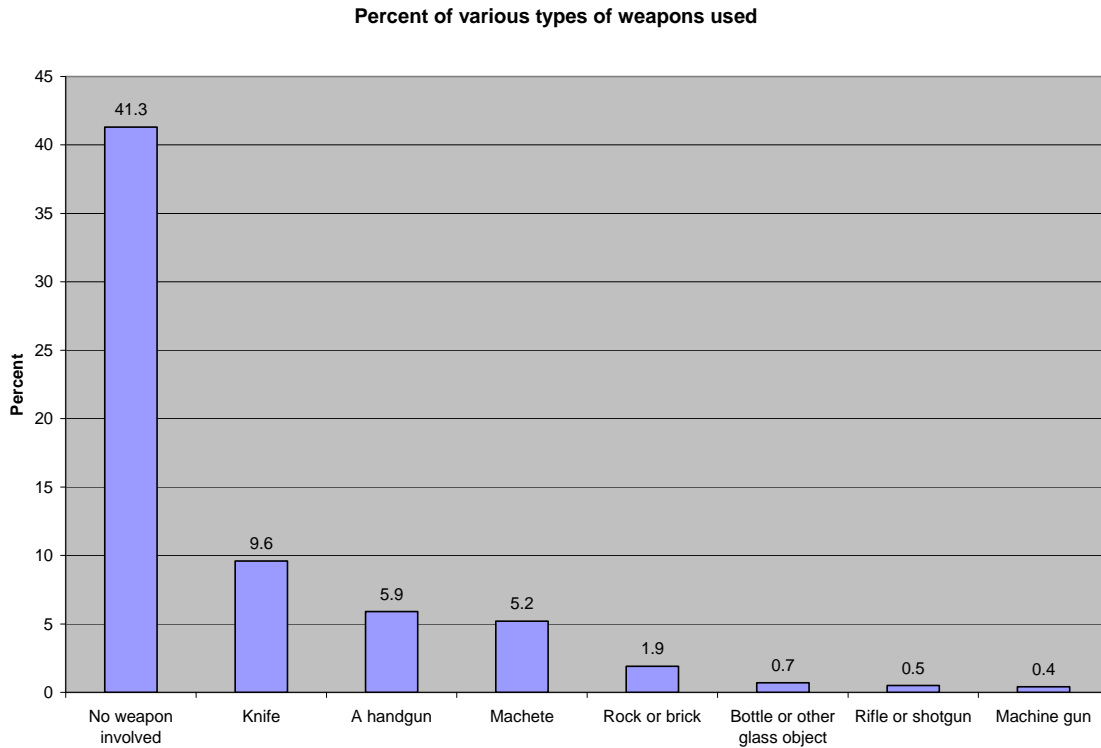
Use of a weapon

Respondents were asked to indicate, if any, what type of weapon was used when they were victimized. In the majority of cases (41.3%) no weapon was used. A knife was the weapon used most frequently (9.6%) followed by a handgun (5.9%). While the overall rate of victimization in Jamaica is low, if this sample is representative of the Jamaican population, this implies that overall, 6% of all victimization acts are carried out using a gun. A machete was used almost as frequently as a handgun (5.2%). In a few cases other dangerous weapons were also used, for example, a rifle or shotgun was used in 0.5% of victimization incidents while a machine gun was used in 0.4% of cases.

Table 5.18a
Frequency of use of various types of weapons
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Weapon used	%
No weapon involved	41.3
Knife	9.6
A handgun	5.9
Machete	5.2
Rock or brick	1.9
Bottle or other glass object	0.7
Rifle or shotgun	0.5
Machine gun	0.4
Bat or club	0.3
Acid / battery acid	0.2
Other specify	5.4
Don't know	27.4
Refused	1.1
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

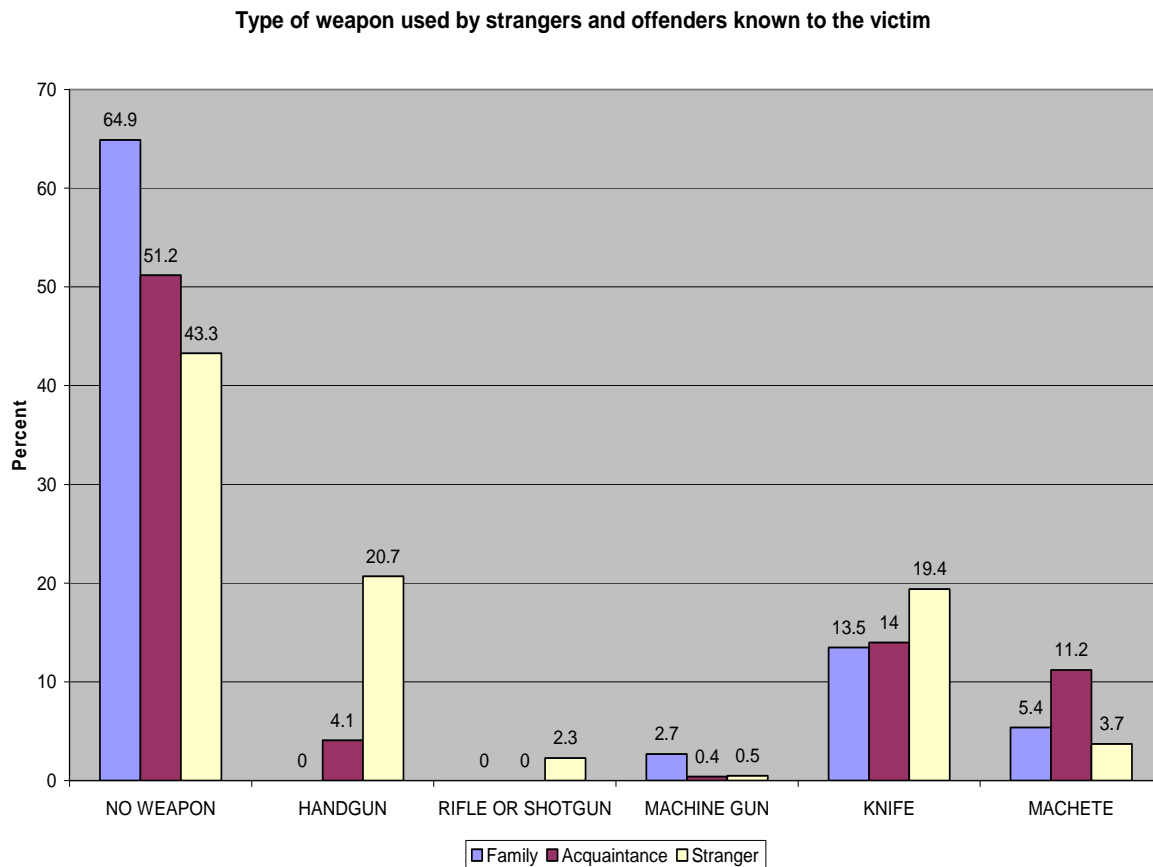
Figure 5.13a
% of various types of weapons used
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Type of weapon used by strangers and offenders known to the victim

Type of weapon used was cross-tabulated with whether or not the offender was a family member, acquaintance, or stranger. Family members were the most likely not to use weapons. When weapons were used by family members, the weapons of choice tended to be a knife or machete. Strangers were more likely to use handguns, rifles/shotguns, and knives than any other group. Acquaintances used knives as often as family members, but used machetes more than any other group. Figure 5.13b demonstrates this graphically.

Figure 5.13b
Type of weapon used by strangers and offenders known to the victim
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Type of weapon used in different types of crime

Type of weapon used was cross-tabulated with type of crime. It was found, when all cases where no weapon was used is considered (n = 399), that the most frequent crime in this category was property crime. In crimes in which handguns were used (n = 57) robbery was the most frequent. In crimes in which perpetrators used a rifle or shotgun (n = 5) the most frequent usage was for robbery. In crimes in which a machine gun was used (n = 4) the most frequent was threats. In all crimes in which knives were used (n = 93) property crime was the most frequent, followed by threats. Machetes were used in a large proportion of threats and property crimes, but not for robberies. In examining this data, it is useful to remember that comparisons of percentages within each column is

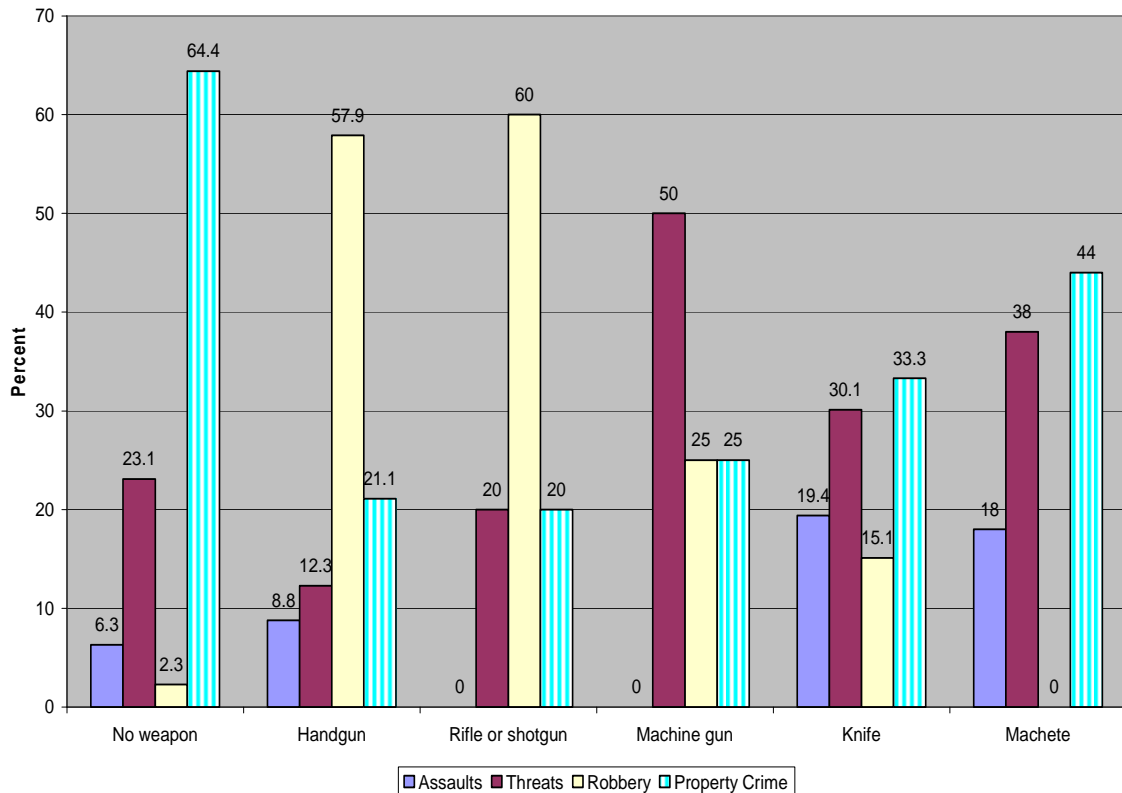
meaningful, but that comparisons across rows are only meaningful if the sample sizes for each column, appearing on the last row, are simultaneously taken into account.

Table 5.18b
Type of weapon used in different types of crime

Type of crime	Type of weapon used					
	No weapon	Handgun	Rifle or shotgun	Machine gun	Knife	Machete
Other	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0
Assaults	6.3	8.8	0.0	0.0	19.4	18.0
Threats	23.1	12.3	20.0	50.0	30.1	38.0
Robbery	2.3	57.9	60.0	25.0	15.1	0.0
Property Crime	64.4	21.1	20.0	25.0	33.3	44.0
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	399	57	5	4	93	50

Figure 5.13c
Type of weapon used in different types of crime

Type of weapon used in different types of crime



Sustaining physical harm during the victimization incident

Respondents were asked whether or not they were physically hurt during the incident. In 90.8% of the incidents, respondents were not hurt, while in 8.4% they were injured.

Table 5.19a
Were you physically hurt or injured as a result of the crime?
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Were you injured?	%
Yes	8.4
No	90.8
Refused	.8
Total%	100.0
Total number of incidents	973

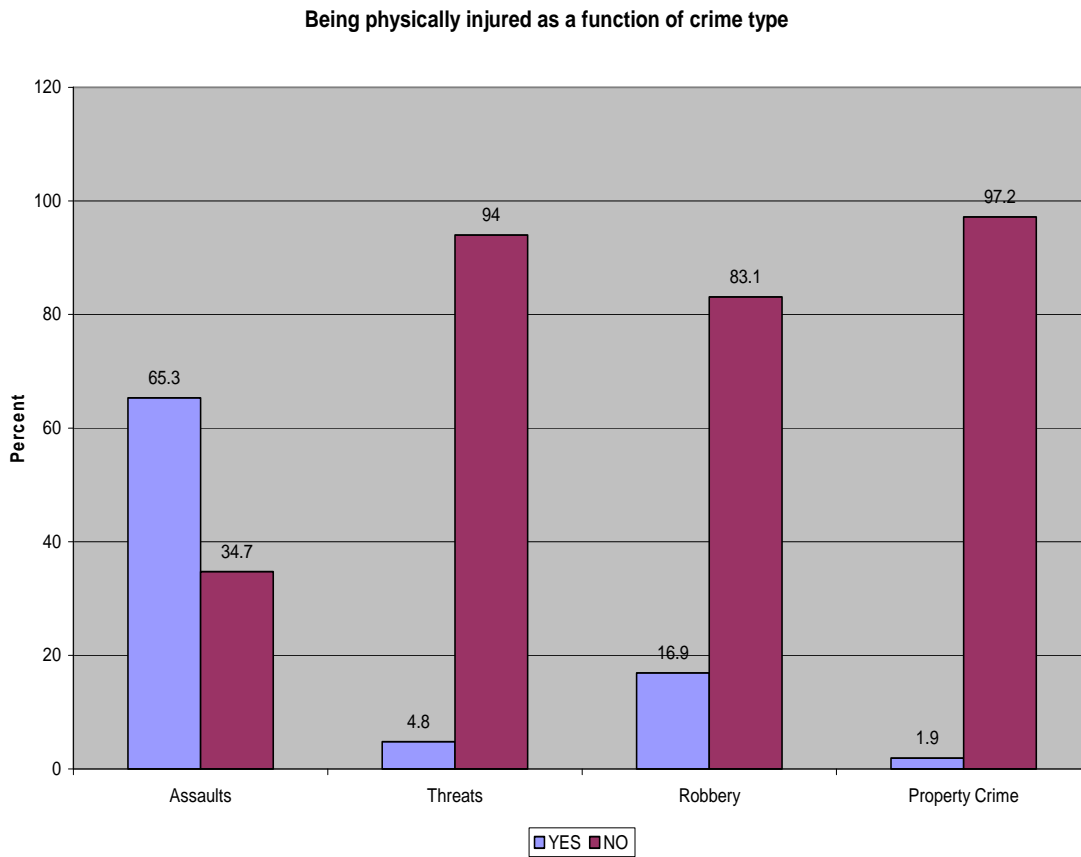
Being physically injured as a function of crime type

To investigate the relationship between being injured and type of crime, a cross-tabulation was done with both variables. The results are represented graphically in Figure 5.14 and shown in Table 5.19b. Injuries were more likely to occur with assaults than with any other type of crime. 65% of those assaulted were injured. Victims were least likely to be injured for threats and property crimes. For property crimes, this was most likely because they were not present during the incident. Here, 97% of the victims were not injured. Victims were somewhat likely to be injured during robberies. Here, 16% were injured, while 83% were not.

Table 5.19b
Being physically injured as a function of crime type

Were you injured?	Type of Crime Simplified			
	Assaults	Threats	Robbery	Property Crime
Yes	65.3	4.8	16.9	1.9
No	34.7	94.0	83.1	97.2
Refused	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.8
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	75	168	65	618

Figure 5.14
Being physically injured as a function of crime type



Types of injuries sustained

Of the 81 incidents in which people were injured, a wide range of injuries were reported as shown in Table 5.20.

Table 5.20
Types of injuries sustained
 (N = 81 incidents in which people were injured)

Injury	%
Bruises	48.1
Cut by a knife or other weapon	33.3
A black eye	14.8
Broken bones	2.4
Burned	1.2
Total%	100
Total number of injuries	81

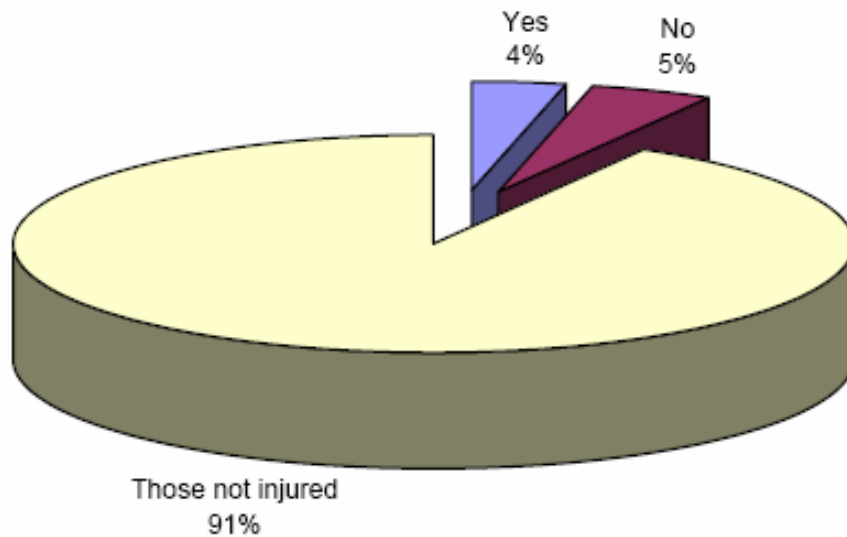
Need to go to the hospital because of injuries sustained

Of the 81 people who were injured, a little less than half (42%) had to go to the hospital to have their injuries treated, while the rest (57%) did not.

Table 5.21
Did you have to go to the hospital as a result of your injuries?
(N = 81 incidents in which people were injured and
N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Did you go to hospital?	% (of those who were injured)	% (of the total sample)
Yes	42.0	3.5
No	56.8	4.7
Refused	1.2	0.1
Those not injured	--	91.7
Total%	100.0	100.0
Sample size	81	973

Figure 5.15
Did you have to go to the hospital as a result of your injuries?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



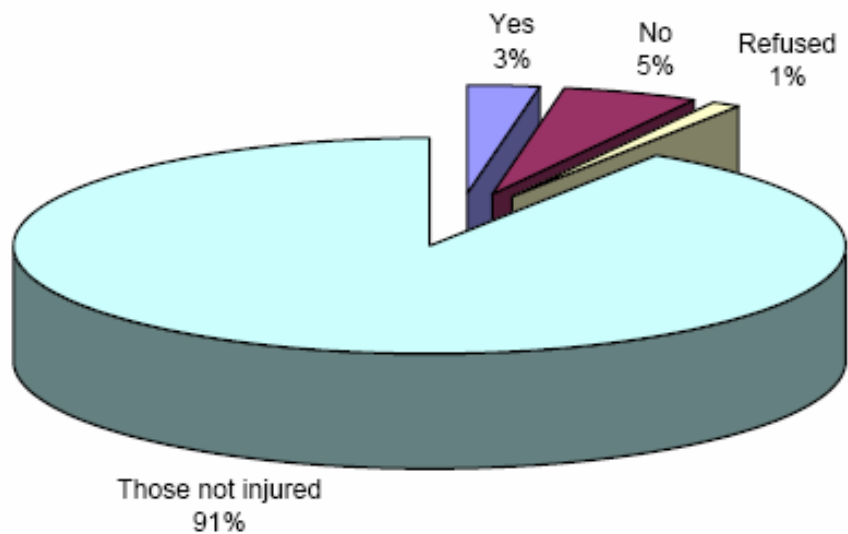
Did you miss school or work because of your injuries?

34.6% of the respondents who were injured reported that they had to miss school or work because of their injuries, while 63% did not. As a percentage of the entire sample, 2.9% had to miss school or work.

Table 5.22
Did you miss school or work because of your injuries?
(N = 81 incidents in which people were injured and
N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Missed school/work	% (of those who were injured)	% (of the total sample)
Yes	34.6	2.9
No	63.0	5.2
Refused	2.4	1.1
Those not injured	--	90.8
Total%	100.0	100.0
Sample size	81	973

Figure 5.16
Did you miss work or school because of your injuries?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



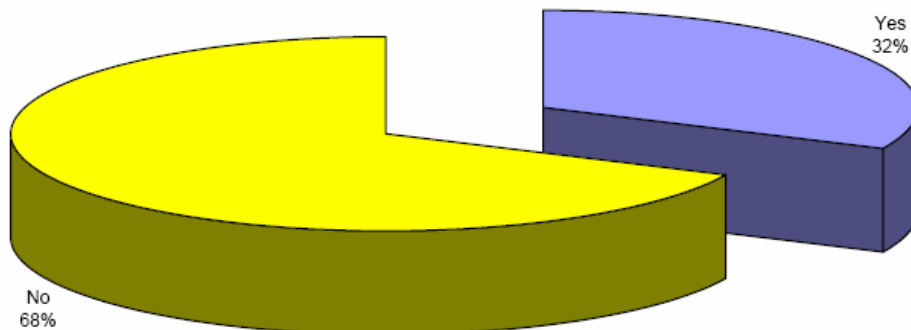
Did you report this crime to the police?

A surprising 67.5% of the incidents of victimization which occurred were not reported to the police, while 31.6% of the incidents were reported. If these figures are representative of the overall level of reporting criminal incidents in Jamaica, this implies that two thirds of all crimes go unreported.

Table 5.23
Did you report this crime to the police?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Was the incident reported?	%
Yes	31.6
No	67.5
Refused/missing	0.9
Total%	100.0
Total number of incidents of victimization	973

Figure 5.17
Did you report this crime to the police?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Reasons for reporting versus non-reporting

To further investigate the possible reasons for reporting versus non-reporting, respondents answers to other questions were compared to whether or not they reported the crime to the police. It was found that people who were physically hurt were more likely to report to the police (Table 5.24). Of those hurt, 65% reported the crime to the police, while 35% did not. Of those who were not hurt, 29% reported to the police while 71% did not.

Table 5.24
Cross-tabulation: reporting crime to the police and being physically hurt

Did you report this crime to the police?	Were you physically hurt?	
	Yes	No
Yes	65.4	28.9
No	34.6	71.0
Refused	0.0	.1
Total%	100.0	100.0
Sample size	81	876

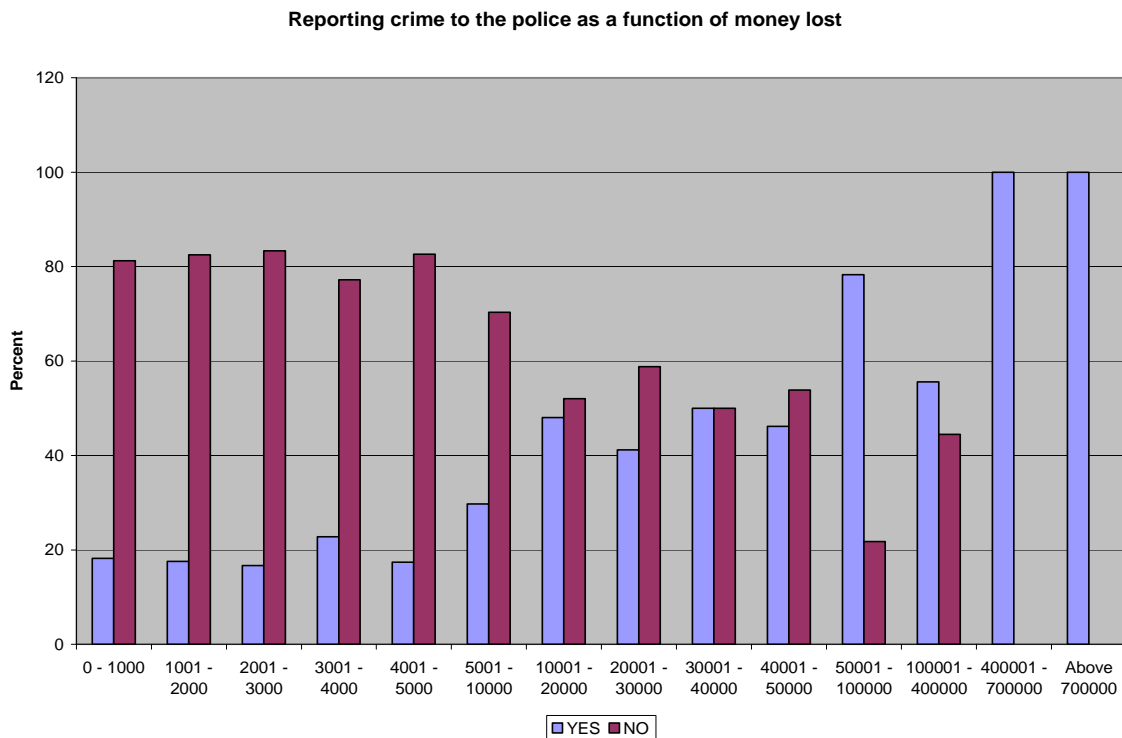
Having to go to the hospital for their injuries was also closely related to reporting to the police (Table 5.25). 91% of those who had to go to the hospital reported their incidents to the police, while 9% who went to the hospital did not report the incident to the police. For those who did not go to the hospital, almost half reported the incident to the police, while the other half did not.

Table 5.25a
Cross-tabulation: reporting crime to the police and having to go to the hospital
(Only the 81 people who were injured were used in this analysis. 1 person refused)

Did you report this crime to the police?	Did you have to go to the hospital?	
	Yes	No
Yes	91.2	47.8
No	8.8	52.2
Total%	100.0	100.0
Sample size	34	46

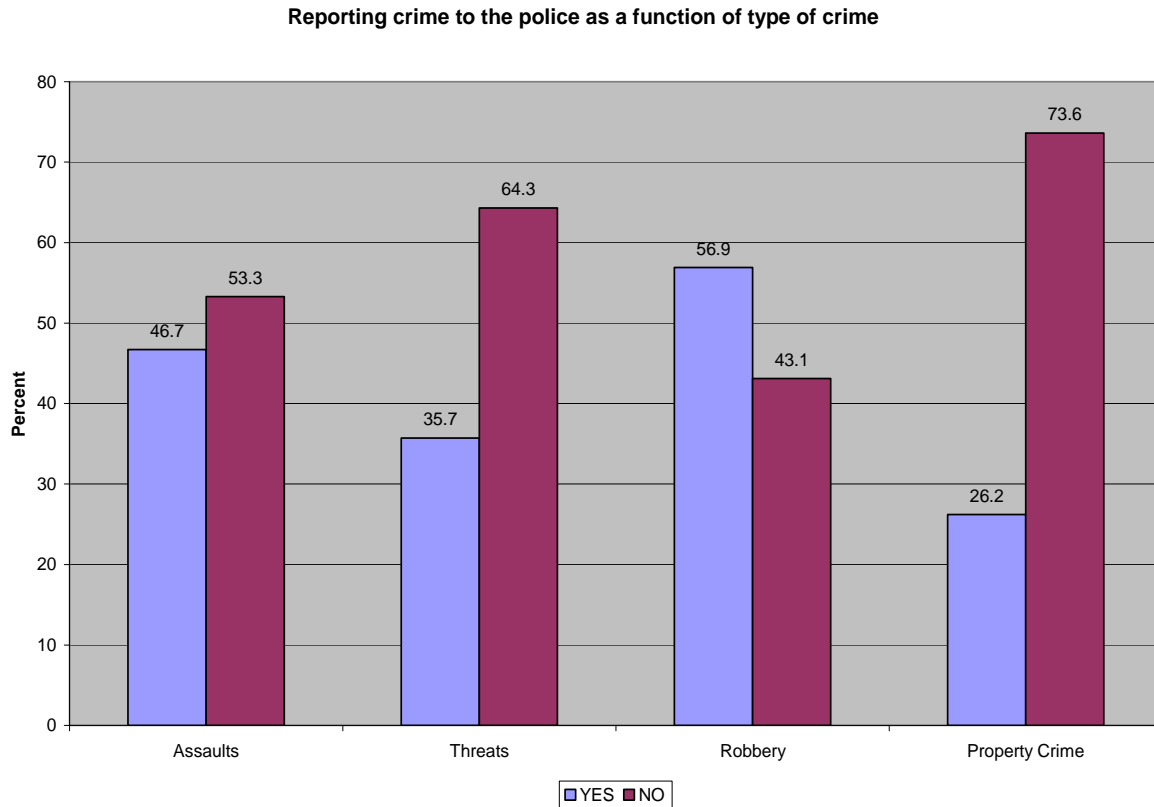
Figure 5.18 demonstrates that there was a relationship between amount of money/value of property lost, and reporting the incident to the police, where higher sums of money were associated with a greater likelihood of reporting. For sums of money under \$JA 10,000, people were more likely not to report the incident to the police. For sums of money between \$JA 10,000 to \$JA 50,000, people were roughly equally likely to report, as not to report. For sums of money which exceeded \$JA 50,000, people were more likely to report to the police than not.

Figure 5.18
Reporting crime to the police as a function of money lost
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Type of crime had some impact on whether or not respondents reported the crime. Robbery was more likely to be reported than not. The majority of property crimes and threats, in contrast, were not reported. Assaults were approximately equally likely to be reported, as not reported. Figure 5.19 displays this information.

Figure 5.19
Reporting crime to the police as a function of type of crime
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

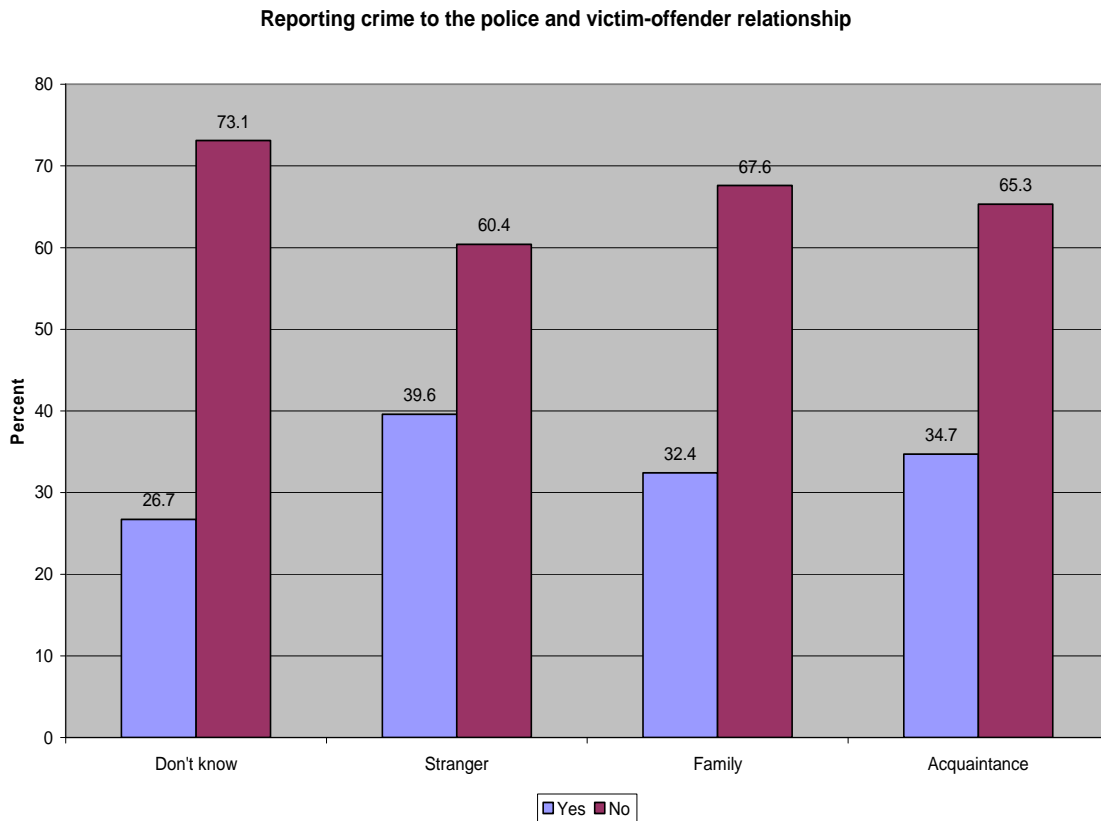


Victim-offender relationship did not appear to have a strong effect on whether or not people reported the incidents of victimization to the police. For all categories of offenders, respondents were more likely not to report than report. There was however a slightly discernable indication that respondents were more likely to report strangers, compared to family members or acquaintances. A large number of people never saw the offenders, and couldn't tell whether or not they were strangers or people they knew. Underreporting also applied here.

Table 5.25b
Cross-tabulation: reporting crime to the police and victim-offender relationship

Did you report this crime to the police?	Victim-offender relationship			
	Don't know	Stranger	Family	Acquaintance
Yes	26.7	39.6	32.4	34.7
No	73.1	60.4	67.6	65.3
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	469	217	37	242

Figure 5.20
Reporting crime to the police as a function of victim-offender relationship
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Did the police find out about this crime in some other way?

In the 657 cases where victims did not report the crimes to the police, they were asked whether or not the police found out about the crime in some other way. Only in

4.8% of the cases did police find out in other ways, with the majority of these occurring because someone else called the police. In the majority of cases (94.4%) where respondents did not report the incident to the police, they never found out.

Table 5.26
Did the police find out about this crime in some other way?
(N = 657 incidents in which victims did not report the crimes to the police)

Did the police find out about this crime in some other way?	%
Yes, someone called police	3.3
Yes ,police witnessed crime	.3
Yes, police found out in some other way	1.2
No, police did not find out about this crime	94.4
Refused	.8
Total%	100.0
Total number of incidents not reported by victim	657

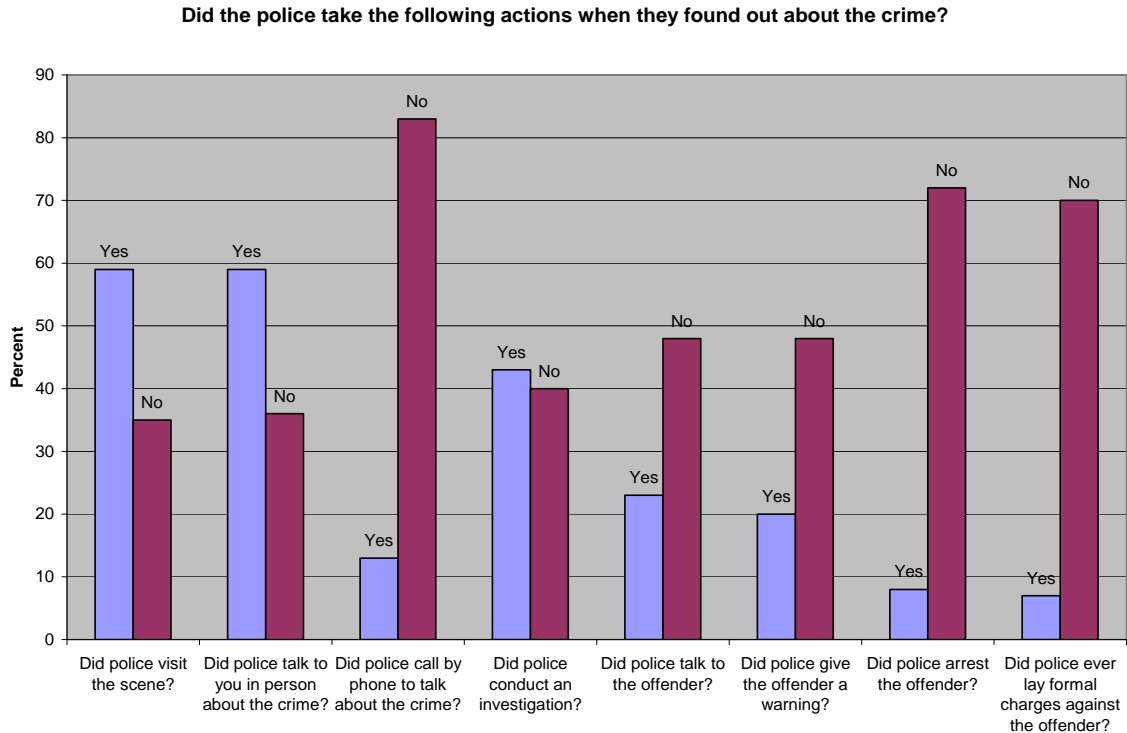
Police Action

In order to ascertain the types and extent of police action, respondents were given a number of possible responses that police could have taken, and asked to indicate whether or not these actions were taken. The cases here refer to only those for which the police found out about the incident of victimization (either by reporting or by some other means). There were 340 such cases.

Table 5.27
Did the police take the following actions when they found out about the crime?
(N = 340; all cases which were known to the police)

Questions asked	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know (%)
Did police visit the scene?	59	35	6
Did police talk to you in person about the crime?	59	36	5
Did police call by phone to talk about the crime?	13	83	4
Did police conduct an investigation?	43	40	17
Did police talk to the offender?	23	48	29
Did police give the offender a warning?	20	48	32
Did police arrest the offender?	8	72	20
Did police ever lay formal charges against the offender?	7	70	23
Total number of incidents			340

Figure 5.21
Did the police take the following actions when they found out about the crime?
 (N = 340; all cases which were known to the police)



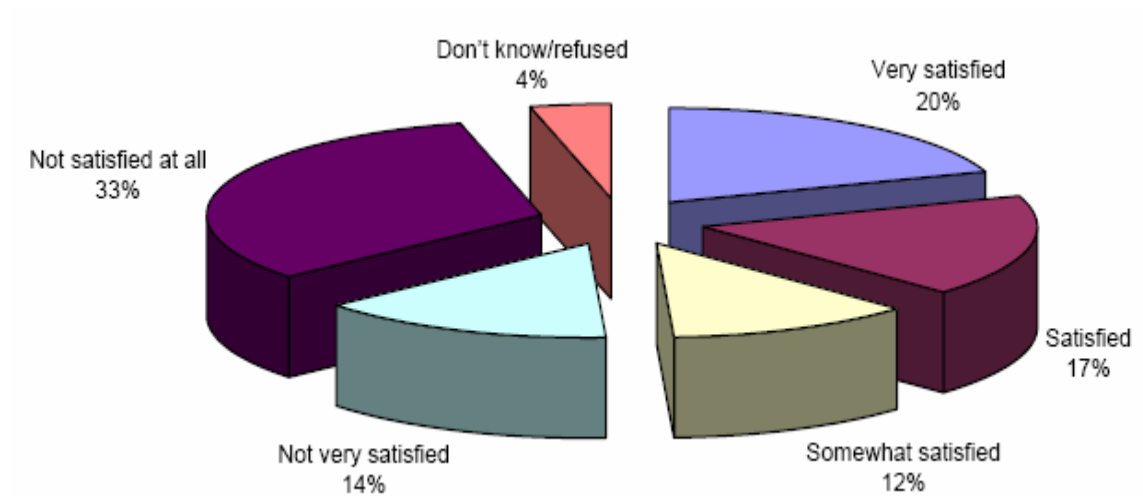
Overall level of satisfaction with police response

For the 340 incidents of victimization which the police found out about (either by reporting or by some other means), respondents were asked to rate their overall level of satisfaction with the police response. Choices ranged from ‘very satisfied’ to ‘not very satisfied’. In order to calculate the percentage of responses in each category, the total number of incidents for which police found out about the victimization (n = 340) is used as a baseline. Overall, 19.7% of the respondents were very satisfied, while 17.4% were satisfied. 12.2% indicated that they were somewhat satisfied. 14.2% indicated that they were not very satisfied, and 32.5% said that they were not satisfied at all.

Table 5.28
Overall level of satisfaction with police response
(N = 340; all cases which were known to the police)

Level of satisfaction	%
Very satisfied	19.7
Satisfied	17.4
Somewhat satisfied	12.2
Not very satisfied	14.2
Not satisfied at all	32.5
Don't know/refused	4.0
Total%	100
Total number of incidents	340

Figure 5.22
Overall level of satisfaction with police response
(N = 340; all cases which were known to the police)



What else could the police have done?

For the 340 cases in which police found out about the crime committed, respondents were asked to indicate if they thought that there was anything else that the police should or could have done to make the situation better. A wide range of responses were given. Table 5.29 indicates these responses as the% of those who agreed with each statement. All percentages are calculated using the 340 incidents as a baseline. The most

frequent response by far (41.5%) was that the police could not have done any more to improve the situation. Many respondents (26.2%) also indicated that the police should treat crime more seriously, and conduct a better investigation (22.6%). A moderate amount of respondents (13.2%) felt that the police should respond more quickly. Some (11.2%) felt that the police should have arrested the offender. Slightly lesser amounts (9.4%) felt that the police should have showed up or responded to the call, while some believed that they could have been more supportive or sympathetic (9.1%).

Table 5.29
What else could the police have done?
(N = 340; all cases which were known to the police)

Response	% Agreed
No - nothing else	41.5
Treat crime more seriously	26.2
Conduct a better investigation	22.6
Respond more quickly	13.2
Charge/arrest the person	11.2
Show up/respond to call	9.41
Be more supportive/sympathetic	9.12
Provide better protection	2.94
Help relocate victim	2.06
Take the person away	1.76
Be more polite	1.76
Refer victim to social agency for help	1.18
Keep matter private	0.88
Take victim to the hospital	0.29
Other/don't know/refused	17.4
Total number of incidents where police knew or found out about the crime	340

Reasons for not reporting the crime to the police

For the 657 incidents of victimization which were not reported to the police, respondents were asked to indicate all of the reasons for non-reporting. A wide range of reasons were indicated, with quite a number of respondents giving more than one. Many responses (29.7%) indicated that the incident was not serious enough to report to the police, while slightly less (24.1%) indicated that the reason for non-reporting was that the

police could not do anything about the crime. Quite a large number of responses (14.3%) indicated that people felt that they could deal with the incident on their own, while a similar number (14%) indicated that interviewees felt that the police would not care. 7.5% of the responses indicated that respondents didn't want the publicity associated with reporting while 5.6% of the responses indicated that the respondents were "Afraid of the offenders".

Table 5.30
Reasons for not reporting the crime to the police
(N = 657; Total number of incidents in which the victimization was not reported)

Response	% Agreed
Not serious enough	29.7
Police could not do anything	24.1
Can deal with it on own	14.3
Police would not care	14.0
Don't want the publicity	7.5
Afraid of offenders	5.6
Don't trust police	3.4
Don't want to be a snitch/informer	3.0
Might get into trouble	2.7
Afraid of offender's family/friends	2.1
To seek revenge	2.1
Someone else knew and called the police	2.0
To protect the offender	1.5
Don't trust the courts	0.6
Total number of incidents in which the victimization was not reported	657

Main reason for not reporting crime to the police

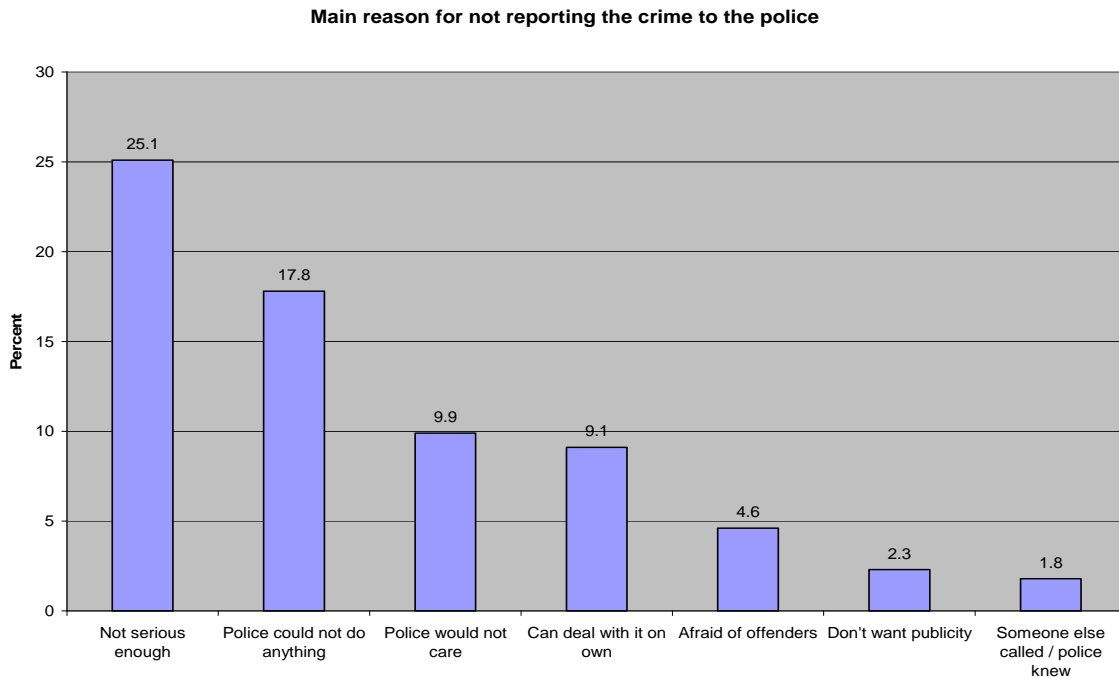
For the 657 incidents of victimization which were not reported to the police, respondents were asked to indicate the main reason why they did not report. The results closely resemble those of the previous question. For 25.1% of the incidents, respondents gave as their main reason that the crime was not serious enough. For 17.8% of the incidents, respondents felt that the police could not do anything about the crime. The third highest response was that police would not care (for 9.9% of the incidents) while in almost the same number of incidents (9.1%) respondents felt that they could deal with the

crime on their own. Table 5.31 shows this information while Figure 5.23 graphically displays these data.

Table 5.31
Main reason for not reporting the crime to the police
(N = 657; Total number of incidents in which the victimization was not reported)

Main Reason	%
Not serious enough	25.1
Police could not do anything	17.8
Police would not care	9.9
Can deal with it on own	9.1
Afraid of offenders	4.6
Don't want publicity	2.3
Someone else called / police knew	1.8
To seek revenge	1.2
Afraid of offenders family/friends	1.1
To protect the offender	.9
Don't know	.9
Don't trust police	.8
Don't want to be a snitch/informer	.6
Might get in trouble	.3
Other/refused	23.6
Total%	100
Total number of incidents which were not reported to the police	657

Figure 5.23
Main reason for not reporting the crime to the police
(N = 657; Total number of incidents in which the victimization was not reported)



Did you speak to anyone else beside the police about the crime?

Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they spoke to anyone else, beside the police, about the crime. For 93.2% of the incidents of victimization (n = 899) the response was ‘yes’ while for 6.5% the response was ‘no’.

Table 5.32
Did you speak to anyone else beside the police about the crime?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Did you speak to anyone else?	%
Yes	93.2
No	6.5
Refused	0.3
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

To whom did you speak about the crime?

For the 899 incidents of victimization for which respondents spoke to others about the crime, they were asked to indicate all of the persons to whom they spoke. Many respondents spoke to multiple others, and a total of 2368 responses were generated from the 899 cases, indicating that on average, each respondent spoke to 2.6 persons beside the police per incident of victimization. The most common response was friends (57% of victimization incidents). This was followed by neighbours (42.4%) and then parents (26.4%). Brothers and sisters (24.9%) were spoken to almost as much as parents. Other important categories were sons and daughters (19.9%) and spouses (19.5%).

Table 5.33

Other persons to whom respondents spoke about the crime

(N = 899; all victimization incidents in which persons spoke to others about the crime)

Other persons to whom respondents spoke about the crime	%
Friends	57.0
Neighbours	42.4
Parents	26.4
Brother/Sister	24.9
Son/Daughter	19.9
Spouse	19.5
Co-workers	12.4
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	11.6
Acquaintances	10.0
Cousins	7.4
Aunt/Uncle	5.1
Priest/Minister	4.7
Boss/Supervisor	3.6
Niece/Nephew	3.4
Grandparents	3.0
Grandchildren	2.5
Roommate/Housemate	1.5
Fellow students	1.0
Ex-spouse	0.2
Total number of victimization incidents	899

Why did you not tell anyone about the crime?

For 7.9% of the victimization incidents, respondents did not talk to the police or anyone else, and were asked to indicate the reasons why. These responses are expressed in Table 5.34 as a percentage of the total number of incidents of victimization (N = 973). The most frequently cited reason was that the incident was not a big deal (3.5% of responses). Approximately one third this amount responded that they could take care of themselves (1.3%) and did not need to report. Small numbers said that they didn't know (0.5%), didn't trust anyone (0.3%) and feared the offenders (0.3%).

Table 5.34
Why did you not tell anyone about the crime?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Responses	%
Not a big deal	3.5
Other	1.4
Can take care of myself	1.3
Don't know	0.5
Don't trust anyone	0.3
Fear of offenders	0.3
Might get into trouble	0.2
Refused	0.2
Embarrassed/Ashamed	0.1
Would hurt reputation	0.1
Incidents reported to others	92.1
Total%	100
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Did you try to take revenge?

Respondents were asked whether or not they tried to take revenge or get back at the person who committed the act of victimization against them. For the majority of incidents of victimization (97.3%) respondents did not, while for a small minority (1.8%) of incidents, they did.

Table 5.35
Did you try to take revenge?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Response	%
Yes	1.8
No	97.3
Don't know	.1
Refused	.8
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Did anyone else help you to take revenge?

For those who did seek revenge (n = 17), many of them (n = 15) indicated that someone else helped them.

Who helped you to take revenge?

Respondents were asked to indicate who helped with the act of revenge. A wide range of responses were give, the most frequent being Friends and Brothers/Sisters. Other people who ‘helped’ included neighbours, cousins and sons/daughters.

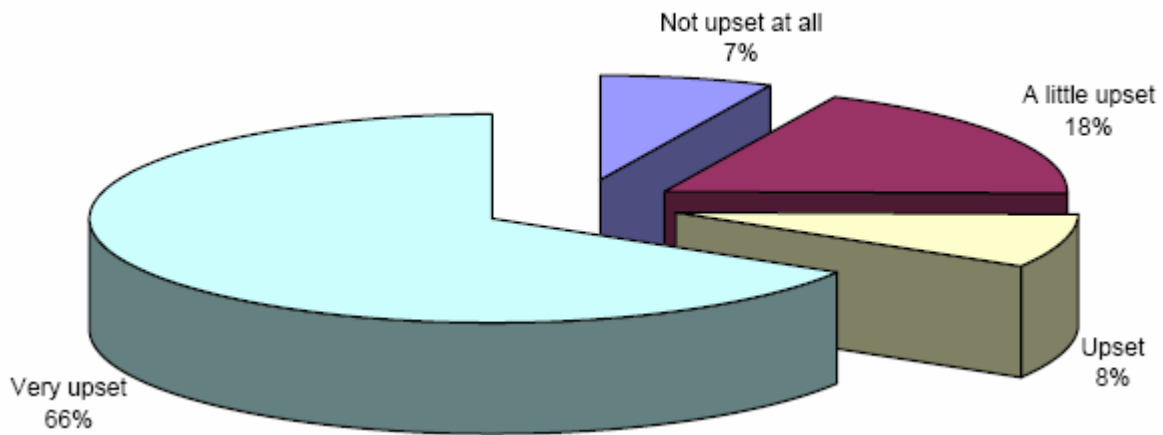
How upset were you because of this crime?

Respondents were asked to describe how upset they were because of the crime. Using the 973 incidents of victimization as the total response dataset, only in a small amount of cases of victimization were respondents not upset (6.8%). For 18.4% of the incidents, the victims were a little upset, while in 8.3% the reaction was described as upset. In the majority of incidents (66.1%) respondents were very upset.

Table 5.36
How upset were you because of this crime?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

How upset were you?	%
Not upset at all	6.8
A little upset	18.4
Upset	8.3
Very upset	66.1
Refused	0.3
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.24a
How upset were you because of this crime?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Being upset as a function of being injured

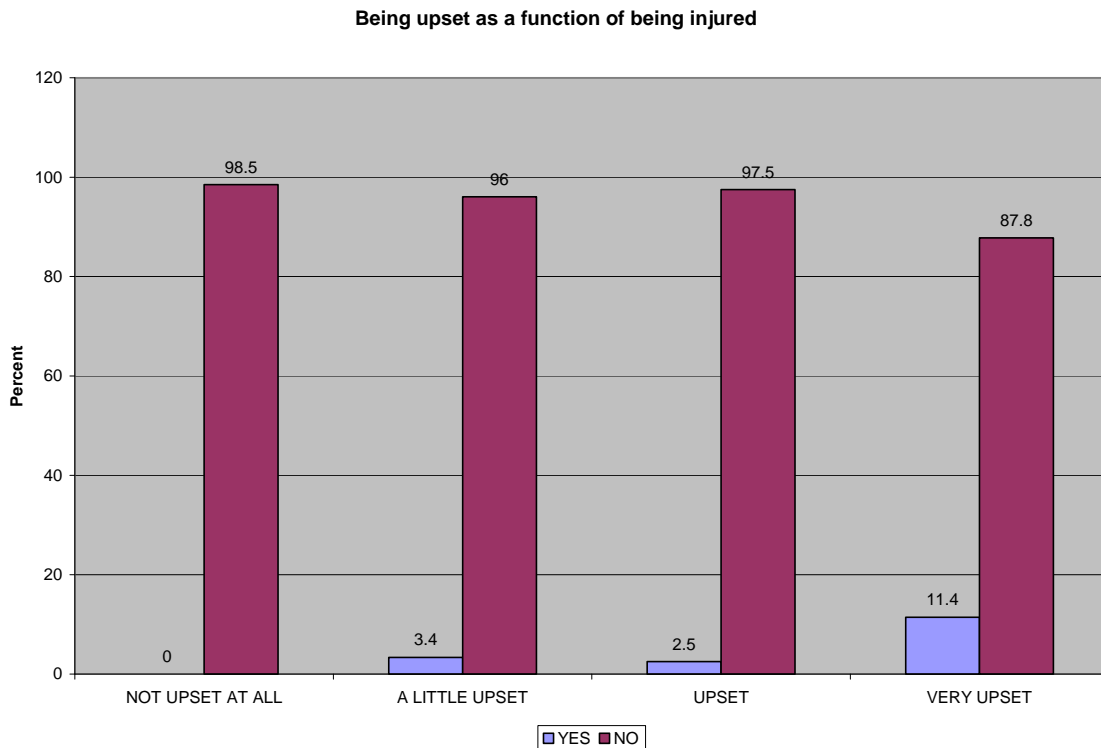
To further explore the reasons for being upset, a cross-tabulation was done with the responses to the questions “How upset were you because of this crime?” and “Were you physically hurt or injured as a result of this crime?” The data indicates that for those who were not physically hurt or injured, there was roughly equal support for each of the various response categories for being upset. For those who were injured however, 0%

were not upset (i.e. all were upset to some degree) with more being very upset, than a little upset or upset.

Table 5.37
Cross-tabulation of “How upset were you because of this crime?” and “Were you physically hurt or injured as a result of this crime?”

Were you physically hurt?	How upset were you?			
	Not upset at all	A little upset	Upset	Very upset
Yes	0.0	3.4	2.5	11.4
No	98.5	96.1	97.5	87.8
Refused	1.5	.6	0.0	.8
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	66	178	80	638

Figure 5.24b
Being upset as a function of being injured
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



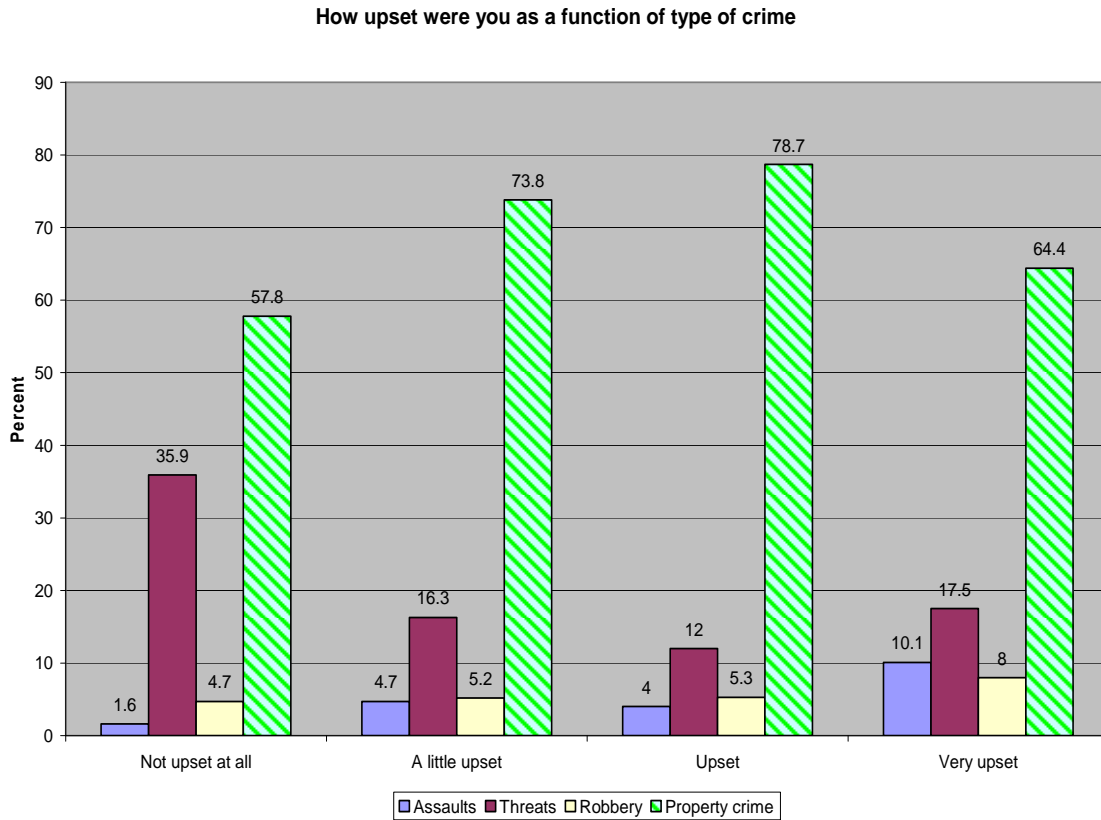
Being upset as a function of type of crime

Cross-tabulation was also conducted for type of crime and being upset. The results are shown in Table 5.38 while Figure 5.25 displays the results graphically. The data indicates that for threats, the majority of people were not upset. For assaults and robberies however, there was a gradual increase in the percentage of responses when moving from not upset to very upset. For property crimes, the majority of people were upset, with decreasing percentages being very upset or not upset.

Table 5.38
Cross-tabulation: How upset were you by type of crime
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Type of crime	How upset were you?			
	Not upset at all	A little upset	Upset	Very upset
Assaults	1.6	4.7	4.0	10.1
Threats	35.9	16.3	12.0	17.5
Robbery	4.7	5.2	5.3	8.0
Property crime	57.8	73.8	78.7	64.4
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	64	172	75	612

Figure 5.25
How upset were you as a function of type of crime
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Fear of crime

Respondents were asked to indicate how frightened they were because of the crime. For 29.5% of the incidents of victimization, respondents were not frightened at all. For 21% of the incidents, the victims were a little frightened, while in 10.6% of the incidents, respondents were frightened. Importantly, a large number of respondents were very frightened. This occurred for 37.2% of the incidents of victimization.

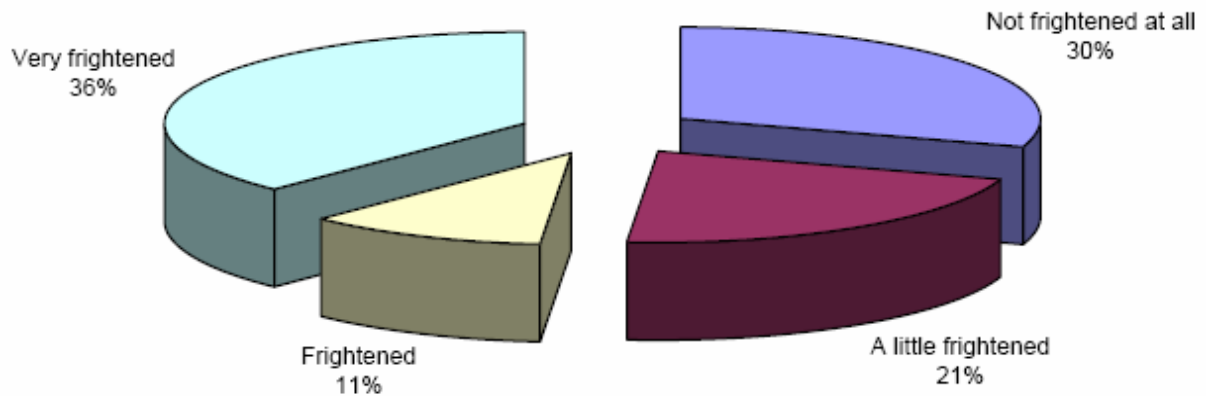
Fear of crime is important, not only for individuals, but also for neighbourhoods and the wider society. At the individual level, fear of crime has detrimental psychological effects (White et al., 1987), it restricts personal freedoms by limiting how freely people move about their neighbourhoods (Liska et al., 1988), and contributes to dissatisfaction with the neighbourhood, the community, and overall life (Sirgy and Cornwell, 2002). At the neighbourhood level, fear of crime decreases neighbourhood cohesion, participation

in neighbourhood associations, and community ties (Riger et al., 1981; Perkins et al., 1990; Markowitz et al., 2001). At the societal level, the fear of crime burden may be unfairly placed on those already socially and economically disadvantaged and without sufficient resources to protect themselves and their possessions or to move from the high crime areas (Hale, 1996).

Table 5.39
How frightened were you as a result of this crime?
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

How frightened were you?	%
Not frightened at all	29.5
A little frightened	21.1
Frightened	10.6
Very frightened	37.2
Don't know/refused	1.6
Total%	100.0
Total number of incidents of victimization	973

Figure 5.26
How frightened were you as a result of this crime?
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

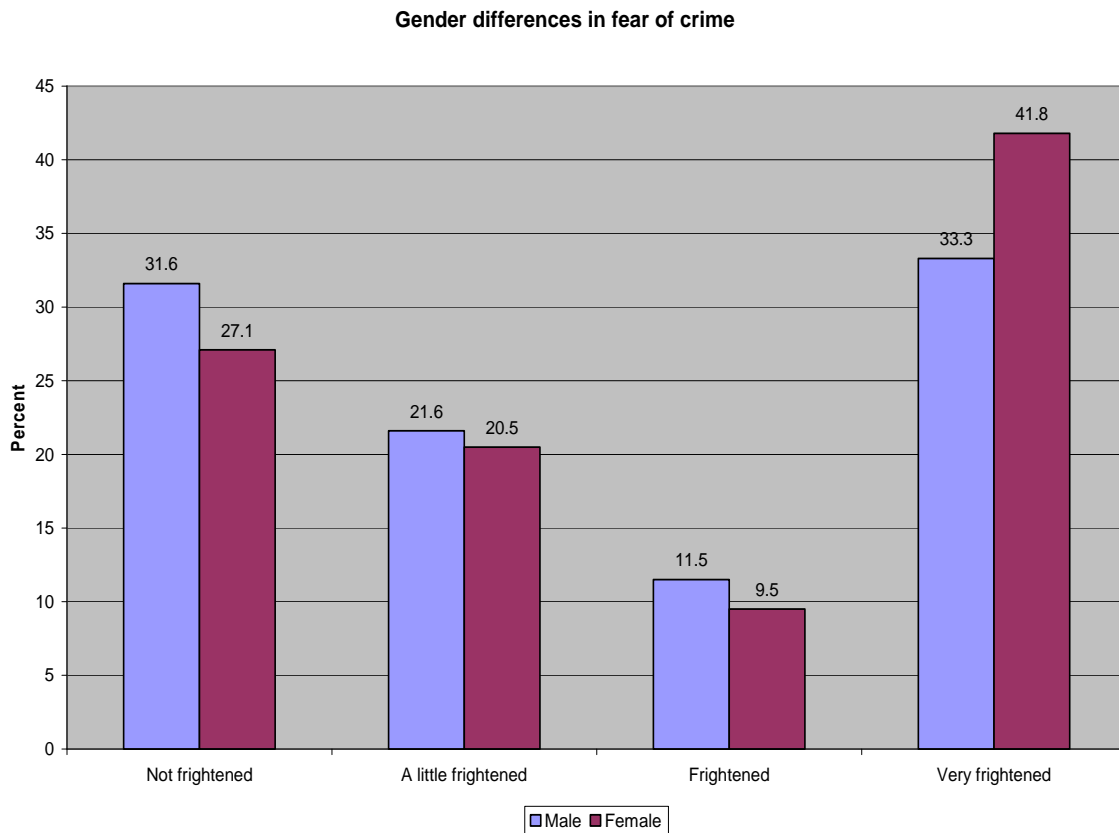


Fear as a function of gender

While there were no education and age differences in fear of crime, there was a gender difference. Specifically, females were more fearful than males. This can be seen in Figure 5.27, where for the categories of not frightened, a little frightened, and

frightened, there are more males than females, but for the category of very frightened, there are more females than males.

Figure 5.27
Gender differences in fear of crime
 (N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Fear as a function of type of crime

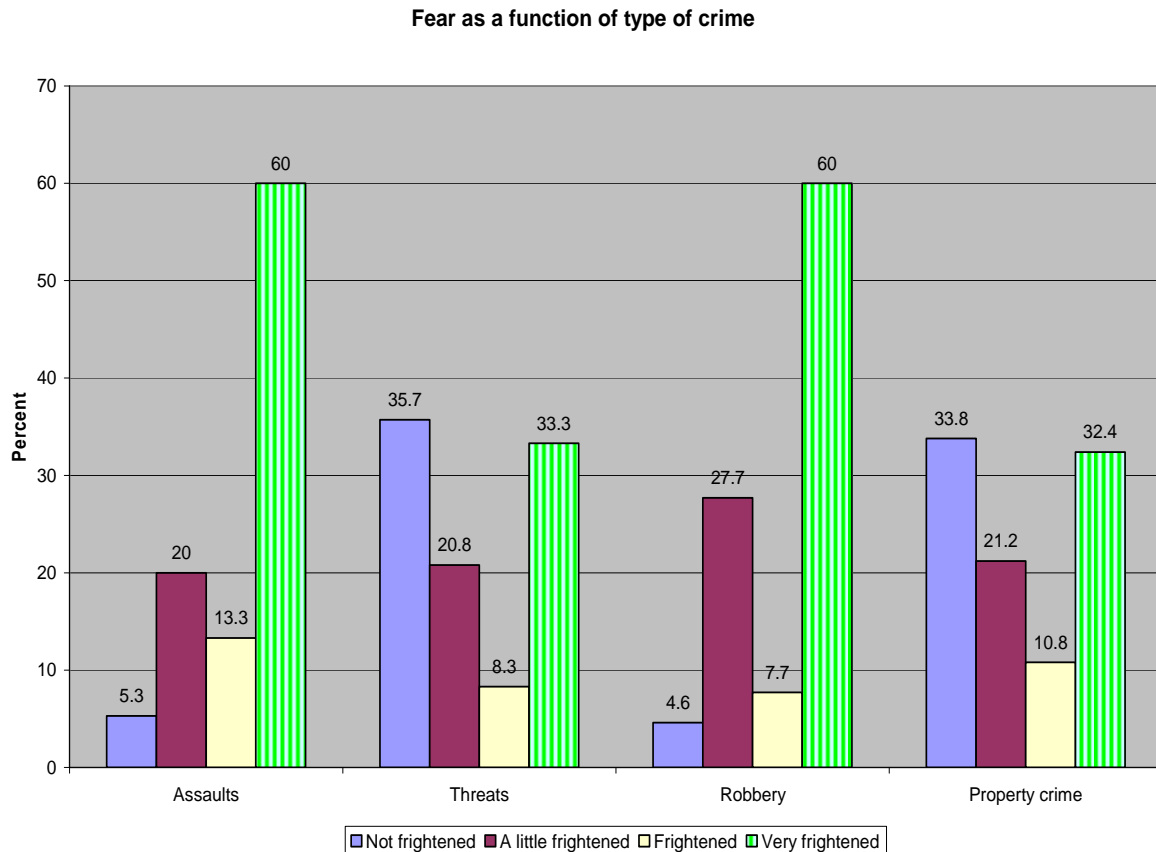
An interesting pattern resulted when level of fear was cross-tabulated with type of crime (Table 5.40 and Figure 5.28). For assaults and robbery, there was a clear increasing trend where few people were not frightened and many very frightened. This may have occurred since respondents may have been in direct contact with the assailants, and were more likely to be in immediate danger at the time of the incident. For threats and property crime however, almost equal numbers of people were as likely to be frightened as not frightened. For threats, this more equitable distribution of level of fear may have occurred since some threats may have been more serious than others. For

property crime, this distribution of fear may be related to the presence or absence of the victim. If absent, fear may be lower than if present.

Table 5.40
Cross-tabulation: How frightened were you and type of crime

How frightened were you	Type of crime			
	Assaults	Threats	Robbery	Property crime
Not frightened at all	5.3	35.7	4.6	33.8
A little frightened	20.0	20.8	27.7	21.2
Frightened	13.3	8.3	7.7	10.8
Very frightened	60.0	33.3	60.0	32.4
Don't know/refused	1.3	1.8	0.0	1.8
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	75	168	65	618

Figure 5.28
Fear as a function of type of crime
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



Did you change the way you live your life as a result of this crime?

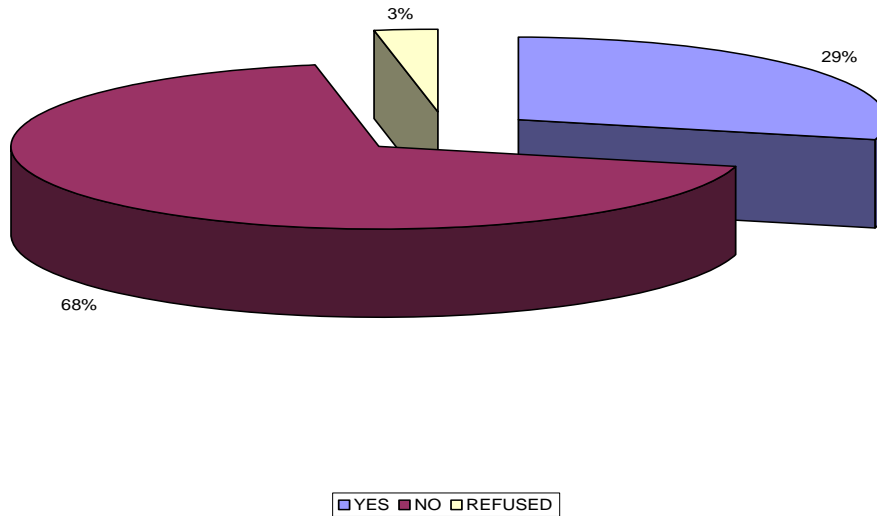
Respondents were asked if they changed the way they lived and the things they did as a result of the victimization experience. For 28.9% of the incidents of victimization, respondents explained that they did, while in 68.4%, they did not.

Table 5.41
Did you change the way you live your life as a result of this crime?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Did you change the way you live	%
Yes	28.9
No	68.4
Refused	2.7
Total%	100.0
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.29
Did you change the way you live your life as a result of this crime?
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Did you change the way you live your life as a result of this crime?



Relationship among being upset, fear of crime, and changing one’s lifestyle

An analysis of the relationship between being upset and the level of fear people experienced as a result of their victimization revealed that the more fearful people were, the more upset they also were and vice versa ($r = 0.441$, $p < 0.001$). People who were more upset were more likely to change their lifestyles ($r = -0.207$, $p < 0.001$) and people who were more fearful were also more likely to change their lifestyle ($r = -0.313$, $p < 0.001$). These data indicate that between being fearful and being upset, fear is the more important predictor of changing one’s lifestyle.

Table 5.42
Correlations: Changing one’s lifestyle, fear, and being upset
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

		Upset	Fear
Fear	Pearson Correlation	.441**	
Change lifestyle	Pearson Correlation	-.207**	-.313**

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

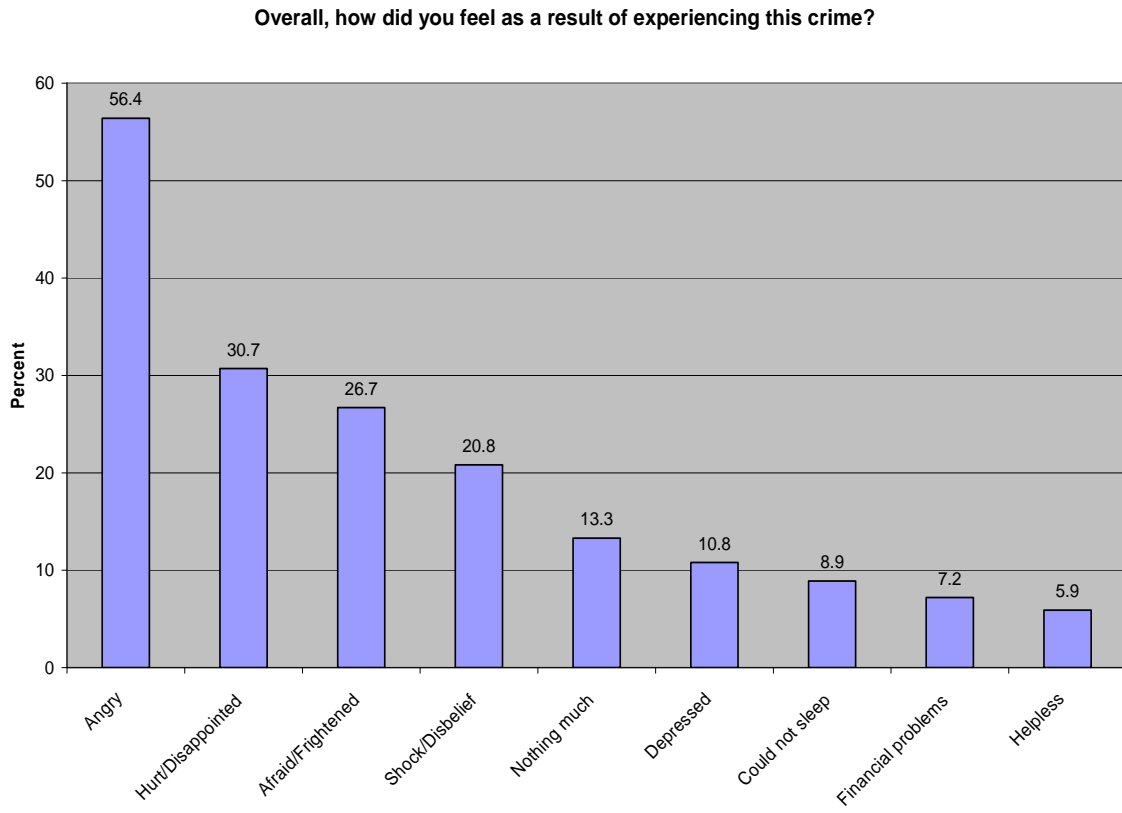
Overall feelings about the experience of being a victim of a crime

Respondents were asked to describe their overall feelings about being victimized. Respondents were allowed to list as many feelings as were applicable. The most common response was anger (56.4% of the victimization incidents) followed by feeling hurt and disappointed (30.7%). For 26.7% of the incidents of victimization, respondents indicated that they were afraid/frightened and for almost as incidents (20.8%) respondents indicated feelings of shock and disbelief. Importantly, for 7.2% of the incidents, respondents indicated that they had financial problems after the incident. The more often cited feelings are graphically represented below.

Table 5.43
Overall feelings about the experience of being a victim of a crime
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)

Responses	% Agreed
Angry	56.4
Hurt/Disappointed	30.7
Afraid/Frightened	26.7
Shock/Disbelief	20.8
Nothing much	13.3
Depressed	10.8
Could not sleep	8.9
Financial problems	7.2
Helpless	5.9
Afraid for family/children	2.8
Anxious/Anxiety attacks	2.5
Ashamed/Guilty	2.1
Lowered self esteem	1.3
Physical problems	0.4
Total number of victimization incidents	973

Figure 5.30
Overall feelings about the experience of being a victim of a crime
(N = 973; Total number of victimization incidents)



PART SIX: INDIRECT EXPOSURE TO SERIOUS CRIME

While developing the survey instrument for the 2006 Jamaican National Victimization Survey, the research team felt that it might be just as important to capture indirect exposure to serious crime as it would be to document personal victimization experiences. Indeed, as with personal victimization, witnessing a violent crime or losing a loved one to violence may be extremely traumatic and ultimately result in feelings of anger, frustration, depression, anxiety and fear. Interestingly, another major victimization survey that asked respondents to provide details about the violent crimes they may have witnessed or about the murder of family members and friends could not be located. Thus, in many ways, the research results discussed below are ground-breaking with respect to international victimization research.

Witnessing Murder

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever seen a murder?” Interviewers were instructed not to include police shootings. Overall, the findings suggest that almost one out of every twelve respondents (8.4%) has witnessed a murder at some point in their life. Indeed, 2.8% (one out of every thirty-five respondents) has witnessed a murder on more than one occasion (see Figure 6.1). More than a quarter of the 261 respondents (25.3%) who have witnessed a murder claim that they actually witnessed this type of crime within the past year. An additional 32.2% witnessed a murder in the past five years, while 41% witnessed a murder more than five years ago (see Figure 6.2).

All 261 respondents who had witnessed a murder were asked: “Think about the last time you saw a murder. Did you talk to the police about what you saw?” The results suggest that the vast majority of murder witnesses -- 83.4% -- decided not to talk to the police about the crime. By contrast, only 12.3% indicated that they had made a report to the police (see Figure 6.3).

FIGURE 6.1: Percent of Respondents Who Have Witnessed a Murder at Sometime in Their Life (Sample Size=3,112)

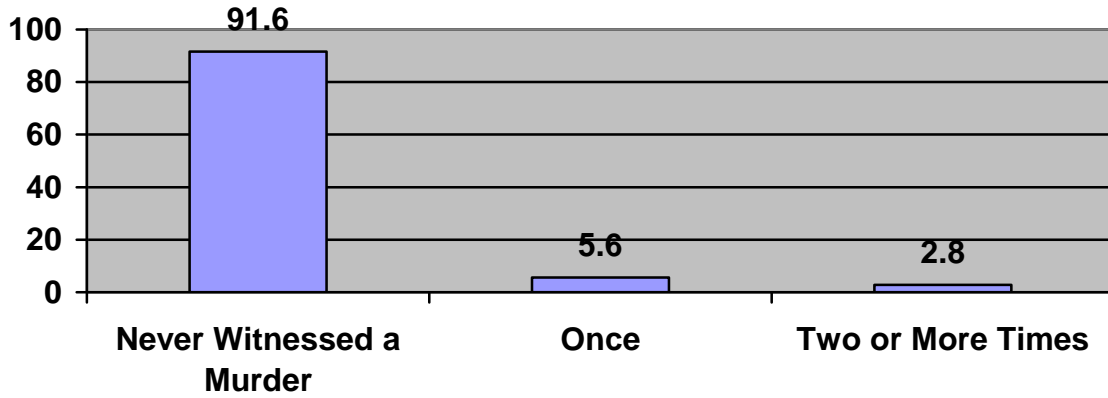
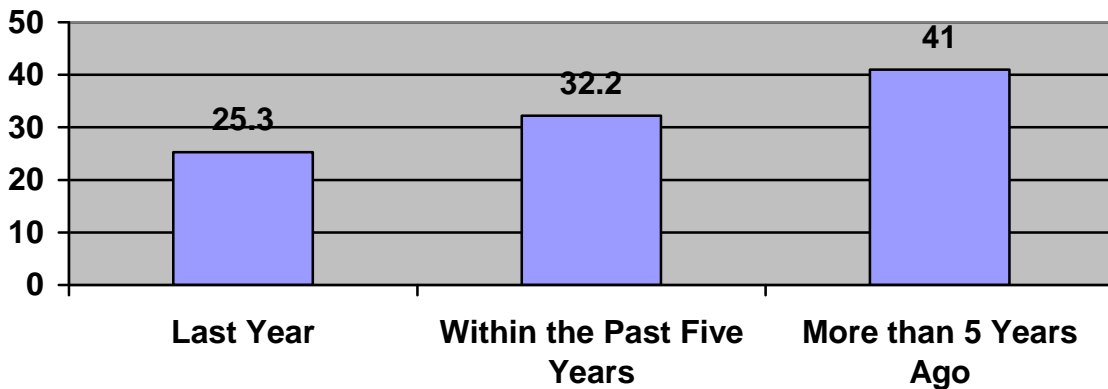


FIGURE 6.2: Last Time Respondents Witnessed a Murder (Sample Size = 261)



The fact that so few witnesses to murder come forward and talk to the police is cause for concern. Indeed, research on police investigations suggests that the cooperation of witnesses is the key to solving most violent crimes. If witnesses cannot be located or do not cooperate with the authorities, the likelihood of solving a crime of violence is greatly reduced. Thus, in order to design programs that may increase the reporting rate, it is essential to understand why people fail to talk to the police about the serious crimes they have witnessed. Thus, all respondents who had witnessed a murder -- but did not

talk to the police -- were asked: “Why didn’t you talk to the police about this murder?” The answers to this question are summarized in Figure 6.4.

Most respondents provided more than one reason for not talking to the police about the last murder they had witnessed (mean = 2.1 reasons). More than a third of the non-reporting respondents (38.7%) simply indicated that the murder “was none of my business.” This response demonstrates a general unwillingness to become involved in the affairs of others and may indicate a disinterest in civil participation. It could also indicate a desire to avoid confrontation and conflict with the offender and his or her family and friends. Almost a third of respondents (29%) indicated that they did not report the murder because there were other witnesses on the scene. This response suggests that many respondents are willing to shift the responsibility to report crimes to the police from themselves onto other people. Approximately one out of every six non-reporting respondents (17.1%) claims that they did not talk to the police because they did not want to be a snitch or an informer. This finding suggests that, in some communities, there is a strong “code of silence” and/or cultural beliefs that frown on those who cooperate with the police (even in the case of murder).

One out of every seven non-reporting respondents (15.7%) claimed that they did not talk to the police because they feared retaliation from the offender. An additional 13.8% stated that they did not report the crime because they felt that the police were unable to provide adequate protection from the offender(s) or the offender’s family and friends. One out of every eight respondents (11.9%) claimed that they did not report the murder because the police themselves had already witnessed the crime (i.e., they were not needed). One out over every ten respondents (10.3%) indicated that they did not report the last murder they had witnessed because they simply do not trust the police. An additional 10.1% indicated that they did not talk to the police because they were aware that the offender had already been apprehended. Finally, 7.4% indicated that they did not report the crime because they don’t want to appear in criminal court and 3.2% did not report because they “fear the police.”

FIGURE 6.3: Percent of Respondents Who Talked to the Police About the Murder they had Witnessed (Sample Size=261)

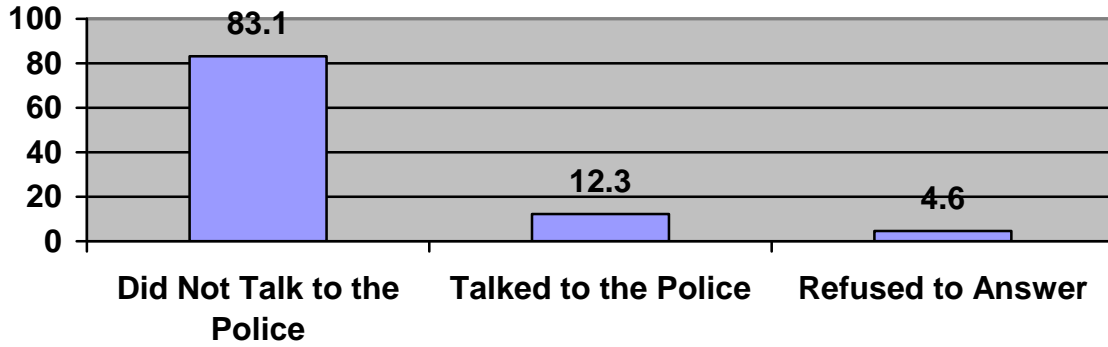
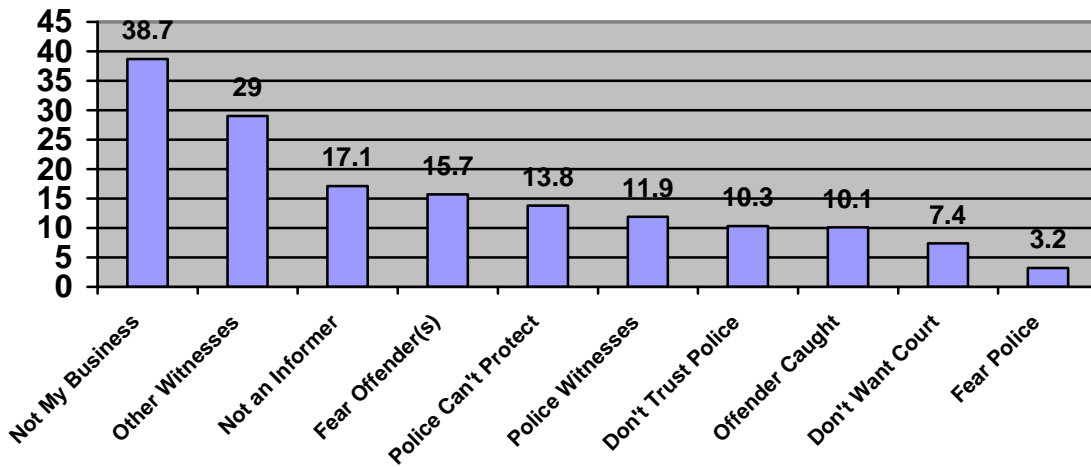


FIGURE 6.4: Reasons for Not Talking to the Police After Witnessing a Murder (Sample Size=217)



Witnessing Shootings or Gun Battles

Respondents asked: “Have you ever seen or watched a gun battle or a shooting? For example, have you ever seen an incident in which one person or a group of persons was shooting at another person or group of persons?” The results suggest that one out of every eight respondents (12.3%), 16 years of age or older, has witnessed a gun battle or

shooting at some point in their life. In fact, one out of every fourteen Jamaicans (7.1%) has witnessed a shooting or gun battle on two occasions or more (see Figure 6.5). Of the 382 respondents who have witnessed a shooting, 34.0% indicated that they witnessed this type of crime in the past year. An additional 30.6% witnessed this type of crime in the past five years and 34.3% witnessed a shooting more than five years ago (see Figure 6.6).

FIGURE 6.5: Percent of Respondents Who Have Witnessed a Shooting or a Gun Battle (Sample Size=3,112)

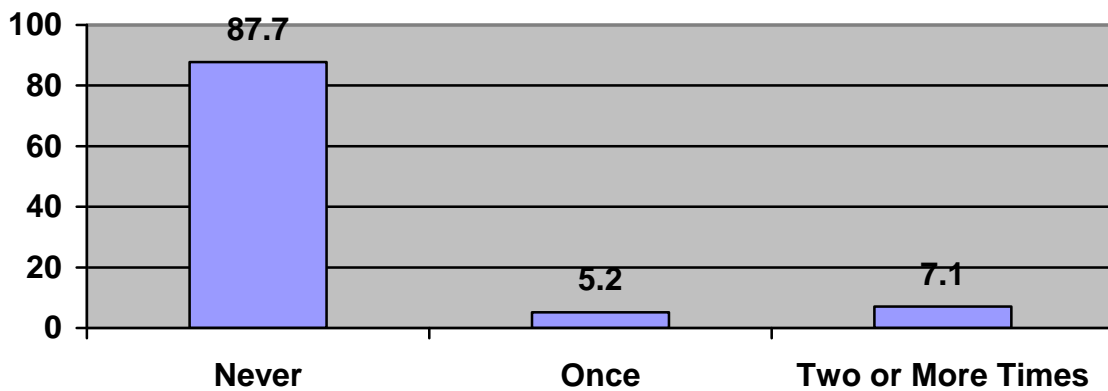
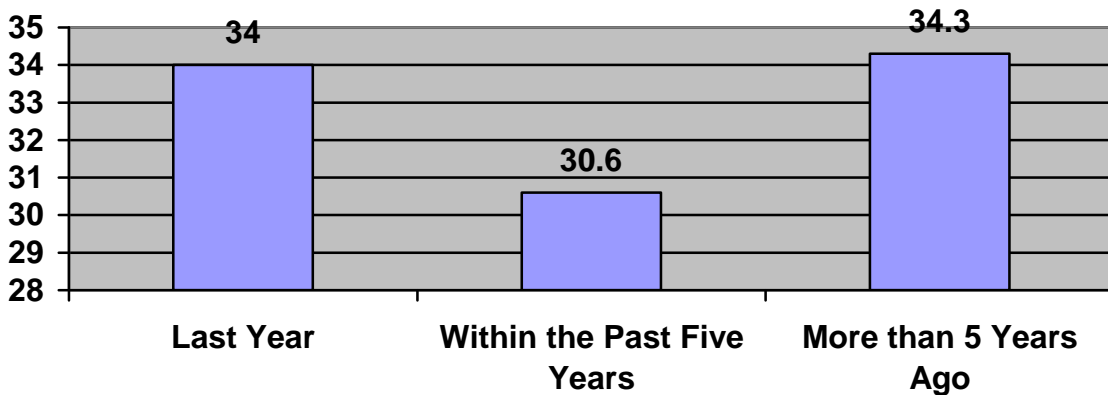


FIGURE 6.6: Last Time Respondents Witnessed a Shooting (Sample Size = 382)



The vast majority of respondents who witnessed a shooting or gun battle – 85.1% -- decided not to talk to the police about the incident. Indeed, only 9.9% talked to the

police about the crime (see Figure 6.7). As with murder, the most common reason for not reporting a shooting or gun battle is that the respondent felt that the incident was none of their business (see Figure 6.8). In addition, a relatively high proportion of respondents (15.1%) indicated that they did not report the crime because they did not want to garner a reputation as a snitch or an informer. Other common reasons for not reporting gun battles or shootings to the police include the fact that there was other witnesses to the crime(16.9%), the fact that the police themselves were witness to the shooting, respondent fears of retaliation from the offender or offenders (12.9%), the respondent's belief that the police cannot protect them (9.5%) and lack of trust in the police (11.4%).

FIGURE 6.7: Percent of Respondents Who Talked to the Police About the Last Shooting that they had Witnessed (Sample Size=382)

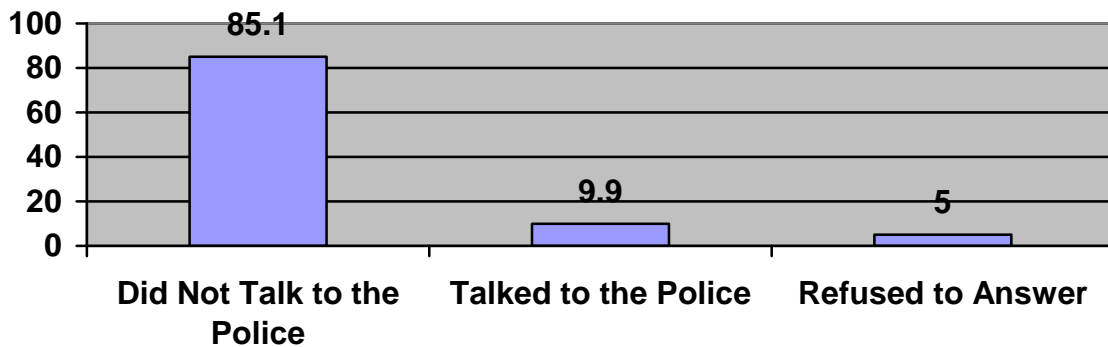
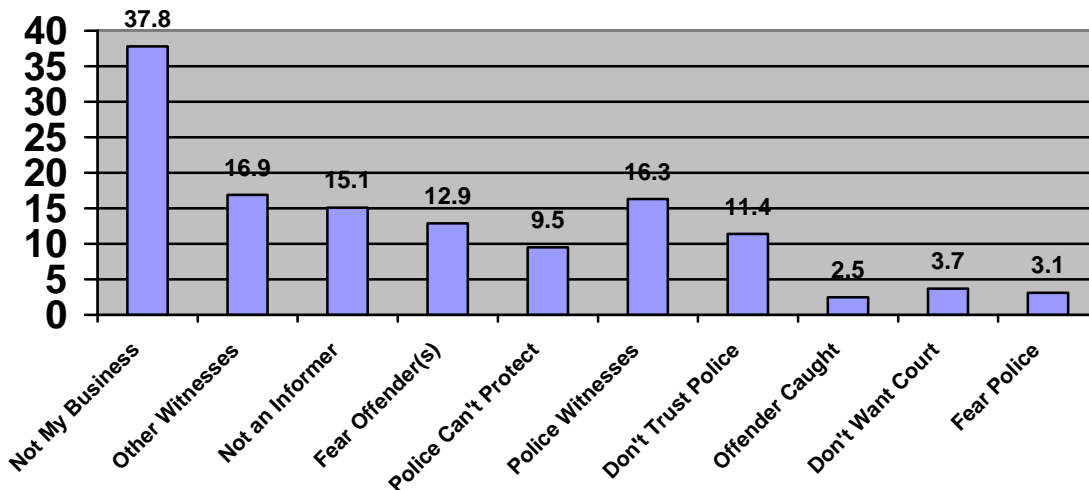


FIGURE 6.8: Reasons for Not Talking to the Police After Witnessing a Shooting or Gun Battle (Sample Size=325)



Witnessing Robbery

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever witnessed someone else being robbed for his or her money or possessions?” The survey results suggest that one out of every six Jamaicans, aged 16 years of age or older, has witnessed a robbery at some point in their life. One out of every eleven respondents (8.8%) has witnessed a robbery on two or more occasions (see Figure 6.9). The results further suggest that, of the 534 respondents who have witnessed a robbery, 33.7% witnessed this type of crime in the past year, 34.8% witnessed a robbery in the past five years and 30.0% witnessed a robbery more than five years ago (see Figure 6.10).

FIGURE 6.9: Percent of Respondents Who Have Witnessed an Armed Robbery (Sample Size=3,112)

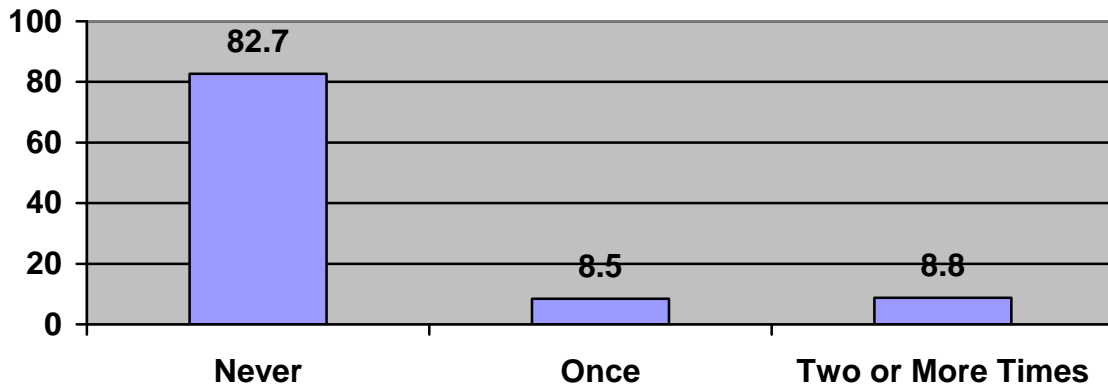
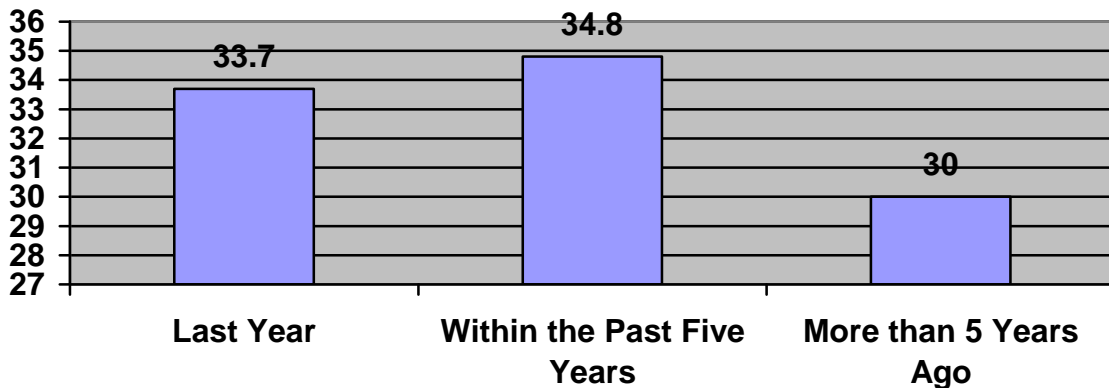


FIGURE 6.10: Last Time Respondents Witnessed a Robbery (Sample Size = 534)



As with murder and shootings, the vast majority of respondents who witnessed a robbery – 83.4% -- decided not to talk to the police about the incident. Indeed, only 12.3% of respondents talked to the police about the last robbery they observed (see Figure 6.11). As with murder and shootings, the most common reason for not reporting a robbery (44.4%) is the respondent’s perception that incident was none of their business (see Figure 6.12). In addition, a relatively high proportion of respondents (9.9%) indicated that they did not report the robbery because they did not want to garner a reputation as a snitch or an informer. Other common reasons for not reporting robberies

to the police include the perception that there were other witnesses to the crime (22.8%), the respondent's fear of the offender (14.5%), the respondent's belief that the police cannot protect them (8.0%) and a general lack of trust in the police (10.3%).

FIGURE 6.11: Percent of Respondents Who Talked to the Police About the Last Robbery they Witnessed (Sample Size=534)

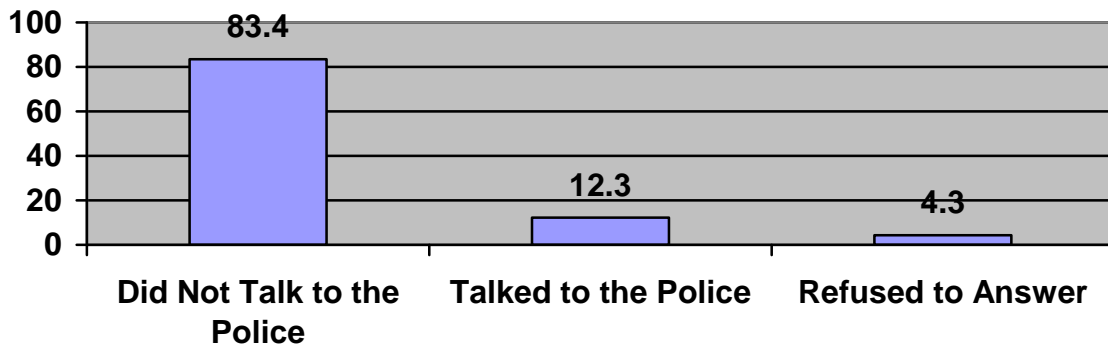
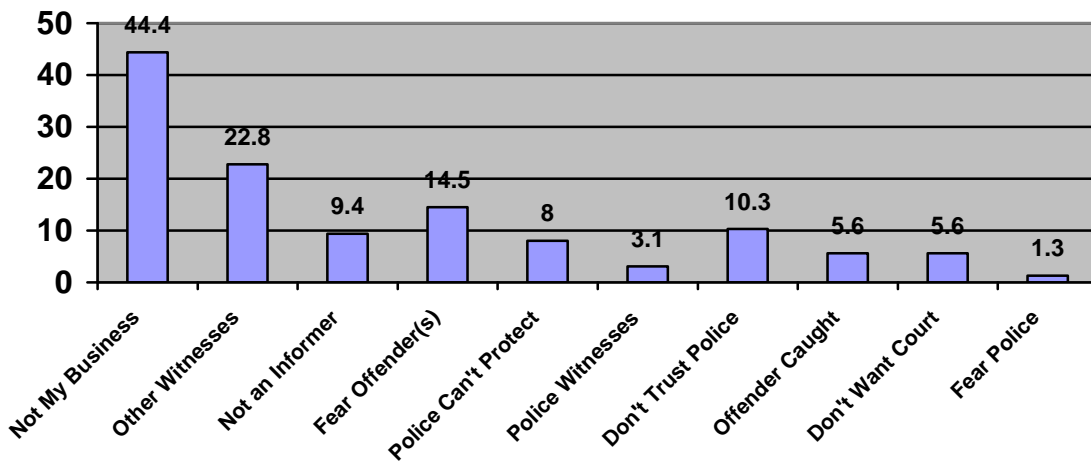


FIGURE 6.12: Reasons for Not Talking to the Police After Witnessing a Robbery (Sample Size=448)



Witnessing Serious Physical Assault

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever seen a serious attack or beating in which another person was badly hurt?” The survey results suggest that one out of every four Jamaicans (25.4%), aged 16 years of age or older, has witnessed a serious physical assault or beating at some point in their life. One out of every seven Jamaican respondents (14.9%) has witnessed a robbery on two or more occasions (see Figure 6.13). The results further suggest that, of the 791 respondents who have witnessed a serious assault, 36.4% witnessed this type of crime in the past year, 34.3% witnessed a serious assault in the past five years and 28.2% witnessed a robbery more than five years ago (see Figure 6.14).

FIGURE 6.13: Percent of Respondents Who Have Witnessed a Serious Assault or Beating (Sample Size=3,112)

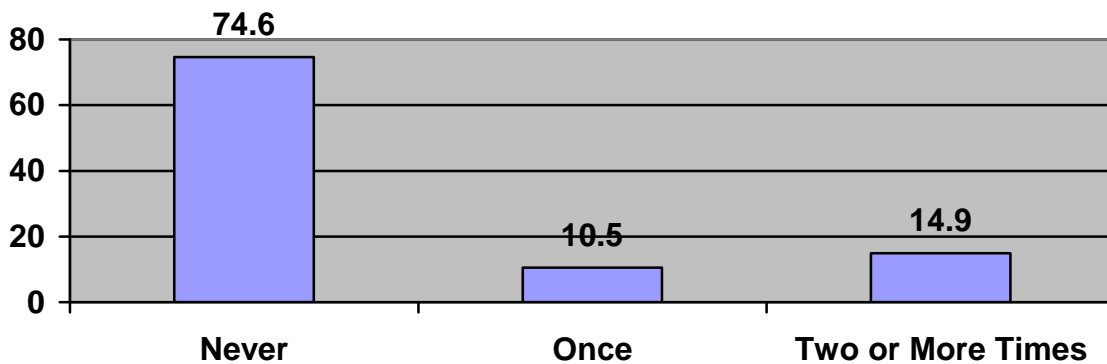
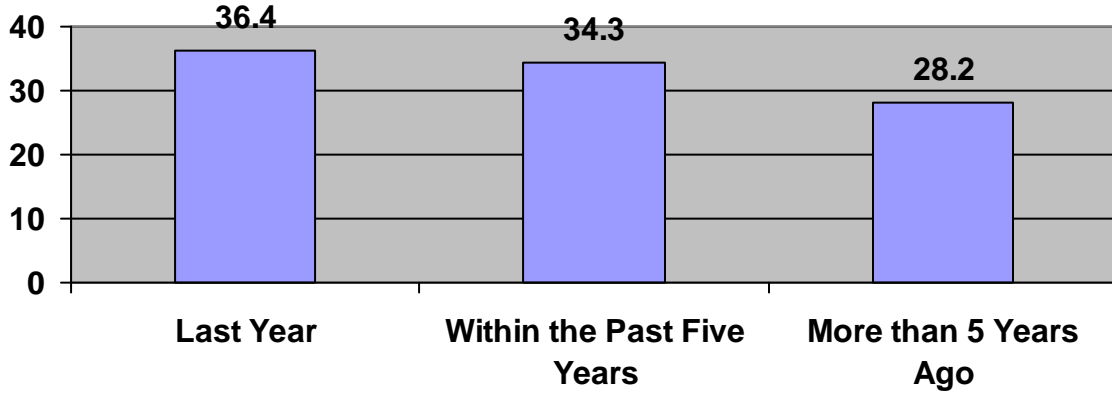


FIGURE 6.14: Last Time Respondents Witnessed a Serious Assault or Beating (Sample Size = 791)



As with murder, shootings and robberies, the vast majority of respondents who witnessed a serious assault – 87.7% -- decided not to talk to the police about the incident. Indeed, only 9.2% of respondents talked to the police about the last serious assault they observed (see Figure 6.15). As with murder and shootings, the most common reason for not reporting assaults (51%) is the respondent’s perception that the incident was none of their business (see Figure 6.16). In addition, a relatively high proportion of respondents (14.7%) indicated that they did not report the assault because they did not want to garner a reputation as a snitch or an informer. Other common reasons for not reporting assaults to the police include the perception that there were other witnesses to the crime (24.5%), the respondent’s fear of the offender (7.2%), the respondent’s belief that the police cannot protect them (7.1%) and a general lack of trust in the police (9.4%).

FIGURE 6.15: Percent of Respondents Who Talked to the Police About the Last Serious Assault that they Witnessed (Sample Size=791)

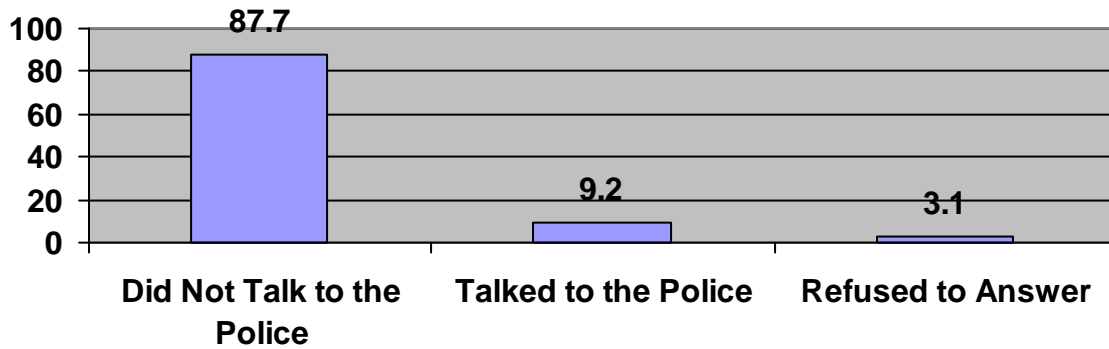
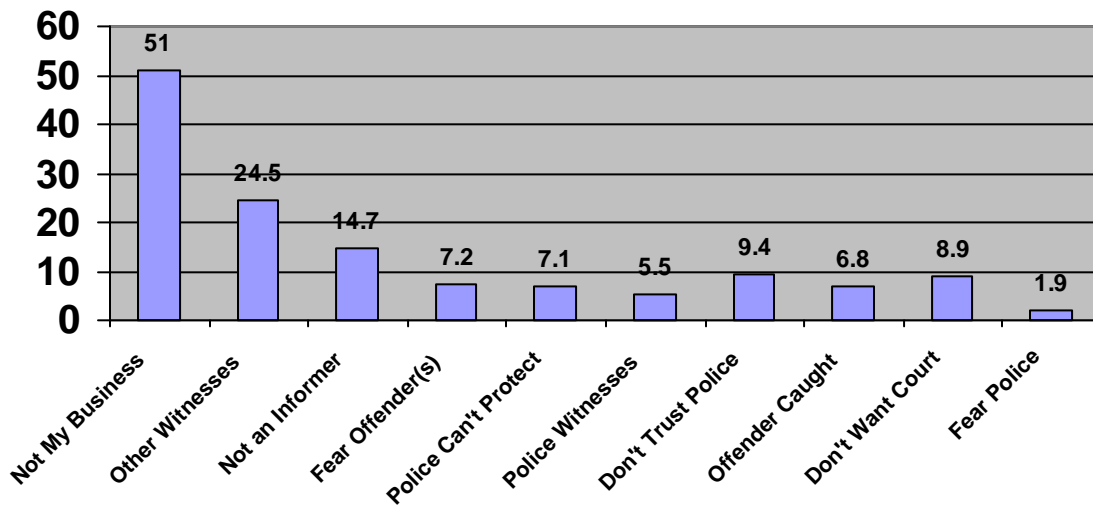


FIGURE 6.16: Reasons for Not Talking to the Police After Witnessing a Serious Assault or Beating (Sample Size=694)



Witnessing Crimes by Parish

Further analysis reveals that the witnessing of crimes varies dramatically by region of Jamaica. For example, while 13.6% of the respondents from Kingston Parish and St. Andrew indicate that they have witnessed a murder, only 3.7% of the respondents from Trelawny and 4.5% from St. Ann report that they have witnessed such a crime. Similarly, one third (33.3%) of the respondents from Kingston and one quarter of the respondents from St. Andrew (24.8%) claim that they have witnessed an armed robbery, compared to only 6.2% of the residents of St. Mary. Overall the data suggest that respondents from the Kingston Metropolitan area are more likely to report that they have witnessed serious crimes than respondents from other areas of Jamaica.

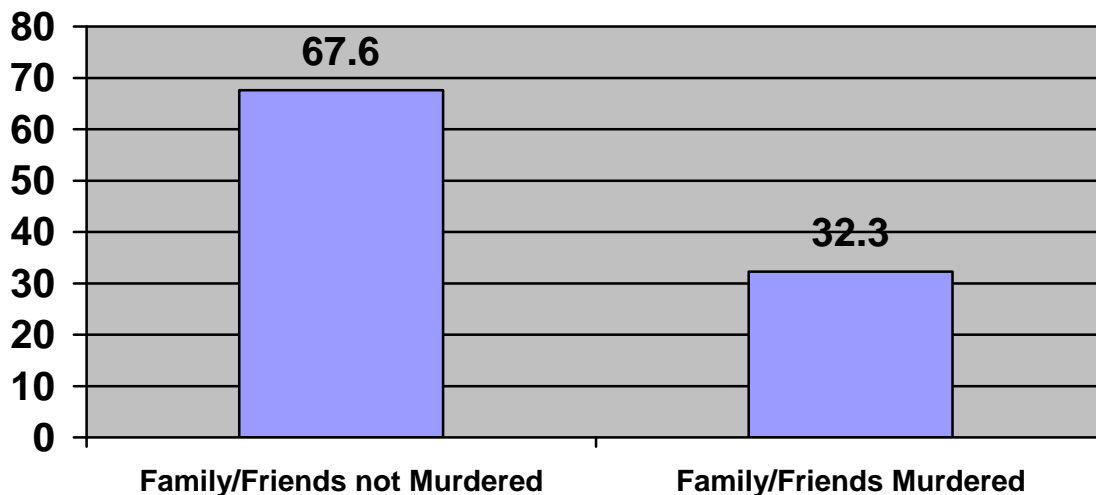
TABLE 6.1: Percent of Respondents Who Have Witnessed Serious Crimes, By Parish (Sample Size=3,112)

PARISH	Witnessed a Murder	Witnessed a Shooting or Gun Battle	Witnessed an Armed Robbery	Witnessed a Serious Assault or Beating
Kingston	13.6	27.9	33.3	23.8
St. Andrew	13.3	22.4	24.8	33.3
St. Thomas	4.3	9.5	14.7	22.4
Portland	10.7	3.6	13.1	23.8
St. Mary	6.9	3.8	6.2	16.2
St. Ann	4.5	7.8	14.0	31.3
Trelawny	3.7	3.7	12.5	11.2
St. James	7.6	5.3	20.4	23.1
Hanover	6.5	3.9	14.3	39.0
Westmoreland	8.5	4.2	15.2	26.7
St. Elizabeth	5.3	1.3	7.2	19.1
Manchester	4.7	4.2	12.5	19.3
Clarendon	5.6	8.2	8.2	11.3
St. Catherine	7.1	14.9	16.4	27.2

The Murder of Family Members and Friends

The loss of family and friends to violence is another method of documenting the impact that crime has had on Jamaican citizens. All respondents were asked: “Have any of your family members or close friends been murdered in Jamaica?” The survey results suggest that one out of every three Jamaican residents, 16 years of age or older, has lost a family member or close friend to violence (see Figure 6.17). The results further suggest that one out of every eight Jamaican respondents (12.9%) has lost two or more loved ones to murder and that one out of every sixteen (6.4%) has lost three or more friends or family members as the result of murder (see Figure 6.18).

FIGURE 6.17: Percent of Respondents Who Report that a Family Member or Friend has Been Murdered



In terms of specific relationships, less than 1% of respondents indicate that a spouse or parent has been murdered, 1.3% report the murder of a child, 4.7% report the murder of a sibling, 14.0% report the murder of a friend and 16.5% report the murder of another relative (i.e., a cousin, niece, nephew, uncle, aunt, etc.). Finally, the survey results suggest that the proportion of respondents who report the murder of a family member or friend varies dramatically from region to region (see Table 6.2). For example, 24.5% of the respondents from St. Andrew report the murder of a close friend, compared to only 3.1% of the residents of St. Mary. Similarly, 27.3% of the respondents from

Hanover report the murder of a family member, compared to only 9.5% of the residents of Portland.

In sum, the results presented in this section of the report indicate that a very large proportion of the Jamaican population has been indirectly impacted by violent crime – either through the witnessing of a serious criminal incident or by the murder of a family member or friend.

FIGURE 6.18: Number of Family Members and Friends Who Have Been Murdered in Jamaica

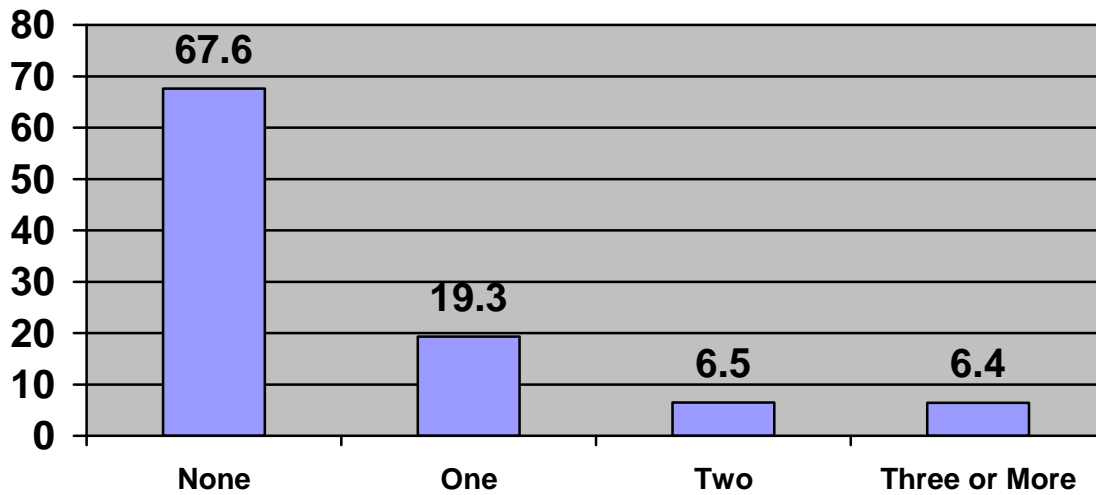
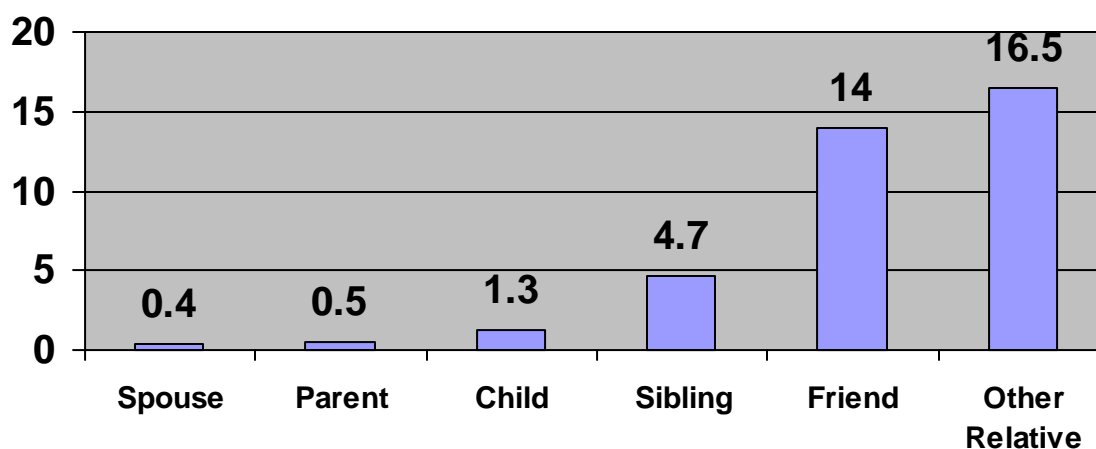


FIGURE 6.19: Percent of Respondents Who Report that a Family Member or Friend has Been Murdered, by Type of Relationship



**TABLE 6.2::
% of Respondents Who Report that a Family Member or Friend has Been Murdered, By Parish
(Sample Size=3,112)**

PARISH	Family Member Murdered	Friend Murdered
Kingston	21.8	17.0
St. Andrew	25.9	24.5
St. Thomas	13.8	9.5
Portland	9.5	6.0
St. Mary	13.1	3.1
St. Ann	17.3	3.4
Trelawny	17.5	6.3
St. James	20.9	10.2
Hanover	27.3	15.6
Westmoreland	18.2	16.4
St. Elizabeth	24.3	7.9
Manchester	18.8	7.3
Clarendon	22.4	7.8
St. Catherine	22.2	13.4

PART SEVEN: FEAR OF CRIME

How do Jamaicans perceive crime? This section of the report examines respondent's perceptions and apprehensions about crime. The section is divided into four parts. Part (1) looks at how Jamaicans perceive crime in their neighbourhood, part (2) examines their feelings of safety and security, part (3) explores their fears of victimization, and part (4) deals with their use of crime prevention strategies. Descriptive statistics are provided for various measures of their perceptions, highlighting differences across sex, age group, level of education and parish.

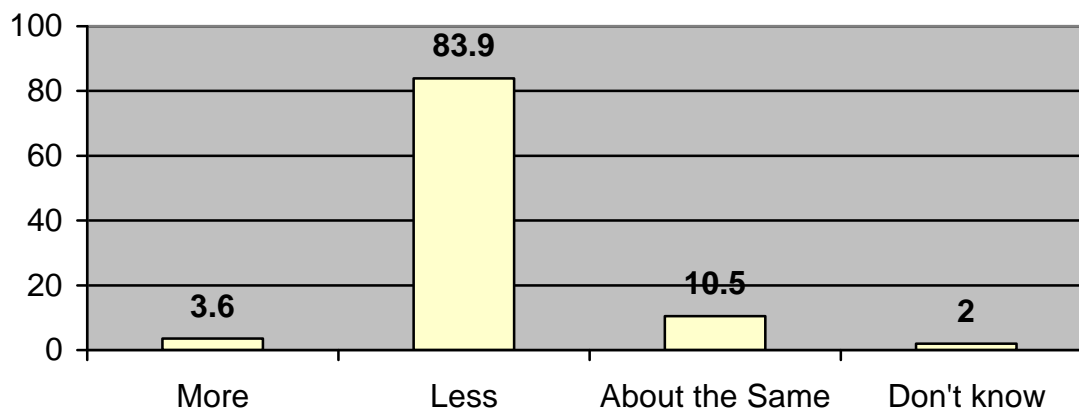
Perceptions of Neighbourhood Crime

The way a person perceives crime in their community can be shaped by several factors, including experiences of personal and household victimization, experiences of people they know, as well as media reports of criminal activity. Respondents were asked about the perceived level of crime in their community compared to other areas of Jamaica, and the perceived crime trends in their neighbourhood.

- *Jamaicans believe that crime is lower in their neighbourhood*

Respondents were asked whether they think their community has more crime, less crime, or about the same amount of crime as other areas of Jamaica. The vast majority of Jamaicans surveyed believed that crime was lower in their neighbourhood than elsewhere in Jamaica (Table 7.1). In fact, 84% of respondents felt this way, while about 11% thought the crime levels in their neighbourhood were about the same as in other areas. Only a small proportion (4%) of respondents felt that their neighbourhood experienced higher rates of crime.

Figure 7.1: Percent of Respondents Who Feel that Crime in their Community is More or Less than in other Areas (Sample size=3,112)



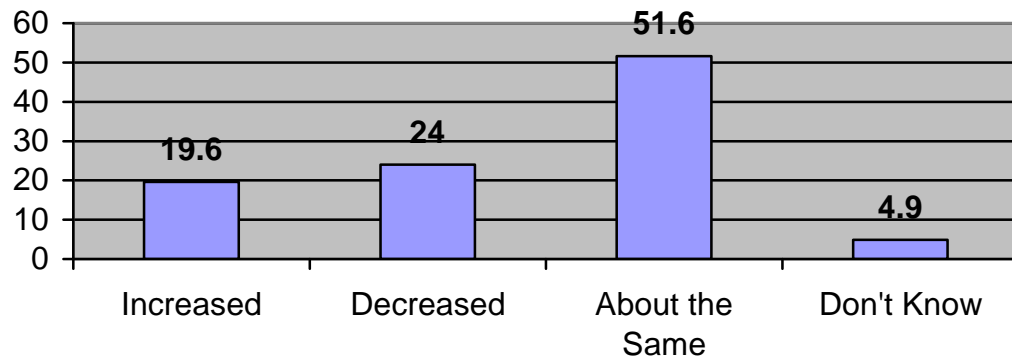
Of all the parishes, residents of St. Catherine, St. Andrew, St. James and Kingston were most likely to feel that their neighbourhood had higher rates of crime than others in Jamaica. Table 7.2 illustrates that while a majority of both men and women thought that their neighbourhood had less crime, men were slightly more likely to hold this opinion (85% versus 83%). Very few women (3.7%) and men (3.5%) perceived that their community had more crime than other areas in Jamaica.

Community Crime Trends

- *Most people believe that crime has been stable over the past 5 years*

In addition to the way people viewed the level of crime in their neighbourhood compared to others, they also reported on their perceptions of the crime trends in their area during the last five years. Respondents were asked whether they believe that crime in their community had increased, decreased or remained the same. Results show that about half (52%) of the respondents believed that their neighbourhood crime rate had remained unchanged over the last five years (Table 7.3). Interestingly, despite numerous reports about increasing crime rates in Jamaica, almost a quarter (24%) of respondents believed that crime had decreased in their community, while 20% were of the opinion that crime had gone up in their neighbourhood.

Figure 7.2: Percent of Respondents Who Feel that Crime has Increased or Decreased Over the Past 5 Years (Sample Size=3,112)



The residents of Kingston and St. James were the most likely to believe that crime in their community had increased. Indeed about 29% of the population in these parishes felt that crime had worsened in the past 5 years (Table 7.3). It is important to note that these two parishes are home to the two metropolitan cities in Jamaica (Kingston and Montego Bay), and the country’s two airports. Research consistently shows higher rates of crime in the most urbanized areas. In comparison, the residents of Portland and St. Mary were the least likely to share these feelings (2.4% and 5.4% respectively).

While all respondents were more likely to perceive that crime is on the decline rather than on the rise, men were more likely to believe that crime had decreased compared to women (26% versus 22%). Approximately half of both men and women interviewed believed that crime in their neighbourhood had remained unchanged over the past five years (Table 7.4). Similarly, women were just as likely as men to believe that crime had increased in their area during the past 5 years, (20% versus 19%).

These findings are consistent with the results of Canada’s General Social Survey on Victimization, which shows that Canadians, like most Jamaicans, believe that their neighbourhood has lower incidents of crime compared to other areas, and that crime rates have been quite stable in their neighbourhood over the past five years (Statistics Canada, 2005).

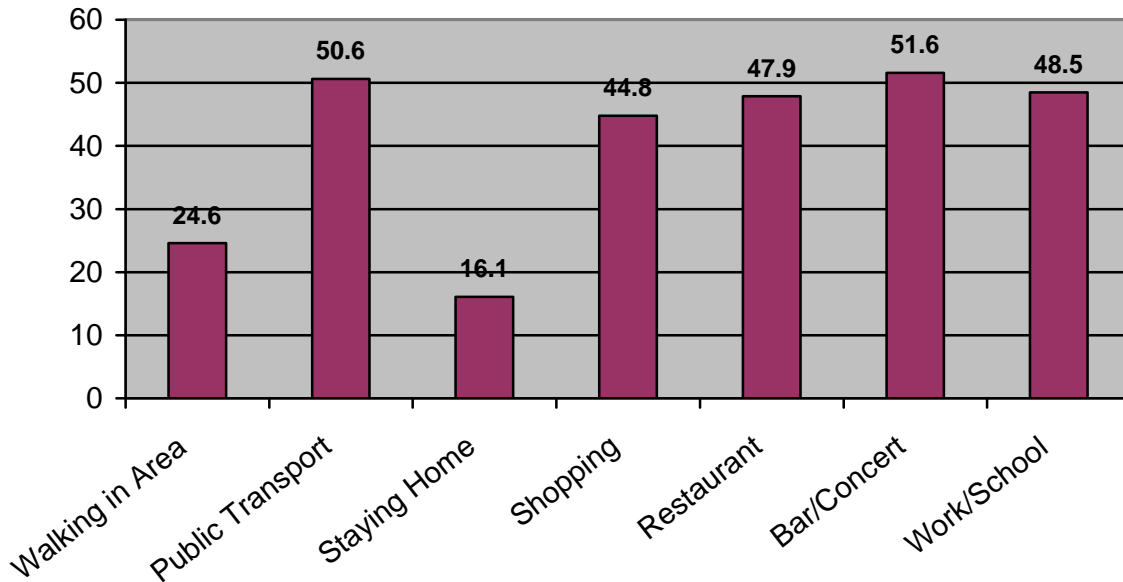
Feelings of Safety and Security

This survey also measured people's fear of crime by exploring their feelings of personal safety from crime in various situations. In this part the extent to which Jamaicans feel secure while engaged in various public activities is explored. The respondents were asked how safe they would feel doing the following activities alone after dark: a) walking in their own neighbourhood; b) using public transportation or mini-buses; c) staying in their home; d) going out shopping; e) going to a restaurant; f) going to a bar, nightclub, concert or stage show; and going to work or school at night. Response options ranged from feeling "very safe" to "very unsafe".

- *Jamaicans feel safest staying home at night*

Results indicate that a majority of Jamaicans (72%) still feel safe walking alone in their community after dark, although staying home alone at night was the safest of the selected activities. Indeed, 83% of respondents reported feeling "very safe" or "safe" staying in their home by themselves in the evening or at night. In contrast, over half (52%) of Jamaicans felt most worried about going to a bar or nightclub, or attending a concert or stage show (Table 7.5). This is not surprising, considering the instability of the crowds that gather at these venues for entertainment. Similarly, having to take public transportation or mini-buses alone after dark seemed to induce fear in half of the respondents.

Figure 7.3: Percent of Respondents Who Feel Unsafe or Very Unsafe doing Certain Activities Alone at Night (Sample Size=3,112)



- *Jamaican women are more fearful of their safety and security*

When examining participation in specific activities at night, considerable gender-specific variations in feelings of safety are revealed. Although both men and women feel anxiety having to take public transportation or a mini-bus alone after dark, or going to a club or concert alone at night, women fear crime more than men (Table 7.6). For example, almost sixty% (58%) of women reported that they feel “unsafe” or “very unsafe” taking public transportation, compared to about 43% of men. This pattern is true, even in situations where the majority of men and women feel safe. For instance, women expressed higher levels of fear than men when staying home alone at night (20% versus 12%). Fear of crime is more prevalent among women than men for all of the activities considered in the study.

When age is examined, the results show that in Jamaica, the youngest (16-19yr olds) and the oldest (60 years or older) age groups fear crime the most. Feelings of safety seem to increase with age, up to around age 40 to age 59, and then it declines (Table 7.7). For example, when asked how safe they would feel going shopping alone at night, 49%

of 16-19 year olds felt unsafe or very unsafe, and this dropped to a low of 41% among the 40-49 year old group, and then increased to 48% for those 60 years old and above.

Further results also show significant differences in feelings of safety from crime between the parishes. Specifically, residents of St. Mary, Clarendon and Manchester feel particularly unsafe while engaging in most activities alone after dark or at night.

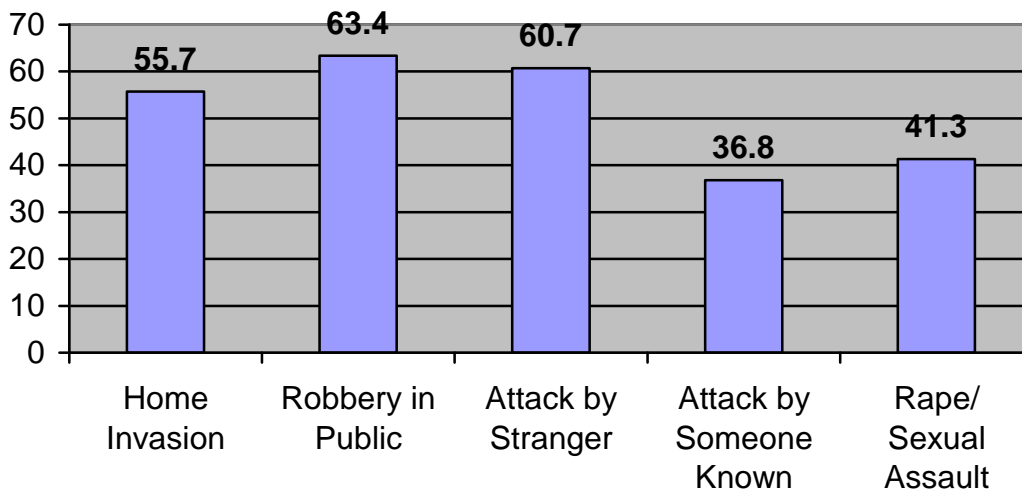
The results also suggest that there is an association between an individual's feelings of safety and their perceived level of crime in their neighbourhood. Those who fear crime the most tend to be the same one's who perceived that crime had increased in their community.

Fear of Victimization

In addition to looking at people's feelings of safety from crime, the survey also explored their fears about becoming the victim of selected crimes. While the previous questions focused on general feelings of security, this section documents individual's fears of certain types of crime. Respondents were asked how worried they were about: a) having someone break into their home; b) being robbed when out in public; c) being attacked by a stranger or group of strangers; d) being attacked by someone they know; and e) being raped or sexually assaulted. The response options ranged from "not at all worried" to "very worried".

Results show that Jamaicans are most fearful of being robbed in public (63%) and being attacked by strangers (61%) (Table 7.8). Although respondents were least worried about being attacked by someone they know (37%) and becoming the victim of a rape or sexual assault (41%), these are large proportions, which suggests that many people are living in fear of being victimized.

Figure 7.4: Percent of Respondents Who Fear Being Victims of Selected Crimes



Respondent's fears of becoming the victim of a crime are similar to their feelings of safety from crime. For example, women were most likely to fear being victimized compared to men (Table 7.9), particularly being robbed in public (70% versus 55%), being attacked by a stranger or group of strangers (68% versus 53%), being sexually assaulted (63% versus 18%), and having their home broken into (62% versus 49%). Contrary to general assumptions, with respect to age, it was found that the fear of becoming a victim of crime tended to decrease as the age group increased. For example, while 70% of 16-19 year olds were worried or very worried about being attacked by strangers, 60% of people over age 60 shared this opinion (Table 7.10). In addition, similar to the feelings of fear of personal safety from crime, residents in St. Mary and Clarendon again seem to be the most worried about being victimized.

To summarize, consistent with North American findings, the majority of Jamaicans perceive that crime is lower in their own neighbourhood compared to other areas in the country. People are also generally likely to view crime as stable within their community over the last five years. It seems that most people are quite comfortable staying alone in their homes at night, as well as walking in their neighbourhood after dark. However, for the most part people are apprehensive about engaging in public activities after dark in Jamaica. Results showed that people are most concerned with

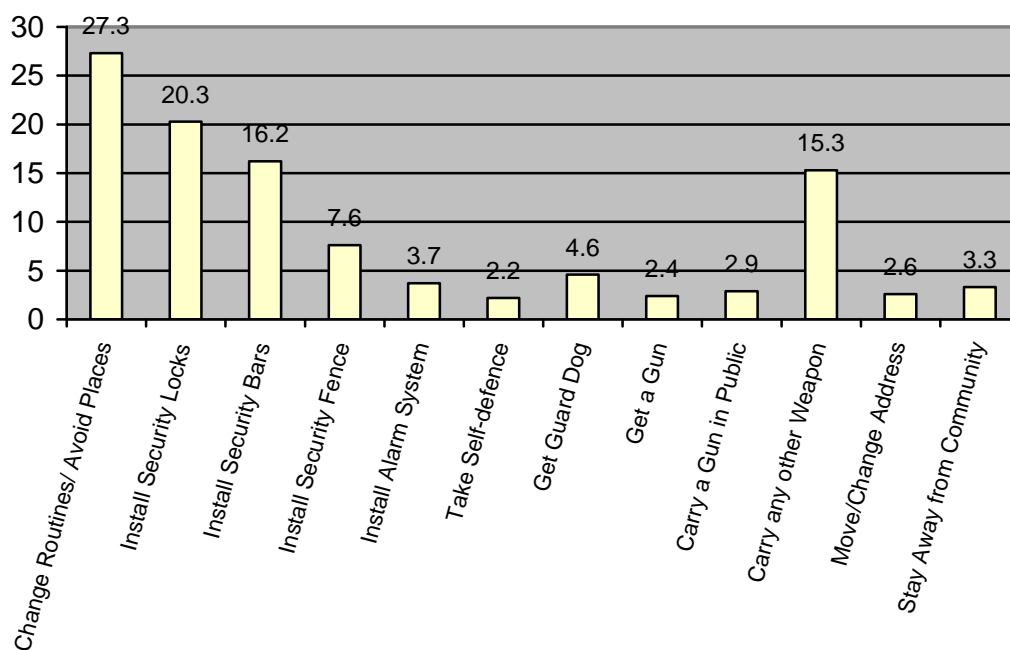
becoming a victim of a robbery in public or an attack from a stranger or strangers. In addition, contrary to international research, the middle-aged seem to show less anxiety about safety from crime than both the younger and older age groups. Also, surprisingly, it seems that the older respondents were less likely to fear becoming a victim of crime. Fear of criminal victimization was highest among the younger age groups and women, who clearly remain more fearful of crime than men.

Use of Crime Prevention Measures

This section takes a brief look at how Jamaicans change their behaviours and their lifestyles to prevent criminal victimization. Respondents were asked about the measures they have taken to protect themselves or their property from crime or violence. They were asked whether or not they have ever done any of the following: a) changed their normal activities or avoided places they used to go to protect themselves from crime; b) installed new locks to protect themselves; c) installed security bars; d) installed a security fence around their property; e) installed burglar alarms, motion detectors or other kind of security system; f) taken a self-defense course to protect themselves; g) obtained a guard dog to protect themselves; h) obtained a gun; i) carried a gun in public; j) carried another type of weapon – like a knife or pepper spray; k) moved or changed their address to protect themselves from crime; or l) stayed away from their own community to protect themselves from crime.

Findings show that Jamaicans were most likely to have changed their routine or avoided certain places (27%), installed new locks (20%) or security bars (16%), and carried some type of weapon (15%) to protect themselves or their property from crime (Table 7.11). However, they were least likely to take a self-defense course (2%), obtain a gun (2%), move residences (3%) or carry a gun in public (3%).

Figure 7.5: Percent of Respondents Who Use Various Crime Prevention Measures



Research shows that the likelihood that a person will take preventive actions or modify their behaviours and lifestyles to prevent criminal victimization will often depend on their demographic and personal characteristics (Statistics Canada, 2006). Results suggest that Jamaican men are more likely to engage in activities and behaviours intended to reduce the risk of victimization (Table 7.12). For example, 22% of men compared to 9% of women reported that they have carried a weapon (other than a gun) to protect themselves from crime. Similarly, about three in ten men have changed their routine or avoided certain places to prevent crime, while 26% of women have taken the same actions. It is important to note that although women are more fearful of crime, they are less likely than men to have employed measures to protect themselves or their property from crime. This is contrary to Canadian research which finds that there is a greater use of preventive measures among women precisely because they have higher levels of fear compared to men (Statistics Canada, 2006).

Observing crime prevention among different age groups shows two distinct patterns. Older Jamaicans were more likely to use protective measures for their property

rather than for their personal protection (Table 7.13). For example, people over age 60 were one and a half times more likely than 20-29 year olds to have installed security bars on their property. Older people were also more likely to have installed locks, security fences, and burglar alarm systems than younger people. It is possible that older people may be better able to afford these methods of situational crime prevention. It is also likely that they have greater stakes in property (i.e. home ownership), which might encourage them to invest in preventive measures for their property.

On the other hand, younger Jamaicans were more likely to employ measures that protect themselves rather than their property; perhaps because that means changing their behaviour or lifestyle, which is the only thing they have control over. For example, they tended to have changed their routine activities to avoid certain places they used to go to, carried weapons (other than a gun), and have stayed away from their own neighbourhood or community at some time in an effort to protect themselves from crime. In fact, 24% of 16-19 year olds had changed their routines and avoided specific places to protect themselves from crime compared to 17% of respondents 60 years of age and older.

Education is one indicator of socio-economic status that has also been found to be related to the use of protective measures. Consistent with other research (Statistics Canada, 2006), higher levels of education generally increased the likelihood of using crime prevention strategies (Table 7.14). University or college educated Jamaicans in particular were most likely to have withdrawn from certain places in order to raise their level of personal safety. For example, 34% of respondents who hold a college or university degree used an avoidance strategy compared to 20% of those with less than a high school education. Similarly, installing security features, such as locks, security bars, and burglar alarm systems was also more common among the well educated.

With respect to using preventive crime strategies, most Jamaicans try to avoid particular places (presumably those spots that they perceive as dangerous), and try to secure their property as means of protecting themselves from crime. In general, crime prevention measures were most likely to be employed by men, older age groups, and Jamaicans with higher levels of education. Interestingly, although women reportedly fear crime more than men, they were less likely to employ protective or precautionary measures.

Table 7.1:
Perceptions of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas, by Parish

	<i>Levels of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas (%)</i>				
	Sample Size	More %	Less %	About the same %	Don't know/not stated
JAMAICA	3112	3.6	83.9	10.5	2.0
Kingston	147	6.8	50.3	40.8	2.0
St. Andrew	742	4.7	74.5	17.1	3.6
St. Thomas	116	0.9	91.4	6.0	1.7
Portland	84	0.0	97.6	2.4	0.0
St. Mary	130	0.0	95.4	4.6	0.0
St. Ann	179	0.6	97.2	0.6	1.7
Trelawny	80	1.3	92.5	3.8	2.5
St. James	225	6.2	77.8	14.2	1.8
Hanover	77	1.3	96.1	2.6	0.0
Westmoreland	165	3.0	86.1	10.9	0.0
St. Elizabeth	152	0.7	99.3	0.0	0.0
Manchester	192	1.0	94.8	2.6	1.6
Clarendon	232	2.2	90.5	6.5	0.9
St. Catherine	591	6.3	82.7	8.1	2.9
*** p < .001					

Table 7.2:
Perceptions of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas, by Gender

	<i>Level of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas (%)</i>				
	Sample Size	More %	Less %	About the same %	Don't know/not stated
<i>Gender</i>					
Males	1483	3.5	85.0	10.2	1.3
Females	1629	3.7	82.9	10.7	2.7
<i>Total</i>	3112	3.6	83.9	10.5	2.0
* p < .05					

Table 7.3:
Perceptions of neighbourhood crime compared to 5 years ago, by Parish

	<i>Level of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas (%)</i>				
	Sample Size	Increased %	Decreased %	About the same %	Don't know/not stated
<i>Parish</i>					
Kingston	147	29.3	30.6	34.7	5.4
St. Andrew	742	23.3	33.3	36.8	6.6
St. Thomas	116	12.9	28.4	53.4	5.2
Portland	84	2.4	3.6	88.1	6.0
St. Mary	130	5.4	30.8	63.8	0.0
St. Ann	179	8.9	27.4	55.9	7.8
Trelawny	80	15.0	6.3	73.8	5.0
St. James	225	28.9	27.6	40.0	3.6
Hanover	77	13.0	24.7	62.3	0.0
Westmoreland	165	23.6	30.3	45.5	0.6
St. Elizabeth	152	7.9	11.8	78.3	2.0
Manchester	192	21.9	6.8	66.7	4.7
Clarendon	232	15.5	15.9	65.5	3.0
St. Catherine	591	23.2	21.2	49.4	6.3
<i>Total</i>	3112	19.6	24.0	51.6	4.9
*** p <.001					

Table 7.4:
Perceptions of neighbourhood crime compared to 5 years ago, by gender

	<i>Level of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas (%)</i>				
	Sample Size	Increased %	Decreased %	About the same %	Don't know/not stated
<i>Gender</i>					
Males	1483	19.0	25.9	51.2	3.9
Females	1629	20.1	22.2	52.0	5.7
<i>Total</i>	3112	19.6	24.0	51.6	4.9
* p < .05					

**Table 7.5:
Feelings of safety from crime**

	<i>Level of Safety (%)</i>				
	Very safe	Safe	Unsafe	Very Unsafe	Don't know/Not stated
<i>Activity</i>					
Walk alone after dark	22.6	49.2	21.2	3.4	3.6
Take public transportation	6.6	39.5	44.4	6.2	3.3
Stay home alone at night	25.0	58.2	14.3	1.8	0.7
Go shopping after dark	7.6	44.7	40.5	4.3	2.9
Go to a restaurant	5.2	42.5	43.3	4.6	4.3
Go to a bar/concert	4.7	36.6	45.8	5.8	7.0
Attend school/work at night	5.1	41.5	43.5	5.0	4.9

Table 7.6: Feelings of safety from crime, by Gender

	<i>Gender</i>			
	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	
<i>Activity</i>				
Walking alone after dark in your community				
Safe	71.8	77.6	66.5	***p<.001
Unsafe	24.6	19.4	29.4	
Don't know/not stated	3.6	3.0	4.1	
Taking public transportation or mini-bus alone after dark				
Safe	46.0	54.3	38.5	***p<.001
Unsafe	50.6	42.5	58.1	
Don't know/not stated	3.3	3.2	3.4	
Staying home alone at night				
Safe	83.2	87.5	79.4	***p<.001
Unsafe	16.1	11.9	19.9	
Don't know/not stated	0.7	0.7	0.7	
Going shopping alone after dark				
Safe	52.3	62.0	43.6	***p<.001
Unsafe	44.8	35.7	53.0	
Don't know/not stated	2.9	2.4	3.4	
Going alone to a restaurant after dark				
Safe	47.8	57.3	39.1	***p<.001
Unsafe	47.9	38.6	56.3	
Don't know/not stated	4.3	4.0	4.6	
Going to a bar/ nightclub/ concert/ stage show				
Safe	41.3	49.6	33.8	***p<.001
Unsafe	51.7	44.8	57.9	
Don't know/not stated	7.0	5.6	8.3	
Going to school/ work at night				
Safe	46.6	54.2	39.7	***p<.001
Unsafe	48.5	41.1	55.2	
Don't know/not stated	4.9	4.7	5.0	

**Table 7.7:
Feelings of safety from crime, by Age Group**

Activity	Age Groups (yrs)						Total
	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Walking alone after dark in your community							ns
Safe	70.2	73.3	72.4	72.0	73.3	69.5	71.9
Unsafe	27.1	24.7	23.7	24.9	22.5	25.5	24.5
Don't know/not stated	2.7	2.1	3.9	3.1	4.2	5.0	3.5
Taking public transportation or mini-bus alone after dark							ns
Safe	45.3	45.8	49.5	46.5	42.4	43.2	46.0
Unsafe	51.6	52.3	47.4	50.7	54.2	51.4	50.8
Don't know/not stated	3.1	1.9	3.1	2.8	3.4	5.4	3.2
Staying home alone at night							ns
Safe	78.2	84.1	85.4	84.5	81.7	81.5	83.3
Unsafe	21.3	15.9	13.8	14.7	17.4	17.6	16.0
Don't know/not stated	0.4		0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7
Going shopping alone after dark							*p<.05
Safe	48.0	53.0	53.9	55.7	52.8	47.5	52.5
Unsafe	49.3	45.3	43.2	41.2	45.5	47.9	44.7
Don't know/not stated	2.7	1.7	2.8	3.1	1.7	4.6	2.9
Going alone to a restaurant after dark							**p<.001
Safe	46.7	50.9	51.6	49.9	46.3	38.2	47.9
Unsafe	50.2	46.2	46.2	45.4	48.6	53.3	47.8
Don't know/not stated	3.1	3.0	2.2	4.7	5.1	8.5	4.3
Going to a bar/ nightclub/ concert/ stage show							***p<.001
Safe	41.3	46.9	43.4	42.7	38.8	32.8	41.4
Unsafe	52.9	48.4	51.9	50.4	52.2	55.0	51.6
Don't know/not stated	5.8	4.7	4.7	6.9	9.0	12.2	7.0
Going to school/ work at night							***p<.001
Safe	44.9	49.5	50.9	49.5	43.5	37.3	46.7
Unsafe	50.7	48.3	46.3	46.6	52.0	50.8	48.5
Don't know/not stated	4.4	2.3	2.7	3.9	4.5	12.0	4.8

Table 7.8:
Percent who fear becoming victims of selected crimes

<i>Level of fear</i>					
	Not worried at all	Not very worried	A little worried	Very worried	Don't know/Not stated
<i>Crime</i>					
Having your home broken into	30.3	13.4	34.5	21.2	0.7
Being robbed in public	24.3	11.9	38.9	24.5	0.4
Being attacked by a stranger(s)	26.8	11.8	34.3	26.4	0.7
Being attacked by someone you know	46.8	15.1	22.4	14.4	1.2
Being raped or sexually assaulted	47.1	10.3	15.9	25.4	1.3

Table 7.9:
Percent who fear various types of victimization, by Gender

	Males	Females	Total	
<i>Crime</i>				
Having your home broken into				
Not Worried	50.6	37.4	43.7	***p<.001
Worried	48.7	62.0	55.7	
Don't know/not stated	0.7	0.6	0.7	
Being robbed in public				
Not Worried	44.1	29.0	36.2	***p<.001
Worried	55.4	70.6	63.3	
Don't know/not stated	0.5	0.4	0.4	
Being attacked by a stranger(s)				
Not Worried	46.6	31.2	38.6	***p<.001
Worried	52.7	68.0	60.7	
Don't know/not stated	0.7	0.7	0.7	
Being attacked by someone you know				
Not Worried	67.8	56.7	62.0	***p<.001
Worried	31.5	41.7	36.8	
Don't know/not stated	0.7	1.7	1.2	
Being raped or sexually assaulted				
Not Worried	80.6	36.2	57.4	***p<.001
Worried	17.6	62.9	41.3	
Don't know/not stated	1.8	1.0	1.3	

**Table 7.10:
Percent who fear victimization of various crimes, by Age Group**

	<i>Age Group (yrs)</i>						Total
	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
<i>Crime</i>							
Having your home broken into							ns
Not Worried	36.9	43.0	43.6	44.0	47.5	44.6	43.7
Worried	62.7	56.5	55.8	55.1	51.7	54.8	55.6
Don't know/not stated	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7
Being robbed in public							ns
Not Worried	36.4	34.8	34.8	34.1	39.6	40.0	36.2
Worried	64.0	65.2	64.6	65.4	60.1	59.1	63.4
Don't know/not stated			0.5	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.4
Being attacked by a stranger(s)							*p<.05
Not Worried	29.8	37.9	37.5	38.5	40.7	42.7	38.5
Worried	69.8	61.2	61.2	61.2	59.3	56.2	60.8
Don't know/not stated	0.4	0.9	1.2	0.3		1.2	0.8
Being attacked by someone you know							ns
Not Worried	55.6	61.7	61.5	64.0	62.1	64.1	62.1
Worried	43.1	37.1	37.0	34.9	37.1	34.7	36.6
Don't know/not stated	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.1	0.8	1.2	1.2
Being raped or sexually assaulted							**p<.001
Not Worried	46.2	50.9	57.3	58.7	62.9	64.9	57.5
Worried	51.6	47.9	41.3	40.5	36.5	32.8	41.1
Don't know/not stated	2.2	1.2	1.4	0.8	0.6	2.3	1.3

**Table 7.11:
Percent who have or have not employed crime prevention measures**

	<i>Response</i>		Sample size
	Yes	No	
<i>Activity</i>			
Changed routine/avoided places	27.3	72.7	3104
Installed locks	20.3	79.7	3105
Installed security bars	16.2	83.8	3106
Installed security fence	7.6	92.4	3105
Installed alarm system	3.7	96.3	3106
Taken self-defense course	2.2	97.8	3106
Obtained guard dog	4.6	95.4	3106
Obtained a gun	2.4	97.6	3104
Carried a gun in public	2.9	97.1	3103
Carried another type of weapon	15.3	84.7	3104
Moved/changed address	2.6	97.4	3106
Stayed away from community	3.3	96.7	3105

**Table 7.12:
Percent who have employed crime prevention measures, by Gender**

	<i>Gender</i>		
	Male	Female	
<i>Activity</i>			
Changed routine/ avoided places			
Yes	29.1	25.7	*
No	70.9	74.3	
Installed locks			
Yes	20.2	20.4	ns
No	79.8	79.6	
Installed security bars			
Yes	15.6	16.7	ns
No	84.4	83.3	
Installed security fence			
Yes	8.8	6.5	*
No	91.2	93.5	
Installed alarm system			
Yes	4.3	3.3	ns
No	95.7	96.7	
Took self-defense course			
Yes	2.8	1.6	*
No	97.2	98.4	
Obtained guard dog			
Yes	4.9	4.4	ns
No	95.1	95.6	
Obtained a gun			
Yes	3.8	1.2	***
No	96.2	98.8	
Carried a gun in public			
Yes	4.6	1.4	***
No	95.4	98.6	
Carried another type of weapon			
Yes	22.0	9.2	***
No	78.0	90.8	
Moved/changed address			
Yes	2.4	2.8	ns
No	97.6	97.2	
Stayed away from community			
Yes	3.4	3.3	ns
No	96.6	96.7	
***p<.001 **p<.01 *p<.05 ns – not statistically significant			

Table 7.13:
Percent who have employed crime prevention measures, by Age Group

	<i>Age Groups (yrs)</i>						
	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
Activity							
Changed routine/avoided places							
Yes	24.9	29.8	31.9	31.0	23.4	17.2	***
No	75.1	70.2	68.1	69.1	76.6	82.8	
Installed locks							
Yes	15.6	19.3	16.8	24.0	21.7	22.9	**
No	84.4	80.7	83.2	76.0	78.3	77.1	
Installed security bars							
Yes	6.2	14.7	13.2	17.2	17.5	23.8	***
No	93.8	85.3	86.8	82.8	82.5	76.2	
Installed security fence							
Yes	3.1	6.3	5.6	6.7	9.6	13.2	***
No	96.9	93.7	94.4	93.3	90.4	86.8	
Installed alarm system							
Yes	0.9	2.6	3.1	3.4	5.6	6.2	.001
No	99.1	97.4	96.9	96.6	94.4	93.8	
Took self-defense course							
Yes	2.7	2.3	2.7	3.0	2.0	0.4	ns
No	97.3	97.7	97.3	97.0	98.0	99.6	
Obtained guard dog							
Yes	4.9	4.6	3.4	4.9	4.5	6.6	ns
No	95.1	95.4	96.6	95.1	95.5	93.4	
Obtained a gun							
Yes	0.4	1.6	2.4	3.0	3.9	2.9	ns
No	99.6	98.4	97.6	97.0	96.1	97.1	
Carried a gun in public							
Yes	1.3	1.9	3.4	3.9	3.7	2.3	ns
No	98.7	98.1	96.6	96.1	96.3	97.7	
Carried another type of weapon							
Yes	16.0	17.0	19.4	17.4	10.1	8.4	***
No	84.0	83.0	80.6	82.6	89.9	91.6	
Moved/changed address							
Yes	4.0	2.5	3.5	2.8	1.1	1.0	*
No	96.0	97.5	96.5	97.2	98.9	99.0	
Stayed away from community							
Yes	6.7	4.2	3.7	3.8	2.0	0.6	***
No	93.3	95.8	96.3	96.2	98.0	99.4	
*** p<.001 ** p<.01 *p<.05 ns – not statistically significant							

**Table 7.14:
Percent who have employed crime prevention measures, by Education**

	Level of Education						
	Less than primary	Completed primary	Some secondary	Completed secondary	Some post-secondary	College/University	
Activity							
Changed routine/ avoided places							
Yes	19.5	20.6	27.8	29.7	26.4	34.1	***
No	80.5	79.4	72.2	70.3	73.6	65.9	
Installed locks							
Yes	22.1	19.0	15.3	19.7	23.8	32.4	***
No	77.9	81.0	84.7	80.3	76.2	67.6	
Installed security bars							
Yes	13.2	17.2	9.8	14.2	20.7	35.9	***
No	86.8	82.8	90.2	85.8	79.3	64.1	
Installed security fence							
Yes	7.4	7.2	5.6	6.0	6.7	19.1	***
No	92.6	92.8	94.4	94.0	93.3	80.9	
Installed alarm system							
Yes	0.7	2.3	1.3	2.6	4.1	17.1	***
No	99.3	97.7	98.7	97.4	95.9	82.9	
Took self-defense course							
Yes	0.7	1.1	1.6	2.4	2.6	4.8	**
No	99.3	98.9	98.4	97.6	97.4	95.2	
Obtained guard dog							
Yes	4.4	2.7	3.1	3.8	7.3	12.4	***
No	95.6	97.3	96.9	96.2	92.7	87.6	
Obtained a gun							
Yes	0.4	2.0	1.3	2.9	3.6	5.1	.001
No	99.6	98.0	98.7	97.1	96.4	94.9	
Carried a gun in public							
Yes		1.8	1.5	3.9	4.7	5.1	***
No	100.0	98.2	98.5	96.1	95.3	94.9	
Carried another type of weapon							
Yes	10.3	11.1	19.4	16.9	17.6	8.9	***

No	89.7	88.9	80.6	83.1	82.4	91.1	
	Level of Education						
Activity	Less than primary	Completed primary	Some secondary	Completed secondary	Some post-secondary	College/University	
Moved/changed address							
Yes	0.4	1.6	2.9	2.7	5.2	2.9	*
No	99.6	98.4	97.1	97.3	94.8	97.1	
Stayed away from community							
Yes	2.2	1.4	2.3	4.7	4.7	3.5	**
No	97.8	98.6	97.7	95.3	96.5	96.6	
***p<.001 **p<.01 *p<.05 ns – not statistically significant							

PART EIGHT: OPINIONS ABOUT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

In this section, respondents' views on the police, courts, prison, and parole systems in Jamaica are discussed. Public attitudes toward the criminal justice system and criminal justice officials are important to study because they can influence people's willingness to turn to the criminal justice system when they are victims of crime. These attitudes also have the ability to shape social policies about crime prevention and control. Information is presented on respondents' ratings of various aspects of the criminal justice system, their views on sentencing and prison conditions, and their opinions about whether the police and courts treat people differently based on their class, age, and sex.. Whether these views and opinions differ between men and women, or between younger and older people, is also considered. A comparison with results from the 2004 Canadian General Social Survey is provided for questions that the two surveys have in common.

Attitudes Toward the Police

Respondents were asked to rate their local police on six different aspects of job performance: enforcing the law, responding quickly to calls, being approachable and easy to talk to, supplying information on ways to reduce crime, ensuring the safety of people living in the area, and treating people fairly and with respect. Ratings varied widely among these six aspects of police work, as is shown in Table 8.1.

TABLE 8.1: Ratings of the Job Performance of Local Police

What kind of job are the police doing at:	A good job	An average job	A poor job
Enforcing the law	30.2%	38.2%	31.6%
Responding quickly when called	21.0%	31.5%	47.5%
Being approachable and easy to talk to	27.2%	44.1%	28.6%
Supplying information on ways to reduce crime	18.9%	33.2%	47.9%
Ensuring the safety of people in the area	30.4%	37.6%	32.0%
Treating people fairly and with respect	19.0%	43.1%	37.8%

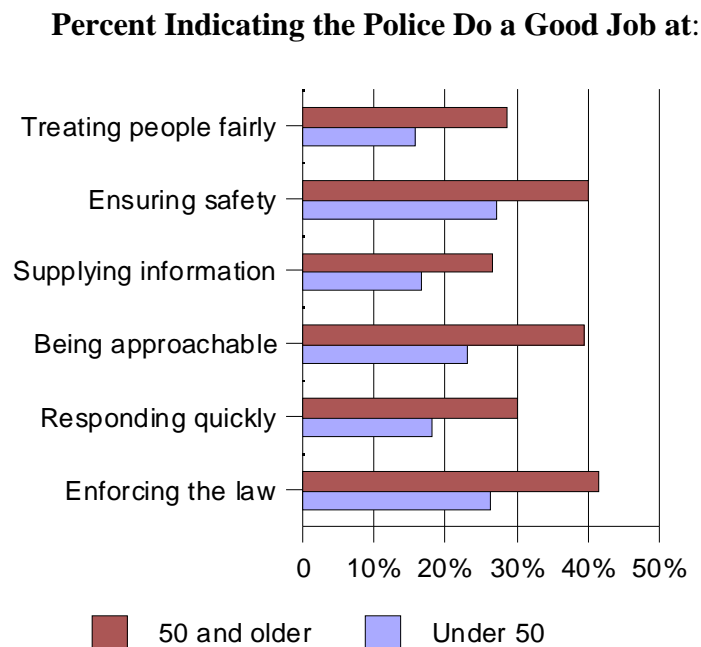
Note: Percentages are based on between 2,862 and 3,014 respondents. Between 98 and 250 respondents either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions and are excluded from these percentages

Police received the strongest ratings for enforcing the law, being approachable, and ensuring safety, with between 68% and 71% of respondents rating police as doing an average or good job at these duties. In contrast, the lowest ratings were given for responding quickly when called and supplying information on ways to reduce crime. Almost half of respondents said the police did a poor job at these duties. The police were rated as doing an average or good job of treating people fairly and with respect by 62% of respondents.

The 2004 Canadian General Social Survey asked the same questions of a representative sample of Canadians. Respondents to the Canadian GSS rated the police much more positively than did respondents to JNCVS. For example, between 50% and 65% of Canadian respondents said that the police were doing a good job at each of the duties listed above (Statistics Canada, 2005: pp. 23-24). Between 5% and 11% of Canadians rated the police as doing a poor job at any of these duties.

In the JNCVS male and female respondents did not differ in their ratings of the job performance of police. However, there were statistically significant differences between the ratings by people under 50 years old compared to those by people over 50 years old. Older people rated the police much more positively on all aspects of police work, as is shown in Figure 8.1. For example, approximately 40% of those 50 and older rated the police as doing a good job of ensuring safety, being approachable, and enforcing the law. In contrast, only about 25% of those under 50 rated the police as doing a good job at these duties.

FIGURE 8.1: Older People Rated the Police More Positively



Note: Percentages are based on between 2,810 and 2,956 respondents. The number of respondents who either answered “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions ranged between 156 and 302 respondents. The differences between younger and older people on all five questions are statistically significant ($p < .000$).

This pattern of responses by sex and age is similar to that found in the 2004 Canadian GSS (Statistics Canada, 2005, pp.26-27). That is, male and female respondents to the Canadian survey also did not differ in their assessments of the police. However, older respondents to the Canadian survey, as with those who responded to the JNCVS, also rated the police substantially higher than did younger respondents to the Canadian

survey. In other words, it appears that older people in general may have more favourable views of the police.

To assess perceptions of problems with local police, respondents to the JNCVS were asked for their views on corruption, police brutality and police harassment.⁶ An overwhelming majority (71%) thought that corruption was a big or very big problem with local police; and only 13% said corruption was not a problem at all. (See Table 8.2) In contrast, respondents were much less likely to see police harassment or brutality as important problems. Only 12% of respondents said these were big or very problems; and over 75% said harassment and brutality were not problems at all.

TABLE 8.2: Assessments of Problems with Local Police

Do you think this is a problem with your local police?	A very big problem	A big problem	A small problem	Not a problem
Corruption	44.8%	26.4%	15.4%	13.4%
Police brutality	5.7%	6.3%	11.6%	76.5%
Police harassment	5.7%	6.6%	13.1%	74.5%

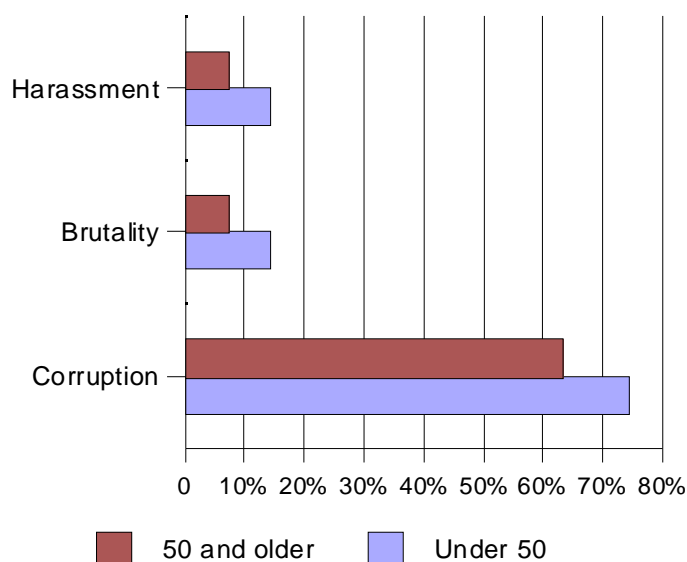
Note: Percentages are based on between 2,781 and 2,910 respondents. Between 202 and 331 respondents either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions and are excluded from percentages.

Once again, younger people and older people differed significantly in their assessments of police, with younger people more likely to see corruption, brutality and harassment as big or very big problems. (See Figure 8.2) Women and men also differed in their assessments, but not as strongly. Women were less likely than men to see corruption and harassment as big or very problems with their local police. There was no difference between the sexes in assessments of brutality.

⁶ These and subsequent questions about the police were not asked in the Canadian GSS.

FIGURE 8.2: Younger People Were More Likely to See Problems with the Police

Percent Indicating These are Big or Very Big Problems



Note: Percentages are based on between 2,781 and 2,910 respondents. The number of respondents who either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions ranged between 202 and 331. The differences between younger and older people on all three questions are statistically significant ($p < .000$).

Perceptions of discriminatory treatment by police were measured by three questions. Respondents were asked if they thought the police treated the poor differently from the wealthy, young people differently from older people, and men differently from women. The poor were perceived to be the group that was most discriminated against. Almost 80% of respondents said that police treated the poor worse or much worse than the wealthy. (See Table 8.3) Discrimination against the young and against men was also perceived to be a problem, but by a smaller proportion of respondents. Nevertheless, almost 67% of respondents thought young people were treated worse or much worse than older people; and 60% thought that men were treated worse or much worse than women.

TABLE 8.3: Opinions about Discriminatory Treatment by the Police

How do you think the police treat:	Much worse	Worse	The same	Better	Much better
The poor compared to the wealthy	23.7%	55.5%	19.4%	0.9%	0.4%
Young compared to older people	13.6%	53.0%	31.6%	1.3%	0.5%
Men compared to women	18.4%	41.8%	32.2%	1.3%	0.6%

Note: Percentages are based on between 2,918 and 2,971 respondents. Between 141 and 194 respondents either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions and are excluded from these percentages.

Consistent with other assessments of the police, younger people thought that the police were more discriminatory than did older people. A significantly higher proportion of those under 50, compared to those 50 and older, thought that the police treated the poor, the young, and men worse or much worse than the wealthy, older people, and women. (See Figure 8.3) Women and men did not differ in their views on how the police treated the poor compared to the wealthy. However, women were significantly more likely than men to say that the police treatment of young people and of men was worse or much worse than the treatment of older people and women.

FIGURE 8.3: Younger People Viewed the Police as More Discriminatory

Percent Indicating A Group is Treated Worse or Much Worse



Note: Percentages are based on between 2,861 and 2,910 respondents. The number of respondents who either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions ranged between 202 and 251 respondents. The differences between younger and older people on all three questions are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Attitudes Toward the Criminal Courts

Respondents were asked to assess Jamaica’s criminal courts – including judges and lawyers – on three criteria: how well the courts provide justice quickly, help victims of crime, and ensure fair trials for the accused. Ratings of the courts on these three criteria (shown in Table 8.4) varied much less, but were substantially lower, than ratings of the police (shown in Table 8.1).

Fewer than 20% of respondents rated the courts as doing a good job of providing justice quickly, helping crime victims, and ensuring fair trials; and between 38% and 49% said the courts were doing a poor job on each of these. Canadian respondents’ ratings of Canadian courts on two of these items were very similar: 15% of Canadian respondents rated the courts as doing a good job of providing justice quickly and 20% rated the courts as doing a good job of helping crime victims (Statistics Canada, 2004: pp.23-24). In contrast, a Canadians rated their courts much higher for their ability to

ensure a fair trial for the accused: 44% of Canadians said the courts were doing a good job at this aspect of their work.

TABLE 8.4: Assessments of the Criminal Courts

What kind of a job are the courts doing at the following?	A good job	An average job	A poor job
Providing justice quickly	15.9%	34.6%	49.5%
Helping crime victims	16.3%	38.7%	45.0%
Ensuring fair trials for people charged with a crime	19.9%	41.7%	38.3%

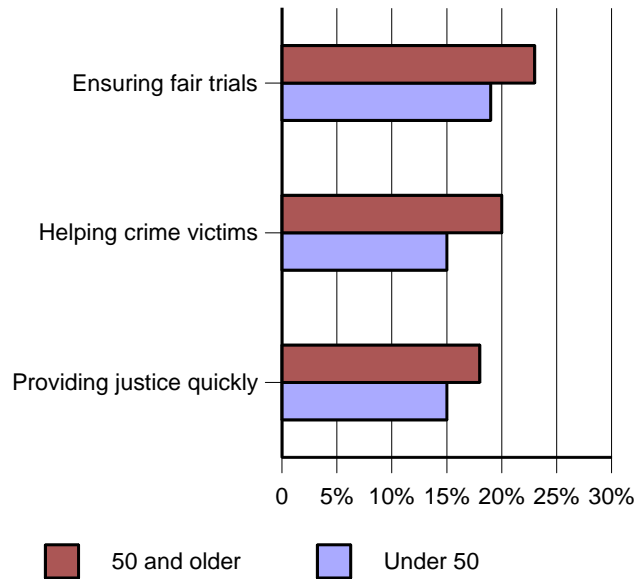
Note: Percentages are based on between 2,756 and 2,838 respondents. Between 272 and 356 respondents either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions and are excluded from these percentages.

There were no differences between women and men in their ratings of the courts on these criteria. Those under 50, however, did differ from older people on their ratings. On each of the criteria, younger people were less likely to say that the courts were doing a good job, as shown in Figure 8.4.

By contrast, there were sex differences in Canadians’ responses to some of these items (Statistics Canada, 2004: pp. 26-27). Male respondents to the 2004 Canadian GSS rated their courts substantially higher than did women respondents on the courts’ abilities to help crime victims and to ensure a fair trial. Also departing from the pattern in the JNCVS, younger respondents to the Canadian GSS rated the courts more highly than did older respondents. Unlike ratings of the police, there do not appear to be general sex and age differences in ratings of the courts.

FIGURE 8.4: Older People Rated the Courts More Positively

Percent Indicating the Courts Do a Good Job at:



Note: percentages are based on between 2,662 and 2,711 respondents. The number of respondents who either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions ranged between 401 and 450. The differences between younger and older people on all three questions are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Dissatisfaction with courts can arise from several sources. For example, some people may be dissatisfied with the courts because they feel the courts are ‘soft on criminals’. Others may be dissatisfied because they believe the courts, including prosecutors and judges, treat the accused or convicted offenders too harshly. To explore some of the reasons respondents felt the criminal courts were performing poorly, two questions were asked about respondents’ views of the punishments handed down to convicted offenders.⁷ One asked if the sentences handed down by the Jamaican criminal courts are too lenient, about right, or too severe. A second question asked if the respondent favoured using the death penalty for people convicted of murder.

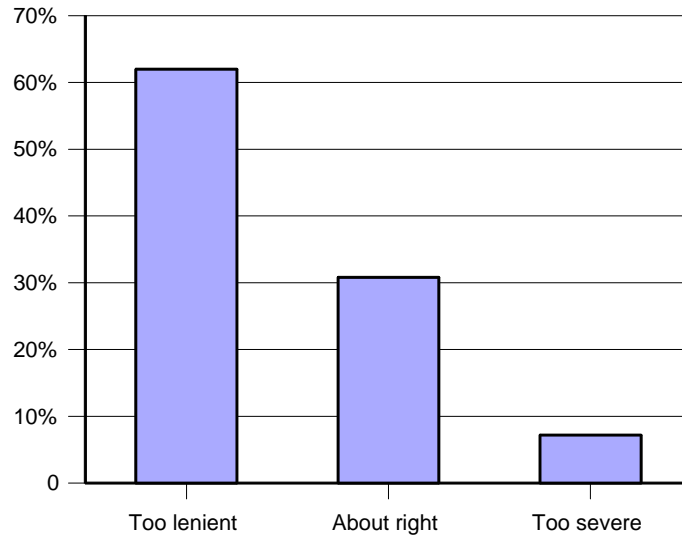
According to responses to these two questions, it appears that respondents were dissatisfied with criminal courts because the courts do not treat convicted criminals harshly enough. Well over half (62%) of respondents said that sentences handed down

⁷ These and subsequent questions about the courts were not asked in the Canadian GSS.

by the courts were too lenient; only 7% indicated that sentences were too severe. (See Figure 8.5)

FIGURE 8.5: Most Respondents Believed Sentences Handed Down by the Courts are Too Lenient

Percent Indicating Sentences are Too Lenient, About Right, or Too Severe

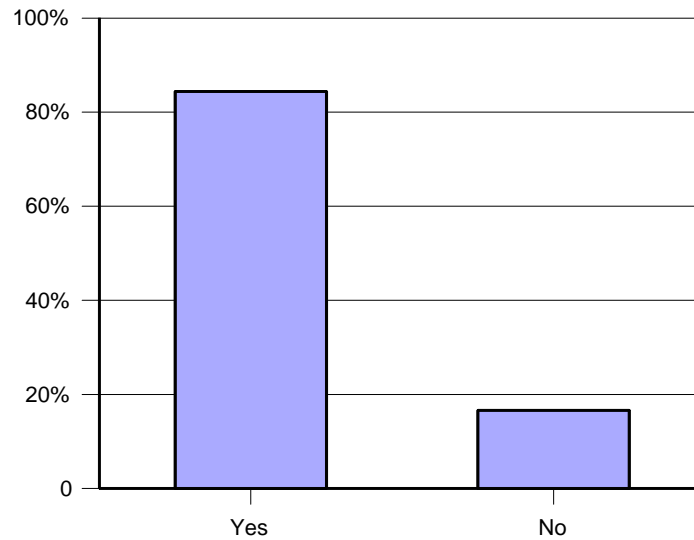


Note: Percentages are based on 2,793 respondents. The 319 respondents who either answered “Don’t know” or did not answer the question are excluded from these percentages.

In addition, over 80% of respondents felt that Jamaica should have the death penalty for people convicted of murder. (See Figure 8.6) This, too, suggests that respondents would prefer that the courts treat those convicted of crimes more harshly than they currently do.

FIGURE 8.6: Most Respondents Supported the Death Penalty

“Do you think that Jamaica should use the death penalty for people convicted of murder?” Percent answering ‘yes’ or ‘no’.

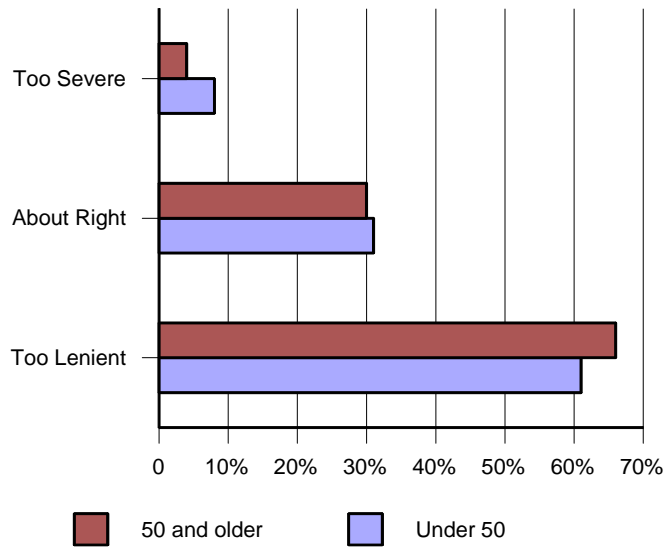


Note: Percentages are based on 2,933 respondents. The 179 respondents who either answered “Don’t know” or did not respond to the question are excluded from these percentages.

There are significant age differences in views on criminal sentences and on the death penalty. Respondents over the age of 50 were more likely to believe sentences are too lenient and are more likely to favour the death penalty. (See Figures 8.7 and 8.8) Women and men, however, did not differ in their views on sentencing or the death penalty.

FIGURE 8.7: Older People Were More Likely to Believe Sentences are Too Lenient

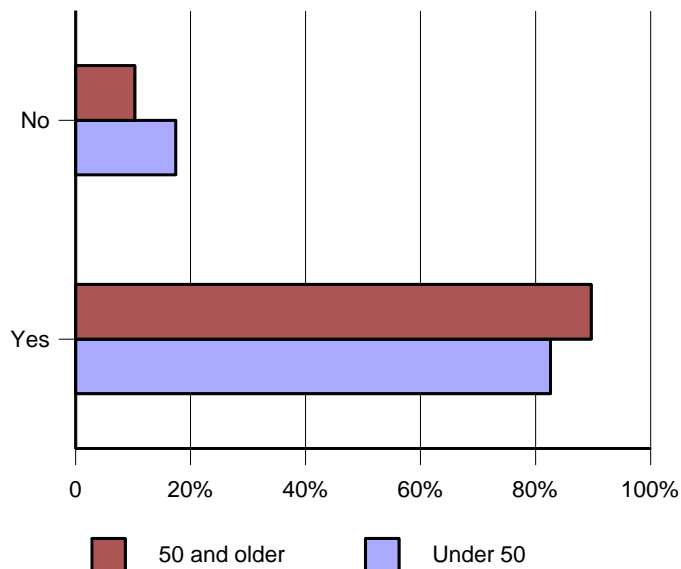
Percent Indicating Sentences are Too Lenient, About Right, or Too Severe



Note: Percentages are based on 2,739 respondents. The 373 respondents who either answered “Don’t know” or did not respond to the question are excluded from these percentages. The differences between younger and older people on all three questions are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

FIGURE 8.8: Older People Were More Likely to Support the Death Penalty

“Do you think that Jamaica should use the death penalty for people convicted of murder?” Percent answering ‘yes’ or ‘no’



Note: Percentages are based on 2,875 respondents. The 237 respondents who either answered “Don’t know” or did not respond to the question are excluded from these percentages. The differences between younger and older people on all three questions are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Respondents’ dissatisfaction with Jamaican courts could arise, in part, from perceptions that the courts discriminate against some groups. To examine this issue, respondents were presented with the same set of questions they were asked about police. That is, they were asked if they thought the courts treated the poor differently from the wealthy, young people differently from older people, and men differently from women. In fact, the courts were less likely than the police to be perceived as discriminating against the poor, the young, and males. (Compare Table 8.3 with Table 8.5) Similar to the police, however, courts were thought to be most likely to discriminate against the poor. Over 67% of respondents thought that poor people were treated worse or much worse by the courts. Discrimination against the young and against men was perceived to be a problem by slightly over 50% of respondents.

TABLE 8.5: Opinions about Discriminatory Treatment by the Courts

How do you think the courts treat:	Much worse	Worse	The same	Better	Much better
The poor compared to the wealthy	16.8%	50.6%	31.5%	0.8%	0.4%
Young compared to older people	8.8%	44.6%	44.7%	1.5%	0.4%
Men compared to women	11.3%	41.8%	45.2%	1.2%	0.5%

Note: Percentages are based on between 2,713 to 2,766 respondents. Between 346 and 399 respondents either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions and are excluded from these percentages.

There are statistically significant differences between younger and older people in some of these opinions about discriminatory treatment by the courts. Compared to those over 50, those under 50 were more likely to perceive discrimination against the poor and men. These differences, however, are quite small.¹ Women and men also differed in their views on discriminatory treatment by the courts. Men were significantly more likely than women to believe that the poor, young people, and males are treated worse or much worse than the wealthy, older people, and males, as shown in Figure 8.9.

¹ Because the sample size is very large, statistical significance can result from substantively small differences.

FIGURE 8.9: Men Were More Likely to View the Courts as Discriminatory

Percent Indicating A Group is Treated Worse or Much Worse



Note: Percentages are based on between 2,713 and 2,766 respondents. Between 346 and 360 respondents either answered “Don’t know” or did not respond to the question and are excluded from these percentages. The differences between men and women on all three questions are statistically significant ($p < .003$).

Attitudes Toward the Prison and Parole Systems

Respondents were asked to assess Jamaica’s prison system on two criteria: how well the prisons supervise and control offenders in prison, and how well they punish or deter offenders from further crime. A comparison of Tables 8.1, 8.4, and 8.6 shows that the prison system was rated more negatively than either the police or the courts.

TABLE 8.6: Assessments of the Prison System

What kind of a job are the prisons doing at the following?	A good job	An average job	A poor job
Supervising and controlling offenders in prison	16.6%	32.9%	50.5%
Punishing or deterring offenders from further crime	14.0%	30.6%	55.4%

Note: Percentages are based on between 2,684 and 2,753 respondents. Between 359 and 428 respondents either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions and are excluded from this table.

Over half of respondents believed the prison system was doing a poor job both of supervising offenders in prison and of deterring offenders after release. There were no differences between men and women, or between younger and older people in these views.

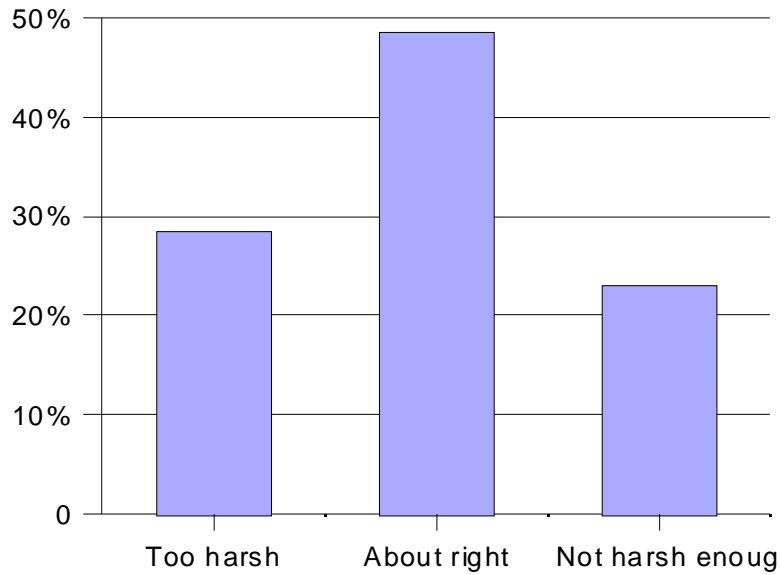
Canadian respondents to the 2004 GSS were also asked what kind of a job they believed the prison system was doing at supervising and controlling prisoners. Compared to respondents to the JNCVS, a substantially higher proportion of Canadian respondents (31%) felt their prisons were doing a good job at supervising and controlling prisoners. Similar to respondents to the JNCVS, men and women surveyed for the Canadian GSS did not differ in their ratings of the Canadian prison system. However, unlike respondents to the JNCVS, there were age differences in ratings of the Canadian prison system: younger people had substantially more positive views of the prison system compared to older people (Statistics Canada, 2004: pp. 26-27).

Respondents’ views about the living conditions inside Jamaican prisons are about as negative as their assessments of how well the prisons supervise and deter offenders.⁸ As shown in Figure 8.10, over half of respondents thought that prison living conditions were either too harsh or not harsh enough; less than half judged conditions as about right.

⁸ This question was not asked in the Canadian GSS.

FIGURE 8.10: Assessments of Living Conditions in Jamaican Prisons

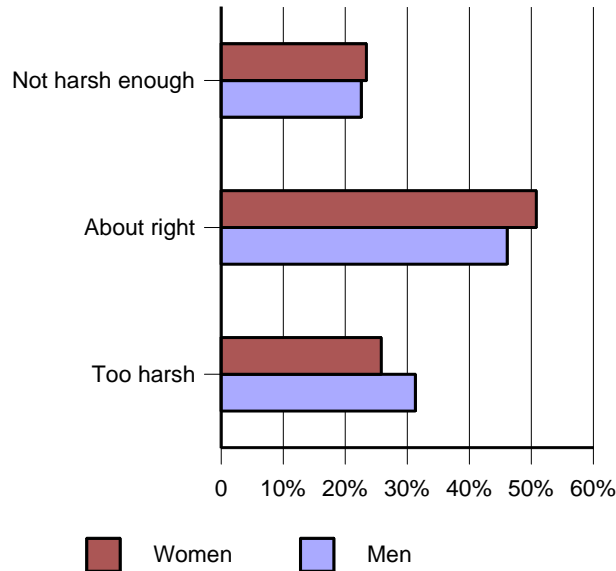
Percent Indicating Conditions are Too Harsh, About Right, or Not Harsh Enough



Note: Percentages are based on 2,587 respondents. The 525 respondents who either answered “Don’t know” or did not respond to the question are excluded from these percentages.

Men were significantly more likely than women to rate prison living conditions as too harsh. (See Figure 8.11) Older and younger people did not differ in their assessments of prison living conditions.

FIGURE 8.11: Men Were More Likely to View Prison Conditions as Too Harsh
Percent Indicating Conditions are Too Harsh, About Right, or Not Harsh Enough



Note: Percentages are based on 2,587 respondents. The 525 respondents who either answered “Don’t know” or did not respond to the question are excluded from these percentages. The differences between men and women are statistically significant ($p < .007$)

The parole system was assessed by two questions asking about what kind of job it does of releasing offenders who do not commit more crime and supervising offenders in the community. Respondents’ views of the parole system were only slightly better than those of the prison system, with large proportions judging the job done by the parole system to be poor. (See Table 8.7)

These ratings were almost identical to those of Canadian respondents in the 2004 GSS: 17% and 15% of Canadian respondents said that their parole system did a good job of releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend and of supervising offenders on parole (Statistics Canada, 2004: pp. 23-24). In other words, the vast majority of respondents in both countries did not view these aspects of their parole systems in a positive light.

TABLE 8.7: Assessments of the Parole System

What kind of a job is the parole system doing at the following?	A good job	An average job	A poor job
Releasing offenders who do not commit more crime	17.9%	37.2%	44.9%
Supervising offenders when released into the community	14.6%	30.0%	55.4%

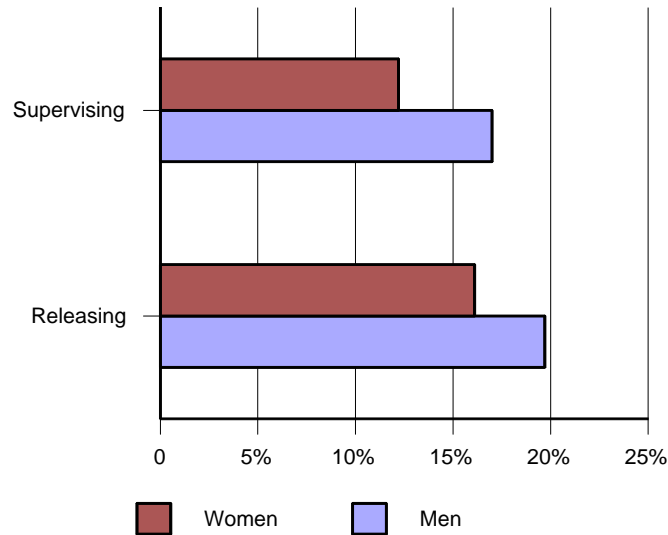
Note: Percentages are based on between 2,283 and 2,292 respondents. Between 820 and 829 respondents either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions and are excluded from these percentages.

The parole system received significantly better ratings by men than by women. Even so, less than 20% of men rated the system as doing a good job of either supervising offenders, or releasing offenders who do not commit more crime. (See Figure 8.12) There were no age differences in these ratings of the parole system.

In contrast, there were no sex differences in assessments of the Canadian parole system. There were, however, age differences: younger respondents to the Canadian GSS had more positive views of the parole system than did older respondents. (Statistics Canada, 2004: pp. 26-27).

FIGURE 8.12: Men Rated the Parole System More Positively

Percent Rating the Parole System as Doing a Good Job at:



Note: Percentages are based on between 2,283 and 2,292 respondents. Respondents who either responded “Don’t know” or did not answer these questions ranged between 820 and 829 and are excluded from these percentages. Differences between men and women are statistically significant ($p < .025$).

Experiences with the Court System

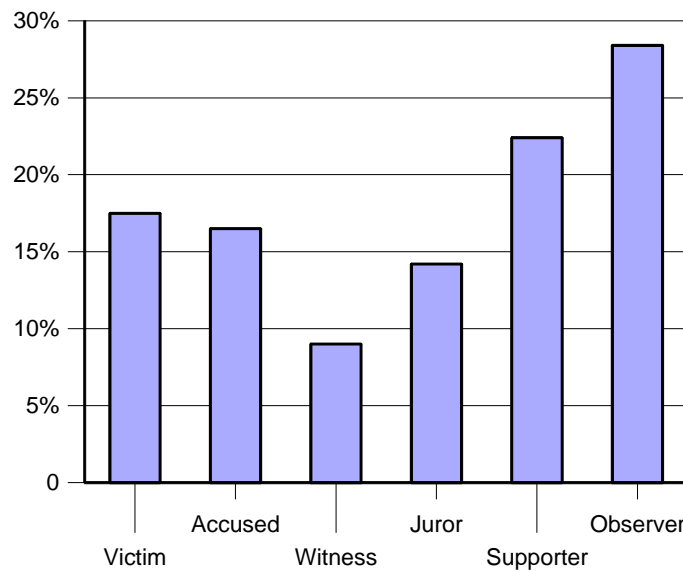
To examine respondents’ experiences with the court system, they were asked if they had ever been in a criminal court in Jamaica. A total of 28% (or 878) respondents indicated that they had, though for a range of reasons. Most had been in court as an observer or supporter of the victim or accused. About equal numbers were in court as a victim or accused. (See Figure 8.13) Not surprisingly, men and those over the age of 50 were more likely to have been in court, and to have been there more than once in more than one capacity.

Those who have had experience with the criminal justice system sometimes have different views of it than those who have not. However, those who had been in court before did not differ in their views of the police, courts, prison or parole systems compared to those who had not been in court. Subsequent analyses should examine whether the reasons people have been in a court affect their views of the criminal justice

systems. For example, do those who have been in court as an accused or as a supporter of an accused differ in their opinions about the criminal justice system compared to those who have been in court for other reasons?

FIGURE 8.13: Reasons Respondents Had Been in a Criminal Court

Percent indicating they had been in criminal court as a victim, accused, witness, juror, supporter and/or observer.



Note: Of the 878 respondents who said they had been in court, 793 were there in only one of these roles. The remaining 85 respondents had been in court in more than one role. Thus, the percentages in the table sum to more than 100.

Summary

Research in other countries has found that people generally have greater confidence in the police compared to other sectors of the criminal justice system (Doob and Robert, 1982; Roberts and Stalans, 2000; Tufts, 2000; and Mattinson and Mirrlees-Black, 2000). The findings from this survey are consistent with other research. Survey respondents rated their police more highly than they rate their courts, prisons or parole system. They did not, however, rate the police as highly as do citizens of many other countries. For example, in Canada between 50% and 65% of people surveyed in the 1990s thought the police were doing a good job of being approachable, ensuring the

safety of citizens, enforcing the laws, supplying information on reducing crime, and responding quickly to calls (Statistics Canada, 2004: pp 23-24). In contrast, only between 19% and 30% of Jamaicans surveyed thought their local police were doing a good job at these duties. Thus, while the police have done a better job of earning the confidence of respondents than have the court, prison or parole systems, most respondents did not believe the police were doing a good job at a range of their duties. In addition, over three-quarters of respondents believed corruption within their local police was an important problem. On the other hand, relatively few respondents believed that either police harassment or police brutality is an important problem.

Respondents gave relatively poor ratings to their courts, prison, and parole systems. Fewer than 20% felt that the courts, prisons or parole system were doing a good job at a range of their duties. These low levels of satisfaction with courts, prisons and the parole system mirror those found in research in other countries, including Canada.

Most respondents believed the criminal justice system discriminates against the poor, young people, and males. In this regard, respondents rated the courts as doing a better job than police. That is, a higher proportion thought that the police are more likely than the courts to treat the poor, the young, and males worse than the wealthy, older people, and women.

Attitudes toward the sentences handed down by the courts and toward the death penalty showed that respondents favoured harsher treatment of convicted offenders. Most respondents rated sentences as too lenient, and over 80% favoured using the death penalty for those convicted of murder. Views were split over whether prison conditions are too harsh, however.

Just over 25% of respondents had been in a criminal court in Jamaica at some point in their lives, either as a victim, accused, witness, supporter of the victim or accused, or observer. Opinions about the criminal justice system did not vary, however, between those who had been in court and those who had not.

Men's and women's opinions about the criminal justice system differed in only a few respects. Women perceived more discrimination by police than did men. In contrast, men perceived more discrimination by the courts; were more likely to see prison conditions as too harsh; and rated the parole system more positively than did women.

There were distinct differences in the opinions of people aged 50 and older compared to people under age 50. Compared to older people, younger people held more negative views of the police and the courts, were more likely to perceive discrimination by police and by the courts, were more likely to judge sentences as too severe, and were less likely to support the death penalty. In general, then, older people had more confidence in the criminal justice system and favoured harsher penalties for offenders.

PART NINE: ATTITUDES TOWRD CRIME PREVENTION

In this section, respondents' views on how to prevent or reduce crime are discussed. People often differ over whether they feel crime prevention can be done more effectively by strengthening the criminal justice system or by addressing the social causes of crime, such as poverty, poor education, and unemployment. Information on respondents' assessments of both types of crime prevention efforts is presented, as are comparisons of these assessments for younger and older people, and for women and men.

Crime Prevention by the Criminal Justice System

When asked about how the criminal justice system could be changed to prevent or reduce crime, a majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that more police should be hired, the police should be given better equipment (such as better weapons and cars), and judges should give harsher sentences. (See Table 9.1) Strongest support was expressed for increasing the severity of sentences, with over 80% of respondents agreeing with this statement. In contrast, most respondents did not favour building more prisons. Indeed, over 68% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that more prisons would reduce crime. Only a very small proportion of respondents had neutral opinions on these issues; fewer than 6% said they neither agreed nor disagreed with each of these statements. In other words, most respondents had a view on whether and how the criminal justice system could reduce crime.

**TABLE 9.1:
Opinions on Crime Prevention by the Criminal Justice System**

To reduce crime:	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
More police need to be hired	24.7%	33.2%	4.3%	30.5%	7.2%
Police need better equipment	34.7%	38.1%	2.7%	19.7%	4.7%
More prisons need to be built	9.4%	16.9%	4.5%	51.5%	17.1%
Judges need to give harsher sentences	48.0%	32.1%	5.5%	11.4%	2.7%

Note: The number of respondents who answered these questions ranged between 3,103 and 3,106. Between six and nine respondents did not answer these questions and are excluded from these percentages.

Reducing crime through government efforts to create jobs, improve the education system, and give welfare payments to poor people received much higher levels of support than did efforts to strengthen the criminal justice system. (See Table 9.2) Over 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that job creation and improvements to education would help prevent crime. Support for welfare payments as a way to reduce crime received less support; nevertheless, almost 66% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that crime could be reduced through welfare to poor people.

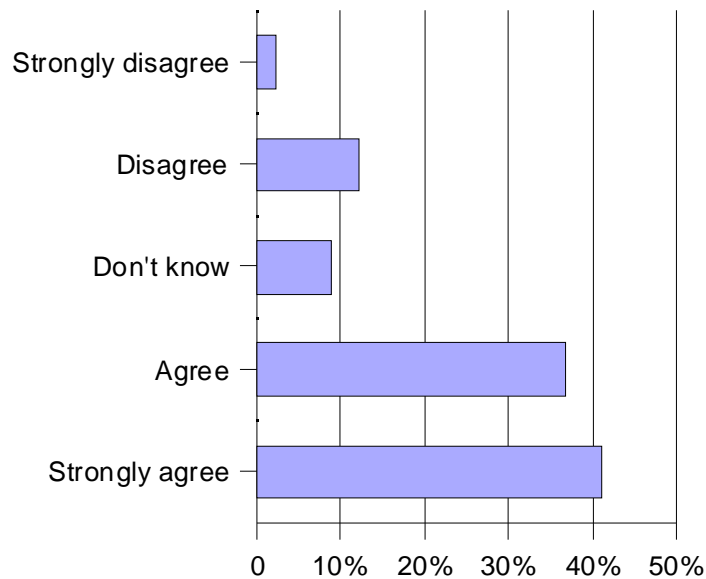
TABLE 9.2: Opinions on Crime Prevention by the Government

To reduce crime, the government needs to:	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Create more jobs	75.0%	21.9%	0.7%	1.8%	0.5%
Improve the education system	71.6%	23.9%	1.2%	2.8%	0.5%
Give welfare payments to poor people	30.9%	35.0%	7.8%	21.2%	4.8%

Note: The number of respondents who answered these questions ranged between 3,102 and 3,109. Between three and 10 respondents did not answer these questions and are excluded from these percentages.

When asked to compare whether government efforts to reduce poverty crime would be more effective at reducing crime than efforts to strengthen the criminal justice system, over three-quarters of respondents favoured reducing poverty and less than 15% favoured hiring more police officers. (Figure 9.1) This is consistent with the results shown in Tables 9.1 and 9.2. In other words, those surveyed felt that crime could be reduced or prevented more effectively through means other than relying on the police, courts, or prisons.

FIGURE 9.1: “Government efforts to reduce poverty will be more effective at reducing crime than hiring more police officers or increasing the severity of punishment.”



Note: Percentages shown are based on 3,077 respondents. Data were missing for 35 respondents.

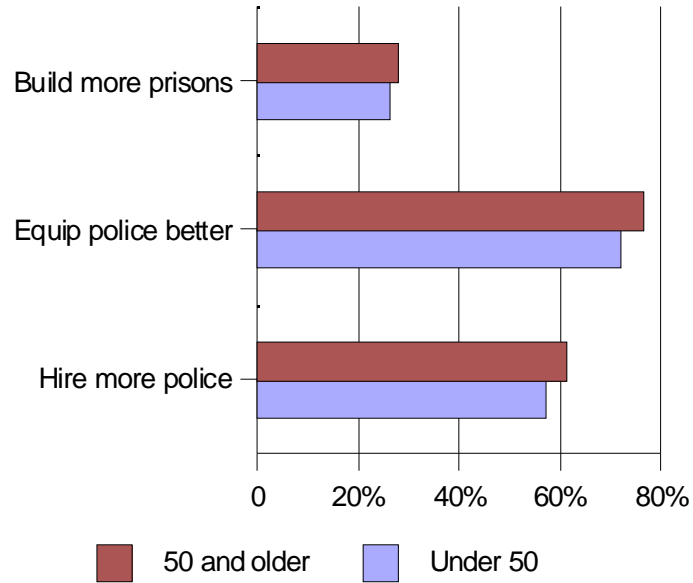
Women and men did not differ in their opinions about the most effective ways to reduce crime. A majority of both sexes agreed that crime could be reduced by hiring more police, giving the police better equipment, and handing down harsher sentences. But both males and females showed a stronger preference for preventing crime through reducing poverty and improving the educational system.

People under 50 did differ in some respects from people 50 and older in their views on crime prevention. Compared to those under 50, older people gave greater support to crime prevention through strengthening the criminal justice system. (See Figure 9.2) In contrast, a greater percentage of those under 50 agreed that job creation, improved education, and welfare payments would reduce crime. (See Figure 9.3)

There were no differences between men and women, or between younger and older people in the preference for government efforts to reduce poverty over hiring more police officers or increasing sentence severity to reduce crime. Over 75% of both sexes and all age groups favoured addressing poverty.

FIGURE 9.2: Older People Were More Supportive of Strengthening the Criminal Justice System to Reduce Crime

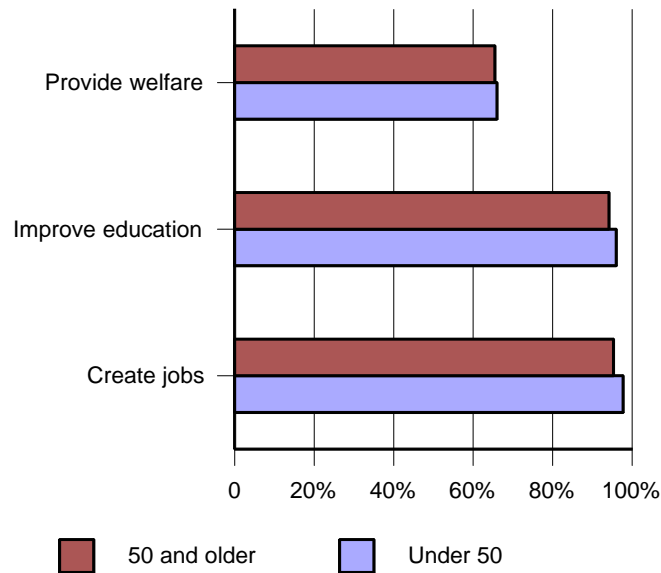
Percent Indicating They Agree or Strongly Agree



Note: Percentages shown are based on between 3041 and 3042 respondents. Data are missing for between 71 and 72 respondents. The differences between younger and older people were statistically significant ($p < .05$).

FIGURE 9.3: Younger People Were More Supportive of Expanding Jobs, Education, and Welfare to Reduce Crime

Percent Indicating They Agree or Strongly Agree



Note: Percentages are based on between 3038 and 3045 respondents. Data are missing for between 67 and 74 respondents. The differences between younger and older people were statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Summary

When asked for their opinions about crime prevention, respondents expressed support for a range of interventions. Criminal justice interventions were supported by a large majority who agreed that crime could be reduced by hiring more police, giving police better equipment, and handing down harsher sentences. Only a minority supported prison expansion as a way to reduce crime, however. Much stronger support was expressed (by over 95% of respondents) for government interventions to create jobs and improve education; giving welfare to poor people was less popular but still supported by a majority (66%) of respondents. People had greater confidence in reducing poverty, compared to hiring police or increasing the severity of sentences, as an effective crime prevention strategy. Higher levels of support for crime prevention through social policies rather than through enforcement were expressed by women and men, and people of all ages. Those 50 and older were, however, somewhat more favorable to enforcement

strategies, whereas those under 50 were slightly more supportive of social policies aimed at what are often referred to as the “root causes” of crime.

This pattern of results is quite consistent with those found in surveys done in other countries (Hough and Mayhew, 1985; Environics, 1989; Canadian Sentencing Commission, 1987; and Maguire and Pastore 1995.) When asked about ways to reduce or prevent crime, people in other countries, similar to respondents to this survey, tend to favour social programs aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment over enforcement and punishment strategies. This does not mean that people do not support strengthening the criminal justice response to crime, however. As shown above, there is considerable support for devoting resources to policing and making sentences tougher. Nevertheless, more people believe social policies will have a greater impact on reducing crime than will the actions of the police or courts.

PART TEN: POLICE COMPLAINTS, CORRUPTION, AND BRUTALITY

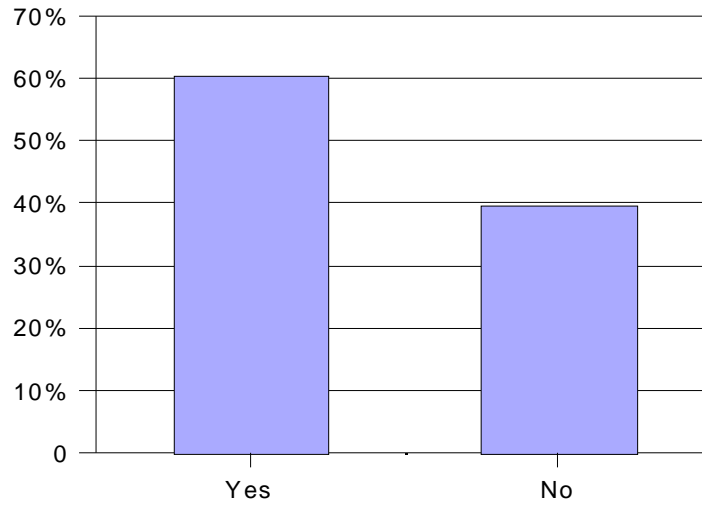
This section discusses respondents' knowledge about the police complaints process, as well as their reasons for filing, or not filing, complaints against the police. It also explores respondents' experiences with official corruption and police brutality.⁹ These issues are important because they relate to Jamaicans' trust in their government and the extent to which they view the legal system as legitimate. Police integrity, in particular, has been termed "a central element in due process, the cornerstone of democratic jurisprudence." (Greene, 2004: ix). For the legal system as a whole to be viewed as legitimate requires that the public trust the police as well as other officials to use their discretion appropriately, and, when they do not, to be accountable for their acts. The findings in this section speak to these issues.

Police Complaints

It is inevitable that sometimes people will have problems with the way the police treat them or will have other types of complaints about the police, in part because of the amount of discretion given to the police and the authority they have over people's lives. Eliminating complaints against the police would be impossible, but providing a means by which people can make complaints is not. Respondents were therefore asked if they knew where citizens could go to file complaints against the police and a substantial majority of respondents (60%) indicated they did. (See Figure 10.1) Nevertheless, a large minority did not know where to make such complaints.

⁹ Section Eight presented information on respondents' perceptions about problems with the police generally; i.e. problems with corruption, brutality and harassment. The results presented in the current section relate to respondents' own experiences with police brutality and corruption, rather than their perceptions of these problems generally. Since perceptions and experiences are two distinct dimensions, these topics have been presented separately in this report.

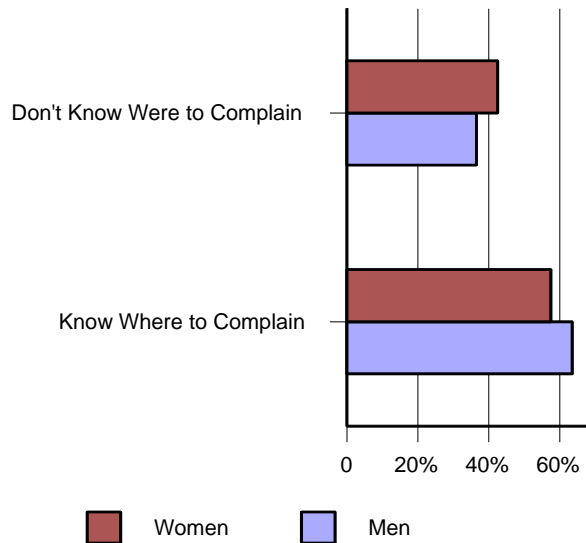
FIGURE 10.1: Do You Know Where a Citizen Can Go to Make a Complaint Against the Police?



Note: The percentages were calculated on the basis of the 3,106 people who responded to the question. Data were missing for six respondents.

There were no differences between older and younger people in knowledge about where to file complaints against the police. However, women were significantly less likely than men to know where to go to file police complaints. (See Figure 10.2)

FIGURE 10.2: Men Were More Likely to Know Where to Make Police Complaints



Note: The percentages were calculated on the basis of 3,106 respondents. Data were missing for six respondents. The differences between men and women were statistically significant ($p < .001$).

Those who indicated they knew where to go to make complaints against police were asked to name organizations that took such complaints. Several organizations were named, with local police stations being named by the largest percentage of respondents. (See Table 10.1) Many respondents – about 38% – listed more than one organization, indicating a fairly high level of awareness among these respondents about the complaints process.

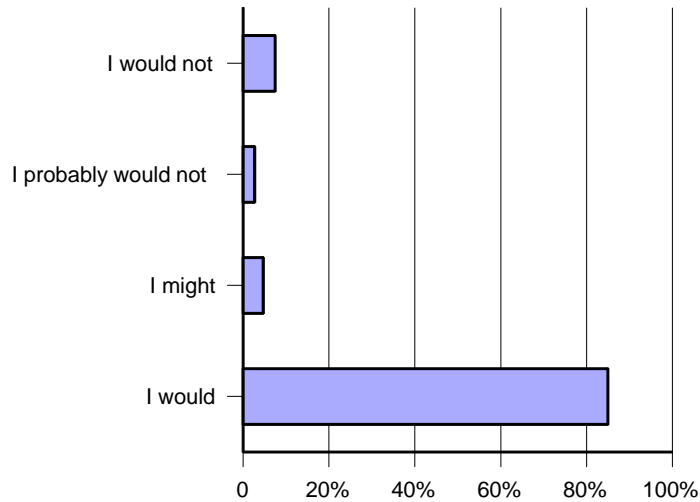
TABLE 10.1: Organizations Named as Places Citizens Could File Complaints Against the Police

Local police station	57.9%
Police Public Complaints Authority	34.3%
Bureau of Special Investigations	21.8%
A human rights organization	14.5%
Office of Professional Responsibility	9.8%
Office of the Public Defender	7.6%
Other	12.0%

Note: This question was asked of the 1,875 respondents who said that they knew where citizens could go to make a complaint against the police. Percentages sum to more than 100% because some respondents named more than one organization.

Knowing where to make complaints does not, however, say anything about whether people will be willing to do so if they feel they have been mistreated or the police have behaved inappropriately. To explore this issue, respondents were asked if they would be willing to file a complaint if they had a negative experience with the police. Fully 85% of respondents said that they would make a complaint under these circumstances, and only 8% said they would not. (See Figure 10.3) Thus, most respondents appear to have known how and to be willing to file complaints against the police if they perceive there is a need to do so.

FIGURE 10.3: Most Respondents Would Make Complaints Against Police
“If you ever had a negative experience with the police (such as unfair treatment, police brutality or police harassment) would you make a complaint to the Police Complaints Authority or some other organization?”

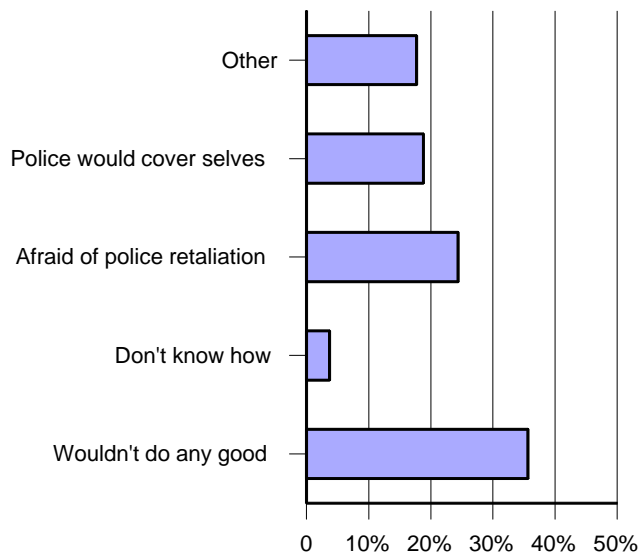


Note: The percentages were calculated on the basis of the 3,055 people who responded to the question. Data were missing for 57 respondents.

There were no differences between younger and older people, or between women and men in their willingness to file complaints against the police.

Respondents who indicated they might or would not make a complaint against the police were asked why they would not do so. The largest percentage (36%) said they would not file a complaint because it “would not do any good”, with 24% indicated they feared police retaliation should they complain and 19% saying the police would “cover themselves or lie” should they complain. (See Figure 10.4)

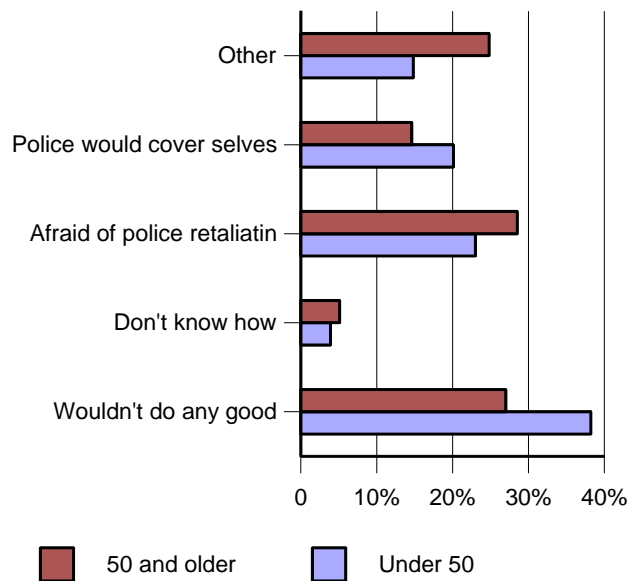
FIGURE 10.4: Reasons for Not Filing a Formal Complaint Against the Police



Note: The percentages were calculated based on the 464 people who said they might not or would not make a complaint against police, and who were then asked why they would not make a complaint. The 2,597 people who said they would make a complaint were not asked this question. Data were missing for another 51 respondents.

People under 50 differed from people over 50 in their reasons for not being willing to file complaints against the police. Compared to older people, those under 50 were significantly more likely to say either that it would do no good to file a complaint or that police would cover up or lie. Compared to younger people, those 50 and older were significantly more likely to fear retaliation from police. (See Figure 10.5) Women were also significantly more likely than men to say they would not file a complaint because they feared retaliation. Men and women did not differ in their other reasons for not filing complaints.

FIGURE 10.5: Younger and Older People Differed in Their Reasons for Not Filing Complaints Against the Police



Note: The percentages were calculated on the basis of 454 respondents who said they might not or would not make a complaint against police, and who were then asked why they would not make a complaint. The 2,597 people who said they would make a complaint were not asked this question. Data were missing for another 61 respondents. The differences between younger and older people were statistically significant ($p < .01$).

Corruption and Police Brutality

Corruption and police brutality have been called “universal” aspects of all societies that have a state infrastructure and policing institutions (Sarre et al., 2005; Klockars and Ivkovich, 2004; Terrill and Mastrofski, 2005; and Waddington, 2003). Nevertheless, the extent and nature of corruption and police brutality appear to vary dramatically across different countries (Sarre et al., 2005). To provide an estimate of the extent of corruption and police brutality experienced by respondents, two sets of questions were asked.

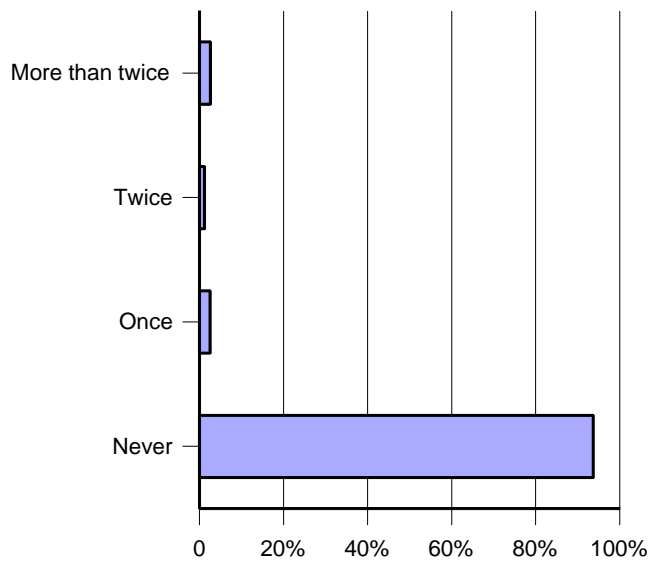
One set focused on corruption by government officials, including but not limited to police officials. The question was introduced in this way: “In some countries there is a problem with corruption among government or public officials. Has a government official – like a customs officer, police officer, politician or inspector – ever asked you or

expected you to pay a bribe?” The vast majority of respondents (94%) indicated that they had never been asked to pay a bribe. (See Figure 10.6)

The small number of respondents (197) who replied that they had been asked for or expected to pay a bribe were asked how many times this had happened. Of these, 40% had been asked only once in their lives; and fewer than 100 respondents had been asked for a bribe more than twice in their lifetimes. When asked when the most recent incident had occurred, most of those asked for a bribe (62%) indicated they had been asked within the last year; another 35% said they had been asked in the past five years.

FIGURE 10.6: Few Respondents Had Ever Been Asked for a Bribe by an Official

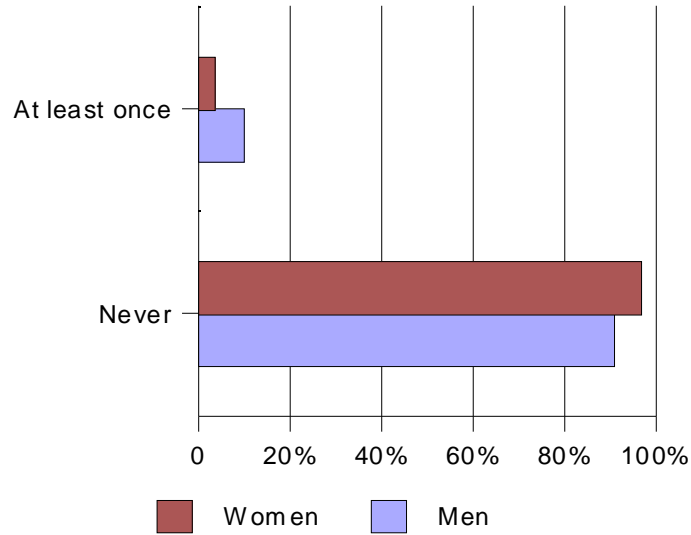
“Has a government official – like a customs officer, police officer, politician or inspector – ever asked you or expected you to pay a bribe? If so, how many times?”



Note: The percentages were calculated on the basis of the 3,108 people who answered this question. Data were missing for four respondents.

Older people were no more likely than younger people to have been asked by an official for a bribe. However, men were significantly more likely than women to report such a request. (See Figure 10.7) Nevertheless, more than 90% of men said they had never been asked for a bribe.

FIGURE 10.7: Men Were More Likely to Have Been Asked for a Bribe

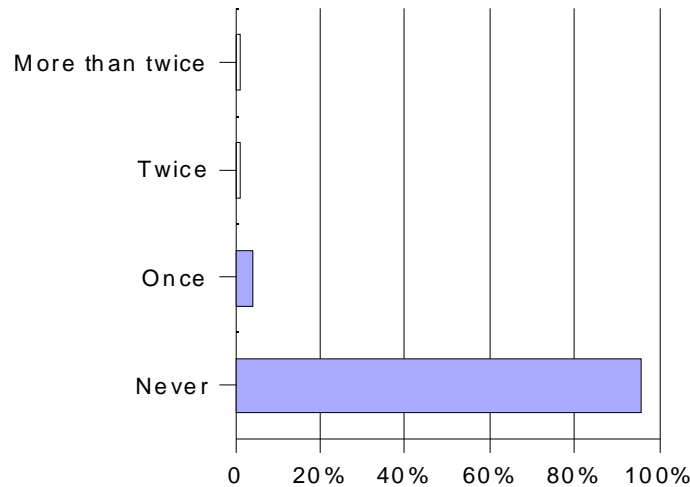


Note: The percentages were calculated on the basis of 3,108 respondents. Data were missing for four respondents. The differences between men and women were statistically significant ($p < .000$).

A second set of questions focused on police brutality and was introduced in a similar fashion to the questions about corruption. Respondents were then asked if they had ever been a victim of police brutality. Similar to corruption, police brutality was reported by only a very small minority of respondents. (See Figure 10.8) Over 95% of respondents said they had never been a victim of police brutality.

FIGURE 10.8: Few Respondents Had Ever Been a Victim of Police Brutality

“Have you ever been the victim of police brutality? If so, how many times?”

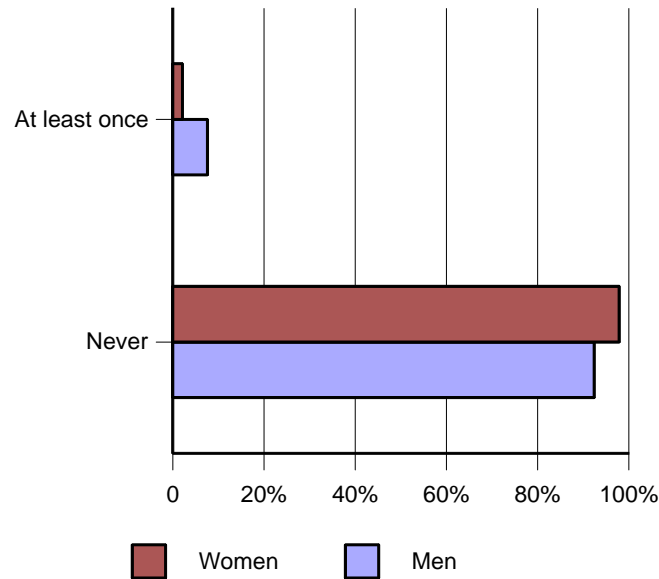


Note: The percentages were calculated on the basis of the 3,107 people who answered this question. Data were missing for five people.

Of the 146 people who reported being victims of police brutality, the vast majority (105 or 72%) had been victims only once. Most of these victimizations (75%) occurred more than a year previously. Thus, only 37 out of 3,112 respondents indicated they had been the victims of police brutality in the past year.

Not surprisingly, men were significantly more likely to report having been victims of police brutality. (See Figure 10.9) Even so, more than 90% of men had never had such experiences. Compared to those under 50, older people were also significantly more likely to have experienced police brutality, but the differences were substantively small.

FIGURE 10.9: Men Were More Likely to Have Been Victims of Police Brutality



Note: The percentages were calculated on the basis of 3,107 respondents. Data were missing for five respondents. The differences between men and women were statistically significant ($p < .000$).

Summary

Most respondents interviewed in this survey are knowledgeable about where to file complaints against the police and would be willing to do so should they have a negative experience with the police. However, a substantial minority, particularly women, do not know where to go to file such complaints. Of the small percentage of those who would not file complaints, most feel it would not do any good, fear retaliation from police, or believe the police would cover up the problem.

When asked about their own experiences with corruption by government officials or police brutality, only a very small minority of respondents reported being a victim of either of these. Indeed, over 90% of respondents – including those over and under 50, and women and men – reported no such experiences. Although these personal experiences with official mistreatment appear to be rare, a very large percentage of respondents (over 80%) reported that corruption was a big or very big problem with their

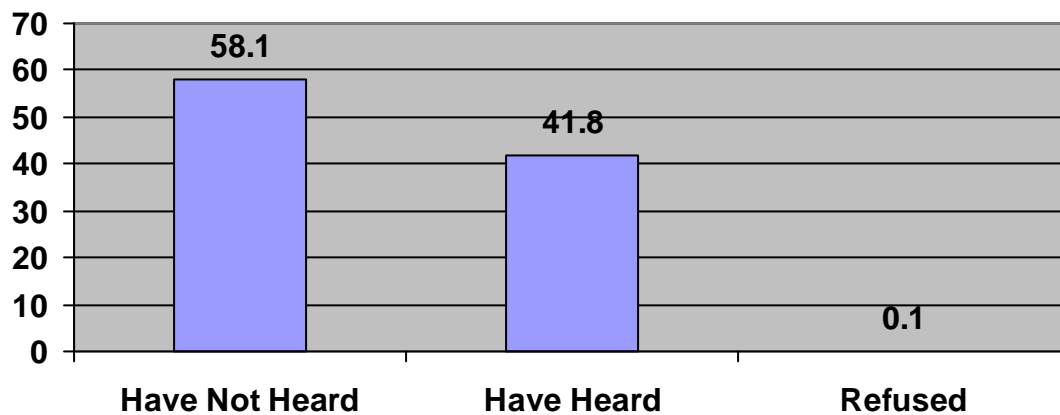
local police, according to findings reported in Section 8. It appears, then, that respondents' estimates of the extent of police corruption do not appear to reflect their own personal experiences.

**PART ELEVEN:
PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE VICTIMS SUPPORT UNIT AND
THE CITIZEN SECURITY AND JUSTICE PROGRAM**

This section of the report documents the respondent’s awareness, use and evaluation of two special criminal justice programs in Jamaica: the Victim’s Support Unit (VSU) and the Citizen Security and Justice Program (CSJP). The VSU operates throughout the country. However, the CSJP only operates in selected “high risk” communities within the Kingston Metropolitan area (KMA).

We begin with an analysis of the Victims Support Unit. The VSU is designed to provide a variety of support services to the victims of crime in Jamaica. Services include face-to-face counselling, health care referrals, dispute mediation, support during criminal investigations, support during criminal trials, telephone counselling, home visits and victim support groups. All respondents were asked: “Have you ever heard of the Victim Support Unit.” The results suggest that two out of every five Jamaican citizens has heard of the VSU. However, the majority of the population (58.1%) has not heard of the program

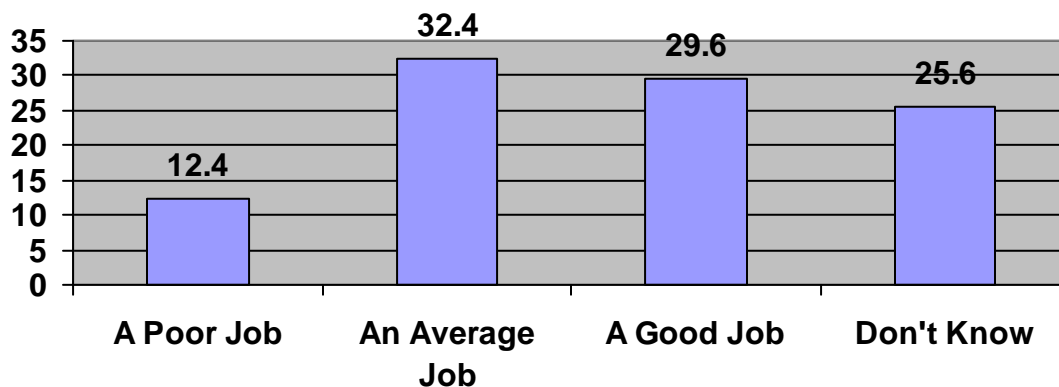
Figure 11.1: Percent of Respondents Who Have Heard of the Victim Support Unit (Sample Size=3,112)



The 1,301 respondents who had heard of the Victims Support Unit were subsequently asked: “Do you think the Victim Support Unit is doing a good job, an

average job or a poor job of providing support to victims of crime.” Almost a third of these respondents (29.6%) felt that the VSU was doing a good job and an additional third (32.4%) felt that the program is doing an average job. Only 12.4% of the sample felt that the VSU is doing a poor job. However, it should also be noted that one out of four every respondents (25.6%) did not know how well the program was doing (see Figure 11.2).

Figure 11.2: Percent of Respondents Who Feel that the Victim Support Unit is Doing a Good Job or a Poor Job (Sample Size=1,301)



Respondents were also asked if they had ever used any of the services provided by the Victim’s Support Unit. Only 25 respondents – less than one% (0.8%) of the total sample – indicated that they had used VSU support services at some time in their life (see Figure 11.3). This usage rate rises to 1.9% when only considering the 1,301 respondents who had heard about the program. Overall, nineteen of these 25 respondents (76%) had used the face-to-face counselling services provided by the VSU. An additional 6 respondents (24%) had received VSU support during a criminal investigation, 3 respondents (12%) had received mediation services, 3 respondents had received a home visit, 2 respondents (8%) had received a health care referral, 2 (8%) had received phone counselling and (2.8%) had been part of a VSU support group.

The 25 respondents who had received VSU services were asked: “How satisfied were you with the services you received from the Victims Support Unit.” The results (see Figure 11.4) suggest that all of these respondents were either very satisfied (80%) or

satisfied (20%) with the services they had received from the VSU. Furthermore, 22 of these 25 respondents (88%) indicated that the Victims Support Unit had made it easier for them to deal with their victimization experiences.

Figure 11.3: Percent of Respondents Who Have Used the Victim Support Unit (Sample Size=3,112)

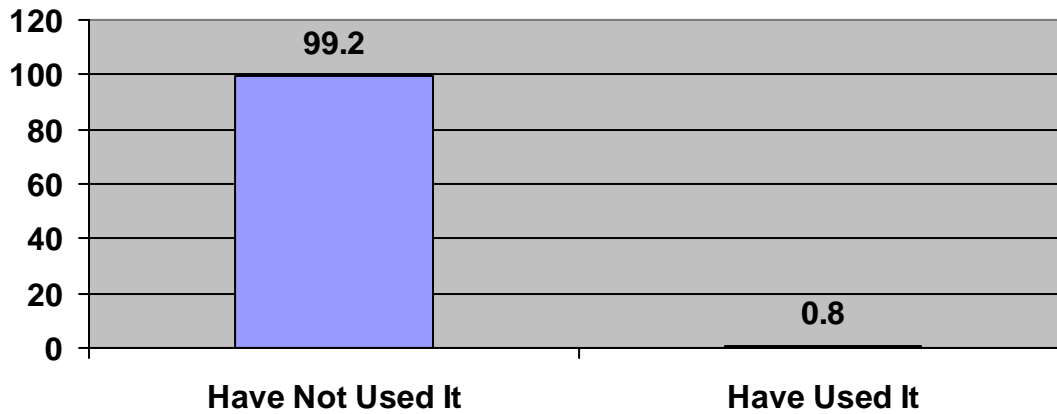
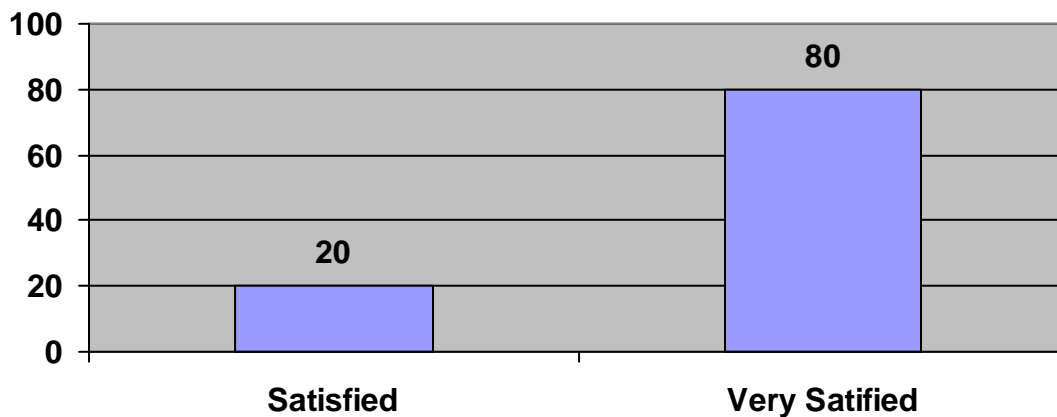


Figure 11.4: Overall Satisfaction of Respondents Who Have Used the Victim Support Unit (Sample Size = 25)

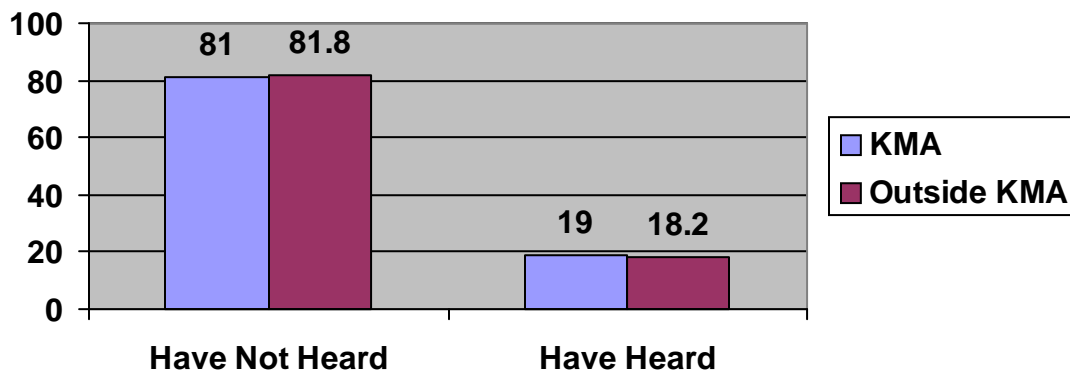


We now turn to public awareness of the Citizen Security and Justice Program (CSJP). The CSJP is a project (funded by the Government of Jamaica and the Inter-

American Bank) that is designed to enhance crime prevention in selected KMA communities. Program services are actually delivered through several non-governmental organizations including Peace and Love in Society, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, the Kingston Restoration Company, Sistren Theatre Collective, AAO/RISE Life Management Services and the Dispute Resolution Foundation. Services include parenting education, conflict resolution training, homework assistance, peace education, one-on-one counselling, organizational skills development, theatre skills, remedial reading courses, home meetings and corner meetings with at risk youth.

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever heard of the CJSP?” The data suggest that the CJSP is somewhat less widely known than the Victim’s Support Unit. Only 19% of all respondents had heard of the CJSP, while 42% had heard of the VSU. Surprisingly, although the CJSP only operates within the Kingston Metropolitan Area, respondents from outside the KMA were just as likely to report that they had heard of the program (18.2%) as respondents who live within the KMA region (19%).

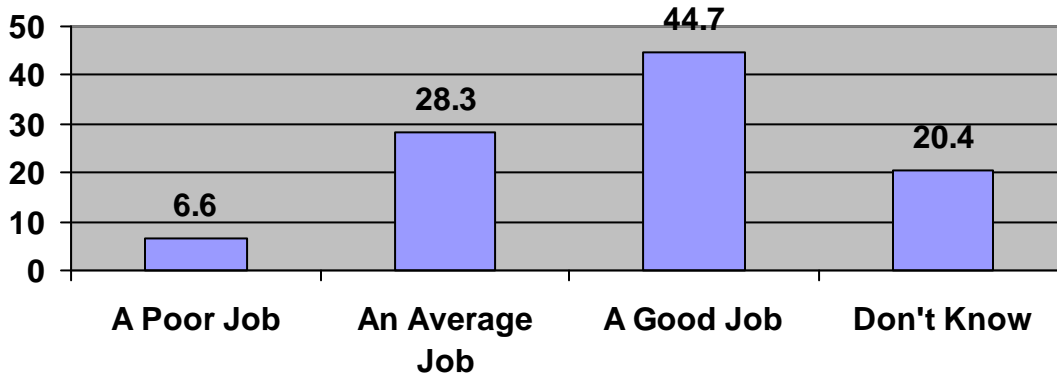
Figure 11.5: Percent of Respondents Who Have Heard of the Citizen Security and Justice Program, by Region (Sample Size=3,112)



The 579 respondents who had heard of the CJSP were asked whether they thought the program was doing a good job, an average job or a poor job preventing crimes in KMA communities. Close to half of these respondents (45%) felt that the CJSP is doing

a good job preventing crime. An additional 28% feel that the CJSP is doing an average job. By comparison, only 6.6% feel that the program is doing a poor job preventing crime. However, one out of every five of the respondents (20%) who had heard of the CJSP did not know whether the program was doing a good job preventing crime or not (see Figure 11.6).

Figure 11.6: Percent of Respondents Who Feel that the Citizen Security and Justice Program is Doing a Good Job or a Poor Job (Sample Size=579)



Respondents were also asked if they had ever used the services of the Citizen Security and Justice Program. Only 17 respondents (0.5% of the total sample) report that they have used the CSJP at some time in their life. This rate of use rises to 2.9% when considering only the sub-sample of 579 respondents who had actually heard of the program. Interestingly, 5 of the 17 respondents (29%) who claim that they have used CSJP services currently reside outside of the Kingston Metropolitan Area. In other words, they currently live in areas where the program is not offered. It is possible that these respondents used to live in the KMA region and actually accessed CSJP services before they moved to their present address.

Four of the seventeen respondents who had used the CSJP (23%) claim that they accessed conflict resolution services. Three of these respondents (17.6%) had used the theatre skills program, three had received home counselling sessions and three had

received organizational development training. At least two of these seventeen respondents (11.8%) had accessed street corner meetings with at risk youth, parenting skills training, peace education and homework assistance programs. Finally, at least one of these seventeen respondents (5.9%) had accessed Multi-purpose Centres, remedial reading courses, CXC classes in English and mathematics and remedial, lifelong learning programs. All 17 of the respondents who had used the CSJP were then asked how satisfied they were with the services provided by the program. The results (see Figure 11.8) suggest that the vast majority (94%) of those who actually used the CSJP were either very satisfied or satisfied with the services they had received. More than half (52.9%) indicated that the program had provided educational support for youth, 29.4% indicated that the CSJP had helped them with their emotional problems an additional 29.4% indicated that the program had helped resolve various conflicts within their community. Three of the 17 respondents (17.6%) also felt that the CSJP had helped them develop parenting skills. An additional three respondents felt that the program had provided youth in the community with organized leisure activities that kept them out of trouble.

Figure 11.7: Percent of Respondents Who Have Used the Citizen Security and Justice Program, by Region (Sample Size=3,112)

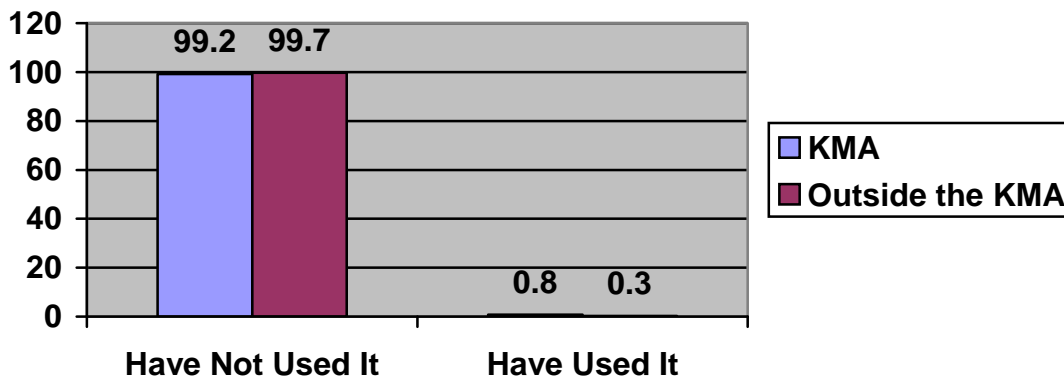
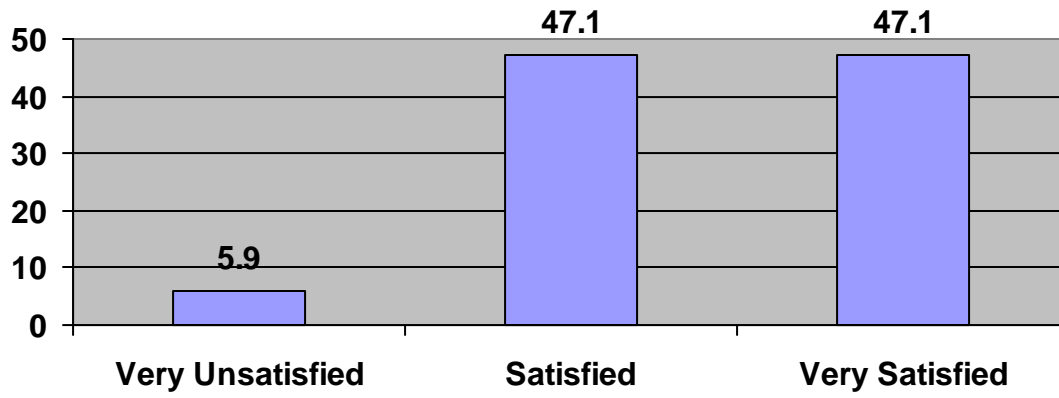


Figure 11.8: Overall Satisfaction of Respondents Who Have Used the Citizen Security and Justice Program (Sample Size = 17)



PART TWELVE: SELF-REPORTED SUBSTANCE USE AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

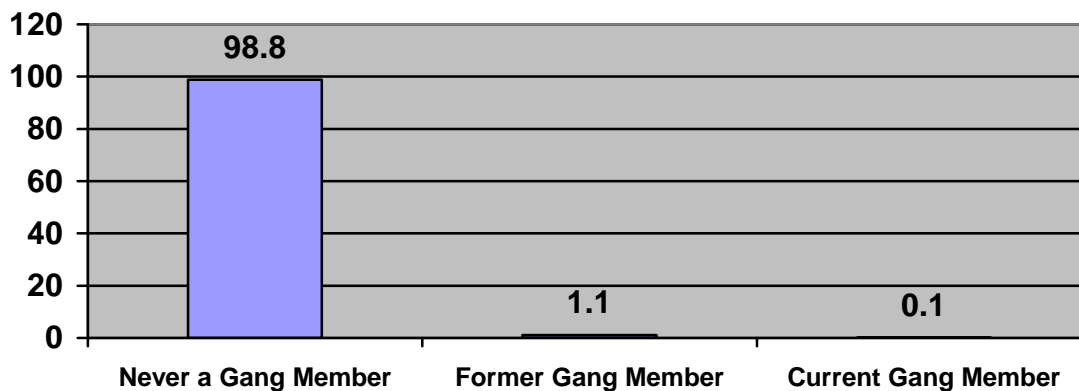
Although the focus of this survey was on criminal victimization, a small section also explored self-reported criminal involvement. In this section respondents were asked 1) three questions about gang membership, 2) five questions about alcohol and drug use, and 3) fourteen questions about their participation in specific property and violent crimes. This data gives insight into the self-reported prevalence rates of crime, and provides a valuable measure by which to estimate the actual number of crimes committed in Jamaica. This contrasts with official crime statistics, which represent crimes known to the police. As Part 5 of this report has indicated, fully 67.5% of the respondents who were victims of crime did not report the incident to the police. If this sample is representative of the Jamaican population, this means that approximately two thirds of all crimes committed in Jamaica are not known by the police, and thus not recorded in official crime statistics. This section thus offers an alternative way to estimate the amount of crime committed in Jamaica. This section also attempts to assess the relationship between self-reported crime and other variables such as gender and age.

Gang Membership

- *Majority of respondents are not and have never been criminal gang members.*

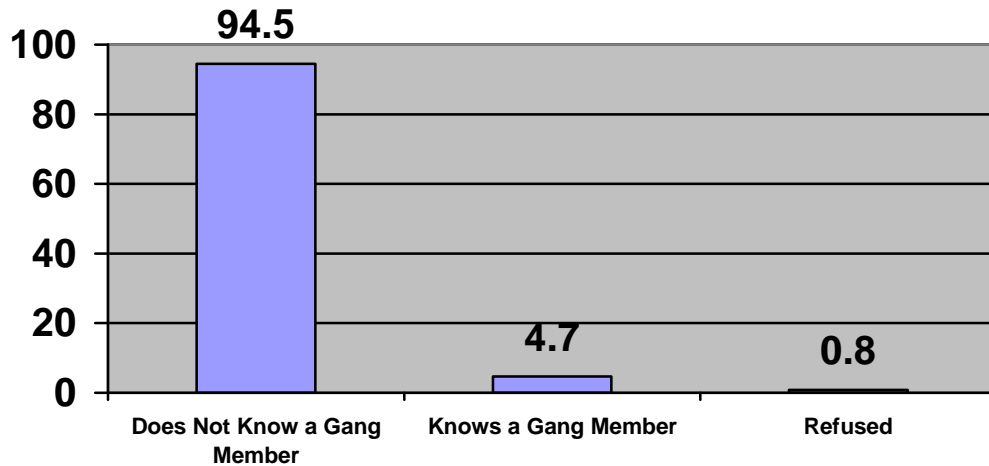
The criminal activity section of the questionnaire began by asking respondents if they had ever been a member of a criminal gang. The results suggest that one out of every 90 respondents (1.1%) has been a gang member at some time in their life. Next respondents were asked whether or not they were currently the member of a criminal gang. Only one out of every 1,000 respondents (0.1%) reported that they are currently the member of a criminal gang. The data also reveal that males are much more likely than females to claim gang membership. In fact, 28 of the 34 (82.4%) former gang members are male. Only 6 (17.6%) are female. Overall, one out of every 50 males (1.9%) has been a gang member, compared to one out of every 250 females (0.4%).

FIGURE 12.1: Percent of Respondents Who have ever been the Member of a Criminal Gang



Respondents were also asked whether they had any family members or close friends who are currently the member of a criminal gang. Approximately one out of every twenty respondents (4.7%) report that they have a family member or close friend who is presently involved in a criminal gang. Of the 145 people who reported knowing someone involved in a gang, 62% were male and 38% were female. In other words, males are twice as likely as females to claim they know a gang member (6% versus 3%).

FIGURE 12.2: Percent of Respondents Who Have a Family Member or Close Friend Who is a Current Member of a Criminal Gang



Alcohol and Drug Use

Respondents were asked a total of five questions about the frequency of their alcohol and drug use. Respondents were asked how frequently within the past twelve months they had consumed alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and any other illicit drugs. Response options included: a) Never; b) Only once or twice; c) Less than once per month; d) About once per month; e) A few times per month; f) About once per week; g) More than once a week; h) Everyday or almost every day; i) Don't know; and j) Refused.

Alcohol and Drug Use Within the last Twelve Months

Table 12.1 displays the frequency of use of Alcohol, Marijuana, Cocaine/Crack and Other Illicit Drugs. Respondents were asked "Have you consumed (stated drug) in the past 12 months?" Responses ranged from "Never" to "Every day or almost every day".

TABLE 12.1:
% of Respondents Who Have Used Alcohol and Illicit Drugs in the Past Twelve Months, By Frequency of Use
(N = 3112 respondents)

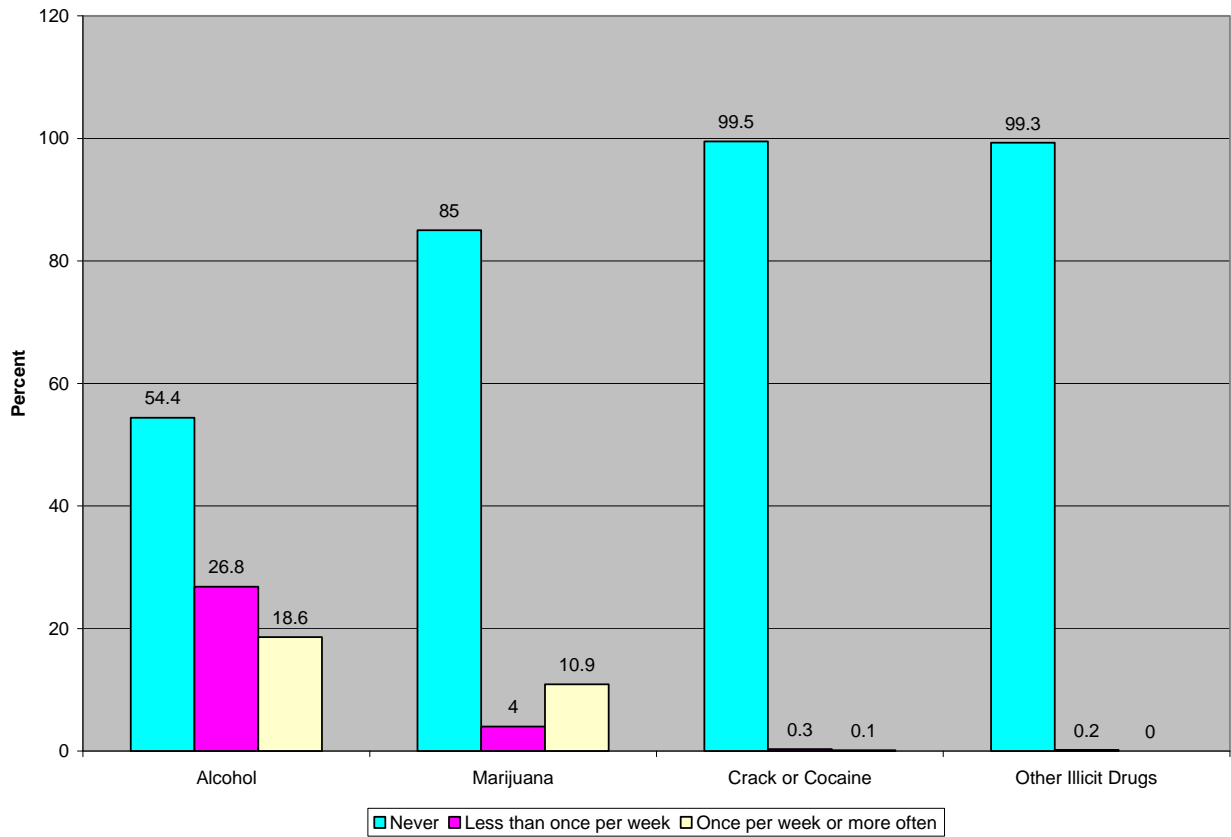
Frequency Of Use	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine or Crack	Other Illicit Drugs
Never	54.4	85.0	99.5	99.3
Once or Twice	6.6	1.7	0.2	0.1
Less than Once per Month	4.7	0.6	0.0	0.1
About Once per Month	8.8	0.7	0.0	0.0
A Few Times per Month	6.8	0.9	0.1	0.0
About Once per Week	9.2	1.5	0.1	0.0
More than Once a Week	5.7	3.2	0.0	0.0
Every Day or Almost Every Day	3.7	6.3	0.0	0.0
Refused/Missing	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5

To simplify the above data, the response categories which indicate the frequency of use were simplified into 1) Never, 2) Less than once per week and 3) Once per week and more. This data is shown below.

TABLE 12.2:
% of Respondents Who Have Used Alcohol and Illicit Drugs in the Past Twelve Months, By Frequency of Use (Simplified)
(N = 3112 respondents)

Frequency Of Use	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine or Crack	Other Illicit Drugs
Never	54.4	85.0	99.5	99.3
Less than once per week	26.8	4.0	0.3	0.2
Once per week or more often	18.6	10.9	0.1	0.0
Refused/Missing	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5

Figure 12.3
% of Respondents Who Have Used Alcohol and
Illicit Drugs in the Past Twelve Months, By Frequency of Use (Simplified)
(N = 3112 respondents)



These data indicates that over half of the sample (54.4%) did not consume alcohol over the past year, while 26.8% used alcohol less than once per week and 18.6% consumed alcohol once per week or more often. One out of every seven respondents (15%) indicated that they had used marijuana in the past twelve months: One out of ten (10.9%) indicated that they had used marijuana at least once per week. Interestingly, the daily use of marijuana (6.3% of all respondents) appears to be slightly more common than the daily consumption of alcohol (3.7% of all respondents) (see Table 12.1).

Besides marijuana, it appears that the use of other illicit drugs in Jamaica is quite uncommon. Indeed, 99.5% of the sample reports that they did not use cocaine or crack in the past year, while only 0.3% of all respondents used it less than once per week and only one out of every thousand (0.1%) used it once per week or more often. Similarly, 99.3% of the respondents stated that they have used any other type of illicit drug, while only 0.2% used such drugs less than once per week. No respondent reported using “other” drugs once per week or more.

Besides marijuana, it appears that the use of other illicit drugs in Jamaica is quite uncommon. Indeed, 99.5% of the sample reports that they did not use cocaine or crack in the past year, while only 0.3% of all respondents used it less than once per week and only one out of every thousand (0.1%) used it once per week or more often. Similarly, 99.3% of the respondents stated that they have used any other type of illicit drug, while only 0.2% used such drugs less than once per week. No respondent reported using “other” drugs once per week or more.

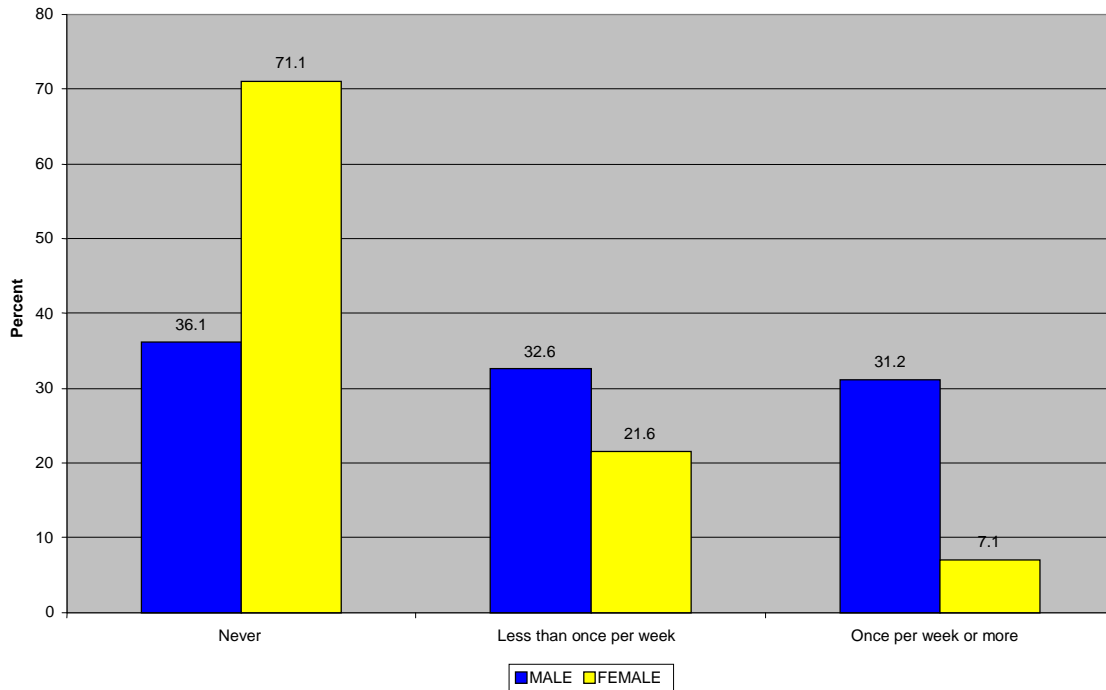
Usage of alcohol as a function of gender

An analysis of alcohol usage as a function of gender reveals that males use alcohol more than females. For example, almost a third of male respondents (31.2%) reported that they use alcohol once per week or more often, compared to only 7.1% of female respondents. In fact, almost three-quarters of the female respondents (71.1%) claimed that they did not consume alcohol at all in the past year, compared to only 36.1% of male respondents.

Table 12.3
Use of alcohol by males and females within the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)

Alcohol Usage	SEX	
	MALE	FEMALE
Don't know/Refused	0.2	0.1
Never	36.1	71.1
Less than once per week	32.6	21.6
Once per week or more	31.2	7.1
Total %	100.0	100.0
Sample size	1483	1629

Figure 12.4
Use of alcohol by males and females within the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)



Usage of alcohol as a function of age

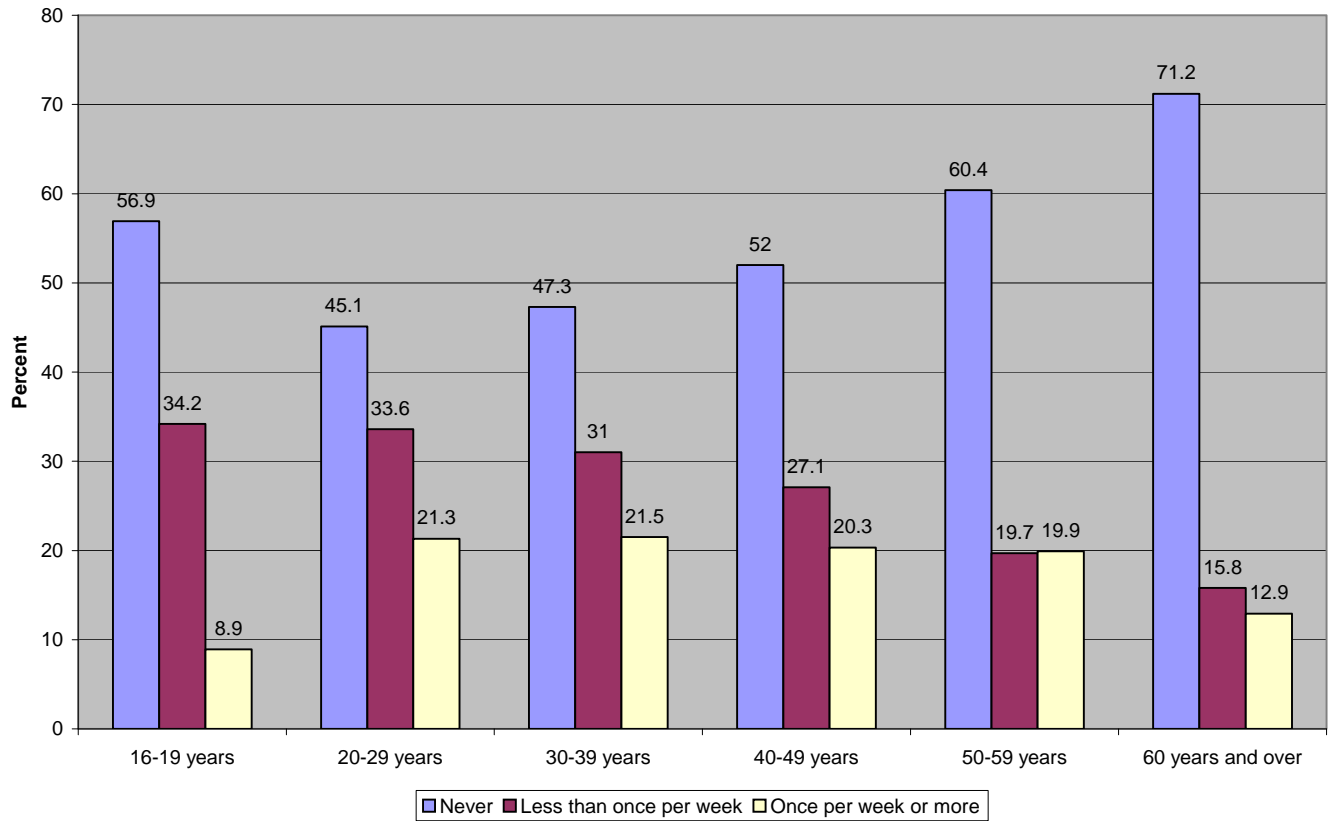
The most frequent usage of alcohol, defined as usage once per week or more, occurred with respondents between the ages of 20 to 59, with the 30-39 age group displaying the highest level of usage. Younger respondents (16-19) and the oldest respondents (60 and over) had the lowest levels of frequent usage. Moderate usage, defined as consumption of alcohol less than once per week, peaked in the two youngest age ranges (16-19 and 20-29) and gradually declined as respondents became older. The 20-29 age group had the lowest percentage of respondents who never used alcohol. That is, this age group overall, consumed more alcohol than any other group. As respondents got younger or older than 20-29, the percentage that never used alcohol increased.

Table 12.4
Use of alcohol by different age groups within the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)

Alcohol Usage	AGE					
	16-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60 years and over
Don't know/Refused	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0
Never	56.9	45.1	47.3	52.0	60.4	71.2
Less than once per week	34.2	33.6	31.0	27.1	19.7	15.8
Once per week or more	8.9	21.3	21.5	20.3	19.9	12.9
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	225	572	738	639	356	518

Figure 12.5
Use of alcohol by different age groups within the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)

Usage of alcohol as a function of age



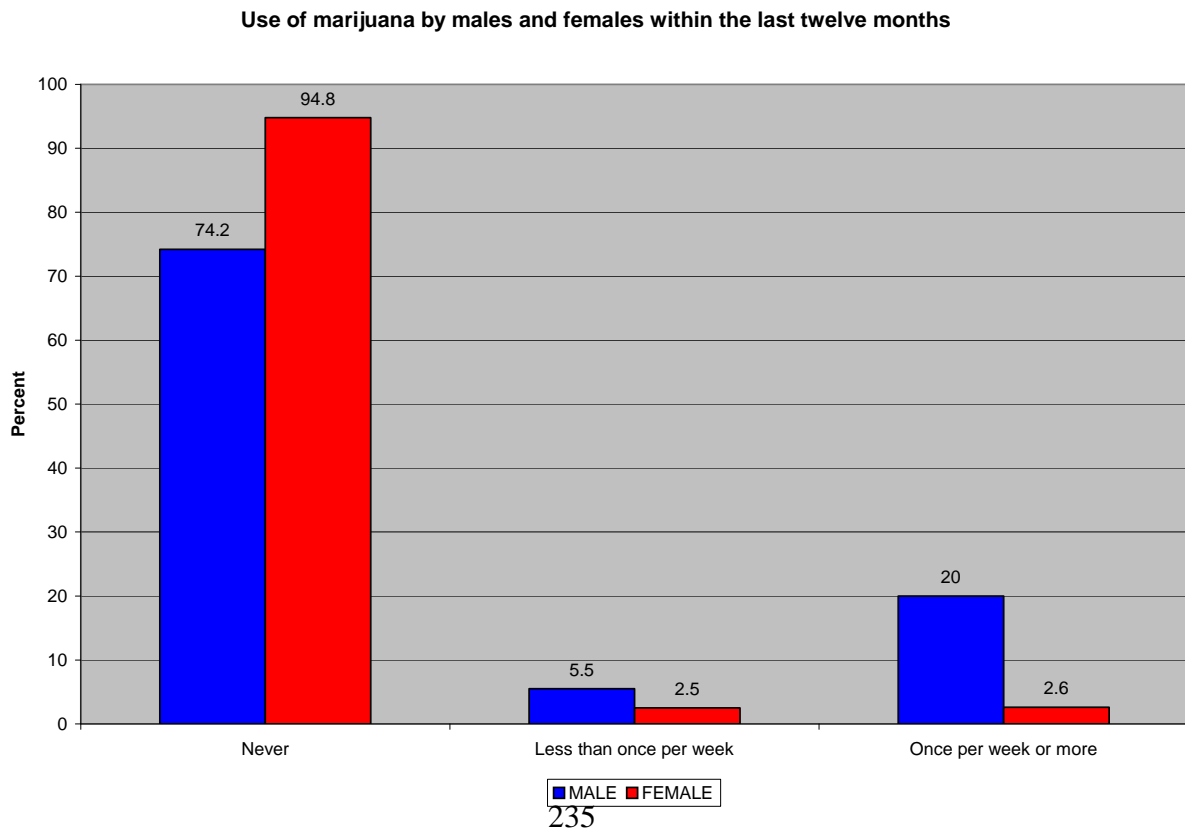
Usage of marijuana as a function of gender

Males use marijuana more than females. 94.8% of females indicated that they never used marijuana within the last twelve months while 74.2% of males so indicated. 5.5% of males used marijuana less than once per week while 2.5% of females did. 20% of males used marijuana more than once per week, compared to 2.6% of females.

Table 12.5
Use of marijuana by males and females within the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)

Marijuana Usage	SEX	
	MALE	FEMALE
Don't know/Refused	0.2	0.0
Never	74.2	94.8
Less than once per week	5.5	2.5
Once per week or more	20.0	2.6
Total%	100.0	100.0
Sample size	1483	1629

Figure 12.6
Use of marijuana by males and females within the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)



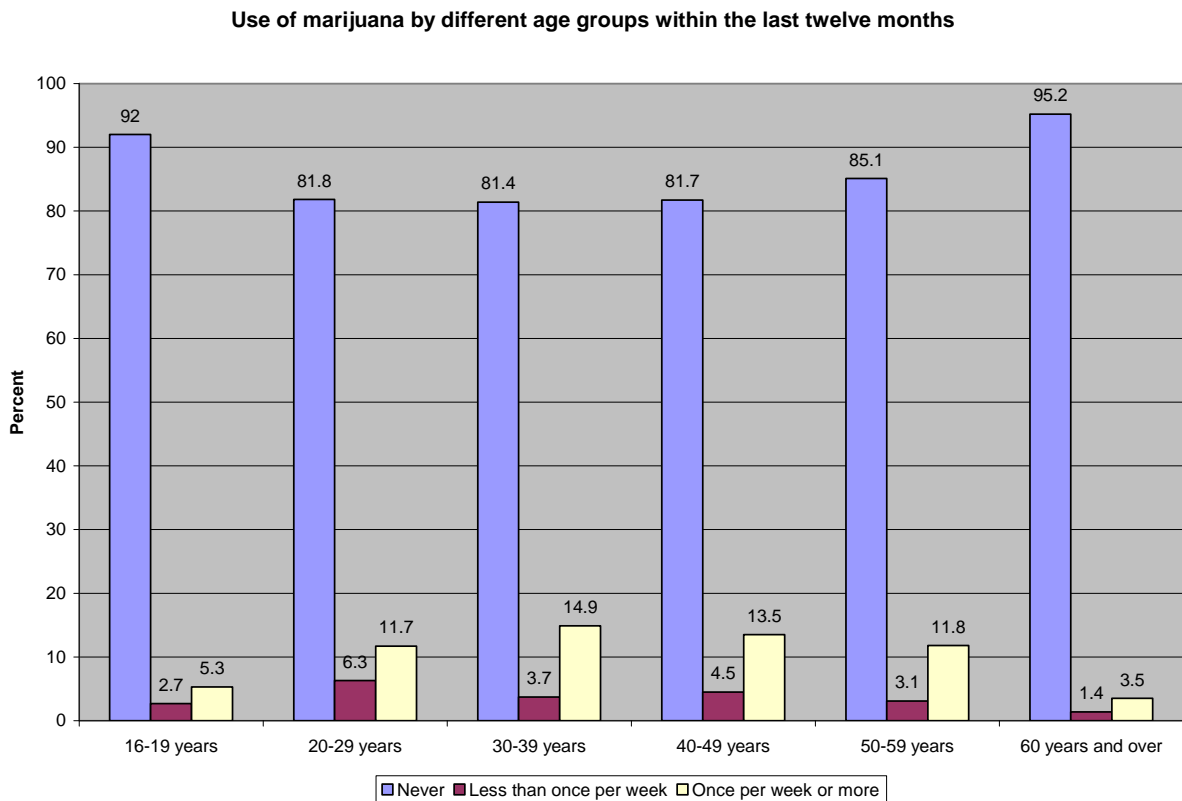
Usage of marijuana as a function of age

The data indicates that marijuana usage is highest between the ages of 30 and 49 years old. 14.9% of respondents between 30 and 39 years of age used marijuana once per week or more, while 13.5% of those aged between 40 and 49 had a similarly high level of usage. The youngest and eldest age ranges had the lowest levels of usage. 92% of those between 16 and 19 never used marijuana within the last twelve months while 95.2% of those 60 and over also did not use within the last twelve months. Moderate (less than once per week) usage of marijuana however, tended to be roughly evenly spread out at different age ranges. The highest level of moderate use was by those 20-29 years old, while the lowest level of moderate use (1.4%) was by those 60 and over. The other age ranges (16-19, 30-39, 40-49 and 50-59) had levels of moderate usage between 2.7% to 4.5%.

Table 12.6
Use of marijuana by different age groups within the last twelve months

Marijuana usage	AGE					
	16-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60 years and over
Don't know/Refused	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Never	92.0	81.8	81.4	81.7	85.1	95.2
Less than once per week	2.7	6.3	3.7	4.5	3.1	1.4
Once per week or more	5.3	11.7	14.9	13.5	11.8	3.5
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	225	572	738	639	356	518

Figure 12.7
Use of marijuana by different age groups within the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)



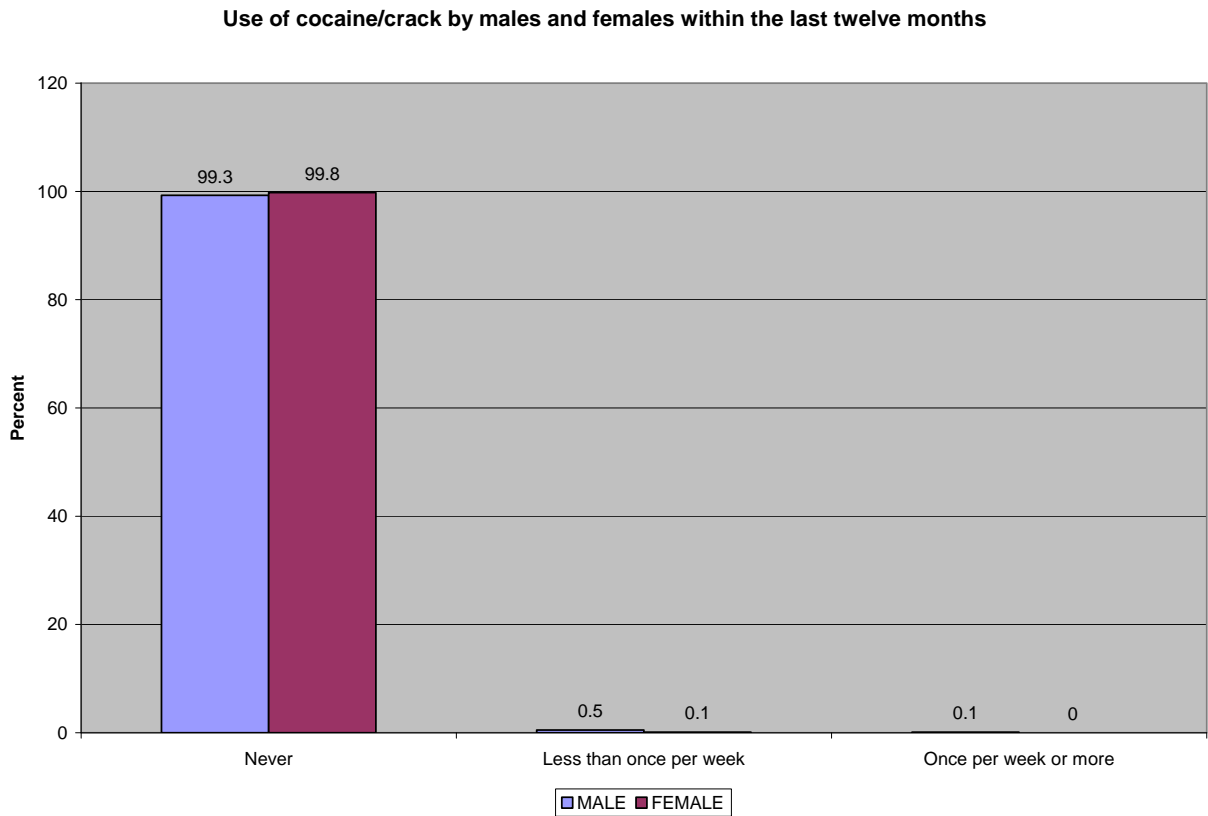
Usage of cocaine/crack as a function of gender

There was little difference in the use of cocaine/crack within the last twelve months by males and females. Similarly high numbers of males and females never used cocaine/crack (99.3% and 99.8% respectively). A very small percentage of males (0.5%) used cocaine/crack less than once per week, while 0.1% used more than once per week. 0.1% of the females interviewed used cocaine/crack less than once per week, and none used more than once per week.

Table 12.7
Use of cocaine/crack by males and females within the last twelve months

Cocaine/Crack Usage	SEX	
	MALE	FEMALE
Don't know/Refused	0.1	0.2
Never	99.3	99.8
Less than once per week	0.5	0.1
Once per week or more	0.1	0.0
Total%	100.0	100.0
Sample size	1483	1629

Figure 12.8
Use of cocaine/crack by males and females within the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)



Usage of cocaine/crack as a function of age

Very few respondents in any age group used cocaine/crack. None of the respondents between the ages of 16-19 and over 60 years used this drug. 0.2% of those between 20 and 29 used cocaine/crack, while 0.5% between 30 and 39 used. 0.6% of those between 40 and 49 used while 0.3% of those between 50 and 59 used cocaine/crack.

Table 12.8
Use of cocaine/crack by different age groups within the last twelve months

Cocaine or Crack usage	AGE					
	16-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60 years and over
Don't know/Refused	0.0	0.2		0.3	0.3	0.0
Never	100.0	99.7	99.5	99.1	99.4	100.0
Less than once per week	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.0
Once per week or more	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	225	572	738	639	356	518

Use of alcohol and illicit drugs by parish

Table 12.9 displays the% of respondents within each parish who used alcohol, marijuana and cocaine or crack within the last twelve months. According to the data, the residents of Westmoreland have the highest rate of alcohol consumption (54.5%), followed closely by Manchester (53.6%), St. Ann (50.8%), St Andrew (50.7%), Kingston (50.3%) and Clarendon (47.4%). The lowest rates of alcohol consumption are found in Trelawny (35%) and St. Mary (34.6%).

With respect to marijuana usage, the highest rates were in Hanover (27.3%), St. Thomas (25.9%), Kingston (19.7%), St. Ann (19%), St. Mary (16.9%), St. Andrew (16.7%) and Westmoreland (13.9%). The lowest of marijuana use are in Clarendon

(9.5%) and St. Elizabeth (9.9%), where less than ten% of respondents reported that they had used marijuana one or more times within the last year.

With respect to cocaine or crack use, the highest rates were St. Thomas (1.7%), Hanover (1.3%), Kingston (0.7%), St. Andrew (0.5%), Clarendon (0.4%) and St. Catherine (0.2%). For the other eight parishes, no respondent reported using crack or cocaine within the last year. Since only three respondents reported using any other illicit drugs, regional comparisons for these substances are not provided.

Table 12.9
% of Respondent Who Have Used Alcohol and
Illicit Drugs in the Past Twelve Months, By Parish
(N = 3112 respondents)

PARISH	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine or crack
Kingston	50.3	19.7	0.7
St. Andrew	50.7	16.7	0.5
St. Catherine	41.8	12.2	0.2
St. Thomas	43.1	25.9	1.7
Portland	35.7	10.7	0.0
St. Mary	34.6	16.9	0.0
St. Ann	50.8	19.0	0.0
Trelawny	35.0	10.0	0.0
St. James	36.4	13.3	0.0
Hanover	41.6	27.3	1.3
Westmoreland	54.5	13.9	0.0
St. Elizabeth	36.2	9.9	0.0
Manchester	53.6	12.5	0.0
Clarendon	47.4	9.5	0.4

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

The remainder of the self-reported crime section asked respondents whether they had engaged in fourteen different types of criminal activities. They were asked to indicate the number of times they had engaged in each of these activities in their lifetime and over the past twelve months. The possible response options were a) Never; b) Once; c) Twice; d) 3 times; e) 4 times; f) 5 to 9 times; g) 10 times or more; h) Don't know; or i) Refused. The lifetime prevalence, and prevalence of criminal activity within the last twelve months will be examined first (see Table 12.10, Figure 12.9 and Figure 12.10).

Subsequent to this, this section will examine gender and age differences in self-reported criminal activity and differences by parish.

Motor Vehicle Theft

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever stolen a motor vehicle like a car, truck or motorcycle?” The results suggest that one out of every 125 respondents (0.8%) has committed motor vehicle theft at some time in their life. One out of every 142 respondents (0.7%) reported having stolen a motor vehicle on two or more occasions in their lifetime. Furthermore, one out of every one hundred and sixty-seven respondents (0.6%) claimed to have stolen a vehicle in the past year. Likewise, 6 in every 1000 respondents claimed that they committed this type of crime more than once in the past year.

Theft from a Motor Vehicle

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever broken into a car or truck to steal something?” The results suggest that one out of every 111 Jamaican respondents (0.9%) has engaged in this type of theft at some time in their life. Eight out of every thousand respondents (0.8%) have broken into a vehicle to steal something more than once. Six in every thousand respondents (0.6%) have committed this crime at least once in the past year, and the same proportion have reportedly broken into a vehicle to steal something on two or more occasions in the past twelve months.

Burglary/Break-ins

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever broken into a home or business to steal something?” The findings show that one out of every 100 Jamaican respondents (1.0%) report that they have burglarized someone’s home or business at some time in their life, and 0.9% of respondents claimed to have done so on two or more occasions. In addition, one out of every 166 respondents (0.6%) admitted to breaking in to a home or business to steal something in the past year. The same proportion of respondents has done so on two or more occasions in the past year.

Theft from Stores or Businesses

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever stolen food or other items from a store or business?” The results indicate that one out of every 58 respondents (1.7%) has engaged in this type of crime and that one out of every 77 respondents (1.3%) has stolen food or other items from a store on two or more occasions. Furthermore, one out of every 125 respondents (0.8%) admitted that they had committed this type of theft in the past twelve months as well as more than once in the past year.

Personal Theft

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever stolen money or other items from a stranger or from somebody that you know?” The results show that almost one out of every 21 Jamaican respondents (4.6%) claim to have stolen money from someone at one time or another. In fact, one out of every 29 respondents (3.4%) admitted that they have done so more than once. Furthermore, one out of every 77 respondents (1.3%) reported that they have committed a personal theft in the past year. Indeed, one out of every 111 respondents (0.9%) claimed that they had stolen from someone on two or more occasions in the last twelve months.

Robbery/Extortion

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever used force or the threat of force to get money or other items from another person?” The findings suggest that one out of every 50 Jamaican respondents (2.0%) has committed robbery or extortion at some point in their life. In fact, one out of every 62 respondents (1.6%) claimed that they have engaged in this type of crime on more than one occasion. Furthermore, one out of every ninety respondents (1.1%) admits that they have engaged in robbery/extortion within the last year. Also, one out of every 125 respondents (0.8%) states that they have committed this type of crime two or more times during the past year.

Physical Fights

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever been in a physical fight with another person?” The results suggest that almost one out of every two Jamaican respondents

(45.7%) has been involved in a physical fight at one time or another. One out of every three respondents (34.9%) claimed to have been in a fight on two or more occasions. It is important to note, however, that the proportion notably decreases for those who report engaging in fights within the past year. For example, the results also reveal that only one out of every fourteen respondents (7.2%) reported that they have fought with another person in the past twelve months, and one out of every thirty respondents (3.3%) stated that they were involved in a fight more than once in the past year.

Serious Assault

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever punched or kicked someone when they were not fighting back?” The results indicate that one out of every fourteen Jamaican respondents (7.3%) has admitted to committing a serious assault at some point in their life. In fact, one out of twenty respondents (5.1%) has deliberately assaulted someone twice or more. However, one out of every 50 respondents (2.0%) reports that they have seriously assaulted someone in the past year, and one out of every 77 respondents (1.3%) has done this on two or more occasions within the last year.

Assault with a Weapon

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever attacked someone with a weapon and tried to seriously hurt them?” The results suggest that one out of every twenty Jamaican respondents (5.1%) has attacked another person with a weapon at some time in their life. In fact, one out of every thirty-five respondents (2.8%) has reportedly engaged in an assault with a weapon against someone two or more times. However, the results show that one out of every 62 respondents (1.6%) report that they have committed an assault with a weapon in the past year, and one out of every 90 respondents (1.1%) have committed this type of crime on two or more occasions in the last twelve months.

Carried a Gun

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever carried a gun in public?” The findings show that one out of every 35 Jamaican respondents (2.8%) has carried a gun at one time or another. Indeed, one out of every 47 respondents (2.1%) reported that they

have carried a gun more than once. Furthermore, one out of every fifty-two respondents (1.9%) has carried a gun in the past twelve months. Also, one out of every sixty-two respondents (1.6%) has carried a gun in public on more than two occasions in the past year.

Used a Gun

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever used a gun on another person?” The results indicate that one out of every ninety respondents (1.1%) has reportedly used a gun at some time in their life. In fact, one out of every one hundred and eleven respondents (0.9%) claimed that they have used a gun on two or more occasions. In addition, one out of every 125 respondents (0.8%) claimed that they have used a gun in the past year. Actually, one in every 142 respondents (0.7%) indicated that they had used a gun more than once in the past twelve months.

Drug Trafficking

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever sold illegal drugs?” The results suggest that one out of every forty-one respondents (2.4%) has sold drugs at some point in their life. One out of every forty-seven respondents (2.1%) claimed that they have engaged in drug trafficking two or more times. Furthermore, one out of every 90 respondents (1.1%) reported that they have sold illegal drugs within the last twelve months, and the same proportion stated that they have sold illegal drugs on two or more occasions in the past year.

Carried or Held Drugs

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever held or carried drugs for someone else?” The results suggest that one out of every 55 Jamaican respondents (1.8%) has carried or held drugs at some time in their life. Indeed, one out of every 77 respondents (1.3%) reported that on two or more occasions they have carried or held drugs for someone. Furthermore, one out of every one hundred respondents (1.0%) claimed that they had done so in the last twelve months. Less than one% of respondents (0.7%)

admitted that they carried or held drugs for someone two or more times within the last year.

Prostitution

All respondents were asked: “Have you ever had sex with someone for money?” The findings indicate that one out of every 55 Jamaican respondents (1.8%) has been involved in prostitution at some time in their life. Furthermore, one out of every 62 respondents (1.6%) claimed that they have had sex with someone for money on two or more occasions. In addition, one out of every ninety respondents (1.1%) claimed that they have engaged in sex for money in the past year. One% of respondents admitted that they have committed this crime twice or more in the past twelve months.

Figure 12.9: Percent of Respondents Who Have Engaged in Various Criminal Activities in their Lifetime

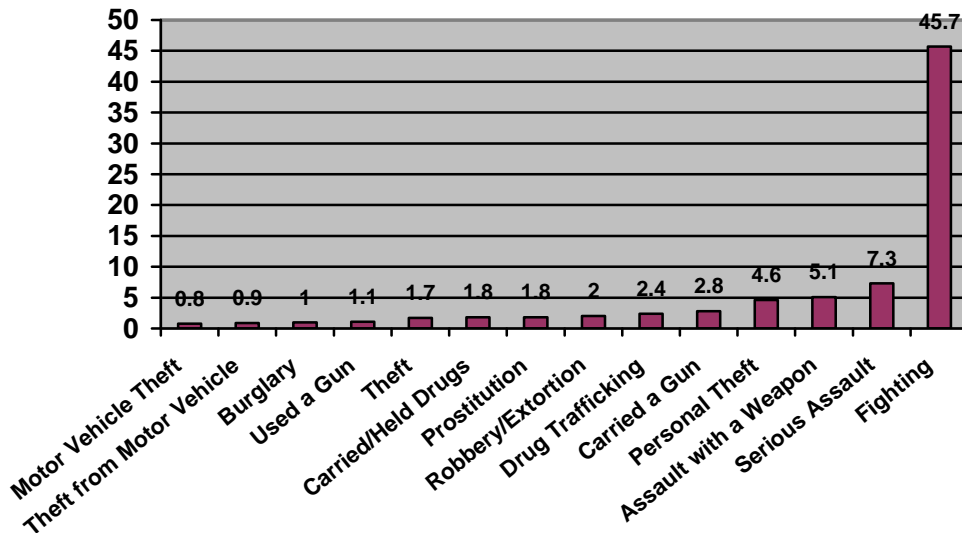


Figure 12.10: Percent of Respondents Who Have Engaged in Various Criminal Activities in the Past Year

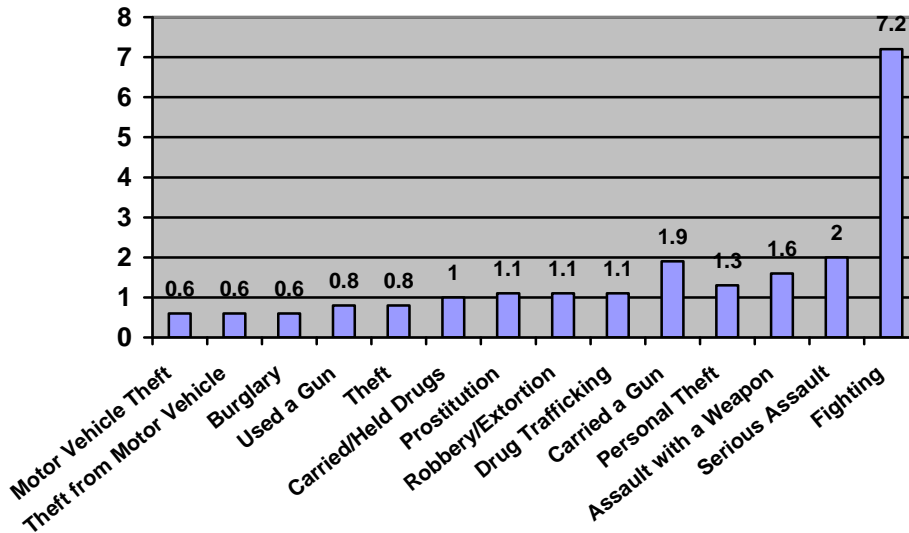


Table 12.10
% of Respondents Who Have Engaged in Specific Criminal or Deviant Activities in Their Lifetime and in the Past Twelve Months
 (N = 3112 respondents)

TYPE OF CRIME	NEVER	EVER	PAST YEAR	REFUSED
Fighting	54.1	45.7	7.2	0.2
Serious Assault	92.5	7.3	2.0	0.2
Assault with a Weapon	94.7	5.1	1.6	0.2
Personal Theft	95.2	4.6	1.3	0.2
Carried a Gun	96.9	2.8	1.9	0.3
Drug Trafficking	97.4	2.4	1.1	0.2
Robbery/Extortion	97.8	2.0	1.1	0.2
Prostitution	98.0	1.8	1.1	0.2
Carried or Held Drugs	97.9	1.8	1.0	0.3
Theft from Stores or Businesses	98.1	1.7	0.8	0.2
Used a Gun	98.6	1.1	0.8	0.3
Burglary/Break-ins	98.8	1.0	0.6	0.2
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	98.9	0.9	0.6	0.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	99.0	0.8	0.6	0.2

Self reported criminal activities as a function of gender

Gender differences in self-reported criminal activity within the respondents' lifetime, and within the last year were investigated. On average, for the vast majority of crimes investigated, the lifetime prevalence, and prevalence within the last year for males was higher than for females. The greatest disparities in the rates of offences committed for males compared to females within the last twelve months, in descending order, were for the crimes of carrying a gun, drug trafficking, fighting, and assault with a weapon. Only for personal theft and theft from stores or businesses did females have slightly higher rates than males.

With respect to lifetime prevalence of offences committed, the greatest difference between males and females, in descending order, were for fighting, carrying a gun, assault with a weapon, drug trafficking, personal theft, and serious assault. In terms of lifetime prevalence, males consistently had higher rates of offences than females for all crimes.

Table 12.11
Lifetime prevalence and prevalence within the last year of crimes committed as a function of gender
 (N = 3112 respondents)

TYPE OF CRIME	Ever			Past Year		
	Male	Female	M - F	Male	Female	M - F
Motor Vehicle Theft	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.1
Burglary/Break-ins	1.1	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1
Theft from Stores or Businesses	2.0	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.1
Personal Theft	5.7	3.4	2.3	1.2	1.3	0.1
Robbery/Extortion	2.3	1.6	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.2
Fighting	51.0	40.5	10.5	7.6	6.9	0.7
Serious Assault	8.0	6.3	1.7	2.2	1.8	0.4
Assault with a Weapon	6.7	3.6	3.1	1.9	1.3	0.6
Carried a Gun	4.6	1.2	3.4	3.0	1.0	2.0
Used a Gun	1.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.4
Drug Trafficking	3.6	1.2	2.4	1.8	0.8	1.0
Prostitution	2.0	1.5	0.5	1.1	1.0	0.1
Carried or Held Drugs	2.5	1.1	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.4

Self reported criminal activities within the last year as a function of age

An examination of the prevalence of different types of crimes committed, as a function of age, revealed a pattern not unlike the well-known age-crime curve. For all crimes except serious assault and carrying a gun, the 16-19 year old respondents had the highest rates of representation. For serious assault, the 20-29 age group had the highest rates, followed by the 30-39 age group. For carrying a gun, the 40-49 age group had the highest rates, followed by the 30-39 and 50-59 age groups. As such, the peak in the age crime curve for this sample of respondents, when crimes committed within the last year is considered, is 16-19 years old, except for serious assault and carrying a gun. For these crimes, the highest rates occur for somewhat older respondents. At other ages which diverge from the peak age of committing crimes, the rates of committing each type of crime decreases. Note that the present sample does not have data for respondents younger than 16, and thus cannot comment on the prevalence of crimes for ages lower than 16. The relative standing of such younger age ranges should be investigated in subsequent research.

Table 12.12
% of respondents of different ages who committed different types of crimes within
the last twelve months
(N = 3112 respondents)

Type of crime	Age					
	16-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60 years and over
Motor Vehicle Theft	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.4
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.4
Burglary/Break-ins	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.4
Theft from Stores or Businesses	2.2	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4
Personal Theft	3.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.4
Robbery/Extortion	1.8	1.4	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.4
Fighting	20.1	10.5	8.2	5.2	4.2	1.9
Serious Assault	3.1	3.3	2.4	0.9	2.0	0.8
Assault with a Weapon	2.7	2.1	2.2	1.1	1.4	0.6
Carried a Gun	1.3	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.2
Used a Gun	1.8	1.1	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.6
Drug Trafficking	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.1	0.4
Prostitution	1.8	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.4
Carried or Held Drugs	1.8	1.6	0.4	1.3	0.3	0.4

Lifetime prevalence of criminal activities as a function of age

The lifetime prevalence of self reported crimes as a function of age of the respondent differs in important ways from the prevalence of crime within the last year. For many crimes, older age groups have higher prevalence rates than the youngest age group. In fact, the 16-19 year old group has the highest lifetime prevalence rates only for motor vehicle theft (along with the 40-49 group), theft from a motor vehicle, fighting, and assault with a weapon. For all of the other types of crimes, other groups have higher prevalence rates. For burglary and break-ins, the 20-29 and 40-49 age ranges have the highest prevalence rates at 1.4% of each group having committed this type of crime in their lifetime. For theft from stores or businesses, the 40-49 age group has the highest lifetime prevalence rate (2.4%) followed by those 16-19 years old (2.2%). For personal theft, the 40-49 age group has the highest prevalence (6.6%) followed by the 16-19 group (5.8%). For robbery and extortion, the 20-29 and 30-39 age groups have the highest rates (2.5% and 2.3% respectively). For serious assaults, the 20-29 age group has the highest rates, and are closely followed by the 16-19 group (9.3% and 8.5% respectively). For carrying a gun, the 40-49 age group has the highest lifetime prevalence rate (4.6%) followed by the 30-39 age group (3.1%).

Table 12.13
% of respondents of different ages who committed different types of crimes within
their lifetime

(N = 3112 respondents)

Type of crime	Age					
	16-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60 years and over
Motor Vehicle Theft	1.3	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.3	0.6
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	1.3	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.6
Burglary/Break-ins	1.3	1.4	0.7	1.4	0.3	1.0
Theft from Stores or Businesses	2.2	2.1	1.6	2.4	0.8	0.8
Personal Theft	5.8	4.9	4.6	6.6	3.1	2.1
Robbery/Extortion	1.8	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	0.6
Fighting	52.5	49.0	49.0	45.9	41.8	35.2
Serious Assault	8.5	9.3	6.9	6.6	7.6	4.3
Assault with a Weapon	6.7	5.6	6.5	5.6	3.9	2.5
Carried a Gun	1.8	2.1	3.1	4.6	2.8	1.6
Used a Gun	1.8	1.2	0.8	1.7	1.1	0.8
Drug Trafficking	2.2	2.1	2.7	3.6	2.0	1.4
Prostitution	2.2	2.3	1.5	2.2	1.4	0.8
Carried or Held Drugs	2.7	2.3	1.5	2.4	.8	1.2

Self reported criminal activities within the last year according to parish

Table 12.14 shows the percentage of respondents within each parish who reported criminal offending within the last twelve months. For motor vehicle theft, 5.2% of the respondents from St. Thomas admitted to having committed this crime within the last twelve months. This was followed by St. Andrew (1.1%), Manchester (1%) and St. Catherine (0.5%). No respondents from any other parish admitted to auto theft within the last year.

For theft from a motor vehicle, 6% of the respondents from St. Thomas admitted to committing this crime within the last year. This was followed by St. Andrew (1.1%), Manchester (1%) and St. Catherine (0.5%). No respondents from any other parish admitted to this crime within the last year.

With respect to burglary/break-ins, 6% of the respondents from St. Thomas admitted to having committed this crime within the last twelve months. This was followed by St Andrew (1.1%), Manchester (1%) and St. Catherine (0.5%). No respondents from any other parish admitted to this crime within the last year.

The highest rates of theft from stores occurred for St. Thomas, where 6% of the interviewees admitted to having committed this crime within the last year. This was followed by St. Andrew (1.8%), Manchester (1%), St. Catherine (0.5%) and St. James (0.4%). No respondents from any other parish admitted to this crime within the last year.

Within the last year, personal theft was committed by 6% of the respondents in St. Thomas, 2.2% in St. Ann, 2.1% in Manchester, 1.8% in St. Andrew, 1.7% in St. Catherine, and 0.7% in Kingston. No respondents from any other parish admitted to this crime within the last year.

Within the last year, robbery/extortion was committed by 6% of the respondents in St. Thomas, 1.9% in St. Andrew, 1% in Manchester, 0.8% in St. Catherine, 0.7% in St. Elizabeth, 0.6% in St. Ann and 0.4% in St. James. No respondents from any other parish admitted to this crime within the last year.

Within the last year, 11.7% of the respondents from Hanover admitted to engaging in fighting. This was followed by 11.3% in St. Thomas, 10.1% in St. Andrew, 8.3% in St. Catherine, 7.5% in both Kingston and Trelawny, and 6.1% in both St. Ann and Clarendon. The other parishes had lower percentages of respondents who engaged in fighting within the last year, with one parish (Portland) having 0%.

Within the last year, 6.9% of the respondents from St. Thomas committed serious assault (without a weapon). This was followed by St. Andrew (4.2%) and Hanover (2.6%). The other parishes had rates lower than 2%, with Trelawny, Clarendon, St. Mary and Portland all having no respondents who committed serious assault within the last year.

Within the last year, 6.0% of the respondents from St. Thomas committed assault with the use of a weapon. This was followed by St. Andrew (3.8%) and St. Ann (2.2%). The parishes of Manchester, Kingston, St. Catherine, Westmoreland and St. James all had rates lower than 2%, while the other 6 parishes had 0%.

Within the last year, 4.3% of the respondents from St. Thomas admitted to carrying a gun. This was followed by St. Andrew (3.2%), St. Catherine (2.7%), Manchester (2.6%) and Westmoreland (2.4%). The parishes of St. James and Kingston had 0.9% and 0.7% respectively. The other 6 parishes all had 0%.

Within the last year, 4.3% of the respondents from St. Thomas admitted to using a gun. This was followed by St. Andrew (1.5%), Manchester (1%), St. Catherine (0.8%), and St. Ann (0.6%). No respondents from any other parish admitted to this crime within the last year.

Within the last year, 6% of the respondents from St. Thomas admitted to drug trafficking. This was followed by St. Andrew (1.9%), St Ann (1.7%), St. Catherine (1.4%), Hanover (1.3%) and Manchester (1%). The parishes of St. Mary, Kingston, St. Elizabeth, and Westmoreland all had rates lower than 1%, with the remaining 4 parishes having 0%.

Within the last year, 6% of the respondents from St. Thomas admitted to prostitution. This was followed by St. Andrew (2.2%) and Manchester (1%). The parishes of St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, Westmoreland, St. Catherine and Clarendon all had rates lower than 1%, and the remaining 6 parishes had rates of 0%.

Within the last year, 5.2% of the respondents from St. Thomas admitted to carrying or holding drugs. This was followed by St. Andrew (1.4%), Trelawny (1.3%), St. Ann (1.1%), Manchester and St. Catherine (both 1%), and St. James (0.4%). The remainder of parishes has no respondents admitting to carrying or holding drugs within the last year.

Table 12.14
% of respondents who have committed different types of crimes within the last
twelve months according to parish
(N = 3112 respondents)

PARISH	Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft from a Motor Vehicle	Burglary/Break-ins	Theft from Stores	Personal Theft	Robbery/Extortion	Fighting	Serious Assault	Assault with a Weapon	Carried a Gun	Used a Gun	Drug Trafficking	Prostitution	Carried or Held Drugs
Kingston	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	7.5	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0
St. Andrew	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.9	10.1	4.2	3.8	3.2	1.5	1.9	2.2	1.4
St. Catherine	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.7	0.8	8.3	1.0	0.7	2.7	0.8	1.4	0.5	1.0
St. Thomas	5.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	11.3	6.9	6.0	4.3	4.3	6.0	6.0	5.2
Portland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
St. Mary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
St. Ann	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.6	6.1	1.7	2.2	1.7	0.6	1.7	0.6	1.1
Trelawny	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
St. James	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	5.3	1.8	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Hanover	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0
Westmoreland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	1.2	0.6	2.4	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.0
St. Elizabeth	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	3.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0
Manchester	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.1	1.0	5.7	1.6	1.6	2.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Clarendon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0

Self reported criminal activities (lifetime prevalence) according to parish

Table 12.15 shows the percentage of respondents in each parish who reported criminal offending within their lifetime. 5.2% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in auto theft one or more times. This was followed by Manchester (2.1%), St. Andrew (1.5%), St. Ann and Westmoreland (both 0.6%). No respondents from any other parish admitted to having committed this crime in their lifetime.

6% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in theft from a motor vehicle one or more times. This was followed by Manchester (1.6%), St. Andrew (1.5%), St. Catherine (0.7%) and St. Ann and Westmoreland (both 0.6%). No respondents from any other parish admitted to having committed this crime in their lifetime.

6% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in burglary/break-ins one or more times. This was followed by Westmoreland (1.8%), Manchester (1.6%), St. Andrew (1.5%), St. Ann (1.1%) and St. Catherine (0.8%). No respondents from any other parish admitted to having committed this crime in their lifetime.

6% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in theft from stores one or more times. This was followed by St. James (2.7%), St. Andrew (2.6%), Manchester (2.1%), St. Catherine (1.7%), St. Mary (1.5%), and Trelawny (1.3%). The parishes of Clarendon, Westmoreland and St. Ann all had rates lower than 1%. And the remaining 4 parishes had 0%.

12.4% of the respondents from St. Ann report that within their lifetime, they engaged in personal theft one or more times. This was followed by Manchester (10.9%), St. Thomas (7.8%), Westmoreland (5.5%), St. James (4.9%), St. Catherine (4.7%), St. Andrew (3.5%), Kingston (3.4%), Clarendon (3.1%), and Trelawny (1.3%). St. Mary and St. Elizabeth had rates lower than 1% and Portland and Hanover had rates of 0%.

6.9% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in robbery/extortion one or more times. This was followed by St. Ann (3.9%), St. Andrew (3.4%), Manchester (2.6%), St. Catherine (1.4%), and Hanover (1.3%).

Clarendon, Kingston, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland and St. James all had rates lower than 1% while Trelawny, St. Mary and Portland all had 0%.

69% of the respondents from Kingston report that within their lifetime, they engaged in fighting one or more times. This was followed by Clarendon (61.2%), St. Thomas (55.3%), St. Catherine (55%), Hanover (51.4%). The parishes of Manchester, Westmoreland, St. Andrew, St. Ann and St. James all had rates between 40% and 50%. The lowest rates were for St. Mary (9.2%).

19.7% of the respondents from Hanover report that within their lifetime, they engaged in serious assault (without a weapon) one or more times. This was followed by Kingston (16.6%), St. Thomas (16.5%), St. Andrew (9.1%), St. Ann (8.4%), Manchester (6.3%), St. Catherine (5.9%) and Trelawny (5%). The other parishes had rates lower than 5%, with Portland having 0%.

12.2% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in assault with a weapon one or more times. This was followed by Westmoreland (7.3%), St. Andrew (7.2%), and Manchester (6.3%). All other parishes had rate lower than 5% with St. Mary having the lowest rate of 0.8%.

4.7% of the respondents from Manchester report that within their lifetime, they carried a gun one or more times. This was followed by St. Thomas, Westmoreland and St. Andrew (all 4.3%), St. Catherine (3.9%), St. Ann (1.7%), St. Elizabeth and St. James (both 1.3%), Clarendon (0.9%) and Kingston (0.7%). The other 4 parishes had rates of 0%.

4.3% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they used a gun one or more times. This was followed by Manchester (2.1%), St. Andrew and St. Catherine (both 1.9%), St. Elizabeth (0.7%), St. Ann (0.6%) and Clarendon (0.4%). The other 7 parishes had rates of 0%.

8.6% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in drug trafficking one or more times. This was followed by Westmoreland (4.8%), Manchester (3.6%), St. Andrew (3.1%), Hanover (2.6%), St. Catherine and St. Elizabeth (both 2%), St. Ann (1.7%), and Trelawny (1.3%). The other parishes had rates lower than 1%.

7.8% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in prostitution one or more times. This was followed by Westmoreland and St. Andrew (both 3%), Manchester (2.1%), and St. Elizabeth (2%). All other parishes had rates lower than 2%, with 5 parishes having 0%.

5.3% of the respondents from St. Thomas report that within their lifetime, they engaged in carrying or holding drugs one or more times. This was followed by Manchester (3.6%), St. Andrew (2.6%), Westmoreland (2.4%) and St. Elizabeth (2%). All other parishes had rates lower than 2% with 2 parishes having rates of 0%.

Table 12.15
% of respondents who have committed different types of crimes within their lifetime, according to parish
(N = 3112 respondents)

PARISH	Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft from a Motor Vehicle	Burglary/Break-ins	Theft from Stores	Personal Theft	Robbery/Extortion	Fighting	Serious Assault	Assault with a Weapon	Carried a Gun	Used a Gun	Drug Trafficking	Prostitution	Carried or Held Drugs
Kingston	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.7	69.0	16.6	2.7	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7
St. Andrew	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.6	3.5	3.4	42.6	9.1	7.2	4.3	1.9	3.1	3.0	2.6
St. Thomas	5.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	7.8	6.9	55.3	16.5	12.2	4.3	4.3	8.6	7.8	5.3
Portland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.9	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
St. Mary	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.8	0.0	9.2	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
St. Ann	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.6	12.4	3.9	40.2	8.4	3.9	1.7	0.6	1.7	1.1	1.1
Trelawny	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.3	0.0	38.8	5.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.3
St. James	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	4.9	0.4	40.0	3.1	3.1	1.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Hanover	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	51.4	19.7	3.9	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.3	1.3
Westmoreland	0.6	0.6	1.8	0.6	5.5	0.6	46.7	4.8	7.3	4.3	0.0	4.8	3.0	2.4
St. Elizabeth	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	25.8	2.6	3.3	1.3	0.7	2.0	2.0	2.0
Manchester	2.1	1.6	1.6	2.1	10.9	2.6	48.2	6.3	6.3	4.7	2.1	3.6	2.1	3.6
Clarendon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	3.1	0.9	61.2	3.9	3.9	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.9
St. Catherine	0.0	0.7	0.8	1.7	4.7	1.4	55.0	5.9	4.9	3.9	1.9	2.0	1.0	1.4

Self reported criminal activities and victimization

The analysis here attempts to determine if victimization is related to self reported criminal activity. 736 or 23.7% of the respondents in the sample were victims of crime

within the last 12 months. In this analysis, they are described as ‘victims’. The other respondents are described as ‘non-victims’. A comparison of the frequency of crimes committed, both within the past year and lifetime prevalence, for victims of crime versus non-victims, indicates that invariably, victims commit more crimes than non-victims.

Victimization may be related to committing crime in a number of ways. For example, those who are victims may have a greater sense of anger and frustration, and this may manifest itself as reduced inhibitions, or alternatively as justification for committing crime. Alternatively, those who are prone to committing crime may more frequently find themselves in situations which increase their vulnerability to becoming a victim of crime; this is an opportunity explanation. Related to this, some may have personality types or characteristics, such as low self-control or antisocial personalities, which may predispose them to commit crime, as well as become victims of crime.

Table 12.16
% of victims and non-victims who have committed crimes within the past year and
in their lifetime
(N = 3112 respondents)

TYPE OF CRIME	Past year		Ever	
	Non-Victim	Victim	Non-Victim	Victim
Motor Vehicle Theft	0.5	0.8	0.8	1.1
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	0.5	1.0	0.8	1.1
Burglary/Break-ins	0.5	1.0	0.9	1.2
Theft from Stores or Businesses	0.8	1.0	1.6	2.0
Personal Theft	1.1	1.9	4.1	6.0
Robbery/Extortion	0.9	1.4	1.9	2.0
Fighting	5.6	12.5	43.2	53.0
Serious Assault	1.6	3.1	6.3	9.7
Assault with a Weapon	1.3	2.6	4.6	6.5
Carried a Gun	1.9	2.2	2.6	3.4
Used a Gun	0.7	1.1	1.1	1.5
Drug Trafficking	1.1	1.8	2.1	3.3
Prostitution	0.9	1.4	1.6	2.0
Carried or Held Drugs	0.7	1.5	1.5	2.7

SUMMARY

In general, the results of this self-reported criminal activity section of the survey indicate that criminal involvement among the average Jamaican is quite low. There are few Jamaicans who are or have ever been a member of a criminal gang. Only about 1% of Jamaicans reported having ever been a member of a criminal gang, with only 3 respondents claiming current gang membership. The data also shows that males are much more involved in gang membership than females. Over 80% of reported former gang members are male.

In addition, while it is clear that in the past twelve months almost half of all Jamaicans have had alcohol, and about 15% have used marijuana, very few have used cocaine (0.4%) or other illicit drugs (0.2%). With respect to specific criminal activity, the findings suggest that Jamaicans are most involved in fights (45.7%), serious assaults (7.3%) and assaults with a weapon (5.1%), personal theft (4.6%), and carrying guns (2.8%). The findings illustrate that fighting is by far the most common type of criminal activity in Jamaica, followed by serious assault and assault with a weapon, though there is a significant gap between the proportion who reported involvement in fighting and participation in all of the other types of crime. In terms of property crime, personal thefts and theft from stores or businesses are most prevalent, while motor vehicle theft and theft from a motor vehicle are less common. The ranking of recent criminal involvement is quite consistent with the results for lifetime criminal activity. However, it is interesting to note that in the past year, the proportion of respondents who report having carried a gun is more than those who reported engaging in assaults with a weapon and personal theft. Importantly, overall, less than 2% of Jamaicans are or have ever been engaged in any one type of criminal activity.

PART THIRTEEN: CONCLUSION

The sections above have documented the major findings from the 2006 Jamaican National Crime Victimization Survey (JCVS). The JCVS is the first victimization survey in Jamaica that is based on a large, representative sample of the general Jamaican population. An extensive review of the literature reveals that the 2006 JCVS is likely the largest, most extensive victimization survey ever conducted in the West Indies. As such, this study has made a valuable contribution to the study of crime in Jamaica and the entire Caribbean region. However, as the findings presented above demonstrate, this survey is about much more than criminal victimization. This research project has also provided information about how Jamaican residents deal with crime, why they do or do not report criminal incidents to the police and how crimes have affected their lives. The survey also produced data on Jamaican residents' fear of crime and the measures they sometimes take to protect themselves from becoming crime victims. In addition, the project documented how Jamaicans feel about the criminal justice system – how they evaluate the activities of the police, the courts, the prison system and specific crime prevention programs. Finally, the survey examined how the Jamaican population is thinking about crime prevention – about what policies and government programs they think will reduce crime in this country.

Highlights

An extensive review of the major findings is provided in the Executive Summary. However, this section briefly highlights findings that deserve special attention.

- The vast majority of respondents felt that their community has less crime than other areas of Jamaica.
- Most respondents felt that crime has neither increased nor decreased in their community over the past five years. Furthermore, one out of four respondents felt that crime in their community had actually decreased. Nonetheless, one out of every five respondents felt that crime had increased in their community over the past five years.
- The majority of respondents felt relatively safe in their own homes or walking in their own communities at night. However, between 40% and 50% of all respondents felt unsafe or very unsafe when they engaged in various activities

after dark. These activities include using public transportation, going to restaurants, going to work or school and going shopping.

- Many respondents were worried that they could become the victim of a violent crime. For example, two thirds of all respondents were worried that they may become the victim of an armed robbery and 61% were worried that they may be attacked by a stranger.
- Respondents identified drug use and drug trafficking as the most prevalent problems in their communities. Robbery was also quite common in many areas.
- More than a quarter of all respondents reported that they heard gunshots in their communities at least once per month. One out of every ten respondents reported that they heard gunshots at least once per week.
- Over a third of respondents believed that there is at least one corner crew operating in their communities. By contrast, only 4% of respondents reported that their community has an Area Don. Respondents felt that corner crews and Area Dons can have both a positive and a negative impact on their communities.
- The results suggest that two out of every three respondents had been victims of a crime at some point in their lives. One out of every four respondents was the victim of a crime in the past year.
- In general, minor forms of property victimization (personal theft, larceny, etc.) were more prevalent than violent victimization (robbery, assault, assault with a weapon, etc.) or major property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, etc.).
- Men and younger people were somewhat more likely to be the victim of a recent crime than women or older people. However, women were much more likely to report that they had been a victim of a sexual assault at some point in their lives.
- Additional analysis reveals that respondents who reported their own involvement in crime were also more likely to be crime victims themselves.
- Consistent with official crime statistics, the survey results suggest that rates of property victimization in Jamaica are similar to rates of property victimization in the United States and other western democracies. However, the rate violent victimization in Jamaica is significantly higher than other North American and European nations.
- Most recent victimization experiences (incidents that took place in the past twelve months) occurred within the victim's own home or on the street in their own community. The survey results suggest that victimization rarely occurred in other

public locations (i.e., work, school, parks, shopping or entertainment districts, etc.).

- Victims could not identify the offender in almost half of all recent victimization cases. However, in one quarter of all cases the offender was a stranger and in 17% of all cases the offender was either a friend or an acquaintance. According to the respondents, victimization rarely occurred at the hands of parents, children or other relatives.
- The results of the survey suggest that crime victims often fail to report victimization experiences to the police. Indeed, only a third of recent victimization experiences were reported to the police.
- When crimes are reported to the police, victims were often dissatisfied with how the police treated their case.
- The most common reason for not reporting a personal victimization experience to the police was the belief that the police could not do anything about the incident, followed by the belief that the crime was not serious enough to report. Other reasons for not reporting victimization experiences to the police include a desire on the part of the victim to deal with the incident on their own, a belief that the police would not take the crime seriously, fear of the offenders and their associates, a lack of trust in the police, fear of the police, a desire to avoid a reputation as an informer and a desire to seek revenge.
- Crime victims were often upset and frightened following a victimization experience. Other common feelings include anger, hurt or disappointment, shock, depression and feelings of helplessness. A third of crime victims reported that they changed their way of life as the result of a recent victimization experience.
- Almost one in ten respondents (8.4%) reported that they had witnessed a murder at some time in their life, 12.3% had witnessed a shooting or gun battle, 17.3% had witnessed an armed robbery and 25.4% had witnessed a serious assault or beating.
- Regardless of the type of crime, witnesses rarely talked to the police. Indeed, less than 15% of the respondents who had witnessed a violent crime claimed that they talked to the police about what they had seen.
- Witnesses' reasons for not talking to the police include the belief that the crime incident is none of their business, the fact that there were other witnesses, a desire not to be labelled an informer, the belief that the police cannot properly protect witnesses, fear of the offenders or their associates, fear or distrust of the police and a desire not to appear in court.

- In general, respondents evaluated the performance of the Jamaican police higher than the performance of the criminal courts or the correctional system. However, the survey results also suggest that Jamaicans are more critical of the police than their Canadian or American counterparts.
- Seven out of ten respondents (71%) felt that local police corruption is a problem in Jamaica. However, relatively few respondents (approximately 6%) felt that there is a problem with police brutality or police harassment.
- Most respondents felt that the police and the criminal courts treat poor people worse than wealthy people, young people worse than older people and men worse than women.
- Most respondents felt that the sentences handed out to convicted criminals in Jamaica are too lenient. This is consistent with the results of Canadian and American research.
- Over 80% of respondents felt that the death penalty should be given to people convicted of murder.
- The majority of respondents supported law and order strategies for reducing crime in Jamaica – including increasing the number of police officers, providing the police with more resources and better equipment and giving harsher punishments to convicted offenders. However, despite the fact that the respondents appear to favour harsh punishments, only a small proportion of those surveyed felt that Jamaica needs to build more prisons.
- Although the respondents were generally supportive of criminal justice strategies for reducing crime, they were even more supportive of social programs. Indeed, over 95% of all respondents believed that the Jamaican government can reduce crime by creating more jobs and improving the educational system. Similarly, two-thirds of the respondents felt that crime can be reduced if the government provides welfare payments to poor people.
- Overall, 80% of the respondents felt that government efforts to reduce poverty would be more effective at reducing crime than hiring more police officers or increasing the severity of punishments.

These results are only a sample of the major findings that emerged from this survey. However, they clearly demonstrate the potential that survey methods have with respect to documenting patterns of criminal victimization, the impact of victimization, fear of crime, attitudes and opinions about the criminal justice system and public beliefs regarding crime prevention.

Survey Strengths and Weaknesses

The 2006 Jamaican National Crime Victimization (JCVS) survey has a number of strengths. First of all, the study involved a large, random sample of Jamaican households from all regions of the country. In other words, the study was not restricted to large urban areas typically associated with crime and disorder. The Statistical Institute of Jamaica was also able to achieve an extremely high response rate. Over 80% of the households contacted for this study agreed to take part in the survey. Typically, North American survey researchers will accept a response rate of only 50%. Thus, the high response rate, combined with the large random sample, increases confidence that the findings that emerge from the JCVS are in fact representative of the views and experiences of the Jamaican population.

Another strength of the survey is the large number of victimization questions and the fact that respondents were asked to report on both their lifetime and recent (past year) victimization experiences. Asking about lifetime victimization may reduce the risk of telescoping (see discussion above) and thus produce more accurate estimates of recent victimization experiences. The survey also asked about self-reported criminality, a fact that permits an analysis of the relationship between victimization and offending. The JCVS also asked respondents to report on the crimes that they had witnessed as well as their own victimization experiences. This line of questioning produced estimates of indirect exposure to crime. Finally, the JCVS also asked a variety of questions about fear of crime, attitudes towards the justice system and beliefs about crime prevention. These questions greatly expand the potential audience for this survey. Indeed, the Jamaican police, criminal courts and corrections system could use the results of this survey to evaluate their efforts and examine public opinion regarding their institutions.

The potential methodological weaknesses of the JCVS should be also be flagged. However, it should be stressed that the weaknesses associated with the JCVS are quite similar to those that characterize most other victimization surveys. First of all, it is quite possible that the final sample did not include hard-to-reach populations including homeless people, those without a permanent address or those living in temporary, improvised housing. If these types of people are more vulnerable to criminal victimization than others, the victimization estimates produced by this survey will be

somewhat lower than the levels of victimization that actually take exist in Jamaican society. It is also possible that those deeply involved in criminal lifestyles (including gang members) are difficult for survey researchers to contact. Furthermore, even if contacted, gang members and other offenders may often refuse to participate in victimization surveys. This point is important because previous research suggests that gang members and other offenders are much more likely to be the victim of violent crimes than other people. Thus, if gang members and offenders are under-represented in the final sample, the victimization estimates produced by the current survey will be conservative. Finally, a comparison of the final sample characteristics with the characteristics of the Jamaican population (derived from the 2001 Census) reveals that the respondents to the JCVS are slightly older than general population estimates would predict (see the discussion in Part Two). In particular, it appears that those 16 to 29 years of age are under-represented in the current sample. Importantly, previous research suggests that young people in this age group are more vulnerable to various forms of violent victimization than older people. Thus, the fact that the final sample under-represents young people may have resulted in victimization estimates that are somewhat lower than would have been produced by a more accurate sample.

Of course sampling issues are not the only problems that mark victimization surveys. Researchers are also worried about how honestly respondents answer questions. Do some respondents under-report their victimization experiences? Do other respondents exaggerate their involvement in crime? Do respondents accurately report their attitudes towards the police and the criminal justice system? Do they accurately report their fear of crime? At this time, these questions are impossible to answer. However, previous research suggests that while there is often a margin of error, victimization surveys typically produce estimates of crime that accurately document crime trends and general crime patterns within specific locations.

Additional Analysis of the 2006 Jamaican Crime Victimization Survey

The results presented above represent the first attempt at analyzing the data from the 2006 Jamaican Crime Victimization Survey. As such, the analysis presented in this report, by social science standards, is relatively simple. The focus was placed on highlighting how specific questions were answered, calculating victimization rates and exploring the bivariate relationships between different variables. However, the data has much greater potential. Advanced statistical analysis – often referred to as multivariate analysis – could be used to answer more complex research questions. For example multivariate analysis could be used to determine the respondent and community characteristics that increase or decrease the probability of criminal victimization. Similarly, advanced statistical techniques could also be used to identify the determinants of fear of crime or attitudes towards the criminal justice system.

Future Research

Perhaps the most important contribution of the 2006 Jamaican Crime Victimization Survey is that it provides a *baseline* for measuring victimization rates, fear of crime and attitudes towards the criminal justice system in Jamaica. The results of future victimization surveys in Jamaica (using similar sampling strategies and similar questions) can now be compared to the results of the 2006 survey. This will allow researchers to address a number of important research questions: Is criminal victimization in Jamaica increasing or decreasing? Is the basic pattern or character of victimization changing? Are Jamaicans more or less likely to report victimization incidents to the police? Is fear of crime increasing or decreasing? Are evaluations of the police and criminal justice system getting better or getting worse? Are attitudes towards crime prevention changing? Is alcohol and drug use increasing or decreasing? Is self-reported criminal activity increasing or decreasing? These are important questions that would have been far more difficult to answer without this first survey. This survey has produced the first results of their kind in Jamaica – and will likely be compared with the results of future research for years to come.

Of course victimization surveys cannot and should not replace official crime statistics and other sources of information about crime and criminal justice in Jamaica.

However, surveys such as the JCVS can supplement and complement official data and subsequently help both researchers and policy-makers better understand the crime issue in this country. The results of victimization surveys can also be used to evaluate crime prevention and law enforcement efforts and could lead to the development of more effective policies. The potential of victimization surveys has already been identified by the United States, Canada and England. All of these nations now conduct periodic victimization surveys to supplement the crime data they collect from official sources. With the completion of the 2006 national victimization survey, Jamaica is now in the position to join this group.

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