NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE NEWSLETTERS: EXPERIMENTS IN NEWARK AND HOUSTON

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Antony M. Pate, Paul J. Lavrakas, Mary Ann Wycoff,
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with the assistance of
Sampson Annan
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Final Draft Report
to the
National Institute of Justice
The Honorable James K. Stewart, Director
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POLICE
FOUNDATION

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Hubert Williams,
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Neighborhood Police Newsletters:
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Table of Contents

This report summarizes the results of evaluations of two experiments in which neighborhood police newsletters were mailed to households in two areas, one in Newark and one in Houston. The newsletters, published by the respective police departments, contained crime prevention advice, information about successful attempts to prevent or solve crimes and--in half the cases--local recorded crime statistics. The evaluation of these efforts consisted of controlled experiments conducted by the respective police departments and evaluated by the Police Foundation with funds provided by the National Institute of Justice.

Findings in Brief

Readership of the newsletters appeared to be relatively low. Only 53 to 63 percent of the persons interviewed recalled seeing the newsletter when shown an actual copy. The average number of issues reportedly examined ranged from one to two, although five and six issues were mailed in Houston and Newark respectively. The highest levels of reported readership were among those persons with the greatest amount of formal education.

Few measures of effect proved to be statistically significant. Such meagre results pose a serious question about whether newsletters are an effective method of providing information to households whose members have less than high school educations.

Media and Crime Prevention

There is increasing agreement among many criminal justice scholars and practitioners that effective crime prevention and fear reduction are primarily the result of citizens working together with local law enforcement agencies to make their own homes and neighborhoods safe (Lavrakas and Herz, 1982; Rosenbaum, 1982; Waller, 1979; Yin, 1979). Yet a decade of evaluation of crime prevention and fear reduction efforts has shown that it is no easy task to get citizens to take (and maintain) anti-crime efforts (Bickman and Lavrakas, 1976; Girard et al., 1976; Heller et al., 1975; Yin et al., 1977).

Although some increases in crime-prevention behaviors have been achieved by increasing social communication about crime (Lavrakas, Herz and Salem, 1981), mass media campaigns have been largely unsuccessful. The recent "Take a Bite out of Crime" campaign, for example, found that only 13 percent of those interviewed indicated any attitude change and only four percent indicated a change in behavior (Mendelsohn et al., 1981). More generally, communication media have demonstrated little effect on the fear of crime but have shown the ability to influence general knowledge about the crime problem.

It would be possible to conclude from these results that media campaigns cannot influence crime-prevention behaviors and, therefore, to rely solely upon community-based prevention efforts. Such a conclusion

would, however, fail to tap the potentially larger audiences that could be reached by media as opposed to those affected by local social networks. The failure to utilize the media would be particularly unfortunate in neighborhoods which, although they may have a serious crime problem, often have poorly developed community networks, and thus might be mobilized only through media campaigns.

Lavrakas et al. (1983) have suggested that one means of achieving the desired positive effects would be the provision of local crime data to neighborhood residents, allowing them to adjust their behaviors in accordance with the local crime conditions. If the recorded crime data suggested increases or decreases in crime, or levels greater or lower than those anticipated, the provision of such information might alter citizen fear or crime prevention behavior. If, on the other hand, such data suggested no changes in crime or indicated levels no different from those expected, the provision of such data might have no impact.

The provision of local crime data is controversial because of the ambiguous nature of its contents and its effects. As Lavrakas et al. (1983) have noted, there are many reasons why crime information seldom has been released by public officials. First, "fighting crime" traditionally has been viewed as the exclusive province of the police, and thus, it is argued, only the police need detailed information about local crime problems. Second, crime information has been restricted in order to protect the privacy of victims and safeguard on-going investigations. Probably the overriding reason that the release of such information has been so restricted concerns local politics and untested assumptions about citizens'

reactions to such information. Many elected officials appear quite sensitive about information they assume will create a public outrage. Other officials share a genuine, yet unsubstantiated, concern that releasing detailed information about crime to citizens will lead to excessive fear of crime.

One study of neighborhood police newsletters in Evanston, Illinois (Lavrakas et al., 1983) suggests that the provision of crime data--accompanied by other local crime-related information--can produce positive effects without attendant negative consequences. In that study, newsletters were distributed which contained crime prevention advice, stories of successful efforts to prevent or solve crimes and, in some cases, information about crimes that had been recorded in the vicinity. An evaluation of the effects of these newsletters suggested that recipients of the newsletters--and especially those who received crime statistics--were more likely to:

- perceive crime problems in their area to be serious;
- attribute responsibility for preventing crime to citizens rather than to the police;
- install household crime prevention devices; but
- were <u>not</u> more likely to be fearful of crime.

The findings from the Evanston study, although suggestive, were based on a non-experimental research design--that is, households were not assigned at random to receive the newsleters with or without statistics, or to receive no newsletter at all. This means that other factors besides the

newsletter may have produced the results. Furthermore, Evanston is hardly representative of most of this country--the overall crime problem there is not great, the great majority of crimes are directed against property, and almost 30 percent of the city's residents have bachelors or masters degrees.

The importance of the possible impact of neighborhood police newsletters led to these experimental tests of the effects of distributing such newsletters both with and without crime statistics.

The Newark and Houston Experiments

In a competitive solicitation, N.I.J requested proposals for field experiments to test strategies for reducing fear of crime. The Police Foundation won the competition and was asked to conduct the project on an accelerated timetable. Newark was selected as the "snow belt" test site, and Houston was selected as the "sun belt" test site. Newark is an old city, with high population density, declining population and a deteriorating revenue base; Houston is a new city, with low population density, rapid population growth and an expanding economy. In each city a Fear Reduction Task Force was created to consider possible strategies, select those that were most appropriate for the local conditions and plan and implement those strategies over a one-year period.*

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*For a discusssion of other fear reduction strategies that were tested as part of the Fear Reduction Project, see Pate, Wycoff et al., 1985.

The planning process in both cities involved intensive discussions between Police Foundation and police department staff. Under the N.I.J. grant, the Police Foundation provided technical assistance to the planning groups to consider in some detail the potential value of a wide range of strategies. One of these was the newsletter idea from Evanston. The police personnel and Northwestern University social scientists associated with the Evanston project consulted with the planning groups in both Newark and Houston, which then developed their own adaptation of the idea.

Producing the Newsletters

Both cities faced substantial problems in producing a monthly newsletter. Questions of title, format, story content and physical size required substantial planning time. But the biggest issues in both sites were the editorship of the newsletter and the means of production.

The editorial control was shared by the planning groups in both cities, although the process was considerably more centralized in Newark. Both cities found the editorial tasks burdensome, especially as performed on a part-time basis in competition with other duties.

The production of the newsletter was somewhat different in the two cities. In Newark, typesetting was supplied by the city government but the actual printing was provided free of charge by the local Blue Cross/Blue Shield office. In Houston, all production was performed by the city government. Such production assistance had the advantage of providing

technical facilities and expertise to the operation without any cost to the police departments. However, there was also a disadvantage associated with this arrangement: because the editorial teams had no direct control over the printing process, substantial delays and confusion about format often occurred.

Distribution of the newsletters was by mail, in order to guarantee that certain households--and only those households--would be assigned to each experimental condition.

The size and format in Houston was four 7" x 11" printed pages folded over from a single sheet of 11" x 14" paper with two printed columns per page. In Newark the newsletter was printed on a single sheet of 11" x 17" paper folded to produce four 8 1/2" x 11" pages with three columns per page.

Both cities inserted an additional page of crime statistics in one version of the newsletter. The statistics were presented by showing a map of the streets and boundaries of the local target neighborhood. Underneath the map was a list of all the Part I crimes that had been reported to the police in the past month or so, with the day and block location of each incident. In Houston, the time of the day the incident occurred was also listed. The exact time period covered by the statistics varied from month to month in Houston (from 16 to 61 days), but not in Newark, where each issue contained data for a one-month period.

The editorial content of the two newsletters varied somewhat. The Houston newsletter contained much more safety advice and information which was not related to the fear of crime than did the Newark counterpart. The Newark newsletter, on the other hand, contained more departmental

information related to the fear of crime and solicitations to citizens to become involved in crime prevention efforts. About 30 percent of the content of both newsletters consisted of crime prevention advice; slightly less than 10 percent of the content of both newsletters was "good news" about crimes being prevented and solved.

The publication frequency in Newark was monthly from October 1983 through March 1984, resulting in six issues. In Houston five issues were published during the test period, from November through March.

Although complete cost breakdowns--especially those for personnel--are not possible, the Newark Police Department spent less than $1,000 for materials, chemicals and paper in the production of over 8,000 newsletters, including 6,000 distributed outside the target area. Private sector involvement reduced cost to the police department to less than 12¢ per copy. Postage costs were incurred only to insure tighter control of experimental conditions.

Evaluation Design

The purpose of this evaluation was to determine the extent to which the distribution of police neighborhood newsletters--with and without local recorded crime statistics--could achieve the following hypothesized effects:

- Increase the perceived accuracy of the local crime information received by program area residents,
- Increase the relative worry about property vis-a-vis personal crimes,

- o Increase the attribution of responsibility for crime prevention to residents, as opposed to police,
- o Increase the installation of household crime prevention devices, without increasing the tendency to withdraw from all risks,
- o Improve the evaluation of police services, and
- o Improve satisfaction with the area.

The evaluation design in both cities was a controlled experiment, in which households (not individuals) were randomly assigned by Police Foundation evaluators to one of three groups: those receiving newsletters with crime statistics, those receiving newsletters without crime statistics, and those receiving no newsletters at all. Within each household, individuals were randomly selected to be interviewed. Under random assignment, each household had an equal probability of being assigned to each of the three categories. This means that, with large enough numbers of households in each group, all three groups should be equivalent in their social and demographic composition. Any differences among them in the hypothesized effects of the newsletter should be due to the newsletter treatment and not due to other causes.

Because households rather than individuals were randomized, the evaluation is not strictly a test of the effects of the newsletters themselves, since not all persons interviewed can be expected to have read the newsletters sent to their homes. Such a test could only be possible

under conditions in which the newsletter was given directly to persons who would be closely monitored to insure that they read and comprehended the material. A test of that type, however, would not simulate the "real world" conditions under which printed materials are actually distributed. The strength of this test, then, is that it evaluates a delivery mechanism which, if found effective, could be adopted easily and inexpensively.

To measure the differential effects of being assigned to the three conditions, two research designs were utilized in each city. In the panel design, certain people (the panel sample) were interviewed before distribution of the newsletters began and again six months later. This design has the advantage of allowing strong statistical controls but, because of attrition, a panel often is not representative of the area in general. In addition, it is possible that interviewing persons before newsletter distribution began may sensitize the respondents to the experimental treatment. The panel data provide a strong test of what works for those particular kinds of people who were reinterviewed, but the findings may not be applicable to other types of individuals.

In the post-test only design, certain people were interviewed only once, six months after the distribution began. This design avoids the potential sensitization which pre-testing might cause and does not suffer from panel attrition. It cannot, however, use pre-test scores as statistical controls. The after-only sample data, therefore, are more representative of all the kinds of households found in the test areas in each city--but cannot be analyzd as rigorously.

rest Areas. The Newark test area had a population of 4155 persons living in 1451 dwelling units as of the 1980 census. Approximately 95% of the population was black. The Houston test area, with 7,700 residents living in 3,886 dwelling units as of 1980, was much more racially mixed--about 45% white, 36% black, 15% Hispanic and 4% Asian. These areas were not, however, chosen to be representative of the cities in which they were located but because they were matched on many different demographic criteria. Furthermore, because they are different from each other in many respects, the areas--and the results obtained from them--are not comparable.

Sample Sizes. Original samples of 660 addresses in Houston and 504 addresses in Newark--the difference in size being due solely to technical sampling factors--were randomly selected from among the households in the target areas. The addresses were assigned by a randomization process to one of three experimental conditions (newsletters with and without statistics, and no newsletter). Table 1 shows the actual number of interviews obtained in each category in each city. One randomly selected adult in each of the households was sought for an interview. For the panel samples, 127 interviews were completed in Houston and 117 in Newark. For the post-test only samples 189 interviews were completed in Houston and 181 in Newark. The difference between the original samples and the interviews actually completed in both sites was due primarily to vacant dwelling units, the non-availability (after at least five attempts) of the selected respondent, and refusals to be interviewed. The demographic characteristics of the respondents are shown in Table 2.

Table 1

Distribution of Respondents by Experimental Condition

Interview Type	Houston		Newark	
	Sample	Completed Interviews	Sample	Completed Interviews
Interviewed During Both Pre-Test and Post-Test (Panel)				
Newsletter With Crime Statistics	83	43	66	34
Newsletter With No Crime Statistics	83	42	66	44
No Newsletter	83	42	66	39
Total	249	127	198	117
Interviewed During Post-Test Only				
Newsletter With Crime Statistics	137	62	101	58
Newsletter With No Crime Statistics	137	58	101	67
No Newsletter	137	69	101	56
Total	411	189	303	181

Table 2

Demographic Characteristics of Newsletter Samples

Demographic Characteristics	Houston		Newark	
	Panel Samples	Post-Only Samples	Panel Samples	Post-Only Samples
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
Sex				
Males	65 (51.2)	102 (54.0)	34 (29.1)	52 (28.7)
Females	62 (48.8)	87 (46.0)	83 (48.8)	129 (71.3)
Race				
Blacks	73 (57.5)	91 (48.4)	12 (95.7)	181(100.0)
Whites	22 (17.3)	54 (28.7)	3 (2.6)	0 (0.0)
Hispanics	22 (17.3)	37 (19.7)	- -	- -
Asian/Pacific Islander	9 (7.1)	4 (2.1)	- -	- -
American Indian	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	- -	- -
Other Undetermined	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	2 (1.7)	0 (0.0)
Average Age	36.5	35.0	46.50	42.50
Education				
Elementary School	3 (2.4)	14 (7.4)	19 (16.2)	20 (11.0)
Some High School	18 (14.2)	40 (21.2)	22 (18.8)	47 (26.0)
High School Graduate	68 (53.5)	74 (39.2)	39 (33.3)	69 (38.1)
Some College	26 (20.5)	36 (19.0)	25 (21.4)	35 (19.3)
College Graduate	12 (9.4)	25 (13.3)	12 (10.2)	10 (5.5)
Own or Rent Home				
Own	39 (30.7)	42 (22.2)	56 (47.9)	51 (28.2)
Rent	88 (69.3)	147 (77.8)	61 (52.1)	130 (71.8)

Outcome measures. The effects of the newsletter were measured entirely through the in-person interviews. Questions were asked about these major issues:

- Recalled Program Exposure,
- Perceived Accuracy of Local Crime Information,
- Fear of Personal Victimization in Area,
- Worry About Property Crime Victimization,
- Relative Worry About Property Vis-a-Vis Personal Crime,
- Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems,
- Perceived Area Property Crime Problems,
- Perceived Increase in Area Crime,
- Attribution of Crime Prevention Responsibility to Residents,
- Defensive Behaviors to Avoid Personal Crime,
- Household Crime Prevention Efforts,
- Perceived Efficacy of Defensive Behaviors,
- Perceived Efficacy of Household Crime Prevention Efforts,
- Evaluations of Police Service,
- Satisfaction with Area, and
- Assessments of the Newsletters.

Analysis and Results

The effect of the experimental conditions on each outcome measure was tested by means of analysis of covariance, using dichotomous independent "treatment" variables to represent whether each respondent lived in a household which was not mailed a newsletter, was mailed a version of the newsletter without crime statistics or was mailed a newsletter containing crime statistics. This analysis permitted the creation of adjusted mean scores at Wave 2, controlling for sex, age, education and race of the respondent as covariates. The use of such adjusted means statistically controls for differences in these characteristics which may have existed across the experimental groups even after random assignment of households occurred. Finally, as discussed by Cohen & Cohen (1975), the Wave 1 score in the panel sample for each dependent variable was also used as a covariate, producing adjusted means which were "regressed change scores" at Wave 2.

Analyses for both panel and post-test only samples were performed separately for both cities. The analyses were conducted by comparing the adjusted means of the three experimental conditions on a pairwise basis. The usual method of determining the importance of the differences found is to apply the test of "statistical significance," a technique of determining the likelihood that observed results could have occurred by chance. The standard rule in social science research is that a finding is "statistically significant" if it could not be expected to occur more than five out of 100 times (the .05 criterion). The outcome of such tests, however, are dependent on both the size of the difference observed and the size of the samples from which the data are derived. With very large samples, even minuscule differences can be statistically significant. With very small samples, even large differences may not be. In this study the .05 criterion was applied, but the reader should be aware that the samples are relatively well.

o Recalled Awareness of the Newsletter

Table 3 presents the results for selected awareness measures. From 45 to 65 percent of the Houston respondents in households sent newsletters recalled seeing one when shown a copy. In Newark, 52 to 69 percent recalled seeing one. Although five and six copies of the newsletter were distributed in Houston and Newark respectively, respondents reported looking at an average of only 1.4 to 1.8 issues in Houston and 1.1 to 1.7 issues in Newark. Only 32 to 42 percent of Houston respondents who were sent recorded crime information recalled having seen it; in Newark, from 22 to 26 percent recalled it. The highest levels of awareness were among those with the highest education.

Table 3

Recalled Exposure to Newsletter

	Houston			Newark		
	Percent Who Recall Seeing Newsletter	Percent Who Recall Seeing Crime Data	Average Issues Recalled Examined	Percent Who Recall Seeing Newsletter	Percent Who Recall Seeing Crime Data	Average Issues Recalled Examined
Panel Sample Received:						
Newsletter with Crime Statistics	65% (28/43)	42% (18/43)	1.70 (N=43)	68% (23/34)	35% (12/34)	1.74 (N=34)
Newsletter without Crime Statistics	60% (25/42)	17% (7/42)	1.38 (N=42)	59% (26/44)	7% (3/44)	1.32 (N=44)
No Newsletter	10% (4/42)	0% (0/42)	.02 (N=42)	18% (7/39)	0% (0/39)	.36 (N=39)
Post-Only Sample Received:						
Newsletter with Crime Statistics	61% (38/62)	35% (22/62)	1.84 (N=62)	52% (30/58)	22% (13/58)	1.21 (N=58)
Newsletter without Crime Statistics	45% (26/58)	7% (4/58)	1.44 (N=58)	55% (37/67)	7% (5/67)	1.10 (N=67)
No Newsletter	14% (10/69)	0% (4/69)	.09 (N=69)	21% (12/56)	7% (4/56)	.41 (N=56)

o Tests of Hypotheses

Although a total of 208 pairs ofadjusted means were analyzed, only seven of those pairs proved to be sufficiently different to achieve the .05 level of statistical significance. In the Houston panel samples:

- o Respondents in households sent newsletters without crime statistics perceived a significantly greater increase in area crime than did respondents sent no newsletters,
- o Respondents in households sent newsletters with crime statistics also perceived a significantly greater increase in area crime than did those sent no newsletter, and
- o Respondents sent newsletters with crime statistics were significantly more likely to say they had increased levels of worry about being a victim because of reading the newsletter than did those sent the version without such statistics.

In the Houston post-only samples:

- o Respondents in households sent newsletters with crime statistics expressed significantly higher levels of worry about property crime victimization in the area than did those sent no newsletters.

In the Newark panel samples:

- o Respondents in households sent newsletters without crime statistics undertook significantly fewer actions to protect their home against crime than did those sent no newsletter,
- o Respondents sent newsletters with statistics gave a significantly less positive evaluation of police service in the area than did those sent no newsletter, and
- o Respondents sent newsletters with crime statistics perceived their local crime information to be significantly more accurate than did those sent the newsletter without such statistics.

Such a paucity of significant results, and the absence of consistency among them, can lend no support to the hypotheses tested by this evaluation.

o Assessments of the Newsletter. Residents who recalled examining newsletters indicated they found them to be interesting and informative. More than 85 percent of respondents in all conditions wanted to continue receiving the newsletters; similarly, over 85 percent in all conditions wanted to receive local crime statistics.

Conclusions

The Houston and Newark police community newsletters, although successfully implemented as planned for six months, were generally unsuccessful in achieving the hypothesized outcomes. There could be at least three possible explanations for the failure to find the expected results:

1. The measurement of program effects might have been inadequate.
2. The program might not have operationalized the theory appropriately.
3. The strength or length of implementation could have been too limited to allow for effects to have been achieved.

It is necessary to consider each of these possible explanations in order to put these findings in perspective.

Measurement of program effects could have affected the results in several ways: the size of the samples selected could have been too small to show significant effects, the sampling procedures could have provided biased results, or the measurement and analysis procedures could have been invalid. In all cases, these potential problems appear incapable of explaining the failure to support the theory. With regard to sample size, the samples selected, although constrained by a finite budget, were chosen in order to

be more than adequate to allow for proper analytical techniques to be applied. Furthermore, although this study, as any other, would have benefited from larger sample sizes, the trends demonstrated by these data were not consistent enough to have supported the theory which prompted it, no matter how large the samples might have been. The sampling procedures were based on accepted sampling principles and were carried out with considerable, documented, success. Sophisticated measurement and analysis techniques were utilized in order to maximize the reliability and validity of the results.

The second possible explanation, that the program might not have operationalized the models appropriately, deserves closer investigation. The newsletters tested were based on the same principles as, and were in most respects similar to, the newsletter in Evanston, IL, whose evaluation provided suggestive evidence that the delivery of newsletters with local crime statistics could increase crime prevention efforts without increasing fear. To that extent, they appear to have implemented the models correctly. However, the fact that the Houston and Newark newsletters failed to reinforce the findings in Evanston suggest that further comparisons of the differences in operationalization be made.

Three aspects of the operationalization of the theory--the characteristics of the persons to whom the newsletters were distributed, the method of distribution and the selection of persons to be interviewed--may have contributed to the differences. In Evanston, nearly all adult residents had graduated from high school, the majority having also graduated

from college. About one in four even had a masters degree. In contrast to this highly educated population, one-fourth of the respondents in the Houston program area had not graduated from high school and only about ten percent had graduated from college. Similarly, in the Newark program area, over one-third of the respondents were not high school graduates and only 14 percent had graduated from college. There is evidence to suggest that the more education a person has received the more likely that person is to acquire information by means of books and newspapers (Bogart, 1981). Thus, the relatively limited education levels of the Houston and Newark audiences could well have affected the willingness or ability of the recipients to read and comprehend the newsletter--especially the relatively complicated recorded crime data. Such an interpretation is supported by the fact that recalled awareness of the newsletters was generally highest among Houston and Newark respondents who had gone beyond high school and lowest among those with less than a high school degree. These results suggest that, in order to reach residents with limited education, special efforts may be necessary to make the information more readily understandable. Alternatively, newsletters may simply be an inappropriate medium for that group.

Another difference in operationalization, the method of dissemination of the newsletters, should also be considered. In Evanston, newsletters were, in most cases, hand-delivered to residents by local community groups. In Houston and Newark, on the other hand, copies were mailed to a randomly selected subset of addresses in the program area. Each of these approahces has advantages and disadvantages. Delivering newsletters through existing

community groups can take advantage of existing social networks as well as the added credibility which association with such groups might bring, especially when, as in Evanston, the newsletter is co-authored by the police and the community groups. On the other hand, such a distribution system presupposes the existence of such a community organization and, therefore, precludes its use in neighborhoods where such organizations do not already exist.

There were also differences in the types of sampling procedures among the three studies which could have affected the results. In Evanston, those interviewed were the self-identified heads of the households. In Houston and Newark, those interviewed were randomly selected adult members of the household. Each of these approaches has benefits and costs associated with it. The Evanston method probably increased the chances of interviewing a person who had seen or read a copy of the newsletter. Such an approach, however, underrepresents all others in the household who do not proclaim themselves to be "heads." The Houston and Newark approach, on the other hand, provides a good test of the general effectiveness of distributing newsletters to households without focusing on the effects on the most mature and responsible members.

The third possible explanation for the failure to find the expected results is the brevity or weakness of program implementation. This appears to be plausible. It is not unlikely that, had the newsletters been distributed for a longer time, a greater level of awareness could have been achieved. It also must be reiterated that the evaluation was of the effectiveness of distributing newsletters to households, in which

representative members were interviewed. Distribution of a newsletter to households is more practical than dissemination to particular individuals, but is also, necessarily, weaker in the effects it can demonstrate.

In the meantime, the practical questions remain: Should police departments distribute local community newsletters and should those newsletters contain recorded crime data? The results of the Houston and Newark experiments provide no clear answer to either question. They do, however, indicate the critical importance of considering the characteristics of the intended readership--especially their education levels--and the method of distribution of the newsletters in the planning of any future newsletters.

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(Box comments by James K. Stewart
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to be added)

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TECHNICAL REPORT

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and the Houston and Newark Police Departments

Final Draft Report
to the
National Institute of Justice
The Honorable James K. Stewart, Director
July 12, 1985

POLICE
FOUNDATION

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE NEWSLETTERS: EXPERIMENTS IN NEWARK AND HOUSTON

TECHNICAL REPORT

by

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and the
Houston and Newark Police Departments

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Police Foundation
Hubert Williams,
President

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

-continued-

APPENDICES

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE NEWSLETTERS

List of Tables

List of Tables
(Continued)

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE NEWSLETTERS

List of Figures

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This technical report describes the neighborhood newsletters published by the Houston and Newark Police Departments. In addition, the report presents the results of the evaluation conducted by the Police Foundation. As Appendix A describes, the overall programs in each city were developed by a task force of several persons working cooperatively. The responsibility for publishing the newsletter was assigned to the staffs whose members are shown below. The dedicated work of these people constituted the essence of this program.

We express our special appreciation to Lee Brown, Houston Police Chief, and Hubert Williams, then the Newark Police Director and now the President of the Police Foundation, for their cooperation and assistance. Their leadership set the stage for the success of the entire project. Their willingness to experiment has set an example for other police administrators to follow.

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Staff members of the Police Foundation and research consultants were involved in the design and execution of the program evaluation, or gave advice to those who did. They included:

Sam Annan, Survey Director
Mary Ann Wycoff, Houston Project Director
Elizabeth Enright, Process Evaluator
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George Kelling	Jerome Skolnick

Bonnie Fisher worked at Northwestern University preparing and analyzing the data. Virginia Burke performed the arduous task of producing the final report.

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The entire project, including the evaluation, was conducted under the direction of Lawrence Sherman, then the Vice President for Research of the Police Foundation. Patrick V. Murphy, then the President of the Police Foundation, was active in establishing the project and representing it to the policing community.

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE NEWSLETTERS

Introduction

Recent research, much of it funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), has revealed that fear of crime has become a major problem in our society. Other research has revealed that this far often derives from concern about various "signs of crime" than from direct or indirect experience with crime. For example, neighborhoods which suffer from such physical and social disorder as vandalism, loitering and public drinking or gambling convey the feeling of having been abandoned. As a result, law-abiding residents and merchants begin to flee. Houses and shops become vacant, making them vulnerable to more vandalism and social disorder. Those who choose to remain--or are unable to leave--look upon the streets with detachment, responding to the apparent lack of concern revealed by the neglect and disorder around them. As insidious cycle leads from fear of crime to crime to even more fear.

We have known this for some time--but little has been done about it. In 1982, however, N.I.J. decided to fund well-evaluated experiments in Houston and Newark to determine the most effective ways that police, working with citizens, can dismantle the cycle of fear. Through a competitive bidding process, the Police Foundation was awarded a grant to plan and conduct the evaluations of those experiments.

One of those programs selected to be tested was a neighborhood newsletter, published by the police department. The rationale behind that program, and the hypotheses to be tested by it, are presented below.

Rationale

There is increasing agreement among many criminal justice scholars and practitioners that effective crime prevention and fear reduction are primarily the result of citizens working together with local law enforcement agencies to make their own homes and neighborhoods safe (Lavrakas and Herz, 1982: Rosenbaum, 1982; Waller, 1979; Yin, 1979). Yet a decade of research and evaluation of crime prevention and fear reduction efforts has shown that it is no easy task to get citizens to take (and maintain) anti-crime efforts (Bickman and Lavrakas, 1976; Girard et al., 1976; Heller et al., 1975: Yin et al., 1977).

Although some increases in crime-prevention behaviors have been achieved by increasing social communication about crime (Lavrakas, Herz and Salem, 1981), mass media campaigns have been largely unsuccessful. The recent "Take a Bite out of Crime" campaign, for example, found that only 13 percent of those interviewed indicated any attitude change and only four percent indicated a change in behavior (Mendelsohn et al., 1981). More generally, communication media have demonstrated little effect on the fear of crime but have shown the ability to influence general knowledge about the crime problem. For example, judgments of the rate of crime were demonstrated to have been influenced by the media (Doob and McDonald, 1979; Skogan and Maxfield, 1981; Tyler, 1980), as were beliefs about the demographic characteristics of victims and perpetrators (Doob and McDonald, 1979). It would be possible to conclude from these results that media campaigns cannot influence crime-prevention behaviors and, therefore, to rely solely upon community-based prevention efforts. Such a conclusion

would, however, as a self-fulfilling prophecy, fail to tap the potentially larger audiences that could be reached by media as opposed to those affected by local social networks. The failure to utilize the media would be particularly unfortunate in low-income neighborhoods which, although they may have a serious crime problem, often have poorly developed community networks, and thus could be mobilized only through media campaigns.

In an attempt to understand why crime-related media campaigns have had such little success, Tyler (1984) reviewed the literature dealing with risk-related media effects in general and found that, outside the area of crime, media indeed have been successful under certain circumstances. To explain how these successes were achieved, Tyler concluded that three basic models of media impact had received some support:

- The perceived-informativeness model is based on the premise that people try to understand the world; in order to do so, this model implies, they "seek out, organize, and weigh experiences based upon the information contained in those experiences" (Tyler, 1984: 33).

- The emotion-based model suggests that the impact of events is mediated by the emotions aroused by them. Such a model implies that people adopt recommendations that are likely to quiet the feeling aroused by a risk-related communication. However, attitude-change research has revealed a curvilinear relationship between aroused fear and attitude change, necessitating a calibration of fear imagery so that it is strong enough to arouse action but not so strong that it debilitates (Tyler, 1984: 33-36.)

- The parallel-process model suggests that perceptions of both informativeness and emotion influence the impact of a message on risk-avoidance behavior. Such a model contains cognitive and affective components, implying that both "the information contained in experiences and the affect they arouse can influence their impact" (Tyler, 1984: 34). The effectiveness of media messages, therefore, could be increased either by making them more informative, making them more emotionally arousing, or both.

These models suggest three basic reasons why media efforts have produced little effect on crime-prevention behaviors. First, citizens may not find most media reports of crime to be informative. By overreporting serious crimes and underreporting others, most media reports are of little use to the average citizen. In addition, media reports usually pertain to large geographical areas and/or concentrate upon areas with high levels of crime, often distant from the neighborhood of a typical citizen.

Second, media reports of crime may be ignored because they provide little information about effective behaviors for avoiding crime. "Perhaps," Tyler suggests, "individuals must both perceive a risk and see how to lessen that risk before they will be influenced" (Tyler, 1984: 34). Such an idea is central to the "health belief model" (Becker, 1974; Becker et al., 1977; Maiman and Becker, 1974). Mendelsohn et al. (1981) suggest the relevance of this notion to crime prevention by concluding that "there is considerable skepticism about the efficacy of individualized protective action-taking and beliefs about the ability of such behaviors to actually reduce crime...." (p. 192).

Third, the impact of crime prevention messages may be restricted by the limited affect they produce, as hypothesized by the "fear appeal" approach to persuasion (Leventhal, 1970). Evidence for this was provided by Tyler (1978), who found that citizens rated media reports of crime as less emotionally arousing than either informally communicated reports or their own experiences. The need for such affect is particularly crucial becuase of the "illusion of invulnerability" to crime which makes personal danger

seem unreal to most citizens until they have been personally victimized (LeJeune and Alex, 1973).

The implications for crime-related media appeals are clear. Depending upon which model proves to be most valid, such campaigns must:

- Make their messages much more informative, by providing crime-related materials relevant to the particular concerns and circumstances of the reader, by giving advice concerning actions that can be taken to prevent crime and by convincing the reader that such actions can be effective, and/or
- Make their content somewhat more threatening, by emphasizing to readers the very real possibility that crime could and does affect people "like them."

Making messages more informative need not be controversial. Providing citizens with information about how their local problems might be--and have been--effectively dealt with is simply a matter of determining the nature of those problems and addressing messages appropriate to them. Increasing levels of fear, even if only slightly, is much more problematic. Besides the intrinsic distastefulness of heightening fear, such increases have been tentatively linked to restrictions in behavior, restrictions which, if taken to extremes, could mean that law-abiding citizens retreat from public places, leaving those places to those who perpetrate crimes (Lavrakas et al., 1981).

The key issue, then, is whether it is possible to effect increases in "positive" crime prevention behaviors (such as installing locks or other devices) without also increasing "negative" behaviors (such as avoiding all exposure)--and, furthermore, whether these changes can be made without engendering significant increases in fear.

Lavrakas et al. (1983) have suggested that one means of achieving the desired positive effects would be the provision of local crime data to neighborhood residents, allowing them to adjust their behaviors in accordance with the local crime conditions. In terms of the models of media influenced discussed earlier, the potential effect of such crime statistics could, depending upon its content, support either or both models. If the recorded crime data suggested increases or decreases in crime, or levels greater or lower than those anticipated, the provision of such information would not only be informative but would also be expected to effect higher or lower levels of fear-providing evidence concerning the parallel-process model. If, on the other hand, such data suggested no changes in crime or indicated levels no different from those expected, the provision of such data would provide evidence concerning for the perceived-informativeness model.

The provision of local crime data is, because of the ambiguous nature of its contents and therefore its effects, controversial. As Lavrakas et al. (1983) have noted, there are many reasons why crime information has seldom been released by public officials. First, "fighting crime" has traditionally been viewed as the exclusive province of the police, and thus, it is argued, only the police need detailed information about local crime problems. Second, crime information has been restricted in order to protect the privacy of victims and safeguard on-going investigations. Probably the overriding reason that the release of such information has been so restricted concerns local politics and untested assumptions about citizens' reactions to such information. Many elected officials appear quite sensitive about information they assume will create a public outrage. Other

officials share a genuine, yet unsubstantiated, concern that releasing detailed information about crime to citizens will lead to excessive fear of crime.

The Lavrakas et al. 1983 study of neighborhood police newsletters in Evanston, Illinois has produced results which suggest that the provision of crime data--accompanied by other local crime-related information--can produce positive effects without attendant negative consequences. In that study, newsletters were distributed which contained crime prevention advice, stories of successful efforts to prevent or solve crimes and, in some cases, information about crimes that had been recorded in the vicinity. An evaluation of the effects of these newsletters suggested that recipients of the newsletters--and especially those who received crime statistics--were more likely to:

- o perceive crime problems in their area to be serious;
- o attribute responsibility for preventing crime to citizens rather than to the police;
- o install household crime prevention devices; but
- o were <u>not</u> more likely to be fearful of crime.

The findings from the Evanston study, although suggestive, were based on a non-experimental research design--that is, households were not assigned at random to receive the newsleters with or without statistics, or to receive no newsletter at all. This means that other factors besides the newsletter may have prdouced the results. Furthermore, the city in which the study was conducted was hardly representative of most of this country--since the overall crime problem in that city was not great, the great

majority of crimes directed against property and almost 30 percent of the city's residents had bachelors or masters degrees.

The importance of the possible impact of neighborhood police newsletters led the Fear Reduction Task Forces in Houston and Newark to conduct experimental tests of the effects of distributing such newsletters--both with and without crime statistics--to residents of their cities. The exact nature of those tests is described in the next section. The remainder of this section describes the basic hypotheses upon which the newsletters, and their evaluation, were constructed.

Hypothesized Effects

The purpose of this evaluation was to determine the extent to which the distribution of police neighborhood newsletters--with and without local recorded crime statistics--could achieve the following hypothesized effects:

- Increase the perceived accuracy of the local crime information received by program area residents,
- Increase the relative worry about property vis-a-vis personal crimes;
- Increase the attribution of responsibility for crime prevention to residents, as opposed to police,
- Increase the installation of household crime prevention devices, without increasing the tendency to withdraw from all risks,
- Improve the evaluation of police services, and
- Improve satisfaction with the area.

Each of these hypotheses is discussed in greater detail below.

Perceived Accuracy of Local Crime Information. It can be hypothesized, based upon either the perceived-informativeness or the parallel-process model, that respondents who receive newsletters--especially those which contain recorded crime information--will perceive that they receive more accurate crime information than those who do not receive such newsletters.

Fear of and Worry About Crime Victimization in the Area. Based on the perceived informativeness model, it may be hypothesized that distribution of newsletters without crime data should lead to a decreased fear of personal victimization, that is, a reduced sense of vulnerability to becoming a victim of crime. This reasoning assumes that such newsletters would make citizens more confident of their own ability to resist victimization by providing crime prevention information and "good news" stories that are relevant to their neighborhoods.

On the other hand, if newsletters, whether or not they contain crime data, were perceived by readers as having been distributed only because crime was a widespread and serious problem in the area, some increase in fear might be expected to result. The effect of distributing newsletters with recorded crime data is difficult to predict without knowing whether its contents indicated levels or trends of crime which were fear-provoking.

Relative Worry About Property Vis-a-Vis Personal Crime. Because property crime prevention efforts are more frequently prescribed than those to avoid personal crime and because crime prevention advice could be expected to deal more with avoiding property crimes, and because property crimes occur more

frequently than pesonal crimes, it is hypothesized that persons receiving the newsletters--particularly those containing recorded crime information--will be more likely to see property crime as a bigger problem than personal crime.

Perceived Area Crime Problems. As Furstenberg (1971) pointed out, there is a clear difference between the fear of crime, an individual's assessment of his or her own risks of victimization (how much he or she personally is likely to be endangered by crime), and perceptions of crime as a serious problem. Subsequent research (Baumer and Rosenbaum, 1982; Skogan and Maxfield, 1981) has supported the original conclusion that fear and perceptions are conceptually different concepts.

Lavrakas et al. (1983) suggest the hypothesis that neighborhood community newsletters containing recorded crime data could increase perceived levels of crime without notably increasing levels of fear. This reasoning would assume that exposure to specific information about crime and crime prevention would increase citizens' opinions that crime represents a signficant local problem that must be dealt with. This hypothesized effect should be stronger with exposure to the version of the newsletter with crime statistics, since this version would provide detailed information of the amount and nature of the local problem.

Crime Prevention Dispositions and Behaviors. If, as hypothesized, newsletters--whether containing crime data or not--can increase the confidence of readers so that they can prevent crime, without increasing their fear level, then no effect on defensive behaviors should be expected.

On the other hand, increased levels of perceived area crime problems may be hypothesized to lead to an increase in the installation of household crime prevention devices.

Evaluations of Police Service. It can be hypothesized that neighborhood police newsletters, whatever other effects they may have, would indicate to area residents a higher level of concern by police about the neighborhood, thus leading to a perceived improvement in police service. It is, however, conceivable that local crime statistics which suggest that crime is--and is becoming--a bigger problem than previously thought could lead to a lower evaluation of police service.

Satisfaction with Area. Finally, if the police newsletters are successful in increasing the confidence of readers that they can avoid crime, then residents could be expected to become more satisfied with their neighborhood as a place to live. On the other hand, if the content of the crime statistics provokes fear, dissatisfaction with the area may result.

Summary

Most attempts to change crime prevention behaviors have been unsuccessful. Recent analysis of those efforts and others seeking to alter risk-avoidance activities has suggested that, in order to be effective, media campaigns have to be either very informative and relevant to the audience, somewhat frightening or both. A recent quasi-experimental study suggested that neighborhood police newsletters-- especially those that contain local recorded crime data--could increase desirable crime prevention

behaviors without notably increasing the fear of crime. Task forces of the Houston and Newark police departments decided to test such newsletters in experiments to determine if distributing them could accomplish the following goals:

- Increase perceptions of area crime problems without increasing the fear of crime;
- Increase the relative worry about property vis-a-vis personal crimes;
- Increase the attribution of responsibility for crime prevention to residents, as opposed to police;
- Increase the installation of household crime prevention devices, without increasing the tendency to withdraw from all risks;
- Improve the evaluation of police services; and
- Improve satisfaction with the area.

The remainder of this report describes how the neighborhood police newsletters were published, how the program was evaluated and what the results of that evaluation were.

PUBLICATION OF THE NEWSLETTERS

The planning and publication of the neighborhood police newsleters in Houston and Newark are summarized briefly below.

Houston

Planning. In March, 1983 the Houston Fear Reduction Task Force began planning the Houston Newsletter by collecting several examples of neighborhood (and, specifically, police-generated) newsletters from around the nation. The one that ultimately served as the principal model was ALERT, a publication of the Evanston (IL) Police Department and its Residential Crime Prevention Committee (cf. Lavrakas et al., 1983). Commander Frank Kaminski, who was in charge of the production of the Evanston Newsletter, and Dr. Dennis Rosenbaum, a research psychologist at Northwestern University and former Director of Planning and Research at the Evanston Police Department both consulted with the Houston Task Force on the design, content and production of the Houston Newsletter.

Questions of title, format, story content and physical size required substantial planning time, but the biggest issues were those of the editorship of the newsletter and the means of production. None of the Task Force members had journalistic experience, some were reluctant to write in a "news" style, and all were responsible for developing other parts of the Houston Fear Reduction Project.

Commander Kaminski advised that the production experience in Evanston recommended that it be at least a half-time job, and both he and Ms. Josie

Ochoa (a consultant from Shell Oil Co.) suggested that the Houston Police Department arrange for the services of an experienced editor, either from within or outside the ranks. Both also pointed out having the newsletter printed within the department might lead to frustration over schedules, in the event that the Newsletter was not viewed as a priority item relative to other police or city business.

At the same time, the Houston Police Department was looking for someone to take responsibility for its in-house newsletter, and the position which was finally offered in July, 1983, was one which combined both responsibilities. The person selected for the editorial position was an officer who wished to continue patrol work while editing on a part-time basis; her work on the Fear Reduction newsletter was a small part of this already part-time effort, which left most of the work of preparation to the Task Force.

It was also decided that the newsletter would be printed by the city government, due mainly to cost considerations. The costs were not only those associated with the field experiment, but also for the printing of other versions of the same newsletter for four other target areas in Houston. In total, upwards of 1,200 copies of the newsletter were needed each month. The decision to use the city's printing facilities was a cost-effective one, but was also associated with occasional delays.

Newsletter Content. The Houston Newsletter, entitled "Community Policing Exchange," was planned to contain a mix of general and neighborhood news items. The general items included crime prevention and other safety information intended to give the reader a sense that there were

precautionary measures which could be employed to increase personal, household and neighborhood security.

Among the general items was a regular front-page column, "Community Comments," written by Dr. Lee P. Brown, Houston Chief of Police. This column ran alongside a line drawing of Chief Brown and contained information about the Department and/or greetings (at holiday seasons) to the community. A more detailed breakdown of the content of items included in the newsletter is presented in Table 1. A sample copy is included in Appendix B.

Included among the neighborhood items was information about area officers, and "good news" stories about crimes that had been prevented or solved, or other situations that had been resolved because of efforts of the police and citizens in the area. Task Force members planned to solicit these stories from officers working the various areas and hoped, with time, to develop an interest among some officers in writing for the newsletter. Although Commander Kaminski encouraged citizen involvement in writing and production, this proposal was not feasible because of schedule demands to produce the newsletters as quickly as possible.

In the Houston target area where the field experiment was to be conducted (the Wood Bayou neighborhood), one version of the newsletter had a one-page insert which contained a line drawing of the area's boundaries, a list of Part I crimes which had occurred in the previous month, the date of each crime, the location of each crime (by street and block number), and the time of occurrence (day, evening, or night). These statistics were compiled

Table 1

Percentage Distribution of Houston Newsletter Content
(Based on Column Inches)

Type of Content	Percent of Content	
Good News (Successful Prevention)	8%	
Crime Prevention Advice		
Personal Crime	8%	29%
Property Crime	21%	
Personal and Property Crime	0%	
Departmental Information		
Related to Fear Reduction	12%	21%
Not Related to Fear Reduction	16%	
Advice or Information		
Related to Crime	16%	24%
Not Related to Crime	12%	
Safety advice	12%	
Encouraging people to get involved	1%	
Offering police services to citizens	0%	
Greetings	4%	
Total	99%*	

*Does not equal 100% because of rounding.

by Officer Jackson. An example of such an insert is provided in Figure 1. The crime data that were included are shown in Table 2.

Size and Format. The newsletter included four pages, exclusive of crime statistics, which were printed on a single 11" by 14" sheet, which was folded to produce four 7" x 11" pages. There were two columns per page, and a variety of spatial arrangements were used for stories which might occupy one-third or more of a single column or take two columns on the top or bottom half of a page.

The title, "Community Policing Exchange," had a subheading, "Published by the Houston Police Officers Serving Your Neighborhood." Print was black on off-white stock. A variety of type sizes and styles were used for story headings. Stories were separated horizontally by lines. The final appearance was a clean, attractive one that tried to draw the reader's attention to items the Task Force wanted to emphasize.

Production. The Task Force worked as a group to identify general items of interest, sometimes finding them in newsletters from other cities, and writing others from local source materials. Officers Herb Armand, Epperson, Jackson, Kirk and Tomlinson would write the items about their patrol neighborhoods, and these were then edited into a consistent style by Sergeant Fowler, Officer Alan Tomlinson and Ms. Mara English.

Publication Dates. The original timetable for the evaluation of the newsletter called for the first newsletter to be published in June, 1983, with the evaluation coming in January, 1984, after the distribution of six issues. The start-up for the newsletter took much longer than initially

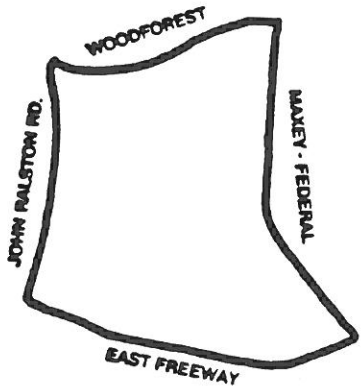
Figure 1

Sample Recorded Crime Insert in Houston Newsletter

REPORTED CRIME

This attachment to your copy of Police Community Exchange is an attempt to provide you with information about crime in your neighborhood. It tells you the number and types of crime that were reported from your area to the Houston Police Department during a recent two (2) month period. The purpose of providing this type of information to you, as a resident, is to give you a better ideal of whats happening in your neighborhood. We hope this will provide you and your neighbors with the information needed to take specific crime prevention measures. Remember, "by themselves, the police can only react to crime; they need an involved citizenry to prevent it."

DISTRICT - BEAT 10C30
Northeast Houston
(Boundaries: N-Woodforest S-East Frwy.; E-Maxey-Federal, W-John Ralston Rd.)



LEGEND
hundred block - blk
6:00a.m. to 2:59p.m. (D)
3:00p.m. to 10:59p.m. (E)
11:00p.m. to 5:59a.m. (N)

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

9/9	900 blk Maxey	(D)
9/10	11000 blk E. Frwy	(D)

BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE

9/3	11000 blk E. Frwy	(E)
9/16	600 blk Maxey Rd.	(D)
10/1	800 blk. Autumn Wood	(N)
10/18	11000 blk Fleming	(D)
10/25	11000 blk E. Frwy	(D)

THEFT

9/1	1200 blk Fleming	(N)
9/9	1000 blk Federal	(D)
9/11	11000 blk E. Frwy	(D)
9/14	12000 blk Fleming	(D)
9/16	11000 blk Dawn Wood	(D)
9/16	11000 blk E. Frwy	(D)
9/21	11000 blk Dawn Wood	(N)
9/21	800 blk Autumn Wood	(N)
9/22	11000 blk Dawn Wood	(D)
10/1	11000 blk E. Frwy	(D)
10/7	1000 blk E. Frwy	(E)
10/12	800 blk Maxey	(E)
10/28	700 blk Maxey	(E)

BURGLARY RESIDENCE

9/19	11000 blk E. Frwy	(D)
9/20	12000 blk Fleming	(N)
9/29	900 blk Center Wood	(E)
10/30	12000 blk Fleming	(D)

AGGRAVATED ROBBERY

9/2	900 blk Maxey	(D)
9/3	1000 blk Center Wood	(N)
9/15	12000 blk Fleming	(N)
9/17	500 blk Ken Wood	
10/1	1000 blk Federal	(D)
10/11	800 blk Maxey	(E)
10/14	1000 blk Federal	(D)

ASSAULT

9/4	500 blk Wood Vista	(E)
10/4	12000 blk Fleming	(N)
10/3	12000 blk Fleming	(N)
10/6	800 blk Autumn Wood	(D)
10/13	12000 blk Fleming	(E)
10/15	12000 blk Fleming	(N)
10/15	12000 blk Fleming	(N)
10/15	12000 blk Fleming	(E)

AUTO THEFT

9/1	12000 blk Fleming	(N)
9/5	700 blk Coolwood	(D)
9/11	700 blk Coolwood	(N)
10/3	600 blk Maxey Rd.	(D)

Table 2

Recorded Crime in Progrqam Area Presented in Houston Newsletters

Issue	1	2	3	4	5
Date	Nov 1983	Dec 1983	Jan 1984	Feb 1984	March 1984
Period Covered (days)	August (31)	Sept-Oct (61)	Nov-Dec (61)	Jan-Feb 6 (37)	Feb 7-23 (16)
Personal Crimes	5	15	16	1	2
Property Crimes	20	24	29	29	7
Auto Theft	0	4	21	30	15
Total	25	43	66	60	24

scheduled, with the first newsletter being mailed in mid-November, followed by issues in December, January, February and March.

Newark

Planning. From the start (March, 1983), it was agreed that the design, planning and publication of the Newark Newsletter would be the responsibility of the Newark Police Department. To accomplish these tasks, Sergeant Ernest Newby was appointed editor-in-chief; Detective William Caulfield served as assistant editor. They were assisted by an editorial board consisting of Captain Joseph Santiago, the Fear Reduction Program Coordinator, and Ms. Maria Cardiellos, the Assistant Coordinator.

To familiarize themselves with the nature of their tasks, this group collected several examples of neighborhood newsletters from around the nation, including police-generated ones. As with Houston, the one that ultimately served as the principal model was ALERT, a publication of the Evanston (IL) Police Department and its Residential Crime Prevention Committee. Also in Newark, Commander Kaminski of the Evanston Police Department and Dr. Rosenbaum of Northwestern, provided consultation to the Newark editorial board about design, content and production.

Newsletter Content. The newsletter was planned to contain a mix of general and specific local items. The general items included crime prevention and other safety items meant to provide the reader with a sense that there were precautionary measures which could be employed to increase personal, household, and neighborhood security. In addition, there was to be a regular column entitled, "From the Desk of the Police Director," which

was written by Director Hubert Williams. A detailed breakdown of the content of the newsletter is presented in Table 3. A sample copy is included as Appendix C.

As with Houston, included among the neighborhood items was information about area officers, and "good news" stories about crime that had been prevented or solved, or other situations that had been resolved because of efforts of the police and citizens in the area. Although Commander Kaminski here too encouraged citizen involvement in writing and production, this proposal was not feasible in Newark because of schedule demands to produce the newsletters as quickly as possible.

Local area crime statistics were included in one version of the Newark newsletter as a one-page insert, which included a map identifying the boundary areas of the target neighborhood, a list of the Part I crimes which had occurred the previous month, the date of the crime, its approximate location and time of day. These statistics were compiled by Ms. Cardiellos. An example of such an insert is provided in Figure 2. The crime data included in the newsletter are shown in Table 4.

Size and Format. The newsletter included four pages, exclusive of the crime statistics included in one version, and was printed on a single 11" x 17" sheet of paper which was folded so as to produce four 8 1/2" x 11" pages. There were three columns to the page, and a variety of spatial arrangements were used.

The newsletter was entitled, "ACT 1," based on the acronym for "Attack Crime Together," the name given to the Department's overall fear reduction program. The sub-heading read, "Published by the Newark Police Department

Table 3

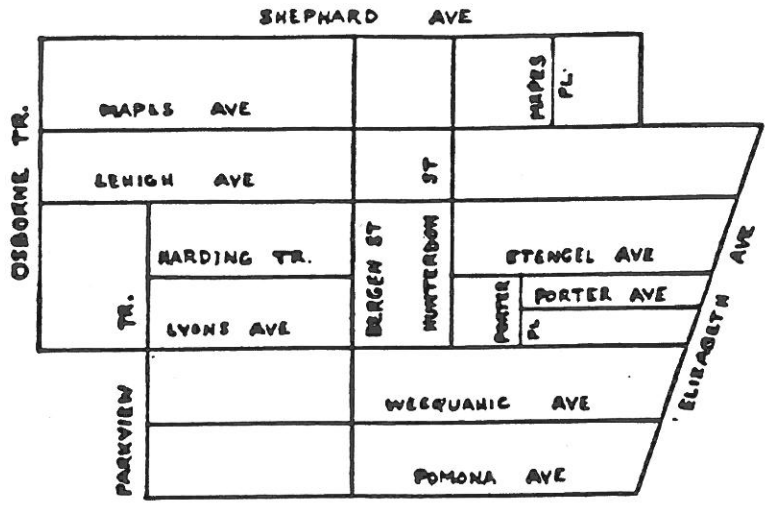
Percentage Distribution of Newark Newsletter Content
(Based on Column Inches)

Type of Content	Percent of Content	
Good News (Successful Prevention)	9%	
Crime Prevention Advice		
Personal Crime	8%	30%
Property Crime	15%	
Personal and Property Crime	7%	
Departmental Information		
Related to Fear Reduction	16%	22%
Not Related to Fear Reduction	6%	
Advice or Information		
Related to Crime	10%	11%
Not Related to Crime	1%	
Safety advice	6%	
Encouraging people to get involved	17%	
Offering police services to citizens	2%	
Greetings	2%	
Total*	99%*	

*Does not equal 100% because of rounding.

Figure 2

Sample Recorded Crime Insert in Newark Newsletter



KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

Time Period: December 15 - January 15

To all Newark residents who have followed in our effort to study crime in your area, we would like to extend our thanks. As in the past, we present you with data reflective of your neighborhood. Listed herein is the crime type, date, and location of occurrance.

One more bit of information which might be of interest to you is that this month evening activity represents 66.7% of committed crimes. So please be aware of all that happens around you - at all times - and follow our crime prevention tips even more stringently during the evening hours!!

Join with us and Attack Crime Together!!

ARSON

12/25	Stengel Ave., btn Porter Pl./Elizabeth Ave.

BURGLARY

Commercial

12/19	Bergen St., btn Lehigh/Lyons
1/5	Lehigh Ave., btn Hunterdon/Elizabeth

Residential

12/19	Shepard Ave., btn Osborne/Bergen
12/22	Mapes Ave., btn Osborne/Bergen
12/24	Lehigh Ave.,btn Parkview/Bergen
12/25	Mapes Ave., btn Hunterdon/Elizabeth
12/27	Lyons Ave., btn Osborne/Parkview

ROBBERY

12/22	cor. Hunterdon/Shepard

THEFT (Pers.)

12/21	Pomona Ave., btn Berger/Elizabeth
1/12	Bergen St., btn Lehigh/Lyons
1/13	Bergen St., btn Lehigh/Lyons

THEFT OF AUTO

12/25	cor. Elizabeth/Mapes Ave.
12/26	Bergen St., btn Lehigh/Lyons
12/31	Pomona Ave., btn Bergen/Elizabeth
1/9	Lehigh Ave., btn Hunterdon/Elizabeth
1/13	Parkview Tr., btn Harding/Lyons
1/13	Bergen St., btn Lehigh/Lyons

TOTAL INCIDENTS 18

Table 4

Recorded Crime in Program Area Presented in Newark Newsletters

Issue	1	2	3	4	5	6
Date	Oct 1983	Nov 1983	Dec 1983	Jan 1984	Feb 1984	March 1984
Period Covered (days)	Aug 15-Sept 14 (31)	Sept 15-Oct 14 (30)	Oct 15-Nov 14 (31)	Nov 15-Dec 14 (30)	Dec 15-Jan 15 (32)	Jan 16-Feb 14 (30)
Personal Crimes	13	9	7	2	1	6
Property Crimes	6	9	9	5	10	16
Auto Theft	9	7	5	6	6	5
Total	28	25	21	13	17	27

and Neighborhood Residents." Print was black on light blue stock. A variety of type sizes and styles were used for story headings and graphics were utilized wherever possible. For example, the Director's column ran along with a photo of Director Williams.

Production. The editor, Sergeant Newby, was responsible for locating general items of interest, sometimes finding them in newsletters from other cities, and writing others from local source materials. In addition, information was provided by Lieutenant Jack Yablonski of the Newark Crime Prevention Bureau, Captain Charles Knox of the South District, Sergeant Kenneth Williams of the Police Community Service Center, members of the Crime Analysis Bureau, and other members of the Department with suggestions.

Materials were to be submitted to the editor by the first of each month. The final copy was then sent to the Neighborhood Information Services Bureau of the City of Newark for layout and typesetting. Because only one person worked in this capacity, and because several other city agencies were making competing requests, preparation of the newsletter often took several days. In addition, the graphic artist assigned to work on this task was not able to give it top priority; as a result other delays often occurred. To compensate, the editor and assistant editor assumed the responsibility for designing and laying out the newsletter format themselves.

Another production problem concerned the supply of materials required for publication, which was frequently exhausted, as the printing agency was

unable to maintain a continuous supply from the City. As a result, the Police Department arranged to procure the necessary materials directly.

Publication Dates. The first newsletter was mailed in mid-October, 1983. Thereafter, newsletters were mailed mid-month in November, December (of 1983), January, February, and March of 1984.

Summary

Neighborhood police newsletters were produced and distributed by both the Houston and the Newark police departments. The Houston newsletter, entitled "Community Policing Exchange," was mailed in November and December of 1983 and January, February and March of 1984. The Newark newsletter, "Act 1," was distributed from October 1983 through March 1984. Each newsletter contained a combination of crime prevention advice, stories about successful crime prevention, local neighborhood information and various other articles. In each city, inserts containing local crime information were added to a random set of newsletters.

EVALUATION DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The evaluation was designed to measure the effect of distributing two types of police community newsletters to selected households and, after this distribution had continued for six months, interviewing one representative from each household sent newsletters--as well as from households sent no newsletters. This is not, therefore, a test of the effects of the newsletters themselves, since not all persons interviewed can be expected to have read the newsletters sent to their homes. Such a test could only be possible under conditions where the newsletter was given directly to persons who would be closely monitored to insure that they read and condensed the material. A test of that type, however, would not simulate the "real world" conditions under which printed materials are actually distributed. The strength of this test, then, is that it evaluates a delivery mechanism which, if found effective, could be adopted easily and inexpensively. In both Houston and Newark, one neighborhood area was designated as the experimental field test site. In each area, two versions of the newsletter were tested. One version was the newsletter with an insert showing local crime statistics for the past month. The second version was the newsletter without the local crime statistics insert.

In each program area, households were randomly assigned to one of three experimental conditions: the treatment conditions represented by each version of the newsletter, and the "control" condition represented by households which were not mailed the newsletter. Thus the evaluation of the

newsletters constituted a "true experiment" (cf. Campbell and Stanley, 1966; Cook and Campbell, 1979).

To provide the best possible evaluation of the effect of distributing newsletters, two different experimental designs were utilized. In one, a panel sample of the same persons were to be interviewed both before and six months after distribution began. Analysis of data provided by such a design has the strength that, by looking at the effects on the same people over time, the effects of extraneous factors not associated with the experiment can be minimized, increasing the design's internal validity. This strength can be further enhanced using the pre-distribution scores as statistical controls in the analysis of the post-distribution scores. However, some of the panel members are not reinterviewed during the post-distribution surveys. This "panel attrition" makes it inappropriate to generalize the results to the population of the program area as a whole. In addition, it is possible that interviewing persons before newsletter distribution begins may sensitize those respondents to the experimental treatment they are about to receive.

In the other design, certain persons were only to be interviewed six months after distribution of the newsletters began. This post-test only design avoids the potential sensitization that the initial interview may have. In addition, it does not have the attrition problem inherent in the panel design. The disadvantage of such a post-test only design is that it is not possible to use the pre-distribution scores as controls for the analysis of the post-distribution scores.

Selection of Program Areas

A multi-stage selection process was used to ensure that the fear reduction programs were implemented in comparable areas--and in areas appropriate to the theories being tested. In each city, members and staff of the police department were asked to identify areas containing both residential and non-residential units, which demonstrated conditions of social disorder and physical deterioration sufficient to be expected to be associated with the fear of crime but not so exaggerated as to be beyond effect within a one-year evaluation. Data for the areas identified were compiled from the block statistics contained in the 1980 Census of Population and Housing concerning:

- population,
- number of occupied units,
- ethnic composition,
- median housing value,
- occupancy rate,
- percentage of owner-occupied units,
- average number of persons per occupied unit,
- percentage of inhabitants over the age of 65, and
- percentage of inhabitants under the age of 18.

Cluster analyses were performed on these data to determine the set of five noncontiguous areas which were most closely matched on the dimensions examined. These five areas were then randomly assigned to receive certain types of programs or, in the case of the comparison area, to receive no new programs. Any changes discerned in this comparison area, then, could be taken as representative of prevailing trends in the city during the implementation period.

Demographic data from the 1980 Census concerning the two program areas, South District 2, (S-2) in Newark and Wood Bayou in Houston are presented in Table 5 below.

TABLE 5

Demographic Data for Newsletter Program Areas

Area	Population						Housing Units			Occupied Units		
		Ethnicity			Age							
	Total	% Black	% White	% Spanish Origin	% Below 18	% 65 and above	Total	% Single Family	% Occupied	Persons Per Unit	Total	% Owner Occupied
Newark Program Area (S-2)	4155	95	3	1	32	5	1451	16	97	3.0	1408	29
Houston Program Area (Wood Bayou)	7700	36	45	15	29	3	3886	51	79	2.5	3070	30

Source: 1980 Census

The program area in Houston was the Wood Bayou neighborhood in the northeast part of the city. The area had an approximate population of 7,700 residents in 3,886 dwelling units (according to the 1980 census) within about one square mile of space. The area was racially heterogeneous with 45 percent white, 36 percent black, 15 percent Hispanic and 4 percent Asian residents.

The program area in Newark was a neighborhood (S2) in the southeast part of the city. Based on the 1980 census, the area had a resident population of approximately 4155 persons living in 1451 dwelling units. As of 1980, 95 percent of the population was black.

Survey Procedures

Areal Listing and Household Selection. Once program and comparison areas were selected, Police Foundation staff employed updated 1980 census block maps to compile the sample frames for both the residential and non-residential samples. Area survey supervisors conducted an areal listing, walking the streets, block by block, and recording all addresses within the defined boundaries on Listing Sheets. After being put onto computer-readable tape, these listings were subdivided into two sub-lists, one for residences and one for non-residential establishments such as businesses, churches, offices and other such places. Each address on both lists was assigned an identification number. Selection of sample addresses was accomplished by dividing the universe (the number of addresses listed) by the desired sample size to arrive at a sampling interval. Starting with a random identificiatoin number and selecting every Nth case (where N was equal to the sampling interval), this procedure was used to produce a random sample of addresses in the program and comparison areas.

Respondent Selection Within The Household. Once the samples of addresses were selected, the final step was the selection of a respondent within each household. This selection was accomplished during the first visit of an interviewer by listing all household members who were 19 years of age or older and assigning them numbers, starting with the oldest male to the youngest female. The interviewer then referred to a random selection table assigned to that household to determine who should be the respondent. No

substitution was permitted for the selected respondent. (This is a standard "Kish-table" selection procedure.)

For the panel sample in Wave 2, the plan was to contact and interview the same respondent from Wave 1, without any substitution. Since the newsletters were mailed to selected addresses rather than designated respondents no tracking of panel respondents was done. The same selection procedure used in Wave 1 were followed in selecting the post-test only sample.

Supervisor/Interviewer Training. The interview operations for Wave 1 began with the hiring of supervisors, who were given a two-day training session, followed by the recruitment and hiring process for interviewers. After general advertising for interviewers, several orientation sessions were held for screening and selection purposes. The selected interviewers were then invited to a three day training session, after passing a police record check to which they had agreed as part of the hiring process. The final hiring decisions were made by the Police Foundation's Survey Director and the field supervisors after the training session.

The interviewers' training in each city was conducted by the Survey Director with the assistance of the Project Director, a trainer and the site supervisor. Prior to attending the training sessions, an Interviewer Training Manual was sent to each interviewer. This manual was designed as a programmed learning text with questions which interviewers were to answer as they reviewed each section. The training agenda included general introductory remarks (including background on the study and the Foundation

role); general and specific instructions on procedures for respondent selection; a complete review of the questionnaire with special attention to the victimization series; a practice review session; and role-playing sessions.

Contacting Sampled Households. About one week before interviewing began, an advance letter from the Mayor of each city was mailed to the selected households and establishments. The letter, addressed to "resident," or "owner" informed them of the main objectives of the research effort in an attempt to give credibility to the study and encourage cooperation with it.

The Wave 1 interviewing began on June 3, 1983 and was completed on September 20, 1983, after which the police departments started the implementation of the programs. The post implementation survey (Wave 2) began on March 15, 1984 and continued until April 27, 1984.

All interviewing was conducted in person. Telephone contacts were made only after an initial household visit had been made, in order to arrange an appointment for an in-person interview with the selected respondent.

Call-Back Procedures. Interviewers made a minimum of five attempts to complete an in-person interview. In some cases (9 percent) interviewers made more than five attempts to complete an interview with the selected respondent. Each attempt was recorded on a Call Record Sheet. The attempts were made at different times of the day and different days of the week to maximize the chances of finding the respondent at home. About 70 percent of the interviews were completed on the first and second visits.

A Non-Interview Report (NIR) was completed for each selected household in which an interview could not be completed. The supervisor reviewed each NIR to decide whether or not the case should be reassigned to another interviewer for conversion. Most refusal cases were reassigned and interviewers were successful in converting nearly 40 percent of the initial refusals to completed interviews.

In-Field Editing. Completed questionnaires were returned to the supervisor on a daily basis. The supervisor and her clerical staff were then responsible for the field editing of all completed questionnaires. This process enabled the supervisor to provide the interviewers with feedback concerning their performance and insure that they did not repeat the errors they had previously committed. It also permitted retrieval of missing information before sending the cases to the home office.

Validation. Validation procedures were designed to insure that 30 percent of the respondents were recontacted to verify that the interview was indeed completed with the selected respondent. The validation process also helped to provide feedback about the interviewer's work. Thirty percent of each interviewer's work was randomly chosen for validation as they were received by the site office. Validations were completed either by telephone or in-person.

If one of an interviewer's completed questionnaires could not be validated, the supervisor conducted a 100 percent validation of that

interviewer's work. Cases that failed validation were either reassigned or dropped from the data base.

Towards the end of the field work period for Wave 1, the interviewers' mode of payment was changed from an hourly basis to a "per completed" basis. The validation was then changed to 100 percent validation of completed interviews. Even though this was more costly, it was felt that such validations were necessary because of the increased reward provided for completed interviews. To further guarantee reliability, these validations were conducted from the home office by telephone. Cases in which the telephone number was no longer working and cases without telephone numbers were sent back to the field for in-person validation. The per completed mode of payment for interviewers was continued for the Wave 2 survey; the validation rate was keptat 33 percent after the initial five completed interviews for each interviewer had been successfully validated.

Houston Samples

Sample Size. The residential listing of the program area in Houston produced a total of 2662 housing units. A random sample of 1430 of these units was selected for inclusion in the pre-test survey which was conducted in July and August of 1983. One adult (19 years of age or older) was randomly selected to be interviewed in each household.

Panel Sample. The panel sample was selected from the list of 767 households in which an interview was completed during the pre-test. As shown in Table 6, a sample of 249 of the households was randomly selected and assigned to the three experimental conditions in which one third of the

households were mailed five monthly issues of the version of the newsletter with the crime statistics insert; one third were mailed five monthly issues of the version without crime statistics insert; and one third were not mailed the newsletter.

Post-Test Only Sample. The 1,232 household units which remained after the pre-test sample was selected served as the sampling frame for the post-test only sample. A sample of 411 of these households was then selected and randomly assigned to the three experimental conditions with 137 households in each condition. The distribution of households by experimental condition is shown in Table 6.

Survey Results. The Wave 2 interviews for the panel and post-test only samples were conducted in March and April of 1984. The survey results are presented separately for the panel and post-test only samples in Table 6. As the table shows, a total of 127 of the 249 respondents selected from the pre-test to be part of a panel sample were successfully reinterviewed, an overall panel response rate of 70.9 percent. The remaining 122 cases did not yield completed interviews, mainly due to vacant dwelling units. This relatively high vacancy rate was not unexpected; the 1980 Census showed a 21 percent vacancy rate in the program area and, according to local newspaper reports, had increased by the time interviewing occurred. In addition, Hurricane Alicia, which hit the Houston area in August, 1983, caused many residents of the program area to vacate their homes.

Table 7 presents the panel completion rates for the total sample and various subgroups. The table shows that 51 percent of the designated panel

Table 6

Neighborhood Police Newsletter Experiment Response Rates: Houston

Panel Sample
(Numbers in Parentheses are Percentages of Sample Size)

Condition	Total Units	Sample Size [1]	Completed Interviews	Refusals	Vacant	Respondent Moved	Maximum Calls	Other [2]	Panel Response Rate [3]
Newsletter with Statistics	255	83	43 (51.8%)	3 (3.6%)	24 (28.9%)	2 (2.4%)	2 (2.4%)	9 (10.8%)	75.4%
Newsletter without Statistics	256	83	42 (50.6%)	4 (4.8%)	18 (21.7%)	3 (3.6%)	3 (3.6%)	13 (14.6%)	67.7%
No Newsletter	256	83	42 (50.6%)	2 (2.4%)	23 (27.7%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (2.4%)	14 (16.9%)	70.0%
Total	767	249	127 (51.0%)	9 (3.6%)	65 (26.1%)	5 (2.0%)	7 (2.8%)	30 (14.5%)	70.9%

Post-Test Only Sample
(Numbers in Parentheses are Percentages of Sample Size)

Condition	Total Units	Sample Size [1]	Completed Interviews	Refusals	Vacant	Maximum Calls	Other [2]	Post-Test Response Rate [4]
Newsletter with Statistics	411	137	62 (45.4%)	3 (2.2%)	53 (38.7%)	11 (8.0%)	8 (5.8%)	73.8%
Newsletter without Statistics	410	137	58 (42.3%)	4 (2.9%)	54 (39.4%)	9 (6.6%)	12 (8.8%)	69.9%
No Newsletter	411	137	69 (50.4%)	8 (5.8%)	38 (27.8%)	10 (7.3%)	12 (8.6%)	70.4%
Total	1232	411	189 (46.0%)	15 (3.6%)	145 (38.3%)	30 (7.3%)	32 (23.4%)	71.1%

1. The sample size was based on the assumption that the survey operations would produce completion rates of 66 percent for the panel sample and 55 percent for the post-test only sample.

2. "Other" includes the number of respondents who were in hospital, ill, on vacation, or had a language problem, plus completed interviews which were invalidated during quality control checks and those cases in which the pre-test and post-test interviews could not be matched.

3. "Panel Response Rate" equals Number Completed ÷ (Sample Size - (Number Vacant + Number Respondent Moved)). Ineligible))

4. "Post-Test Response Rate" equals Number Completed ÷ (Sample Size - Number Vacant).

Table 7

Panel Completion Rates of Newsletter Samples: Houston

	% Completed*
Overall (N=249)	51%
Race	
Blacks (N=132)	55%
Whites (N=58)	38%
Hispanics (N=42)	52%
Asian/Pacific Islander (N=11)	73%
American Indian (N=1)	100%
Other Undetermined (N=5)	40%
Sex	
Males (N=116)	56%
Females (N=133)	47%
Age	
LT 25 years (N=42)	43%
25-49 years (N=178)	51%
GT 49 years (N=29)	66%
Years of Residence	
LT 3 years (N=159)	46%
3-5 years (N=53)	55%
6-9 years (N=26)	58%
GT 9 years (N=11)	91%
Education	
Elementary School (N=13)	46%
Some High School (N=44)	50%
High School Graduate (N=109)	52%
Some College (N=52)	54%
College Graduate (N=28)	46%
Household Income	
LT $5,000 (N=15)	67%
$5,000-$10,000 (N=19)	52%
$10,000-$15,000 (N=37)	51%
$15,000-$20,000 (N=39)	49%
$20,000-$25,000 (N=47)	45%
$25,000-$30,000 (N=20)	50%
Over $30,000 (N=48)	65%
Respondent's English (Interviewer judgment)	
Good (N=222)	51%
Fair or Poor (N=17)	59%
Interview in Spanish (N=8)	25%
Respondent's Cooperativeness (Interviewer judgment)	
Very (N=196)	53%
Fairly or Not Very (N=51)	43%

* Percent of those persons interviewed during the summer of 1983 who were successfully reinterviewed during the spring of 1984.

Ns in parentheses represent the number of respondents interviewed during the pre-test, in the summer of 1983.

sample was reinterviewed at Wave 2. Examination of completion rates by subgroup shows that certain differential attrition occurred. Blacks and Hispanics, for example, were more likely to be reinterviewed than were whites. Females were reinterviewed at a somewhat higher rate than males. The older a respondent, the more likely it was that a reinterview occurred. Years of residence was inversely related to panel attrition, with short term residents least likely to be reinterviewed. A curvilinear relationship between household income and attrition was found, with respondents from low income households and high income households the most likely to be reinterviewed.

To better understand the consequences of the panel attrition, Appendix D presents comparisons of mean scores of selected variables for those persons who were successfully reinterviewed at both waves compared to those who could not be reinterviewed at Wave 2. The results show that of 21 comparisons, none showed differences that were statistically significant. Thus, the panel attrition did not appear to produce substantially different responses to the principal outcome measures under study.

The post-test only sample yielded results similar to those in the panel sample; 189 of the 411 persons in the sample provided completed interviews, a response rate of 71.1 percent. The remaining 222 cases did not yield interviews, due mainly to vacant dwelling units.

Table 8 presents selected demographic characteristics of both types of samples. The results show that the respondents in the panel samples had

Table 8

Demographic Characteristics of Newsletter Samples: Houston

	Panel Samples N (%)	Post-Only Samples N (%)
Sex		
Males	65 (51.2)	102 (54.0)
Females	62 (48.8)	87 (46.0)
Race		
Blacks	73 (57.5)	91 (48.4)
Whites	22 (17.3)	54 (28.7)
Hispanics	22 (17.3)	37 (19.7)
Asian/Pacific Islander	9 (7.1)	4 (2.1)
American Indian	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)
Other Undetermined	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)
Average Age	36.5	35.0
Education		
Elementary School	3 (2.4)	14 (7.4)
Some High School	18 (14.2)	40 (21.2)
High School Graduate	68 (53.5)	74 (39.2)
Some College	26 (20.5)	36 (19.0)
College Graduate	12 (9.4)	25 (13.3)
Own or Rent Home		
Own	39 (30.7)	42 (22.2)
Rent	88 (69.3)	147 (77.8)

notably higher proportions of blacks and owners and were somewhat older than those in the post-only samples. Based on the characteristics examined, no differences across experimental conditions were statistically significant. Appendix C presents more complete breakdowns across conditions.

Newark Samples

Sample Sizes. The residential listing of the program area in Newark produced 1194 housing units. A sample of 756 units was randomly selected from those units for the pre-test survey which was conducted in July and August of 1983. In each of the selected households a respondent was randomly selected from a list of adults (19 years of age or older) living in the household at the time of the survey.

Panel Sample. The panel sample was selected from the list of 543 households in which an interview was completed during the pre-test. A total of 198 of the households were randomly selected and assigned to the three experimental conditions. As Table 9 shows, one third of the households were mailed six monthly issues of the version of the newsletter with crime statistics insert; one third were mailed six monthly issues of the version of the newsletter without crime statistics; and, one third were not mailed the newsletter.

Post-Test Only Sample. A sample of 303 housing units was selected from the 438 units that were left after the selection of the pre-test sample in 1983. As in the pre-test sample, these households were then randomly assigned to the three experimental conditions.

Table 9

Neighborhood Police Newsletter Experiment Response Rates: Newark

Panel Sample
(Numbers in Parentheses are Percentages of Sample Size)

Condition	Total	Sample Size [1]	Completed Interviews	Refusals	Vacant	Respondent Moved	Maximum Calls	Ineligible, Duplicates	Other[2]	Panel Response Rate[3]
Newsletter with Statistics	181	66	34 (51.5%)	5 (7.6%)	2 (3.0%)	11 (16.7%)	6 (9.1%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (12.1%)	64.1%
Newsletter without Statistics	181	66	44 (66.7%)	3 (4.5%)	2 (3.0%)	11 (16.7%)	3 (4.5%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (4.5%)	83.0%
No Newsletter	181	66	39 (59.1%)	3 (4.5%)	1 (1.5%	6 (9.1%)	4 (6.1%)	1 (1.5%)	12 (18.2%)	76.2%
Total	543	198	117 (59.1%)	11 (5.6%)	5 (2.5%)	28 (14.1%)	13 (6.6%)	1 (0.5%)	23 (11.6%)	71.3%

Post-Test Only Sample
(Numbers in Parentheses are Percentages of Sample Size)

Condition	Total	Desired Sample Size [1]	Completed Interviews	Refusals	Vacant	Maximum Calls	Ineligible, Duplicates	Other[2]	Post-Test Response Rate[4]
Newsletter with Statistics	146	101	58 (57.4%)	15 (14.8%)	0 (0.0%)	9 (8.9%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (5.9%)	67.4%
Newsletter without Statistics	146	101	67 (66.3%)	8 (7.9%)	9 (8.9%)	11 (10.9%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (5.9%)	72.8%
No Newsletter	146	101	56 (55.4%)	11 (10.9%)	17 (13.9%)	13 (12.9%)	1 (1.0%)	3 (3.0%)	67.5%
Total	438	303	181 (59.7%)	32 (10.6%)	41 (13.5%)	33 (10.9%)	1 (0.3%)	15 (4.9%)	69.3%

1. The sample size was based on the assumption that the survey operations would produce completion rates of 66 percent for the panel sample and 75 percent for the post-test only sample.

2. "Other" includes the number of respondents who were in hospital, ill, on vacation, or had a language problem, plus completed interviews which were invalidated during quality control checks and those cases in which the pre-test and post-test interviews could not be matched.

3. "Panel Response Rate" equals Number Completed ÷ (Sample Size - (Number Vacant + Number Respondent Moved Ineligible))

4. "Post-Test Response Rate" equals Number Completed ÷ (Sample Size - Number Vacant)

Survey Results. The Wave 2 interviews for the panel and post-test only samples were conducted in March and April of 1984. Table 9 presents the survey results separately for the panel and post-test only samples. For the panel sample, a total of 117 of the 198 pre-test respondents were succesfully re-interviewed in 1984, an overall panel response rate of 71.3 percent. The remaining 81 cases did not yield completed interviews due to vacant dwelling units, refusals, the pre-test respondent no longer being a member of the household and other reasons.

Table 10 presents the panel completion rates for the total sample and various subgroups. Overall, as the table indicates, 59 percent of the designated panel respondents were reinterviewed in Wave 2. The completion rates varied considerably across subgroups, however. Females were much more likely to be reinterviewed than were males. Age was also related to panel attrition, with older persons more likely to be reinterviewed. Years of residence was inversely related to panel attrition, with short term residents least likely to be reinterviewed.

To better understand the consequences of the panel attrition, Appendix E presents comparisons of mean scores of selected variables for those persons who were successfully reinterviewed at both waves as compared to those from persons who could not be reinterviewed at Wave 2. The results show that of 21 comparisons, none showed differences that were statistically significant. Thus, the panel attrition did not appear to produce substantially different responses to the principal outcome measures being analyzed.

The post-test only sample, interviews were completed in 181 of the 303 designated households, an overall response rate of 69.3 percent. The principal reasons for failure to complete interviews were vacant dwelling

Table 10

Panel Completion Rates of Newsletter Samples: Newark

	% Completed*
Overall (N=198)	59%
Race	
Blacks (N=187)	60%
Whites (N=7)	43%
Other Undetermined (N=4)	50%
Sex	
Males (N=71)	48%
Females (N=125)	66%
Age	
LT 25 years (N=26)	54%
25-49 years (N=106)	53%
GT 49 years (N=63)	73%
Years of Residence	
LT 3 years (N=44)	48%
3-5 years (N=32)	50%
6-9 years (N=24)	71%
GT 9 years (N=95)	66%
Education	
Elementary School (N=23)	65%
Some High School (N=36)	61%
High School Graduate (N=76)	61%
Some College (N=31)	48%
College Graduate (N=27)	59%
Household Income	
LT $5,000 (N=19)	79%
$5,000-$10,000 (N=12)	75%
$10,000-$15,000 (N=17)	47%
$15,000-$20,000 (N=20)	70%
$20,000-$25,000 (N=16)	81%
$25,000-$30,000 (N=6)	83%
Over $30,000 (N=11)	55%
Respondent's English (Interviewer judgment)	
Good (N=165)	62%
Fair or Poor (N=29)	48%
Respondent's Cooperativeness (Interviewer judgment)	
Very (N=148)	65%
Fairly or Not Very (N=45)	44%

* Percent of those persons interviewed during the summer of 1983 who were successfully reinterviewed during the spring of 1984.

Ns in parentheses represent the number of respondents interviewed during the the pre-test in the summer of 1983.

Table 11

Demographic Characteristics of Newsletter Samples: Newark

	Panel Samples N (%)	Post-Only Samples N (%)
Sex		
Males	34 (29.1)	52 (28.7)
Females	83 (48.8)	129 (71.3)
Race		
Blacks	112 (95.7)	181(100.0)
Whites	3 (2.6)	0 (0.0)
Other Undetermined	2 (1.7)	0 (0.0)
Average Age	46.50	42.50
Education		
Elementary School	19 (16.2)	20 (11.0)
Some High School	22 (18.8)	47 (26.0)
High School Graduate	39 (33.3)	69 (38.1)
Some College	25 (21.4)	35 (19.3)
College Graduate	12 (10.2)	10 (5.5)
Own or Rent Home		
Own	56 (47.9)	51 (28.2)
Rent	61 (52.1)	130 (71.8)

units and refusals. The different reasons for non-interview are presented in Table 9.

Table 11 shows selected demographic characteristics of both types of samples. The results indicated that respondents in the panel sample were notably more likely to have been owners and college graduates and were somewhat older than those in the post-only sample. No differences across experimental conditions were statistically significant. Appendix H presents more complete breakdowns by condition.

Measurement

Survey questionnaires were designed to collect information about exposure to the program as well as to measure the effects on each of the dimensions on which the program was hypothesized to have some impact. Appendix F contains a sample of the questionnaire. Appendix G describes in detail the measures used and how they were created. A brief summary of the measures used is presented below.

- o Recalled Program Exposure. Respondents were asked if they had:
  - Heard about a monthly newsletter published by the police specifically for residents of this area, and
  - Seen any issues of the newsletter (after being shown a copy).

Those persons who said they had seen a copy were asked how many issues had been mailed to them and how many they had looked at.

- o Perceived Accuracy of Local Crime Information. To measure the perceived accuracy of the crime information they received, respondents were asked if they thought they got a "true picture" of local crime.

o Fear of Personal Victimization in Area. A composite scale was created combining the responses to four questions which asked about:

- Perceived safety while in area alone,
- Whether there was a place in the area where the respondent was afraid to go,
- Worry about being robbed in the area,
- Worry about being assaulted in the area.

o Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area. Responses to two questions were combined to produce a measure of concern about local property crime. The questions about the respondents' levels of worry about:

- Burglary and
- Auto theft

In addition to the two scales to measure fear/worry about particular types of crime, respondents who recalled seeing a newsletter were asked whether, because of seeing it, they had become more or less worried about becoming a victim of crime.

o Relative Worry About Property Vis-a-Vis Personal Crime. To measure the extent to which respondents worried more about property crime than about personal crime, a scale was constructed which subtracted the average level worry about personal crimes (robbery and attack) from the average level of worry about property crimes (burglary and theft or damage to automobile). High positive scores indicate much greater relative worry about property crime; high negative scores indicate much greater relative worry about personal crimes. A score of zero indicates equal worry about both types of crimes.

o Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems. To measure perceived personal crime in the area, responses were combined for three questions which asked respondents about their perceptions of the problems of:

- People being attacked or beaten up by strangers in the area,
- People being robbed or having their money, purses or wallets taken,
- Perceived problem of rape or other sexual attacks.

o Perceived Area Property Crime Problems. To measure perceived area property crime, responses were combined for three questions which asked about perceptions of the problems of:

- Burglary in the area,
- Auto vandalism in the area and
- Auto theft in the area.

Respondents who recalled seeing a newsletter with crime statistics were asked whether, because of seeing the crime information, they thought more or less crime was occurring in their area than they had thought before seeing it.

o Perceived Increase in Area Crime. As an indicator of respondents perceptions of local crime trends, they were asked whether they thought that crime in their area had increased or decreased in the past year.

o Perceived Increase in Area Personal Crime. To measure perceptions of local personal crime trends, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they thought that increasing personal crime in the area was a problem.

o Perceived Increase in Area Property Crime. As an indicator of perceptions of local property crime trends, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they thought that increasing property crime in the area was a problem.

o Attribution of Crime Prevention Responsibility to Residents. To determine the extent to which respondents were willing to take responsibility for crime prevention, they were asked whether they thought the prevention of crime was more the responsibility of residents, more the responsibility of the police or the responsibility of both. The higher the score, the more the responsibility attributed to residents.

o Defensive Behaviors to Avoid Personal Crime. To measure the extent to which respondents take restrictive, defensive precautions to protect themselves against crime, the answers were combined for four questions which asked whether the respondent:

- Goes out with someone else after dark in order to avoid crime,
- Avoids certain areas,
- Avoids certain types of people, and
- Avoids going out after dark.

o Household Crime Prevention Efforts. To measure the household prevention measures which had been taken, the responses to the following questions were combined:

- Have special locks been installed?
- Have outdoor lights been installed?
- Have timers been installed?
- Have special windows or bars been installed?
- Do you ask a neighbor to watch home when away for a day or two?

In addition, respondents who recalled seeing a newsletter were asked whether, because of the newsletter, they had taken--or considered taking--actions to prevent crime.

o Perceived Efficacy of Defensive Behaviors. Respondents were asked to indicate how much safer they thought they could become if they took defensive behaviors (such as avoiding certain places or types of people) to avoid crime.

o Perceived Efficacy of Household Crime Prevention Efforts. Similarly, respondents were asked how much safer they thought their home could be made by undertaking various crime prevention efforts (such as installing special locks, lights or timers) to protect it against victimization. In addition to the two specific questions about personal and property crime, each respondent who recalled seeing a newsletter was asked whether, because of it, they were more or less confident about avoiding crime of any kind.

o Evaluations of Police Service. A scale designed to indicate general attitudes toward police service was created by combining the responses to the following individual items:

- How good a job do the police in the area do at preventing crime?
- How good a job do the police in the area do in helping victims?
- How good a job do the police in the area do in keeping order the street?
- How polite are police in the area in dealing with people?
- How helpful are police in the area in dealing with people?
- How fair are police in the area in dealing with people?

o Satisfaction with Area. To ascertain the extent to which respondents were satisfied with the area in which they lived responses were combined for two questions which asked about:

- Their perception of the extent to which the area had become a better or worse place in the past year, and
- The extent to which they were satisfied with the area as a place to live.

o Assessments of Newsletters. Respondents who said they had seen at least one copy of the newsletter were asked "how interesting" and "how informative" they found it to be. In addition, respondents who said they recalled seeing a copy of the newsletter were asked what they found most informative about it, how it could be made more informative, whether they would like to continue receiving the newsletter and whether they would like to receive local recorded crime information.

Analysis

The effect of the experimental conditions on each dependent variable was tested by means of analysis of covariance, using dichotomous independent "treatment" variables to represent whether each respondent lived in a household which, according to records, was not mailed a newsletter, was mailed a version of the newsletter without crime statistics or was mailed a newsletter containing crime statistics. This analysis permitted the creation of adjusted mean scores at Wave 2, controlling for sex, age, education and race of the respondent as covariates. The use of such adjusted means statistically controls for differences in these characteristics of the treatment groups which may have existed even after random assignment to treatment conditions was carried out. Finally, as

discussed by Cohen & Cohen (1975), the Wave 1 score in the panel sample for each dependent variable was also used as a covariate, producing adjusted means which were "regressed change scores" at Wave 2.

Analyses for both panel and post-test only samples were performed separately for both cities. The panel analysis has the advantage of stronger internal validity due to its repeated measures feature. On the other hand, the post-test only sample has the strength of greater external validity, since it does not suffer from the problems of panel attrition.

The analyses were conducted by comparing the adjusted means of the three experimental conditions on a pairwise basis. Such analyses provide an opportunity to test the relative effectiveness of two models of media impact. By comparing the means of the respondents who lived in households sent no newsleters to those of respondents sent newsletters without crime statistics, it is possible to test the suggestion of the perceived--informativeness model that providing citizens with relevant crime prevention information can produce desirable changes in attitudes and behaviors. The comparison of the means of the respondents who lived in households sent no newsletters to the means of those sent newsletters with crime statistics permits a test of the suggestion of the parallel-process model that a combination of crime prevention information and local crime statistics--which, depending on its content, may be simply more information or somewhat fear arousing--could also produce desirable changes. Comparing the means of the two newsletter groups provides a test of the additional effect contributed by crime statistics beyond that produced by the newsletter alone.

Summary

This evaluation examined the effects of distributing neighborhood police newsletters to residents of Houston and Newark. One program area in each city was selected; within each area residences were randomly assigned to receive:

- Newsletters with crime prevention advice, information about successful efforts to thwart crime and an additional listing of crimes reported in their neighborhood.
- Newsletters exactly like those above but without the listing of crimes, or
- No newsletters.

To measure the differential effects of being assigned to these conditions, two research designs were utilized in each city. In the panel design, certain people (the panel sample) were interviewed before distribution of the newsletters began and again six months later. This design has the advantage of allowing strong statistical controls but, because of panel attrition, is not representative of the area in general. In addition, it is possible that interviewing persons before newsletter distribution began may sensitize the respondents to the experimental treatment. In the post-test only design, certain people were interviewed only once, six months after the distribution began. This design avoids the potential sensitization which pre-testing might cause and does not suffer from panel attrition. It cannot, however, use pre-test scores as statistical controls.

Survey instruments were designed to collect information about each of the following:

- Recalled Program Exposure,
- Perceived Accuracy of Local Crime Information,
- Fear of Personal Victimization in Area,
- Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area,
- Relative Worry About Property Vis-a-Vis Personal Crime,
- Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems,
- Perceived Area Property Crime Problems,
- Perceived Increase in Area Crime,
- Attribution of Crime Prevention Responsibility to Residents,
- Defensive Behaviors to Avoid Personal Crime,
- Household Crime Prevention Efforts,
- Perceived Efficacy of Defensive Behaviors,
- Perceived Efficacy of Household Crime Prevention Efforts,
- Evaluation of Police Service,
- Satisfaction with Area, and
- Assessments of the Newsletters.

The data collected for these measures were subjected to analysis of covariance, producing adjusted Wave 2 means controlling for several demographic factors and, for the panel sample members, the value of the measure at the time of the first interview. Means for each experimental condition were compared to each other to provide information about the relative support provided to two models of media impact.

RESULTS

The results of the various analyses are presented, by city, below.

Recalled Program Exposure

Tables 12 and 13 contain results from several questions asked to determine the extent to which respondents recall being exposed to the newsletter. Table 12 shows that, in Houston, between 48 amd 70 percent of the respondents in households send a newsletter said they had heard of such a newsletter; between 45 and 65 percent said they recalled seeing a newsletter after being shown a copy. In both cases, recalled exposure was highest among those who were sent recorded crime data. Only 42 and 32 pecent of those in households sent crime information recall seeing it, in the panel and post-only samples respectively. The average number of issues which respondents said they had examined ranged from about 1.4 to 1.8. Between 12 and 13 percent of respondents in households which were not sent a newsletter indicated they had heard of one; between 10 and 14 percent said they has seen a copy* Table 13 indicates that, in Newark, between 40 and 59 percent of those in households mailed a newsletter said they had heard of them; when shown a copy, between 52 and 68 percent said they remembered

*Although it is possible that some of these respondents were, in fact, exposed to the newsletter, it is at least as likely that they are misreporting that exposure. The "demand characteristics" of the interview setting are such, that a sizable percentage of U.S. citizens say they see television advertisements for liquor and cigarettes although such advertising has been removed from that medium for years.

TABLE 12

Recalled Exposure to Newsletter

Houston Samples

	Total Sample					Those Who Recall Seeing Newsletter		
	Percent Who Recall Hearing of Newsletter	Percent Who Recall Seeing Newsletter	Percent Who Recall Seeing Crime Data	Average Issues Recalled Mailed	Average Issues Recalled Examined	Percent Who Recall Seeing Crime Data	Average Issues Recalled Mailed	Average Issues Recalled Examined
Panel Sample Received:								
Newsletter with Crime Statistics (N=43)	70% (30/43)	65% (28/43)	42% (18/43)	2.14 (N=43)	1.70 (N=43)	67% (18/27)	3.41 (N=27)	2.70 (N=27)
Newsletter without Crime Statistics (N=42)	48% (20/42)	60% (25/42)	17% (7/42)	1.76 (N=42)	1.38 (N=42)	29% (7/24)	3.08 (N=24)	2.42 (N=24)
No Newsletter (N=42)	12% (5/42)	10% (4/42)	0% (0/42)	.10 (N=42)	.02 (N=42)	0% (0/4)	1.00 (N=4)	.50 (N=4)
Post-Only Sample Received:								
Newsletter with Crime Statistics (N=62)	61% (38/62)	61% (38/62)	35% (22/62)	1.81 (N=62)	1.84 (N=62)	59% (22/37)	3.11 (N=36)	2.22 (N=37)
Newsletter without Crime Statistics (N=58)	52% (30/58)	45% (26/58)	7% (4/58)	1.21 (N=58)	1.44 (N=58)	15% (4/26)	2.69 (N=26)	1.77 (N=26)
No Newsletter (N=69)	13% (9/69)	14% (10/69)	0% (4/69)	.12 (N=69)	.09 (N=69)	40% (4/10)	1.33 (N=6)	.60 (N=10)

TABLE 13

Recalled Exposure to Newsletter

Newark Samples

	Total Sample					Those Who Recall Seeing Newsletter		
	Percent Who Recall Hearing of Newsletter	Percent Who Recall Seeing Newsletter	Percent Who Recall Seeing Crime Data	Average Issues Recalled Mailed	Average Issues Recalled Examined	Percent Who Recall Seeing Crime Data	Average Issues Recalled Mailed	Average Issues Recalled Examined
Panel Sample Received:								
Newsletter with Crime Statistics (N=34)	59% (20/34)	68% (23/34)	35% (12/34)	1.91 (N=34)	1.74 (N=34)	44% (12/27)	3.25 (N=27)	2.68 (N=27)
Newsletter without Crime Statistics (N=44)	41% (18/44)	59% (26/44)	7% (3/44)	1.16 (N=44)	1.32 (N=44)	12% (3/26)	3.40 (N=15)	2.23 (N=26)
No Newsletter (N=39)	15% (6/39)	18% (7/39)	0% (0/39)	.26 (N=39)	.36 (N=39)	0% (0/7)	2.50 (N=4)	2.00 (N=7)
Post-Only Sample Received:								
Newsletter with Crime Statistics (N=58)	41% (24/58)	52% (30/58)	22% (13/58)	.93 (N=58)	1.21 (N=58)	45% (13/29)	2.30 (N=20)	2.14 (N=29)
Newsletter without Crime Statistics (N=67)	40% (27/67)	55% (37/67)	7% (5/67)	1.01 (N=67)	1.10 (N=67)	14% (5/35	2.83 (N=24)	2.11 (N=35)
No Newsletter (N=56)	21% (12/56)	21% (12/56)	7% (4/56)	.32 (N=56)	.41 (N=56)	33% (4/12)	2.57 (N=7)	1.92 (N=12)

seeing one. Only 26 and 22 percent of those in households sent recorded crime information recall seeing it, in the panel and post-only samples respectively. The average number of issues examined ranged from 1.1 to 1.7. Between 18 and 21 percent of those in households which were not sent newsletters said they had seen a copy.

Tests of Hypothesized Effects

o Perceived Accuracy of Local Crime Information

Table 14 presents the Wave 2 adjusted proportions of respondents in each condition who thought they got a "true picture" of local crime. No differences among means in Houston were statistically significant in either city. In the Newark panel sample, however, the mean for those in households receiving newsletters without statistics was sufficiently lower than that for those in households sent crime statistics for the difference to be significant at the .05 level.

o Fear and Worry About Crime

As the results in Table 15 indicate, no statistically significant differences between adjusted Wave 2 means were found with respect to the scale, "Fear of Personal Victimization in Area," in either city.

Table 16 indicates the results of the analyses of the scale, "Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area." The only statistically significant finding was that, in the Houston post-only sample, the group sent crime statistics were more worried than were those who received no newsletter.

TABLE 14

Perceived Accuracy of Crime Information

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	.38 (N=38)	.61 (N=35)	.52 (N=42)
Post-Only	.40 (N=68)	.44 (N=56)	.58 (N=59)
Newark			
Panel	.45 (N=34)	.30 (n+33)	.54 (N=25)
Post-Only	.42 (N=54)	.32 (N=65)	.41 (N=56)

Entries represent proportions who believe they get a true picture of local crime.

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>	NoS>	NoS<	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S>	S<
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S>	S>*	S>

* < .05

TABLE 15

Fear of Personal Victimization in Area

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	1.53 (N=42)	1.55 (N=41)	1.52 (N=43)
Post-Only	1.52 (N=69)	1.55 (N=58)	1.62 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	2.01 (N=39)	1.74 (N=42)	1.86 (N=32)
Post-Only	1.89 (N=56)	1.85 (N=65)	1.93 (N=57)

Higher scores indicate higher levels of fear.

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>	NoS>	NoS<	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S>	S<	S>
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S>	S>	S>

TABLE 16

Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	2.16 (N=42)	2.12 (N=41)	2.29 (N=43)
Post-Only	1.99 (N=69)	2.14 (N=58)	2.24 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	2.13 (N=39)	2.09 (N=41)	2.14 (N=31)
Post-Only	2.27 (N=56)	2.15 (N=65)	2.28 (N=57)

3 = Very worried
2 = Somewhat worried
1 = Not worried at all

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race, and for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS<	NoS>	NoS<	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>*	S>	S>
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S>	S>

* $p < .05$

In addition, respondents who said they recalled seeing a copy of the newsletter were asked whether, because of that newsletter, they were more or less worried that they might become a victim of crime. As Table 17 indicates, seven of the eight groups said they had become less worried. The only signficant difference was that Houston panel respondents in households sent crime statistics were significantly more likely to have increased their level of worry because of the newsletter than were respondents who were not sent statistics.

o Relative Worry About Property Vis-aVis Personal Crime

Table 18 shows that no statistically significant differences were found among any groups in either city.

o Perceived Area Crime Problems

The results in Tables 19 and 20 reveal no statistically significant differences among groups with respect to "Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems" or "Perceived Area Property Crime Problems."

To better understand the effect of distributing recorded crime data on perceptions of crime, respondents who recalled receiving such information were asked if, as a result of seeing it, they found that there was more or less crime than they had thought previously. The results in Table 21 indicate that respondents in both Houston samples indicated that they though that crime in the area was somewhat greater than they thought before they received the crime data included in the newsletter. In Newark, perceptions of crime remained the same or increased slightly in the panel and post-only samples respectively.

TABLE 17

Increase in Worry About Victimization Because of Newsletter

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Site x Sample	Type of Newsletter Received	
	Without Statistics	With Statistics
Houston		
Panel	1.64 (N=20)	2.27* (N=23)
Post-Only	1.90 (N=20)	1.90 (N=28)
Newark		
Panel	1.85 (N=20)	1.91 (N=20)
Post-Only	1.97 (N=29)	1.84 (N=24)

*p < .01

3 = More worried
2 = No difference
1 = Less worried

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

TABLE 18

Relative Worry About Property Vis-a-Vis Personal Crime

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	.43 (N=42)	.43 (N=41)	.64 (N=43)
Post-Only	.29 (N=69)	.39 (N=58)	.48 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	-.03 (N=39)	.27 (N=42)	.18 (N=32)
Post-Only	.20 (N=56)	.18 (N=65)	.22 (N=57)

+2 = Very worried about property crime, not worried about personal crime
0 = Equal worry about both property and personal crime
-2 = Very worried about personal crime, not worried about property crime

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	=	NoS>	NoS>	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S>	S>
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S<	S>

TABLE 19

Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	1.42 (N=41)	1.49 (N=40)	1.38 (N=41)
Post-Only	1.40 (N=69)	1.43 (N=58)	1.37 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	1.77 (N=38)	1.62 (N=42)	1.86 (N=31)
Post-Only	1.74 (N=55)	1.76 (N=65)	1.79 (N=57)

3 = Big problem
2 = Some problem
1 = No problem

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>	NoS>	NoS<	NoS>
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S>	S>
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S>	S>

TABLE 20

Perceived Area Property Crime Problems

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	2.04 (N=42)	2.07 (N=41)	1.99 (N=43)
Post-Only	1.87 (N=69)	1.89 (N=58)	2.01 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	2.07 (N=38)	2.02 (N=41)	2.17 (N=32)
Post-Only	2.18 (N=56)	2.02 (N=65)	2.02 (N=57)

3 = Big problem
2 = Some problem
1 = No problem

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>	NoS>	NoS<	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S>	S>	S<
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S>	S>	=

TABLE 21

Increased Estimate of Extent of Area Crime
Because of Crime Data Provided in Newsletter

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Crime Data)

Site x Sample	Mean
Houston	
Panel	2.28 (N=18)
Post-Only	2.38 (N=20)
Newark	
Panel	2.00 (N=9)
Post-Only	2.10 (N=13)

3 = More than thought before seeing statistics
2 = About the same as thought before
1 = Less than thought before

o Perceived Trends in Area Crime

Table 22 presents Wave 2 adjusted means for the question concerning "Perceived Increase in Area Crime," asking whether respondents thought that crime had increased, decreased or remained the same in the past year. Eleven of the twelve groups indicated that they thought crime had increased slightly in the past year. The only statistically significant differences were found in the Houston panel samples, in which respondents who received newsletters, regardless of whether they contained crime statistics, perceived a greater increase in crime than did those who received no newsletter.

Tables 23 and 24 present the results concerning the extent to which increases in personal and property crime, respectively, were perceived to be a problem. In nine of the twelve samples, increasing property crime was seen to be a bigger problem than increasing personal crime. No statistically significant differences were discovered across groups.

o Attribution of Crime Prevention Responsibility to Residents

Table 25 presents the Wave 2 adjusted means for the question which asked respondents whether crime prevention was more the responsibility of residents or the police. In either out of 12 cases respondents indicated they thought crime prevention was slightly more the responsibility of residents than of police. No statistically significant differences across groups, however, was discovered.

TABLE 22

Perceived Increase in Area Crime

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	1.90 (N=39)	2.21 (N=32)	2.24 (N=38)
Post-Only	2.21 (N=63)	2.12 (N=54)	2.20 (N=57)
Newark			
Panel	2.11 (N=32)	2.02 (N=36)	2.12 (N=28)
Post-Only	2.22 (N=53)	2.31 (N=54)	2.13 (N=54)

Entries indicate that, in the past year, crime in the area was perceived to have:

3 = Increased
2 = Remained about the same
1 = Decreased

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>*	NoS<	NoS<	NoS>
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>*	S<	S>	S<
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S>	S<

*p < .05

TABLE 23

Perceived Increase in Area Personal Crime

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	1.57 (N=42)	1.50 (N=41)	1.73 (N=43)
Post-Only	1.43 (N=68)	1.49 (N=58)	1.53 (N=59)
Newark			
Panel	1.89 (N=37)	1.76 (N=40)	1.95 (N=32)
Post-Only	2.03 (N=52)	1.87 (N=61)	1.87 (N=55)

Entries indicate that increasing personal crime in the area was perceived to be:

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

3 = Big problem
2 = Some problem
1 = No problem

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS<	NoS>	NoS<	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S>	S<
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S>	=

TABLE 24

Perceived Increase in Area Property Crime

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	1.94 (N=41)	1.92 (N=41)	1.72 (N=43)
Post-Only	1.84 (N=68)	1.85 (N=58)	1.79 (N=59)
Newark			
Panel	2.01 (N=35)	1.82 (N=40)	2.10 (N=29)
Post-Only	2.00 (N=52)	1.86 (N=62)	1.90 (N=56)

Entries indicate increasing property crime in the area was perceived to be:

3 = Big problem
2 = Some problem
1 = No problem

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS<	NoS>	NoS<	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S>	S<
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S>	S>

TABLE 25

Attribution of Crime Prevention Responsibility to Residents

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	2.19 (N=42)	2.01 (N=41)	2.09 (N=43)
Post-Only	2.07 (N=69)	1.97 (N=58)	2.04 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	1.96 (N=39)	2.07 (N=39)	2.01 (N=31)
Post-Only	1.96 (N=56)	1.91 (N=65)	2.11 (N=56)

Entries indicate that the prevention of crime in the area was perceived to be:

3 = More the responsibility of residents
2 = The responsibility of both residents and police
1 = More the responsibility of the police

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS<	NoS<	NoS>	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S>	S>
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S<	S>

o Crime Prevention Efforts

Table 26 presents the Wave 2 adjusted means of the scale used to measure the number of defensive behaviors respondents undertook in an effort to avoid personal crime. No statistically significant differences across groups were found.

Table 27 shows the number of reported efforts taken to prevent crimes against the household. The only statistically significant difference found was that, in the Newark panel sample, respondents in households sent no newsletter were much more likely to have said they had taken steps to prevent household crime than were those sent a newsletter without crime statistics.

Respondents who said they recalled seeing a newsletter were asked if they had taken--or considered taking--steps to prevent crime because of having read the newsletter. Table 28 presents the Wave 2 adjusted means of the efforts reportedly taken; Table 29 presents the adjusted means of efforts reportedly considered. No statistically significant differences were found with respect to either measure.

o Perceived Efficacy of Crime Prevention Efforts

The extent to which respondents indicated they believed that defensive behaviors to avoid personal crime could make them safer is shown in Table 30. Comparable results concerning the perceived efficacy of household crime prevention efforts are presented in Table 31. In allsamples, household crime prevention efforts were perceived to be less effective than defensive behaviors. No statistically significant differences were found across treatment groups however.

TABLE 26

Defensive Behaviors to Avoid Personal Crime

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	0.59 (N=42)	0.55 (N=41)	0.54 (N=43)
Post-Only	0.52 (N=69)	0.54 (N=58)	0.56 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	0.66 (N=39)	0.63 (N=42)	0.70 (N=32)
Post-Only	0.70 (N=56)	0.71 (N=65)	0.75 (N=57)

Higher scores indicate the undertaking of greater numbers of defensive behaviors.

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS<	NoS>	NoS<	NoS>
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S>	S>	S>
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S>	S>	S>

TABLE 27

Household Crime Prevention Efforts

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	2.30 (N=42)	2.35 (N=41)	2.72 (N=43)
Post-Only	2.65 (N=69)	2.52 (N=58)	2.56 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	2.87 (N=39)	1.83 (N=42)	2.18 (N=32)
Post-Only	1.81 (N=56)	1.88 (N=65)	1.93 (N=57)

Higher numbers indicate a greater number of household crime prevention efforts.

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>	NoS<	NoS<*	NoS>
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S<	S<	S>
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S>	S>	S>

* $p < .05$

TABLE 28

Crime Prevention Efforts Undertaken Because of Newsletter

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Site x Sample	Type of Newsletter Received	
	Without Statistics	With Statistics
Houston		
Panel	.32 (N=20)	.64 (N=23)
Post-Only	.52 (N=20)	.45 (N=28)
Newark		
Panel	.50 (N=20)	.31 (N=19)
Post-Only	.51 (N=32)	.53 (N=24)

Entries represent proportions who have undertaken crime prevention efforts

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

TABLE 29

Crime Prevention Efforts Considered Because of Newsletter

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Site x Sample	Type of Newsletter Received	
	Without Statistics	With Statistics
Houston		
Panel	.39 (N=20)	.45 (N=23)
Post-Only	.27 (N=20)	.35 (N=28)
Newark		
Panel	.28 (N=21)	.38 (N=18)
Post-Only	.37 (N=32)	.25 (N=23)

Entries represent proportions who have considered crime prevention efforts

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

TABLE 30

Perceived Efficacy of Defensive Behaviors

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	2.29 (N=42)	2.39 (N=41)	2.32 (N=43)
Post-Only	2.39 (N=68)	2.37 (N=58)	2.35 (N=60)
Newark			
Panel	2.19 (N=38)	2.18 (N=38)	2.17 (N=31)
Post-Only	2.34 (N=56)	2.16 (N=65)	2.30 (N=57)

Entries indicate that defensive behaviors are perceived to make a person:

3 = A lot safer,
2 = Somewhat safer,
1 = Not much safer at all.

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>	NoS<	NoS<	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S<	S<	S<
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S<	S>

TABLE 31

Perceived Efficacy of Household Crime Prevention Efforts

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	2.22 (N=42)	2.34 (N=41)	2.22 (N=43)
Post-Only	2.32 (N=69)	2.32 (N=58)	2.20 (N=43)
Newark			
Panel	1.99 (N=37)	2.08 (N=40)	2.16 (N=30)
Post-Only	2.07 (N=56)	2.02 (N=63)	2.22 (N=57)

Entries indicate that household crime prevention efforts are perceived to make a home:

3 = A lot safer,
2 = Somewhat safer,
1 = Not much safer at all.

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>	=	NoS>	NoS<
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	=	S<	S>	S>
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S>	S>

Table 32 presents the results of asking respondents who recalled having seen a newsletter whether, because of that newsletter, they felt more or less confident of being able to avoid crime. All eight groups reported that they felt more confident; no differences across groups, however, were statistically significant.

o Evaluations of Police Service

Table 33 presents adjusted Wave 2 means for the scale, "Evaluations of Police Service." The only statistically significant difference was in Newark, where the evaluation provided by panel respondents who received newsletters with crime statistics was lower than that given by panel respondents in households sent no newsletters.

o Satisfaction with Area

Table 34 presents the results for all groups concerning "Satisfaction with the Area." As the table reveals, no statistically significant differences were found.

Additional Results

Respondents who recalled seeing a newsletter were asked how informative and interesting they found its content to be. Tables 35 and 36 present the results. As Table 35 indicates, respondents in all conditions found the content to be between "somewhat" and "very" interesting. No significant differences were found. Table 36 presents the results concerning the informativeness of the newsletters, as judged by the respondents. As the table shows, all groups of respondents found the

TABLE 32

Increase in Confidence in Avoiding Crime Because of Newsletter

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Site x Sample	Type of Newsletter Received	
	Without Statistics	With Statistics
Houston		
Panel	2.71 (N=20)	2.69 (N=23)
Post-Only	2.56 (N=20)	2.75 (N=26)
Newark		
Panel	2.56 (N=20)	2.34 (N=20)
Post-Only	2.59 (N=30)	2.54 (N=24)

3 = More confident
2 = No difference
1 = Less confident

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

TABLE 33

Evaluations of Police Service

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	3.28 (N=41)	3.31 (N=40)	3.43 (N=42)
Post-Only	3.35 (N=69)	3.44 (N=58)	3.24 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	3.05 (N=36)	2.82 (N=39)	2.66 (N=31)
Post-Only	2.65 (N=54)	2.76 (N=64)	2.80 (N=57)

Higher scorers indicate more favorable evaluations.

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS>	NoS>	NoS<	NoS>
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S>	S<	S<*	S<
Newsletter without Statistics	S>	S<	S<	S>

TABLE 34

Satisfaction With Area

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

Site x Sample	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Houston			
Panel	2.56 (N=42)	2.51 (N=41)	2.46 (N=43)
Post-Only	2.61 (N=69)	2.59 (N=58)	2.57 (N=61)
Newark			
Panel	2.25 (N=39)	2.40 (N=42)	2.23 (N=32)
Post-Only	2.13 (N=56)	2.18 (N=65)	2.11 (N=57)

Higher scores indicate higher levels of satisfaction.

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

Direction and Statistical Significance of Paired Comparisons

	Samples			
	Houston		Newark	
Comparison	Panel	Post-Only	Panel	Post-Only
No Newsletter versus Newsletter without Statistics	NoS<	NoS<	NoS>	NoS>
No Newsletter versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S<	S<
Newsletter without Statistics versus Newsletter with Statistics	S<	S<	S<	S<

TABLE 35

Ratings of Interestingness of Newsletter

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Site x Sample	Type of Newsletter Received	
	Without Statistics	With Statistics
Houston		
Panel	2.65 (N=20)	2.51 (N=23)
Post-Only	2.51 (N=20)	2.53 (N=28)
Newark		
Panel	2.43 (N=19)	2.33 (N=20)
Post-Only	2.54 (N=31)	2.73 (N=24)

3 = Very interesting
2 = Somewhat interesting
1 = Not at all interesting

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

TABLE 36

Ratings of Informativeness of Newsletter

Wave 2 Adjusted Means*

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Site x Sample	Type of Newsletter Received	
	Without Statistics	With Statistics
Houston		
Panel	2.60 (N=20)	2.46 (N=23)
Post-Only	2.35 (N=20)	2.71* (N=28)
Newark		
Panel	2.45 (N=18)	2.37 (N=19)
Post-Only	2.62 (N=30)	2.55 (N=24)

*$p < .05$

3 = Very informative
2 = Somewhat informative
1 = Not at all informative

*Wave 2 means were adjusted for sex, age, education, race and, for panel sample members, the Wave 1 score of the respondent.

newsletter to be between "somewhat" and "very" informative. The only statistically significant difference was that post-only Houston respondents in households which were sent newsletters with recorded crime data gave a significantly higher rating than did those in households receiving newsletters without crime data.

To provide a better understanding of respondents' reactions to the newsletter, those who recalled seeing a newsletter were asked what they found most informative about it. Summaries of the results obtained in Houston and Newark are provided in Tables 37 and 38 respectively. The most frequently mentioned response given by Houston respondents in households sent the newsletter with crime statistics was that crime information was the most informative aspect of the newsletter's content. Only one person in the other newsletter condition mentioned this. Table 38 indicates no such differences in Newark.

Tables 39 and 40 present the suggestions made by respondents in households sent newsletters about how the newsletters could be made more informative. No clear differences across groups emerge.

Table 41 contains the responses to questions asking whether respondents wanted to continue receiving the newsletter. The results indicate that from 85 to 100 percent said they did want to continue doing so.

Table 42 indicates how many respondents said they would like to receive local crime statistics--whether they had done so or not. The results indicate that at least 85 percent in all conditions said they would like such information.

TABLE 37

Houston Responses to "What, if anything, did you find most informative about the newsletter?"

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Comment	Received Newsletter Without Statistics	Received Newsletter With Statistics	Total
Crime Information	1 (1.8%)	23 (34.8%)	24 (19.7%)
Self-Protection Advice	7 (12.5%)	7 (10.6%)	14 (11.5%)
Property Protection Advice	9 (16.1%)	7 (10.6%)	16 (13.1%)
Neighborhood Information	1 (1.8%)	2 (3.0%)	3 (2.5%)
Emergency Numbers	8 (19.3%)	3 (4.5%)	11 (9.0%)
All of It	1 (1.8%)	7 (10.6%)	8 (6.6%)
Other	28 (50.0%)	11 (16.7%)	39 (32.0%)
Nothing/Don't Know	1 (1.8%)	4 (6.1%)	5 (4.1%)
Total	56 (100.0%)	66 (100.0%)	122 (100.0%)

TABLE 38

Newark Responses to "What, if anything, did you find most informative about the newsletter?"

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Comment	Received Newsletter Without Statistics	Received Newsletter With Statistics	Total
Crime Information	5 (8.8%)	5 (10.0%)	10 (9.3%)
Self-Protection Advice	3 (5.3%)	3 (6.0%)	6 (5.6%)
Property Protection Advice	8 (14.0%)	9 (18.0%)	17 (15.9%)
Neighborhood Information	2 (3.5%)	2 (4.0%)	4 (3.7%)
Emergency Numbers	1 (1.8%)	1 (2.0%)	2 (1.9%)
All of It	2 (3.5%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.9%)
Other	23 (40.4%)	18 (36.0%)	41 (38.3%)
Nothing/Don't Know	13 (22.8%)	12 (24.0%)	25 (23.3%)
Total	57 (100.0%)	50 (100.0%)	107 (100.0%)

TABLE 39

Houston Responses to "How could the newsletter be made more informative?"

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Comment	Received Newsletter Without Statistics	Received Newsletter With Statistics	Total
More Information About Crime or Criminals	2 (4.9%)	9 (13.6%)	11 (10.3%)
More Self-Protection Advice	1 (2.4%)	3 (4.5%)	4 (3.7%)
More Property Protection Advice	1 (2.4%)	4 (6.1%)	5 (4.7%)
More Information About Police Activities	1 (2.4%)	2 (3.0%)	3 (2.8%)
More Information About Area	2 (4.9%)	4 (6.1%)	6 (5.6%)
More Frequent/Longer/ Broader Circulation	3 (7.3%)	4 (6.1%)	7 (6.5%)
Good As Is	14 (34.1%)	9 (13.6%)	23 (21.5%)
Other	8 (19.5%)	14 (21.2%)	22 (20.6%)
Don't Know	9 (22.0%)	17 (25.8%)	26 (24.3%)
Total	46 (100.0%)	66 (100.0%)	107 (100.0%)

TABLE 40

Newark Responses to "How could the newsletter be made more informative?"

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Comment	Received Newsletter Without Statistics	Received Newsletter With Statistics	Total
More Information About Crime or Criminals	3 (4.8%)	4 (7.8%)	7 (6.1%)
More Self-Protection Advice	2 (3.2%)	1 (2.0%)	3 (2.6%)
More Property Protection Advice	3 (4.8%)	2 (3.9%)	5 (4.4%)
More Information About Police Activities	1 (1.6%)	3 (5.9%)	4 (3.6%)
More Information About Area	2 (3.2%)	3 (5.9%)	5 (4.4%)
More Frequent/Longer/ Broader Circulation	5 (7.9%)	6 (11.8%)	11 (9.6%)
More Resident Involvement	5 (7.9%)	3 (5.9%)	8 (7.0%)
Good As Is	3 (4.8%)	6 (11.8%)	9 (7.9%)
Other	24 (38.1%)	14 (27.5%)	38 (33.3%)
Don't Know	15 (23.8%)	9 (17.6%)	24 (21.1%)
Total	63 (100.0%)	51 (100.0%)	114 (100.0%)

TABLE 41

Percent of Respondents Who Wanted to Continue Receiving Newsletters

Wave 2 Unadjusted Means

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Site x Sample	Type of Newsletter Received	
	Without Statistics	With Statistics
Houston		
Panel	100% (N=24)	89% (N=33)
Post-Only	85% (N=26)	100% (N=33)
Newark		
Panel	92% (N=24)	100% (N=22)
Post-Only	97% (N=37)	97% (N=29)

TABLE 42

Percent of Respondents Who Want to Receive Local Crime Statistics

Wave 2 Unadjusted Means

(Respondents Who Report Seeing Newsletter)

Site x Sample	Type of Newsletter Received	
	Without Statistics	With Statistics
Houston		
Panel	85% (N=20)	91% (N=21)
Post-Only	95% (N=20)	100% (N=27)
Newark		
Panel	91% (N=19)	100% (N=17)
Post-Only	100% (N=29)	92% (N=24)

Summary

- Perceived Program Awareness

From 45 to 65 percent of the Houston respondents in households sent newsletters recalled seeing one when shown a copy. In Newark, 52 to 69 percent recalled seeing one. Although five and six copies of the newsletter were distributed in Houston and Newark respectively, respondents reported looking at an average of only 1.4 to 1.8 issues in Houston and 1.1 to 1.7 issues in Newark. Only 32 to 42 percent of Houston respondents sent recorded crime information recalled having seeing it; in Newark, from 22 to 26 percent recalled it.

- Measurement of Hypothesized Effects

Although a total of 208 pairs of means were analyzed, only seven of those pairs proved to be sufficiently different to achieve the .05 level of statistical significance.

In the Houston panel samples:

- o Respondents in households sent newsletters without crime statistics perceived a significantly greater increase in area crime than did respondents send no newsletters,
- o Respondents in households sent newsletters with crime statistics also perceived a significantly greater increase in area crime trhan did those sent no newsletter, and
- o Respondents sent newsletters with crime statistics were significantly more likely to say they had increased levels of woprry about being a victim because of reading the newsletter than did those sent the version without such statistics.

In the Houston post-only samples:

- o Respondents in households sent newsletters with crime statistics expressed significantly higher levels of worry about property crime victimization in the area than did those sent no newsletters.

In the Newark panel samples:

- Respondents in households sent newsletters without crime statistics undertook significantly fewer actions to protect their home against crime than did those sent no newsletter,
- Respondents sent newsletters with statistics gave a significantly less positive evaluation of police service in the area than did those sent no newsletter, and
- Respondents sent newsletters with crime statistics perceived their local crime information to be significantly more accurate than did those sent the newsletter without such statistics.

With such a large number of comparisons this small number of statistically significant findings is remarkable in itself. Furthermore, these few significant differences suggested no interpretable patterns. Such a paucity of significant results, and the absence of consistency among them, can lend no support to the hypotheses tested by this evaluation.

- Assessments of the Newsletter. Residents who recalled examining newsletters indicated they found them to be interesting and informative. Over 85 percent of respondents in all conditions wanted to continue receiving the newsletters; similarly, over 85 percent in all conditions wanted to receive local crime statistics.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Introduction

Recent research, much of it funded by the National Institute of Justice, has revealed that fear of crime has become a major problem in our society. Other research has revealed that this fear often derives from concern about various "signs of crime" than from direct or indirect experience with crime. For example, neighborhoods which suffer from such physical and social disorder as vandalism, loitering and public drinking or gambling convey the feeling of having been abandoned. As a result, law-abiding residents and merchants begin to flee. Houses and shops become vacant, making them vulnerable to more vandalism and social disorder. Those who choose to remain--or are unable to leave--look upon the streets with detachment, responding to the apparent lack of concern revealed by the neglect and disorder around them. An insidious cycle leads from fear of crime to crime to even more fear.

We have known this for some time--but little has been done about it. In 1982, however, N.I.J. decided to fund evaluations of well-designed experiments in Houston and Newark to determine the most effective ways that police, working with citizens, can dismantle the cycle of fear. Through a competitive bidding process, the Police Foundation was awarded a grant to plan and conduct the evaluations of those experiments.

In each city, task forces were assembled to determine the most appropriate programs to be tested, given the local circumstances. In both cities, the programs agreed upon included door-to-door police visits, as

well as police community offices and newsletters. In Houston, the effectiveness of community organizing by police officers and a program to serve victims were also tested. In Newark, the police, working with other agencies, were to develop recreational alternatives to street corner loitering and to clean up deteriorated areas and buildings.

All of these strategies were to be implemented under the direction of a fear reduction task force and evaluated by the Police Foundation using the most vigorous research designs possible.

Police Community Newsletters: Rationale and Hypothesis

Most media attempts to change crime prevention behaviors have been unsuccessful. Recent analysis of those efforts and others seeking to alter risk-avoidance activities has suggested that, in order to be effective, media campaigns have to be either very informative and relevant to the audience, somewhat frightening or both. A recent quasi-experimental study suggested that neighborhood police newsletters-- especially those that contain local recorded crime data--could increase desirable crime prevention behaviors without notably increasing the fear of crime. Task forces of the Houston and Newark police departments decided to test such newsletters in experiments to determine if distributing them could accomplish the following goals:

- Increase perceptions of area crime problems without increasing the fear of crime,
- Increase the relative worry about property versus personal crimes,
- Increase the attribution of responsibility for crime prevention to residents, as opposed to police,

- Increase the installation of household crime prevention devices, without increasing the tendency to withdraw from all risks,
- Improve the evaluation of police services, and
- Improve satisfaction with the area.

The Newsletters

Neighborhood police newsletters were produced and mailed by both the Houston and the Newark police departments. The Houston newsletter, entitled "Community Policing Exchange," was mailed in November and December of 1983 and January, February and March of 1984. The Newark newsletter, "Act 1," was mailed from October 1983 through March 1984. Each newsletter contained a combination of crime prevention advice, stories about successful crime prevention, local neighborhood information and various other articles. In each city, inserts containing local crime information were added to a random set of newsletters.

The Evaluation

This evaluation examined the effects of mailing neighborhood police newsletters to residents of Houston and Newark. One program area in each city was selected; within each area residences were randomly assigned to receive:

- Newsletters with crime prevention advice, information about successful efforts to thwart crime and an additional listing of crimes reported in their neighborhood,
- Newsletters exactly like those above but without the listing of crimes, or
- No newsletters.

To measure the differential effects of being assigned to these conditions, two research designs were utilized. In the panel design, certain people (the panel sample) were interviewed before distribution of the newsletters began and again six months later. This design has the advantage of allowing strong statistical controls but, because of panel attrition, is not representative of the area in general. In addition, it is possible that interviewing persons before newsletter distribution began may sensitize the respondents to the experimental treatment. In the post-test only design, certain people were interviewed only once, six months after the distribution began. This design avoids the potential sensitization which pre-testing might cause and does not suffer from panel attrition. It cannot, however, use pre-test scores as statistical controls.

Survey instruments were designed to collect information about each of the following:

- Recalled Program Exposure,
- Perceived Accuracy of Local Crime Information,
- Fear of Personal Victimization in Area,
- Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area,
- Relative Worry About Property Vis-a-Vis Personal Crime,
- Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems,
- Perceived Area Property Crime Problems,
- Perceived Increase in Area Crime,
- Attribution of Crime Prevention Responsibility to Residents,
- Defensive Behaviors to Avoid Personal Crime,
- Household Crime Prevention Efforts,
- Perceived Efficacy of Defensive Behaviors,
- Perceived Efficacy of Household Crime Prevention Efforts,
- Evaluation of Police Service,
- Satisfaction with Area, and
- Assessments of the Newsletters.

The data collected for these measures were subjected to analysis of covariance, producing adjusted Wave 2 means controlling for several

demographic factors and, for the panel sample members, the value of the measure at the time of the first interview. Means for each experimental condition were compared to each other to provide information about the relative support provided to two models of media impact.

Summary

- Perceived Program Awareness

From 45 to 65 percent of the Houston respondents in households sent newsletters recalled seeing one when shown a copy. In Newark, 52 to 69 percent recalled seeing one. Although five and six copies of the newsletter were distributed in Houston and Newark respectively, respondents reported looking at an average of only 1.4 to 1.8 issues in Houston and 1.1 to 1.7 issues in Newark. Only 32 to 42 percent of Houston respondents sent recorded crime information recalled having seen it; in Newark, from 22 to 26 percent recalled it.

- Measurement of Hypothesized Effects

Although a total of 208 pairs of means were analyzed, only seven of those pairs proved to be sufficiently different to achieve the .05 level of statistical significance. In the Houston panel samples:

- Respondents in households sent newsletters without crime statistics perceived a significantly greater increase in area crime than did respondents sent no newsletters,
- Respondents in households sent newsletters with crime statistics also perceived a significantly greater increase in area crime than did those sent no newsletter, and
- Respondents sent newsletters with crime statistics were significantly more likely to say they had increased levels of worry about being a victim because of reading the newsletter than did those sent the version without such statistics.

In the Houston post-only samples:

- Respondents in households sent newsletters with crime statistics expressed significantly higher levels of worry about property crime victimization in the area than did those sent no letters.

In the Newark panel samples:

- Respondents in households sent newsletters without crime statistics undertook significantly fewer actions to protect their home against crime than did those sent no newsletter,
- Respondents sent newsletters with statistics gave a significantly less positive evaluation of police service in the area than did those sent no newsletter, and
- Respondents sent newsletters with crime statistics perceived their local crime information to be significantly more accurate than did those sent the newsletter without such statistics.

Such a paucity of significant results, and the absence of consistency in them, can lend no support to either the perceived-informativeness model or the parallel-process model of media impact.

o Assessments of the Newsletter. Residents who recalled examining newsletters indicated they found them to be interesting and informative. Over 85 percent of respondents in all conditions wanted to continue receiving the newsletters; similarly, over 85 percent in all conditons wanted to receive local crime statistics.

Conclusions

The Houston and Newark police community newsletters, although successfully implemented as planned for six months, were generally unsuccessful in achieving the hypothesized outcomes. There could be at least four possible explanations for the failure to find the expected results:

1. The measurement of program effects might have been inadequate.
2. The program might not have operationalized the theory appropriately.
3. The strength or length of implementation could have been too limited to allow for effects to have been achieved.
4. The models being tested could be wrong.

It is necessary to consider each of these possible explanations in order to put these findings in perspective.

Measurement of program effects could have affected the results in several ways: the size of the samples selected could have been too small to show significant effects, the sampling procedures could have provided biased results, or the measurement and analysis procedures could have been invalid. In all cases, these potential problems appear incapable of explaining the failure to support the theory. With regard to sample size, the samples selected, although constrained by a finite budget, were chosen in order to be more than adequate to allow for proper analytical techniques to be applied. Furthermore, although this study, as any other, would have benefited from larger sample sizes, the trends demonstrated by these data were not consistent enough to have supported the theory which prompted it, no matter how large the samples might have been. The sampling procedures were based on accepted sampling principles and were carried out with considerable, documented, success. Sophisticated measurement and analysis

techniques were utilized in order to maximize the reliability and validity of the results.

The second possible explanation, that the program might not have operationalized the models appropriately, deserves closer investigation. The newsletters tested were based on the same principles as, and were in most respects similar to, the newsletter in Evanston, IL, whose evaluation provided suggestive evidence that the delivery of newsletters with local crime statistics could increase crime prevention efforts without increasing fear. To that extent, they appear to have implemented the models correctly. However, the fact that the Houston and Newark newsletters failed to reinforce the findings in Evanston suggests that further comparisons of the differences in operationalization be made.

Three aspects of the operationalization of the theory--the characteristics of the persons to whom the newsletters were distributed, the method of distribution and the selection of persons to be interviewed--may have contributed to the differences. In Evanston, nearly all adult residents had graduated from high school, the majority having also graduated from college; about one in four even had a masters degree. In contrast to this highly educated resident population, one-fourth of the respondents in the Houston program area had not graduated from high school and only about ten percent had graduated from college. Similarly, in the Newark program area, over one-third of the respondents were not high school graduates and only 14 percent had graduated from college. There is evidence to suggest that the more education a person has received the more likely that person is to acquire information by means of books and newspapers (Bogart, 1981).

Thus, the relatively limited education levels of the Houston and Newark audiences could well have affected the willingness or ability of the recipients to read and comprehend the newsletter--especially the relatively complicated recorded crime data. Such an interpretation is supported by the fact that recalled awareness of the newsletters was generally highest among Houston and Newark respondents who had gone beyond high school and lowest among those with less than a high school degree (See Appendix I). These results suggest that, in order to reach residents with limited education, special efforts may be necessary to make the information more readily understandable. Alternatively, newsletters may simply be an inappropriate medium for that group.

Another difference in operationalization, the method of dissemination of the newsletters, is also worthy of examination. In Evanston, newsletters were, in most cases, hand-delivered to residents by local community groups. In Houston and Newark, on the other hand, copies were mailed to a randomly selected subset of addresses in the program area. Each of these approahces has advantages and disadvantages. Delivering newsletters through existing community groups can take advantage of existing social networks as well as the added credibility which association with such groups might bring, especially when, as in Evanston, the newsletter is co-authored by the police and the community groups. On the other hand, such a distribution system presupposes the existence of such a community organization and, therefore, precludes its use in neighborhoods where such organizations do not already exist.

There were also differences in the types of sampling procedures among the three studies which could have affected the results. In Evanston, those interviewed were the self-identified heads of the households. In Houston and Newark, those interviewed were randomly selected adult members of the household. Each of these approaches has benefits and costs associated with it. The Evanston method probably increased the chances of interviewing a person who had seen or read a copy of the newsletter. Such an approach, however, underrepresents all others in the household who do not proclaim themselves to be "heads." The Houston and Newark approach, on the other hand, provides a good test of the general effectiveness of distributing newsletters to households without focusing on the effects on the most mature and responsible members.

The third possible explanation for the failure to find the expected results is the brevity or weakness of program implementation. This appears to be plausible. It is not unlikely that, had the newsletters been distributed for a longer time, a greater level of awareness could have been achieved. It also must be reiterated that the evaluation was of the effectiveness of distributing newsletters to households, in which representative household members were interviewed. Such an approach has the advantage of being more practical than distributing newsletters to particular individuals, but is necessarily weaker in the effects it can demonstrate.

Finally, it is clearly premature to pronounce judgment on the validity of the models underlying the Houston and Newark newsletters. No conclusive evidence was found to support either the perceived-informativeness model or the parallel-process model. No clear disconfirmatory evidence was produced either. More research is necessary before reaching any conclusions.

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NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE NEWSLETTERS: EXPERIMENTS IN NEWARK AND HOUSTON

APPENDICES

POLICE
FOUNDATION

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE NEWSLETTERS

APPENDIX A:

THE FEAR REDUCTION PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

THE FEAR REDUCTION PROGRAM

The program described in this report was one of several strategies tested as part of a Fear Reduction Program which was carried out in Houston, Texas, and Newark, New Jersey, in 1983 and 1984. The police departments in these two cities were invited to design and implement strategies to reduce fear of crime. The Police Foundation with funding provided by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) provided technical assistance to the departments during the planning phase of the program and conducted rigorous evaluations of the strategies which were developed. NIJ also supported a dissemination program, in which the National Conference of Mayors, the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the National Sheriffs' Association sent representatives to observe the strategies in action and report on them to their members. The questions they asked and the written observations they shared with the Houston and Newark departments provided constructive criticism of the program implementation process.

Program Objectives. The overall goal of the program was to find new ways to help citizens gain a realistic picture of the crime problems facing their neighborhoods, reduce excessive fear of crime, encourage greater positive police-citizen cooperation in crime prevention, spark increased awareness among people of the steps which they could take to reduce crime, and help restore their confidence in the police and faith in the future of their communities.

In each city a number of different strategies were developed which addressed these issues. Previous research has found crime to be only one of the causes of fear and declining community morale, so those strategies addressed a broad spectrum of issues. Some focused upon reducing physical disorder, including trash and litter, abandoned buildings, graffiti, and deterioration. Others targeted social disorder, including loitering, harassment, disorderly street behavior, and violations of rules of conudct on mass transit. A number were designed to increase the two-way flow of information between citizens and the police. From the police side this included developing new mechanisms to gather information about community problems often of a seemingly "nonpolice" nature, assisting citizens in organizing to address such problems, and testing new mechanisms to "spread the word" about community programs and the things that individual citizens could do to prevent crime.

Site Selection. Houston and Newark were selected as examples of two different types of American cities. Houston is a relatively young city, with low population density and a developing municipal infrastructure, while Newark is a mature city with high population density and no significant growth. Because they are so different, some of the strategies they developed for the Fear Reduction Project were unique, but most addressed the same underlying problems and many were surprisingly similar. The two cities were also selected because of the capacity of their police departments to design and manage a complex experimental program.

Within each city, "matched" neighborhoods were selected to serve as testing grounds for the strategies. Because Newark has a predominantly black population, five physically similar areas with a homogeneous racial composition were selected. The heterogeneous nature of Houston called for the selection of neighborhoods with a population mix more closely resembling that of the city as a whole. In both cities the selected areas were approximately one square mile in size, and physically separated from each other. Site selection was guided by the 1980 Census, observations of numerous potential sites, and extensive discussions with police crime analysts and district commanders in the cities.

The Task Force Planning Process. In both cities, the program planning process had to design programs which met two constraints: they could be carried out within a one-year time limit imposed by the National Institute of Justice, and they could be supported entirely by the departments--there was no special funding available for these projects.

The planning processes themselves took different forms in the two cities. In Houston, one patrol officer from each of the four participating police districts was assigned full time for two months to a planning Task Force, which was headed by a sergeant from the Planning and Research Division. A civilian member of the Planning and Research Division also served on the Task Force. During the planning period the group met regularly with staff members of the Police Foundation to discuss past research related to the project. They also read studies of the fear of crime, and visited other cities to examine projects which appeared relevant

to fear reduction. By April, 1983, the group had formulated a set of strategies which they believed could be implemented effectively in Houston and had the potential to reduce citizen fear.

Then, during April and May the plan was reviewed and approved by Houston's Chief of Police, the department's Director of Planning and Research, by a panel of consultants assembled by the Police Foundation, and by the Director of the National Institute of Justice.

In Newark, the Task Force included several members of the police department as well as representatives of the Mayor's office, the Board of Education, the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts, the Essex County Courts, the Newark Municipal Courts, the Essex County Probation Department and the Graduate School of Criminal Justice of Rutgers University. The group met once or twice a week for a month to discuss the general problems of fear, then broke into several committees to consider specific program possibilities. In April, 1983 the committees submitted lists of proposed programs to the entire task force for approval. These programs were reviewed by the panel of consultants, assembled by the Police Foundation and by the Director of the National Institute of Justice.

Technical Assistance by the Police Foundation. The Police Foundation provided the departments with technical assistance throughout the planning stages of the Fear Reduction Project. Its staff assisted the departments in locating potentially relevant projects operating in other cities, accumulated research on fear and its causes, arranged for members of the Task Forces to visit other departments, and identified consultants who

assisted the departments in program planning and implementation. This activity was supported by the National Institute of Justice.

Strategies Developed by the Task Force. In Houston, strategies were developed to foster a sense that Houston police officers were available to the public and cared about individual and neighborhood problems. Some of the strategies also were intended to encourage citizen involvement with the police and to increase participation in community affairs. The strategies included community organizing, door-to-door police visits, a police-community newsletter, recontacts with crime victims, and a police-community storefront office.

The Newark strategies were directed at the exchange of information and the reduction of social and physical disorder. The police strategies included door-to-door visits, newsletters, police-community storefronts, and the intensified enforcement and order maintenance. In association with the Board of Education, recreational alternatives to street-corner loitering were to be provided. With the cooperation of the courts system, juveniles were to be given community work sentences to clean up deteriorated areas; with the assistance of the municipal government, abandoned or deteriorated buildings were to be demolished and delivery of city services intensified.

Implementation of the Strategies. Responsibility for implementing the strategies in Houston was given to the planning Task Force, which then consisted of a sergeant, four patrol officers, and a civilian member of the department. Each of the patrol officers was directly responsible for the

execution of one of the strategies. They were joined by three additional officers; two from the Community Services Division were assigned to work on the community organizing strategy, and another was assigned to work on the door-to-door contact effort. During the implementation period, two more officers were assigned to the victim recontact program and another to the community organizing strategy.

During the nine-to-twelve month period that the strategies were operational, the original Task Force members assumed total responsibility for implementation. They conducted much of the operational work themselves and coordinated the few other officers from each patrol district who were involved in program implementation. When implementation problems required swift and unique solutions (a condition common during the start up period), the Task Force officers worked directly with the district captains and/or with the sergeant from Planning and Research who headed the Task Force. This sergeant would, in turn, take direct action or work with the Director of Planning and Research or with one of the Deputy Chiefs over the patrol districts and/or with the Assistant Chief in charge of Operations. The amount of responsibility placed on the task force members had some of the disadvantages which can exist when the traditional chain of command is circumvented, but it had the advantage that Task Force members felt ownership of, and pride in, the program they had designed.

In Newark, responsibility for implementing each program component was assigned to one or more officers, who in turn were monitored by the program coordinator and his assistant. Those officers working in particular patrol divisions--those in the community police center and those making door-to-

door contacts--reported formally to the division Captain and informally to the program coordinator, who, at the beginning of the program was still a Lieutenant. This somewhat ambiguous reporting structure created some delays, lack of coordination and misunderstanding during the early months of program implementation; these problems were largely overcome with the cooperative efforts of the parties involved. Officers who implemented the other programs reported directly to the program coordinator, a system which worked effectively throughout the program.

The Overall Evaluation Design. All of the strategies tested in Houston and Newark were to be evaluated as rigorously as possible. Two of them--the victim recontact program in Houston and police-community newsletters in both cities--were evaluated using true experiments, in which randomly selected groups of citizens were either contacted by the program or assigned to a noncontacted control group. The other strategies, including the one reported here, were area-wide in focus, and were evaluated using pre- and post-program area surveys. Surveys were also conducted in a comparison area, in which no new programs were implemented, in each city.

Summary

Recent research, much of it funded by the National Institute of Justice, has revealed that fear of crime has become a major problem in our society. Other research has revealed that this fear often derives from concern about various "signs of crime" than from direct or indirect experience with crime. For example, neighborhoods which suffer from such

physical and social disorder as vandalism, loitering and public drinking or gambling convey the feeling of having been abandoned. As a result, law-abiding residents and merchants begin to flee. Houses and shops become vacant, making them vulnerable to more vandalism and social disorder. Those who choose to remain--or are unable to leave--look upon the streets with detachment, responding to the apparent lack of concern revealed by the neglect and disorder around them. As insidious cycle leads from fear of crime to even more fear.

We have known this for some time--but little has been done about it. In 1982, however, N.I.J. decided to fund well-evaluated experiments in Houston and Newark to determine the most effective ways that police, working with citizens, can dismantle the cycle of fear. Through a competitive bidding process, the Police Foundation was awarded a grant to plan and conduct the evaluations of those experiments.

In each city, task forces were assembled to determine the most appropriate programs to be tested, given the local circumstances. In both cities, the programs agreed upon included door-to-door police visits, as well as police community offices and newsletters. In Houston, the effectiveness of community organizing by police officers and a program to serve victims were also tested. In Newark, the police, working with other agencies, were to develop recreational alternatives to street corner loitering and to clean up deteriorated areas and buildings.

All of these strategies were to be implemented under the direction of a fear reduction task force and evaluated by the Police Foundation using the most vigorous research designs possible.

APPENDIX B:

EXAMPLE OF HOUSTON NEWSLETTER

Community Policing Exchange

PUBLISHED BY THE HOUSTON POLICE OFFICERS SERVING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

H.P.D. reaches out with Community Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Houston Police Department's **COMMUNITY POLICING EXCHANGE.** Please take the time to read the information assembled in this newletter. It's for your benefit. This information has been gathered by police officers working in your neighborhood who want to keep you informed about crime activity occurring in your neighborhood, crime prevention tips, and neighborhood news.

The purpose for providing this type information is to give a clearer understanding of what is going on in your neighborhood. We hope that this information will assist you and your neighbors in deciding if you should become more actively involved in looking out for each other's well being. Remember by ourselves, police can only react to crime, we need an involved citizenry to prevent it.

A community that employs crime prevention techniques, is alert to suspicious behavior and circumstances, and reports this information to the police, will be a far safer place to live than one that does not. Alert and responsive citizens, who are willing to become involved, can maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the police in preventing crime and apprehending criminals.

Living with success

The most effective action against crime is citizen action. The police, by themselves, can only have limited success in dealing with neighborhood problems that contribute to fear.

We are often unaware of the success stories that happen every day when citizens confront problems in their neighborhoods. Through this newsletter, we will tell you of these successes.

Take a young man living in the Golfcrest neighborhood. He noticed suspicious activity in a nearby backyard and strange comings and goings to the nearby house. He suspected that drug dealing was going on and notified his local beat officer. After investigation, it was found that drugs were being manufactured. Arrests were made and the problem eliminated.

This is but one of the success stories from neighborhoods all over the city. Citizen action can make a difference. Tell us about your success story so we can let others know what has happened. Call our special number or drop us a line. Sergeant Steve Fowler, 221-0711 or Community Policing Exchange, 33 Artesian Street, Houston, Texas 77002. We'll write about these in each issue.

Community Comments

Lee P. Brown, Chief of Police

Policing the community involves selection of options for action in a variety of complex urban situations. The police must select options for action, based on an understanding of community priorities. It is equally important for the police to clearly state those values and beliefs which lay the foundation for priority-setting.

Values are those standards and beliefs which guide the operation of the Police Department. The values set forth the philosophy of policing in Houston and the committments made by the Department to high standards of policing. For values to be meaningful they must be widely circulated so that all members of the community are aware of them. Department values must incorporate and reflect citizen's expectations, desires, and preferences. The community's contributions in expressing their values are subsequently manifested in the Department's administrative policies.

For the Houston Police Department, several values need to be carefully reflected throughout its operations. These values are as follows:

- Police must involve the community in all aspects of policing which directly impacts the quality of community life.
- The Police Department believes that it has a responsibility to react to criminal behavior in a way that emphasizes prevention and that is marked by vigorous law enforcement.
- The Police Department believes that it must deliver its services in a manner that preserves and advances democratic values.
- The Department is committed to delivering police services in a manner which will best reinforce the strengths of the city's neighborhoods.
- The Department is committed to allowing public input in the development of its policies which directly impacts neighborhood life.
- The Department is committed to understanding neighborhood crime problems from the community's perspective and collaborate with the community by developing strategies that deal with neighborhood crime.

Bicycle safety tips

Nearly half the entire population of the United States rides bicycles, whether for recreation, transportation, or keeping in shape. There are as many adult bike riders as children. Obeying traffic laws and safety rules will make bicycling safer, more enjoyable, and will prevent accidents.

- Always ride in the same direction as other traffic. Stay close to the right edge of the roadway, except when passing or making a left turn. Be careful when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

- Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided, bicycles must use the path and not the roadway.

- Bicycles should not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except that an adult may carry a child securely attached to his person in a backpack or sling.

- Use caution at intersections and railroad crossings.

- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times. If you plan to carry books, packages, or other items, you should add a front or rear carrier to your bicycle. If you carry items, you must drive with both hands on the handlebars.

- A bike flag and a rearview mirror are added safety precautions.

- When operating a bicycle, you must never attach yourself or your bicycle to any vehicle on the roadway.

- You must always stop before reaching a school bus that has stopped to load or unload passengers.

- Weaving from one lane to another is both illegal and dangerous.

- Don't make a U-turn without first looking carefully to see if it is safe to do so. On some streets U-turns are not permitted.

- You must never drive at a speed faster than that which is reasonable and safe. Use hand signals.

- Wear light-colored clothing or apply reflective tape to your clothing or the bicycle handlebars, frame or fenders. It will help you to be seen and may keep you from getting hit. Some riders use arm and leg lights.

- Watch for people getting into and out of parked cars, and for cars pulling into traffic from a curb or driveway.

Parents should be aware of the responsibilities that they must assume when their children ride bicycles. These responsibilities range all the way from selection of a proper bicycle for the child to seeing that the child learns and obeys all the traffic laws.

Be alert to suspicious circumstances

Anything that seems even slightly out of place for your area, or for the time of day, may mean criminal activity. In your neighborhood or business complex, you are the expert. You know if there is someone in the area that doesn't belong.

Some of the most obvious things to watch for and report:

- A stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied may be a burglar.

- A scream heard anywhere may mean robbery or rape.

- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices could mean stolen property.

- Anyone removing accessories, license plates, or gasoline from a vehicle should be reported.

- Anyone peering into parked cars may be looking for a car to steal or for valuables left displayed in the car.

- The sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises could mean an accident, housebreaking, or vandalizing.

- Persons loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas, or in the neighborhoods could be sex offenders.

- A person running, especially if carrying something of value, could be leaving the scene of a crime.

- The abandoned vehicle parked on your block may be a stolen car.

- Persons being forced into vehicles, especially if juveniles or female, may mean a possible kidnapping.

- Apparent business tranactions conducted from a vehicle, especially around schools or parks, with juveniles involved, could mean possible drug sales.

H.P.D. community program implemented

Northline Park area...

As residents of the Northline Park Area, you are probably concerned with making your neighborhood a safer place to live. The Police Department is aware that every citizen in Houston would like to feel a sense of safety in their neighborhood. With this thought in mind, the Department has devised a police strategy that will soon be implemented in the Northline Park Area. The Department will be opening a Police Community Station in your area that will be staffed by two Police Officers, two Community Service Officers, and one Civilian (who will serve as an aide to the police officers and help coordinate activities out of the Community Station). The station will be located at 7208 Nordling in the Fontana Shopping center across from Durkee Elementary School.

We would like to introduce some of the police officers that work in the Northline Park area. During the day, Officer C.M. Campbell and Officer D.D. Roberts will be working your area. During the evening hours Officer T.R. Cunningham, C. Daniels, and G. Schaull will be working your area along with the Community Station Officers, Robin Kirk and Mike Mikeska. The night shift Officers working the area are R.N. Holley, R.W. Breeding and R.R. Hopkins.

If anyone has any questions about the Community Station, or would like to volunteer to work in the station, please contact Officer Robin Kirk or Mike Mikeska at 691-CARE. An open house at the Community Station is slated for November 13, 1983.

Protecting a precious resource

The child trusts him. He buys the child candy, takes the child to movies, gives the child his time when no one else will. He is the child's special friend.

The child does not want to lose his friend. The child will do anything to keep him. Besides, he is a grown-up who knows what is right and what is wrong.

Child pornographers can destroy precious moments of childhood. When a camera is held by a pornographer, the child will be haunted by the experience for the remainder of his life.

According to the Texas Department of Human Resources, studies show that a majority of those who are sexually abused as children will become child molesters as adults. The wreckage of the life of a sexually abused child is devastating and society pays the price.

Anyone from a stranger to a close friend or family member can be a sexual abuser of children. The Crime Stoppers Advisory Council for the month of November is concentrating its efforts on the prevention and apprehension of child pornographers in Texas.

Parents, family members and friends are encouraged to become informed on ways to prevent children from becoming involved with the child pornographers and sexual abusers, and learn to recognize the symptoms of a child under a pornographer's influence.

Persons with information on child pornographers are asked to call their local Crime Stoppers program or the toll-free Texas Crime Stopper's hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS anytime, day or night.

Improving your neighborhood

The main purpose of City and governmental agencies is to serve the citizens. Those who work in agencies are willing and well prepared to help. A valuable resource to those who are working toward neighborhood improvement is the information and assistance that these bodies can provide.

Listed below are some of the City departments that are most directly involved in neighborhood - related activities. You will notice that some of these departments also provide speakers on topics of neighborhood interest.

The **Neighborhood Revitalization Division** of the City Planning Department assists neighborhood groups in efforts to improve their neighborhoods. The Division provides data and information to groups, develops information sharing workshops; maintains a resource file of persons, agencies, and programs available to assist groups; and helps groups to develop comprehensive plans and strategies for improving their neighborhoods.

The **Mayor's Citizen's Assistance Office** located in City Hall, distributes a booklet listing City services and information about each service. This information makes it easier for you to request these services by phone. The Mayor's Citizen's Assistance Office refers requests for service to the proper City division or department for you. The Mayor's Citizen's Assistance Office, after referring your complaint to the appropriate City department, will contact you later to let you know what action has been taken. It also arranges for speakers for community groups.

The Community Services Division of the **Police Department** provides speakers to talk on subjects related to police-community matters.

The Public Education Section of the **Fire Department** offers a program that includes films, slides, lectures, and demonstrations on life and fire safety. The Special Services Section offers fire safety and home inspections upon request.

The **Public Works Department** provides for and maintains roads, drainage, sewer disposal and water for the City of Houston as some of its duties. Additional functions include the overseeing of all construction on City properties and the Street Repair Division maintains city streets and cleans and recuts roadside ditches and mows street rights-of-way. Repairs for sewer lines are handled by the Water Quality Section.

The **Traffic and Transportation Department** installs and maintains traffic signals, traffic signs and street signs throughout the City. Blind intersections, signs and signals in need of maintenance and requests for new traffic controls should be reported to them.

The resources listed are just sampling of the resources available to neighborhood groups. In your search for assistance you are certain to uncover other resources as you go along. Special thanks to the Neighborhood Revitalization Division of City Planning Department for providing this information.

Citizens fight back

The key to minimizing crime in any community is citizen involvement. A community that employs crime prevention techniques, is alert to suspicious behavior and circumstances, and reports this information to the police, will be a far safer place to live than one that doesn't. Alert and responsive citizens, who are willing to become involved, can maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the police in preventing crime and apprehending offenders.

In July of 1983, officers received a call to an apartment complex in your area. The complainant stated to the officers that he heard his front patio door open, looked out of his window, and saw an unknown person stealing property off his patio. The suspect then proceeded to another apartment and was attempting to commit the same offense. The complainant at this time stopped the suspect, preventing him from taking any property belonging to his neighbor. The involvement of a concerned citizen prevented a neighbor from becoming a victim and losing his personal belongings.

The Police Department recognizes that there are other incidents where a citizen has performed an act which was a deterrent to crime. If you know of any instances where the act of a citizen's involvement deterred a criminal act, please contact us and the article will be published in this Newsletter. We are asking for your assistance and support in acquiring this information for these success stories. Our office is located at 33 Artesian, Planning and Research Division, telephone number 221-0711, c/o Sergeant Steve Fowler.

Crime prevention tips

After reviewing the crime reports for your area, we were able to determine which crime prevention tips would be most helpful to you as residents and business owners. A number of thefts occurring in your area involve "Pigeon Dropping." This type of theft is often performed by a "Con Artist," a smooth-talking criminal whose aim is to separate you from your money through trickery and deceit. The Pigeon Drop is an old and well-known confidence game, perpetrated mainly on elderly, trusting and unsuspecting citizens. They may stop you on the street, call you on the phone, or ring your door bell. They may pretend to be repairmen, building inspectors, bank examiners or any other identity. There are many different kinds of confidence games; they can occur at any time of the year and can be avoided if the intended victim (pigeon) recognizes the confidence game and refused to participate.

- Beware of friendly strangers offering goods or services at low rates.
- Be suspicious of telephone calls from persons claiming to be bank officials who ask you to withdraw money from your account for any reason. Legitimate banks communicate in writing on business transactions.

Protect your car

A million cars were stolen in the United States last year. Millions more were burglarized or vandalized. Before you become one of the statistics, learn how to fight back.

According to the FBI, most cars are stolen by "amateurs."–And they are stolen because they are easy to steal!

Your first defense against auto theft is to lock your car and protect your keys. Did you know that most cars are stolen because they were left unlocked or the keys were still in the ignition?

Although you can't make your car impossible to steal (a professional thief can get it if he really wants it), you can make it tough.

Take these tips:

- Store spare keys in your wallet, not in the car.
- Replace standard door lock buttons with the slim, tapered kind.
- In the driveway, park your car with the front toward the street, so anyone tampering with the engine can be seen more easily.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE
61 RIESNER STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

ACT

Published by the
NEWARK Police Department
and Neighborhood Residents

ATTACK CRIME TOGETHER VOL. 1, NO. 4 JANUARY 1984 **Hubert Williams, Police Director**

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE DIRECTOR

This month I would like to discuss with you yet another component of the Fear Reduction Program – the Neighborhood Clean-up Program. One element of this strategy involves the assigning of juveniles arrested for minor acts of delinquency or first offenders to appear before a community juvenile conference committee and be given the option of performing community service work or appearing before a juvenile court judge for case adjudication. This committee in conjunction with the New Jersey Municipal Court and the Essex County Court Systems, consists of fifteen (15) members made up of five (5) members from each of three (3) areas earmarked for clean-up activities. Juveniles who accept the community service sentencing option are required to attend a training session which emphasize the values of discipline, teamwork, good work habits, responsible and cooperative community living.

Program activities consist of general clean-up activities, such as removing graffiti, vacant lot and street clean-up, and area beautification, within sections of the city the youths reside or committed their offense. Supervised by a sergeant, it is hoped that the affected youths will view Newark police officers in a positive manner, rather than a symbol of the establishment which they feel to be threatening and/or intimidating.

While the objective of the Clean-Up Program is the removal of the physical eyesores within specific neighborhoods, of equal importance is the opportunity afforded the affected youths to experience a sense of pride and accomplishment in observing how their efforts can provide a safe and clean environment within which they can live and prosper.

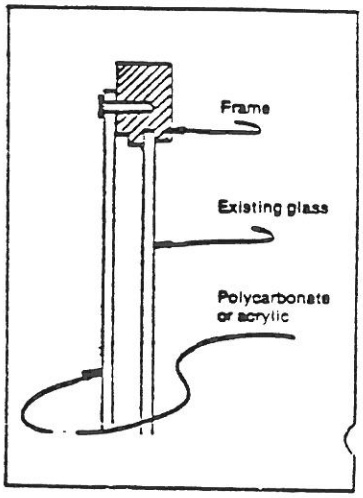
PROTECT YOUR HOME

Basement windows are the second most likely point of entry to a residence for a burglar. The accessibility and concealability of basement windows makes them especially attractive to a prowling burglar. Usually basement windows can be easily pried open because residents have failed to adequatley secure them. When securing basement windows, you must attempt to make it impossible for person's body to fit through the opening.

Several measures can be taken to secure basement windows:

- *Add a security grill to the window.
- *Limit access by running two bars top to bottom (remember to keep an emergency exit.)
- *Replace vulnerable windows with glass blocks.
- *Keep storm windows on basement windows which are secured from the inside.

An alternative to securing the basement windows is a strong door and secure lock on the entry way leading from the basement to the rest of the home. Another alternative is replacing or covering the glass with a break resistant polycarbonate or acrylic material. A three step process can be used in applying these materials to basement windows.



Step 1

Cut 1/8" or thicker polycarbonate or acrylic sheet 3" larger in length and width than the window area, and sand the edges smooth. Drill 1/4" diameter holes 3/4" in from the edges of the material and not more than 9" on centers. These holes will be slightly larger in diameter than the screws used to fasten the material to the window.

Step 2

Place the finished sheet of polycarbonate flush against the inside of the window over the area to be protected. Mark holes on the window, then pre-drill using approximately 1/8" diameter drill to accept screws. NOTE: It is important to drill a smaller hole in the wooden frame so the screws will fit snugly.

Step 3

Secure polycarbonate to the window using No. 10 oval-head screws and finishing washers. Length of screws should be the same as thickness of the window. Tighten screws only until snug.

WEST DISTRICT CAPTAINS CORNER

On December 6, 1983 a major police action occurred in the West District involving an armed suspect who had taken eleven people hostage. This incident, which received widespread news coverage, is an excellent example of the professional competence and ability which exists within the Newark Police Department. It also illustrates the philosophy under which the Newark Police Department operates, namely, that the protection and saving of lives is of paramount importance in all situations.

The incident had it's beginning on the previous day (December 5) when the suspect went to his mother-in-law's home in the North District and became involved in an argument which resulted in the shooting of his mother-in-law and brother-in-law. The suspect then fled, taking his wife and five children to his sisters home located on Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Later that evening two West District police officers, William Hicks and James O'Hara, developed information that the suspect was at the apartment on Martin Luther King Boulevard. Officers Hicks and O'Hara notified the Rapid Robbery Squad and together with two detectives from that unit responded to the apartment to investigate. The officers confirmed that the suspect was in the apartment but they could not gain entry. They also confirmed that children were in the apartment and knew that to force entry would endanger innocent lives. The apartment was then sealed off and attempts were made to convince the suspect to surrender. It was at this point that the Newark Police Departments specially trained Hostage Negotiating Team was called in along with the Tactical Force. As the evening dragged on, other police units were called to the scene to provide their special assistance.

West District and Traffic Bureau Units were utilized to control the traffic flow and crowds in the area. The Police Emergency Bureau responded with barricades to assist in controlling pedestrian movement and also with special equipment should forced entry into the apartment be necessary.

Detectives responded to assist in a variety of areas essential to the operation. All in all, a large number of police officers from a variety of units within the department were brought together to provide their particular expertise in the now large scale and complex police operation. To the great credit of all those involved, the entire operation proceeded smoothly.

All morning the officers cooly negotiated with a gun waving, threatening suspect. Despite many times during the ordeal when officers feared the suspect was about to act irrationally and begin shooting, they did not elect to use deadly force. Instead, they continued pleading with the suspect to remain calm and not resort to violence, knowing full well that at any moment the suspect might begin shooting and the negotiating officers would be dangerously exposed. It is important to note that throughout that tense morning the Newark Police Department was fully capable of concluding the situation by employing deadly force from police sharpshooters.

We elected not to do that and instead negotiate despite the danger. The high value the officers of the Newark Police Department place on all human life was clearly demonstrated by this incident and the great credit and skill of all involved, the situation was successfully resolved without injury to anyone.

It is important for the citizen of Newark to have confidence in the ability of their Police Department to successfully deal with highly volatile situations. This incident clearly demonstrates the justification for that confidence.

Report a Rape to
SARA IMMEDIATELY
CALL
733-RAPE

BURGLARY RING BROKEN BY DETECTIVE

For the past several months the Ivy Hill apartments have experienced a large number of burglaries. Entry into the apartments were made through the rear windows which were adjacent to the buildings stairwell. The suspects would locate an empty apartment, go to the stairwell, break the window of the apartment and then crawl from the stairwell into the apartment. After taking what they wanted, the suspects would simply leave the apartment by way of the front door.

Detective Frank D'Andrea of the West Detective Squad investigated many of these cases and after several months of hard work was successful in identifying a burglary ring which was responsible for the crimes. To date 13 people have been identified and most have been arrested. They have been charged and implicated in 20 burglaries so far and the investigation is continuing as to their involvement in other burglaries.

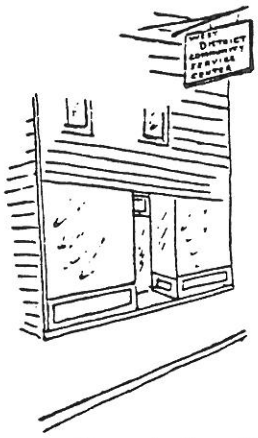
Congratulations to Detective D'Andrea (formerly a West District officer) for a job well done..

WON'T YOU JOIN US?

If you have any newsworthy events to report affecting you or your community, or, you would like to provide a "Helping Hand" to our West District Community Center staff, please write of call:

West District Community
Service Center
767 So. Orange Avenue
Newark, New Jersey
(201) 733-4830

STOREFRONT TIDBITS



It was mentioned in the November issue of ACT that disruptive teenagers are a big problem in the Vailsburg area. They are responsible for a large percentage of robberies, burglaries, car thefts, purse snatching, drugs and other crimes committed in the area. The staff at the West District Community Service Center is determined to meet this problem head on.

Since August we have been actively engaged in the identification of the teenagers responsible for the commission of these crimes. It should be mentioned that we have been successful in this endeavor. We are taking one street at a time and taking positive action when we encounter problem teenagers. We have identified the source of the problems on South Munn Avenue and are actively working to eliminate the cause.

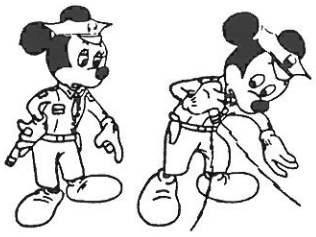
The staff of the West District Community Center in a further effort to eliminate teenagers criminal activity in the area on December 9, 1983 escorted fifteen teenagers to Rahway State Prison to participate in the Scared Straight Program.

On December 8th at the West District Community Center a Fire Prevention Seminar was held, conducted by Newark Firefighters Shelly Harris.

At the December 12th meeting of the Columbia Ave. Block Association Councilman Ronald Rice attended and spoke about flooding and street conditions on Columbia Ave.

The staff at the West District Community Center invites neighborhood residents to visit the center and air your complaints in order for us to service you. We are also reminding you that if you want something printed in the Act news letter it must be submitted to the West District Community Service Center prior to the second week of the month.

THE BEST IN THE WEST



It was a Saturday night, November 19, when West District Officers Charles Kaiser and George Brodo received a call of hold-up in progress at Goodys Corner Tavern, 41-19th Avenue. As the officers rolled up to the scene they observed a man standing near the tavern entrance pulling a stocking mask from his face. He was also observed holding some coats over his arm and a woman's pocketbook.

When the suspect spotted the officers he started to run away. Brodo and Kaiser yelled for the suspect to halt as they began to pursue him on foot. The officers yelled a second time and with that the suspect wheeled around and fired one shot at the approaching officers. He then continued running away with the officers in pursuit. Finally, as the suspect entered a vacant lot on South 17th Street, he attempted to shoot Officer Kaiser, who immediately fired his weapon, hitting the man once. The suspect was then apprehended and transported to College Hospital where he was treated for his wound. At the shooting scene officers recovered the proceeds from the robbery, along with the suspects gun. The suspect, identified as Ronald Mundra, 29 years old, from Irvington was charged with armed robbery, possession of a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault on police officers upon his release from the hospital. Officers Kaiser and Brodo have been recommended for official commendations for their courageous pursuit and apprehension of a highly dangerous man.

****

On December 10, 1983, shortly after midnight while West District Officers William Hamilton and James O'Hara were dispersing approximately 100 youths at 18th and Brookdale Avenues. The youths had apparently gathered at that location following a party at Vailsburg High School and the officers sensed some sort of trouble was brewing. While trying to disperse the crowd, the officers heard four shots ring out. The sound of the shots caused a panic in the crowd, and people began running in all directions. Officers Hamilton and O'Hara called for back up assistance as they went to the aid of a young man who was shot and lying on the ground. After help arrived at the scene, Officers Hamiltion and O'Hara began interviewing witnesses and determined the names of two suspects. Since the suspects were last seen heading towards Irvington, the Irvington Police were notified and responded to the call for assistance. A coordinated search was organized with police units from both Newark and Irvington. Eighteen minutes after the shooting occurred, Officers Hamiltion and O'Hara spotted the suspects in Irvington Center and with the assistance of Irvington Police made the apprehension. This was a fine piece of coordinated police work involving two police departments and many police officers, and is certainly worth mentioning in this column.

WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY?

If you have any newsworthy events to report, we would like to hear about it - write:

Editor, ACT Newsletter
Office of the Police Director
31 Green Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

ACT1
Published by the
NEWARK Police Department
and Neighborhood Residents
NEWARK POLICE

APPENDIX D:

COMPARISON OF MEAN SCORES FOR SELECTED VARIABLES "LOST" VERSUS "FOUND" MEMBERS OF HOUSTON PANEL SAMPLE

APPENDIX D

COMPARISONS OF MEAN SCORES FOR SELECTED VARIABLES: "LOST" VERSUS "FOUND" MEMBERS OF HOUSTON PANEL SAMPLE

Appendix D-1

Means or, in one case, percentages, are presented for "Lost" and "Found" members of the Houston panel sample for the following items.

Q5. In general, since July of 1983, would you say this area has become a better place to live, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

Q14. On the whole, how do you feel about this area as a place to live?

Now, I am going to read a list of things that you may think are problems in this area. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.

Q17. Police not making enough contact with residents?

Q18. Groups of people hanging around on corners or in streets?

Q21. Police stopping too many people on the streets without good reason in this area?

Q30. Since July of 1983, has the amount of crime in this area increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

Q31. Have you been to any of these meetings?

Q34. How safe would you feel being outside alone in this area at night?

Q39. Since July of 1983, has the amount of crime in this area increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

Q40. Do you believe you usually get a true picture of crime in this area?

Q42. Since July of 1983, have you seen any brochures, pamphlets or newsletters which describe what you can do to protect yourself and your home from crime?

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about things that might worry you in this area.

How worried are you that:

Q43. Someone will try to rob you or steal something from you while you are outside in this area?

Q45. Someone will try to break into your home while no one is here?

Q50. Now let's talk abou the police in this area. How good a job do you think they are doing to prevent crime?

Appendix D-1
(continued)

Now I am going to read you another list of some things that you may think are problems in this area. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.

Q68. People breaking in or sneaking into homes to steal things?

Q74. Have any special locks been installed in this home for security reasons?

Q77. have any valuables here been marked with your name or some number?

Q79. Thinking of all the things that people can do to protect their home, that is, installing special locks, lights, timers, bars, et., how much safer do you think they can make your home?

Q83. Thinking of all the things that people can do when they go out after dark, that is, get someone to go with them or avoid certain places or avoid certain types of people, how much safer do you think these actions can make you?

Now, I am going to read you another list of some things that you may think are problems in this area. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.

Q117. People being robbed or having their money, purses or wallets taken?

Q125. Do you personally know of anyone in this area whose home or apartment has been broken into, or had an attempted break-in since July of 1983?

Table D-1

Variable	Mean for Houston Panel Samples Which Was:	
	Lost (N=122)	Found (N=127)
Q5	1.86	1.91
Q14	3.08	2.94
Q17	1.79	1.89
Q18	1.87	1.79
Q21	1.16	1.19
Q30 (% YES)	26%	29%
Q31	7%	10%
Q34	2.51	2.73
Q39	2.27	2.21
Q40	47%	46%
Q42	21%	20%
Q43	1.95	2.00
Q45	2.20	2.20
Q50	3.23	3.20
Q68	1.86	1.86
Q74	24%	28%
Q77	16%	23%
Q79	2.28	2.18
Q83	2.32	2.22
Q117	1.60	1.56
Q125	22%	29%

APPENDIX E:

COMPARISON OF MEAN SCORES FOR SELECTED VARIABLES "LOST" VERSUS "FOUND" MEMBERS OF HOUSTON PANEL SAMPLE

Appendix E-1

Means or, in one case, percentages, are presented for "Lost" and "Found" members of the Houston panel sample for the following items.

Q5. In general, since July of 1983, would you say this area has become a better place to live, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

Q14. On the whole, how do you feel about this area as a place to live?

Now, I am going to read a list of things that you may think are problems in this area. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.

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Q21. Police stopping too many people on the streets without good reason in this area?

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Q45. Someone will try to break into your home while no one is here?

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Appendix e-1
(continued)

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Q74. Have any special locks been installed in this home for security reasons?

Q77. have any valuables here been marked with your name or some number?

Q79. Thinking of all the things that people can do to protect their home, that is, installing special locks, lights, timers, bars, et., how much safer do you think they can make your home?

Q83. Thinking of all the things that people can do when they go out after dark, that is, get someone to go with them or avoid certain places or avoid certain types of people, how much safer do you think these actions can make you?

Now, I am going to read you another list of some things that you may think are problems in this area. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.

Q117. People being robbed or having their money, purses or wallets taken?

Q125. Do you personally know of anyone in this area whose home or apartment has been broken into, or had an attempted break-in since July of 1983?

Table E-1

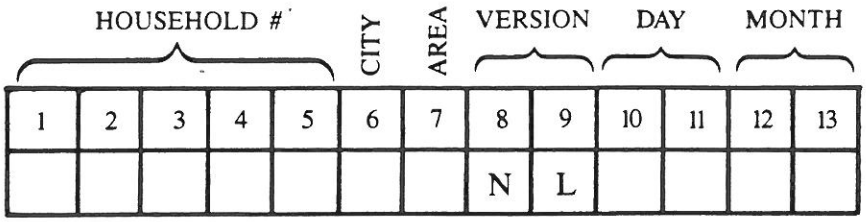
Variable	Mean for Newark Panel Samples Which Was:	
	Lost (N=80)	Found (N=117)
Q5	1.53	1.55
Q14	2.66	2.64
Q17	2.35	2.30
Q18	2.52	2.57
Q21	1.11	1.13
Q30 (% YES)	36%	42%
Q31	19%	20%
Q34	2.57	2.62
Q39	2.35	2.32
Q40	53%	50%
Q42	12%	14%
Q43	2.04	2.13
Q45	2.49*	2.30*
Q50	2.74	2.74
Q68	2.36	2.28
Q74	36%	38%
Q77	18%	20%
Q79	2.20	2.08
Q83	2.05	2.13
Q117	2.17	2.25
Q125	29%	30%

*$p < .10$

APPENDIX F:

CITIZENS' ATTITUDE SURVEY, NEWSLETTER VERSION

ADDRESS LABEL



CITIZENS' ATTITUDE SURVEY NL VERSION

14 — Respondent is:
1. Reinterview from Wave 1 Address
2. Selection from New Address

RESPONDENT SELECTION TABLES	
A	D
B_1	E_1
B_2	E_2
C	F

POLICE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RESPONDENT SELECTION TABLES

SELECTION TABLE A	
If the number of eligible persons is	Interview the person you assigned the number:
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6 or more	1

SELECTION TABLE B_1	
If the number of eligible persons is	Interview the person you assigned the number:
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	2
6 or more	2

SELECTION TABLE B_2	
If the number of eligible persons is	Interview the person you assigned the number:
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6 or more	1

SELECTION TABLE C	
If the number of eligible persons is	Interview the person you assigned the number:
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	2
6 or more	2

SELECTION TABLE D	
If the number of eligible persons is	Interview the person you assigned the number:
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6 or more	1

SELECTION TABLE E_1	
If the number of eligible persons is	Interview the person you assigned the number:
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	2
6 or more	2

SELECTION TABLE E_2	
If the number of eligible persons is	Interview the person you assigned the number:
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6 or more	1

SELECTION TABLE F	
If the number of eligible persons is	Interview the person you assigned the number:
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	2
6 or more	2

INTRODUCTION FOR DESIGNATED RESPONDENT

Hello, my name is _____ and I work for a national research company in Washington, D.C., [SHOW I.D. CARD]. About six months ago we talked to _____ about how people feel about their neighborhood and I would like to talk with him/her again for a few minutes to see how he/she feels now. [CONTACT DESIGNATED RESPONDENT AND CONTINUE WITH THE CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT. IF DESIGNATED RESPONDENT IS UNAVAILABLE, ARRANGE TO COME BACK. BUT IF DESIGNATED RESPONDENT IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD DO NOT SELECT A NEW RESPONDENT, FILL OUT A NON-INTERVIEW REPORT FORM.

Just like last year, all the information you give will be strictly confidential and it will be used only to prepare a report in which no one's answers will ever be identified except as required by law. Your participation is voluntary but your cooperation is valuable.

INTRODUCTION FOR NON DESIGNATED RESPONDENT HOUSEHOLD

Hello, my name is _____ and I work for a national research organization in Washington, D.C. [SHOW I.D. CARD]

We recently mailed a letter to this household about a survey we are doing to find out the problems people are having in this area and what they think can be done to improve the quality of life around here. The information you give us will help develop programs to address these problems. Everything you tell us will be kept strictly confidential and it will be used only to prepare a report in which no one's answers will ever be identified. Your participation is voluntary but your cooperation will be very helpful.

To be sure that we have a good idea of the opinions of everyone in this area, I have been given a very strict method of selecting the person I talk with in any household. First, how many people 19 years or older live in this household.

_____ # OF ADULTS 19 YEARS OR OLDER (15)

Okay, starting with the oldest male, please tell me the first name and age of all the males who are 19 years or older. [NOW LIST ALL MALES] Then, please do the same for females, starting with the oldest one.

[LIST THE FIRST NAME, SEX AND AGE OF ALL PERSONS 19 YEARS OLD AND OLDER WHO LIVE IN THIS HOUSEHOLD IN THE TABLE BELOW. ASSIGN THE NUMBER "1" TO THE OLDEST MALE, "2" TO THE SECOND OLDEST MALE, ETC. THEN ASSIGN CONTINUOUS NUMBERS TO THE FEMALES. LOOK AT THE SELECTION TABLE TO FIND OUT WHO IS TO BE INTERVIEWED.]

LINE #	NAMES OF PERSONS 19 YEARS OR OLDER	SEX	AGE	ASSIGNED NUMBER	CHECK RESPONDENT	
1						(16) (17-18) (19)
2						(20) (21-22) (23)
3						(24) (25-26) (27)
4						(28) (29-30) (31)
5						(32) (33-34) (35)
6						(36) (37-38) (39)
7						(40) (41-42) (43)
8						(44) (45-46) (47)

Okay, according to my instructions, I am supposed to talk with _____ [READ R NAME] Is he/she here now?

[IF SELECTED RESPONDENT IS OTHER THAN THE FIRST PERSON CONTACTED, MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO INTERVIEW THE PERSON SELECTED.]

TIME INTERVIEW BEGAN: _____ A.M. / P.M.

Q1. First, I have a few questions about this part of (Houston/Newark)[SHOW MAP]. How long have you lived at this address? (48-49)(50-51)

_____ YEARS _____ MONTHS
DON'T KNOW 9999

Q2. Before you moved here, did you live somewhere else in this area, somewhere else in (Houston/Newark), somewhere outside of the city of (Houston/Newark) or have you always lived here?

SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA 1
SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY 2 (52)
OUTSIDE OF THIS CITY 3
ALWAYS LIVED HERE 4
DON'T KNOW 9

Q3. Do you own or rent your home?

OWN (INCLUDES STILL PAYING) 1
RENT 2 (53)
REFUSED 8
DON'T KNOW 9

Q4. About how many families do you know by name in this area?

NUMBER
DON'T KNOW 99 (54)
REFUSED 88

Q5. In general, since July of 1983, would you say this area has become a better place to live, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

BETTER 3
WORSE 1 (55)
ABOUT THE SAME 2
DON'T KNOW 9

Q11. In some areas people do things together and help each other. In other areas people mostly go their own way. In general, what kind of area would you say this is, is it mostly one where people help each other, or one where people go their own way?

HELP EACH OTHER 1
GO THEIR OWN WAY 0 (56)
DON'T KNOW 9

Q14. On the whole, how do you feel about this area as a place to live? Are you...

very satisfied, ... 4
somewhat satisfied, ... 3 (57)
somewhat dissatisfied, or 2
very dissatisfied? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

N1. All things considered, what do you think this area will be like a year from now? Will it be a better place to live, have gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

BETTER 3
WORSE 1 (58)
ABOUT THE SAME 2
DON'T KNOW 9

N2. How likely is it that you will still be living in this area a year from now? Is it...

very likely. 5
somewhat likely. 4
somewhat unlikely, or 2
very unlikely? 1
REFUSED 8
50-50 (VOLUNTARY) 3
DON'T KNOW 9

(59)

Now, I am going to read a list of things that you may think are problems in this area. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.

		BIG PROBLEM	SOME PROBLEM	NO PROBLEM	DON'T KNOW	
Q18.	The first one is groups of people hanging around on corners or in streets? . . . . . [PROMPT AS NECESSARY: Do you think this is a big problem, some problem or no problem in this area?]	3	2	1	9	(60)
Q19.	Beggars or panhandlers?	3	2	1	9	(61)
Q20.	People saying insulting things or bothreing people as they walk down the street?	3	2	1	9	(62)
Q17.	Police not making enough contact with residents?	3	2	1	9	(63)
Q21.	Police stopping too many people on the streets without good reason in this area?	3	2	1	9	(64)
Q24.	People drinking in public places like on corners or in streets? . .	3	2	1	9	(65)
Q26.	Police being too tough on people they stop?	3	2	1	9	(66)

Q30. Since July of 1983, have there been any community meetings held here in this area to try to deal with local problems?

NO . . . . . 0 [SKIP TO Q34]
YES 1
DON'T KNOW . . . . . 9 [SKIP TO Q34]

(67)

Q31. Have you been to any of these meetings?

NO . . . . . 0 [SKIP TO Q34]
YES 1

(68)

Q32. Was anyone from the Police Department at any of these meetings?

NO 0
YES 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(69)

Q34. How safe would you feel being outside alone in this area at night? Would you feel ...

very safe, ... 4
somewhat safe, ... 3
somewhat unsafe, or 2
very unsafe? 1
DON'T GO OUT AT NIGHT 7
DON'T KNOW 9

(70)

Q35. Is there any place in this area where you would be afraid to go alone either during the day or after dark?

NO	0 [SKIP TO Q39]	(71)
YES	1	
DON'T KNOW	9 [SKIP TO Q39]	

Q38. Would you be afraid to go there during the day, after dark, or both?

DAY TIME	1	(72)
AFTER DARK	2	
BOTH	3	
DON'T KNOW	9	

Q39. Since July of 1983, has the amount of crime in this area increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

INCREASED	3	(73)
DECREASED	1	
ABOUT THE SAME	2	
DON'T KNOW	9	

Q40. Do you believe you usually get a true picture of crime in this area?

NO	0	(74)
YES	1	
DON'T KNOW	9	

Q41. Where do you get information about crime in this area? [PROBE: Where else do you get information? [CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

a.	NONE/NO INFORMATION	(75)
b.	TELEVISION	(76)
c.	RADIO	(77)
d.	CITY NEWSPAPER	(78)
e.	NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER	(79)
f.	RELATIVES, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS	(80)
g.	COMMUNITY MEETINGS	(81)
h.	POLICE OFFICERS	(82)
i.	POLICE NEWSLETTER	(83)
j.	POLICE STATION/OFFICE	(84)
k.	GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS	(85)
l.	PAMPHLETS AND BROCHURES	(86)
m.	OTHER _____	(87)
n.	DON'T KNOW ☐	

Q42. Since July of 1983, have you seen any brochures, pamphlets or newsletters which describe what you can do to protect yourself and your home from crime?

NO	0	(88)
YES	1	
DON'T KNOW	9	

X1. Have you heard about a monthly newsletter published by the police specifically for residents in this area?

NO	0	(89)
YES	1	
DON'T KNOW	9	

X2. [INTERVIEWER SHOW COPY] Here is a copy of the most recent issue of the police department newsletter. Have you seen any issues of this newsletter?

NO	0 [SKIP TO Q43]	(90)
YES	1	
DON'T KNOW	9 [SKIP TO Q43]	

X3. How did you happen to see the newsletter? [CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

MAILED TO MY HOME	1	(91)
LEFT AT MY DOOR	1	(92)
PICKED IT UP	1	(93)
BORROWED IT/GOT IT FROM NEIGHBOR .	1	(94)
OTHER _____ . . .	1	(95)
DON'T KNOW	☐	

[SKIP TO X5]

X4. How many issues have been mailed to your home?

OF COPIES ____ ___ (96)

DON'T KNOW 9

X5. Would you like to (continue to) get this newsletter at your home?

NO	0
YES	1
DON'T KNOW	9

(97)

X6. How many issues have you have a chance to look at?

NONE . . . . . 0 [SKIP TO Q43]

OF COPIES __ __ ___ (98)

DON'T KNOW 9

X7. In general, did you find the content of the newsletter(s) ...

very informative	3
somewhat informative, or	2
not at all informative?	1
DON'T KNOW	9

(99)

X8. How could it be made more informative? [PROBE: How else could it be made more informative?]

_____ (100-101)

_____

X9. What, if anything, did you find most informative about the newsletter(s)?

_____

_____ (102-103)

X10. In general, did you find the newsletter(s) ...

very interesting.	3
somewhat interesting, or	2
not at all interesting?	1
DON'T KNOW	9

(104)

X11. Because of the newsletter, have you done anything to protect yourself, your household, or your neighborhood?

NO	0 [SKIP TO X13]
YES	1
DON'T KNOW	9 [SKIP TO X13]

(105)

X12. What have you done? [PROBE: What else have you done?]

a. _____ (106-107)

b. _____ (108-109)

c. _____

X13. Because of the newsletter, have you considered doing anything (else) to protect yourself, your household, or your neighborhood?

NO . . . . . 0 [SKIP TO X15]
YES 1 (110)
DON'T KNOW . . . . . 9 [SKIP TO X15]

X14. What have you considered doing? [PROBE: What else have you considered doing?]

a. _____ (111-112)

b. _____ (113-114)

c. _____

X15. Did the newsletter(s) you looked at have a map with a special listing of recent crimes that took place in this area?

NO . . . . . 0 [SKIP TO X17]
YES 1 (115)
DON'T KNOW . . . . . 9 [SKIP TO X17]

X16. When you saw the listings of crimes, did you find there was more crime, less crime or about as much crime as you had thought existed in this area?

MORE 3
LESS 1
ABOUT AS MUCH 2 (116)
DON'T KNOW 9

X17. Should that type of crime information be included with the newsletter?

NO 0
YES 1 (117)
DON'T KNOW 9

X18. What suggestions, if any, do you have for improving the newsletter? [PROBE: What other suggestions do you have?]

NONE/DON'T KNOW 0

a. _____ (118-119)

b. _____ (120-121)

c. _____

X19. Because of the newsletter(s) are you now more worried or less worried that you might become a victim of crime?

MORE WORRIED 3
LESS WORRIED 1
NO DIFFERENCE/SAME 2 (122)
DON'T KNOW 9

X20. Because of the newsletter(s) are you now more confident or less confident that you can do things to avoid becoming a victim of crime?

MORE CONFIDENT 3
LESS CONFIDENT 1
NO DIFFERENCE/SAME 2 (123)
DON'T KNOW 9

Now, I'd like to ask you a few questions about things that might worry you in this area.

	How worried are you that:	VERY WORRIED	SOMEWHAT WORRIED	NOT WORRIED AT ALL	N/A	
Q43.	someone will try to rob you or steal something from you while you are outside in this area?	3	2	1	7	(124)
	[PROMPT AS NECESSARY: Are you very worried, somewhat worried, or not worried at all?]					
Q44.	someone will try to attack you or beat you up while you are outside in this area?	3	2	1	7	(125)
Q45.	someone will try to break into your home while no one is here?	3	2	1	7	(126)
Q46.	How about when someone is home, how worried are you that someone will try to break into your home while someone is here?	3	2	1	7	(127)
	[PROMPT AS NECESSARY: Are you very worried, somewhat worried, or not worried at all?]					
Q47.	someone will try to steal or damage your car in this area?	3	2	1	7	(128)
Q48.	someone will deliberately try to hurt your children while they are playing or walking in this area?	3	2	1	7	(129)

Q49. When it comes to the prevention of crime in this area, do you feel that it's more the responsibility of the residents or more the responsibility of the police?

RESIDENTS 3
POLICE 1
BOTH 2
OTHER _____ . . . 4
[SPECIFY]
DON'T KNOW 9

(130)

Q50. Now, let's talk about the police in this area. How good a job do you think they are doing to prevent crime? Would you say they are doing a...

very good job, ... 5
good job, ... 4
fair job, ... 3
poor job, or 2
very poor job? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(131)

Q51. How good a job do you think the police in this area are doing in helping people out after they have been victims of crime? Would you say they are doing a...

very good job, ... 5
good job, ... 4 (132)
fair job, ... 3
poor job, or 2
very poor job? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q52. How good a job are the police in this area doing in keeping order on the streets and sidewalks? Would you say they are doing a...

very good job, ... 5
good job, ... 4 (133)
fair job, ... 3
poor job, or 2
very poor job? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q57. In general, how polite are the police in this area when dealing with people? Are they...

very polite, ... 4
somewhat polite, ... 3 (134)
somewhat impolite, or 2
very impolite? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q58. In general, how helpful are the police in this area when dealing with people around here? Are they...

very helpful, ... 4
somewhat helpful, ... 3 (135)
not very helpful, or 2
not helpful at all? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q59. In general, how fair are the police in this area in dealing with people around here? Are they...

very fair, ... 4
somewhat fair, ... 3 (136)
somewhat unfair, or 2
very unfair? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q60. Have you seen a police officer in this area within the last 24 hours?

NO 0 (137)
YES . . . . . 1 [SKIP TO Q63]
DON'T KNOW 9

Q61. What about within the last week? Have you seen a police officer in this area?

NO 0
YES 1 (138)
DON'T KNOW 9

Q63. Do you know any of the police officers who work in this area?

NO 0 (139)
YES 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Now. I am going to read you another list of some things that you may think are problems in this area. After I read each one. please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.

		BIG PROBLEM	SOME PROBLEM	NO PROBLEM	DON'T KNOW	
N3.	An increasing amount of property crime in the area?	3	2	1	9	(140)
	[PROMPT AS NECESSARY: Do you think that is a big problem, some problem, or no problem in this area?]					
Q66.	People breaking windows of buildings?	3	2	1	9	(141)
Q67.	Graffiti, that is writing or painting on walls or buildings? .	3	2	1	9	(142)
Q68.	People breaking in or sneaking into homes to steal things?	3	2	1	9	(143)
Q70.	Cars being vandalized--things like windows or radio aerials being broken?	3	2	1	9	(144)
Q71.	Cars being stolen?	3	2	1	9	(145)

The next few questions are about things that some people might do for protection from crime.

		NO	YES	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED	
Q73.	Has there been a crime prevention inspection of your home by a police officer or some specially trained person?	0	1	9	8	(146)
Q74.	Have any special locks been installed in this home for security reasons?	0	1	9	8	(147)
Q75.	Have any special outdoor lights been installed here to make it easier to see what's going on outside your home?	0	1	9	8	(148)
Q76.	Are there any timers for turning your lights on and off at night?	0	1	9	8	(149)
Q77.	Have any valuables here been marked with your name or some number? . .	0	1	9	8	(150)
Q78.	Have special windows or bars been installed for protection?	0	1	9	8	(151)

Q79. Thinking of all the things that people can do to protect their home, that is, installing special locks, lights, timers, bars, etc., how much safer do you think they can make your home? Would you say they can make your home...

a lot safer, ... 3
somewhat safer, or 2
not much safer at all? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(152)

The next questions are about some things people might do when they go out after dark. Now, think about the last time you went out in this area after dark.

		NO	YES	NEVER GO OUT	DON'T KNOW	
Q80.	Did you go with someone else to avoid crime?	0	1	2	9	(153)
Q81.	The last time you went out after dark in this area, did you stay away from certain streets or areas to avoid crime?	0	1	2	9	(154)
Q82.	When you last went out after dark in this area, did you stay away from certain types of people to avoid crime?	0	1	2	9	(155)

Q83. Thinking of all the things that people can do when they go out after dark, that is, get someone to go with them or avoid certain places or avoid certain types of people, how much safer do you think these actions can make you? Would you say they can make you ...

a lot safer, ... 3
somewhat safer, or 2
not much safer at all? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(156)

Q84. Let's talk about the last time you invited someone from outside this area to visit you here at night. Did you give your guest warnings or suggestions about what to do to avoid possible crime problems?

NO 0
YES 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(157)

Q85. Think about the last time when no one was home for at least a day or two. Did you ask a neighbor to watch your home?

NO 0
YES 1
SOMEONE ALWAYS HOME 2
DON'T KNOW 9

(158)

Q86. In general, how often do you avoid going out after dark in this area because of crime? Do you avoid going out most of the time, sometimes, or never?

NEVER GO OUT AFTER DARK 4
MOST OF THE TIME 3
SOMETIMES 2
NEVER 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(159)

Now, I would like to ask you about any contacts you may have had with the (Houston/Newark) police since July of 1983. Since then have you...

	NO	YES	DON'T KNOW	
Q87. reported a crime to the police?	0	1	9	(160)
Q88. contacted the police about something suspicious?.	0	1	9	(161)
Q89. Since July of 1983 have you reported a traffic accident to the police?	0	1	9	(162)
Q90. reported any other problem to the police?	0	1	9	(163)
Q91. Since July of 1983 have you contacted the police for information about how to prevent crime? . . .	0	1	9	(164)
Q92. asked the police for any other information? . . .	0	1	9	(165)

INTERVIEWER BOX C (166)

CHECK Q87 THROUGH Q92. CIRCLE ONE AND FOLLOW SKIP INSTRUCTIONS

"NO" TO Q87 THROUGH Q92 . . . . . 1 [SKIP TO Q101]
"YES" TO ONE OR MORE ITEMS . . . . . 2 [ASK Q95]

Q95. The last time you contacted the police did you find them ...

very helpful, ... 4
somewhat helpful, ... 3
not very helpful, or 2 (167)
not at all helpful? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q96. The last time did you find the police ...

very polite, ... 4
somewhat polite, ... 3
somewhat impolite, or 2 (168)
very impolite? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q97. How fairly were you treated by the police that time? Were they...

very fair, ... 4
somewhat fair, ... 3
somewhat unfair, or 2 (169)
very unfair? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q101. Since July of 1983, have you been in a car or on a motorcycle which was stopped by the police?

NO 0
YES 1 (170)
DON'T KNOW 9

Q104. Since July of 1983, have you been stopped and asked questions by the police when you were walking?

NO 0
YES 1 (171)
DON'T KNOW 9

INTERVIEWER BOX E

CHECK Q101 AND Q104. CIRCLE ONE AND FOLLOW SKIP INSTRUCTION (172)
"YES" TO BOTH Q101 AND Q104 . . . . . 1 [ASK Q106]
"YES" TO EITHER Q101 OR Q104 . . . . . 2 [SKIP TO Q107]
"NO" TO BOTH Q101 AND Q104 . . . . . 3 [SKIP TO Q111]

Q107. The last time the police stopped you, did they clearly explain why they stopped you?

NO 0
YES 1 (173)
DON'T KNOW 9

Q108. Did the police clearly explain what action they would take?

NO 0 (174)
YES 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q109. Did you find the police ...

very polite, ... 4
somewhat polite, ... 3
somewhat impolite, or 2 (175)
very impolite? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q110. How fair were they? Were they..

very fair, ... 4
somewhat fair, ... 3
somewhat unfair. or 2 (176)
very unfair? 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q111. Since July of 1983, have you had any other contact with the police in which you had a conversation?

NO 0
YES 1 (177)
DON'T KNOW 9

Now, I am going to read you another list of some things that you may think are problems in this area. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.

		BIG PROBLEM	SOME PROBLEM	NO PROBLEM	DON'T KNOW	
N4.	An increasing amount of violent crime in the area? . . . . . [PROMPT: Do you think that is a big problem, some problem, or no problem in this area?]	3	2	1	9	(178)
Q114.	People being attacked or beaten up by strangers?	3	2	1	9	(179)
Q117.	People being robbed or having their money, purses or wallets taken?	3	2	1	9	(180)
Q118.	Gangs?.	3	2	1	9	(181)
Q120.	Sale or use of drugs in public places?	3	2	1	9	(182)
Q121.	Rape or other sexual attacks? . . .	3	2	1	9	(183)

Now, I would like to ask you a few questions about some things which may have happened to you and people you know in (Houston/Newark) since July of 1983.

V1. Since July of 1983, has anyone broken into or attempted to break into your home, garage or another building on your property to steal something?

NO 0
YES 1 (184)
DON'T KNOW 9

Q124. Do you personally know of anyone (else) in (Houston/Newark) whose home or apartment has been broken into, or had an attempted break-in since July of 1983?

NO . . . . . 0 [SKIP TO QV2]
YES 1 (185)
DON'T KNOW . . . . . 9 [SKIP TO QV2]

Q125. Did (this/any of these) break-in(s) happen in this area?

NO 0
YES 1 (186)
DON'T KNOW 9

V2. Since July of 1983, has anyone robbed you, that is, stolen something directly from you or tried to take something from you by force or after threatening you with harm?

NO 0
YES 1 (187)
DON'T KNOW 9

Q126. Do you personally know of anyone (else) in (Houston/Newark) who has been robbed or had their purse or wallet taken since July of 1983?

NO . . . . . 0 [SKIP TO QV3]
YES 1 (188)
DON'T KNOW . . . . . 9 [SKIP TO QV3]

Q127. Did (this/any of these) crime(s) take place in this area?

NO 0
YES 1 (189)
DON'T KNOW 9

V3. Since July of 1983, has anyone physically attacked you or threatened you you in any way, even though they did not actually hurt you?

NO 0 (190)
YES 1
DON'T KNOW 9

Q128. Do you personally know of anyone else in (Houston/Newark) who has been physically attacked or threatened you in any way since July of 1983?

NO . . . . . 0 [SKIP TO Q130] (191)
YES 1
DON'T KNOW . . . . . 9 [SKIP TO Q130]

Q129. Did (this/any of these) attack(s) take place in this area?

NO 0
YES 1 (192)
DON'T KNOW 9

Q130. What kinds of crimes do you most commonly hear about occurring in this area? [DO NOT READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES. PROBE: What other crimes do you hear about? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

a. NONE/NO CRIME. 1 (193)
b. MURDER 1 (194)
c. FIGHTS/ASSAULTS/ATTACKS/INJURIES . . . 1 (195)
d. SEXUAL ASSAULT 1 (196)
e. HOUSEHOLD BURGLARY 1 (197)
f. BUSINESS BURGLARY 1 (198)
g. HOLD UPS/MUGGINGS/ROBBERY 1 (199)
h. AUTO THEFT 1 (200)
i. THEFT/STEALING 1 (201)
j. VANDALISM 1 (202)
k. DRUG USE/SALES 1 (203)
l. PROSTITUTION 1 (204)
m. OTHER _____ _____ _____ . . . 1 (205)
[SPECIFY]
n. DON'T KNOW . . . . . ☐

Now, for the final questions:

Q131. During the past week, other than going to work, on how many days did you go somewhere in this area during daylight hours?

OF DAYS _____

REFUSED 8 (206)
DON'T KNOW 9

Q132. What about after dark? During the past week, other than going to work, on how many nights did you go somewhere in this area after dark?

OF NIGHTS _____.

REFUSED 8 (207)
DON'T KNOW 9

Now, I'd like to ask you a few questions about yourself and the people who live here.

Q133. In what year were you born?

YEAR _____ (208-211)

REFUSED 8888

Q135. Are you currently...

married, ... 1
living with someone as partners, . . . 2
widowed, ... 3
divorced, ... 4
separated, or 5
never married? 6
REFUSED 8

(212)

N5. Including yourself, how many people 19 years and older currently live here?

OF ADULTS _____

REFUSED 8
DON'T KNOW 9

(213)

Q137. How many people under 19 years old live here?

OF CHILDREN _____

REFUSED 88
DON'T KNOW 99

(214-215)

[ANSWER Q138 AND Q139 BY OBSERVATION ONLY IF OBVIOUS]

Q138. What is your racial or ethnic background? Are you...

black, ... 1
white, ... 2
hispanic, ... 3
asian/pacific islander, ... 4
american indian, or 5
something else? _____ . . 6
[SPECIFY]
REFUSED 8
DON'T KNOW 9

(216)

Q139. RESPONDENT SEX:

MALE 1
FEMALE 2

(217)

Q140. What was the highest grade or year of school that you completed? [CIRCLE HIGHEST]

NONE 1
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2
SOME HIGH SCHOOL 3
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE 4
SOME COLLEGE 5
COLLEGE GRADUATE [BACHELORS] 6
POST GRADUATE 7
REFUSED 8
DON'T KNOW 9

(218)

Q141. We also would like to have an idea about your household income in 1983. Here is a card [GIVE CARD TO RESPONDENT] with some general categories on it. Please tell me which category includes your total household income--what everyone here made together last year? You don't have to give me the actual total--just tell me the correct letter.

A	1	[SKIP TO Q143]
B	2	
C	3	
D	4	
E	5	
F	6	
G	7	
REFUSED	8	
DON'T KNOW	9	

(219)

Q142. [IF "REFUSED" OR "DON'T KNOW"] Would you just indicate if it was under $15,000 in 1983, or over $15,000?

UNDER $15,000	0
OVER $15,000	1
REFUSED	8
DON'T KNOW	9

(220)

Q143. Now, in case my supervisor wants to call and verify this interview could I please have your telephone number?

[NUMBER] _____

REFUSED	CODE: 888-8888
NO PHONE	CODE: 999-9999

(221-227)

CLOSING STATEMENT

"Thank you very much, that completes the survey. You've been very helpful."

TIME INTERVIEW ENDED _____ A.M. P.M.

INTERVIEWER: I certify that I followed the procedures and rules in conducting this interview.

Signed: _____

Interviewer # _____

(228-229)

INTERVIEWER OBSERVATIONS AND REMARKS: FILL OUT THIS SECTION AS SOON AS YOU LEAVE THE HOUSEHOLD.

I1. RESPONDENT'S FACILITY WITH ENGLISH:

GOOD 1
FAIR 2
POOR 3
INTERVIEW IN SPANISH 4

(230)

I2. RESPONDENT'S COOPERATIVENESS:

VERY COOPERATIVE 3
FAIRLY COOPERATIVE 2
NOT VERY COOPERATIVE 1

(231)

I3. RESPONDENT'S INTEREST IN THE INTERVIEW:

VERY INTERESTED 3
SOMEWHAT INTERESTED 2
NOT INTERESTED, HARD TO HOLD ATTENTION 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(232)

I4. ACCURACY OF FACTUAL INFORMATION COLLECTED:

MOSTLY ACCURATE 1
SOMEWHAT INACCURATE 2
NOT TO BE TRUSTED 3
DON'T KNOW 9

(233)

I5. HOW SUSPICIOUS WAS THE PERSON WHO LET YOU IN?

VERY SUSPICIOUS 3
SUSPICIOUS 2
NOT VERY SUSPICIOUS 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(234)

I6. HOW EASY WOULD IT BE FOR SOMEONE TO GET INTO THE HOME THROUGH A DOOR OR WINDOW? WOULD YOU SAY IT WOULD BE...

VERY EASY 4
EASY 3
DIFFICULT 2
VERY DIFFICULT 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(235)

I7. TYPE OF DWELLING UNIT:

TRAILER/MOBILE HOME . . . . 1 [SKIP TO I9]
SINGLE FAMILY HOME . . . . 2 [SKIP TO I9]
ROW HOUSE/TOWNHOUSE . . . . 3 [SKIP TO I9]
TWO FAMILY HOME/DUPLEX . . . . 4 [SKIP TO I9]
SMALL APT. COMPLEX (UP TO 50 UNITS) 5
LARGE APT. COMPLEX (MORE THAN 50 UNITS) 6
DON'T KNOW 9

(236)

I8. NAME OF APARTMENT COMPLEX ______________________________

I9. CAN RESPONDENT'S UNIT BE ACCESSED THROUGH A WINDOW?

NO 0
YES 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(237)

I10. DO YOU SEE ANY BARS IN THE WINDOWS?

NO 0
YES 1
DON'T KNOW 9

(238)

I11. BEGIN HERE CODE EXACT STREET ADDRESS APT.

(239-259)(260-26

APPENDIX G:

SCALING THE RESIDENTIAL SURVEY DATA

SCALING THE RESIDENTIAL SURVEY DATA

This report describes how analytic scales were developed for the Fear Reduction Project Evaluation's panel sample surveys. These scales measure the central outcomes of interest in this project: perceptions and fear of crime, evaluations of the quality of police service, assessments of neighborhood problems, residential satisfaction, and crime related behaviors. Each measure is a composite of responses to two or more items which were included in the surveys to tap those dimensions. Such multiple-item scales yield more reliable, general, stable measurements of peoples attitudes and experiences than do responses to single survey questions.

CRITERIA

In each case the goal was to arrive at scales with the following properties:

1. Responses to each item should be consistent (all positively correlated). This was established by examining their intercorrelations, after some items were rescaled for directionality of scoring. A summary measure of the overall consistency of responses to a set of items is Cronbach's Alpha, which is an estimate of their joint reliability in producing a scale score for an individual.
2. Item responses should be homogeneous, or single-factored (indicating they all measure "the same thing"). This was established by a principle components factor analysis of the items hypothesized to represent a single dimension. The items were judged homogeneous when

they all loaded only on the first factor (their "principle component").

3. The items should share a substantial proportion of their variance with the hypothesized underlying dimension (perhaps precluding them from being significantly responsive to other conditions or events). This was demonstrated in two ways. Good items were those which evidenced a high correlation with others in the set. This was measured by their item-to-total correlation ("corrected" by excluding them from that particular total). Items were judged useful when, in a principal components factor analysys, the factor on which they fell accounted for a high proportion of their total variance (they had a high "communality").
4. The items on their face should seem related to a problem which is an object of one or more of the demonstration programs (suggesting they could be responsive to those interventions). Things which "scale together" based upon their naturally occurring covariation are not necessarily all useful, if they all should not be affected by the program of interest. The substantive utility of individual items cannot be statistically demonstrated; it is, rather, an argument.

The statistical analyses described above were done using SPSS-X. That system's RELIABILITY procedure generated inter-item correlations, calculated item-to-total correlations, and estimated a reliability coefficient (Cronbach's Alpha) for each set of item responses. FACTOR was used to extract the principal component from sets of items hypothesized to be unidimensional.

The scales were first developed using a random subset of the large Wave 1 survey data set. Then, all conclusions were confirmed and the scaling information presented below was calculated using the entire sample. The final scaling procedures then were duplicated separately for a number of subgroups, to examine whether or not things "went together" in the same fashion among those respondents. The scales were developed using unweighted data.

FEAR OF PERSONAL CRIME

Eight items were included in the survey to represent this general construct. Analysis of the first wave of the data indicated one should be dropped, and that the remaining set was two-factored.

The original items asked about the extent to which stranger assault, rape, and robbery were problems in the area, how worried the respondents were about being robbed, attacked, or being at home when someone broke in ("home invasion"), how safe they felt out alone in the area at night, and if there was a place nearby where they were afraid to walk.

An examination of correlations among these items indicated that worry about home invasion was only moderately correlated with the others, and excluding it from the group would improve the reliability of the resulting scale.

Excluding this item but using all of the others would yield an additive scale with a reliability of .78. However, a factor analysis of the remaining set suggested they were not unidimensional. Rather, three items asking about "how big a problem" specific personal crimes were <u>in the area</u> tapped a different dimension than those asking people how afraid they were and how worried they were about <u>personally</u> being victimized by the same types of crime. These

respondents seem to distinguish between personal risks and their general assessments of area problems. The two clusters of items loaded very distinctly on their unique factors, with high loadings.

Based upon this analysis, the following items were combined to form the "Fear of Personal Victimization in Area" measure:

Q34: How safe would you feel being outside alone in this area at night? (very safe to very unsafe)[1]

Q35: Is there any place in this areas where you would be afraid to go alone either during the day or at night? (yes or no).

Q43: [How worried are you that] someone will try to rob you or steal something from you while you are outside in this area? (very worried to not worried at all)

Q44: [How worried are you that] someone will try to attack you or beat you up while you are outside in this area? (very worried to not worried at all)

These items were added together to form a scale with a reliability of .72. The average item-total correlation of its components was .54, and the first factor explained 56 percent of the total variation in response to the items. Responses to Q35 were dichotomous, and as a result the item had only about two-thirds of the variance of Q43 and Q44, and one-half that of Q34. If such disparities are extreme, the items making up a simple additive scale will have a differential impact upon its apparent content. However, in this case there was no meaningful difference between the simple additive alpha and the alpha for a standardized scale score which equated the variances of its component parts. As a result, a simple additive scale score will be employed. A high score on this scale indicates respondents are fearful.

1. A few people who responded to Q34 that they "never go out" were rescored as "very unsafe" (see below).

The remaining items were combined to form the "Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems" scale:

[...please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area?]

Q114: People being attacked or beaten up by strangers?

Q117: People being robbed or having their money, purses or wallets taken?

Q121: Rape or other sexual assaults?

Because responses to these items all were measured on the same three-position set of response categories, the scale scores were generated by simply adding them together. As they had about the same mean and standard deviation (the rape question was somewhat lower on both), the items all contribute about equally to the total score for each individual. The factor lying behind these items accounted for 65 percent of their total variance. The reliability of the scale is .73. A high score on this issue indicates that these personal crimes were seen as "big problems in the area."

WORRY AND PERCEPTIONS ABOUT PROPERTY CRIME VICTIMIZATION IN AREA

There were five candidate items in this cluster. Three asked "how big a problem" burglary, auto theft, and auto vandalism were in the area, and two "how worried" respondents were about being victimized by burglary and auto theft or vandalism. Other research on concern about victimization or assessments of risk (see Baumer and Rosenbaum, 1981) indicates the distinction between personal and property crimes is a fundamental one, and that perceptions of the two are best gauged separately. (Auto vandalism was experimentally included among a set

of "disorder" items which included other vandalism activities, but empirically it belongs in this cluster of more serious crimes; (see below).

Although all five items clustered together, the following items were combined to for the "Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area" scales:

Q45: [How worried are you that] someone will try to break into your home while no one is there? (Not worried at all to very worried)

Q47: [How worried are you that] someone will try to steal or damage your car in this area? (Not worried at all to very worried)

These two items were combined to form a scale. They were intercorrelated .43 and formed an additive scale with an Alpha of .60. Because the items employed similar three-category responses and they had about the same means and standard deviations, they were scaled by adding them together. A high score on this scale identifies respondents who are very worried about property crime.

The remaining three items were combined to form another scale, "Perceived Area Property Crime Problems" which, although highly correlated with the previously discussed "Worry about Property Crime" scale, omits, for theoreticial reasons, all emotive references such as "worry" or "fear." The average correlation among these items is .53; the Alpha was .77. The items were:

[...please tell me whether you think is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.]

Q68: People breaking in or sneaking into homes to steal things?

Q70: Cars being vandalized--things like windows or radio aerials being broken?

Q71: Cars being stolen?

PERCEIVED AREA SOCIAL DISORDER PROBLEMS

This is a concept introduced by Hunter (1978) (as "incivility"), and elaborated by Lewis and Salem (1981) and Skogan and Maxfield (1981). Many of its measures were first developed by Fowler and Mangione (1974). It has great currency in the research literature on the fear of crime. Recently, Wilson and Kelling (1982) have expanded its theoretical significance by linking disorders explicitly to the generation of other serious crimes, and lent it some controversy by recommending that disorders become the direct object of aggressive, neighborhood-based policing. The level of disorder has been shown to have direct consequences for aggregate levels of fear, community cohesion, and residential stability, in urban residential neighborhgoods and public housing projects (Skogan, 1983).

Seven candidate items were analyzed as part of the scale development process. They all focused upon <u>deviant behaviors</u> of varying illegality and seriousness, most of which take place in public locations. They were:

[...please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem at all.]

Q18: Groups of people hanging around on corners or in streets.

Q20: People saying insulting things or bothering people as they walk down the street?

Q24: People drinking in public places like on corners or in streets?

Q66: People breaking windows of buildings?

Q67: Graffiti, that is writing or painting on walls or windows?

Q113: Gangs?

Q120: Sale or use of drugs in public places?

Responses to these eight items were all positively intercorrelated (mean r=.40), and they had roughly similar means and variances. A scale "Perceived Area Social Disorder Problems," was formed by adding together responses to them. The principal component factor for these items explained 48 percent of their total variance. This scale has a reliability of .85. A high score on this scale points to areas in which these are seen as "big problems."

An additional six items included in the survey could have been included in a disorder scale. They were:

Q23: Truancy, that is, kids not being in school when they should be?

Q72: The wrong kind of people moving into the neighborhood?

Q119: Pornographic movie theaters or bookshops, massage parlors, topless bars?

Q116: Prostitutes?

Q19: Beggars or panhandlers?

Q115: Children being bothered on their way to and from school?

Responses to the these items were consistent with the others, but were excluded from the scale because they probed problems which were not explict foci of any program.

SATISFACTION WITH AREA

Satisfaction with the area was probed by two questions:

Q5: In general, since July of 1982, would you say this area has become a better place to live, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? (better, worse, or about the same)

Q14: On the whole, how do you feel about this area as a place to live? Are you... (very satisfied to very dissatisfied?)

Responses to these two questions were correlated .36, and had similar variances. Added together they formed a scale, "Satisfaction with Area," with a reliability of .50, good for a two-item measure. A high score on this scale identifies respondents who think their area is a good place to live, and has been getting better.

EVALUATIONS OF POLICE SERVICE AND AGGRESSIVENESS

A number of questions in the survey elicited evaluations of police service. Some items focused upon recent, specific police-citizen encounters which were identified in the survey, while others were "generic" and referenced more global opinions. Ten generic items were included in the questionnaire, and they revealed two distinct clusters of opinion: one referring to proactive, aggressive police action, and the other to the quality of services provided citizens and anticipated police demeanor in police-citizen encounters. A question referring to the strictness of traffic law enforcement was inconsistently correlated with most of the items, and had a low (about .10) correlation with the other measures of police aggressiveness; it was excluded completely.

Two general items consistently factored together, evidencing response patterns which differed from others focusing upon the police. Added together, they form a "Police Aggressiveness" measure. They are:

> [...please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area.]
>
> Q21: Police stopping too many people on the streets without good reason in this area?
>
> Q26: Police being too tough on people they stop?

These two items were correlated +.50, and when factor analyzed with the remaining set (see below) formed a significant second factor with loadings of .83 and .86, respectively. They had about the same mean and standard deviation, so they were scaled by adding them together. The scale has a reliability of .66, good for a two-item measure. A high score on this scale identifies people who think these are "big problems."

The remaining items also formed a distinct factor, and make up a second additive measure, "Evaluation of Police Service." They are:

Q50: How good a job do you think [police] are doing to prevent crime? (very good to very poor job)

Q51: How good a job do you think the police in this area are doing in helping people out after they have been victims of crime? (very good to very poor job)

Q52: How good a job are the police in this area doing in keeping order on the streets and sidewalks? (very good to very poor job)

Q57: In general, how polite are the police in this area when dealing with people? (very polite to very impolite)

Q58: In general, how helpful are the police in this area when dealing with people around here? (very helpful to not helpful at all)

Q59: In general, how fair are the police in this area in dealing with people around here? (very fair to very unfair)

The simple additive combination of these items has a reliability of .86, and they were correlated an average of .56. They were single factored, and their principal factor explained 60 percent of the total variation in the items. There was some variation in the response format for these items, but differences in the variances in the items were not great enough to preclude adding them together in simple fashion to form a scale. A high score on this measure points to a favorable evaluation of the police.

PERCEIVED AREA PHYSICAL DETERIORATION PROBLEMS

Itmes in this cluster refer to the prevalance of problems with trash, abandoned buildings, and dirty streets and sidewalks. These are interesting because their frequency presumably reflects the balance of two opposing forces: the pace at which people or businesses create these problems and the efficiency

with which the city deals with them. Identical conditions can result from differing mixes of either activity.

The questions were:

[...please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, some problem, or no problem here in this area?]

Q15: The first one is dirty streets and sidewalks in this area?

Q22: Abandoned houses or other empty buildings in this area?

Q65: Vacant lots filled with trash and junk?

Responses to these questions were moderately intercorrelated (an average of .36), but single-factored. That factor explained 57 percent of the variance in the items. They had similar means and standard deviations as well as sharing a response format, so they were scaled by adding them together. This measure has a reliability of .63. A high score on this scale indicates that physical deterioration is thought to be a problem in the area.

A related survey item (Q69) asking about problems with abandoned cars would scale with these, but that problem was not a target of the clean-up program in Newark.

CRIME PREVENTION EFFORTS

There are a series of anti-crime actions taken by city residents which might be relevant for this evaluation. Four questions in the surveys probed the extent to which respondents took <u>defensive behaviors to protect themselves</u> from personal victimization in public locations. They were asked:

The next questions are about some things people might do when they go out after dark. Now think about the last time you went out in this area after dark.

Q80: Did you go with someone else to avoid crime? (yes or no)

Q81: The last time you went out after dark in this area, did you stay away from certain streets or areas to avoid crime? (yes or no)

Q82: When you last went out after dark in this area, did you stay away from certain types of people to avoid crime? (yes or no)

Q86: In general, how often do you avoid going out after dark in this area because of crime? (never go out to never avoid)

In survey questions like these, a few respondents inevitably respond that they "never go out." With the exception of the disabled this is highly unlikely, and people who answer in this way frequently are fearful and score as high "avoiders" on the other measures. For analytic purposes it proves useful (see Skogan and Maxfield, 1981) to count them along with the others. The "message" they are communicating seems to be that "it's a dangerous place out there," so we have classed them as "precaution takers" and assigned them "yes" responses to these items.

Responses to these four items were very consistent. They were correlated an average of .41, and formed a simple additive scale "Defensive Behaviors" with a reliability of .74. The last item, Q86, was rescored so that its four response categories ranged in value betwen zero and one, like the others. The items then all had similar means and standard deviations. The resulting scale is a simple additive combination of the four.

A second set of behaviors measured in the survey referred to household crime prevention efforts. Several elements of the program were designed to increase the frequency with which people take such measures. Questions in the survey which tapped these activities included:

> The next few questions are about things that some people might do for protection from crime.
>
> Q74: Have any special locks been installed in this home for security reasons? (yes or no)
>
> Q75: Have any special outdoor lights been installed here to make it easier to see what's going on outside your home? (yes or no)
>
> Q76: Are there any timers for turning your lights on and off at night? (yes or no)
>
> Q77: Have any valuables here been marked with your name or some number? (yes or no)
>
> Q78: Have special windows or bars been installed for protection? (yes or no)
>
> Q85: Think about the last time when no one was home for at least a day or two. Did you ask a neighbor to watch your home? (yes or no)

Responses to these questions all were positively intercorrelated. The correlations often were low, however, probably due to the extremely skewed marginal distributions of many of them. For example, less than 20 percent reported having timers, marking their properly, and installing special security windows or bars. Nonparametric measures of association between these items--which are not affected by their skewed marginals--were more robust. Correlations between reports of the more normally distributed activities (39 percent have special locks, 30 percent outdoor lights, and 64 percent have neighbors watch their homes) were somewhat higher, averaging .20-.30. If added together, responses to these items would form a scale with a low reliability.

Also, a factor analysis of the entire set indicated they were not single-factored. Responses to Q75 and Q76, two questions about lighting, "went together" separately. So, in this evaluation analysis we simply added together the number of "yes" responses to the entire set of items, as a count of actions taken and, where relevant, analyzed the adoption of these measures separately.

DISTRIBUTION OF SCALE SCORES

Because they were to be used in multivariate regression analyses, it was important that the distribution of the scale scores described above meet the assumptions of regression. Also, one assumption in ANCOVA (carried out in this project using multiple regression) is that the relationship between pre- and post-test scores is linear, and this is also better determined if the scores themselves are fairly normally distributed. So, scale scores for both waves of each survey were examined for non-normality. Only one score for the Wave 1 panel survey was heavily skewed, (that for "Police Aggressiveness"), and it was logged for use in statistical analysis.

THE REPRODUCEABILITY OF SCALES AMONG SUBPOPULATIONS

Tables 1-3 summarize the reliability for the scales discussed above and present them for a variety of subgroups and area samples used in the evaluation. Table 1 presents the findings separately for Houston and Newark. Table 2 presents scale reliabilities for the major racial and ethnic groups surveyed in Houston--blacks, whites, and Hispanics. (In Newark, only largely black

neighborhoods were involved in the Fear Reduction Project.) Table 3 breaks the data down separately for the ten neighborhoods surveyed.

While the reliabilities presented here fluctuate from place-to-place and group-to-group, the generalizability of the scales used in the evaluation is evident. There is no evidence that special measures must be tailored for any particular group or area; rather, the various reports and analyses based upon these data can employ the same measures throughout.

A NOTE ON CALCULATING SCALE SCORES

There is a scattered amount of missing data for all of these items. There were substantially more missing data for questions dealing with the police than for generic questions about neighborhood conditions, probably reflecting many people's true ignorance of police affairs. Because a number of these scales summarize responses to several questions, if one missing element for a scale led to the complete exclusion of a respondent, the number of cases available for analysis would drop quite substantially. Because these items are single-factored and internally consistent, a better strategy is to let responses to components of a scale which <u>are</u> present "stand in" for occasional missing data. This was accomplished by basing each individual's calculated score on the sum of valid responses, standardized by the number of valid responses (scores = sum of response value/number of valid responses). Neither excluding respondents because of nonresponse nor fabricating data for them in the form of imputed values (such as means or "hot deck" values) is likely to be a superior strategy, in light of our scaling approach to measurement (cf. Kalton, 1983).

Table 1

Wave 1 Scale Reliabilities

All Respondents

Houston - Race Totals

Scale	Black	White	Hispanic
Fear of Personal Victimization in Area	.71	.71	.64
Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems	.76	.82	.79
Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area	.63	.60	.69
Perceived Area Property Crime Problems	.79	.76	.79
Perceived Area Social Disorder Problems	.81	.82	.84
Satisfaction with Area	.51	.44	.39
Police Aggressiveness	.69	.60	.68
Evaluation of Police Service	.83	.84	.78
Perceived Area Physical Deterioration Problems	.60	.63	.61
Defensive Behaviors to Avoid Personal Crime	.69	.71	.66
(Cases)	(578)	(1091)	(443)

Table 2

Wave 1 Scale Reliabilities

All Respondents

City Totals

Scale	Total	Houston	Newark
Fear of Personal Victimization in Area	.72	.70	.74
Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems	.73	.80	.67
Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area	.61	.62	.55
Perceived Area Property Crime Problems	.77	.77	.73
Perceived Area Social Disorder Problems	.84	.83	.77
Satisfaction with Area	.50	.44	.43
Police Aggressiveness	.66	.68	.64
Evaluation of Police Service	.86	.83	.84
Perceived Area Physical Deterioration Problems	.63	.62	.52
Defensive Behaviors to Avoid Personal Crime	.73	.69	.77
(Cases)	(4134)	(2178)	(1956)

Table 3

Wave 1 Scale Reliabilities

All Respondents

Area Totals

Scale	North line	Lang-wood	Wood Bayou	Golf Crest	Shady Acres	S-1	S-2	S-4	W-1	N-2
Fear of Personal Victimization in Area	.71	.69	.71	.68	.70	.74	.75	.74	.73	.72
Perceived Area Personal Crime Problems	.79	.80	.78	.83	.74	.68	.66	.57	.66	.72
Worry About Property Crime Victimization in Area	.65	.65	.56	.52	.67	.60	.69	.59	.63	.48
Perceived Area Property Crime Problems	.81	.78	.80	.71	.76	.77	.76	.72	.72	.74
Perceived Area Social Disorder Problems	.81	.81	.83	.84	.85	.73	.77	.77	.80	.74
Satisfaction with Area	.45	.48	.51	.42	.42			.44	.45	.45
Police Aggressiveness	.74	.66	.70	.65	.61	.71	.62	.71	.52	.60
Evaluation of Police Service	.86	.79	.83	.84	.80	.85	.82	.82	.85	.84
Perceived Area Physical Deterioration Problems	.67	.58	.62	.59	.57	.64	.52	.36	.56	.39
Defensive Behaviors to Avoid Personal Crime	.70	.67	.68	.71	.65	.73	.75	.78	.80	.76
(Cases)	(398)	(378)	(506)	(526)	(370)	(398)	(340)	(441)	(402)	(375)

APPENDIX H:

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF NEWSLETTER SAMPLES BY EXPERIMENTAL CONDITION

TABLE H-1

Demographic Characteristics of Houston Newsletter Panel Samples by Experimental Condition

	Experimental Conditions		
	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Sex			
Males	24 (57.1)	19 (45.2)	22 (51.2)
Females	18 (42.9)	23 (54.8)	21 (48.8)
Race			
Blacks	24 (57.1)	23 (54.8)	26 (60.5)
Whites	9 (21.4)	6 (14.3)	7 (16.3)
Hispanics	6 (14.3)	11 (26.2)	5 (11.6)
Asian/Pacific Islander	3 (7.1)	2 (4.8)	4 (9.3)
American Indian	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.3)
Other Undetermined	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Average Age	36.1	36.8	36.7
Education			
Elementary School	2 (4.8)	1 (2.4)	0 (0.0)
Some High School	6 (14.3)	5 (11.9)	7 (16.3)
High School Graduate	24 (57.1)	22 (52.4)	22 (51.2)
Some College	6 (14.3)	10 (23.8)	10 (23.2)
College Graduate	4 (9.5)	4 (9.5)	4 (9.3)
Own or Rent Home			
Own	13 (31.0)	13 (31.0)	13 (30.2)
Rent	29 (69.0)	29 (69.0)	30 (69.8)

TABLE H-2

Demographic Characteristics of Houston Newsletter Post-Only Samples by Experimental Condition

	Experimental Conditions		
	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Sex			
Males	38 (55.1)	34 (58.6)	30 (48.4)
Females	31 (44.9)	24 (41.4)	32 (51.6)
Race			
Blacks	36 (52.1)	27 (46.6)	28 (45.9)
Whites	20 (29.0)	13 (22.4)	21 (34.4)
Hispanics	11 (15.9)	15 (25.9)	11 (18.0)
Asian/Pacific Islander	1 (1.4)	2 (3.4)	1 (1.6)
American Indian	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Other Undetermined	1 (1.4)	1 (1.7)	0 (0.0)
Average Age	34.5	34.7	35.9
Education			
Elementary School	6 (8.7)	3 (5.2)	5 (8.1)
Some High School	9 (13.0)	19 (32.8)	12 (19.4)
High School Graduate	30 (43.5)	21 (36.2)	23 (37.1)
Some College	15 (21.7)	10 (17.2)	11 (17.7)
College Graduate	9 (13.0)	5 (8.6)	11 (17.7)
Own or Rent Home			
Own	17 (24.6)	10 (17.2)	15 (24.2)
Rent	52 (75.4)	48 (82.8)	47 (75.8)

TABLE H-3

Demographic Characteristics of Newark Newsletter Panel Samples by Experimental Condition

	Experimental Conditions		
	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Sex			
Males	14 (35.9)	9 (20.5)	11 (32.4)
Females	25 (64.1)	35 (79.5)	23 (67.6)
Race			
Blacks	37 (94.9)	43 (97.7)	32 (94.1)
Whites	1 (2.6)	1 (2.3)	1 (2.9)
Other Undetermined	1 (2.6)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.9)
Average Age	47.9	47.4	43.7
Education			
Elementary School	8 (20.5)	5 (11.4)	6 (17.6)
Some High School	9 (23.1)	8 (18.2)	5 (14.7)
High School Graduate	12 (30.8)	13 (29.5)	14 (41.2)
Some College	8 (20.5)	10 (22.7)	7 (20.6)
College Graduate	2 (5.1)	8 (18.2)	2 (5.9)
Own or Rent Home			
Own	22 (56.4)	17 (38.6)	17 (50.0)
Rent	17 (43.6)	27 (61.4)	17 (50.0)

TABLE H-4

Demographic Characteristics of Newark Newsletter Post-Only Samples by Experimental Condition

	Experimental Conditions		
	No Newsletter	Newsletter Without Statistics	Newsletter With Statistics
Sex			
Males	15 (26.8)	19 (28.4)	18 (31.0)
Females	41 (73.2)	48 (71.6)	40 (69.0)
Race			
Blacks	56 (100.0)	67 (100.0)	58 (100.0)
Average Age	42.4	44.0	40.6
Education			
Elementary School	7 (12.5)	8 (11.9)	5 (8.6)
Some High School	20 (35.7)	14 (20.9)	13 (22.4)
High School Graduate	19 (33.9)	29 (43.3)	21 (35.2)
Some College	7 (12.5)	13 (19.4)	15 (25.9)
College Graduate	3 (5.4)	3 (4.5)	4 (6.9)
Own or Rent Home			
Own	18 (32.1)	14 (20.9)	19 (32.8)
Rent	38 (67.9)	53 (79.1)	39 (67.20

APPENDIX I:

RECALLED PROGRAM AWARENESS BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Table I-1

Recalled Awareness by Educational Level

Houston Sample

Recalled Exposure Indicator	Panel						Post-Only					
	Newsletter, No Statistics			Newsletter, Statistics			Newsletter, No Statistics			Newsletter Statistics		
	< HS	HS	> HS	< HS	HS	> HS	< HS	HS	> HS	< HS	HS	> HS
Percent Heard of Newsletter	16.7 (6)	54.6 (22)	50.0 (14)	42.9 (7)	68.2 (22)	85.7 (14)	45.5 (22)	52.4 (21)	60.0 (15)	43.8 (16)	65.2 (23)	72.7 (22)
Percent Saw Newsletter	0.0 (6)	63.6 (22)	71.4 (14)	42.9 (7)	59.1 (22)	85.7 (14)	31.8 (22)	61.9 (21)	40.0 (15)	52.9 (17)	56.5 (23)	72.7 (22)
Issues Mailed (Of those who recall seeing one	-	3.4 (14)	2.7 (10)	3.0 (3)	3.0 (13)	4.0 (11)	2.6 (7)	2.7 (13)	2.8 (6)	3.0 (8)	2.7 (13)	3.3 (15)
Issues Mailed (Total Sample)	0.0 (6)	2.1 (22)	2.0 (14)	1.3 (7)	1.8 (22)	3.1 (14)	.8 (22)	1.7 (21)	1.1 (15)	1.4 (17)	1.5 (23)	2.4 (22)
Issued Examined (of those who recall seeing one	-	6 (14)	2.2 (10)	1.7 (3)	2.5 (13)	3.2 (11)	1.9 (7)	1.6 (13)	2.0 (6)	1.6 (9)	1.8 (13)	3.0 (15)
Issues Examined (Total Samples)	0.0 (6)	1.6 (22)	1.6 (14)	.7 (7)	1.5 (22)	2.6 (14)	1.6 (22)	1.0 (21)	.8 (15)	.8 (17)	1.0 (23)	2.1 (22)

Table I-2

Recalled Awareness by Educational Level

Newark Sample

Recalled Exposure Indicator	Panel						Post-Only					
	Newsletter, No Statistics			Newsletter, Statistics			Newsletter, No Statistics			Newsletter Statistics		
	< HS	HS	> HS	< HS	HS	> HS	< HS	HS	> HS	< HS	HS	> HS
Percent Heard of Newsletter	30.8 (13)	33.3 (12)	50.0 (18)	40.0 (10)	69.2 (13)	66.7 (9)	22.7 (22)	48.3 (29)	53.3 (15)	50.0 (18)	38.1 (21)	38.9 (18)
Percent Saw Newsletter	41.7 (12)	61.5 (13)	72.2 (18)	63.6 (11)	78.6 (14)	66.7 (9)	50.0 (22)	51.7 (29)	73.3 (15)	44.4 (18)	57.1 (21)	52.6 (9)
Issues Mailed (Of those who recall seeing one	2.0 (2)	3.5 (4)	3.7 (9)	2.5 (6)	3.6 (9)	3.6 (5)	2.4 (8)	3.0 (12)	3.3 (4)	2.8 (4)	1.3 (7)	2.9 (9)
Issues Mailed (Total Sample)	.3 (13)	1.1 (13)	1.8 (18)	1.4 (11)	2.3 (14)	2.0 (9)	.9 (22)	1.2 (29)	.8 (16)	.6 (18)	.8 (21)	1.4 (19)
Issued Examined (of those who recall seeing one	1.2 (5)	1.6 (8)	3.0 (13)	1.9 (7)	3.4 (9)	2.5 (6)	1.8 (10)	2.3 (14)	2.2 (11)	2.0 (8)	1.8 (11)	2.6 (10)
Issues Examined (Total Samples)	.5 (13)	1.0 (13)	2.2 (18)	1.2 (11)	2.2 (14)	1.7 (9)	.8 (22)	1.1 (29)	1.5 (16)	.9 (18)	1.3 (21)	1.4 (19)