

2002 Crime and Justice Survey Results for Tennessee



Statistical Analysis Center
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
August 2002

Summary

The Crime Statistics Unit of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation conducted this survey through the Tennessee Statistical Analysis Center Board and with the assistance of a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. The questions in the survey covered several areas such as; punishment of criminals, fear of crime, effectiveness of the criminal justice system, history as a victim of crime and public attitudes on several criminal justice issues, including juvenile issues and child abuse issues.

Two similar surveys were conducted in 1982 and 1992. The 1982 survey was conducted by the Department of Criminal Justice at Memphis State University. The 1992 survey was conducted by the Statistical Analysis Center at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. A comparison of all three surveys is included in this report.

The sample of 2,500 names was randomly generated from the Tennessee Department of Safety's driver license database. 454 people responded to the survey. After adjusting for 178 names being excluded from the survey based on duplicate addresses, and 419 surveys not deliverable, the adjusted response rate is 24%. This response rate has dropped considerably over the years with a response rate of 74% in 1982 and 43% in 1992.

The difference between the number of females (272) and number of males (176) was quite considerable and 6 respondents did not indicate their sex. The majority of respondents were white (398) compared to 27 who were African American, 18 of other races and 11 who did not indicate their race.

Punishment

- 88% of respondents believed that the victim of a crime should be paid back by the person convicted of the crime.
- 92% of respondents felt that a person convicted of rape should not be released on bond while their conviction is being appealed.
- 94% of respondents felt that a judge should be allowed to deny bail for an offender charged with a new sexual offense.

Fear of Crime

- More than half (55%) of the respondents indicated that there was not an area within one mile of their home where they were afraid to walk alone at night.
- Most of the respondents (72%) were not afraid to walk in their neighborhood alone at night.
- The majority (91%) of the respondents said that they were not afraid to be alone in their home at night.

Public Attitudes

- 54% of respondents said Gambling should be against the law.
- 48% of respondents said Abortion should be against the law.
- 41% of respondents said Attempted Suicide should be against the law.
- 80% of respondents said Prostitution should be against the law.
- 35% of respondents said Homosexuality should be against the law.
- 65% of respondents said Use of Marijuana should be against the law.
- 81% of respondents said Public Intoxication should be against the law.

Child Abuse Issues

- 9% of respondents were the victims of child abuse.
- The types of abuse were: physical (47), sexual (41), emotional (59), neglect (18) or verbal (1).
(Respondents were able to check more than one type of abuse)
- The person(s) who abused them as children were: parent (54), family member (20), friend of the family (14), acquaintance (7) or stranger (7).
(Respondents were able to check more than one answer)
- 45% of respondents were unaware that there is a Tennessee state law which requires childcare providers to be screened for prior child abuse or child sexual abuse convictions.
- 96% of respondents thought that childcare provider screening should include screening for convictions outside of Tennessee also.
- 84% of respondents thought that the screening should include all felony convictions not just child abuse or child sexual abuse.

Crime Events

The first section of the survey dealt with crimes against the respondents and their property. It also asked about their awareness of the neighborhoods in which they live. Following are the questions and responses.

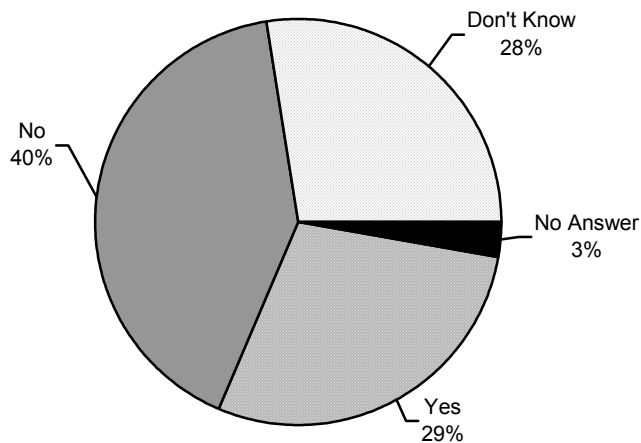
Please read the following list and indicate if any of these items belonging to you were stolen in the previous calendar year (January-December 2001).

- 26 had items stolen that you carry such as luggage, wallet, purse, briefcase, etc.
- 36 had items stolen that include clothing or jewelry
- 7 had a bicycle or sports equipment stolen
- 19 had items stolen from their home such as TVs, stereos or tools
- 18 had items stolen from outside their home such as lawn furniture or hoses
- 6 had items stolen from children in the household
- 38 had items stolen from a vehicle such as groceries, packages, etc.
- 49 had someone attempt to steal items from them

Please read the following and indicate if anyone has:

- 34 checked – had someone break in or attempt to break into their home
- 21 checked – had someone illegally enter their garage or other outbuilding
- 5 checked – had someone illegally enter their hotel/motel room or vacation home

To the best of your knowledge, have any serious crimes occurred in your neighborhood in the previous calendar year (January-December 2001)?



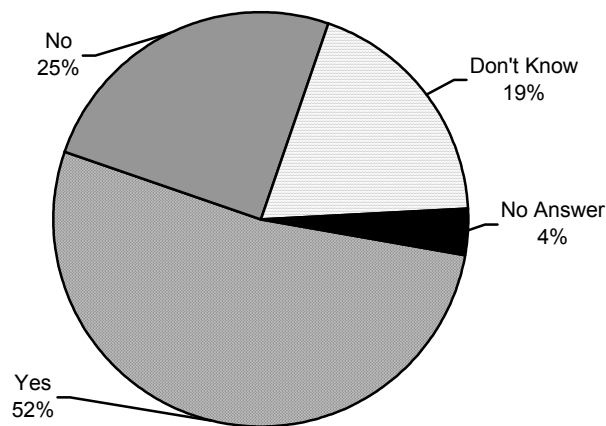
What of the following types of serious crimes do you know have occurred in your neighborhood in the previous calendar year (January-December 2001)?

- 136 said People Using Drugs
- 46 said Auto Theft
- 131 said Theft of Personal Property
- 82 said Breaking and Entering to Steal Personal Property
- 43 said Violent Physical Attacks
- 39 said Crimes Committed with Guns
- 23 said Sexual Assault/Rape
- 28 said Murder

How did you find out about these crimes?

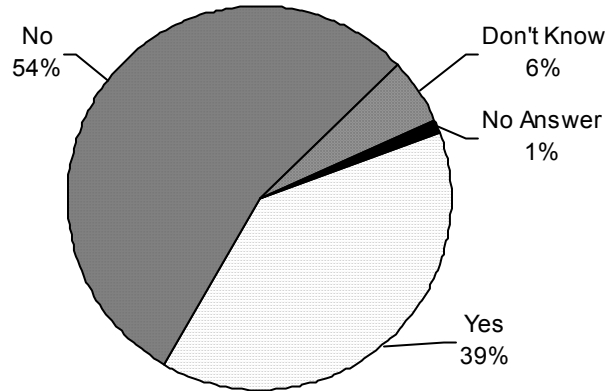
- 78 said, You or someone you know was the victim
- 25 witnessed criminal acts in neighborhood
- 163 learned about crime through conversations with neighbors, neighborhood associations/civic organizations' newsletter, and/or community meetings
- 18 received information directly from the local police through community meeting, newsletters, pamphlets, crime bulletins, and/or police Internet web sites
- 105 received information through media, such as newspaper, television and radio
- 2 received information through a public kiosk/terminal or by visiting a police substation

Overall, do you think that you are well informed of crime which occurs in your neighborhood?

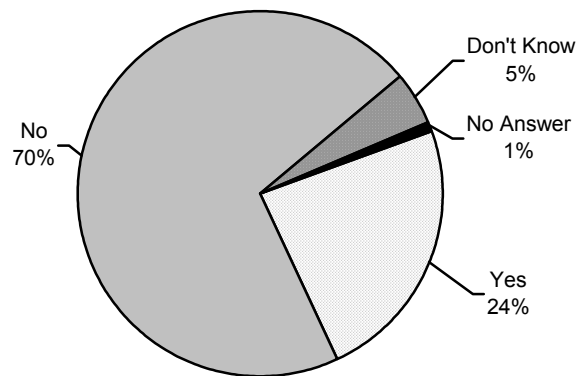


Fear of Crime

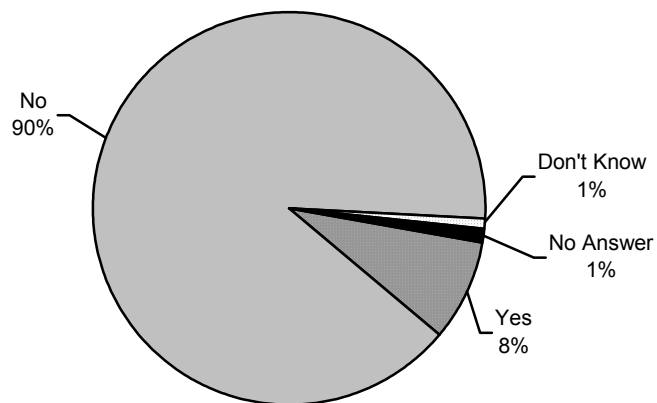
Is there any area within one mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?



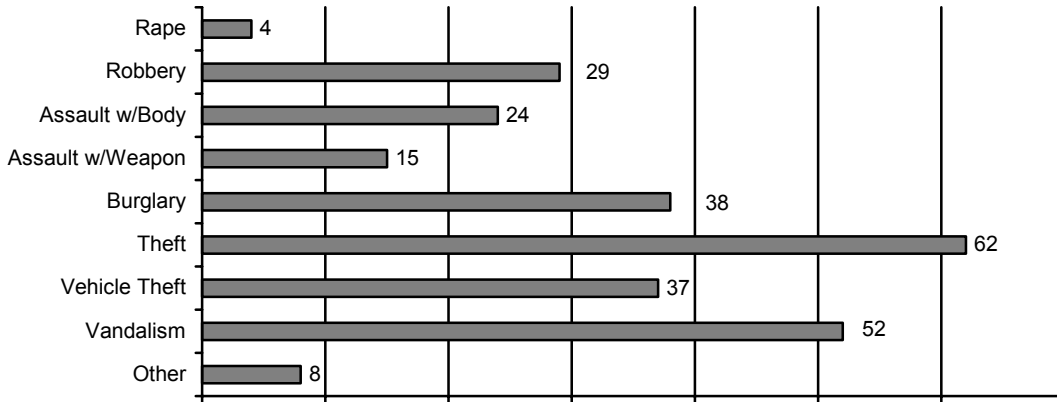
Would you be afraid to walk alone in your neighborhood at night?



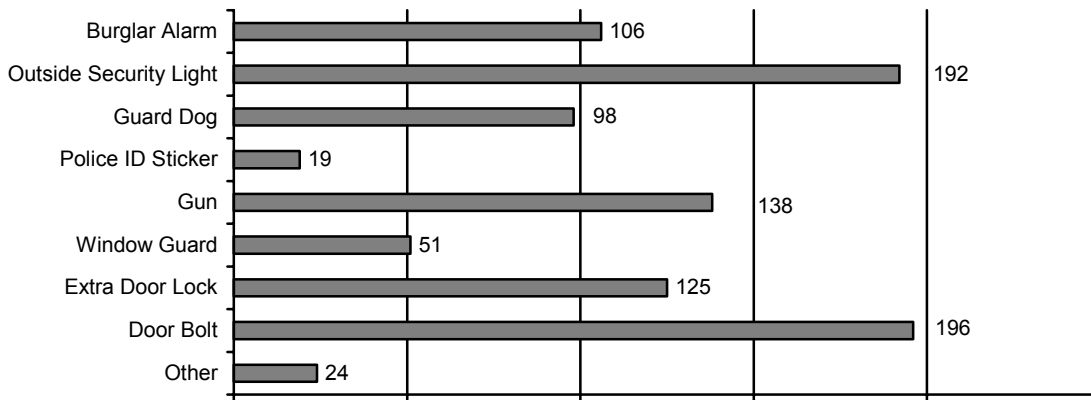
Are you afraid to be in your home alone at night?



Do you feel that you may be the victim of any of the following crimes within the next year? If so, please check which ones.



Which of the following have you placed in your home for reasons of security?



Here are some things that people do to avoid becoming a victim of a crime that takes place outside the home. In the previous calendar year (January-December 2001), have you done any of these things?

- 23 carry a self-defense warning device such as a whistle or alarm
- 96 carry a self-defense weapon (includes knife, gun, club, mace, stun-gun)
- 38 no longer take certain routes or go into certain areas in your neighborhood
- 74 avoid going out at night
- 92 avoid going out alone
- 15 took a self-defense class
- 16 attend community meetings in your neighborhood
- 43 made an effort to get to know the police in your neighborhood
- 17 plan to relocate to outside of your neighborhood
- 26 Other

Public Attitudes

This section of the survey asked the respondents for their opinion on a wide variety of topics including gun registration, recidivism, and jail and probation terms.

Should the following items be illegal?

	Should Be Against The Law	Should Not Be Against The Law	Not Sure
Gambling	54%	30%	16%
Abortion	48%	11%	41%
Attempted Suicide	41%	28%	31%
Prostitution	80%	6%	14%
Homosexuality	35%	17%	48%
Use of Marijuana	65%	10%	25%
Public Intoxication	81%	7%	12%

How important do you consider the following items? (rate each according to: 1-very important, 2-occasionally important, 3-of little importance and 4-of no importance)

Item	Average	Very Important	Occasionally Important	Of Little Importance	Of No Importance	No Answer
Church Membership	1.7	56%	26%	11%	7%	0%
Voting	1.3	76%	16%	4%	3%	1%
School Grades	1.2	82%	16%	1%	1%	0%
Financial Success	1.8	40%	45%	12%	2%	1%
Social Success	1.8	19%	45%	29%	7%	0%
Keeping American Tradition	1.7	46%	39%	11%	4%	0%
Being w/Family	1.2	86%	11%	2%	0%	1%
Law and Order	1.2	85%	12%	2%	0%	1%
Being an American	1.3	80%	14%	4%	2%	0%
Being a Tennessean	2.2	34%	30%	19%	16%	1%

Place a check (✓) in the brackets by the statement(s) with which you agree:

- 178 agreed In spite of what some people say, the future of the average man is getting worse.
- 84 agreed It is hardly fair to bring children into the world with the way things look for the future.
- 115 agreed Nowadays a person has to live pretty much for today and let tomorrow take care of itself.
- 215 agreed These days a person does not really know whom he can count on.
- 224 agreed There is little use writing to public officials because often they are not really interested in the problems of the average man.

Most criminals should not really be blamed for the things they have done.

2% agreed, 95% disagreed with this statement and 3% were not sure.

Most things people call delinquency do not really hurt anyone.

6% agreed, 79% disagreed with this statement and 15% were not sure.

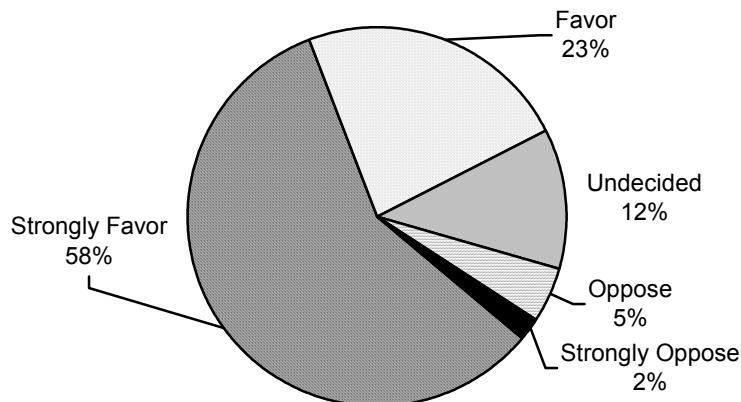
The person who leaves their keys in the car is as much to blame for its theft as the one who steals it.

32% agreed, 60% disagreed with this statement and 8% were not sure.

Most crime and delinquency is the result of someone being influenced by a “bad” crowd.

38% agreed, 41% disagreed with this statement and 21% were not sure.

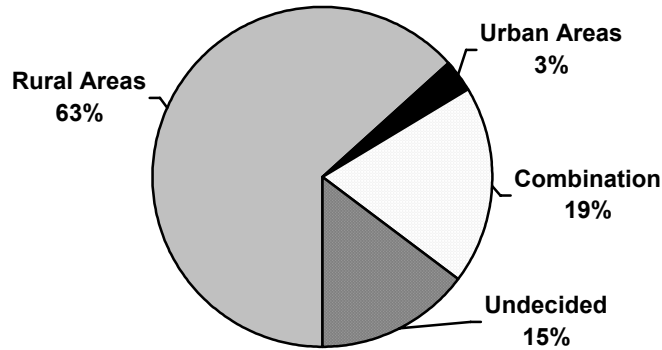
Are you in favor of Tennessee having a law that prohibits a man from having sex with his wife against her will (rape)?



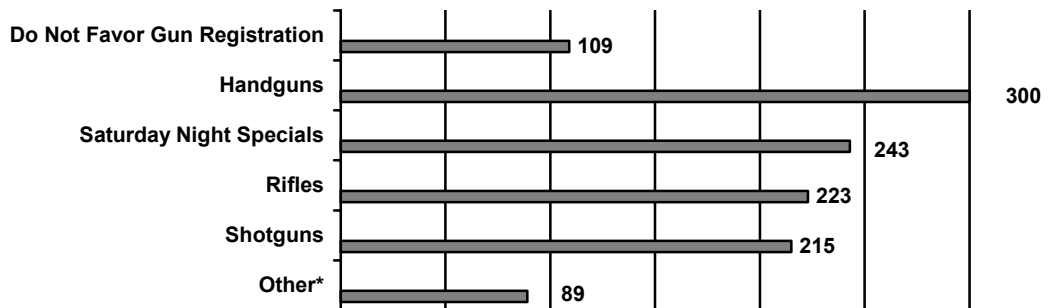
Some states make arrangements so that inmates in prison can visit with their husband or wife in a private room. These visits are called conjugal visits and they may have sexual relations during the visits. Conjugal visits are not permitted in Tennessee. Which of the following best describes your feelings concerning conjugal visits in Tennessee prisons?

- 32 agreed I believe that conjugal visits should be allowed on a regular basis for all inmates.
- 216 agreed I believe that conjugal visits should be allowed for inmates who have good behavior records while in Tennessee prisons.
- 204 agreed I do not believe that conjugal visits should ever be allowed for inmates in Tennessee prisons.
- 2 respondents did not answer this question.

Tennessee prisons have traditionally been placed in rural areas away from population centers and have developed agriculture programs to help feed the inmates. Some people have suggested the development of prisons in urban areas (cities) so that it would be easier for the families of the inmates to visit them. Where do you favor placement of new prison facilities?

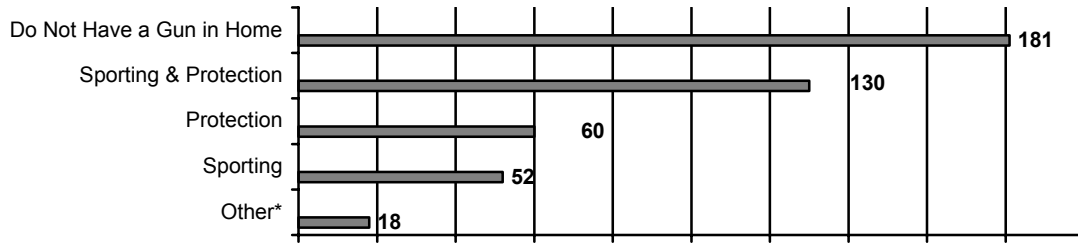


If you favor gun registration, which types of guns do you think should be registered? (check all that apply)



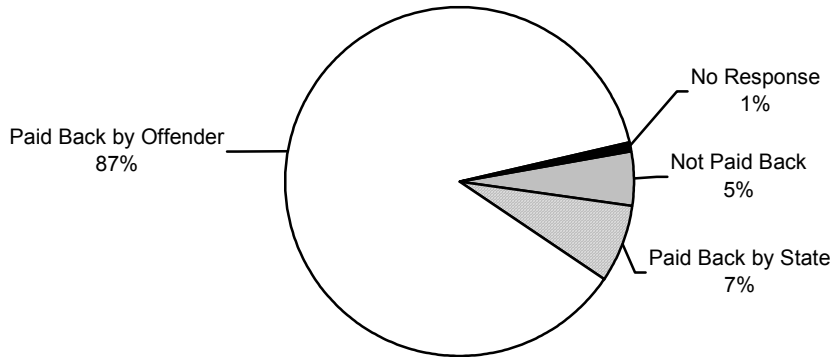
*Other included: Automatic and Semi-Automatic Weapons, Military Weapons, Assault Rifles and 74 respondents indicated that they felt all guns should be registered.

If you have a gun in your home, do you keep it mainly for (check only one)?

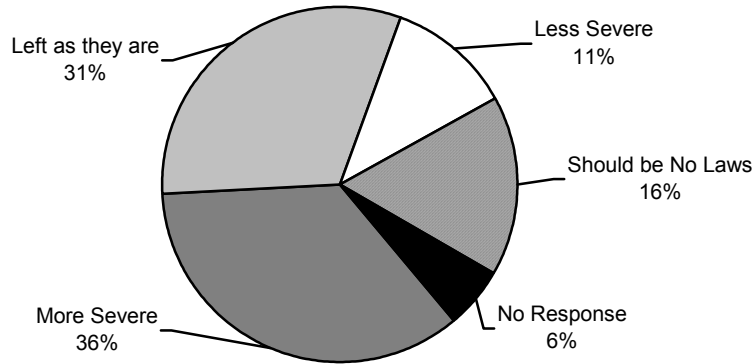


*Other included: collector's items, family heirlooms and antiques.

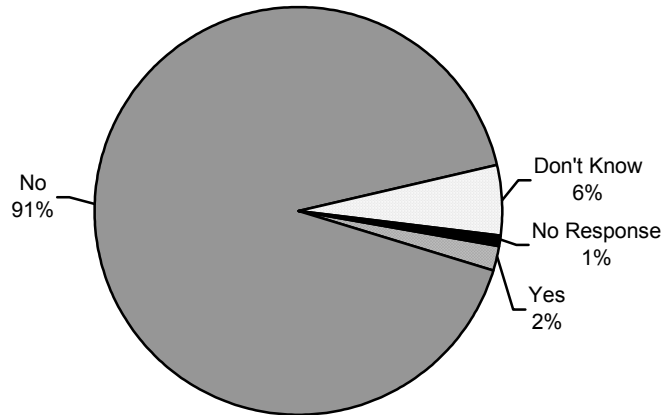
Do you think that victims of crimes should be paid back for any losses or injuries that are caused by a criminal act?



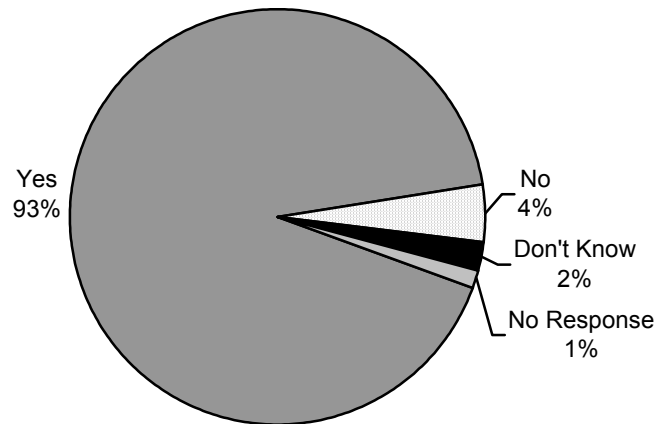
Regarding present laws in Tennessee for the use of marijuana, do you think the laws should be:



If a person is convicted of rape, should they be permitted to remain out of jail on bond while their conviction is being appealed?



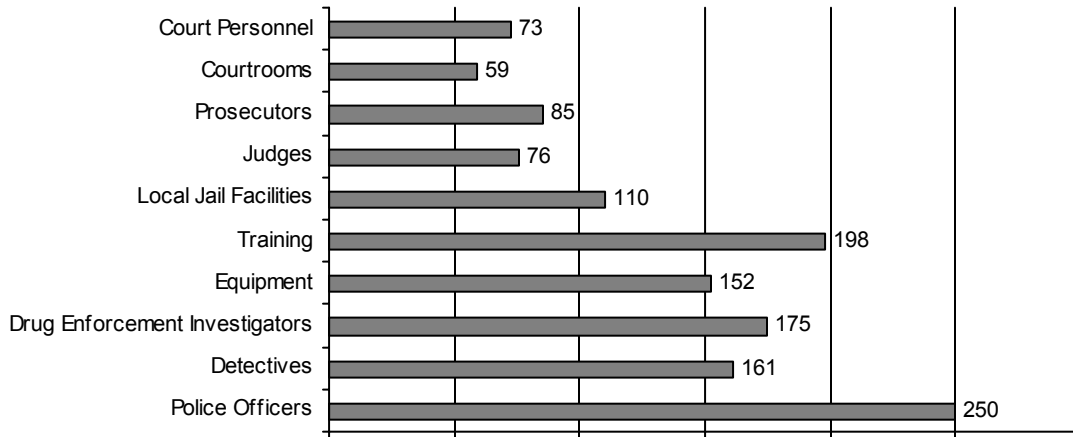
If a person has been convicted of a prior sexual crime, should a judge have the power to deny bail to that individual in cases where they are charged with a new sexual offense?



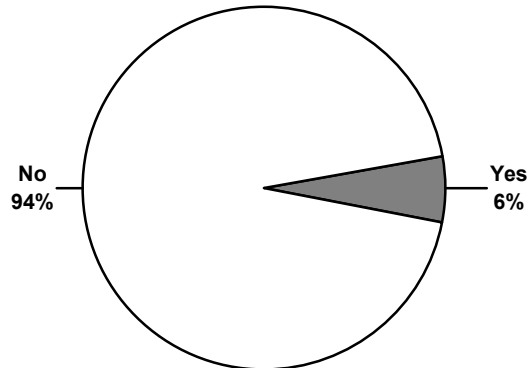
Do you think that rulings by courts in the area of law enforcement: (check one)

- 83 agreed Have severely hindered police in their efforts to control crime.
- 241 agreed Have somewhat hindered police in their efforts to control crime.
- 97 agreed Have not hindered police in their efforts to control crime.
- 33 respondents did not answer to this question.

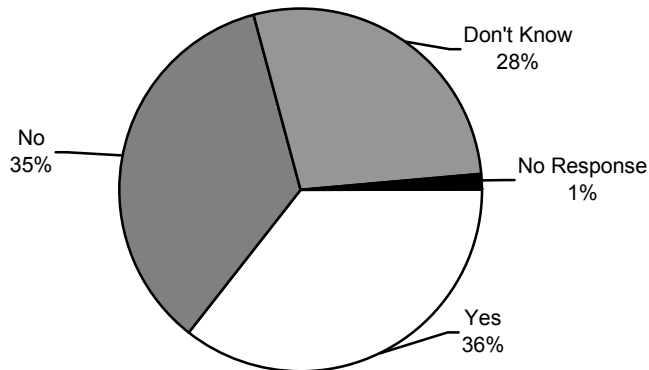
In order to have a better criminal justice system, would you be willing to pay higher taxes to support any of the following? (check all that apply)



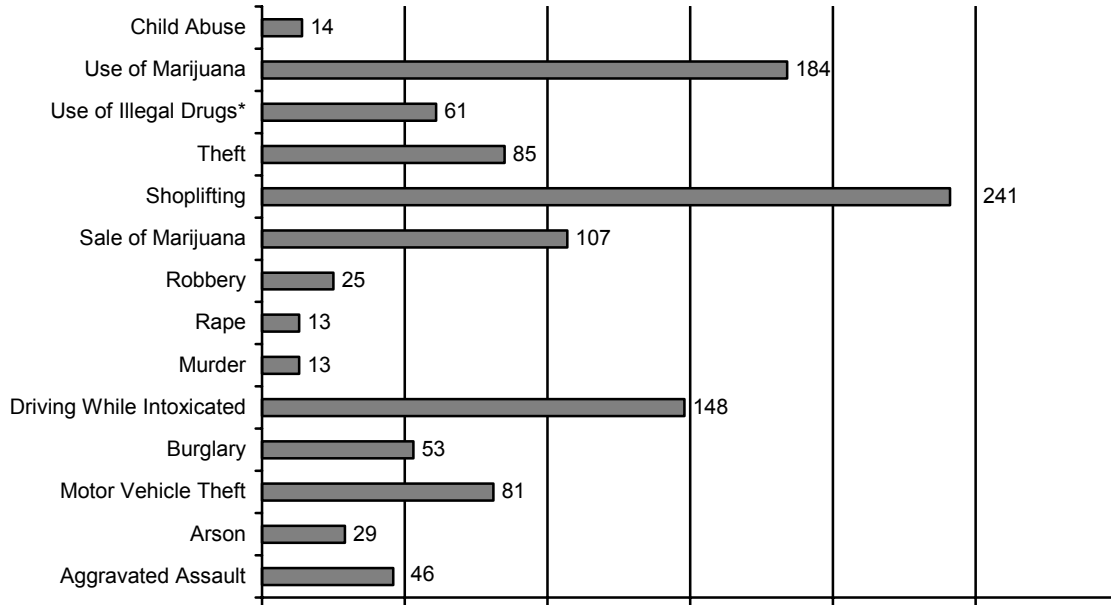
Have you marked your possessions (TV, stereo, etc.) with your Tennessee driver license number so the police can identify them if they are stolen?



Do you have a neighborhood crime watch program in your town?



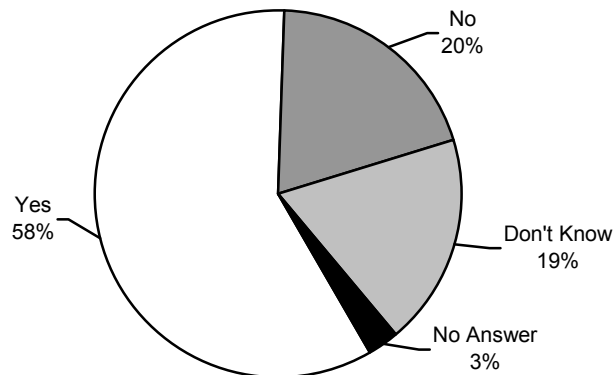
People are sometimes allowed to serve their prison or jail sentence by staying in their own communities instead of actually going to prison or jail. If the person breaks the rules of this “probation” they may then have to serve the sentence in prison or jail. Do you think that a person convicted of the following crimes should be considered for probation? If so, check which ones.



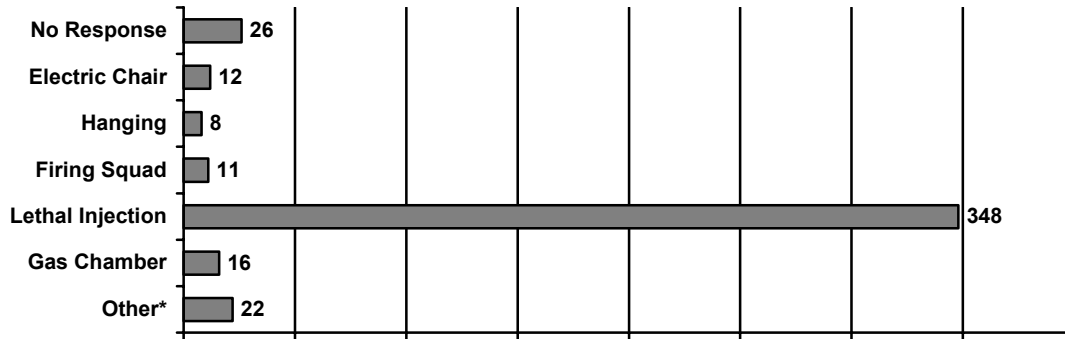
*Use of Illegal Drugs is all drugs other than Marijuana

148 respondents did not think that anyone convicted of one of these crimes should be considered for probation.

For non-violent crimes, do you support limiting the offender to the boundaries of their homes and grounds rather than prison, with a method of monitoring the offender?



What form of punishment do you consider the most humane in a death penalty?

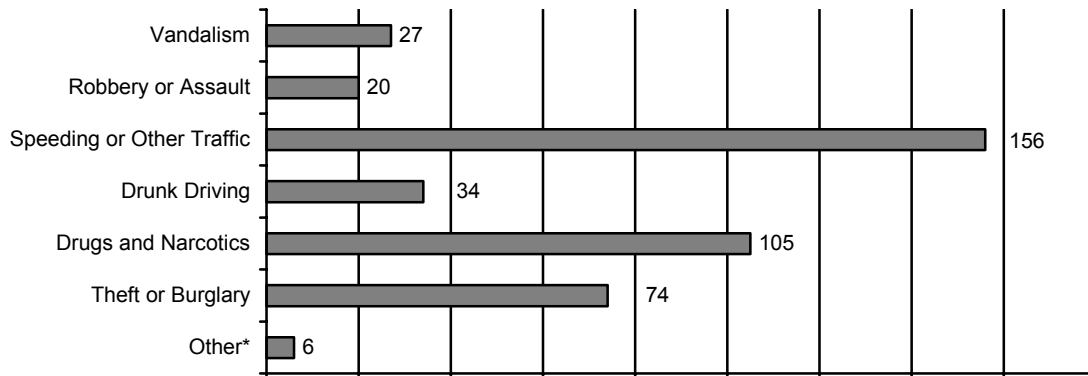


*Other included: 5 respondents said All of the Above, 13 respondents said they did not believe in the death penalty, and 1 respondent said “Eye for an Eye”

Do you think that crime and violence on television have:

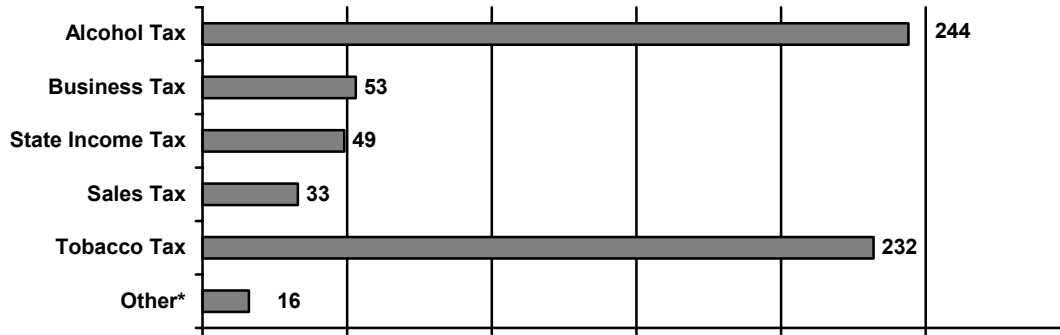
- 152 said caused a large increase in crime
- 165 said caused a moderate increase in crime
- 76 said caused very little increase in crime
- 52 said had no effect on the crime rate
- 8 people did not respond to this question

What is the biggest single crime problem in your community? (select only one)



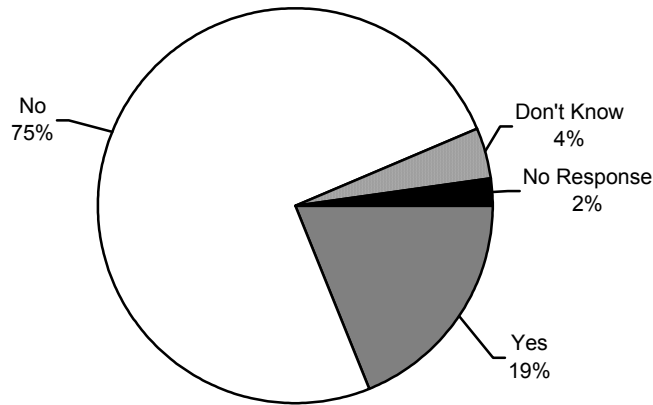
*Other includes: Littering, Poaching and Hunting Violations

Which of the following tax increases would you support in order to finance new prisons and jails?

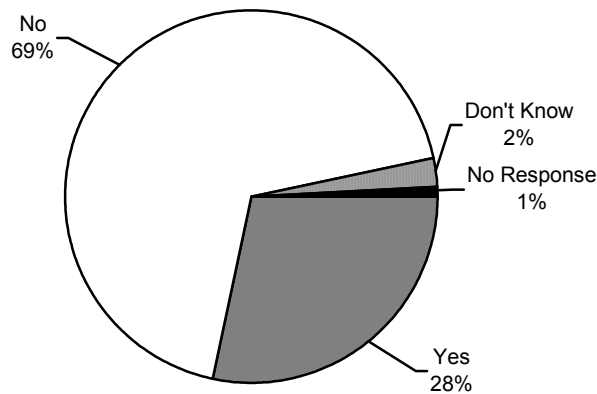


*Other includes: Lottery, Sin Tax, and Increase Vehicle Registration
 113 respondents stated that they did not support a tax increase.

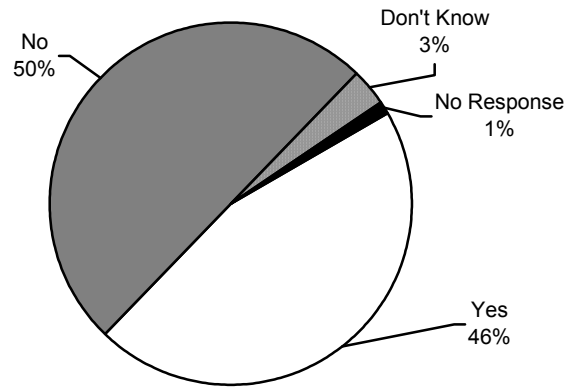
Have you ever had a family member injured or killed by a drunk driver?



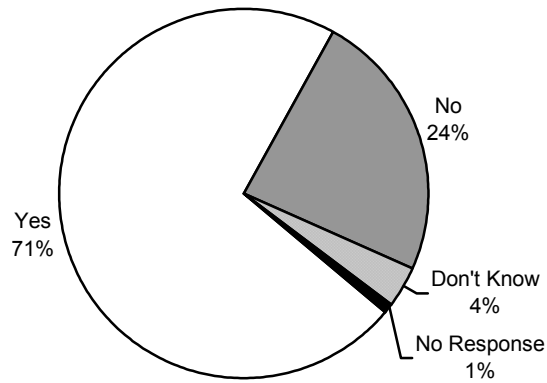
Have you ever driven a vehicle when you have had too much to drink?



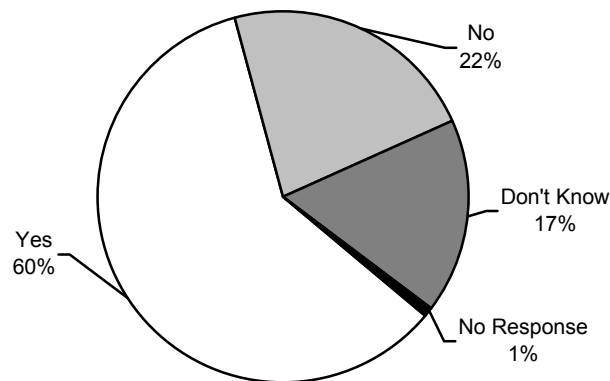
Have you ever been a passenger in a vehicle when the driver had too much to drink?



Have you ever prevented a person from driving who had had too much to drink?

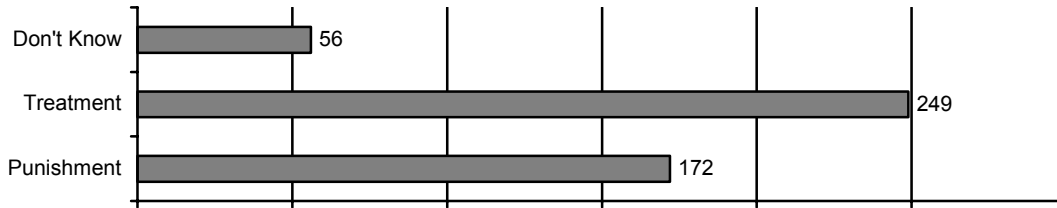


Do you think that senior citizens are more likely to be victims than persons in any other age group?

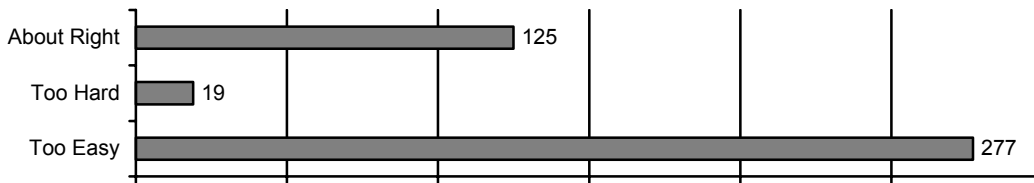


Juvenile Issues

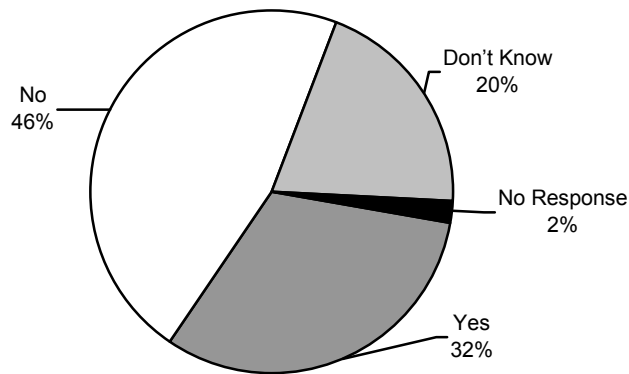
Should the emphasis in juvenile justice be:



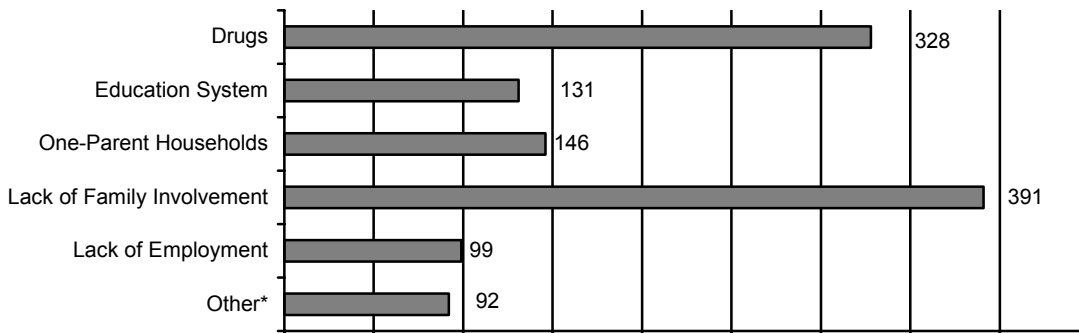
In regard to juvenile offenders, do you think the system is:



Should juveniles be subject to the death penalty?

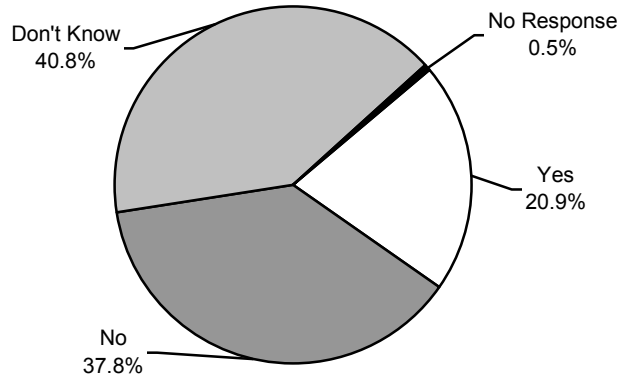


What are the leading causes of juvenile crime? (check all that apply)



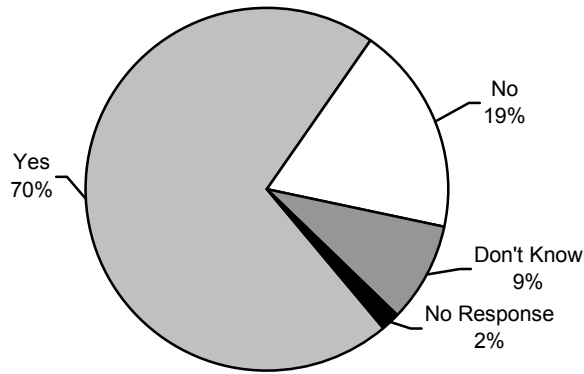
*Other included: Lack of church involvement, peer pressure, television and lack of activities

Are there youth gangs in your community?

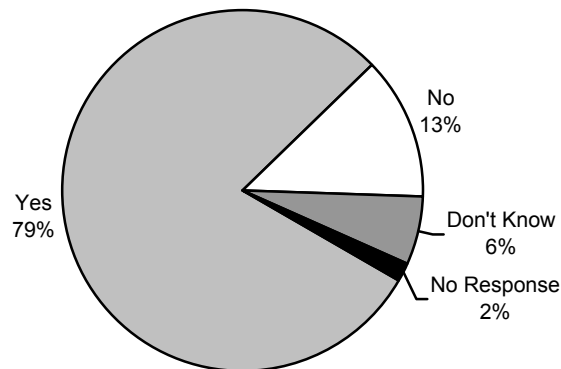


Tennessee law requires that juvenile offender files are sealed and all offense data removed when a juvenile reaches a certain age. Due to this law, it is not possible to track an adult offender's criminal history beginning with juvenile record.

Should juvenile records be included as part of an offender's criminal history?

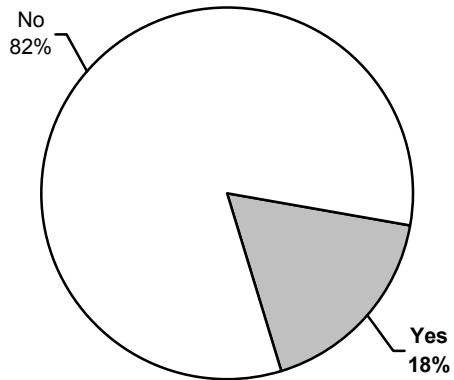


Should juveniles be fingerprinted in order to maintain a criminal history beginning with juvenile offenses?



Child Abuse Issues

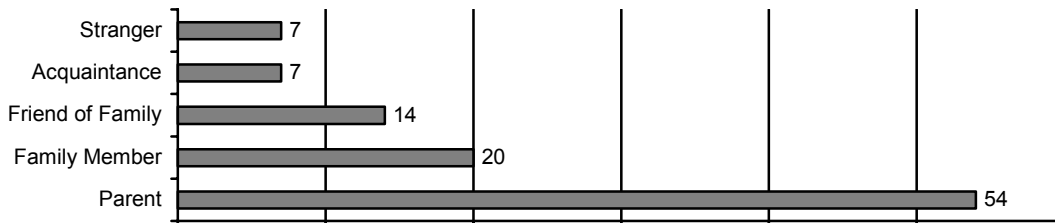
Were you ever the victim of abuse as a child?



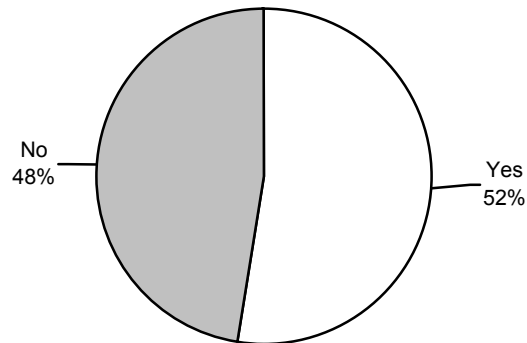
Was the abuse? (could be the victim of more than one)



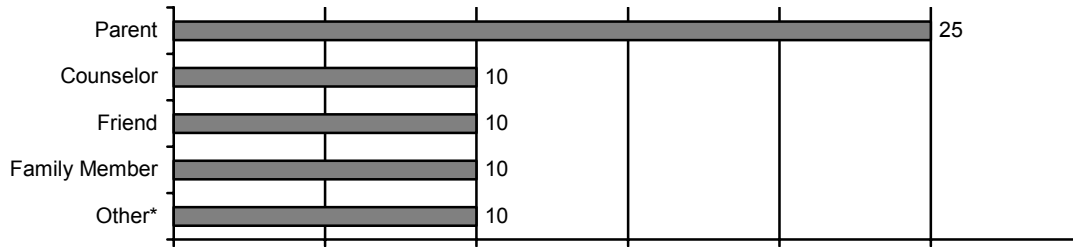
If you were abused as a child, was the offender: (could choose more than one)



If you were the victim of abuse, did you ever report it to anyone?

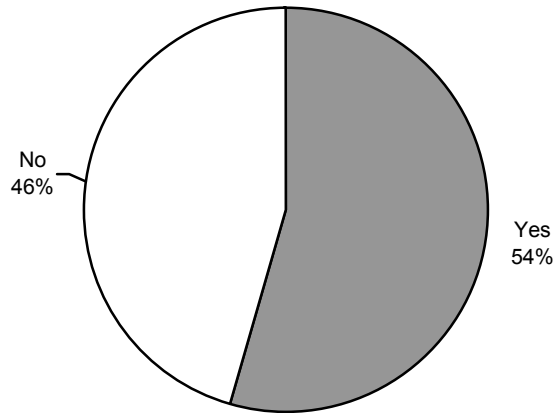


If yes, whom did you report it to?

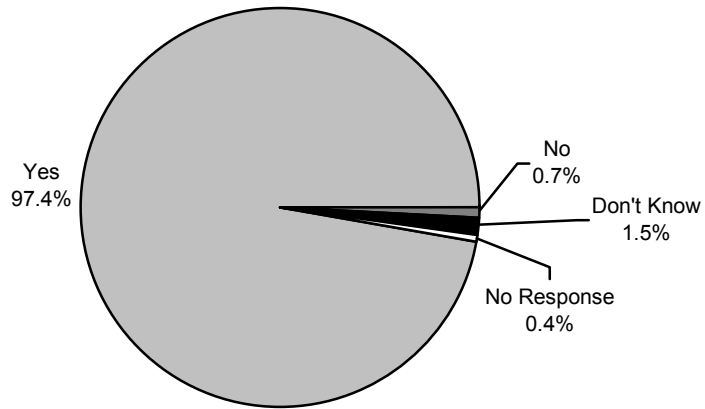


*Other included: Police, Pastor, Human Services, Teacher and Court

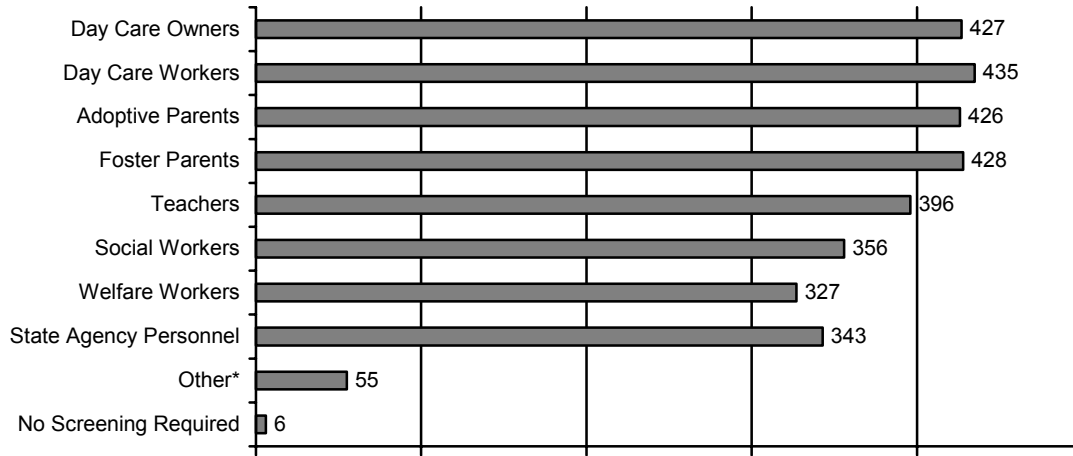
Did you know that Tennessee state law requires that persons working as child care providers must be screened for prior convictions of severe child abuse or child sexual abuse?



Do you believe such persons should be screened for these prior convictions?

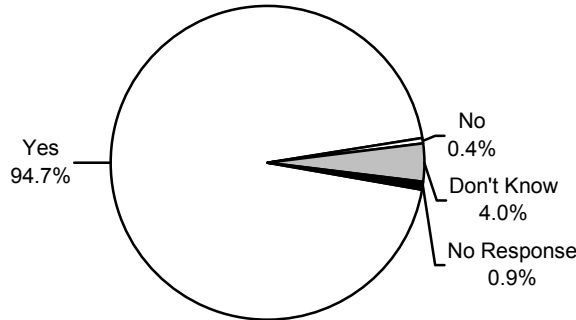


Which of the following, if any, should be included in the screening process? (check all that apply)

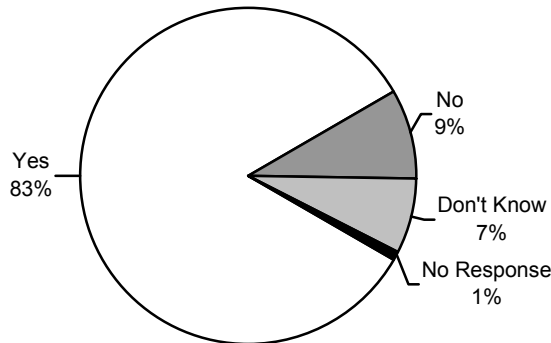


*Other included: Scout Leaders, Doctors, Clergy, Coaches, Bus Drivers and School Personnel (i.e., Cafeteria Workers, Janitors)

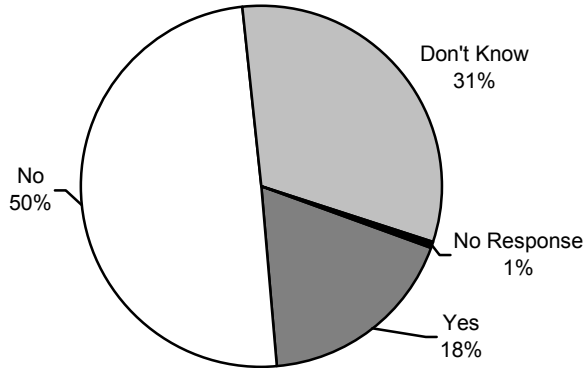
State law currently requires screening for Tennessee convictions only. Should the process include screening for convictions of severe child abuse and child sexual abuse outside of Tennessee?



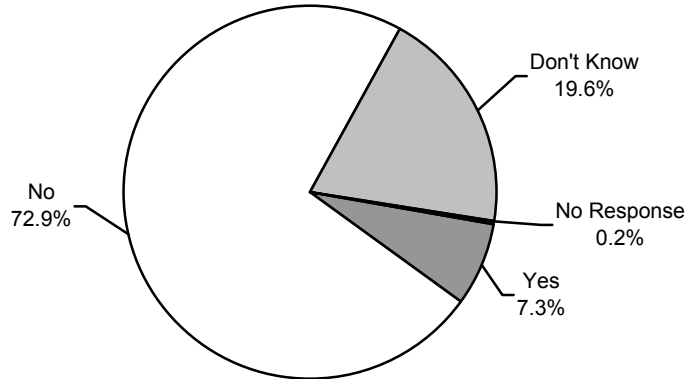
The process required by state law only requires screening for conviction of “severe child abuse” or “child sexual abuse”. Should the person be screened for any felony convictions (a felony is a crime punishable by one year or greater sentence)?



Should a person convicted of any felony be allowed to provide childcare?

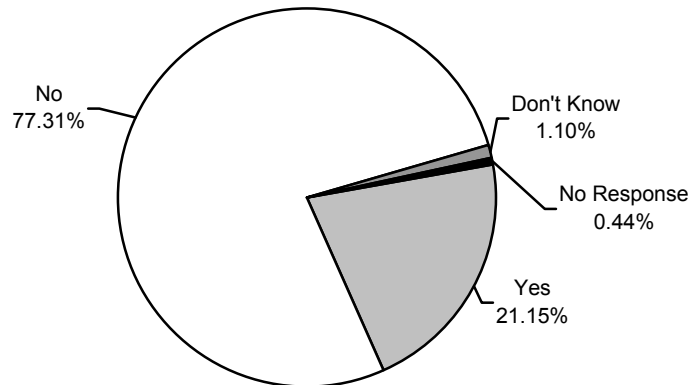


Should a convicted felon of sexual child abuse be allowed to live with or near children after completing their sentence?

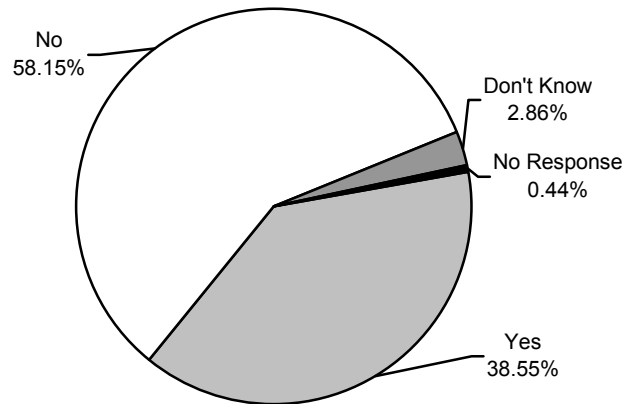


Tennessee law states that any child under the age of four (4) must be in an approved child passenger restraint system and that any child between the ages of four (4) and eight (8) who weighs less than forty (40) pounds must be in an approved carrier, child seat or booster seat. The next 3 questions refer to this state law.

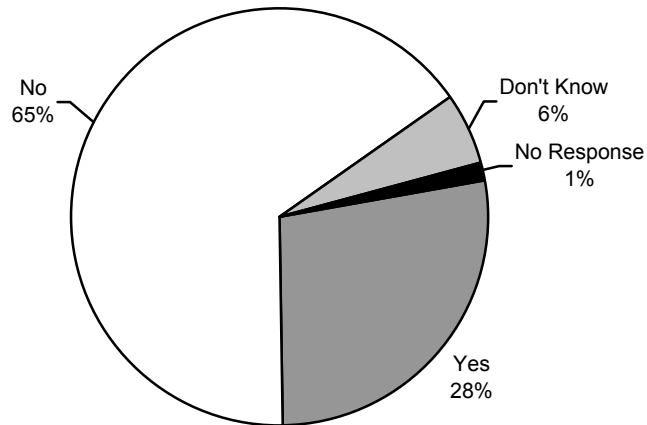
Have you ever driven a vehicle with a child passenger who was NOT in a Child Restraint Seat?



Have you ever been a passenger in a vehicle where there was a child passenger who was NOT in a Child Restraint Seat?

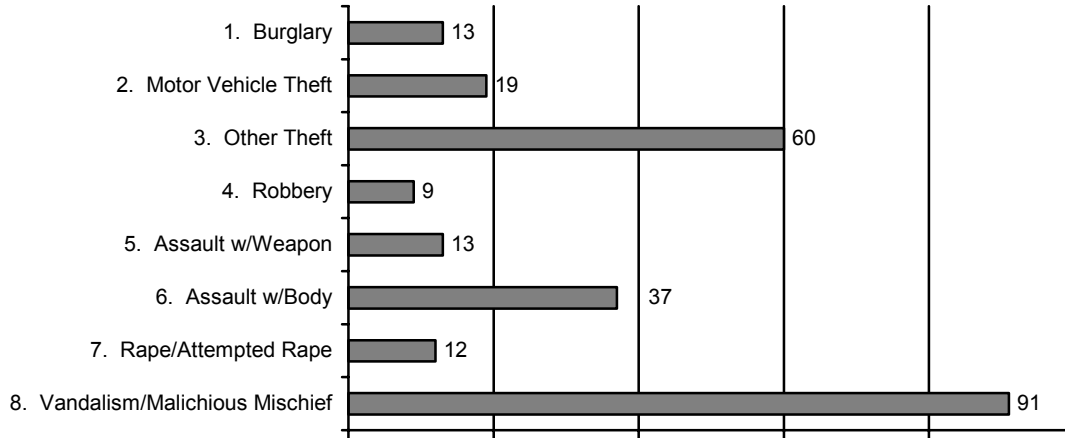


Have you ever prevented a person from driving with a child in the car who was NOT in a Child Restraint Seat?

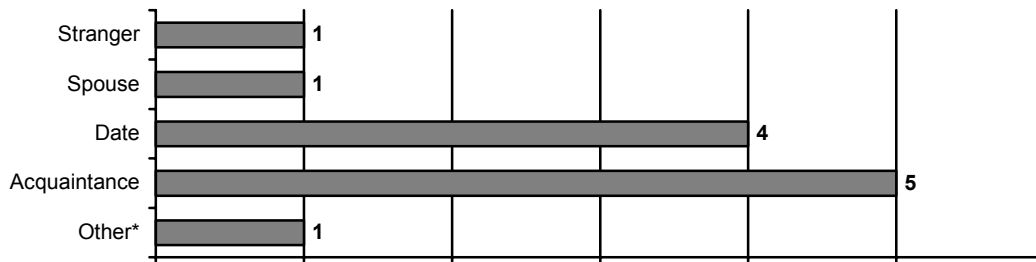


Crime Events During the Past Year (2001)

The first eight (8) questions deal with crimes that the respondents were victims of during the previous year.

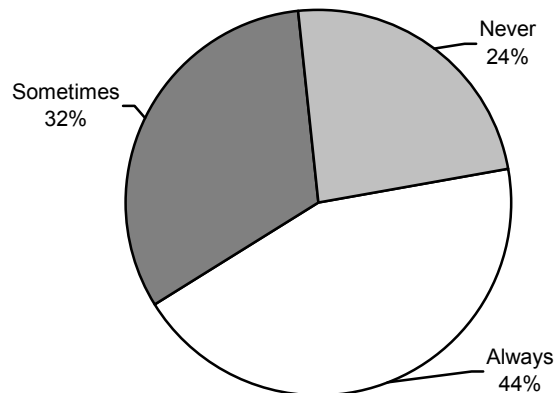


Was the person who raped or attempted to rape you a:



*Other included: Boyfriend

If you were the victim of a crime, did you report it to the police or sheriff?

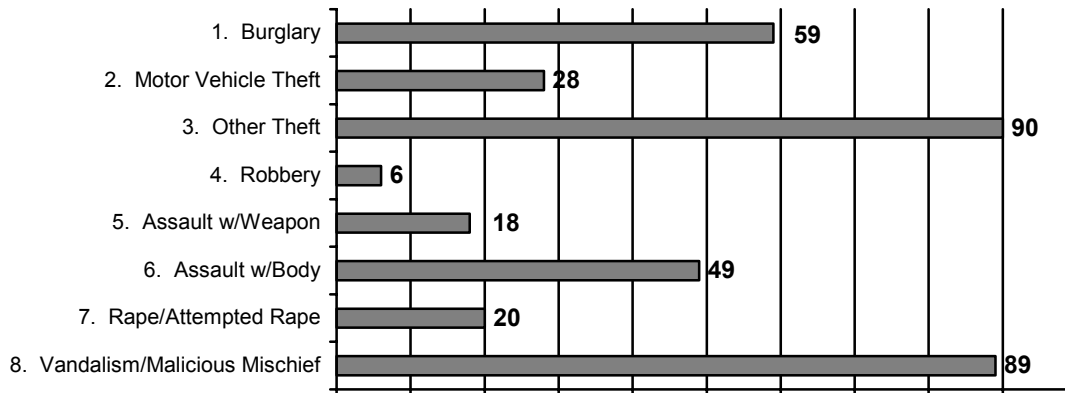


If you did not report a crime to the police, what was the reason for not reporting the crime? (check all that apply)

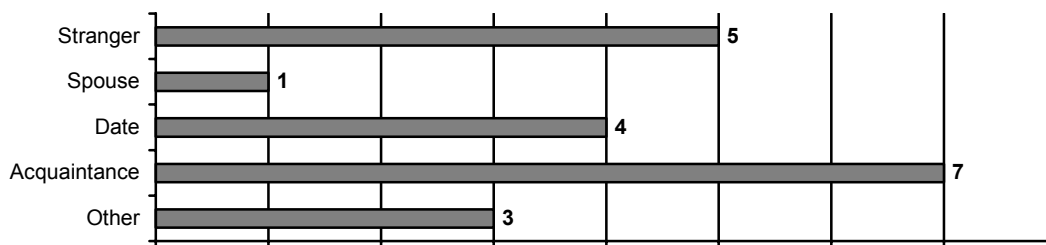
- 16 Afraid
- 2 Involved in the crime
- 7 Felt sorry for the offender
- 19 Crime was due to my own carelessness or stupidity
- 11 Offender agreed to return property
- 3 Did not want to get involved
- 24 Lack of confidence in the justice system
- 55 Really not serious
- 4 Did not want my name in the paper
- 24 Wanted to take care of it myself

Crime Events During the Period 1990-2000

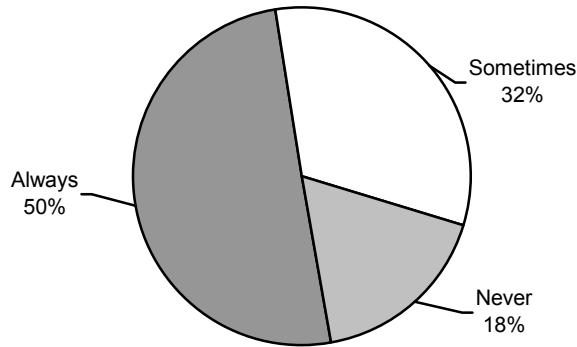
The first eight (8) questions deal with crimes where the respondent was a victim of during the period 1990-2000.



Was the person who raped or attempted to rape you a:



If you were the victim of a crime, did you report it to the police or sheriff?

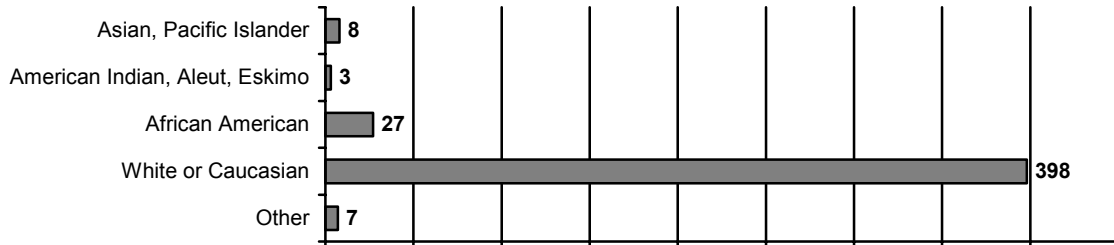


If you did not report a crime to the police, what was the reason for not reporting the crime? (check all that apply)

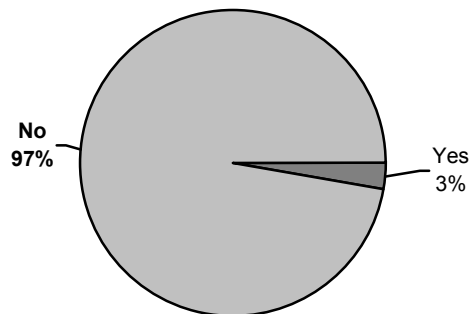
- 13 – Afraid
- 4 – Involved in the crime
- 8 – Felt sorry for the offender
- 25 – Crime was due to my own carelessness or stupidity
- 3 – Offender agreed to return property
- 12 – Did not want to get involved
- 27 – Lack of confidence in the justice system
- 45 – Really not serious
- 8 – Did not want my name in the paper
- 24 – Wanted to take care of it myself

Demographic Information

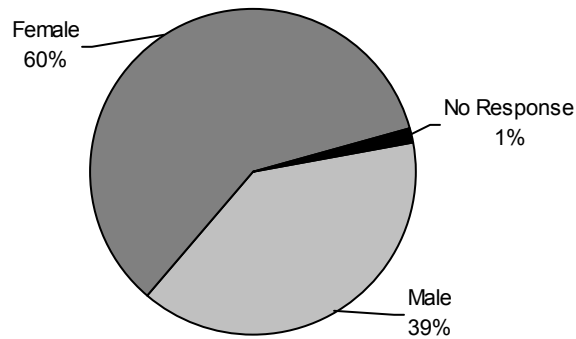
What is your race?



Are you of Hispanic Origin?

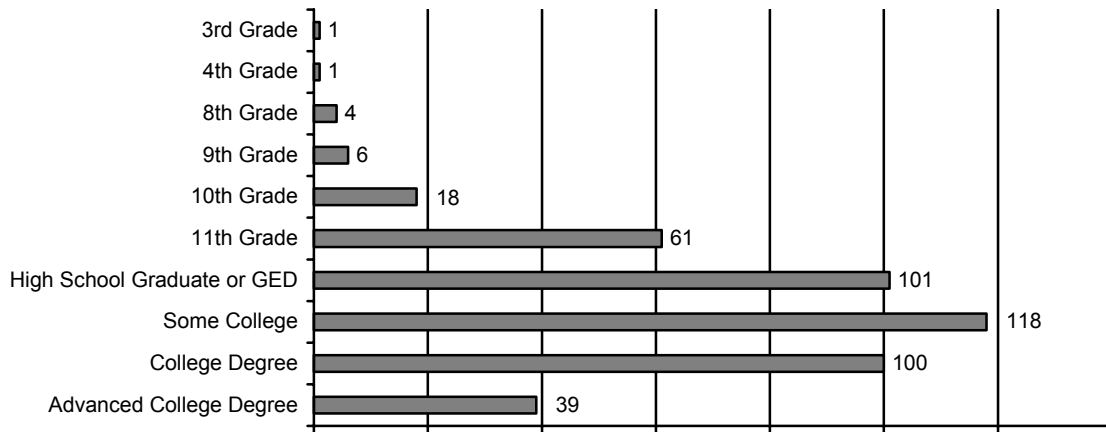


What is your sex?



Please list your age: The average age of the respondents was 35.6 years

Please check the number of years that you have completed in school:

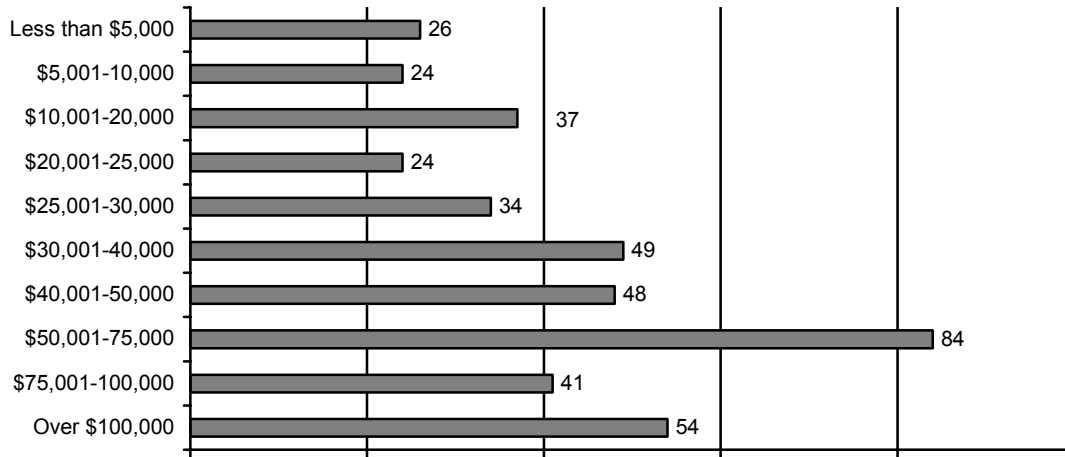


In what type of dwelling do you live?

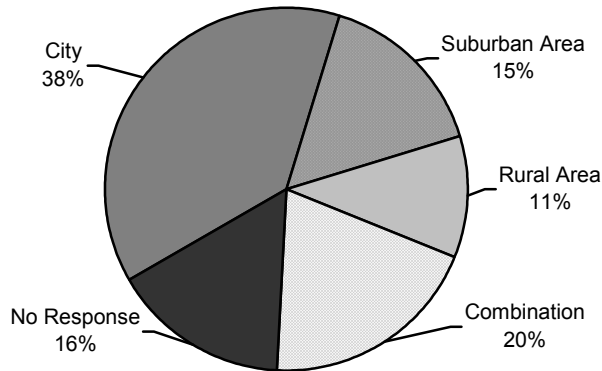


*Other included: Cabin, Dorm Room, Retirement Home, Townhouse, Duplex, Bus and Truck

What is your yearly family income? (personal income if single)



While working at your job, do you work mostly in a:

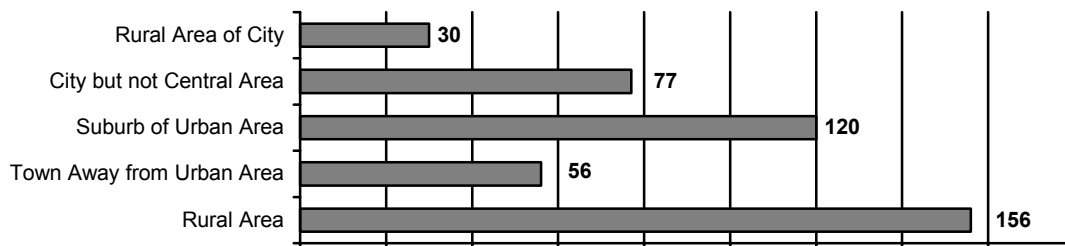


What is your marital status?

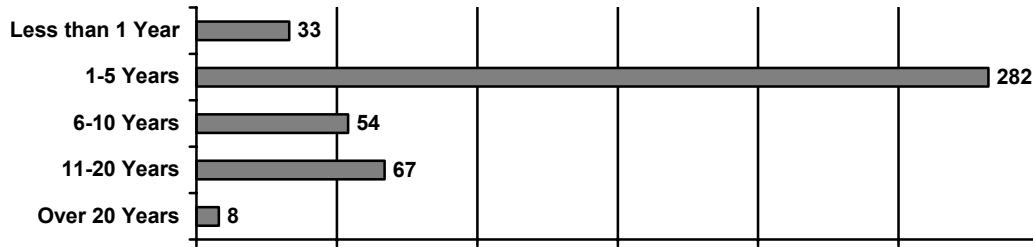


*Other included: Domestic Partners

Which of the following best describes where you live?



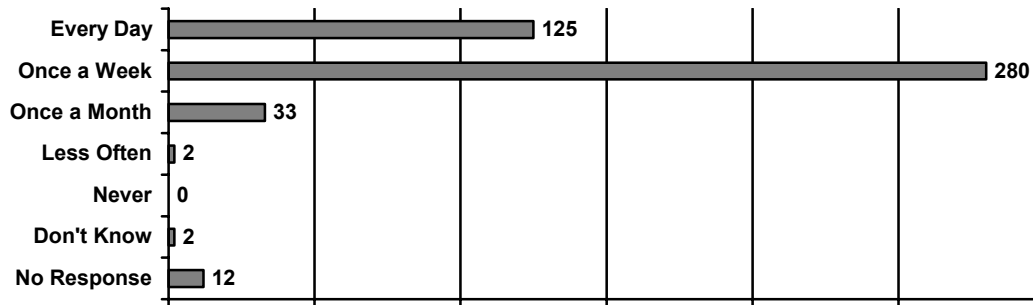
How many years have you lived at this residence?



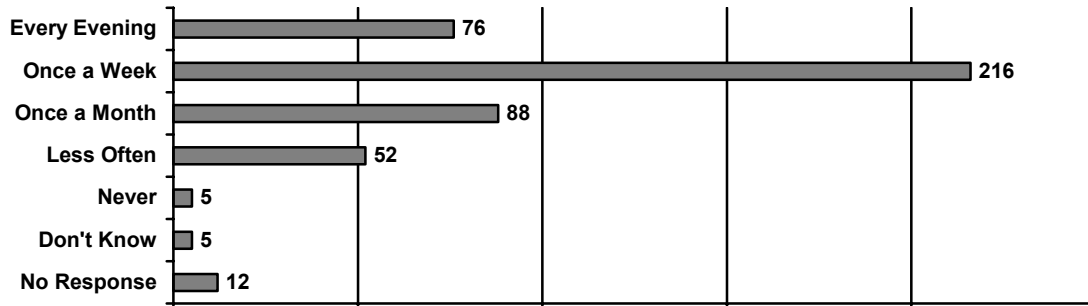
Altogether, how many times have you moved in the last 5 years?

Average number of moves was 2.1

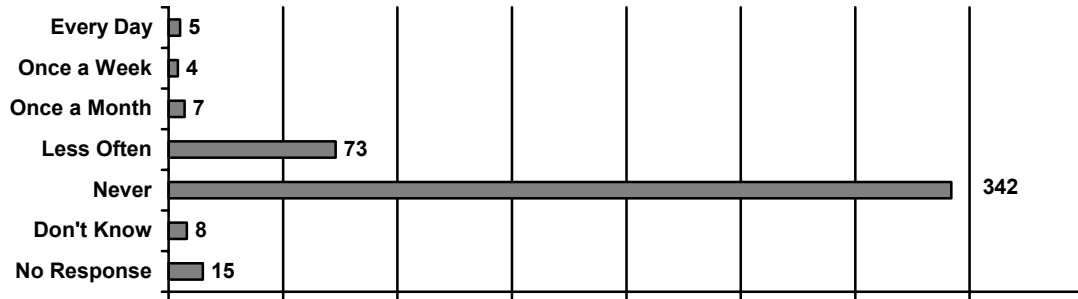
On average, during the previous calendar year (January-December 2001), how often have YOU gone shopping? For example, at drug, clothing, grocery, hardware and convenience stores?



On average, during the previous calendar year (January-December 2001), how often have you spent the evening out or away from home, for work, school or entertainment?



On average, during the previous calendar year (January-December 2001), how often have you ridden on public transportation? Do not include school buses.



Comparison of 1982, 1992, and 2002 Survey Results

Fear of Crime

The percentage of respondents that thought they would be a victim of crime in the next year continued to decrease with this year's survey. In 1982, 55% thought they would be a victim. In 1992 it was 43% and in 2002 it was 32%.

The percentage of respondents who were afraid to be alone in their home at night decreased significantly this year. In 1982, 51% were afraid to be home alone. In 1992 it was 16% and in 2002 it was 8%.

Guns were kept in the home for security purposes by 42% of the 1982 respondents, 38% of 1992 respondents and 41% in 2002. Door bolts were added for security purposes in 34% of the 1982 respondents, 53% in 1992 and 43% in 2002.

Crime Events

Below is a graph that depicts the differences between the 3 surveys in the response to the question that asked if the respondent was a victim of a crime did they report it to the police or sheriff. These percentages do not include respondents who were not a victim of a crime, hence the totals may not add up to 100%.

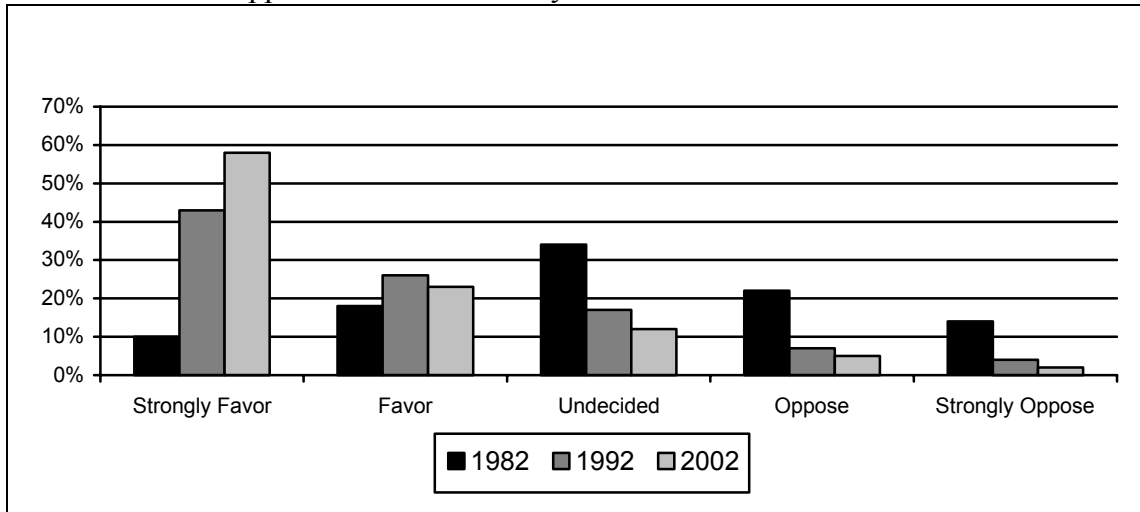


Public Attitudes

The following table shows how respondents differed in their opinions on items that should or should not be against the law.

	Should be Illegal			Should NOT be Illegal		
	1982	1992	2002	1982	1992	2002
Gambling	47%	29%	54%	33%	42%	30%
Abortion	43%	32%	48%	36%	50%	11%
Homosexuality	58%	44%	35%	24%	35%	17%

The opinions for a Tennessee law prohibiting spousal rape were significantly different between the 3 surveys. Those in favor of the law dramatically increased from 1982 to 2002 while those opposed also dramatically decreased between 1982 and 2002.

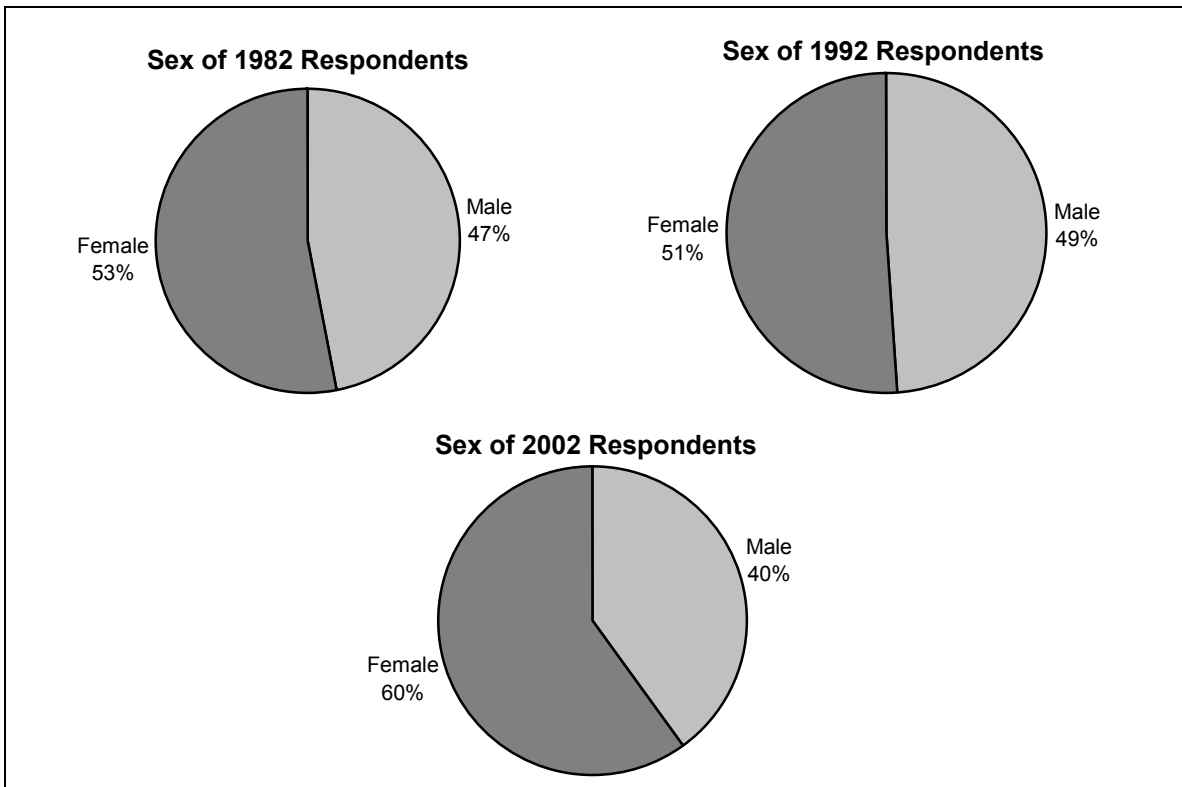
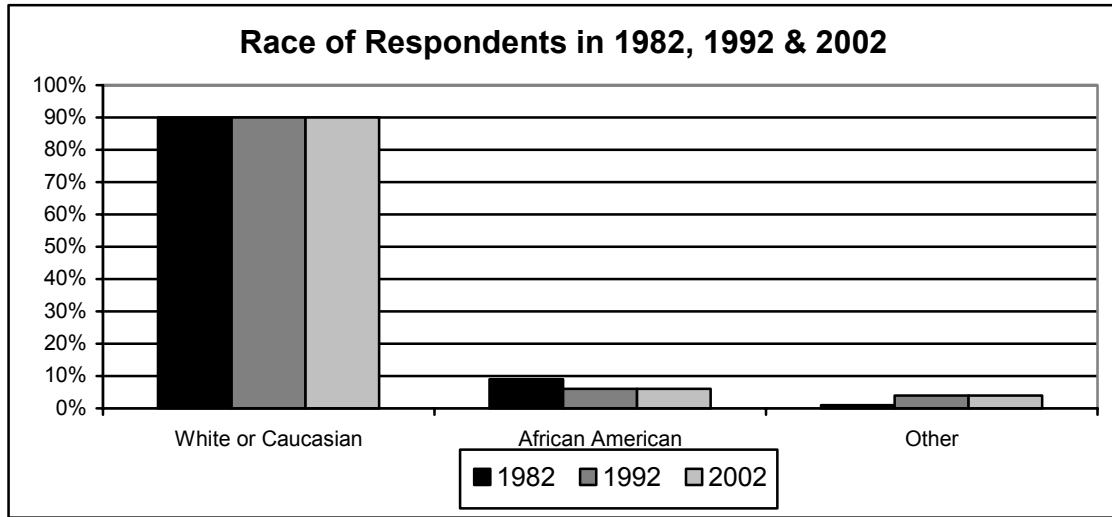


Respondents continued to favor rural areas for the location of new prisons: 58% of the respondents chose rural areas in 1982, 57% in 1992 and 63% in 2002.

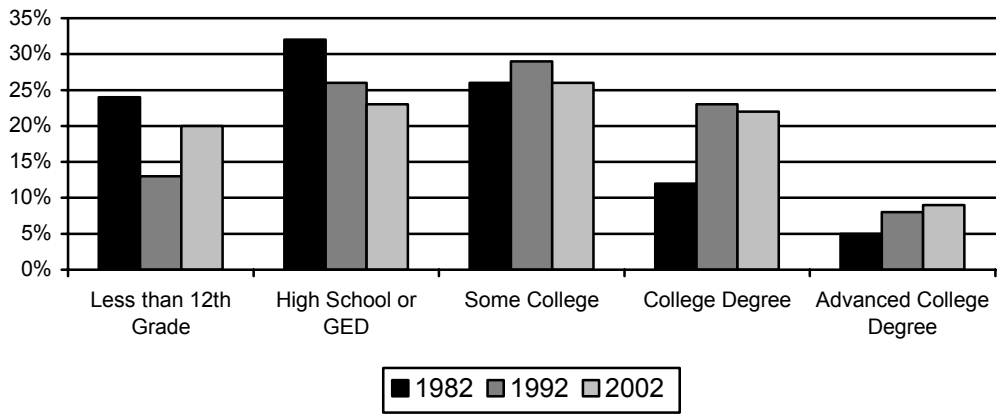
The percentage of respondents who favored handgun registration increased with this year's survey. In 1982, 61% favored handgun registration, 61% in 1992 and 66% in 2002. More respondents (24%) selected "guns should not be registered" than in 1992 (19%).

Characteristics of Respondents

Some of the characteristics of the survey respondents in 1982, 1992 and 2002 are shown in the following graphs. Most of the respondents in all 3 surveys were married (67% - 1982, 62% - 1992 and 50% - 2002). Most of the respondents lived in houses (81% - 1982, 75% - 1992 and 79% - 2002).



Education Level of Respondents



Victimization Survey Instrument

2002 Tennessee Crime Victimization Survey



**Prepared by the Crime Statistics Unit of the
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation**



Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

I. Crime Events

11. Please read the following list and indicate if any of these items belonging to you were stolen in the previous calendar year (January-December 2001).

- Things that you carry, like luggage, a wallet, purse, briefcase or book
- Clothing, jewelry or calculator
- Bicycle or sports equipment
- Things in your home like a TV, stereo or tools
- Things outside your home such as a garden hose or lawn furniture
- Things belonging to children in the household
- Things from a vehicle, such as a package, groceries, camera or cassette tapes

OR

- Did anyone ATTEMPT to steal anything belonging to you?

12. Please read the following list and indicate if anyone has:

- broken in or ATTEMPTED to break into your home by forcing a door or window, pushing past someone, jimmying a lock, cutting a screen or entering through an open door or window?
- illegally entered or tried to enter a garage, shed or storage room?
- illegally entered or tried to enter a hotel or motel room or vacation home where you were staying?

13. To the best of your knowledge, have any serious crimes occurred in your neighborhood in the previous calendar year (January-December 2001)?

- Yes
- No
- Do Not Know

14. What of the following types of serious crimes do you know have occurred in your neighborhood in the previous calendar year (January-December 2001)?

- People using drugs
- Auto Theft
- Theft of personal property
- Breaking and entering to steal personal property
- Violent physical attacks
- Crimes committed with guns
- Sexual assault/Rape
- Murder

15. How did you find out about these crimes?

- You or someone you know was the victim
- Witnessed criminal acts in neighborhood
- Learned about crime through conversations with neighbors, neighborhood associations/civic organizations' newsletter, and/or community meetings
- Received information directly from the local police through community meetings, newsletters, pamphlets, crime bulletins, and/or police Internet web sites
- Received information through the media, such as newspaper, television and radio

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

- Received information through a public kiosk/terminal or by visiting a police substation
 - Other (specify)_____
-

16. Overall, do you think you are well informed of crime which occurs in your neighborhood
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know

II. Fear of Crime

11. Is there any area within one mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know

12. Would you be afraid to walk alone in your neighborhood at night?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know

13. Are you afraid to be in your home alone at night?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know

14. Do you feel that you may be the victim of any of the following crimes within the next year? If so, please check which ones.
- Rape
 - Robbery (using force, or threat of force, to take someone's property from them)
 - Assault with body (hands or feet)
 - Assault with weapon
 - Burglary (breaking into a house or business with the intent to commit a crime)
 - Theft
 - Vehicle theft
 - Vandalism
 - Other (list)_____
 - I do not think I will be the victim of a crime within the next year

15. Which of the following have you placed in your home for reasons of security?
- Burglar Alarm
 - Door bolt
 - Extra door lock
 - Window guard
 - Gun
 - Police department identification sticker

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

- Guard dog
- Outside security light
- Other (list) _____
- I have not installed any security devices in my home

16. Here are some things that people do to avoid becoming a victim of a crime that takes place outside the home. In the previous calendar year (January-December 2001), have you done any of these things?

- Carry a self-defense warning device such as a whistle or alarm.
- Carry a self-defense weapon (includes knife, gun, club, mace, stun-gun).
- You no longer take certain routes or go into certain areas in your neighborhood.
- You avoid going out at night.
- You avoid going out alone.
- You took a self-defense class.
- You attend community meetings in your neighborhood.
- You have made an effort to get to know the police in your neighborhood.
- You plan to relocate to outside of your neighborhood.
- Other (list) _____

III. Public Attitudes

1. Should the following items be illegal?

- a. Gambling
 - Should be against the law
 - Should not be against the law
 - Do Not Know

- b. Abortion
 - Should be against the law
 - Should not be against the law
 - Do Not Know

- c. Attempted Suicides
 - Should be against the law
 - Should not be against the law
 - Do Not Know

- d. Prostitution
 - Should be against the law
 - Should not be against the law
 - Do Not Know

- e. Homosexuality
 - Should be against the law
 - Should not be against the law
 - Do Not Know

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

- f. Use of Marijuana
 - Should be against the law
 - Should not be against the law
 - Do Not Know

- g. Public Intoxication
 - Should be against the law
 - Should not be against the law
 - Do Not Know

2. How important do you consider the following items? (rate each in according to: **1**-very important, **2**-occasionally important, **3**-of little importance, and **4**-of no importance)

- _____ Church Membership
- _____ Voting
- _____ School grades
- _____ Financial Success
- _____ Social Success
- _____ Keeping American Traditions
- _____ Being with Family
- _____ Law and Order
- _____ Being an American
- _____ Being a Tennessean

3. Place a check (✓) in the brackets by the statement(s) with which you agree:

- In spite of what some people say, the future of the average man is getting worse.
- It is hardly fair to bring children in the world with the way things look for the future.
- Nowadays a person has to live pretty much for today and let tomorrow take care of itself.
- These days a person does not really know whom he can count on.
- There is little use writing to public officials because often they are not really interested in the problems of the average man.

4. Most criminals should not really be blamed for the things they have done.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided

5. Most things that people call delinquency do not really hurt anyone.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided

6. The person who leaves their keys in a car is as much to blame for its theft as the one who steals it.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

7. Most crime and delinquency is the result of someone being influenced by a “bad” crowd.
 Agree
 Disagree
 Undecided
8. Are you in favor of Tennessee having a law that prohibits a man from having sex with his wife against her will (raping)?
 Strongly favor
 Favor
 Undecided
 Oppose
 Strongly Oppose
9. Some states make arrangements so that inmates in prison can visit with their husband or wife in a private room. These visits are called conjugal visits and they may have sexual relations during the visits. Conjugal visits are not permitted in Tennessee. Which of the following best describes your feelings concerning conjugal visits in Tennessee prisons?
 I believe that conjugal visits should be allowed on a regular basis for all inmates.
 I believe that conjugal visits should be allowed for inmates who have good behavior records while in Tennessee prisons.
 I do not believe that conjugal visits should ever be allowed for inmates in Tennessee prisons.
10. Tennessee prisons have traditionally been placed in rural areas away from population centers and have developed agriculture programs to help feed the inmates. Some people have suggested the development of prisons in urban areas (cities) so that it would be easier for the families of the inmates to visit them. Where do you favor the placement of new prison facilities?
 Rural areas
 Urban areas
 Combination of rural and urban areas
 Undecided (not certain)
11. If you favor gun registration, which types of guns do you think should be registered? (check all that apply)
 Rifles
 Shotguns
 Handguns
 “Saturday Night Specials”
 Other (list) _____
 I do not favor gun registration

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

12. If you have a gun in your home, do you keep it mainly for (check only one)
- Sporting purposes
 - Protection
 - Both sporting purposes and protection
 - Other (list) _____
 - I do not have a gun in my home
13. Do you think that victims of crimes should be paid back for any losses or injuries that are caused by a criminal act?
- Should not be paid back
 - Should be paid back by the state
 - Should be paid back by the person convicted of that particular crime
14. In regards to the present laws in Tennessee for the use of marijuana, do you think the laws should be
- More severe
 - Left as they are
 - Less severe
 - There should be no laws against the use of marijuana
15. If a person is convicted of rape, should they be permitted to remain out of jail on bond while their conviction is being appealed?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know
16. If a person has been convicted of a prior sexual crime, should a judge have the power to deny bail to that individual in cases where they are charged with a new sexual offense?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know
17. Do you think that rulings by courts in the area of law enforcement: (check one)
- Have severely hindered police in their efforts to control crime
 - Have somewhat hindered police in their efforts to control crime
 - Have not hindered police in their efforts to control crime

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

18. In order to have a better criminal justice system, would you be willing to pay higher taxes to support any of the following? (check all that apply)
- Police officers
 - Detectives
 - Drug enforcement investigators
 - Equipment
 - Training
 - Local jail facilities
 - Judges
 - Prosecutors
 - Courtrooms
 - Court personnel (bailiffs, court clerks, etc.)
19. Have you marked your possessions (TV, stereo, etc.) with your Tennessee driver's license number so the police can identify them if they are stolen?
- Yes
 - No
20. Do you have a neighborhood crime watch program in your town?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know
21. People are sometimes allowed to serve their prison or jail sentences by staying in their own communities instead of actually going to prison or jail. If the person breaks the rules of this "probation" they may then have to serve the sentence in prison or jail. Do you think that persons convicted of the following crimes should be considered for probation? If so, check which ones.
- Aggravated Assault (intentionally causing serious bodily injury to another)
 - Arson
 - Motor vehicle theft
 - Burglary (breaking into a house or business with intent to take something)
 - Driving while intoxicated
 - Murder
 - Rape
 - Robbery (using force, or threat of force, to take someone's money or property)
 - Sale of marijuana
 - Shoplifting
 - Theft
 - Use of illegal drugs (other than marijuana)
 - Use of marijuana
 - Child abuse or child sexual abuse
 - I do not think that anyone convicted of one of these crimes should be considered for probation

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

22. For non-violent crimes, do you support limiting the offender to the boundaries of their homes and grounds rather than prison, with a method of monitoring the offender?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know
23. What form of punishment do you consider the most humane in a death penalty?
- Electric chair
 - Gas chamber
 - Lethal injection
 - Firing squad
 - Hanging
 - Other (explain) _____
24. Do you think that crime and violence shown on television have:
- Caused a large increase in crime
 - Caused a moderate increase in crime
 - Caused very little increase in crime
 - Had no effect on the crime rate
25. What is the biggest single crime problem in your community? (select only one)
- Vandalism
 - Theft or burglary
 - Drugs and narcotics
 - Drunk driving
 - Speeding or other traffic law violations
 - Robbery or assault
 - Other (explain) _____
26. Which of the following tax increases would you support in order to finance new prisons and jails?
- Alcohol tax
 - Tobacco tax
 - Sales tax
 - State income tax
 - Business tax
 - Other (explain) _____
 - I do not support a tax increase
27. Have you ever had a family member injured or killed by a drunk driver?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

28. Have you ever driven a vehicle when you have had too much to drink?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
29. Have you ever been a passenger in a vehicle when the driver had too much to drink?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
30. Have you ever prevented a person from driving who had had too much to drink?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
31. Do you think that senior citizens are more likely to be victims of crime than persons in any other age group?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know

IV. Juvenile Issues

1. Should the emphasis in juvenile justice be:
 Punishment
 Treatment
 Do Not Know
2. In regards to juvenile offenders, do you think the system is:
 Too easy
 Too hard
 About right
3. Should juveniles be subject to the death penalty?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
4. What are the leading causes of juvenile crime? (check all that apply)
 Drugs
 Lack of employment
 Lack of family involvement
 One-Parent Households
 Education system
 Other (explain) _____

5. Are there any youth gangs in your community?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
6. Tennessee law requires that juvenile offender files are sealed and all offense data removed when a juvenile reaches a certain age. Due to this law, it is not possible to track an adult offender's criminal history beginning with a juvenile record.
- A. Should juvenile records be included as part of an offender's criminal history?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
- B. Should juveniles be fingerprinted in order to maintain a criminal history beginning with juvenile offenses?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know

V. Child Abuse Issues

1. Were you ever the victim of abuse as a child?
 Yes
 No (skip to Question #3 in this section)
- A. Was the abuse:
 Physical
 Sexual
 Emotional
 Neglect
 Other (explain) _____
 I have never been a victim
- B. If you were abused as a child, was the offender:
 A parent
 A family member
 A friend of the family
 An acquaintance
 A stranger
2. If you were a victim of abuse as a child did you ever report it to anyone?
 Yes
 No (skip to question #3 in this section)

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

- A. If yes, whom did you report it to?
- A parent
 - A family member
 - A friend
 - A counselor
 - Other (explain) _____
3. Did you know that Tennessee state law requires that persons working as child care providers must be screened for prior convictions of severe child abuse or child sexual abuse?
- Yes
 - No
4. Do you believe such persons should be screened for these prior convictions?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do not' Know
5. Which of the following groups, if any, should be included in the screening process? (check all that apply)
- Day care owners
 - Day care workers
 - Adoptive parents
 - Foster parents
 - Teachers
 - Social workers
 - Welfare workers
 - State agency personnel, such as Department of Human Services and Department of Youth Development
 - Other (list) _____
 - Screening should not be required for any person
6. State law currently requires screening for Tennessee convictions **only**. Should the process include screening for convictions of severe child abuse and child sexual abuse outside of Tennessee?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know
7. The process required by state law only requires screening for convictions of "severe child abuse" or "child sexual abuse". Should the person be screened for **any** felony convictions (a felony is a crime punishable by one year or greater sentence)?
- Yes
 - No
 - Do Not Know

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

8. Should a person convicted of **any** felony be allowed to provide childcare?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
9. Should a convicted felon of sexual child abuse be allowed to live with or near children after completing their sentence?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know

Tennessee State Law states that any child under the age of four (4) must be in an approved child passenger restraint system and that any child between the ages of four (4) and eight (8) who weighs less than forty (40) pounds must be in an approved carrier, child seat or booster seat.

Please refer to the statement above when answering the next 3 questions.

10. Have you ever driven a vehicle with a child passenger who was NOT in a Child Restraint Seat?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
11. Have you ever been a passenger in a vehicle where there was a child passenger who was NOT in a Child Restraint Seat?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know
12. Have you ever prevented a person from driving with a child in the car who was NOT in a Child Restraint Seat?
 Yes
 No
 Do Not Know

VI. Crime Events During the Past Year (2001)

1. Burglary

Did anyone break into your home and take something or attempt to take something?

- No
 Yes

2. Motor Vehicle Theft

Did anyone steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you?

- No
 Yes

3. Other Theft

Were any other valuable items or property stolen from you that were not mentioned previously?

- No
 Yes

4. Robbery

Did anyone take something from you by force or threat of force?

- No
 Yes

5. Assault with Weapon

Did anyone threaten or attack you with a knife, gun, club or other weapon?

- No
 Yes

6. Assault with Body

Did anyone threaten or attack you with their fist, feet or other bodily attack?

- No
 Yes

7. Rape or Attempted Rape

Did someone have or attempt to have sex with you against your will?

- No
 Yes

7a. If yes, was this person:

- A stranger
 An acquaintance
 A date
 A spouse
 Other (explain) _____

8. Vandalism or Malicious Mischief

Did anyone intentionally destroy or damage property belonging to you?

- No
 Yes

9. If you were the victim of a crime, did you report it to the police or sheriff?

- Always
 Sometimes
 Never
 Was not a victim of a crime during the last year

10. If you did not report a crime to the police, what was the reason for not reporting the crime?

(check all that apply)

- Afraid
- Involved in the crime
- Felt sorry for offender
- Crime was due to my own carelessness or stupidity
- Offender agreed to return property
- Did not want to get involved
- Lack of confidence in the justice system
- Really not serious
- Did not want my name in the paper
- Wanted to take care of it myself

VII. Crime Events During the Period 1990-2000

1. Burglary

Did anyone break into your home and take something or attempt to take something?

- No
- Yes

2. Motor Vehicle Theft

Did anyone steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you?

- No
- Yes

3. Other Theft

Were any other valuable items or property stolen from you that were not mentioned previously?

- No
- Yes

4. Robbery

Did anyone take something from you by force or threat of force?

- No
- Yes

5. Assault with Weapon

Did anyone threaten or attack you with a knife, gun, club or other weapon?

- No
- Yes

6. Assault with Body

Did anyone threaten or attack you with their fist, feet or other bodily attack?

- No
- Yes

7. Rape or Attempted Rape

Did someone have or attempt to have sex with you against your will?

- No
- Yes

7a. If yes, was this person:

- A stranger
- An acquaintance
- A date
- A spouse
- Other (explain) _____

8. Vandalism or Malicious Mischief

Did anyone intentionally destroy or damage property belonging to you?

- No
- Yes

9. If you were the victim of a crime, did you report it to the police or sheriff?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Was not a victim of a crime during the last year

10. If you did not report a crime to the police, what was the reason for not reporting the crime?

(check all that apply)

- Afraid
- Involved in the crime
- Felt sorry for offender
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The following information will ONLY be used for statistical analysis.

Personal Characteristics (this information will be used for statistical analysis only)

1. What is your race?
 White or Caucasian
 African American
 American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo
 Asian, Pacific Islander
 Other (list) _____

2. Are you of Hispanic origin?
 Yes
 No

3. What is your sex?
 Male
 Female

4. Please list your age: _____

5. Please check the number of years that you have completed in school:
 1 6 11
 2 7 12 (High School graduate or GED)
 3 8 Some College
 4 9 College Degree
 5 10 Advanced College Degree

6. In what type of dwelling do you live?
 Apartment
 House
 Condominium
 Mobile Home
 Other (list) _____

7. What is your yearly family income? (personal income if single)
 less than \$5,000
 \$5,001 - \$10,000
 \$10,001 - \$20,000
 \$20,001 - \$25,000
 \$25,001 - \$30,000
 \$30,001 - \$40,000
 \$40,001 - \$50,000
 \$50,001 - \$75,000
 \$75,001 - \$100,000
 Over \$100,000

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

8. While working at your job, do you work mostly in a:

- City
- Suburban Area
- Rural Area
- Combination of any of these

9. What is your marital status?

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Separated
- Other (explain) _____

10. If known, what is the population of the area where you live? (if you aren't sure, leave blank)

- Less than 2,500
- 2,501 to 10,000
- 10,001 to 25,000
- 25,00 to 50,000
- 50,001 to 100,000
- 100,001 to 250,000
- 250,001 to 500,000
- Over 500,000

11. Please list the name of the county in which you reside: _____

12. What is your Zip Code? _____

13. Which of the following best describes where you live?

- Rural area
- Town away from urban area
- Suburb of urban area
- In a city but not in the central area
- Central area of the city

14. How many years have you lived at this residence?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 – 5 years
- 6 – 10 years
- 11 – 20 years
- Over 20 years

15. Altogether, how many times have you moved in the last 5 years?

Victimization Survey for Tennessee - 2002

16. On average, during the previous calendar year (January-December 2001), how often have YOU gone shopping? For example, at drug, clothing, grocery, hardware and convenience stores?
- Almost every day (or more frequently)
 - At least once a week
 - At least once a month
 - Less Often
 - Never
 - Do Not Know
17. On average, during the previous calendar year (January-December 2001), how often have you spent the evening out or away from home, for work, school or entertainment?
- Almost every evening (or more frequently)
 - At least once a week
 - At least once a month
 - Less Often
 - Never
 - Do Not Know
18. On average, during the previous calendar year (January-December 2001), how often have you ridden public transportation? Do not include school buses.
- Almost every day (or more frequently)
 - At least once a week
 - At least once a month
 - Less Often
 - Never
 - Do Not Know