Won't You Be My Neighbour:

Crime Prevention, Social Capital, and Neighbourhood Cohesion in Waterloo Region

2012 Waterloo Region Area Survey

Region of Waterloo

Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council
Together for a Safer Community

Won't You Be My Neighbour:
Crime Prevention, Social Capital and Neighbourhood Cohesion in Waterloo Region

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Executive Summary

This report is a follow up to reports from 2009 and 2011 that measured fear of crime in Waterloo Region. Presented in this report are results from the 2012 Waterloo Region Area Survey examining fear of crime, social capital, and attitudes towards crime prevention. Results are compared to other measures of fear of crime and social capital in Waterloo Region and to national surveys.

The first set of questions in the survey asked about attitudes towards crime prevention:

- People associate 'smart on crime' with actions of individual responsibility such as being aware of crime or reporting crime;

- Residents in Waterloo Region are supportive of crime prevention programs and believe that youth who commit crime can change for the better;

- While few people followed media coverage on *The Safe Streets and Safe Communities Act*, the majority of Waterloo Region residents were supportive of this legislation.

To measure perceptions on the amount of crime people were asked how much they agree with the statement *"There is much more crime today than I remember as a child"*. Most respondents believe there is more crime today than when they were children.

The next set of questions asked about fear of crime. Respondents were asked: *"How safe do you feel from crime walking in your neighbourhood after dark?"* Most Waterloo Region residents (89%) feel safe walking alone at night and fear of crime is decreasing. Fear of crime is also mapped by neighbourhood using data from the 2010 Kindergarten Parents Survey and the Newpath survey.

Feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night were measured by asking *"how safe from crime people feel at night in downtown Kitchener?"* Feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener vary depending on the community of residence. Waterloo and Township residents feel less safe than Kitchener and Cambridge residents.

Social capital was measured by asking *"Generally speaking would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?"* Two-thirds of respondents believe that people can be trusted, giving Waterloo Region a higher level of social capital than Ontario and Canada.

Finally, using data from the Newpath survey and Kindergarten Parents survey measures of social capital, civic engagement, neighbourhood cohesion, and sense of community were examined by neighbourhood. Neighbourhoods with high levels of fear of crime tend to have low levels civic engagement.

The report concludes with a discussion of how these findings can be useful in identifying neighbourhoods with both the capacity and support for crime prevention initiatives.

Introduction

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council seeks to prevent crime by mobilizing the community to address the root causes of crime, reducing victimization, and confronting fear of crime. This report examines fear of crime, social capital and neighbourhood cohesion, and attitudes towards crime prevention in Waterloo Region. Measuring fear of crime is important as it shows if perceptions of crime in a community reflect the risk of victimization. Living in a community with a high fear of crime could lead to a decrease in social cohesion (Markowitz, Bellair, Liska & Liu, 2001). Measuring social capital and neighbourhood cohesion shows how willing the community is to contribute to resolve problems, such as crime (Coleman, 1990; Putnam, 1993). Ideally, a community will have a low fear of crime and high social capital. Finally, measuring attitudes towards crime prevention demonstrates what approach the community supports in resolving issues of crime and fear of crime.

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council has made the regular systematic monitoring of fear of crime in Waterloo Region a priority. In 2009 a report was published examining fear of crime. The report made four recommendations addressing fear of crime:

- Local government, Business Improvement Associations, community agencies and Waterloo Regional Police increase their focus on a multi-sector approach to address the unique needs of the local communities in Waterloo Region to reduce fear of crime.

- Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council, Waterloo Regional Police, Business Improvement Associations and Waterloo Region municipal governments employ strategies to address fear of crime that are based on evidence and are tailored to the needs of the local communities.

- Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council, Waterloo Regional Police, Business Improvement Associations and community agencies work to ensure that perceptions of crime reflect the reality of crime.

- Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council and Waterloo Regional Police collaborate on future surveys to continue to measure fear of crime in Waterloo Region.

In October 2011, "**Changing Perceptions: 2011 Waterloo Region Area Survey**" was published as a follow-up to the 2009 report. "Changing Perceptions" found that fear of crime in Waterloo Region decreased between 2009 and 2011; however work is needed within the community to address signs of social disorder. The report found residents prefer addressing crime through increasing social programs, increasing employment, and implementing harsher sentences. In-depth interviews with twelve individuals who participated in the survey revealed three themes: People believe that community policing can reduce crime; many people watch their neighbourhood informally on the look-out for crime; and people are supportive of community crime prevention programs. Finally, Waterloo Region,

having strong social capital is in a good position to implement further crime prevention programs such as neighbourhood watch.

This report uses data collected from the 2012 Waterloo Region Area Survey conducted by the University of Waterloo Survey Research Centre and compares it to similar surveys. The Waterloo Region Area Survey is a random survey of Waterloo Region residents. The survey is available for local governments, community agencies, and academics to purchase space.

Survey Title	Conducted by:	Year	Method
Waterloo Region Area Survey	UW Survey Research Centre	2003	Mail
Focus Canada	Environics Institute	2008	Phone
Waterloo Region Area Survey	UW Survey Research Centre	2008	Mail
General Social Survey	Statistics Canada	2008	Phone
General Social Survey	Statistics Canada	2009	Phone
Focus Canada	Environics Institute	2010	Phone
Kindergarten Parents Survey	Waterloo Region District School Board, Waterloo Catholic District School Board, Conseil scolarie de district catholique Centre-Sud, Conseil scolarie Viamonde	2010	School take home survey
Focus Canada	Environics Institute	2011	Phone
Waterloo Region Area Survey	UW Survey Research Centre	2011	Phone
Newpath	UW Survey Research Centre	2010	Mail
Waterloo Region Area Survey	UW Survey Research Centre	2012	Phone

In addition to using data from the Waterloo Region Area Survey this report has also made comparisons to the 2011 Waterloo Region Area Survey, the 2008 and 2009 General Social Survey conducted by Statistics Canada, and the 2008, 2010, and 2011 Focus Canada surveys conducted by Environics Institute. Results from the 2010 Kindergarten Parents Survey and Newpath walkability survey from 2010 are also presented to provide a full picture of fear of crime and social capital in Waterloo Region.

The focus and purpose of this report is:

a) to explore attitudes towards crime prevention in the Waterloo Region;

b) to explore the concept of 'smart on crime' in Waterloo Region;

c) to explore attitudes towards youth and crime;

d) to measure support for Bill C-10 and confidence in judges;

e) to track the changes in levels of fear of crime within Waterloo Region, comparing it to national and provincial data; and

f) to present measures of fear of crime and neighbourhood cohesion by neighbourhood.

Methodology

The 2012 Waterloo Region Area Survey was a telephone survey conducted between June 7 and June 29, 2012. Surveyors called 4,234 cell and landline telephones within Waterloo Region. Phone numbers were selected from data purchased from ASDE Survey Sampler which uses a process of enhanced random digit dialing to randomly generate phone numbers. Numbers were called up to eight times or until calls were answered. All survey participants were 18 years or older. When a landline was called the adult in the household with the next birthday was asked to answer the survey questions to randomize the sample. The survey contained questions on the following areas:

- Political participation and political attitudes
- Perceptions of crime in the region
- Regional perceptions of the K-W Symphony
- Regional perceptions of Kitchener as a city
- Kitchener-specific views on the new City budget (asked to Kitchener residents only)
- Demographic data

Results from the survey are compared to results from the 2011 Waterloo Region Area Survey, 2008, 2010, and 2011 Focus Canada Surveys by Environics, the 2008 and 2009 General Social Surveys by Statistics Canada.

Results from the 2010 Kindergarten Parents Survey (KPS) are used in this report (Romagnoli, 2011). The KPS was developed by the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University and is sent home from school to kindergarten parents every three years at the same time the Early Development Instrument is conducted. Among other measures, the KPS asks about fear of crime and civic engagement in the parent's neighbourhoods.

Finally, results from the 2010 Newpath project are used. The Newpath, Neighbourhood Environments in Waterloo Region: Patterns of Transportation and Health project (Thompson et al., under review) asked among other measurements of neighbourhood walkability questions on fear of crime and neighbourhood cohesion. The survey had a sample size of 4,902 individuals in 2,228 households in Kitchener, Cambridge, and Waterloo. Participants were first recruited through a phone call and then completed the mail survey.

Results from the KPS survey and Newpath survey appear in this report on maps providing a visual illustration of fear of crime and civic engagement throughout Waterloo Region.

Results & Discussion

Response Rate

Total Numbers Called	No answer	Not Ineligible	Refused	Partial Complete	Fully Completed
4,234	1,584	950	1306	18	376
100%	37.4%	22.4%	30.8%	0.4%	8.9%

The surveyors were successful in reaching a person a little more than half the time, giving the survey a 54.4% contact rate. Of the 4,234 numbers called, 1,584 numbers were either unanswered, went to voicemail, or were busy. An additional 950 of the numbers called were ineligible because they were fax modems, numbers not in service, the number was a business, there was a language problem, or the respondent was ineligible or incompetent. Finally for 1,306 phone numbers the respondent refused to participate, hung up, or was not available during the data collection period. The overall refusal rate was 31%. This refusal rate is reasonable considering the 27 minutes on average it took to answer the survey.

Demographic Data

The survey respondents are a reasonable representation of Waterloo Region's demographics when comparing respondent demographics to the 2011 census. Women are overrepresented in the sample which is common as women are more likely than men to answer a survey (Rourke & Lakner, 1989). Women are 59% of the sample but only 51% of the local population. While 35-54 year olds are fairly represented in the sample, people over 55 are overrepresented and younger people are underrepresented despite including cell phone users in the sample to try to ensure accurate representation of younger adults.

2011 Census % of Adult Population			Waterloo Area Survey 2012			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	% Male	% Female
18 to 24	6.68%	6.36%	8	7	2.1%	1.9%
25 to 34	8.87%	8.92%	11	26	2.9%	6.9%
35 to 44	9.08%	9.28%	33	41	8.8%	10.9%
45 to 54	9.77%	10.04%	27	43	7.2%	11.5%
55 to 64	7.22%	7.62%	39	56	10.4%	14.9%
65+	7.10%	9.05%	35	49	9.3%	13.1%
Total adult	48.72	51.27%	153	222	40.7%	59.2%

Weights	Males	Females
18-24	3.13	3.40
25-34	3.02	1.29
35-44	1.03	0.85
45-54	1.36	0.88
55-64	0.69	0.51
65 plus	0.76	0.69

Weights given to responses based on age and gender

Survey results were weighted by age groups and gender to ensure the responses accurately represent the views of Waterloo Region residents. Using weights balances results by increasing the importance placed on an answer from someone in a low response group and by decreasing the importance of a response made by someone in a high response group. For example, males 18 to 24 years are under sampled and therefore their responses are weighted to be equivalent to approximately three responses. Weighted results can be found in Appendix B and unweighted results in Appendix C.

City	Population 2011	Percentage of Population	Survey Respondents	Percentage of Survey Respondents
Cambridge	126,748	24.99%	82	21.8%
Kitchener	219,153	43.22%	175	46.5%
Waterloo	98,780	19.48%	73	19.4%
Townships	62,415	12.31%	46	12.2%
Waterloo Region	507,096		376	

Home owners are over sampled in the survey with 81% of survey respondents owning their home and 18% renting, compared to Census 2006 data where 70% of Waterloo Region residents owned their homes and 30% rented. Immigrants are comparably represented with 80% of survey respondents born in Canada and 19% outside of Canada. This is very close to census 2006 numbers where 77% are born in Canada and 23% outside of Canada. The community of residence of survey respondents is very close to the actual population. Cambridge is under sampled by 3 percentage points and Kitchener over sampled by 3 percentage points.

Waterloo Region Attitudes Related to Crime Prevention

The 2012 Waterloo Region Area Survey asked questions to measure attitudes towards crime prevention on topics including street gangs; youth who commit crimes; support for Bill C-10; confidence in judges; perceptions of the amount of crime; and support for crime prevention generally. Many of the questions have not been asked on previous area surveys therefore there are no previous results for comparison.

Being "Smart on Crime"
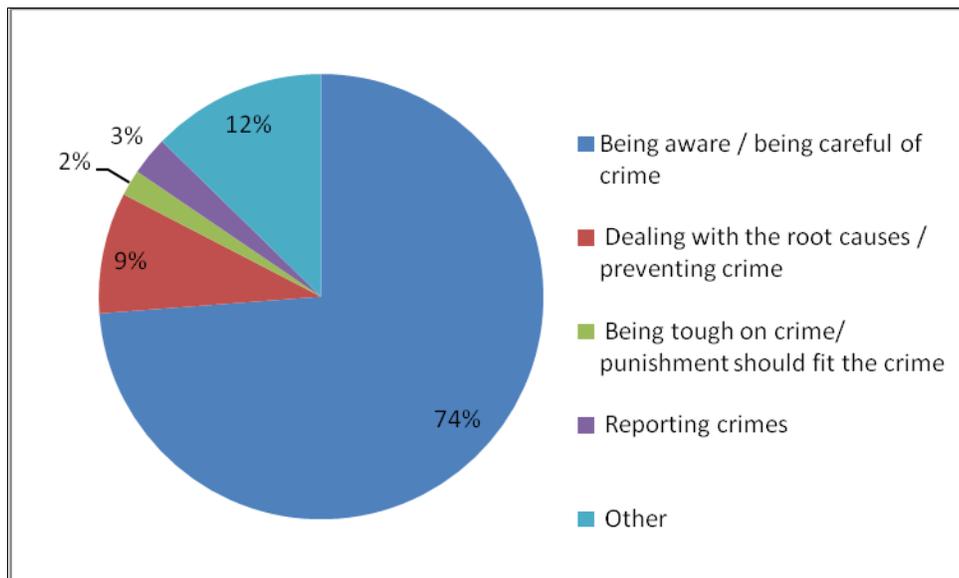
Figure #1: What does being 'smart on crime' mean?

Survey participants were asked the open ended question: *"In your own words what does being 'smart on crime' mean?"* This question was asked to determine if the language of 'smart on crime' is being connected with crime prevention. Respondents provided their definition of being 'smart on crime'. These responses were then coded into categories:

- being aware of crime or being careful of crime (74%);
- dealing with the root causes of crime or preventing crime (9%);
- reporting crimes (3%);
- being tough on crime or that the punishment should fit the crime (2%);
- unique responses that did not warrant a theme were coded as 'other' (12%).

As Figure 1 illustrates most people associate 'smart on crime' with individual responsibility and only 9% of respondents indicated that 'smart on crime' is about crime prevention or dealing with the root causes of crime.
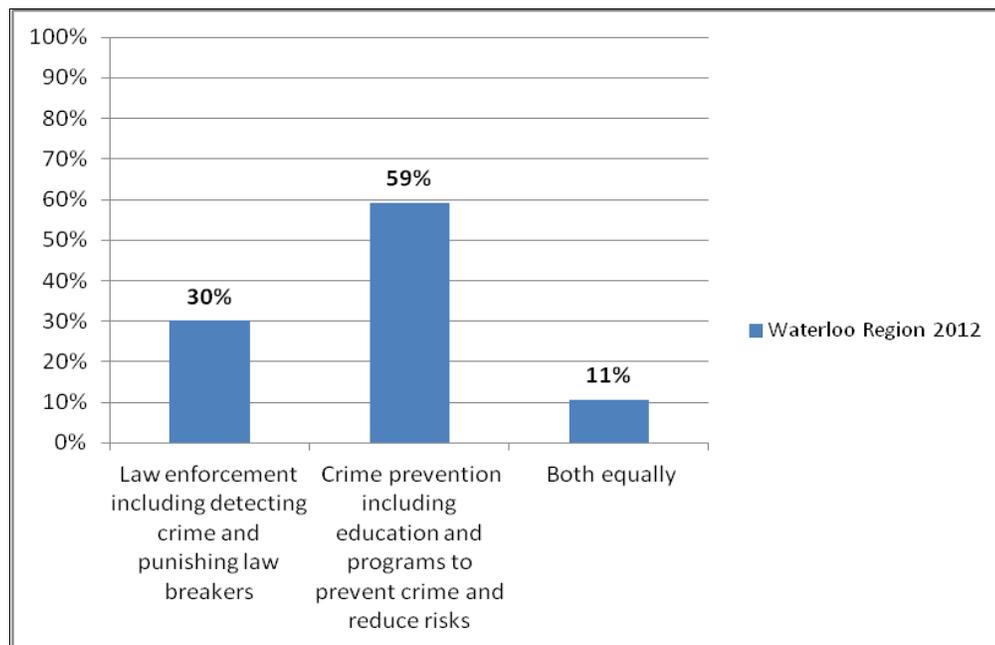
***Figure #2: Do you think the major emphasis should be
on law enforcement or crime prevention?***

The next question sought to measure support for crime prevention. The question asked: *"As you know
governments today are limited in the amount they can spend in all areas. When it comes to crime and
justice, do you think the major emphasis should be on: law enforcement which includes detecting
crime and punishing law breakers; or crime prevention which includes education and programs to
prevent crime and reduce risks?"* Answering a preference for both approaches equally was not a
response option but was allowed when indicated. Local results demonstrate:

- 59% favour crime prevention;
- 30% favour law enforcement;
- 11% responded they favour both approaches equally.

Environics has asked this same question in its Focus Canada surveys since 2008 allowing comparisons
between local results to national ones with some caution. While the methods used and the question
asked on the Waterloo Region Area Survey were the same as in the Environics survey it is possible
that Environics surveyors were less prepared to accept a 'both equally' response. This could account
for some of the difference in results.

| | Environics Canada Wide Survey | | | Waterloo Region Area Survey 2012 |
	2008	2010	2011	
Law enforcement which includes detecting crime and punishing law breakers	35%	36%	31%	30%
Crime prevention, which includes education and programs to prevent crime and reduce risks	53%	58%	63%	59%
Both equally	11%	4%	4%	11%

National support for crime prevention, as the table above shows, has been increasing by about 5% a year; however Waterloo Region appears to be less supportive of crime prevention (59%) than Canada overall (63%)[1].

Youth Who Commit Crime

Survey respondents were then asked their beliefs about youth who commit crimes and approaches to street gangs. The question about youth who commit crimes asked: *"Generally speaking would you say almost all youth who commit crimes have the potential to change for the better or there is not much you can do to change most youth who commit crimes?"*
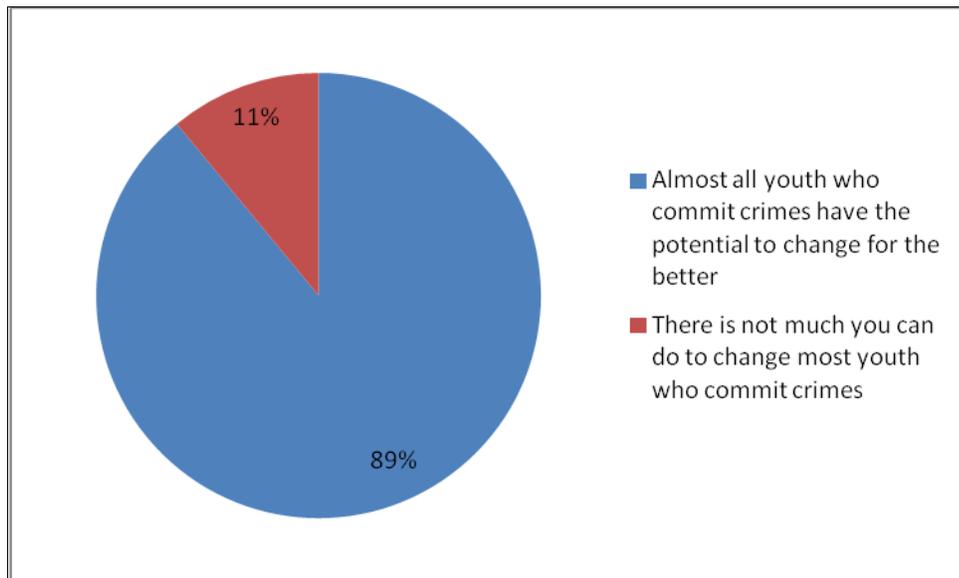

Figure #3: Beliefs about youth who commit crimes

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[1] The margin of error (at 95% confidence level) in comparing support for crime prevention in the Environics polls to the 2012 Area Survey are as follows: 2008, 2.30%; 2010, 2.28% (not significant); 2011, 2.57%

The result shows 89% believe youth who commit crimes have the potential to change for the better. This indicates an opportunity to engage with the community in creating interventions to decrease youth recidivism.

Street Gangs
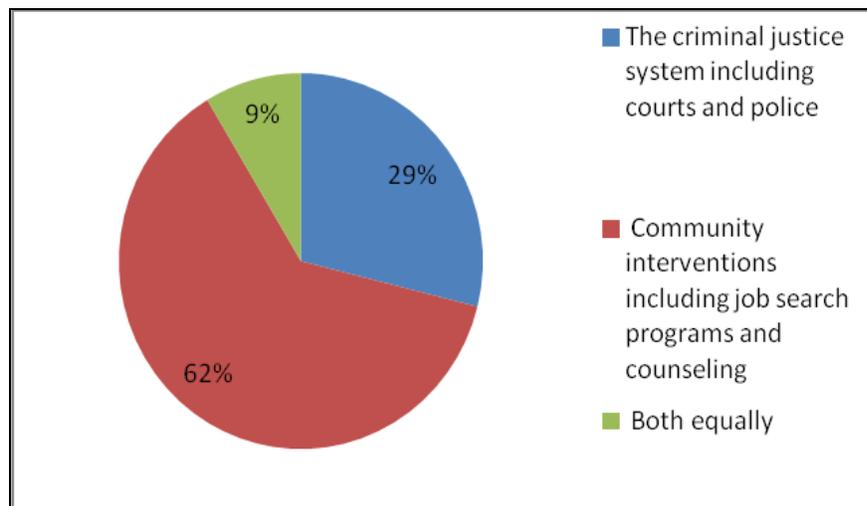
Figure #4: In your opinion are street gangs better addressed in our society through the criminal justice system or community interventions?

The next question asked about street gangs: *"In your opinion are youth street gangs better addressed in our society through the criminal justice system which includes courts and police or community interventions which includes job search programs and counseling?"* Although not a response option, some survey respondents indicated they preferred both approaches equally and this was accepted. Results were:

- 62% of respondents prefer community interventions to address street gangs
- 29% prefer criminal justice approaches.
- An additional 9% indicated support for both approaches equally.

Street gangs are seen as problematic due to their association with crime. Most street gang members are males under 17 (Dunbar, Waller & Gunn, 2011) making many street gang members a subpopulation of youth who commit crimes. Similar to the results that show most people believe that youth who commit crimes can change these results indicate the public sees community interventions as the better approach to youth street gangs.

Bill C-10

The next two questions asked about Bill C-10, or the **Safe Streets and Communities Act**, which was passed by parliament in March of 2012. This controversial omnibus crime bill included mandatory minimum sentences for some offenses, changes to the pardon system, and limiting the ability of judges to take an individualized approach when sentencing.

Parliament recently passed Bill C-10 the Safe Streets and Communities Act. **How closely have you been following this Bill in the media?**	
Very closely	1.9%
Somewhat closely	15.5%
Not too closely	25.9%
Not at all closely	56.7%

In order to measure attitudes towards Bill C-10 survey respondents were asked two questions, the first measured attention to the Bill: *"Parliament recently passed Bill C-10 the Safe Streets and Communities Act. How closely have you been following this Bill in the media?"*Results found that 82.6% of survey respondents were either not at all following the Bill, or not following the Bill closely and only 17% were following media coverage on the Bill closely or very closely.

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Bill C-10?	
Strongly support	11.7%
Somewhat support	44.8%
Somewhat oppose	12.3%
Strongly oppose	11.2%
Neither support nor oppose	20.0%

The second question asked *"Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Bill C-10?"* Responses found 56% either strongly supported or somewhat supported Bill C-10. However, 20% of respondents neither support nor oppose Bill C-10. This was not an option offered but was accepted if a respondent volunteered this answer.

Environics asked a similar question in a national poll in 2011: *"The federal government is passing new laws for people convicted of a wide range of crimes. The new laws will increase the length of jail time and reduce judges discretion on sentencing."* Respondents were asked to what degree they support the bill. Results were 62% of Canadians and 60% of Ontarians either strongly supported or somewhat supported the bill. However, neither support nor oppose was not an option on this survey and only 4% of respondents indicated they did not know or it depends as their answer. Unfortunately, the differences between these two surveys make direct comparisons possibly misleading.

Confidence in Judges
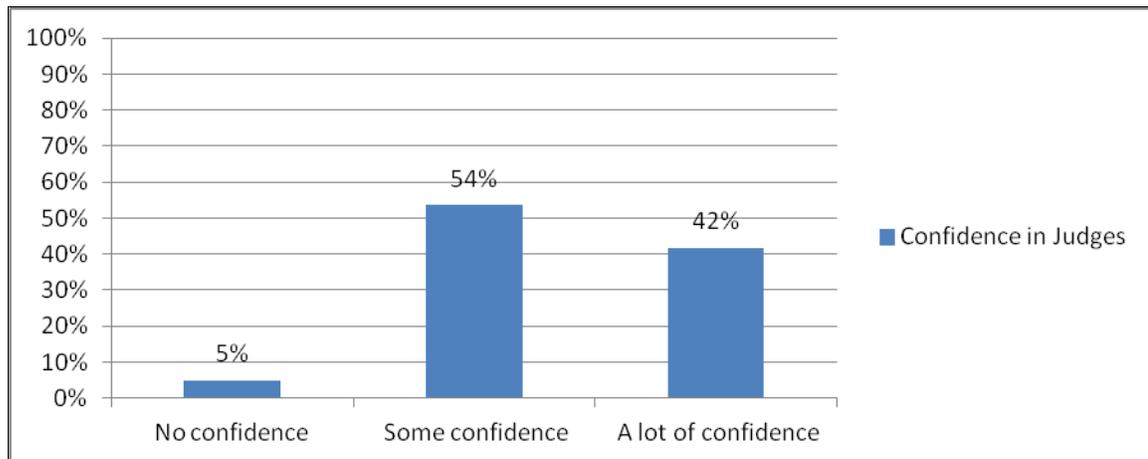
Figure #5 Confidence in judges

Waterloo Region Area survey respondents were also asked if they had *""no confidence, some confidence or a lot of confidence"* in judges[3]. Results are that:

- 42% have a lot of confidence in judges,
- 54% have some confidence in judges,
- only 5% have no confidence in judges.

In 2008, Environics asked a similar question to Canadians *"In general, would you say you have a lot of confidence, some confidence, little confidence or no confidence at all in each of the following: judges?"* Results showed that 19% of Canadians had a lot of confidence in judges, 51% had some confidence, 19% had a little confidence, and 9% had no confidence. It is possible this different result is due to Environics providing four options or the difference may be because Waterloo Region is more confident in judges. Further research is needed to clarify this finding.

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[3] Confidence in police officers was also asked and results can be found in Appendix B.

Perceptions of the Amount of Crime

To measure perceptions of the amount of crime respondents were asked how much they agree with the statement *"There is much more crime today than I remember as a child"*. Results show that 61% either strongly agree or agree there is more crime today.
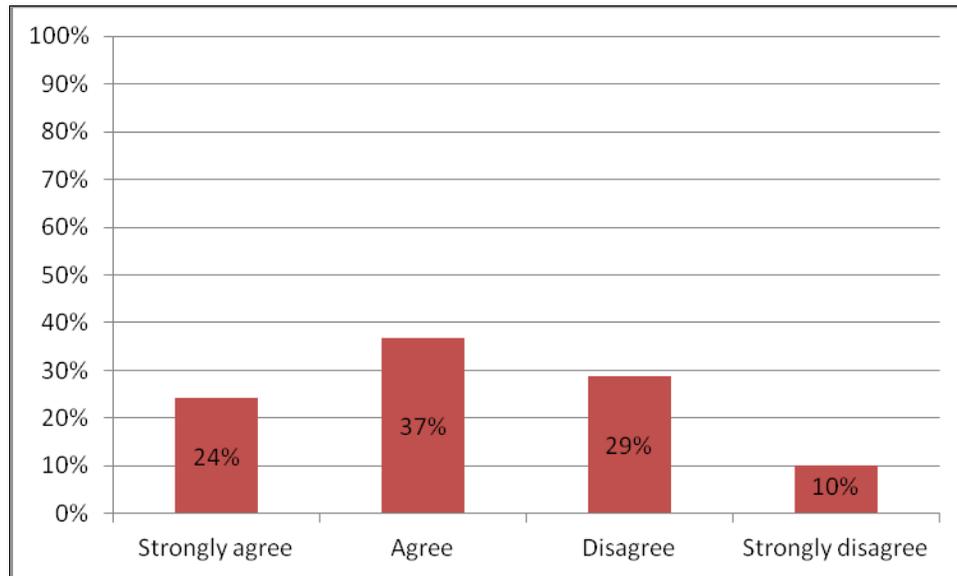
Figure #6 "There is much more crime today than I remember as a child"

This is interesting as it contrasts with a decline in police reported crime rates in Waterloo Region and in Canada since the 1990's (Brennan, 2012; Statistics Canada, n.d.) A similar question was asked on the 2003, 2008, and 2011 Area Surveys: *"Over the past five years do you think that crime in Waterloo Region has remained about the same, decreased, or increased?"* Results from the 2011 Area Survey found 32.2% thought crime increased over the past five years. However, attitudes from the 2003 and 2008 Area Survey were the majority of respondents felt crime increased over the past five years.

Over the past five years do you think that crime in Waterloo Region has remained about the same, decreased, or increased?			
	2003	**2008**	**2011**
Crime has increased	54.2%	53.1%	32.3%

While the questions from 2012 and 2003-2011are very different questions, both do ask respondents to be retrospective in their thoughts about crime rates. The difference in question wording means direct comparisons between results are not possible but what is noteworthy is regardless of the question a sizable portion of the population does not perceive a decline in crime despite steady drops in crime rates over the past two decades.

Fear of Crime in Waterloo Region

Fear of crime is an important indictor of community vitality and well-being as it impacts on a person's daily decisions as to where they live, shop, and how they interact with their community (Cordner, 2010). When fear of crime is high the impacts can be severe: "fear can confine people to their homes, and it undermines their trust in their neighbors...Fear is a key 'quality of life' issue for many people" (Skogan, 2006). To measure fear of crime survey respondents were asked: "*How safe do you feel from crime walking alone in your area after dark; very safe, reasonably safe, somewhat unsafe, or very unsafe?*" Results show 89% of survey participants feel either very safe or reasonably safe. This question was also asked on the 2011 Waterloo Region Area survey and then 85% of respondents felt very safe or reasonably safe. The 2009 General Social Survey asked the same question of the Kitchener Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and found only 79% of Kitchener CMA residents felt safe walking in their area alone after dark. Over time this indicates a statistically significant increase in feelings of safety[4].
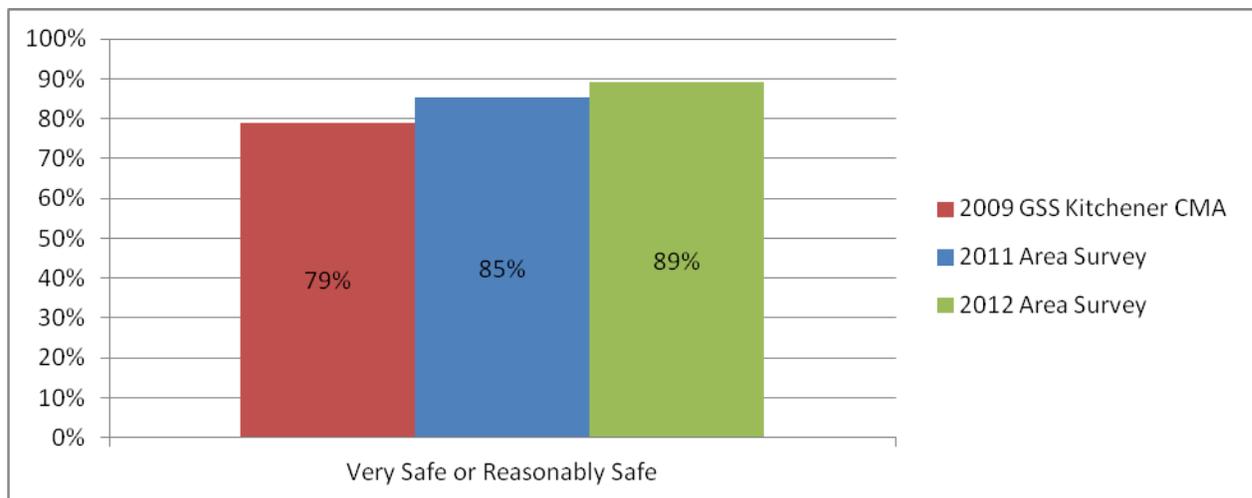
Figure# 7: How safe do you feel from crime walking alone in your area after dark?

In 2004 and 2009 General Social Surveys asked the same question about fear of crime. Results found that provincially and nationally fear of crime is decreasing:

Very Safe or Reasonably Safe		
	2004	**2009**
Canada	84%	85%
Ontario	83%	87%

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[4] 2.85% margin of error between 2011 and 2012 polls at 95% confidence level and 4.32% % margin of error between 2012 and 2009 polls at 95% confidence level.

Fear of crime by neighbourhood

The Kindergarten Parents Survey report (Romagnoli, 2011) provides a closer look at fear of crime in individual neighbourhoods. The survey asked kindergarten parents to respond to the statement *"It is safe to walk alone in my neighbourhood at night"* with 'not true','sometimes true', or 'true'. Overall 71.5% of parents felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night. It is important to note kindergarten parents may not be a representative sample of Waterloo Region residents as parents may be more afraid of crime than the other citizens (Cordner 2010).

Responses from this survey are then mapped to neighbourhoods in Waterloo Region. Figure #8 displays levels of fear of crime in all of Waterloo Region's neighbourhoods. There are eight neighbourhoods in the bottom quartile where only 44% to 58% of respondents felt safe walking in their neighbourhoods after dark:

- (4) Columbia / Lakeshore;
- (12) Victoria Hills / Cherry Hill / GR Hospital;
- (16) Downtown Kitchener & Area;
- (17) Alpine / Laurentian;
- (18) Southwest Kitchener;
- (20) Vanier / Rockway;
- (25) Central Preston / Preston Heights; and
- (27) North Galt / Elgin Park

The Newpath survey conducted in 2010 also asked Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge residents about fear of crime. Respondents were asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the statement: *"the crime rate in my neighbourhood makes it unsafe to go on walks at night"*. Figure #9 displays the results by neighbourhoods. Results show seven neighbourhoods in the bottom quartile where 41% to 72% percent of respondents feel unsafe walking at night because of the crime rate:

- (12) Victoria Hills / Cherry Hill / GR Hospital*[5];
- (16) Downtown Kitchener & Area*;
- (17) Alpine / Laurentian*;
- (18) Southwest Kitchener*;
- (19) Country Hills / Huron Area
- (25) Central Preston / Preston Heights and;
- (27) North Galt / Elgin Park*

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[5] The neighbourhoods in the list above marked with an * had a high fear of crime in the KPS survey as well.
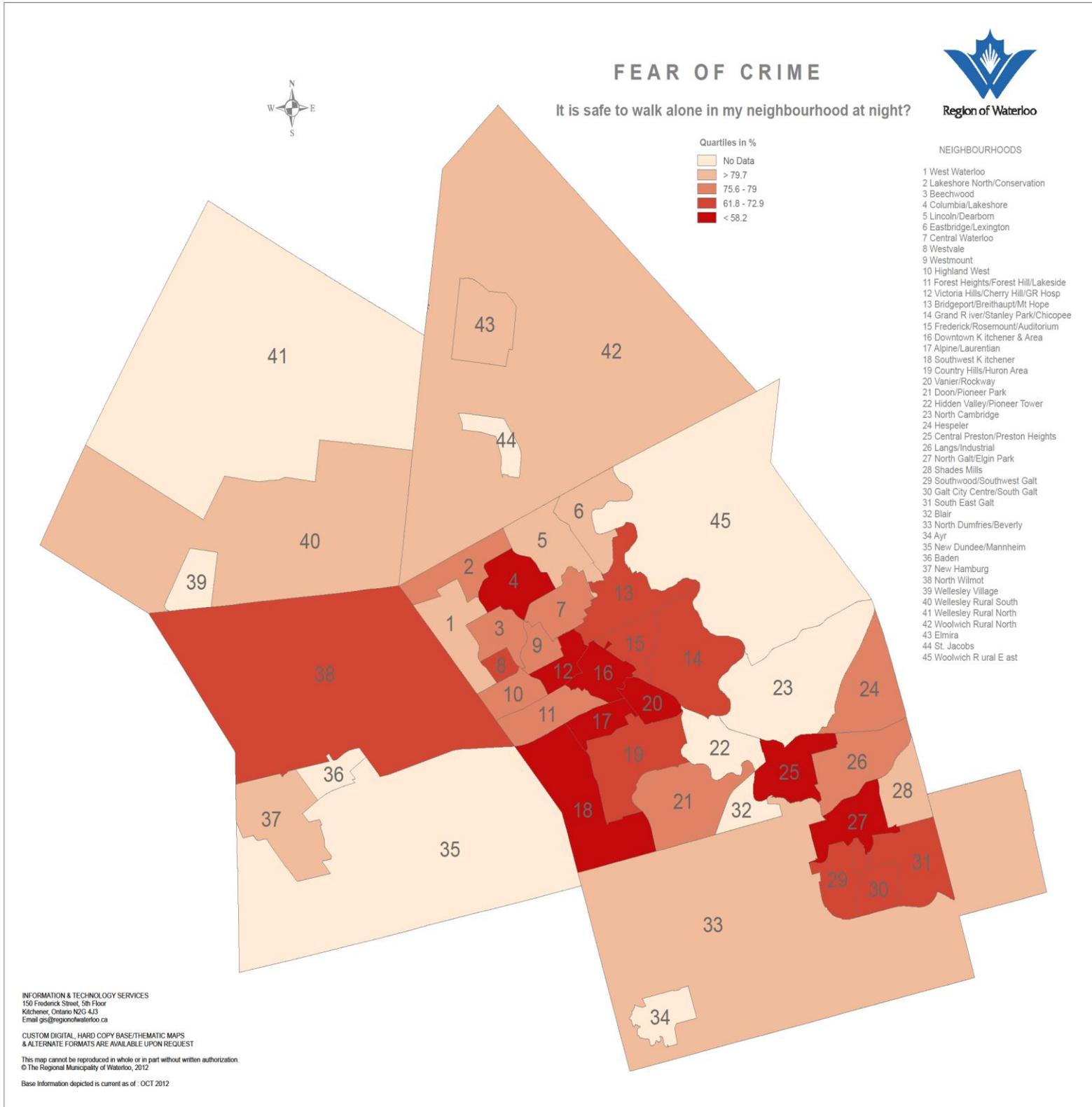
Figure #8: Fear of crime by neighbourhood (Kindergarten Parents Survey, 2011)

FEAR OF CRIME

The crime rate in my neighborhood makes it unsafe
to go on walks at night

Region of Waterloo

Quartiles in %

- No Data
- > 88.5
- 79.3 - 85.7
- 72.7 - 78.9
- < 72.4

NEIGHBOURHOODS

1 West Waterloo
2 Lakeshore North/Conservation
3 Beechwood
4 Columbia/Lakeshore
5 Lincoln/Dearborn
6 Eastbridge/Lexington
7 Central Waterloo
8 Westvale
9 Westmount
10 Highland West
11 Forest Heights/Forest Hill/Lakeside
12 Victoria Hills/Cherry Hill/GR Hosp
13 Bridgeport/Breithaupt/Mt Hope
14 Grand R iver/Stanley Park/Chicopee
15 Frederick/Rosemount/Auditorium
16 Downtown K itchener & Area
17 Alpine/Laurentian
18 Southwest K itchener
19 Country Hills/Huron Area
20 Vanier/Rockway
21 Doon/Pioneer Park
22 Hidden Valley/Pioneer Tower
23 North Cambridge
24 Hespeler
25 Central Preston/Preston Heights
26 Langs/Industrial
27 North Galt/Elgin Park
28 Shades Mills
29 Southwood/Southwest Galt
30 Galt City Centre/South Galt
31 South East Galt
32 Blair
33 North Dumfries/Beverly
34 Ayr
35 New Dundee/Mannheim
36 Baden
37 New Hamburg
38 North Wilmot
39 Wellesley Village
40 Wellesley Rural South
41 Wellesley Rural North
42 Woolwich Rural North
43 Elmira
44 St. Jacobs
45 Woolwich R ural E ast

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Base Information depicted is current as of : DEC 2012

Figure #9: Fear of crime by neighbourhood (Newpath)

Fear of Crime in Downtown Kitchener
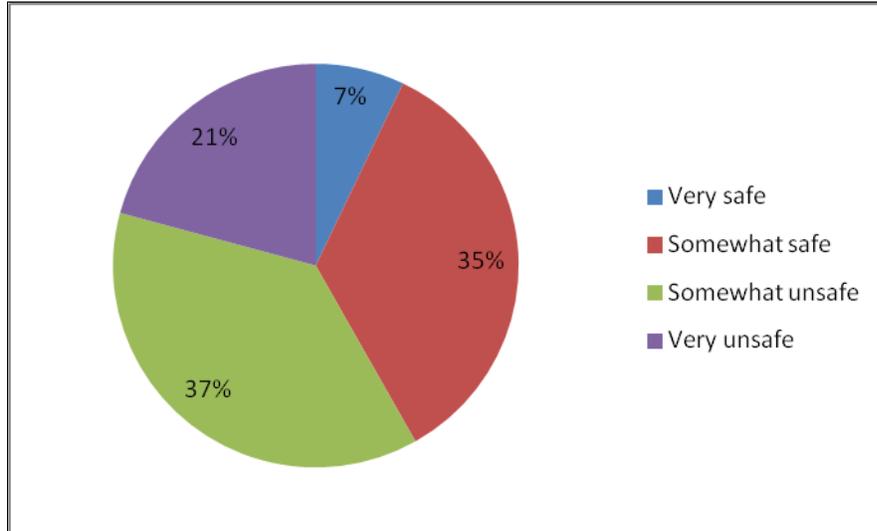
Figure #10: Fear of crime in downtown Kitchener at Night

Respondents were asked about their feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener: *"thinking about your feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night, do you feel: very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe, or very unsafe?"* Results show:

- 7% of respondents felt very safe,
- 35% felt somewhat safe,
- 37% felt somewhat unsafe, and
- 21% felt very unsafe in downtown Kitchener at night.
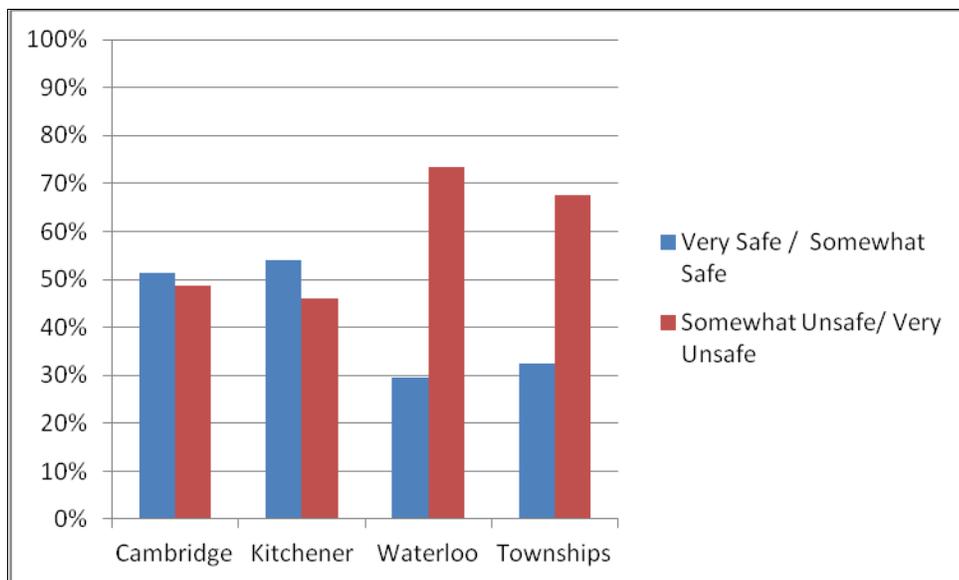
Figure #11: Feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night by community of residence

When we examine fear of crime in downtown Kitchener by community of residence we find that Kitchener residents feel safer in downtown Kitchener at night (54%) than other Waterloo Region residents and Waterloo residents feel significantly less safe in downtown Kitchener at night (30%).

In 2011 the same question was asked to Kitchener residents only. Then, 55% of Kitchener respondents indicated they felt very safe or somewhat safe in downtown Kitchener at night; however this one percent decrease in safety from 2011 to 2012 is not significant[6].

Waterloo Region Social Capital and Neighbourhood Cohesion

This section presents measures of social capital in Waterloo Region, civic engagement by neighbourhood, and neighbourhood cohesion. Social capital is the "networks, norms, and social trust" that facilitate community cooperation (Putnam, 1995).The degree of social capital in a community determines how willing a community is to work together to address and tackle issues, such as crime (Coleman, 1990 and Putnam, 1993). The Waterloo Region Area Survey measured social capital by asking: *"Generally speaking would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?"* A total of 65% of respondents felt that most people can be trusted. In 2008, 61% of the Kitchener CMA thought most people could be trusted however the increase between 2008 and 2012 is not significant[7]. Comparing to national and provincial results from the 2008 General Social Survey, Waterloo Region has high social capital[8].
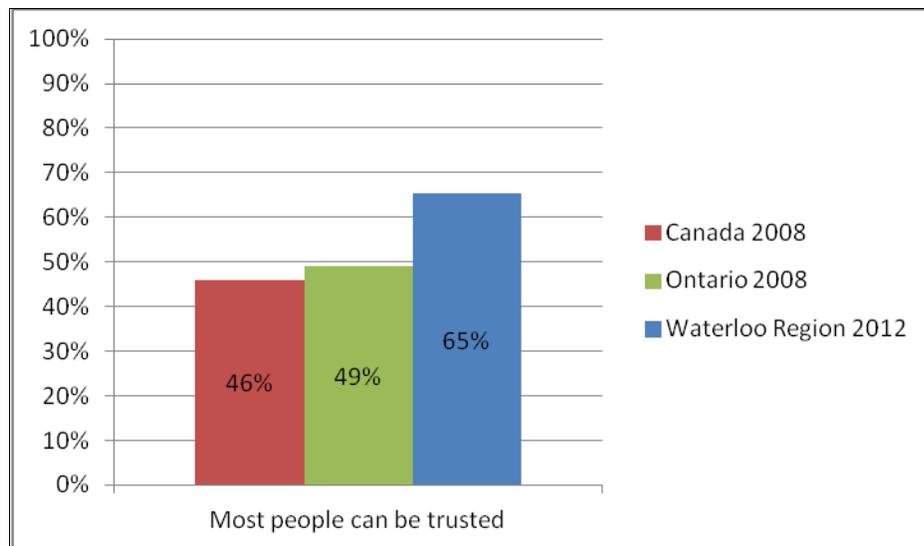
Figure #12: "Most people can be trusted"

The 2012 Area Survey found differences in social capital between age groups. Trust in others is highest between ages 25 and 64 with older adults (65+ years) having lower levels of trust. Young adults appear to be the least trusting group however these results should not be viewed as indicative of

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[6] Margin of error in comparing the polls is 6.29% at the 95% confidence level (not significant).
[7] Margin of error in comparing the polls is 5.23% at the 95% confidence level (not significant).
[8] Margin of error in comparing the polls is 0.80% at the 95% confidence level.

the population as they are only based upon 15 respondents. These results seem to mirror the 2008 General Social Survey which shows trust rises with age peaking amongst individuals aged 45 to 64 then declining amongst individuals above 65.
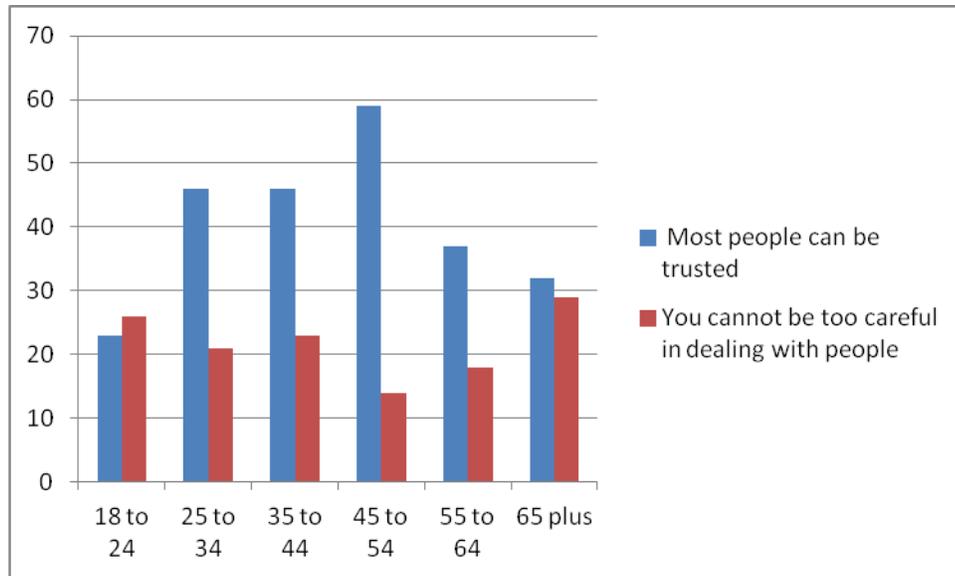
Figure #13: "Generally speaking would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?"

The Newpath survey asked about neighbourhood social capital within Waterloo Region. Survey participants were asked to indicate how strongly they agree or disagree with the statements: *"I regularly stop and talk to people in my neighbourhood".* The degree to which neighbours positively interact with one another is a good measure of social capital as it illustrates informal social ties and trust. Results are divided into quartiles. Table #1 lists the neighbourhoods in the top and bottom quartiles.

Social capital alone does not lead to community action to address fear of crime. To better understand the likelihood of the community working together to address issues of crime we can measure civic engagement. Civic engagement is "how an active citizen participates in the life of a community in order to improve conditions for others or to help shape the community's future" (Adler & Goggin, 2005). High fear of crime can lessen civic engagement but civic engagement and social capital may be essential elements in addressing fear of crime (Piscitelli, 2011). To measure civic engagement by neighbourhood the Kindergarten Parents Survey (2010) also asked parents how true the statement *"if there is a problem around here, the neighbours get together and deal with it"* was for their neighbourhood. Results are 44.5% of kindergarten parents agree they get together with neighbours and deal with problems. Results are mapped to Waterloo Region's neighbourhoods (Figure #14) and there are ten neighbourhoods in Waterloo Region with low civic engagement where only 21% to 37% of respondents felt it was true that if there is a problem the neighbours get together and deal with it. Table #1 (see page 29) also shows neighbourhoods with high fear of crime tend to have low levels of civic engagement.
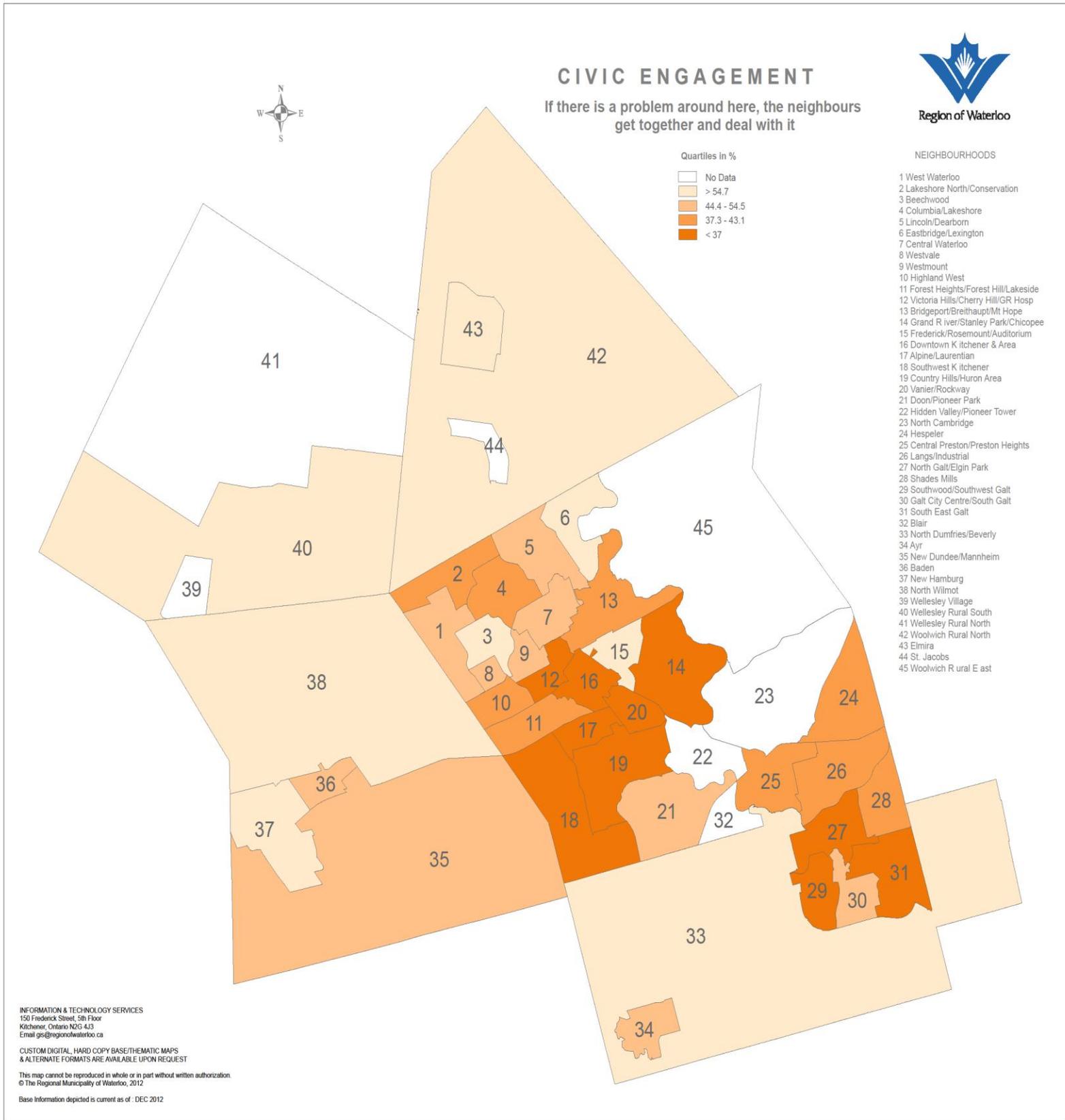
Figure #14: Civic engagement by neighbourhood

Along with civic engagement and social capital measures of neighbourhood cohesion and sense of community were applied to Waterloo Region's neighbourhoods to provide a fuller picture of

neighbourhood well-being in relation to fear of crime. Neighbourhood cohesion shows the degree of support resources a neighbourhood has in order to address issues such as crime (Lochner, Kowachi, & Kennedy, 1999). A measure of neighbourhood cohesion from the Newpath survey asked respondents to strongly disagree, disagree, agree, or strongly agree to the statement *"I would be willing to work together with others on something to improve the living environment in my neighbourhood".* Table #1 (see page 24) lists the neighbourhoods in the top and bottom quartiles of neighbourhood cohesion. There are seven neighbourhoods in the bottom quartile where less than 83% somewhat or strongly agree they would be willing to work with others to improve their neighbourhood. Results show some neighbourhoods with high fear of crime also have high neighbourhood cohesion. This suggests neighbourhood capacity and readiness to deal with issues of crime (Renauer, 2007).

Finally, the Newpath survey asked about sense of community. Sense of community, shows to what degree residents feel they belong to their neighbourhood and have a shared purpose in dealing with neighbourhood issues (Forrest & Kearns, 2001). Survey respondents were asked if they strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree with the statement *"living in my neighbourhood gives me a sense of community.*" There are seven neighbourhoods in the bottom quartile where less than 70% of respondents somewhat or strongly agree their neighbourhood gives them a sense of community.

Table # 1: Neighbourhoods in High or Low Quartiles on Fear of Crime and Related Measures

	Neighbourhood	Fear of Crime (Newpath)*	Fear of Crime (KPS) *	Civic Engagement (KPS)	Social Capital (Newpath)	Neighbourhood Cohesion (Newpath)	Sense of Community (Newpath)
1	West Waterloo	low	low		**low**		**low**
2	Lakeshore North / Conservation						
3	Beechwood	low		high	high	high	
4	**Columbia / Lakeshore**		**high**		**low**	**low**	
5	Lincoln / Dearborn	low	low			**low**	high
6	Eastbridge / Lexington	low	low	high	high		high
7	Central Waterloo						
8	Westvale	low				**low**	high
9	Westmount						
10	Highland West					**low**	low
11	Forest Heights / Forest Hill / Lakeside					high	
12	**Victoria Hills / Cherry Park / GR Hosp**	**high**	**high**	**low**	**low**		
13	**Bridgeport / Breithaupt / Mt Hope**	**high**				**low**	**low**
14	Grand R / Stanley Park / Chicopee			low		low	high
15	Frederick / Rosemount / Auditorium			high		low	
16	**Downtown Kitchener & Area**	**high**	**high**	**low**		high	
17	**Alpine / Laurentian**	**high**	**high**	**low**	high		
18	**Southwest Kitchener**	**high**	**high**	**low**			**low**
19	**Country Hills / Huron Area**	**high**		**low**	**low**		**low**
20	**Vanier / Rockway**		**high**	**low**	**low**		**low**
21	Doon / Pioneer Park					high	
22	Hidden Valley / Pioneer Tower						
23	North Cambridge						
24	Hespeler	low					low
25	Central Preston / Preston Heights		**high**		high		
26	Langs Industrial				high	high	high
27	North Galt / Elgin Park		**high**	low			
28	Shades Mills	low	low		high	high	high
29	Southwood / Southwest Galt			low	high	high	high
30	Galt City Centre	**high**			low		
31	South East Galt			low	low		
32	Blair						
33	North Dumfries / Beverly		low	high			
34	Ayr						
35	New Dundee / Mannheim						
36	Baden						
37	New Hamburg		low	high			
38	North Wilmot			high			
39	Wellesley Village						
40	Wellesley Rural South		low	high			
41	Wellesley Rural North						
42	Woolwich Rural North		low	high			
43	Elmira		low	high			
44	St. Jacobs						
45	Woolwich Rural East						

Low fear of crime is desirable

Legend	
Low	Neighbourhood ranks the lowest quartile
High	Neighbourhood ranks the highest quartile
	No data available
Neighbourhood scores in the middle quartiles are not reported	

Conclusions

The 2012 Waterloo Region Area survey shows attitudes towards crime prevention in Waterloo Region are generally favourable, fear of crime continues to decrease and social capital is high. The results also show some areas where more work is needed, especially around the language of 'smart on crime'.

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council believes 'smart on crime' also refers to dealing with the root causes of crime. 'Smart on crime' is currently understood by most of the community to involve actions of personal responsibility such as being aware or being careful of crime. This presents an opportunity to increase public awareness on how 'smart on crime' refers to dealing with the root causes of crime and linking it to crime prevention.

Waterloo Region residents favour crime prevention programs over law enforcement approaches to crime. While Waterloo Region appears to be less supportive of crime prevention than Canada overall, local attitudes towards two specific areas of crime prevention are very positive: there is a strong belief in the community that youth who commit crimes can change for the better; and there is support for community interventions to address youth street gangs.

In looking at attitudes towards Bill C-10, the Safe Streets and Safe Communities Act, the survey found Waterloo Region residents were not closely following media coverage on the Bill and 56% supported the omnibus crime bill. Despite Waterloo Region residents support of a bill which limits judicial discretion, 96% of residence have some or a lot of confidence in judges.

Fear of crime in Waterloo Region continues to decrease with 89% of residents feeling safe or reasonably safe walking in their area after dark. While this is encouraging, fear of crime in downtown Kitchener remains an issue with the majority of Waterloo Region residents feeling unsafe in downtown Kitchener at night. When we look at fear of crime by neighbourhood using the KPS data and Newpath data we find neighbourhoods with a high level fear of crime tend to have low levels of social capital.

Waterloo Region has high social capital compared to Ontario and Canada. Using the KPS and Newpath survey results on social capital, fear of crime, civic engagement, neighbourhood cohesion, and sense of community illustrated neighborhoods in the high and low quartiles on these measures . Both this report and "Changing Perceptions: 2011 Waterloo Region Area Survey" identified that Waterloo Region is supportive of crime prevention initiatives. Looking at results by neighbourhood we can determine where crime prevention programs have the best capacity to be supported by local residents and how local initiatives can build in the strengths of neighbourhoods while targeting the local issues faces neighbourhoods.

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Appendix A: Selected 2012 Waterloo Region Area Survey Questions

1. First I'd like to ask you some questions about crime and the area that you live in. How safe do you feel from crime walking alone in your area after dark? Very safe, reasonably safe, somewhat unsafe, or very unsafe.

2. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?

3. In your own words, what does being "smart on crime" mean?

4. As you know governments today are limited in the amount they can spend in all areas. When it comes to crime and justice, do you think the major emphasis should be on: Law enforcement; which includes detecting crime and punishing law breakers or crime prevention; which includes education and programs to prevent crime and reduce risks?

5. In your opinion are youth street gangs better addressed in our society through: The Criminal justice system which includes the courts and police, or community interventions which includes job search programs and counselling?

6. Generally speaking would you say: Almost all youth who commit crimes have the potential to change for the better or here is not much you can do to change most youth who commit crimes?

7. Parliament recently passed Bill C-10 the Safe Streets and Communities Act. How closely have you been following this Bill in the media? Very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all closely

8. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Bill C-10?

9. And now some questions about Kitchener specifically. Thinking about your feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night, do you feel: Very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe, or very unsafe?

10. Now I'm going to read you a list of institutions in Canadian society. Please tell me if you have no confidence, some confidence or a lot of confidence in them: Judges

11. Please tell me if you have no confidence, some confidence or a lot of confidence in them: Police officers

12. Now I'm going to read you some general statements about some things that people think pose risks in today's world. Please tell me if you think: There's much more crime today than I remember when I was a child. Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree.

Appendix B: 2012 Waterloo Region Area Survey Weighted Results

How safe do you feel from crime walking ALONE in your area after dark?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Very safe	145	39.5
Reasonably safe	182	49.7
Somewhat unsafe	28	7.8
Very unsafe	11	3.0

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Most people can be trusted	244	65.3
You cannot be too careful in dealing with people	130	34.7

In your own words, what does being "smart on crime" mean?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Being aware/being careful of crime	238	73.8
Dealing with the root causes/preventing crime	28	8.8
Being tough on crime/punishment should fit the crime	6	1.9
Reporting crimes	9	2.8
Other	41	12.7

As you know governments today are limited in the amount they can spend in all areas. When it comes to crime and justice, do you think the major emphasis should be on:		
	Frequency	Percentage
Law enforcement; which includes detecting crime and punishing law breakers	112	30.1
Crime prevention; which includes education and programs to prevent crime and reduce risks	221	59.2
Both equally	40	10.7
In your opinion are youth street gangs better addressed in our society through:		
	Frequency	Percentage
The Criminal justice system which includes the courts and police	101	28.0
Community interventions which includes job search programs and counseling	232	64.1
Both equally	29	7.9

Generally speaking would you say:		
	Frequency	Percentage
Almost all youth who commit crimes have the potential to change for the better	324	89.7
There is not much you can do to change most youth who commit crimes	37	10.3

Parliament recently passed Bill C-10 the Safe Streets and Communities Act. How closely have you been following this Bill in the media?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Very closely	5	1.3
Somewhat closely	58	15.5
Not too closely	87	23.2
Not at all closely	225	60.0

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Bill C-10??		
	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly support	23	11.7
Somewhat support	89	44.8
Somewhat oppose	24	12.3
Strongly oppose	22	11.2
Neither support not oppose	40	20.0

Thinking about your feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night, do you feel:		
	Frequency	Percentage
Very safe	23	6.7
Somewhat safe	134	39.3
Somewhat unsafe	124	36.5
Very unsafe	60	17.5

Now I'm going to read you a list of institutions in Canadian society. Please tell me if you have no confidence, some confidence or a lot of confidence in them: Judges		
	Frequency	Percentage
No confidence	18	4.8
Some confidence	200	53.5
A lot of confidence	156	41.6

Now I'm going to read you a list of institutions in Canadian society. Please tell me if you have no confidence, some confidence or a lot of confidence in them: Police officers		
	Frequency	Percentage
No confidence	12	3.3
Some confidence	177	47.3
A lot of confidence	186	49.5

There's much more crime today than I remember when I was a child.		
	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	89	24.3
Agree	136	36.9
Disagree	106	28.8
Strongly disagree	37	10.0

How safe do you feel from crime walking ALONE in your area after dark?

	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe or Very unsafe
18 to 24	13	29	3
25 to 34	25	31	10
35 to 44	29	36	4
45 to 54	37	30	6
55 to 64	23	26	6
65 plus	17	29	10

n = 364 χ^2 = 14.9 df = 10, *p = .136*

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?

	Most people can be trusted	You cannot be too careful in dealing with people
18 to 24	23	26
25 to 34	46	21
35 to 44	46	23
45 to 54	59	14
55 to 64	37	18
65 plus	32	29

n = 374 χ^2 = 19.9 df = 5, *p <.001*

Thinking about your feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night, do you feel:

	Very Safe	Somewhat safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe
18 to 24	0	29	16	3
25 to 34	4	24	24	9
35 to 44	3	28	22	11
45 to 54	7	23	23	14
55 to 64	4	18	19	11
65 plus	4	12	21	13

n = 342 df = 15

How safe do you feel from crime walking ALONE in your area after dark?

	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe or Very unsafe
Female	52	103	30
Male	93	78	10

n = 366 χ^2 = 25.0 df = 2, *p <.001*

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?

	Most people can be trusted	You cannot be too careful in dealing with people
female	120	71
male	123	59

n = 373 χ^2 = 0.9 df = 1, *p = .335*

Thinking about your feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night, do you feel:

	Very Safe	Somewhat safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe
female	10	58	65	46
male	13	76	60	14

n = 342 χ^2 = 19.4 df = 3, *p <.001*

How safe do you feel from crime walking ALONE in your area after dark?

	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Somewhat unsafe or Very unsafe
Cambridge	36	39	11
Kitchener	59	90	24
Waterloo	30	39	3
Township	20	14	2

n = 367 χ^2 = 11.1 df = 6, *p <.1*

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?

	Most people can be trusted	You cannot be too careful in dealing with people
Cambridge	52	34
Kitchener	109	69
Waterloo	55	17
Township	28	9

n = 373 χ^2 = 7.9 df = 3, *p <.05*

Thinking about your feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night, do you feel:

	Very Safe	Somewhat safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe
Cambridge	3	33	26	8
Kitchener	17	77	52	27
Waterloo	1	16	30	17
Township	2	9	17	7

n = 342 χ^2 = 23.2 df = 9, *p <.01*

Appendix C: 2012 Waterloo Region Area Survey Unweighted Results

How safe do you feel from crime walking ALONE in your area after dark?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Very safe	141	38.5
Reasonably safe	182	49.7
Somewhat unsafe	32	8.7
Very unsafe	11	3.0

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Most people can be trusted	245	65.7
You cannot be too careful in dealing with people	239	34.3

In your own words, what does being "smart on crime" mean?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Being aware/being careful of crime	246	76.2
Dealing with the root causes/preventing crime	27	8.4
Being tough on crime/punishment should fit the crime	8	2.5
Reporting crimes	7	2.2
Other	35	10.8

As you know governments today are limited in the amount they can spend in all areas. When it comes to crime and justice, do you think the major emphasis should be on:		
	Frequency	Percentage
Law enforcement; which includes detecting crime and punishing law breakers	121	32.4
Crime prevention; which includes education and programs to prevent crime and reduce risks	205	55.0
Both equally	47	12.6

In your opinion are youth street gangs better addressed in our society through:		
	Frequency	Percentage
The Criminal justice system which includes the courts and police	104	28.9
Community interventions which includes job search programs and counseling	225	62.5
Both equally	31	8.6

Generally speaking would you say:		
	Frequency	Percentage
Almost all youth who commit crimes have the potential to change for the better	320	89.1
There is not much you can do to change most youth who commit crimes	39	10.9

Parliament recently passed Bill C-10 the Safe Streets and Communities Act. How closely have you been following this Bill in the media?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Very closely	7	1.9
Somewhat closely	58	15.5
Not too closely	97	25.9
Not at all closely	212	56.7

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Bill C-10??		
	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly support	24	11.9
Somewhat support	94	46.5
Somewhat oppose	28	13.9
Strongly oppose	19	9.4
Neither support not oppose	37	18.3

Thinking about your feelings of safety in downtown Kitchener at night, do you feel:		
	Frequency	Percentage
Very safe	24	7.1
Somewhat safe	117	34.7
Somewhat unsafe	126	37.4
Very unsafe	70	20.8

Now I'm going to read you a list of institutions in Canadian society. Please tell me if you have no confidence, some confidence or a lot of confidence in them: Judges		
	Frequency	Percentage
No confidence	20	5.4
Some confidence	203	54.4
A lot of confidence	150	40.2

Now I'm going to read you a list of institutions in Canadian society. Please tell me if you have no confidence, some confidence or a lot of confidence in them: Police officers		
	Frequency	Percentage
No confidence	11	2.9
Some confidence	179	47.7
A lot of confidence	185	49.3

There's much more crime today than I remember when I was a child.		
	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	102	27.7
Agree	142	38.6
Disagree	98	26.6
Strongly disagree	26	7.1