

2007

Maine Crime Victimization Report

Informing Public Policy for Safer Communities



Muskie School of Public Service
University of Southern Maine

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The Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) operates as a collaborative service of the USM Muskie School of Public Service, and the Maine Department of Corrections. The Maine SAC is partially supported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and guided by an advisory group of policy makers from the Maine Department of Public Safety, Maine Department of Corrections, Maine Criminal Justice Commission, and Maine Judicial Branch. The Maine SAC collects, analyzes, and provides criminal justice data and information to criminal justice professionals, policymakers, researchers, students, advocates, and the public.

The Maine SAC website address is:
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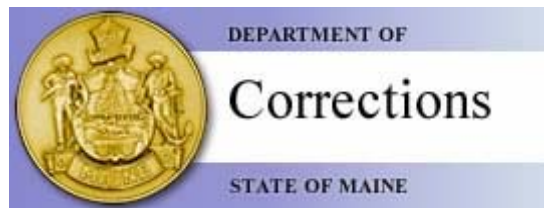
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The logos of all sponsors that supported the survey and report with a financial contribution can be found below. We thank you.

Maine Criminal Justice Commission



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Executive Summary

In the fall of 2006, the Muskie School of Public Service conducted the first Maine Crime Victimization Survey (MCVS). The purpose of the survey was to better understand the nature and extent of crime in Maine. Currently, the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) is the only comprehensive annual data source to report crime in Maine. UCR data are collected by local law enforcement and compiled and released by the Maine Department of Public Safety and the FBI for state and national analysis. While the UCR provides information on the number of reported crimes and arrests made by law enforcement agencies, it does not provide information about unreported crimes or the characteristics of victims and offenders.

Many states have completed their own victimization survey since the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) cannot be analyzed at the state level. Maine is following this trend to better understand the frequency, characteristics and consequences of criminal victimization. This survey is closely modeled after the work of the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, which has conducted three surveys in the past six years. A statewide advisory group, composed of multiple Maine governmental and non-profit agencies, provided support and guidance to the initiative.

The following is a brief summary of key findings from the 2006 survey.

CRIME PERCEPTIONS

Most Mainers feel safe in their communities: 95.0% of those surveyed report feeling safe in the community where they live, and 84.7% say they are never or almost never fearful of being the victim of a violent crime.

Those who report being victimized by crime differ in their perceptions of safety: Victims of crime are more likely to express feeling unsafe in their communities and being a victim of a violent crime, when compared to non-victims.

Mainers feel local law enforcement performs well: A majority of survey respondents (66.4%) view law enforcement performance in their communities as good or very good. Those who have been victimized by crime in the last 12 months, especially those victimized by violent crime, have a less positive view of law enforcement.

Mainers perceive substance abuse and family issues as contributing to crime: Survey respondents say substance abuse (illegal drugs and alcohol) and family-related issues are contributing factors to the crime problems in Maine. Asked to respond yes or no to 13 different items, respondents choose illegal drugs (95.2%) and lack of parental discipline (94.1%) as the highest rated items responsible for crime in Maine.

CRIME VICTIMIZATION RATES

Respondents report highest victimization rates for Property crimes, Stalking and Identity Theft

Property Crime: 14.6% of respondents report being the victimized by property crime in the previous 12 months.

Stalking: 11.7% of respondents report being the recipient of unwanted behavior, which may constitute stalking, in the previous 12 months.

Identity theft: 10.4% of respondents report being victimized by identity theft in the previous 12 months.

Respondents report being threatened with violence at nearly twice the rate as being the victim of a violent crime:

Violent Crime: 4.8% of respondents have been the victim of a violent crime (includes robbery, assault, sexual assault and rape) in the previous 12 months.

Threats: 8.6% of respondents report being threatened with physical harm in the previous 12 months.

Domestic Violence is more prevalent than all other violent crimes: 3.0% of respondents report being victims of domestic violence, which includes assault, marital rape and threatening by a family member in the previous 12 months. This rate is higher than reported rates of robbery, assault, sexual assault and rape.

Many victims of violent crimes do not report to local law enforcement: Almost half of respondents (49.6%) who are victims of a violent crime say they reported the incident to local law enforcement. This rate is influenced by a low rate of reporting by victims of sexual assault and rape.

Nearly one in five report being the victim of rape or attempted rape in their lifetime: 18.2% of respondents report they have been the victim of rape or attempted rape during their lifetime.

Stalking victims are more likely to be the victims of other crimes: Respondents who report one or more stalking behaviors directed at them are nearly four times as likely to be a victim of a property or violent crime (49.5%) than respondents who are not stalking victims (13.9%).

CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS & OFFENDERS

Most victims are not told about their rights: Only 26.0% of victims who reported their crime to local law enforcement in the previous 12 months say they were told of their rights as crime victims.

Elders report lower victimization rates than other respondents: Respondents 55 years and older (Elders) report victimization at a lower rate than respondents between ages 18-54 (22.6% to 38.1% respectively).

Respondents married or living with a partner report lower victimization rates: Single, divorced or widowed respondents report victimization at higher rates than respondents who are married/living with a partner (41.2% to 27.5% respectively).

Urban areas report higher victimization rates than rural areas: Towns and cities with over 10,000 residents have higher victimization rates than municipalities with less than 10,000 residents. The overall victimization rate of residents in the larger population centers is 39.1%, compared to 30.3% in more rural areas.

Most respondents threatened with or victimized by violence believe the offender was under the influence: 63.2% of victims believe the offender was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time the victimization occurred.

Most respondents identify the offender as an adult: The vast majority of victims (82.6%) say the offender was an adult. Only 8.8% identify the offender as a juvenile.

Firearms are used in few crimes: 7.6% of respondents say they were either threatened with a firearm or it was used in commission of a violent crime. This rate is consistent with firearm violence rates reported in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR).

Methodology

The Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and Survey Research Center at the Muskie School of Public Service conducted the first Crime Victimization Survey of Maine residents between August and December 2006. Researchers developed a random sample of Maine residents and conducted telephone surveys to gather data about perceptions of crime, criminal victimization rates, and the characteristics of victims and offenders. 803 adults over the age of 18 completed the survey. Researchers weighed data by gender, income and age to ensure the characteristics of the survey sample represented the statewide population.

Staff from the SAC and the Survey Research Center reviewed national and state victimization surveys and chose to use Utah's 2005 survey, *Shedding Light*, as a model for this study. Researchers prepared drafts for a statewide advisory committee that reviewed and revised the survey instrument to reflect current circumstances in Maine and enable year-to-year comparisons.

With financial assistance from the United States Department of Justice and multiple governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations in Maine, the SAC hired the Survey Research Center at the Muskie School to conduct the survey. Researchers administered the survey via random digit dialing until they completed 803 survey responses. SAC researchers conducted the analysis of the data and authored this report.

Analysts weighed the data by gender, income and age to ensure a representative sample of the statewide population, and used statewide percentages of gender, household income and age from the Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey for Maine in the analysis. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.45%.

The table on the next page contains key demographic and descriptive information about survey participants.

Description of Survey Participants

Age (Weighted)

18-24	11.1%
25-34	13.8%
35-44	19.3%
45-54	21.7%
55-64	15.8%
65 and older	18.4%

Educational Attainment

8th Grade or Less	1.7%
9th-12th No Diploma	4.9%
Diploma or GED	28.9%
Some College or 2-yr Degree	32.1%
Bachelor's Degree	21.4%
Graduate Degree	11.0%

Gender (Weighted)

Female	51.6%
Male	48.4%

Employment Status

Employed Full-Time	56.5%
Employed Part-Time	10.9%
Student	1.4%
Homemaker	4.7%
Unemployed	2.4%
Retired	17.8%
Disabled	6.3%

Household Income (Weighted)

Less than \$20,000	22.0%
\$20,000-\$49,999	35.1%
\$50,000-\$79,999	23.6%
\$80,000-\$99,999	7.8%
More than \$100,000	11.5%

Lifetime Maine Resident

Yes	51.1%
No	48.9%

Race

White	97.2%
Non-White	2.8%

How long living in Maine

Less than 5 years	12.4%
5 to 9 years	10.0%
10 to 19 years	19.0%
More than 20 years	58.7%

Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino	0.8%
Franco-American	13.8%
Another Ethnicity	85.4%

Firearms at Home

Yes	45.2%
No	54.8%

Marital Status

Single	19.0%
Married	56.4%
Divorced	11.7%
Widowed	7.6%
Separated	0.6%
Opposite Sex Partner sharing home	4.0%
Same Sex Partner sharing home	0.6%

Geographic Distribution

Urban (10,000 or more residents)	26.6%
Rural (Less than 10,000 residents)	73.4%

SECTION I—CRIME PERCEPTIONS

Perception of crime is an important element of criminal justice analysis, because perception does not always mirror reality and can have great influence over public policy decisions. In this survey, the majority of Mainers report feeling very safe in their own communities. Most are not fearful of being victimized by violent crime.

Maine residents also believe law enforcement is doing a good job, and that crime has remained relatively constant over the past three years. When asked whether illegal drugs are a problem in their neighborhoods, most say no, but respondents do identify it—along with alcohol, lack of parental discipline, breakdown of family life and domestic violence—as factors responsible for Maine’s crime problems.

Respondents answered questions about their perceptions of crime and safety in Maine communities in this section of the survey.

Most Mainers feel safe in their communities

95.0% of respondents report feeling safe in their communities, while only 1.5% report either never or almost never feeling safe in their communities.

Male and female respondents report almost identical rates regarding community safety. There is no statistically significant difference between respondents in rural and urban areas of Maine.

Those who report being victimized by crime in the last 12 months and those who do not differ in their perceptions of safety.

Of those reporting victimization, 88.6% report always or almost always feeling safe in their communities, compared to 98.0% who do not.

Victims of property and stalking crimes are even less likely to report feeling safe in their communities, 83.6% and 80.8%, respectively.

Victims of violent and stalking crime are much more likely to report never or almost never feeling safe in their communities. Less than one percent of those who report they have *not* been victimized report not feeling safe in their communities, while 10.2% of violent crime victims and 7.5% of stalking crime victims report not feeling safe in their communities.

How Safe Do You Feel in Your Community?

	Always or Almost Always Safe	Sometimes	Never or Almost Never Safe
Total (n=803)	95.0%	3.5%	1.5%
Male (387)	95.1%	3.4%	1.6%
Female (414)	94.9%	3.6%	1.5%
Urban (10,000 or more residents) (207)	92.7%	5.3%	2.0%
Rural (Less than 10,000 residents) (571)	95.6%	3.0%	1.4%
Non-Victim (539)	98.0%	1.3%	0.8%
Victim (264)	88.6%	8.0%	3.4%
Victim Property Crime (118)	83.6%	12.1%	4.3%
Victim Violent Crime (38)	89.8%	-	10.2%
Victim Stalking (94)	80.8%	11.7%	7.5%

Most Mainers are not fearful about being victimized by a violent crime

Most survey respondents (84.7%) report they are never or almost never fearful about becoming a victim of violent crime. Differences occur in gender and geographic areas of Maine. Twenty percent (20.2%) of female respondents are at least sometimes fearful about becoming a victim of violence, compared to 9.8% of males. Similarly, 18.1% of urban dwellers are fearful about crimes of violence, compared to 14.1% of respondents living in more rural areas of Maine. Most respondents (89.4%) who are not victims of crime in the last 12 months are not fearful about violent victimization, while 74.9% of those victimized within the last 12 months report that they are not fearful.

How often are you fearful of being the victim of a violent crime?

	Never or Almost Never	Sometimes	Always or Almost Always
Total	84.7%	13.2%	2.2%
Male	90.2%	7.2%	2.6%
Female	79.7%	18.8%	1.4%
Urban (10,000 or more residents)	82.0%	16.6%	1.5%
Rural (Less than 10,000 residents)	86.0%	11.9%	2.2%
Non-Victim	89.4%	9.7%	0.9%
Victim	74.9%	20.5%	4.5%
Victim Property Crime	71.5%	20.7%	7.7%
Victim Violent Crime	71.1%	23.7%	5.3%
Victim Stalking	62.4%	28.0%	9.7%

Taken together, these two questions reveal positive perceptions about both personal and community safety. Moreover, these numbers reflect Maine's low violent crime rate, which is the lowest among all New England states, and four times lower than the national average. From the 2005 Uniform Crime Reports, Maine's violent crime rate is second lowest in the country, behind North Dakota.

Victims are significantly more likely to believe crime has increased over the last three years

An examination of crime numbers reported to local law enforcement agencies in Maine show that crime changes have been minimal over the last two to three years. Between 2004 and 2005, Maine's overall index crime rate increased less than one percent. During this period, *reported* violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) increased 10.5%, while reported property crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson) increased by just 0.1%. Survey respondents have consistent perspectives about their own communities. 50.2% of respondents believe the crime rate has stayed constant over the past three years.

Over 40% (43.6%) of *all* respondents believe crime in their community has either greatly or somewhat increased over the past three years. However, very few (6.3%) feel that crime has actually either greatly or somewhat decreased over the past three years.

Over the past three years, do you believe crime in your community has:

	Greatly or Somewhat Decreased	Stayed the Same	Greatly or Somewhat Increased
Total	6.3%	50.2%	43.6%
Male	8.5%	50.7%	40.8%
Female	4.0%	49.7%	46.3%
Urban	6.1%	43.6%	50.2%
Rural	6.5%	52.3%	41.2%
Non-Victim	7.1%	57.5%	35.3%
Victim	4.8%	35.9%	59.3%

Males and females perceive crime rate changes in their communities somewhat differently. Among female respondents, 46.3% report a belief that crime in their community has somewhat or greatly increased over the past three years, while 40.8% of male respondents report similarly. While the difference is not statistically significant, it is suggestive of differing perceptions. Analysis shows that had the sub-samples been larger, these statistical differences may have become significant.

Differences are also found between urban and rural respondents. 50.2% of urban residents believe that crime has greatly or somewhat increased over the past three years, compared with 41.2% of rural respondents. As in the gender analysis, these differences are not statistically significant, but are suggestive of alternative perceptions.

Those who report being victimized by crime during the previous 12 months are significantly more likely to believe crime has increased over the prior three years. Well over half (59.3%) of victims report their belief that crime has somewhat or greatly increased over the prior three years, while only 35.3% of non-victims report similarly.

The difference between how respondents perceive changes in crime over the past three years and the crime information reported to law enforcement should not be considered surprising. Law enforcement reports its data as part of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). For the UCR, local law enforcement report only Index Crimes, which include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

However, UCR crimes comprise only a fraction of the total number of crimes. When compared to the total number of arrests in 2004, Index Crimes accounted for only 14.7% of all arrests. Therefore, it is possible that more crimes are occurring in Maine neighborhoods than are captured in the crime index. For example, drug abuse violations and DUI represent nearly a quarter of all arrests in Maine, and have increased significantly over the past 10 years. As certain crimes increase, even marginally, those living in the community may sense an overall crime change locally.

Another factor to consider when comparing respondents' perceptions, victimization rates reported in Section II, and official crime rates are that only the incidents *reported* to a local law enforcement agency are part of official crime rates. When criminal incidents are not reported to police, they are not reflected in the UCR. As will be described in Section II, the percentage of respondents who do not report the incident to local law enforcement is significant.

Most Mainers do not view drugs as a problem in their neighborhoods

The Maine and Utah crime victimization surveys ask respondents whether they feel illegal drugs are a problem in their neighborhoods. As in Utah, a slight majority (52.4%) of respondents do not feel illegal drugs are a problem. However, this response is significantly different upon examination by geographic locale and victimization in the previous 12 months.

More than half (51.6%) of Maine's rural respondents think drugs are a problem in their neighborhood, compared to 38.8% of urban respondents. Utah researchers speculate that the difference among urban and rural respondents in Utah may have been that people living in larger cities don't view drugs as a high priority crime problem compared to other crimes. Since no follow-up question was administered in Maine, it is not possible to speculate.

Do you feel illegal drugs are a problem in your neighborhood?		
	Yes	No
Total	47.6%	52.4%
Male	50.0%	50.0%
Female	45.4%	54.6%
Urban (10,000 or more residents)	38.8%	61.2%
Rural (Less than 10,000 residents)	51.6%	48.4%
Non-Victim	40.2%	59.8%
Victim	62.7%	37.3%

Of those who report being victimized by a crime during the previous 12 months, 62.7% think drugs are a problem, compared to 40.2% of non-victims. Previous research on arrest trends in Maine show drug arrests increasing across the state. While marijuana remains the primary drug of abuse in Maine, the use and availability of cocaine, heroin, and diverted pharmaceuticals continue to increase. Since 1995, arrests for other dangerous non-narcotics violations, which include ecstasy and methamphetamine, have increased 248 percent. While these trends are not geographically specific, many law enforcement officials speculate the increase has been felt largely in rural communities.

Mainers give positive marks to local law enforcement performance

Two-thirds (66.4%) of respondents rate local law enforcement as doing a good or very good job in their community, while only 4.3% rate law enforcement in their community as bad or very bad. These rates are positive indicators of community satisfaction with law enforcement and can be used as a baseline rate to measure similar attitudes in subsequent years.

These findings reflect Maine Department of Public Safety statistics that show Maine's law enforcement authorities (LEA) are doing a better job at identifying potential perpetrators than law enforcement in other states. Maine LEA have higher rates of identifying and arresting suspects (clearance rates) for property and violent crimes than the national average. Part of the success may lie in better community awareness of who lives in the neighborhood, and the communities' willingness to work with law enforcement to help find the perpetrator.

How would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community?

	Very Good or Good	Acceptable	Very Bad or Bad
Total	66.4%	29.2%	4.3%
Non-Victim	70.6%	27.0%	2.5%
Victim	58.1%	33.8%	8.1%
Victim Property Crime	54.2%	36.4%	9.3%
Victim Violent Crime	52.6%	28.9%	18.4%
Victim Stalking	47.3%	39.6%	13.2%

Satisfaction with local law enforcement is influenced by whether the respondent is a victim in the previous 12 months. Seventy percent of non-victims rate law enforcement performance positively, compared to 58.1% of those victimized in the last 12 months. This difference is even more pronounced when the respondent rates local law enforcement's job as very bad or bad. Just 2.5% of non-victims rate law enforcement performance as bad, compared to 8.1% of all victim respondents and 18.4% of violent crime victims.

Mainers perceive substance abuse and family issues as contributing to crime

Survey respondents say substance abuse (illegal drugs and alcohol) and family-related issues are contributing factors to the crime problems in Maine. Respondents choose illegal drugs (95.2%) and lack of parental discipline (94.1%) as the highest of thirteen rated items responsible for crime in Maine. 90.8% of respondents identify alcohol and 88.7% identify breakdown of family life as contributors to crime. These results are similar to Utah survey results, where 89.7% believe substance abuse plays a role and 89.4% believe lack of parental discipline plays a role.

Which of the following do you believe are responsible for our crime problems here in Maine?

Illegal Drugs	95.2%
Lack Of Parental Discipline	94.1%
Alcohol	90.8%
Breakdown Of Family Life	88.7%
Domestic Violence	85.6%
Moral Decay	75.4%
The Economy	71.1%
Criminal Justice System Too Easy	64.3%
TV/Movie/Video Game Violence	63.5%
Too Much Leisure Time	54.5%
Population Increase	49.2%
Availability Of Guns	47.9%
Gangs	38.7%

Much less frequently identified by respondents in Maine are population increase (49.2%), the availability of guns (47.9%), and gangs (38.7%). Interestingly, two items on the list are different by gender. Female respondents say TV/Movie/Video Game Violence (71.9%) and Availability of Guns (62.8%) are contributors to violence in Maine at significantly higher rates than men (54.7% and 32.7% respectively).

The next section examines crime victimization rates in Maine.

SECTION II—CRIME VICTIMIZATION RATES

One third (32.9%) of all survey respondents report being victimized by at least one crime during the previous 12 months in Maine. While this rate may appear high, it is lower than a comparable rate in Utah (41.3%). It is important to remember that Maine's crime victimization rate includes threats of violence, identity theft, and stalking, which are not captured in other states' crime victimization rates or in the national crime victimization survey. When the crime victimization rate is restricted to only property and violent crimes, the Maine rate drops to 18.1%, which is lower than comparable rates found in Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah.

The Survey Research Center at the Muskie School of Public Service conducted over 800 phone surveys about crime victimization during a five month period in 2006. Survey respondents were asked if they had personally experienced certain types of crime during the previous 12 months. Those who reported some type of victimization were asked follow-up questions. The crimes are divided into five categories: property crimes, violent crimes, threat of violence, stalking crimes, and identity theft.

Crime Victimization	
Overall	32.9%
Property Crimes	14.6%
Violent Crimes	4.8%
Threat of Violence	8.6%
Stalking	11.7%
Identity Theft	10.4%

Overall, one third (32.9%) of the respondents report being victimized by a crime in the previous 12 months. In addition, 15.9% of those who report victimization during the previous 12 months believe the offenses committed against them were fueled by their personal characteristics (hate crime). Just over half (52.7%) of respondents who report they were victimized in the previous 12 months reported the event to local law enforcement.

The highest victimization rate is for Property Crimes at 14.6%, followed by Stalking (11.7%), Identity Theft (10.4%), Threat of Violence (8.6%) and Violent Crimes, which includes robbery, assault, sexual assault and rape (4.8%).

Victims	
Female	49.4%
Male	50.6%
Non White	4.90%
White	95.1%
Franco American	11.3%
Hispanic Origin	0.8%

The basic demographics of victims show 49.4% are female, and 50.6% are male, 95.1% are white, and 4.9% are non-white; 11.3% are Franco-American, while 0.8% are of Hispanic origin.

Property Crimes

Survey respondents were asked if they had been **the victim of a property crime such as someone attempting to steal or stealing your car, breaking into or trying to break into your home, or vandalizing your property.** 14.6% of respondents report this type of victimization in the last 12 months. Respondents living in urban areas have a higher victimization rate (18.4%) than those living in rural areas (13.7%). Respondents between 18-24 years old have the highest property crime victimization rate by age group at 23.0%, compared to 10.1% for respondents over the age of 55. Male and female respondents experience property victimization at similar rates.

More than two-thirds (68.7%) of property crime victims report the event to law enforcement, which is nearly forty percent higher reporting than any other crime category. Residents living in more urban areas are more likely to report property crime to the police (76.3%) than rural residents (65.4%), as are respondents under the age of 55 (70.5%) compared to elder respondents (60.7%). Property crimes have a far lower clearance rate than violent crimes, so it is likely that the high rate of reporting is probably due to the fact that in order to process an insurance claim, one often needs a police report.

It is not surprising that property crimes are the most common form of criminal victimization, since they represent the overwhelming majority of Index crimes in Maine. The property crime victimization rate is lower in Maine than the national average in the National Crime Victimization Survey and in comparable state victimization surveys.

Violent Crimes

The survey asks a series of questions about specific crimes. The four crimes—Robbery, Assault, Sexual Assault, and Rape—are categorized as violent crimes in this analysis. Overall, 4.8% of respondents say they have been the victim of a violent crime over the past 12 months. This rate is higher than expected and is due to the rate of robbery reported by respondents.

Less than half (49.6%) of violent crime victims report the incident to the police. This statistic is influenced by low reporting rates for sexual crimes (rape and sexual assault).

Female respondents report being victimized by violent crime at a rate of 5.3%, which is higher than the male rate of 4.4%. However, given the small sample size of violent crime victimization, the difference is not statistically significant, although it may be suggestive. No differences are observed between those living in urban and rural areas. There is, however, a significant difference in age. Respondents under the age of 55 report being victimized by violent crimes at a rate of 7.1%, compared to 0.4% for elders (55 years and older). The next few paragraphs examine each violent crime independently.

Robbery

Respondents were asked whether **someone took or attempted to take, something directly from the respondents using force.** Of the sample of 803, 19 (2.4%) report being victimized by robbery in the last 12 months. Given the low number of positive responses, no statistical differences are seen between males and females, or between those living in urban and rural areas. The data is suggestive, however, that robberies in Maine often occur between individuals who know each other. Fourteen of the 19 robbery victims knew the individual or individuals who committed the crime, while five of the victims were robbed by a stranger.

Robbery

The robbery rate reported in this survey is higher than Utah's rate of 1.1%, and appears high when compared to other surveys. Part of the explanation for this may be the wording of the question, but another possible explanation is that the rate is within a confidence interval of plus or minus 3.45%. In other words, there is 95% certainty that the actual robbery rate in Maine lies somewhere between 0 and 5.85%. Given the range, and Maine UCR crime totals, the actual robbery rate is probably lower.

Assault and Domestic Violence

2.1% (17 of 786) of survey participants responded affirmatively to the question, **if in the last 12 months, did anyone injure you with a weapon or assault you with physical force.** The sample size is too small to show statistical differences between rural and urban areas, but as with robbery, many of the victims know the attacker. More than half of females victimized by assault report that the assault is committed by a family member, reflecting data from other sources which demonstrates domestic assault is a major contributor to the assault rate in Maine. For example, in 2004, the UCR reported that domestic violence in Maine represented 46.7% of all assaults.

Assault and Domestic Violence

This survey defines all assault, threatening, and rape cases committed by a family member, including an ex-spouse or partner, as the crime of **domestic violence.** **During the last 12 months,** 3.0% (24 of 803) of those surveyed identify themselves as experiencing domestic violence. While this rate may appear small, over the entire adult population in Maine (18 years and older) it suggests roughly 30,000 individuals may be victims of domestic violence during a 12 month period. Differences are found between women (3.6%) and men (2.1%), and slight differences are found between residents living in urban (4.3%) and rural areas (2.6%). In both cases, these differences are suggestive of larger trends, but are not statistically significant.

Sexual Assault and Rape

Just under one percent 0.9% (7 of 803) of respondents say they were forced into **unwanted sexual activity, such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, or sexual assault** during the last 12 months. Another 0.9% (7 of 803) of all respondents say they experienced a **rape**, (defined as forced or attempted forced sexual intercourse) in the last 12 months. Taken together, the sexual crime victimization rate (sexual assault and rape) is 1.4%. Compared to Utah, the rate of sexual assault victimization is lower in Maine (1.5% in Utah) and slightly higher for rape (0.6% in Utah).

All the sexual assault victims in the sample are women. They uniformly report that they know their perpetrator prior to the assault.

Lifetime—Attempted Rape & Rape

The survey asks respondents whether in their lifetime they have been victimized by rape or attempted rape. Overall, a total of 18.2% report in the affirmative. The lifetime rate is significantly different by gender, with 28.5% of females and 7.4% of males responding affirmatively.

Threats of Violence

When respondents were asked if anyone **threatened to hit, attack, or beat them**, 8.6% report in the affirmative. Threats of violence often lead to a violent incident such as domestic violence, so this rate will be an important measure to track for comparison over time. More than two-thirds of survey respondents report that they were threatened by someone known to them (68.1%), compared to nearly thirty percent (27.5%) who were threatened by a stranger.

This category of crime shows gender differences, as males are significantly more likely to have received threats compared to females, 11.3% vs. 6.1%. However, women (54.6%) are more likely to have been threatened by family members, including an ex-partner or ex-spouse, compared to men (8.8%). Overall, 44.7% of the victims alerted law enforcement regarding threats made against them on one or more occasions.

Maine's rate of 8.6% is higher than Utah's rate (7.1%) in a similar survey. In an analysis of incident data in Lewiston in 2002, criminal threatening incidents were far more common than such violent crimes as rape or aggravated assault. In Maine, urban residents are threatened at a higher rate (12.6%) than rural residents (7.0%).

Firearms

7.6% of respondents say they were either threatened with a firearm or it was used in commission of a violent crime. This rate is consistent with firearm violence rates reported in the UCR and in data collected by Project Safe Neighborhoods. What is clear, however, is that most firearm crimes are criminal threatening incidents and not the violent crimes of robbery, assault, or rape. Consequently, the UCR frequently undercounts the actual number of firearm crime events, even though the rate (10.0% in 2005) is consistent with this data.

Compared to national trends, Maine's rate of firearm use in the commission of a crime in 2005 was three times lower (24%). Moreover, Maine reported the second lowest rate of firearm use in violent crimes in the country in 2005. As of 2005, only 98 violent firearm crimes were committed in Maine. This total ranked fourth lowest in the nation behind North Dakota (20), South Dakota (55), and Vermont (68).

Stalking Crimes

Stalking crimes are not included in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), but have been included in Utah's state crime victimization studies. Because there is widespread interest in understanding the scope and type of stalking behaviors in Maine, this survey used the same questions from Utah to gain a baseline measure of Maine's stalking rate. The Utah survey measured stalking by asking a series of questions about various types of behaviors, all of which can be considered intimidating and potentially dangerous. Maine asked respondents about each of those behaviors, and whether they felt threatened by at least one type of stalking behavior.

Overall, 11.7% of respondents said they were the victim of stalking behavior in the past 12 months, lower than Utah's overall stalking rate of 20.4%.

Did You Feel Threatened By Another Person as a Result of Any of the Following Behaviors?	
Unsolicited Calls	5.7%
Following/Spying	5.4%
Stand Outside Home/Work	4.2%
Communicate Against Your Will	3.6%
Unsolicited Letters	2.4%
Showing Up Where You Are	2.4%
Leaving Unwanted Items	1.7%

On the whole, men and women are stalked at virtually the same rates, 11.9% and 11.4% respectively. However, women are more likely to be spied upon, have someone show up at places where they are, and be the recipient of unwanted items. Men are just as likely as women to receive unsolicited letters and telephone calls. Just 39.3% say they reported the incident to local law enforcement.

Stalking is a crime category that encompasses a wide range of behaviors. Despite the different types of stalking behaviors, respondents victimized by stalking in this survey are often profoundly affected by the experience. Stalking victims are much more likely to feel unease about their personal safety, and are nearly four times as likely to be victimized by property or violent crime (49.5%) than respondents who are not stalking victims (13.9%).

Identity Theft

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), identity theft is defined as the use or attempted use of an account or identifying information without the owner's permission. In 2004, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) included questions about identity theft for the first time. Identity theft was defined to include three behaviors: 1) unauthorized use or attempted use of existing credit cards, 2) unauthorized use or attempted use of other existing accounts such as checking accounts, and 3) misuse of personal information to obtain new accounts or loans or to commit other crimes. This survey follows the NCVS example and examines three types of incidents that can be defined as identity theft. Respondents reported whether they discovered certain accounts being used against their knowledge.

Overall, 10.4% of the respondents say they have been victimized by identity theft in the previous 12 months. The most common form of identity theft is someone using or attempting to use credit cards without the respondent's knowledge (6.7%). 4.3% of respondents report that other accounts have been illegally accessed, and 2.6% report that someone has used or attempted to use their personal information without permission. Roughly two-thirds of respondents victimized by identity theft say the amount of money lost by the incident is less than \$500. 17.0% say they have had problems with their banking and credit card accounts as a result of the incident.

Identity theft affects respondents younger than 55 at higher rates than elder respondents (over 55) by a rate of 12.1% to 7.4%, respectively. Women report higher rates of victimization for identity theft than men, 11.6% to 9.0%, as do residents living in urban areas (11.1%) compared to those in more rural locales (10.3%). Income levels do not affect identity theft rates; those earning between \$20,000 and 50,000 have the highest identity theft rate at 13.4%, while those earning between \$50,000 and \$80,000 have the lowest rate at 8.4%.

Overall, only 27.3% of identity theft victims report the incident to local law enforcement. This may reflect the attitude that it is not worth going to local law enforcement for this type of victimization. While many victims try to deal with this problem directly with their banks and credit card companies, it remains a crime and is reported by the FBI as the fastest growing crime in the country.

Survey Questions

- ◆ **In the last 12 months, have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your credit cards or credit card numbers without your permission?**
YES NO
- ◆ **In the last 12 months, other than a credit card account, have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing accounts (e.g. telephone account, bank account) without your permission?**
YES NO
- ◆ **In the last 12 months, have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use your personal information without permission to obtain NEW credit cards or loans, run up debts, open other accounts, or otherwise commit theft, fraud, or some other crime?**
YES NO
- ◆ **Did you report this misuse (of credit cards, personal information, etc.) to the police?**
YES NO
- ◆ **Please estimate the total dollar amount the person obtained while misusing your credit card, accounts, and/or personal information. Was it...**
Less than \$500
\$500 to \$1,000
\$1,001 to \$10,000, or
\$More than \$10,000?

Underreporting Crime

Overall, 52.7% of respondents victimized by a crime say they reported the incident to local law enforcement agencies. Respondents are far more likely to report property crime incidents (68.7%) than violent crime incidents (49.6%). However, in both cases, the rates of reporting are higher than national averages.

Nationally, during 2005, 47% of all violent victimizations and 40% of all property crimes were reported to the police. In data from the National Crime Victimization Survey, the percentage of aggravated assault reported to the police (62%) was higher than the percentage for rape or sexual assault (38%), simple assault (42%), and robbery (52%). Nationally, 56% of burglaries and 32% of household thefts were reported to the police in 2005. Motor vehicle theft was the property crime most frequently reported to police (83%). Unfortunately, the Maine Crime Victimization Survey cannot provide definitive percentages of reporting crime to local law enforcement for each specific crime, because of the small sample size.

As reported earlier, roughly half of Maine Survey respondents (49.6%) victimized by a violent crime reported the incident to local law enforcement in Maine. This rate is influenced by an extremely low rate of reporting by victims of sexual assault and rape, which is consistent with national trends.

The Maine Crime Victimization Survey did not ask crime victims why they reported or did not report the crime to law enforcement authorities. However, in a study of the National Crime Victimization Survey, statistics gathered between 1992 and 2000, the Bureau of Justice Statistics found the most common reasons for not reporting violence to the police were because it was considered a “private/personal matter” (20%), because the violence was considered “not important enough” (17%), or because it was “reported to some other official” (14%). In the future, the Maine Crime Victimization survey will ask respondents why they chose not to report the incident to local law enforcement.

Reporting to Local Law Enforcement in Maine	
Overall	52.7%
Property Crime	68.7%
Violent Crimes	49.6%
Threat of Violence	44.7%
Stalking Crimes	39.3%
Identity Theft	27.3%

The next section examines the characteristics of victims and offenders in Maine.

SECTION III— CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

Crime victimization surveys offer an opportunity to understand specific characteristics of offenders, the circumstances of the crime and more detailed information about the victims (including their relationship to the offender). Crime victimization surveys are the primary source of information on the characteristics of criminal victimization and on the number and types of crimes not reported to law enforcement authorities.

Among key findings in this section is that most victims are not told of their rights. In addition, victims tend to be younger and respondents who are single, divorced or widowed have higher victimization rates than respondents who are married. Areas with over 10,000 residents (urban) have higher victimization rates than municipalities with less than 10,000 residents (rural). Offender and offense characteristics reveal that many victims believe the offender was under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the incident occurred. Also, very few respondents identify the offender as a juvenile.

Most victims are not told of their rights

The survey asks a series of questions to respondents who identify themselves as having been victimized by crime in the past 12 months. Only 26.0% of victims who reported their crime to local law enforcement were told of their rights as a crime victim. This is a troubling figure for some policymakers, since efforts have been made to provide more information to victims over the past few years. This low rate suggests more work needs to be done in this area.

The survey also asks a series of questions to determine whether respondents use certain services after victimization. The most common service used by victims was talking to a mental health professional (12.3%). In addition, 6.1% of victims incurred out-of-pocket medical costs, 4.7% contacted a crisis hotline, and only 1.9% received medical treatment.

As a result of the victimization, 7.4% lost time from work. The majority of respondents who lost time from work missed between one to five days, although the sample was too small to generalize to crime victims across the state. The sample size was also too small to provide definitive results about out-of-pocket losses due to criminal victimization.

The results of this survey provide a baseline to measure improvements to victim services and gain a better understanding of the services they use.

Young people report a higher rate of victimization

Generally, younger respondents are more likely to have been victimized by crime during the last 12 months. The greatest differences are seen with violent crimes and threats of violence. Looking first at violent crimes, 11.5% of those between 18 and 24 years old are victims, compared with 6.2% of those 25 to 54 and 0.4% of those aged 55 and over. Of those 18 to 24, 24.1% report they have been victims of threats of violence in the last 12 months, compared to 9.1% of those between 25 and 54, and only 3.3% of those 55 years old and older.

Turning to nonviolent types of offenses, 23.0% of those aged 18 to 24 report being victims of property crime, compared to 16.2% of those 25 to 54, and 10.1% of those 55 and over. Identity theft victimization is reported by 8.0% of respondents aged 18 to 24, 13.4% of respondents between 25 and 54, and 7.4% of respondents 55 and older. Finally, stalking victimization is reported at a rate of 13.8% for respondents 18 to 24 years old, 13.8% between ages 25 and 54, and 7.8% of respondents over 55.

Respondents married or living with a partner report lower victimization rates

Single, divorced or widowed respondents report victimization at higher rates than respondents who are married/living with a partner (41.2% to 27.5% respectively). For violent and property crime victimization, single, divorced or widowed respondents are nearly twice as likely to be a victim (24.7%) as respondents who are married/living with a partner (13.8%). Overall, these findings are consistent with national findings.

Income level correlates with victimization in Maine

The Maine survey finds similar outcomes with the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for the relationship between income and victimization. The level of victimization respondents experience tends to decrease as their income levels increase.

This is especially true with violent crime victimization. 9.0% of those making less than \$20,000 are victims of a violent crime, compared to 4.0% of those making \$20,000 to \$50,000, and only 2.6% of those making over \$50,000.

These rates are similar for threats of violence. 11.6% of respondents who make less than \$20,000 are threatened with violence, compared with 8.5% of those with an income between \$20,000 and \$50,000, and 6.6% of those earning over \$50,000.

Property and identity theft crime rates are more evenly distributed across income categories. Property crime rates are the highest among individuals in households earning less than \$20,000 (17.4%), followed by households earning over \$50,000 (15.3%), and households earning between \$20,000 and \$50,000 (14.6%). A finer level of analysis shows households earning over \$100,000 have the highest rate of any sub-category, at 17.5%.

Households earning between \$20,000 and \$50,000 have the highest identity theft crime rate at 13.4%, followed by households earning over \$50,000 (9.9%) and households earning less than \$20,000 (9.0%).

There are no major differences in income levels, victim services and perceptions of crime. Respondents of different income categories are equally likely to be notified of victims' services, and at least sixty percent of those in each category believe police are doing either a good or very good job.

Urban areas report higher victimization rates than rural areas

Towns and cities with over 10,000 residents have higher victimization rates than municipalities with less than 10,000 residents. The overall victimization rate of residents in larger population centers is 39.1%, compared to 30.3% in more rural areas.

The victimization rate for property and violent crimes does not vary significantly by geographic area. More populous areas have a slightly higher rate of victimization (20.3%) than less populous areas (17.7%). The victimization rate is significantly higher for stalking, however, respondents living in more urban areas report higher stalking victimization (15.9%) than in rural areas (9.8%).

Most victims threatened or victimized by violent crime believe the offender was under the influence

Respondents who report being victimized in the last 12 months were asked whether the offender appeared to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Nearly two-thirds (63.2%) of those victimized by violent crime or threatened with violence believe the offender was under the influence when the crime occurred.

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), in 2004, 29.5% of victims of violence said they perceived the offender to have been drinking or using drugs. The Maine rate is based on a small sample, but it does suggest that violent crime in this state is at least partially driven by substance abuse issues.

Most victims identify the offender as an adult

The vast majority of victims (82.6%) say the perpetrator of the victimization was an adult. Only 8.8% identify the offender as a juvenile. This finding is consistent with trends in Maine showing that juveniles account for less and less of all arrests in the last ten years. The share of all arrests of juveniles peaked in the mid-1990s before falling to its lowest level in 2005 (14.2%). Moreover, juveniles are more likely to be linked to property crimes than violent crimes. Juveniles accounted for nearly one-third (31.3) of total property crime arrests in Maine, compared with 14.6% of the violent crime arrests.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. How safe do you feel in the community where you live? Would you say . . .

- Always safe
- Almost always safe
- Sometimes safe
- Almost never safe, or
- Never safe?

2. How often are you fearful of being the victim of a violent crime? Would you say . . .

- Never
- Almost never
- Sometimes
- Almost always, or
- Always?

3. How would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community? Would you say . . .

- Very good
- Good
- Acceptable
- Bad, or
- Very bad?

4. Over the *past three years*, do you believe that crime in your community has:

- Greatly decreased
- Somewhat decreased
- Stayed the same
- Somewhat increased, or
- Greatly increased?

5. Which of the following do you believe are responsible for our crime problems?

- ◆ Illegal drugs
- ◆ Parental discipline
- ◆ Breakdown of family life
- ◆ Gangs
- ◆ Moral Decay
- ◆ TV, movies, or video game violence
- ◆ Alcohol
- ◆ Population increase
- ◆ Domestic violence
- ◆ The Criminal Justice System is too easy
- ◆ Too much leisure time
- ◆ Availability of guns
- ◆ The economy

6. In the last 12 months, were you the victim of a property crime such as someone attempting to steal or stealing your car, breaking into or trying to break into your home, or vandalizing your property? Did any of those things happen to you in the last 12 months?

- YES
- NO

7. Did you report it to the police?

YES

NO

8. Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs?

YES

NO

9. In the last 12 months have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing credit cards or credit card numbers without your permission?

YES

NO

10. In the last 12 months, other than a credit card account, have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing accounts (e.g. telephone account, bank account) without your permission?

YES

NO

11. In the last 12 months have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use your personal information without permission to obtain NEW credit cards or loans, run up debts, open other accounts, or otherwise commit theft, fraud, or some other crime?

YES

NO

12. Did you report this misuse (of credit cards, personal information, etc.) to the police?

YES

NO

13. Please estimate the total dollar amount the person obtained while misusing your credit cards accounts, and/or personal information. Was it . . .

Less than \$500

\$500 to \$1,000

\$1,001 to \$10,000, or

More than \$10,000?

14. As a result of this misuse, have you or anyone in your household had banking problems, or had problems with credit card accounts?

YES

NO

15. In the last 12 months, did anyone take, or attempt to take, something directly from you by using force, or threat of force?

YES

NO

16. Did you report it to the police?

YES

NO

17. Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs?

YES

NO

18. Did the offender use a gun or a firearm?

YES

NO

19. Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?

Juvenile (under age 18)

Adult (age 18 or older)

Both

20. Was the person who did this to you . . .

A stranger

A casual acquaintance

A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home (inc. ex partner or ex spouse)

A person or people who are well known to you, excluding family

You did not see anyone

21. In the past 12 months, did anyone THREATEN to hit, attack, or assault you?

YES

NO

22. Did you report it to the police?

YES

NO

23. Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs?

YES

NO

24. Were you threatened with . . .

Physical force

A knife

A gun (or firearm)

A club

Another weapon

25. Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?

Juvenile (under age 18)

Adult (age 18 or older)

Both

26. Was the person who did this to you . . .

A stranger

A casual acquaintance

A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home (inc. ex partner or spouse)

A person or people who are well known to you, excluding family

You did not see anyone

27. Was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

YES

NO

28. Has the threatening behavior of your spouse, significant other, or partner increased in frequency or severity over the past 12 months?

YES

NO

29. In the last 12 months, did anyone injure you with a weapon or assault you with physical force?

YES

NO

30. Did you report it to the police?

YES

NO

31. Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs?

YES

NO

32. Was the injury caused by . . .

Physical force

A knife

A gun (or firearm)

A club

Another weapon

33. Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?

Juvenile (under age 18)

Adult (age 18 or older)

Both

34. Was the person who did this to you . . .

A stranger

A casual acquaintance

A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home (inc. ex partner or spouse)

A person or people who are well known to you, excluding family

You did not see anyone

35. Was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

YES

NO

36. Has the abusive behavior by your spouse, significant other, or partner increased in frequency or severity over the past 12 months?

YES

NO

37. In the last 12 months, did anyone force you, or attempt to force you, into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?

YES

NO

38. Did you report it to the police?

- YES
- NO

39. Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs?

- YES
- NO

40. Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, and adult, or both?

- Juvenile (under age 18)
- Adult (age 18 or older)
- Both

41. Was the person who did this to you . . .

- A stranger
- A casual acquaintance
- A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home (inc. ex partner or spouse)
- A person or people who are well known to you, excluding family
- You did not see anyone

42. Was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

- YES
- NO

43. In the last 12 months, did anyone force you, or attempt to force you, to have sex with them?

- YES
- NO

44. Did you report it to the police?

- YES
- NO

45. Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs?

- YES
- NO

46. Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, and adult, or both?

- Juvenile (under age 18)
- Adult (age 18 or older)
- Both

47. Was the person who did this to you . . .

- A stranger
- A casual acquaintance
- A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home (inc. ex partner or spouse)
- A person or people who are well known to you, excluding family
- You did not see anyone

48. Was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?

YES

NO

49. In your lifetime, has anyone ever forced, or attempted to force you to have sex with them?

YES

NO

50. During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person following or spying on you?

YES

NO

51. During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person sending you unsolicited (unasked for) letters or written correspondence?

YES

NO

52. During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person making unsolicited (unasked for) phone calls to you?

YES

NO

53. During the last 12 months have you felt threatened by another person standing outside your home, school, or workplace?

YES

NO

54. During the last 12 months have you felt threatened by another person continually showing up at places where you were?

YES

NO

55. During the last 12 months have you felt threatened by another person leaving unwanted items for you?

YES

NO

56. During the last 12 months have you felt threatened by another person trying to communicate with you against your will (other than those previously mentioned)?

YES

NO

57. Did you report it to the police?

YES

NO

58. During the past 12 months, have you been the victim of any other crimes that we have not already discussed?

YES

NO

59. Did you report it to the police?

YES

NO

60. Other than any of those you just mentioned, OVER THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFETIME, have you ever been the victim of any of the other crimes in this survey? This would include property crimes, identity theft, threatening, and so on.

YES

NO

61. As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you received medical treatment?

YES

NO

62. As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you talked to a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health professional?

YES

NO

63. As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you lost time from work?

YES

NO

64. As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you contacted a crisis or support hotline?

YES

NO

65. Did you have out-of-pocket medical expenses as a result of being a crime victim?

YES

NO

66. Please estimate your out-of-pocket medical expense as a result of being a crime victim. Was it . . .

Less than \$500

\$500 to \$1000

\$1001 to \$10,000

More than \$10,000

67. Please estimate the number of days lost from work as a result of being a victim of crime.

1-5 days

6-10 days

more than 10 days

68. Did anyone tell you or your family about your rights as a crime victim, such as what you would be notified about or how you could participate in prosecution, sentencing or corrections decisions?

YES

NO

69. Who informed you about your rights as a victim?

- Lawyer
- Police
- Prosecutor
- Victim/Witness Advocate
- Judge
- Other (Specify)
- No One

70. Do you believe you were the victim of a crime due to your race, gender, sexual orientation or Identity?

- YES
- NO

71. In what year were you born?

72. GENDER:

- Female
- Male

73. Which category best describes your racial background?

- White/Caucasian
- African American/Black
- American Indian
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Bi-racial or multi-racial
- Other (Specify)

74. What is your ethnic background?

- Hispanic/Latino
- Franco-American
- Another Ethnicity

75. What is your marital status?

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Separated
- Opposite Sex partner sharing a home
- Same Sex partner sharing a home

76. What is the highest grade of school or level of education you have completed so far?

- 8th Grade or Less
- Some High School, but did not graduate
- High School Graduate or GED
- Some College or 2 year degree
- 4 Year College Degree
- More than 4 year college degree

77. How many children under the age of 18 live at your current residence?

- 0
- 1
- 2-3
- 4-5
- More than 5

78. Please tell me the category that best describes your TOTAL HOUSEHOLD income before taxes in 2005.

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 to less than \$50,000
- \$50,000 to less than \$80,000
- \$80,000 to less than \$100,000
- \$100,000 or more

79. Which of the following best describes your present employment status?

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Student
- Homemaker
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Disabled

80. Have you lived in Maine your entire life?

- YES
- NO

81. How long have you lived in Maine?

- Less than 5 years
- 5 to 9 years
- 10 to 19 years
- 20 Years or more

82. How long have you lived at your current residence?

83. Are there any guns or firearms kept in your house?

- YES
- NO

84. And finally, in what town do you live?

- YES
- NO

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