

MISSOURI CRIME
VICTIMIZATION SURVEY, 2016:
NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST,
SAFETY, AND FEAR



Sociology
University of Missouri



NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST, SAFETY, AND FEAR

MISSOURI CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY, 2016

Description of Reports

A total of six reports, including this one, have been produced from the MCVS data. The following is a description of each report.

Summary Report: This report contains 1) an introduction that describes the sample and population demographics, a Missouri metro/nonmetro county map, and a description of demographic variables, and 2) cross tabulations between demographic characteristics and (a) crime percentage distributions, (b) follow up questions for crime victimizations, and (c) perceptions of crime, community, law enforcement, and policy. The appendices include the survey script, methodology, and the number of respondents per county.

Executive Report: This report presents overall prevalence of crime victimization for the state of Missouri, and summarizes results from the reports on perceptions of law enforcement, neighborhood trust, safety, and fear, and intimate partner violence. The report also includes a comparison of metro and nonmetro respondents, description of victims' experiences, methodological considerations, and directions for future research that have been gleaned from administering the Missouri Crime Victimization Survey.

Intimate Partner Violence Report: This report presents descriptive statistics for five types of intimate partner violence (IPV)—physical abuse, emotional abuse, harassment, stalking, and sexual abuse—by demographic characteristics.

Neighborhood Trust, Safety, and Fear Report: This report examines survey responses to questions about trusting neighbors, feeling safe in one's neighborhood, and fear of violent crime. The report presents responses to these questions by race, age, sex, education, income, and metro/nonmetro residence.

Perceptions of Law Enforcement Report: This report covers a wide array of perceptions of law enforcement, including assessment of their effectiveness regarding several types of crime (e.g. drugs, burglary) as well as whether or not they treat people fairly and with respect. The report breaks down the responses to these questions by race, age, education, and income.

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NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST, SAFETY, AND FEAR

THE MISSOURI CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

The Missouri Crime Victimization Survey (MCVS) was conducted in spring 2016 to estimate statewide crime victimization of adults. The Missouri State Highway Patrol partnered with researchers from the University of Missouri and the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) to develop and conduct the survey, and analyze the data. This survey of 2,008 respondents was conducted via phone and largely modeled after the National Crime Victimization Survey. For technical details see the 2016 Missouri Crime Victimization Survey Summary Report

TRUST, SAFETY, AND FEAR

In the following report, we present descriptive statistics on feelings of neighborhood trust, safety, and fear of being the victim of a violent crime. We also take a look at differences in these feelings across demographic groups including metro vs. nonmetro populations, sex, race¹, age, education, and income. Responses to these questions offer insight into how respondents experience the place in which they reside, and to what extent that place is one where they trust in neighbors, feel safe, or are fearful. This information is useful to law enforcement agencies as well as community leaders and service providers. Feelings of trust or fear have implications for public health and the ways individuals experience their communities more generally. These indicators may also be thought of as an assessment of key goals—that community members feel safe and free from fear of violent crime—for law enforcement.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

Figures 1-6 display the percentage of respondents who agreed, disagreed, or neither, with the statement that people in their neighborhood could be trusted. The categories presented here as agree or disagree also include those who responded that they strongly agree or strongly disagree. These responses were combined for this report. These figures break down those percentages across metro/nonmetro areas, sex,

Key Findings

- **Missourians generally trust the people in their neighborhood, do not fear being the victim of a violent crime, and feel safe in their neighborhood.**
- **In general, minority, low-SES (i.e. education and income), and metro populations tend to report less trust and safety, and more fear of violent crime.**
- **Race stands out as a key factor in whether people feel trust, safety, and can live without fear of violence.**

Figures

Questions

Figures	Questions
1-6	To what extent do you agree or disagree? People in this neighborhood can be trusted.
7-12	How safe do you feel in the neighborhood where you live?
13-18	How often are you fearful of being victim of a violent crime?

¹Responses across race may vary compared to those presented in the Missouri Crime Victimization Summary Report due to a minor change in racial classification from that report. A small number of Others have been recoded based on qualitative responses. We use the term Black in this report to refer to those who identify as African American or Black.

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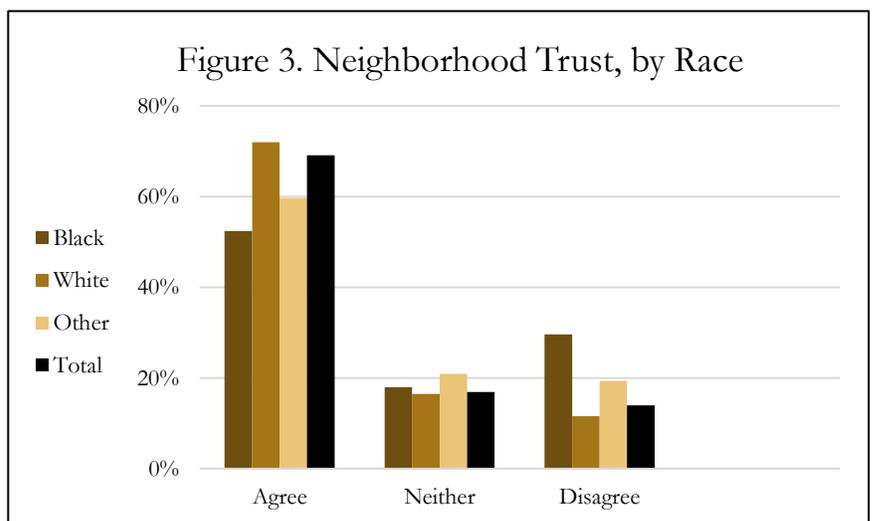
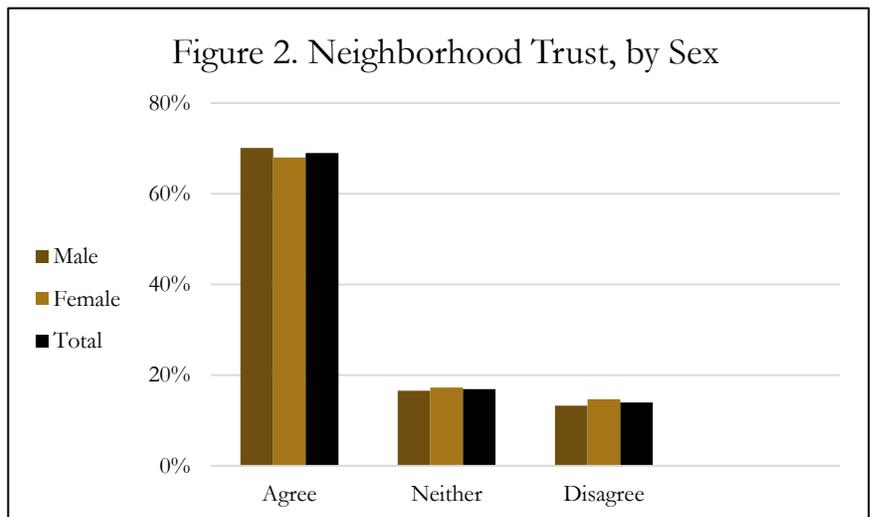
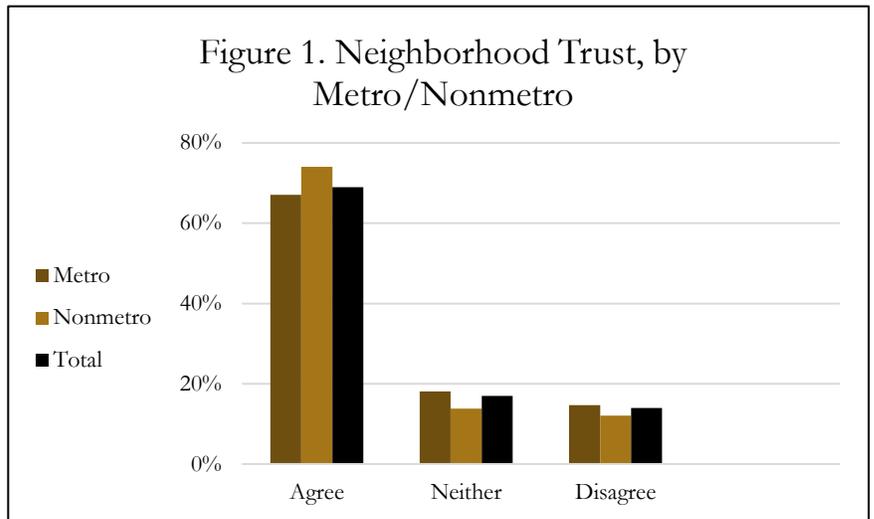
race, age, education, and income. The bars colored in shades of gold represent the different demographic categories being compared and the black bars represent the responses for the total sample. As these figures show, the majority of respondents--just under seventy percent--agreed that people in their neighborhood could be trusted.

While it is clear that most people agree that their neighbors can be trusted, the prevalence of that trust is uneven across demographic categories.

Figure 1 displays neighborhood trust by metro/nonmetro residence. A higher percentage of nonmetro residents agree that they can trust the people in their neighborhood than those living in metro areas (74% vs. 67%).

Figure 2 displays neighborhood trust by sex. Males and females are similar in their responses to this question, with only a slightly higher percentage of males agreeing that they trust the people in their neighborhood.

As shown in Figure 3, there are clear differences in trust across racial groups. The majority of respondents of all three racial groupings trust their neighbors. However, there are notable differences by racial group. While 72% of White respondents trust the people in their neighborhood, only 52% of Blacks and 60% of Others report feelings of trust.



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Figure 4. Neighborhood Trust, by Age

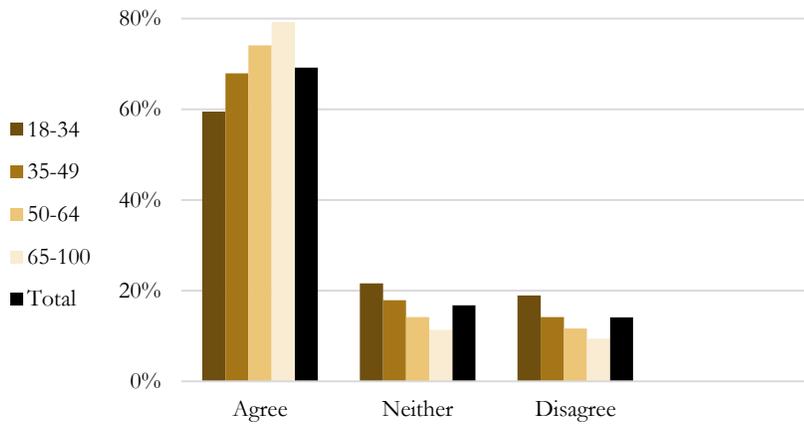


Figure 4 shows that there are also differences across age categories. The percentage of respondents who agree that people in their neighborhood can be trusted increases as the age category of the respondent increases. For instance, whereas nearly 80% of those age 65 and up agree that people in their neighborhood can be trusted, only 59% of those age 18-34 say their neighbors can be trusted.

Figure 5. Neighborhood Trust, by Education

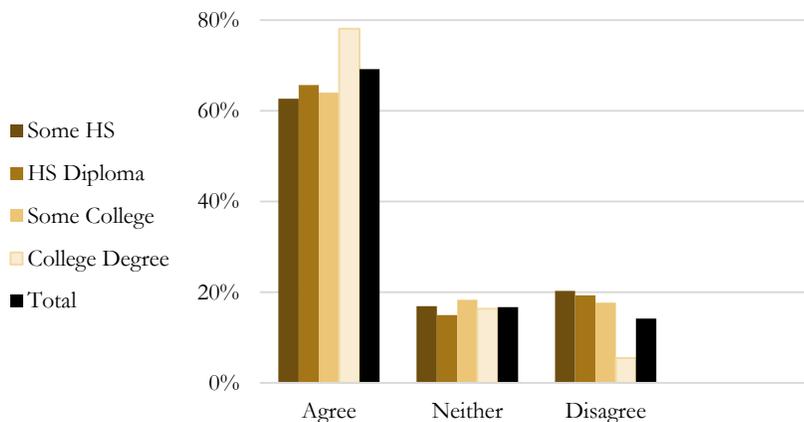


Figure 5 displays differences across education. One group stands out as having a particularly high percentage of those who agree that people in their neighborhood can be trusted—those with college degrees. While 78% of those with a college degree trust their neighbors, only 65% of high school graduates trust their neighbors.

Figure 6. Neighborhood Trust, by Income

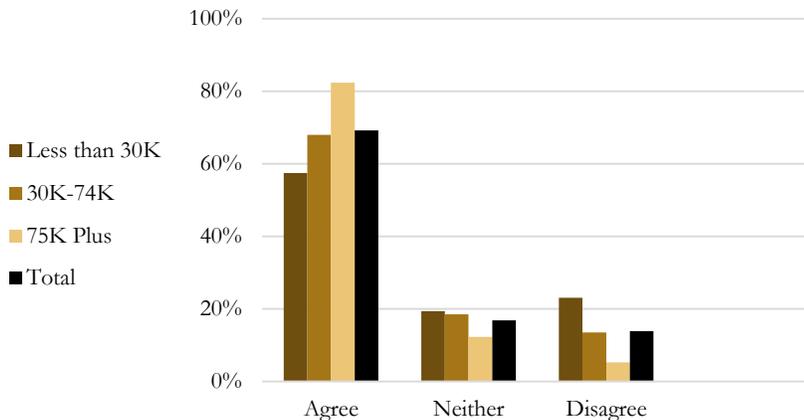


Figure 6 displays some substantial differences in neighborhood trust across income categories. 82% of those with incomes of \$75K or more agree, while less than 58% of those making less than \$30K reported that they find their neighbors trustworthy.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST, SAFETY, AND FEAR

FEELING SAFE

Figure 7-12 show the percentages of respondents who reported feeling safe or unsafe in their neighborhood. Initial responses of either “completely safe” or “fairly safe” are combined and reported here as simply “safe.” Initial responses of “extremely unsafe” and “somewhat unsafe” are combined and reported here as “unsafe.” Overall, respondents overwhelmingly (87%) felt safe in their neighborhood.

Figure 7 shows that a greater share of nonmetro residents report feeling safe as compared to their metro area counterparts—92% and 85% respectively.

Figure 8 shows that a higher percentage of males reported that they felt safe than females. Specifically, nearly 90% of males reported that they felt safe in their neighborhood while only 84% of females said the same

Figure 9 shows the percentages of respondents who reported feeling safe in their neighborhood by race. Of all the demographic differences of this variable, racial differences appear to be the starkest. While 89% of White respondents felt safe in their neighborhood, only 72% of Black respondents could say the same.

Figure 7. Feels Safe in Neighborhood, by Metro/Nonmetro

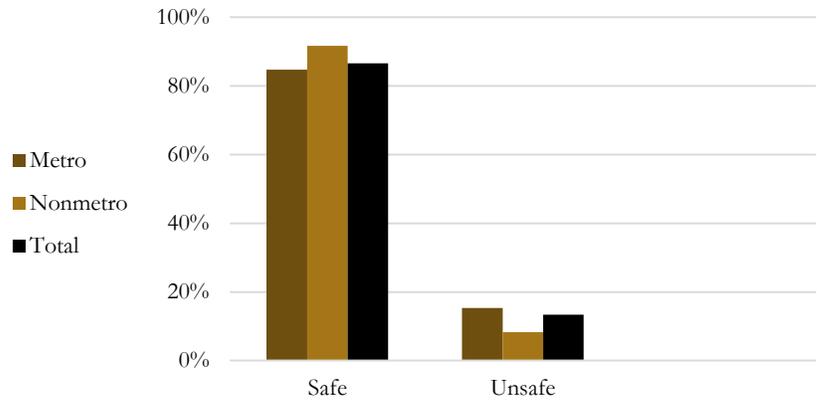


Figure 8. Feels Safe in Neighborhood, by Sex

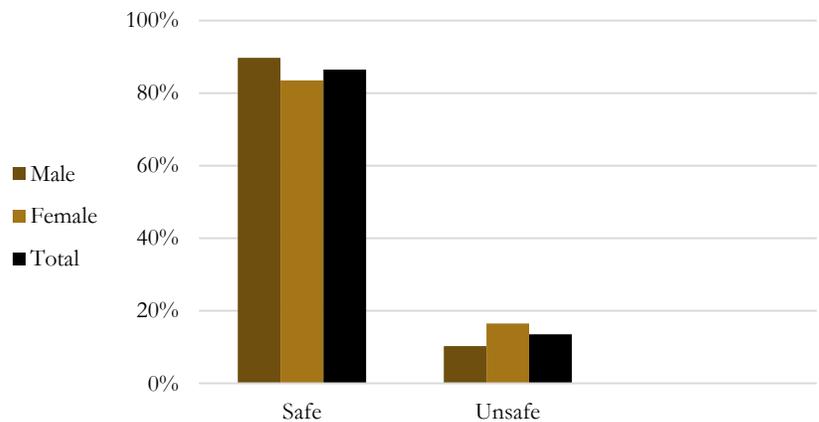
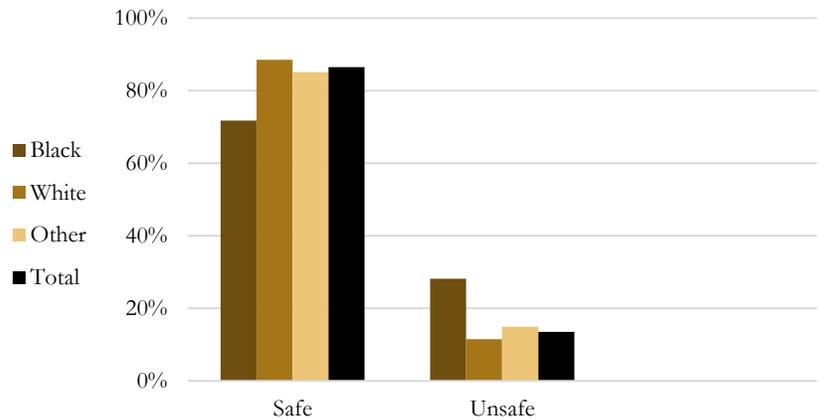


Figure 9. Feels Safe in Neighborhood, by Race



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Figure 10. Feels Safe in Neighborhood, by Age

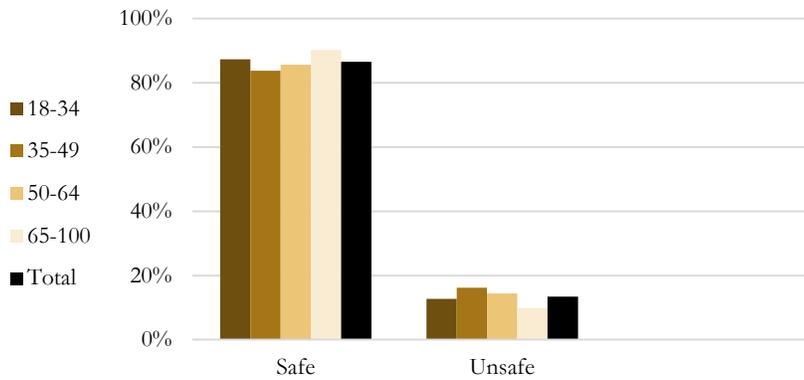


Figure 10 shows the percentages of respondents who reported feeling safe in their neighborhood by age. Differences in feeling safe across age appear to be minimal, with slight dips in the prevalence of those reporting that they feel safe in the two middle-age categories.

Figure 11. Feels Safe in Neighborhood, by Education

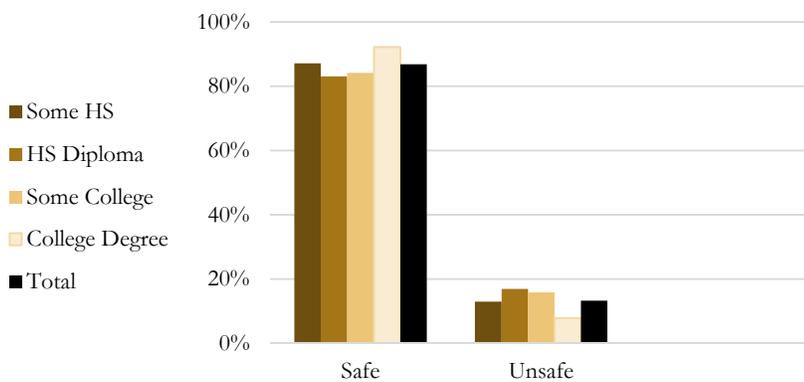


Figure 11 shows the percentages of respondents who reported feeling safe in their neighborhood by education. Just over 90% of those who have college degrees report that they feel safe in their neighborhood compared to 83% of those who have high school degree.

Figure 12. Feels Safe in Neighborhood, by Income

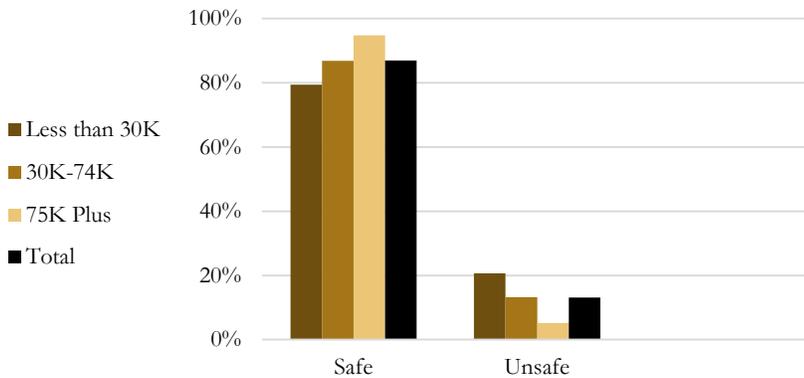


Figure 12 displays an increase in prevalence of those reporting that they feel safe with each step up in income category, beginning with just under 80% for those in the lowest income category and ending with approximately 95% among the highest income category.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST, SAFETY, AND FEAR

FEAR OF VIOLENT CRIME

Figures 13-18 show how one's fear of being victim of a violent crime varies across place and demographic characteristics. Initial responses of either "never" or "almost never" are reported here as "never." Initial responses of either "always" or "almost always" are reported as "always." Most respondents reported that they "never" fear being victim of a violent crime. The total column for these figures shows that three in five respondents said they "never" have this fear. The other two in five respondents either "sometimes" or "always" have this fear.

Figure 13 displays fear of being the victim of a violent crime by metro versus nonmetro areas of residence. There are substantial differences by place of residence. Nearly 12% of residents living in metro areas report that they always fear violent crime and less than 5% of nonmetro residents say the same. In addition, 72% of nonmetro residents and only 54% of metro residents report never fearing violent victimization.

Figure 14 displays fear of being the victim of a violent crime by sex. A greater share of females than males always or sometimes fear being the victim of a violent crime. Conversely, 66% of males and 54% of females say they are never fearful of violent victimization.

Figure 13. Fear of Violent Crime, by Metro/Nonmetro

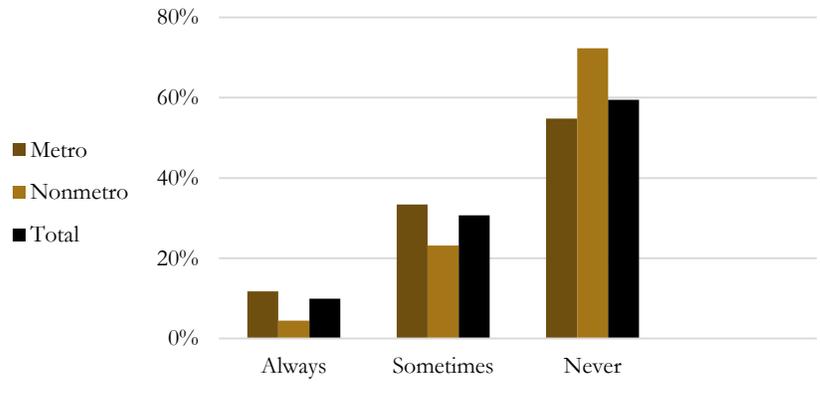


Figure 14. Fear of Violent Crime, by Sex

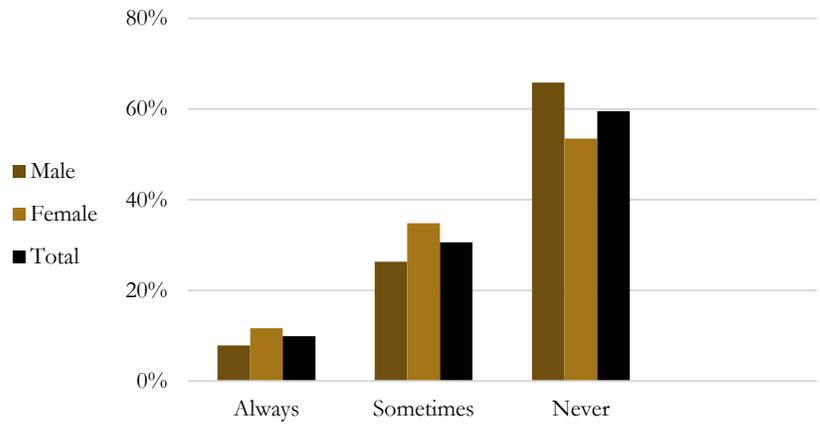
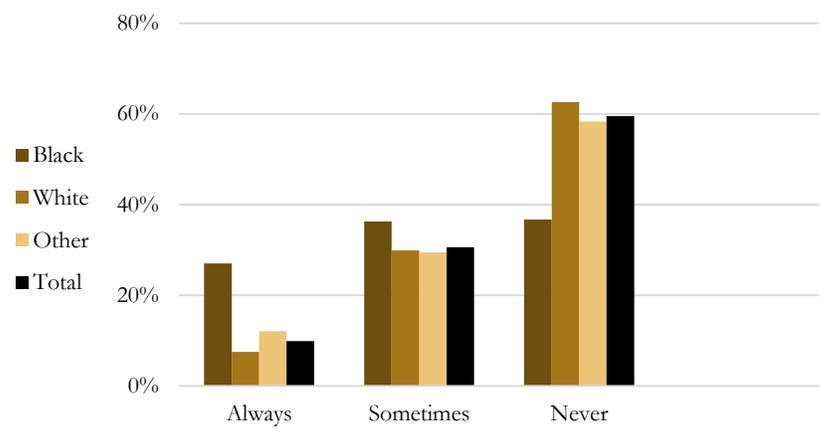


Figure 15. Fear of Violent Crime, by Race



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Figure 16. Fear of Violent Crime, by Age

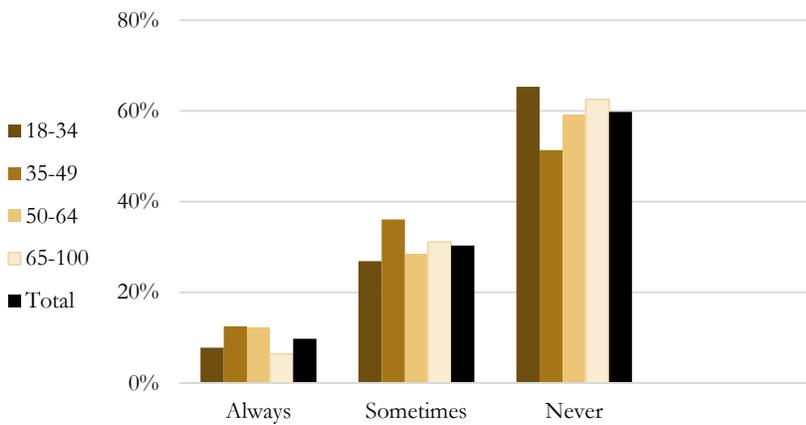


Figure 17. Fear of Violent Crime, by Education

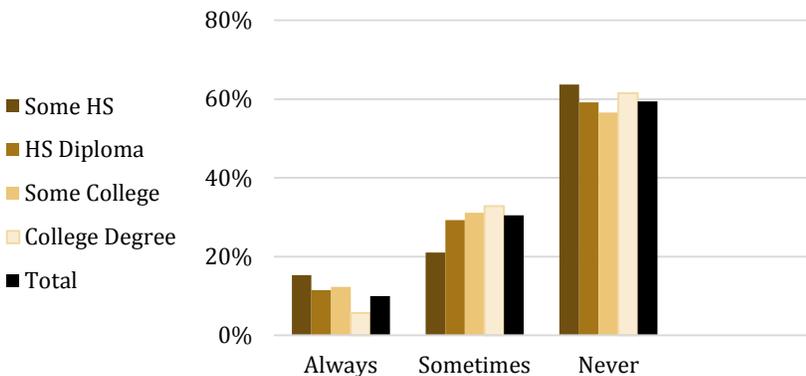


Figure 18. Fear of Violent Crime, by Income

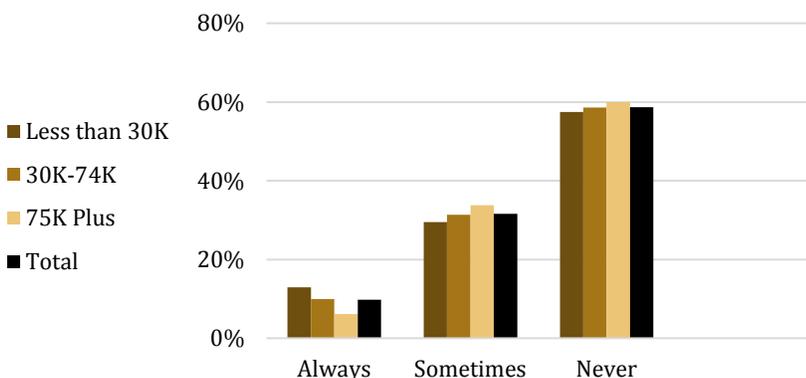


Figure 15 highlights the differences in fear across race. A much higher share of Blacks fear being victims of violent crime in comparison to Whites. Twenty seven percent of Black respondents reported that they always fear being the victim of a violent crime while only about eight percent of Whites reported such. Whites have the highest percentage of respondents reporting that they never fear being victim of a violent crime (63%), whereas only 37% of Black respondents reported the same. Only thirty seven percent of Black respondents could say the same.

Figure 16 displays fear of victimization across age. This figure suggests that those in the middle age categories have the highest prevalence of fear of victimization, while the youngest and oldest age groups have the lowest prevalence.

Figure 17 shows those with the least education have the highest prevalence of respondents reporting that they always fear victimization. Interestingly, this same group also has the highest prevalence of those reporting that they never fear violent crime.

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Figure 18 shows that 12% of those with incomes less than \$30,000 report that they always fear being victim of a violent crime. In comparison, 6% of those who earn \$75,000 or more said the same. Yet, when we look at never fearing violent victimization, the percentages reporting fear of victimization are much closer, with 58% of those with income less than \$30,000 and 60% of those with income \$75,000 and greater saying they never fear such victimization.

SUMMARY

This report offers a look at feelings of neighborhood trust, safety, and fear of violent crime in Missouri. Demographic comparisons reveal that trust, safety, and fear are not equally experienced across the Missouri population.

Key points:

- Overall, most Missourians trust the people in their neighborhood, do not fear being the victim of a violent crime, and feel safe in their neighborhood.
- Neighborhood trust, safety, and fear are not equally felt across geographic area, sex, race, age, education, or income. In general, minority, low-SES (i.e. education and income), and metro populations tend to report less trust and safety, and more fear of violent crime.
- Race stands out as a key factor in whether people feel trust, safety, and can live without fear of violence.

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