

IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

- **Crime undermines the social fabric of the community.¹**
 - Crime is associated with elevated rates of fear of strangers and general alienation from participation in community life.²
 - One study found that individuals who had been the victim of a crime within one mile of their home were more likely to move away from the neighborhood after the victimization.³
- **High crime rates impose real economic costs on local residents.**
 - One recent study found that a 10% decrease in domestic property crime adds roughly 1.7% to the selling price of local homes.⁴
 - Businesses tend to leave high crime areas, which forces residents to do their shopping elsewhere and further erodes a community's sense of cohesiveness.⁵
- **The erosion of the community creates fear, and thus vulnerabilities to more crime.**
 - Several studies show that social and economic damage to the community creates the conditions that fuel more crime.⁶
 - It has been found that fear of crime can be just as debilitating as crime itself, and is a powerful stimulus in changing people's behavior and lifestyles.⁷
 - Studies suggest strong correlations between levels of fear in the community and the amount of drug use and sale, public drinking, street gangs, loitering, and graffiti.⁸
- **Crime affects different members of the community differently.**
 - Gender appears to be the best predictor of fear of crime. Although young males constitute the group that is victimized most often, women express the highest levels of fear of crime.⁹
 - According to the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), surveys of older people found that almost half over the age of 75 were too afraid to leave their homes after dark believing they were subject to verbal abuse or mugging.¹⁰
 - Both younger and older adult minority individuals have higher rates of fear of crime than Caucasian individuals.¹¹
 - Almost three-quarters of respondents said that their fear of crime increased every year.¹²
- **Community policing has shown remarkable success.**
 - Less than ten years after the 1994 Crime Act spurred the beginning of the community policing movement, two-thirds of local U.S. police departments and 62% of sheriffs' offices have full-time personnel performing community policing.¹³

¹ Sampson, R. "The Community" in *Crime: Public Policies for Crime Control* (Oakland: Institute for Contemporary Studies Press, 2002), 237-240.

² Herman, S. and M. Waul. *Repairing the Harm: A New Vision for Crime Victim Compensation in America*. (Washington, DC: National Center for Victims of Crime, 2004).

³ Dugan, L. (1999). The Effect of Criminal Victimization on a Household's Moving Decision. *Criminology*, **37**: 903-930.

⁴ Gibbons, S. (2004). The Costs of Urban Property Crime. *The Economic Journal*, **114**: 441-463.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Sampson, R. and S. Raudenbush. *Disorder in Urban Neighborhoods—Does it Lead to Crime?* (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, 2001).

⁷ Trojanowicz, R., Kappeler, V. E., & Gaines, L. K. (2002). *Community policing: A contemporary perspective* (3rd ed.). Cincinnati, Ohio: Anderson Publishing.

⁸ Kelling, G. *Measuring what matters: A new way about crime and public order*. (New York: National Institute of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Series, 1999).

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Casciani, D. (2003). Fear of crime 'trapping elderly'. *BBC News UK Edition*. Online: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3044625.stm>.

¹¹ Bazargan, M. (1994). The effects of health, environmental, and socio-psychological variables on fear of crime and its consequences among urban black elderly individuals. *International Journal on Aging and Human Development* **38**: 99–115

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Hickman, M. and B.A. Reaves. (2003). *Community Policing in Local Police Departments, 1997 and 1999* (Revised March 2003). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Online: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cplpd99.pdf>.