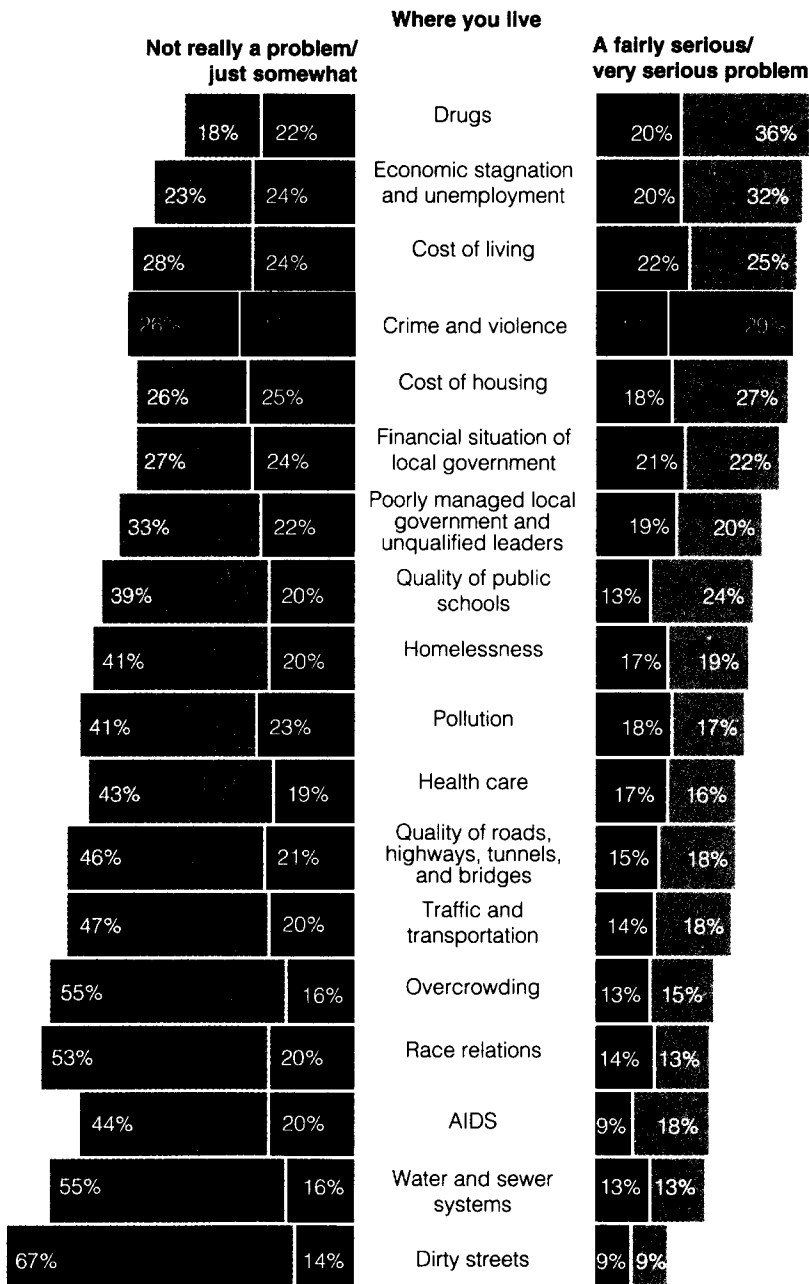


# CRIME CONCERNS

The figure on the left shows how Americans rank crime in comparison with other problems in their communities. Perhaps surprisingly, majorities say crime is only somewhat of a problem or not a serious problem at all in their communities. Over eight in ten feel very or somewhat safe in their neighborhoods.

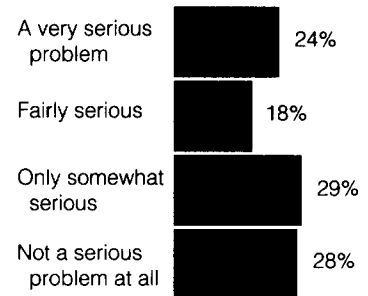
Question: **Let me read you a number of problems facing some communities today. For each one, please tell me whether this is a very serious problem where you live, a fairly serious problem, just somewhat of a problem, or not really a problem where you live.**



Source: Survey by Peter Hart and Robert Teeter for NBC News and Newsweek, July 14-18, 1991.

Question: **Do you think crime is a very serious problem in the community you currently live in, fairly serious, only somewhat serious, or not a serious problem at all?**

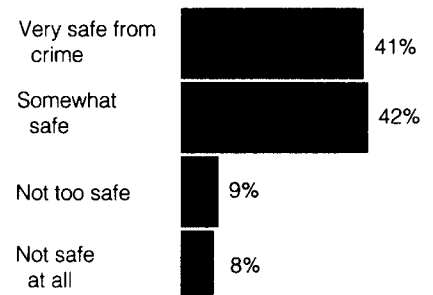
## Crime in the community you currently live in is...



Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN, August 12, 1993.

Question: **These days, how safe from crime do you feel in your neighborhood?**

## In your neighborhood, feel...



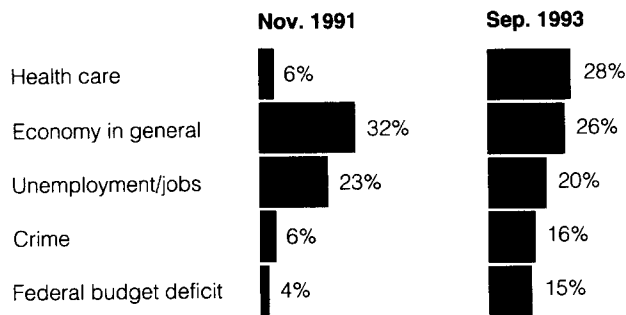
Source: Survey by Chilton Research Services, April 15-19, 1993.

# Crime: In the Nation, In Our Neighborhood

Crime has been much in the news of late, and it has moved into the low double digits as the country's most important problem. Over eight in ten believe society is more violent than five years ago. A plurality say there is more crime in their neighborhood than a year ago.

Question: **What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?**

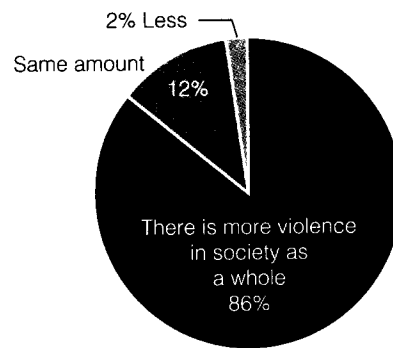
## Most important problem



**Note:** Top five responses of September 1993 poll shown.  
**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for *USA Today* and CNN, latest that of September 10-12, 1993.

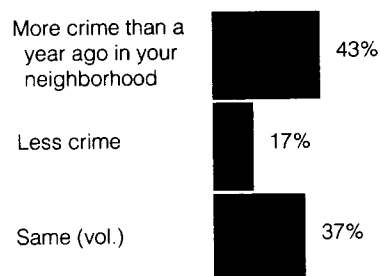
Question: **Thinking about society as a whole, do you think there is more violence in society, less violence, or about the same amount of violence as there was five years ago?**

## Compared to five years ago



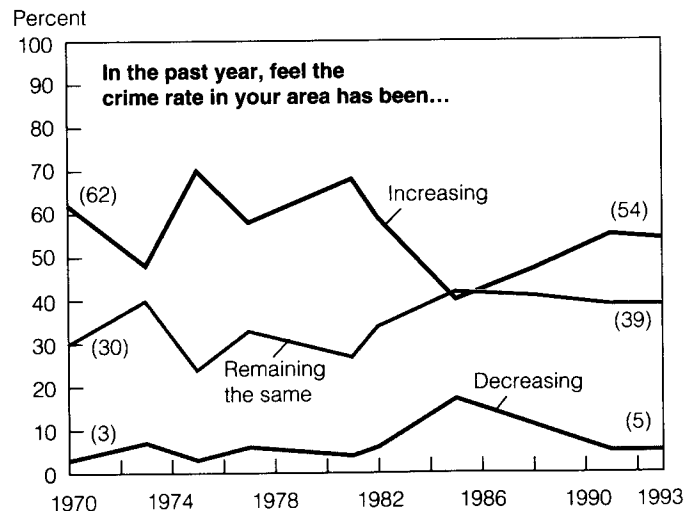
**Source:** Survey by Chilton Research Services, April 15-19, 1993.

Question: **Is there more crime in your neighborhood than there was a year ago, or less?**



**Note:** Forty-two percent of whites and 51% of blacks said there was more crime in their neighborhoods than a year ago.  
**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for *USA Today* and CNN, October 13-18, 1993.

Question: **Now I'd like to ask you some questions about crime. In the past year, do you feel the crime rate in your area has been increasing, decreasing, or has it remained the same as it was before?**



**Source:** Surveys by Louis Harris and Associates, latest that of June 24-29, 1993.

# Victimization: What People Say

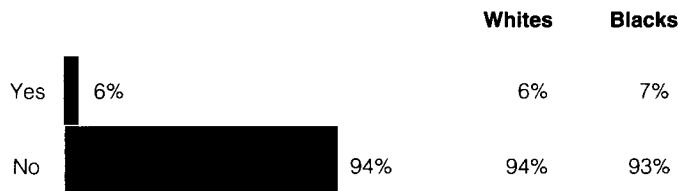
This page and the next one look at experiences with crime. Fewer than ten percent have been victims of a burglary, a robbery, or a violent crime involving a car. Identical proportions of black and whites (14%) report that they have ever been a victim of a violent crime.

Question: **During the last year—that is, between last March (1992) and now—did anyone break into or somehow illegally get into your (apartment/home)?**

Question: **During the last year, did anyone take something directly from you by using force—such as a stickup, mugging or threat?**

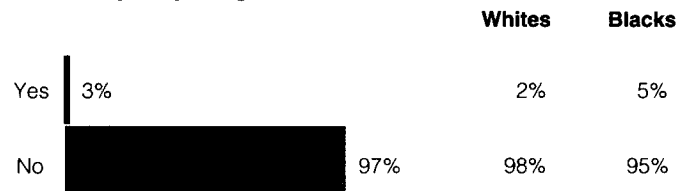
During the last year

Did someone break into or illegally enter your apartment/home?



During the last year

Did anyone take something directly from you by using force?



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, February–April, 1993.

Question: **Have you ever been the victim of a violent crime which occurred while in your car, such as a carjacking or a robbery of any sort?**

Question: **Have you, personally, ever been a victim of a violent crime?**

Have been a victim of a violent crime while in your car



Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time* and CNN, May 12–13, 1993.

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for *USA Today* and CNN, October 13–18, 1993.

# Victimization: What the Records Show

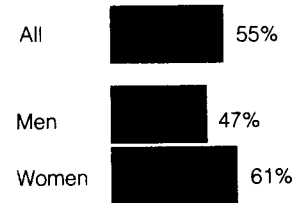
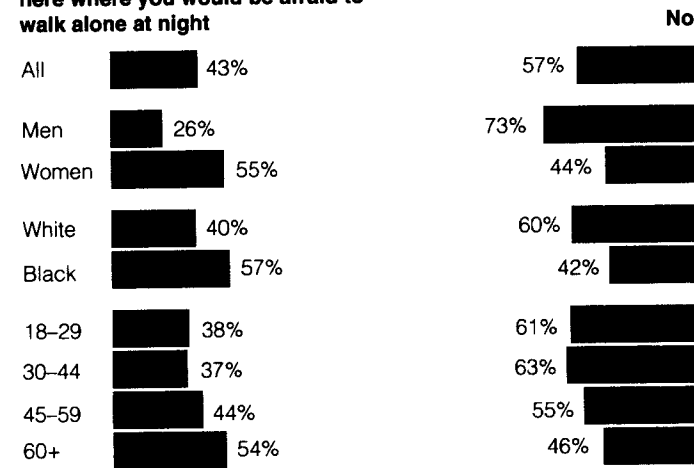
Many more women than men worry about becoming a victim of crime. Rates of household larceny, theft, and household burglary have been going down, while the rate of violent crime and motor vehicle theft per thousand has been rising slightly.

Question: **Is there any area right around here—that is, within a mile—where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?**

Question: **Is being a victim of a crime something you personally worry about, or not?**

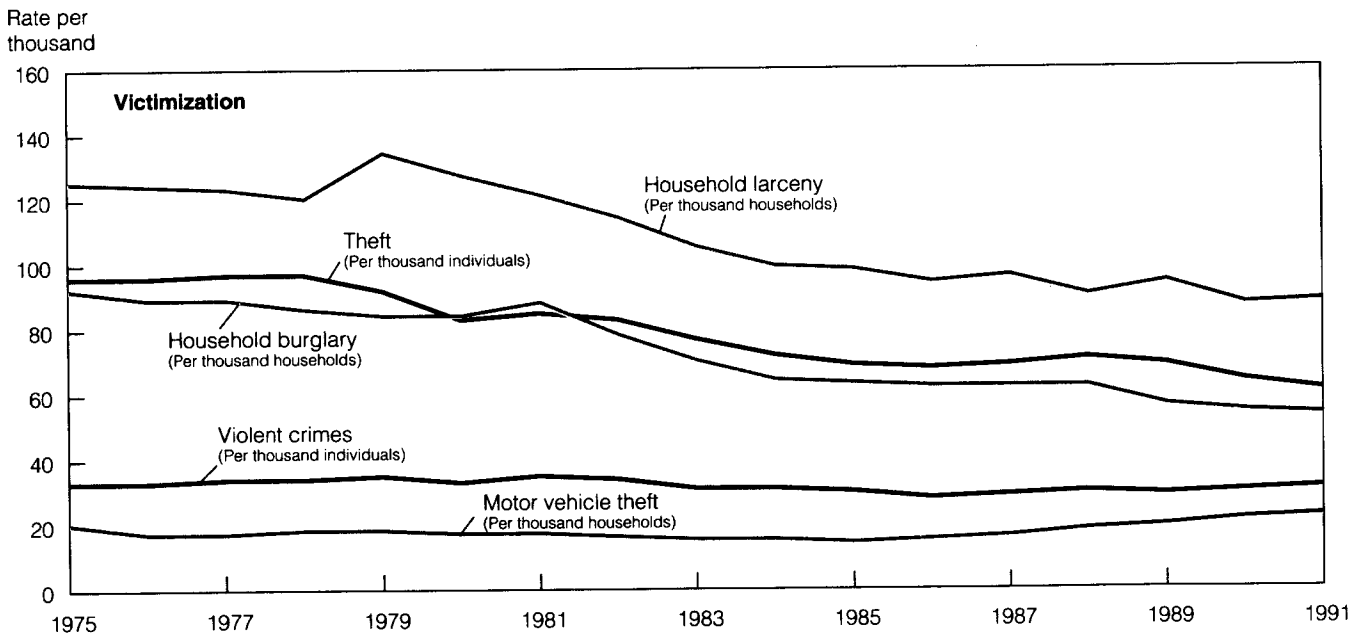
**Yes, there is any area right around here where you would be afraid to walk alone at night**

**Personally worry about being the victim of a crime**



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, February–April, 1993.

Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time* and CNN, August 12, 1993.



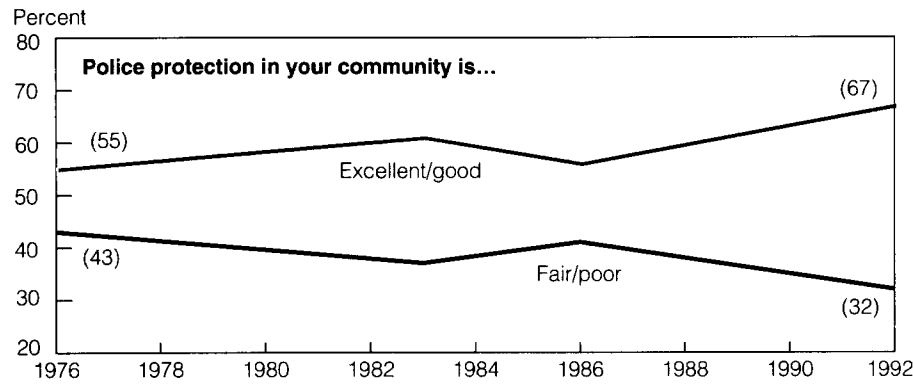
Note: Violent crimes include rape, robbery, and assault; theft refers to personal larceny (nonviolent); household burglary refers to unlawful or forceable entry or attempted entry of a residence; household larceny refers to theft or attempted theft of personal property from residence or grounds.

Source: *Criminal Victimization in the United States* (various years), U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

# Police Protection

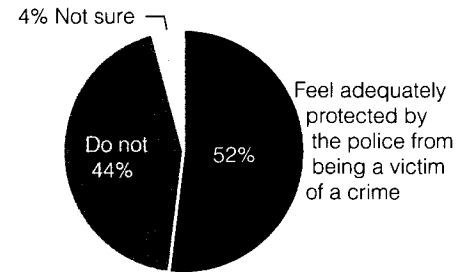
Majorities believe the police are doing an excellent or good job in their areas, and their ratings on specific aspects of police job performance are high. Eight in ten say more police would significantly decrease the amount of violent crime. Conditions under which many would approve of a police officer striking another citizen are listed below.

Question: **Here is a list of things having to do with community life. Would you go down this list and for each one tell me how you would rate it here in your area—excellent, good, fair, or poor?**



Source: Surveys by the Roper Organization, latest that for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, January 25–February 1, 1992.

Question: **Do you feel adequately protected by the police from being the victim of a crime?**



Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN, August 12, 1993.

Question: **How would you rate the police in your community on the following—excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?**

**Would rate the police in your community as excellent/pretty good on...**

	Men	Women	Whites	Blacks
Being helpful and friendly	71%	75%	77%	58%
Responding quickly to calls for help and assistance	67	71	73	50
Not using excessive force	67	68	71	54
Treating people fairly	62	65	68	37
Solving crime	56	61	61	43
Preventing crime	55	60	59	56

Source: Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, October 2–4, 1992.

Question: **Do you think each of the following proposals would decrease the amount of violent crime in this country a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all?**

**Would decrease the amount of violent crime in this country**

	A great deal/ fair amount	Only a little/ not at all
Increasing the number of police in this country	80%	18%
Extending the death penalty to cover some crimes which currently only have a jail sentence	65%	27%
Stricter gun control laws in general	60%	36%

Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time and CNN, August 12, 1993.

Question: **Would you approve of a policeman striking a citizen who...?**

**Would approve of a policeman striking a citizen who was...**

	Whites	Blacks
Attacking the policeman with his fists	92%	90%
Attempting to escape from custody	73%	59%
Being questioned as a suspect in a murder case	7%	11%
Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman	7%	6%

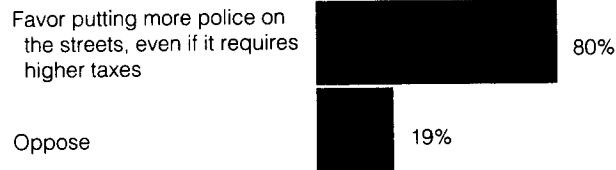
Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, February–April, 1993.

# Getting Tougher

The questions below show an inclination to get tough about crime by increasing the number of police, extending the death penalty to other crimes, controlling guns, and making the courts tougher. Four in ten are not optimistic about what the federal government can do in the area, but we are taking some precautions of our own.

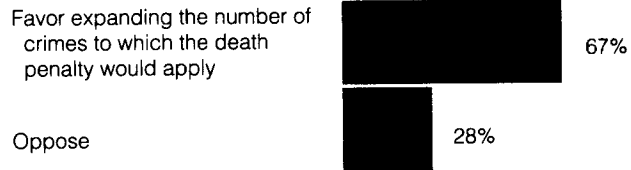
Question: **For each of the following, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it as a way of dealing with crime in the United States. First, do you...?**

## As a way of dealing with crime...



**Note:** Eighty-percent of whites and 76% of blacks favored putting more police on the streets.  
**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for *USA Today* and CNN, October 13-18, 1993.

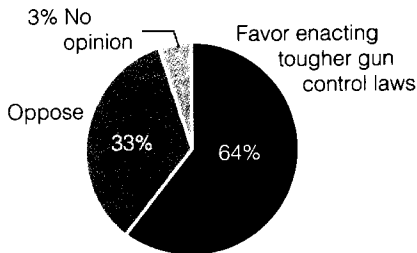
Question: **I will read you some proposals for fighting crime. Please say for each if you favor or oppose it. Do you favor or oppose expanding the number of crimes to which the death penalty would apply?**



**Source:** Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, August 13-18, 1993.

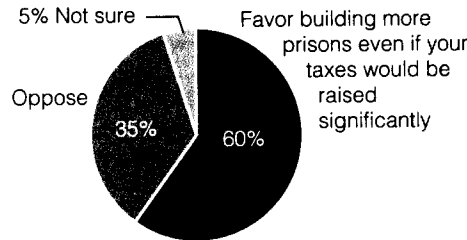
Question: **For each of the following, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it as a way of dealing with crime in the United States. First, do you...?**

## As a way of dealing with crime...



**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for *USA Today* and CNN, October 13-18, 1993.

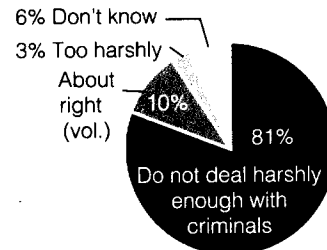
Question: **In order to attempt to reduce the amount of crime in this country, would you favor or oppose...?**



**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time* and CNN, August 12, 1993.

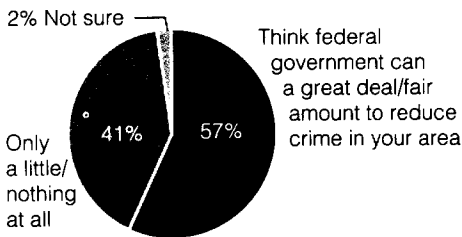
Question: **In general, do you think the courts in this area deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminals?**

## Courts in this area...



**Source:** Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, February-April, 1993.

Question: **How much do you think the federal government can do to reduce the amount of crime in your area...?**

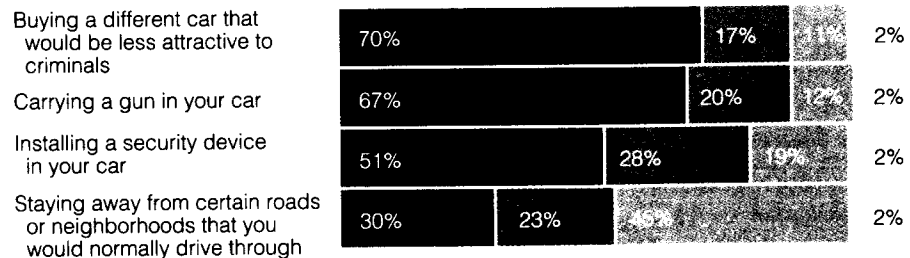


**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time* and CNN, August 12, 1993.

Question: **Here are some actions people have taken to reduce their chances of becoming the victim of a violent crime while in their cars. For each one, please tell me whether it is something you have not considered doing, or whether it is something you have considered but not actually done, or whether you have taken that action.**

## To reduce chances of becoming a victim of violent crime while in your car, have...

Not considered
  Considered but not done
  Taken that action
 Not sure



**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners for *Time* and CNN, May 12-13, 1993.