



# Perceptions of Safety in North Battleford: Household Survey Report

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## Executive Summary

### Key Objectives

The report intends to address three key objectives. First, to understand the perceptions and experiences of crime and safety in North Battleford, more generally. Second, to develop a baseline report for future comparisons of crime prevention and safety programs and initiatives. And third, to identify specific areas in North Battleford that may be the focus of these programs and initiatives for city employees, community safety stakeholders and North Battleford residents.

### Long term objectives

The baseline survey has some important long-term objectives. The first is to provide a baseline to examine trends over time. Very little research is conducted at the neighbourhood level in non-urban areas. Creating a detailed and large-scale survey of the city's residents will help identify not only which strategies are effective in North Battleford long-term, but could inform research on crime and safety in non-urban areas, more broadly. Furthermore, subsequent iterations of this survey will help identify which strategies are effective and ineffective, better guiding the city's budget on how best to invest their money. Finally, over time, the survey will help compare the official statistics to the experiences of North Battleford residents and identify any inconsistencies that need to be addressed.

### To meet these objectives

To meet these objectives, the researcher set out to collect a sample of 374 residents (statistically representative of the population) in North Battleford. This sample was then broken down by neighbourhood and weighted quotas for each neighbourhood were identified. For example, neighbourhoods with more residents would make up a larger proportion of the overall sample. The data were collected in person and online. A team of students from North West College were assigned different neighbourhoods to survey. An online survey was also available for residents who could not or chose not to complete the survey in person. Of the 14 neighbourhoods in North Battleford, College Heights was the only neighbourhood that was unable to meet the necessary quota for the neighbourhood's population size. Additional efforts were made to survey residents of this neighbourhood but were only partially successful. Questions focused on a number of key areas related to crime and safety including neighbourhood cohesion and collective efficacy, experiences of victimization, perceptions of police and procedural justice and perceptions of crime and safety.

### Key Findings

Overall the survey provided a good representation of the population of North Battleford according to city level statistics on current demographic information. Participants responded that they had good relationships with their neighbours but did not participate more formally in their neighbourhood. Over half of participants responded that they had been a victim of crime in the last two years, however these crimes were largely theft. Just under half of these thefts were reported to the police. Perceptions of police and procedural justice were generally quite positive, however many respondents felt that not enough was being done to control drug activity. Concerns about drug activity, alcohol and property crime were prevalent in qualitative questions regarding crime and safety. Overall, respondents feel safe in their respective neighbourhoods, but there are some concerns about crime increasing. Participants describe very little social disorder but describe the presence of some physical disorder including the need for more lighting in some areas. Overall, residents feel safe in many parts of the city, but consistently identify a few areas where they do not feel safe for reasons related to drugs, alcohol use and property crime.

## Introduction

### Background

In 2018, North Battleford was named the “crime capital” of Canada by Maclean’s. North Battleford has a crime severity index of 353, five times the national average.<sup>1</sup> This ranking caused some concern in the City, considering that many groups were already actively working to prevent crime and improve safety. The city determined that they needed more information about the perceptions and experiences of crime and safety of the residents of North Battleford and asked an external researcher to conduct a series of surveys to evaluate their efforts over time. This report outlines the results of the baseline survey of perceptions and experiences of crime and safety by North Battleford residents.

In order to identify and discuss resident perceptions, the survey explored a number of possible correlates of these perceptions, as well as measuring perceptions and experiences of crime and safety. The correlates include demographics, community involvement and integration, experiences of victimization, and perceptions of police and procedural justice.

Demographic data were collected to identify if the survey was representative of the North Battleford population and if there were any anomalies that would skew or bias the findings. Community involvement and integration are useful for understanding whether or not individuals are involved in their community; this involvement and integration has been shown to be linked perceptions of crime and safety, as well as contributing to safety, more generally, in a neighbourhood. Experiences of victimization contribute to understanding how often residents are being victimized and may also help identify if these incidents are being reported to the police. Perceptions of police and procedural justice will identify if there are any biases held by residents towards the police that may affect reporting to the police or support more generally. Finally, the survey collected several measures that offer an understanding of perceptions of crime and safety in the city. Additionally, some data were collected about general knowledge of safety initiatives in the city and concerns about particular neighbourhoods to help direct resources and support.

The report will detail the methodology of the survey, including the sampling strategy and data collection, as well as the questions asked, possible responses and necessary recoding for ease of interpretation. The findings of the survey are then presented in both table and graph form to allow the reader to easily refer to figures. The report will then discuss the findings within the context of North Battleford but will not extrapolate these findings much further as this is a baseline study (no point of comparison). Finally, the report will conclude with limitations and future directions for the next iteration of the survey. The report offers a snapshot of the perceptions and experiences of crime and safety for the residents of North Battleford and additional surveys will be important for comparison and evaluation of crime prevention initiatives and strategies to address these concerns.

### Theoretical reasoning

Several measures were included in this survey that are consistent with sociological and criminological thought on perceptions of crime and safety. Most importantly, the survey asks all residents to answer the questions in reference to “their neighbourhood.” The reasons for this are twofold. One, it allows a micro-spatial examination of neighbourhood experiences that is often

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<sup>1</sup> There are of course concerns with the current CSI ranking in Canada. City’s with smaller populations can produce much higher indices in part because of a small denominator effect. Despite this, North Battleford is significantly higher than the second highest CSI in Thompson, Manitoba (284).

missing from the literature and practical work (Weisburd, 2015). Two, residents are likely to provide the best insight into their neighbourhood experiences. While it is can be easy to pin problems on others (Yarwood & Gardner, 2000), a survey that identifies problems related to specific neighbourhood experiences encourages respondents to focus on concerns and issues that they have knowledge of and have experienced (Wood, 2004). Some may contradict this by saying that individuals who are living in neighbourhoods with problems may not be able to identify these problems as they are desensitized. However, the research does not support this statement, given that residents are often acutely aware of the problems in their neighbourhood (Wells et al. 2006).

The survey also asks the respondents to identify some of their demographic information including age, gender, education, and others. The research on perceptions of crime and safety indicate that women are consistently more concerned about crime and personal safety than men and that the elderly are more afraid than younger respondents (Hale, 1996; Sacco, 1995). These findings are consistent despite lower risks of victimization for both populations. However, context can dramatically impact these relationships (Sutton & Farrall, 2004). There are mixed findings on education, marital status, income, home ownership and previous victimization (included in its own category here) and, thus, are included as control variables for future analyses.

Questions regarding community cohesion and integration are consistent with research on neighbourhood safety and collective efficacy. Collective efficacy refers to the ability of neighbourhood residents to work together to address a common issue and the social cohesion among neighbours that creates these opportunities (Sampson et al. 1997). If residents are well integrated and willing to participate in their neighbourhood, not only do they feel safer, but they contribute to the overall safety of their neighbourhood (Bursik & Grasmick, 1993).

Neighbourhood safety is influenced by several factors and stakeholders. If residents perceive their police as legitimate and support decisions as fair and just, they are more likely to cooperate with police directives and this can contribute to overall neighbourhood safety (Elliot et al. 2011; Mazerolle et al. 2013a, 2013b). This study reports on the descriptive statistics of perceptions of police legitimacy and procedural justice, as well as reporting to the police, to begin to identify possible routes for safety strategies in North Battleford. Future analyses will examine the relationship between these measures and perceptions of crime and safety, more generally.

Finally, and most importantly, the survey measures perceptions of crime and safety in a number of ways. A sense of safety can influence well-being, more generally (Cobbina et al. 2008). If the residents of North Battleford feel unsafe in their neighbourhoods, they are less likely to participate in their neighbourhood and this lack of participation can lead to an increased risk of crime. These perceptions are measured both directly by asking residents how safe they feel, and also by examining their perceptions of physical and social disorder that can contribute to anxiety or fear (Intravia et al. 2016; Farrall et al. 2009). Finally, residents are asked to identify specific areas within the city that they feel unsafe. The responses to these questions are additionally interpreted based on demographic characteristics (home neighbourhood, age and gender), in an attempt to delineate patterns in experiences of safety, or lack thereof, in the identified areas. In particular, do respondents who live in these areas, or near them, also feel unsafe despite their local knowledge of the area. No other survey responses are interpreted beyond descriptive statistics for the purposes of this report.

## Methodology

The baseline survey was developed in partnership with the City of North Battleford. While the majority of the questions are consistent with current perception research and externally validated, some questions were contextualized to the North Battleford experience. The survey consisted of 51 questions, asking residents about their demographics, neighbourhoods, feelings of safety, perceptions of crime, experiences with victimization and perceptions of police power and legitimacy. Respondents were also asked about their awareness of local safety initiatives. The data were analyzed through IBM SPSS version 25 and the findings are descriptive.<sup>2</sup>

## Sample

In order to obtain a statistically representative sample from the population of North Battleford, approximately 375 individuals need to be surveyed. However, there was also interest in ensuring a weighted representation of each of the city's neighbourhoods. The number of respondents needed from each neighbourhood was calculated using the neighbourhood's approximate population and dividing it by the overall population. This percentage was then multiplied by 375 to determine how many respondents were necessary from that neighbourhood. The breakdown is as follows:

**Table 1.0: Representative counts necessary by neighbourhood.**

Neighbourhood	Population	Percentage of Population	Count necessary
Killdeer Park	565	4.1	15
Fairview Heights	1045	7.5	28
Maher Park	1095	7.9	30
McIntosh Park	1095	7.9	30
Centennial Park	1590	11.5	43
Kinsmen Park	1795	13.0	50
Sapp Valley	1465	10.6	40
College Heights	2230	16.1	60
Paciwin	1400	10.1	38
Deanscroft	680	4.9	18
Riverview	555	4.0	15
Downtown	355	2.4	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13850</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>376</b>

\* Yellow Sky was not included in the initial framework as it is largely an industrial area. However, residents could still identify Yellow Sky as their residential neighbourhood in the survey and were included in the results.

## Sampling method

The study then used a stratified convenience sampling method in each neighbourhood to obtain these sample sizes. Responses were gathered in three ways. First, approximately 20 students from a community leadership class North West College were divided into teams of two, and each team was assigned a neighbourhood. The students then went door to door in each of the neighbourhoods asking one resident (over the age of 19) if they would be willing to participate in the survey. Each team kept a logbook to count successful or unsuccessful responses, no answer, and requests to

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<sup>2</sup> Multivariate analyses will be conducted in future reports and analyses. This report intends to serve as a baseline study for comparison purposes.

return. Students were also provided with door hangers that had information about the survey and the online survey link for those who did not answer. Students collected approximately 100 of the surveys. On average, each survey took approximately 25 minutes to complete.

Second, residents were encouraged to participate in the online survey through news bulletins from the city and online radio advertisements. While the in-person surveys were initially intended to account for the majority of surveys collected, issues with logistics and response rates required an increased focus on the online survey. The online survey resulted in the largest number of responses (approximately 700). However, a number of these surveys were largely incomplete (the survey only required that the respondent confirmed that they were over the age of 19 and which neighbourhood they resided in) and were excluded from the final dataset. On average, the online survey took 15 minutes to complete.

Third, and finally, city representatives took paper surveys and iPads with a link to the online survey to the local events in neighbourhoods that still required representation. This resulted in approximately 15 additional surveys.

### Response rate

Because of the multi-method approach to sampling in this survey, a clear response rate is not tenable. However, based on the logbooks of the students for the paper surveys, the response rate was approximately 50%.

### The survey

The survey was broken into six sections: demographics, community involvement and social integration, feelings of safety, perceptions of crime and safety, experiences of victimization, and procedural justice and police legitimacy.

#### *Demographics*

Participants were asked about ten demographic topics in this section. These included age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, education, employment, home ownership, income and in which neighbourhood they worked. Participants were also asked which neighbourhood they lived in. This was the only required question and not answering would terminate the survey.

#### *Community involvement and social integration*

These questions were intended to understand neighbourhood values and collective efficacy. Participants were asked about the behaviour of their neighbours, their involvement in the neighbourhood, their relationship with their neighbours and how their neighbourhood responded to undesirable behaviour (neighbourhood defined as an area that is within a 15-minute walk in any direction from their home).

Residents were asked about some of the ways in which they are involved in their neighbourhood. They were asked if they, or a member of their household, participated in the following activities last year and could respond yes or no.

- a. Spoken to a person or group that was causing problems in the neighbourhood.
- b. Attended a neighbourhood meeting.
- c. Spoken to a local religious leader about doing something to improve the neighbourhood.
- d. Gotten together with neighbours to do something about a problem or organize efforts to improve the neighbourhood.
- e. Spoken with an elected official about a specific problem on the block.



Respondents were also asked six questions about how likely residents in their neighbourhood would intervene in the following situations:

- a. If some kids were skipping school and hanging out on your block.
- b. If a group of kids was spraying graffiti on a building.
- c. If a teenager was showing disrespect to an adult.
- d. If there was a fight in front of your home.
- e. If a group of kids was climbing on a parked car.
- f. If the local community center was going to be closed down because of budget cuts.

Participants could respond: very likely, likely, unlikely, very unlikely or don't know. Responses were recoded to likely and unlikely and don't know.

Respondents were asked several questions about how people get along in their neighbourhood. Respondents were asked to identify how strongly they agreed or disagreed (on a four-point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree) with the following statements:

- a. People in your neighbourhood are willing to help their neighbours,
- b. Neighbours do NOT usually talk to each other in your neighbourhood,
- c. In general, people in your neighbourhood can be trusted,
- d. People in your neighbourhood usually do NOT get along with each other,
- e. People in your neighbourhood do NOT share the same values,
- f. Neighbours watch out for each other in your neighbourhood.

Statements b, d, and e were reverse coded for consistency. These questions become b) neighbours do usually talk to each other in your neighbourhood, d) people in your neighbourhood usually get along with each other and e), people in your neighbourhood share the same values. Strongly agree and agree responses were collapsed into Agree and strongly disagree and disagree responses were collapsed into Disagree. Don't know, prefer not to answer or missing responses were collapsed into Other.

Finally, participants were asked if they knew their neighbours and how often they interacted with their neighbours. These questions were intended to measure neighbourhood integration.

#### *Experiences of victimization*

Participants were asked about their experiences of victimization in their neighbourhood in the last two years including burglary, violence or assault, and theft. They were asked how many times they had been a victim of crime in the past two years, and if that crime(s) had been burglary, violence or assault, or theft, and how many times these offences had occurred. They were also asked if they reported these incidents to the police. These questions were intended to understand the level of unreported crimes in North Battleford and the common issues for local residents. More specific questions about these victimizations were not included to protect the privacy of residents and to avoid creating any additional trauma from these recollections.

#### *Police Legitimacy and Procedural Justice*

These questions were intended to understand how residents felt about the police in North Battleford and law enforcement, more generally. Participants were also asked about how often they see police officers walking in their neighbourhood and, on average, how many police cars they see driving in their neighbourhood in a day. Furthermore, residents were asked if they had ever filed a complaint about the police.



### Police Legitimacy

Police legitimacy was measured with six statements, asking participants whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following about police in their neighbourhood:

- a. In general, the police do a good job preventing crime.
- b. Police officers treat people fairly.
- c. The police do a good job of controlling drug activity.
- d. In general, police care about problems in your neighbourhood.
- e. The police do a good job enforcing traffic laws.
- f. In general police officers treat people with respect.

Respondents were also then asked if they strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed or strongly disagreed with the following statement about community safety officers in North Battleford: In general, the Community Safety Officers do a good job of enforcing traffic laws.

### Procedural Justice

Procedural justice is measured with seven statements, asking participants whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements:

- a. People should obey the law even if it goes against what they think is right.
- b. I always try to follow the law even if I think it is wrong.
- c. Disobeying the law is rarely justified.
- d. It is difficult to break the law and keep your self-respect.
- e. There is little reason for someone like me to obey the law.
- f. You can't blame a person for breaking the law if they can get away with it.
- g. If a person is doing something and a police officer tells them to stop, they should stop even if what they are doing is legal.

Questions e and f were reverse coded for consistency with the other questions. These questions become e) There is reason for someone like me to obey the law and f) You can blame a person for breaking the law if they can get away with it. Responses were collapsed so that strongly agree and agree became Agree, strongly disagree and disagree became Disagree and any other responses became Other.

### Feelings of safety

These questions were designed to determine how safe residents felt overall in their neighbourhood.

The survey included seven questions asking respondents about their feelings of safety. Participants were asked if they strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements about their neighbourhood:

- a. It is safe for children to play outside in your neighbourhood.
- b. In general, it is safe to walk in your neighbourhood at night.
- c. You are afraid of being attacked in your neighbourhood.
- d. You are worried that someone will break into your home.
- e. It is safe for you to go outside alone during the day.
- f. You are worried about drugs in your neighbourhood.
- g. Most people think your neighbourhood is becoming more dangerous.

Responses are grouped into agree (strongly agree and agree) and disagree (strongly disagree and disagree).

### *Perceptions of crime and safety*

Participants were asked several questions about social and physical disorder in their neighbourhood.

#### *Social disorder*

Social disorder was measured with eight statements, asking participants how often over the past year have the following activities taken place on their block:

- a. People arguing or fighting.
- b. Groups of kids hanging out, causing problems.
- c. People drinking alcohol in public.
- d. People acting drunk or high.
- e. Panhandlers asking for money.
- f. People making too much noise late at night.
- g. People selling drugs outside.
- h. Prostitutes working.

Participants could respond every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, less than once a month.

#### *Physical disorder*

Residents were asked questions about the physical appearance of their block. For each question, they were asked to identify how many (none, one or two, many) of the following were present on their block:

- a. Buildings with broken windows.
- b. Places where graffiti is a problem.
- c. Vacant lots.
- d. Abandoned or boarded up buildings.
- e. Abandoned cars.
- f. Places where litter and broken glass are a problem.
- g. Places that need better lighting.

Their responses were collapsed into present (one or two and many) and not present (none).

#### *Safety Initiatives*

The city has put in place a number of safety initiatives. Participants were asked how familiar they were with these initiatives, with possible responses ranging from: not at all familiar, somewhat unfamiliar, somewhat familiar and very familiar. Responses were recoded to familiar (somewhat familiar and very familiar) and unfamiliar (somewhat unfamiliar and very unfamiliar) These initiatives included

1. Eyes that care
2. Formalizing neighbourhoods,
3. Downtown revitalization
4. Art Alley
5. Block Parties
6. Citizens on Patrol
7. Safety Audits
8. SAGE (Safety, Acceptance, Guidance, Empowerment)
9. Security Camera Registry
10. Community Safety Officers
11. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

### Safe and Unsafe Areas

Residents were asked to identify the areas in the city that they feel the safest and the most unsafe. Each of the city's neighbourhoods were broken into quadrants to create 56 areas and these areas were numbered on a map attached to the survey (Figure 1.0). Residents were asked to identify the area number where they felt the most safe, the second most safe and the third most safe. They were then asked to describe why they felt safe in those places. Residents were then asked to identify the area number where they felt the most unsafe, the second most unsafe and the third most unsafe. They were then asked to describe why they felt the most unsafe in those places. All 56 areas are presented here and the top response for each question is highlighted in red. Qualitative responses to questions about why they felt safe or unsafe are combined into individual word clouds based on word frequency using Nvivo 12. This aggregation is done to protect anonymity of the participants and highlight themes. Finally, the area in which respondents feel the most safe and the area in which respondents feel the most unsafe is analyzed further by some demographics (neighbourhood, age, and gender). These results were also analyzed according to the neighbourhood in which they worked. Only key findings regarding these demographics are reported for ease of interpretation.

**Figure 1.0: Map of North Battleford broken down by areas**



## Results

### Demographics

The following outlines the demographics of the 615 North Battleford residents who completed the survey.

**Age:** Respondents from age 19 to 91 years old responded to the survey. The average age of respondents was 45 (n=555).

**Gender:** 58.2% (358) respondents identified as female, 33.7% (207) identified as male and 1.6% (10) identified as other or refused the question (n=575).

**Ethnicity:** 75% (462) of respondents identified as Caucasian, 12.5% (77) as Aboriginal and 3.1% (27) as other. 8% (49) didn't respond or refused (n = 615).

**Marital status:** 64% (395) married or common law, 10.4% (64) divorced, 13.7% (84) single or never been married, 11.7% (72) as other or missing (n = 615).

**Employment:** 70.7% (435) were employed, 17.6% (108) were unemployed and 2.9% (18) were retired. 8.9% (54) refused or were missing from the data (n = 615).

**Home ownership:** 75.6% (465) own their homes, 15.3% (94) rent and 9.2% (56) either refused or were missing (n = 615).

**Table 2.0 – Income by year**

Income (per year)	Percentage
Less than \$20,000 or no income	8.50
\$20,001 to \$50,000	26.70
\$50,0001 to \$80,000	22.30
\$80,001 to \$100,000	12.50
Over \$100,000	14.00
Don't know, missing or refused	16.20
Total	100.00

Table 2.0 demonstrates that the largest proportion of participants had an income between \$20,000 to \$50,000 per year. Less than 10% of respondents identified that they made less than \$20,000 a year.

**Table 3.0 – Highest educational attainment**

Education	Percentage
Less than high school diploma	4.6
High school diploma or equivalent	13.7
Some trade, technical or vocation school	16.4
Business or community college	14.5
Some university	12.2
Bachelor's degree	19.7
Graduate degree or professional degree such as Law or Medicine	8.6
Don't know, missing or refused	10.4
Total	100.00

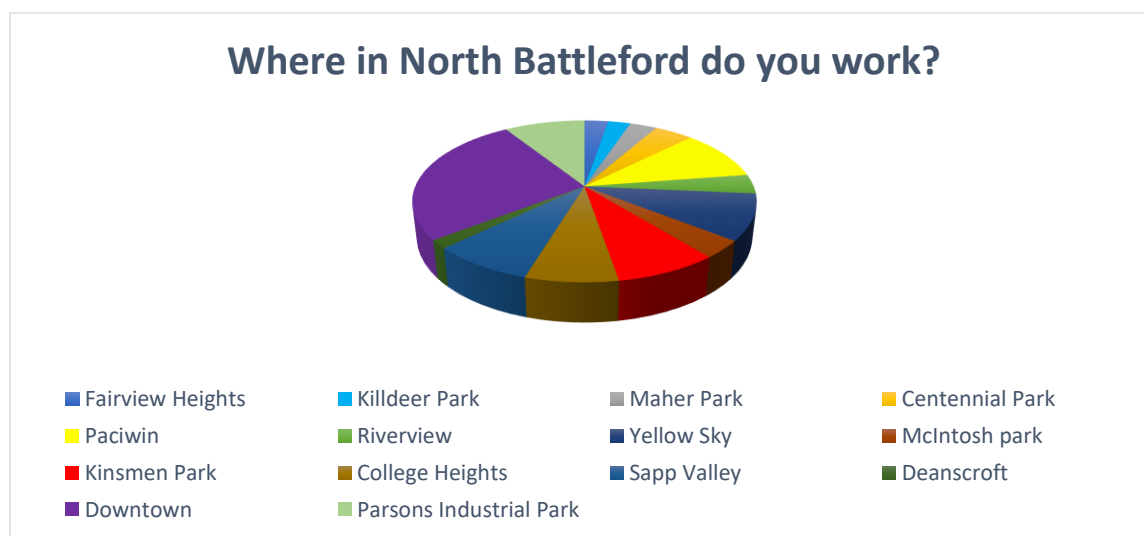
According to Table 3.0, most participants had a high school diploma or equivalent at minimum (85%). A bachelor’s degree was the most common level of education (19.7%) followed by some trade, technical or vocational school (16.4%).

**Table 4.0 - Neighbourhood Representation based on Neighbourhood Population.**

Neighbourhood	Population	Percentage of Population	Count necessary	Count achieved	Percentage of overall survey	Difference between necessary and achieved (%)
Killdeer Park	565	4.1	15	37	6.0	+1.9
Fairview Heights	1045	7.5	28	50	8.1	+0.6
Maher Park	1095	7.9	30	48	7.8	-0.1
McIntosh Park	1095	7.9	30	49	8.0	+0.1
Centennial Park	1590	11.5	43	76	12.4	+0.9
Kinsmen Park	1795	13.0	50	94	15.3	+2.3
Sapp Valley	1465	10.6	40	63	10.2	-0.4
College Heights	2230	16.1	60	46	7.5	-8.6
Paciwin	1400	10.1	38	51	8.3	-1.8
Deanscroft	680	4.9	18	38	6.2	-1.3
Riverview	555	4.0	15	34	5.5	+1.5
Downtown	355	2.4	9	22	3.6	+1.2
Yellow Sky				7	1.1	+1.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13850</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 4.0 demonstrates a fairly proportionate spread of participants to neighbourhood population for the majority of neighbourhoods. This means that while some neighbourhoods had more participants than others, this is consistent with the size of the neighbourhood’s population. However, Kinsmen Park is somewhat overrepresented (2.3%). College Heights, that suffered some issues with recruitment identified in the methodology, is underrepresented by 8.6%. While there is slight over and underrepresentation for the other neighbourhoods, the high response rate has rendered these differences minimal.

**Figure 2.0 - Where in North Battleford do you work?**



According to Figure 2.0, of the respondents who responded that they work in North Battleford (n=383: 62.3%), the largest proportion (n=97: 15.8%) work in the Downtown area.

## Neighbourhood involvement and social integration

**Figure 3.0 - Indicators of Neighbourhood Integration.**

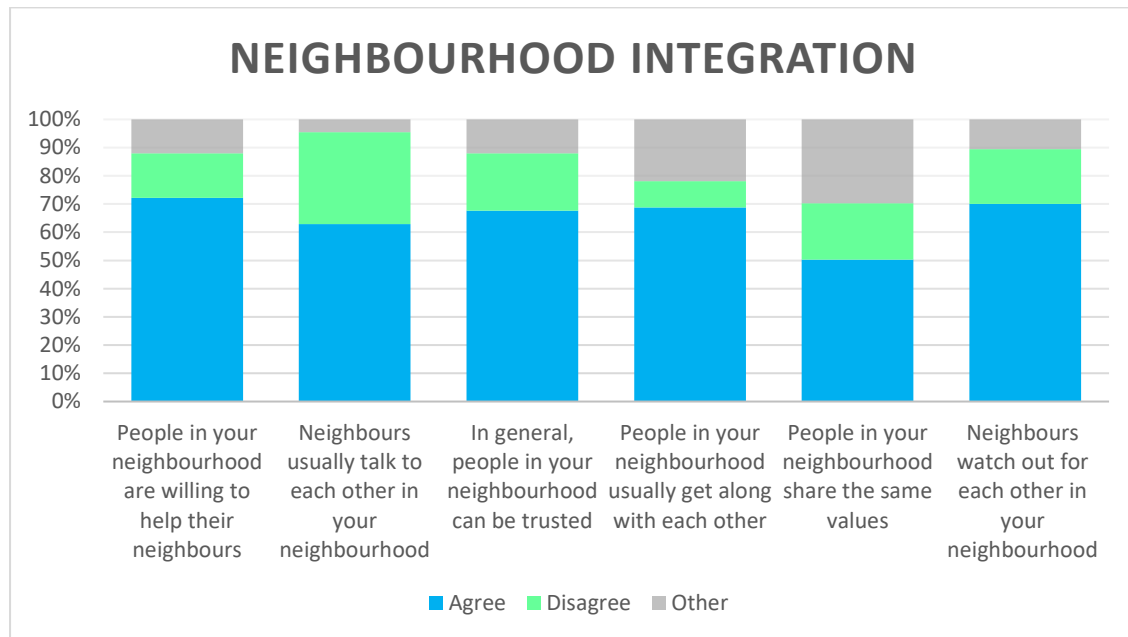


Figure 3.0 demonstrates that a larger proportion of participants agreed with the statements about neighbourhood integration than not. Respondents largely agree (60-70%) that people in their neighbourhood are willing to help their neighbours, talk to each other, can be trusted, get along with each other, share the same values and watch out for each other. While the responses to these statements are largely consistent, approximately 33% of participants did not agree that neighbours usually talk to each other in their neighbourhood.

## Relationship with Neighbours

Participants were asked a number of questions about their relationship with their neighbours. To the question, **Do you know any of your neighbours by name? (n=602)**, 86% (503) of respondents overwhelmingly responded that they knew their neighbours by name. To the question, **How many of your neighbours would you consider friends (n=586)**, on average, participants responded that they would consider 8 of their neighbours friends. 106 people said that they do not have any neighbours they would consider friends (17.2%).

**Figure 4.0 – Time spent interacting with neighbours.**

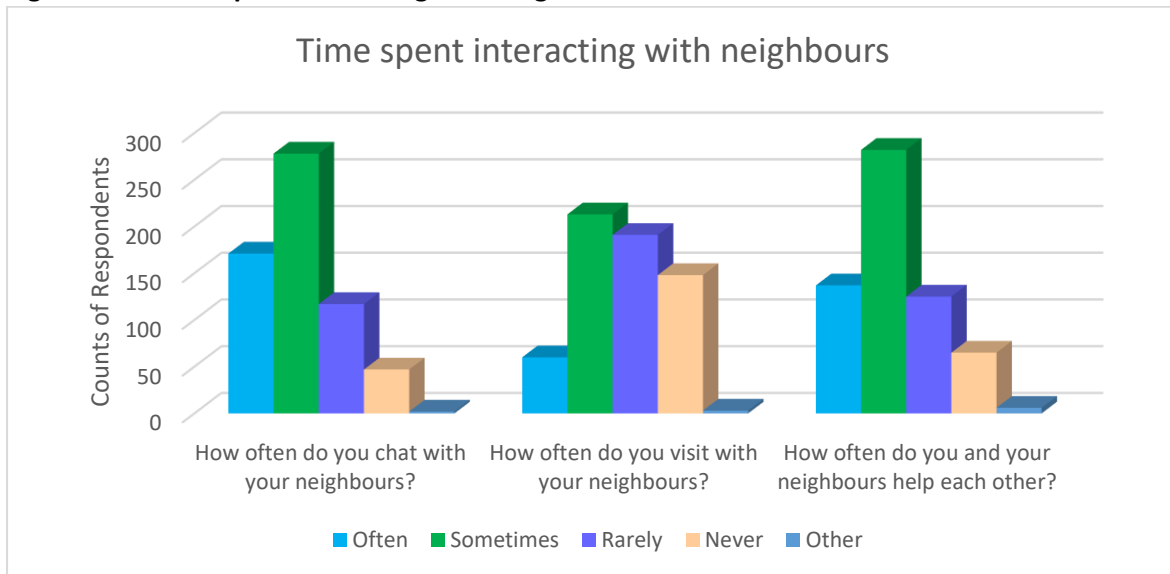
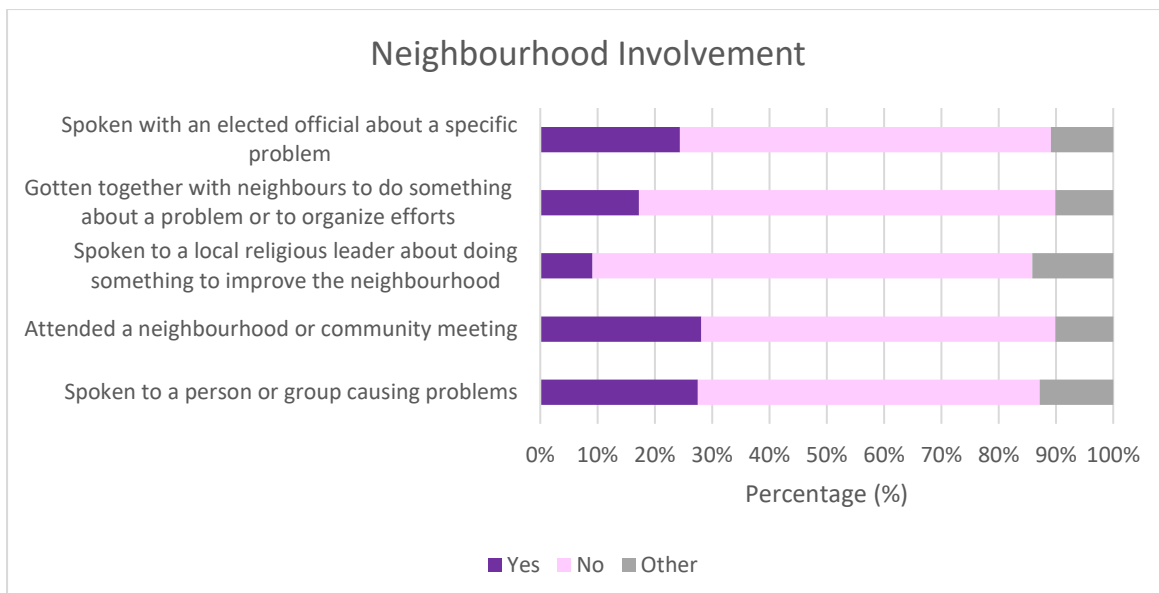


Figure 4.0 indicates how often participants indicated that they spent time interacting with their neighbours. The most frequent response to each question was sometimes, with 45% of participants responding that they chat with their neighbours sometimes, 35% responding that they visit with their neighbours sometimes and 46% responding that their neighbours help each other sometimes. Approximately 28% of participants responded that they chat with their neighbours often, 10% visit with their neighbours often and 22% help their neighbours often.

*Neighbourhood involvement*

**Figure 5.0 – Neighbourhood Involvement**



More often than not, participants responded that they did not participate in more formalized ways in their neighbourhood. Figure 5.0 demonstrates that less than 30% of participants had spoken with an elected official, gotten together with neighbours to do something about a problem, spoken to a religious leader about doing something to improve the neighbourhood, attended a neighbourhood or community meeting or spoken to a person or group causing problems.



**Figure 6.0 – Willingness to intervene.**

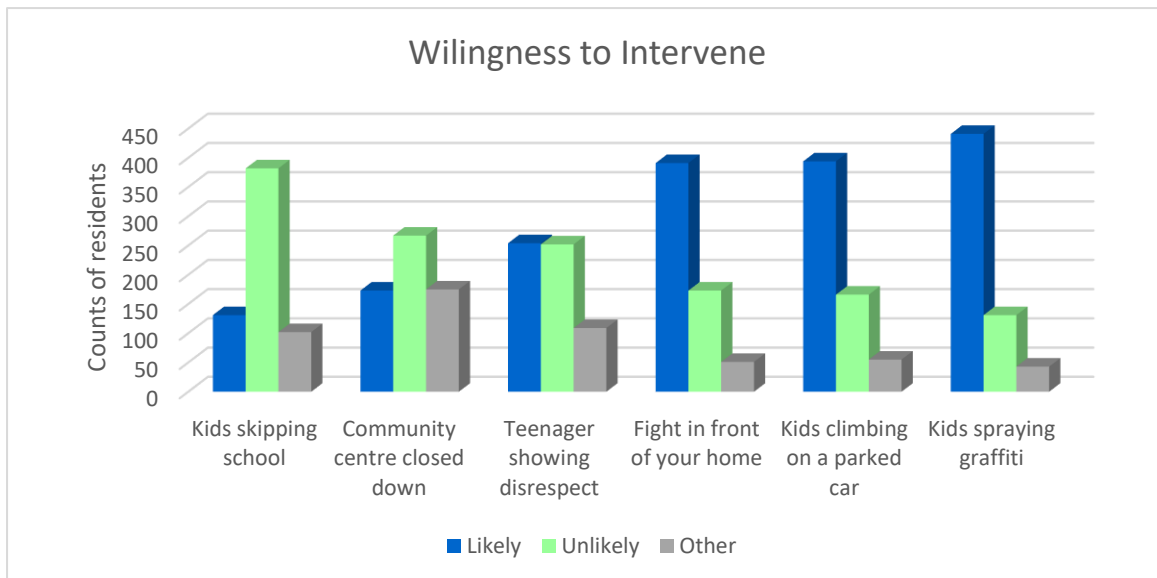
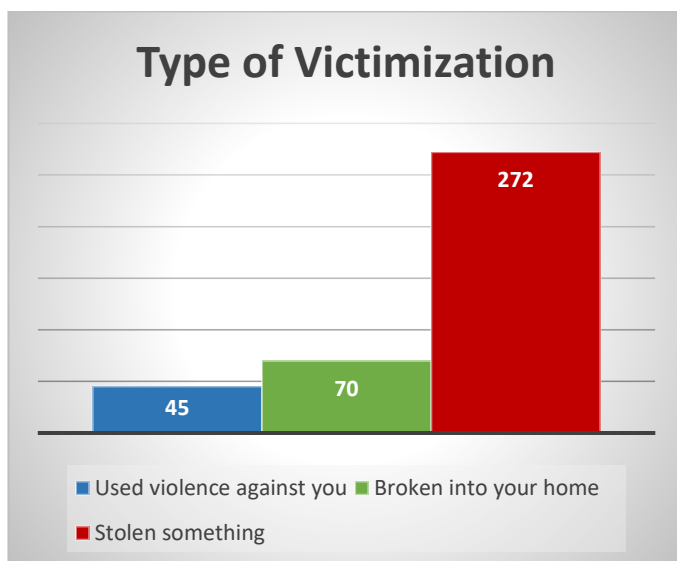


Figure 6.0 demonstrates a number of statements that represent a willingness of residents to intervene in illegitimate or undesirable activities. Residents were most likely to interfere with kids spraying graffiti or climbing on a car or if a fight broke out in front of their home. They were less likely to intervene in kids skipping school and if a community centre was going to be closed down. Respondents were evenly split on whether or not it was likely they would intervene with a teenager showing disrespect.

### Experiences of victimization

When asked if they had been a victim of crime in the last two years, 50.4% responded yes, 45.5% responded no and the remaining 4.1% did not know or did not respond. Of those who had been victimized 63.5% were victimized between 1 and 4 times over the two years. 36.5% were victimized more than four times.

**Figure 7.0 – Type of victimization.**



Of those who had been victimized in the last two years, 45 had been a victim of violence or assault, 70 had been a victim of a break and enter and 272 had something stolen from them. 36 of the 45 (80%) who responded that they had been a victim of violence, 62 of 70 (89%) who responded they had been a victim of a break and enter and 134 of the 272 (49%) who responded that they had something stolen from responded that they reported these incidents to the police.

## Police legitimacy

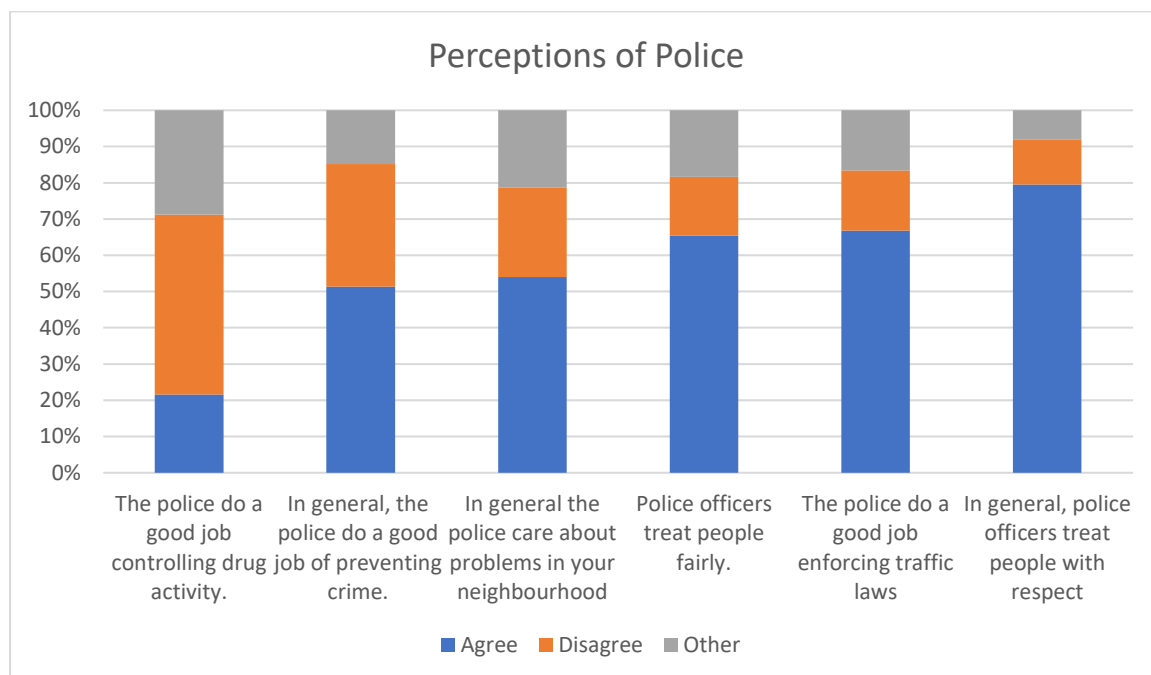
Participants were asked several questions about police and police behaviour. To the question: How many times have you called the police to report a problem in your neighbourhood in the last two years, on average participants responded 3.7 times. Most residents (237, 38.6%) had called the police between 1 and 4 times during that time. 176 (28.6%) had not called the police in the last two years and 59 (9.6%) did not respond to the question).

When asked how many police cars they see driving in their neighbourhood on an average day, participants, on average responded one car per day. 204 (33%) responded that they saw no police cars and 10% of respondents responded that they saw three or more police cars on an average day in their neighbourhood.

## Police presence

When asked about how often participants saw police in their neighbourhood, 398 (65%) responded less than once a month. 62 (10%) responded that they saw the police everyday (13), a few times a week (18) or a few times a month (31). 155 (25%) of participants did not respond to this question.

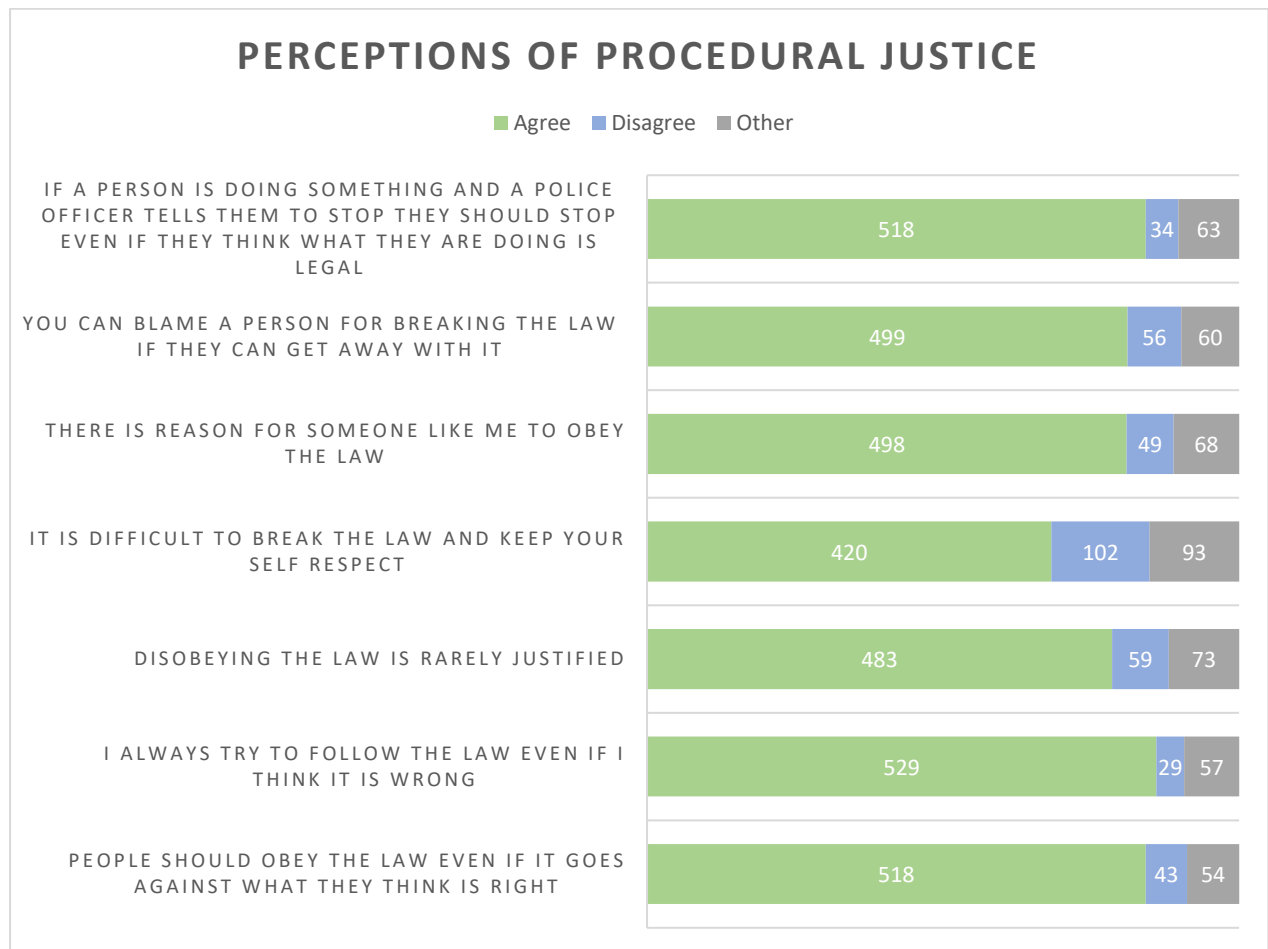
**Figure 8.0 – Perceptions of Police.**



Participants largely responded that they agreed to the statements about police in their neighbourhood. However, participants were less likely to respond that they felt the police were doing a good job of controlling drug activity (30%). Not featured here, 389 (64%) of participants responded that they agreed that the community safety officers do a good job of enforcing traffic laws (134 did not agree and 92 did not respond).

Additionally, participants were also asked if they had filed a complaint against the police. 42 (6.8%) responded yes, 537 (87.3%) responded no. 36 (5.9%) did not respond to this question.

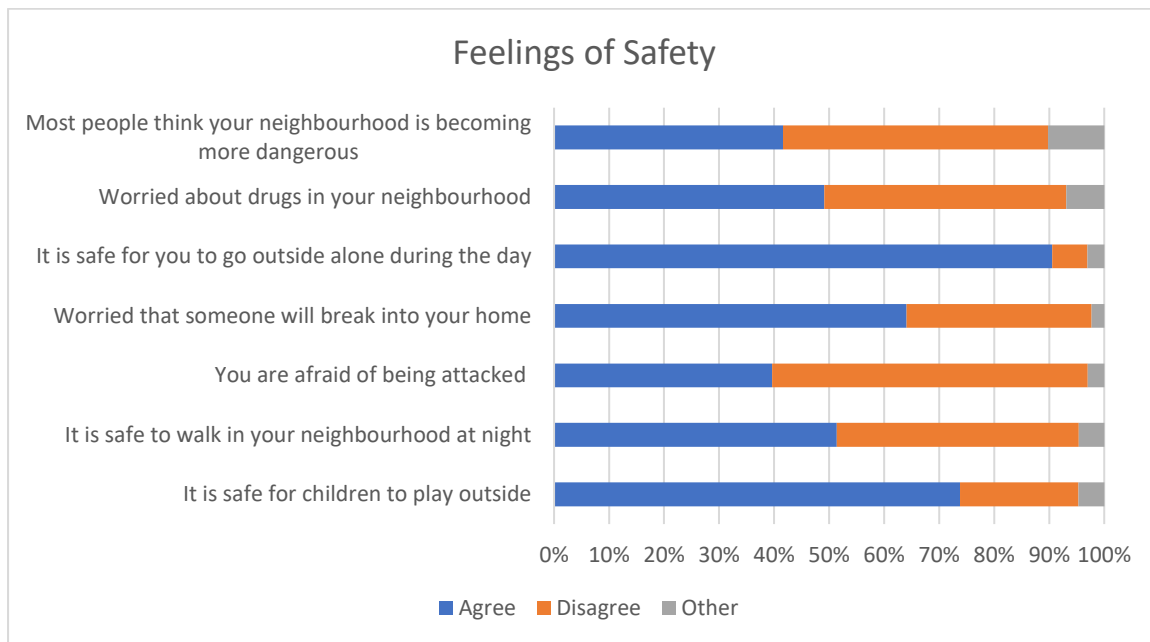
**Figure 9.0 – Perceptions of Procedural Justice**



Participants largely responded to have positive views of procedural justice. Over 80% of participants responded that they agreed to the statements, “if a person is doing something and a police officer tells them to stop, they should stop even if they think what they are doing is legal,” “you can blame a person for breaking the law if they can get away with it,” “there is reason for someone like me to obey the law,” “I always try to follow the law even if I think it is wrong,” and “people should obey the law even if it goes against something they think is right. 68% responded that they agreed it is difficult to break the law and keep your self-respect. 79% responded that disobeying the law is rarely justified.

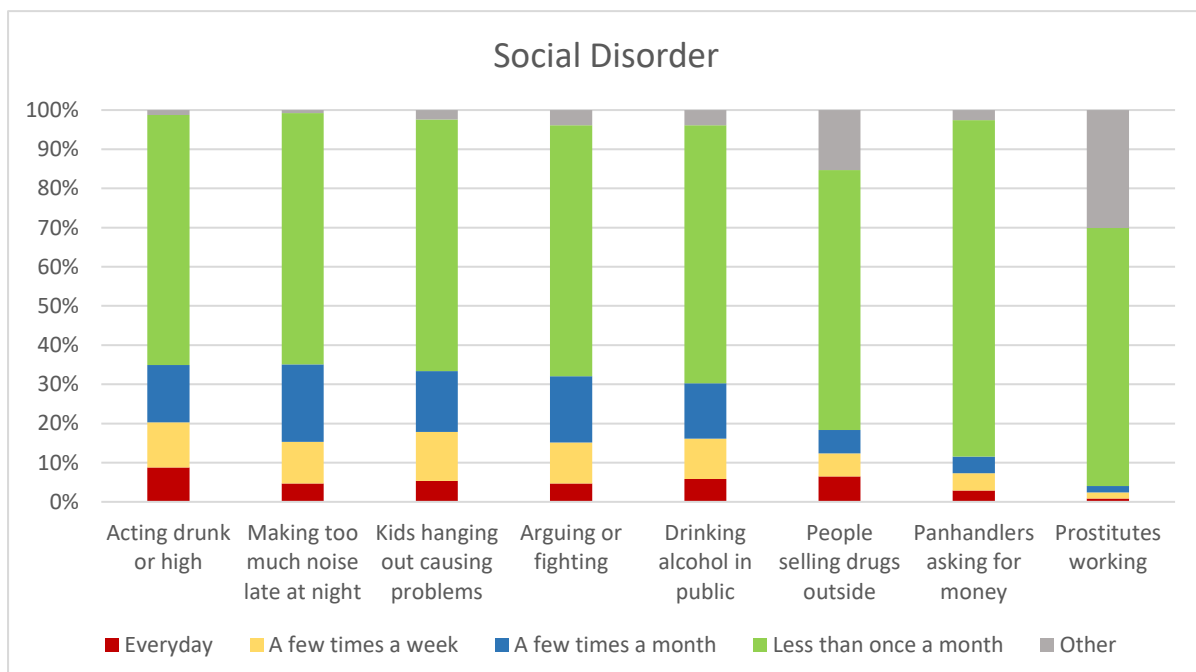
## Perceptions of Crime and Safety

**Figure 10.0 – Feelings of safety**



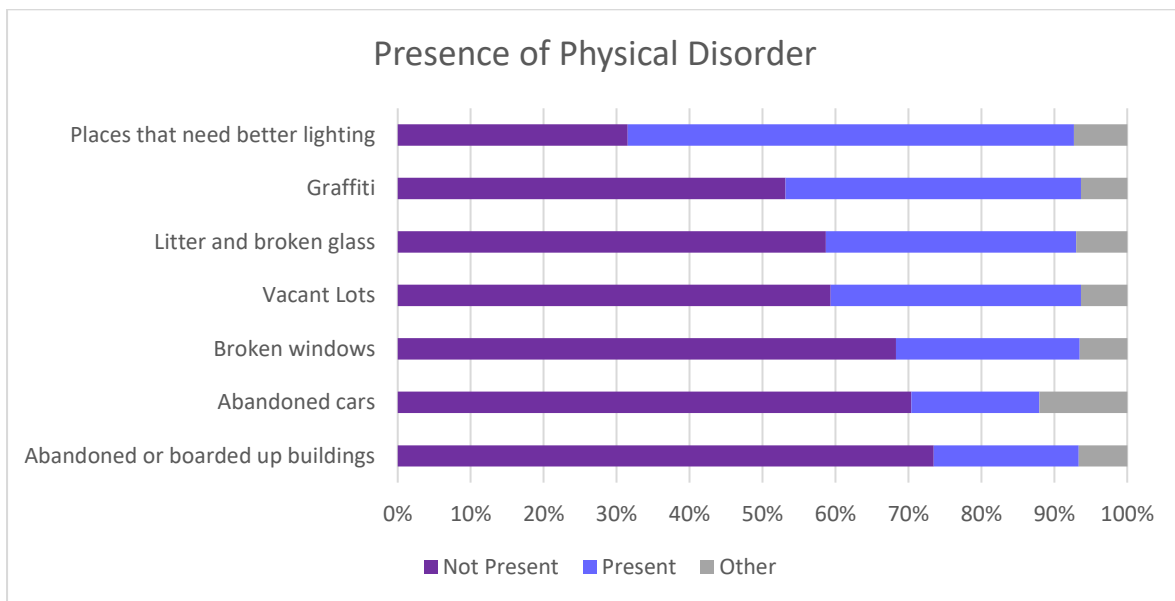
Residents had mixed responses to their feelings of safety in their neighbourhoods (Figure 10.0). While the majority of respondents felt it was safe to go outside alone during the day (91.8%), fewer felt that it was safe to walk in their neighbourhood at night (51.4%). The majority of respondents agreed that it was safe for children to play outside (73.8%). Many respondents were concerned about drugs in their neighbourhood (49.1%) or their neighbourhood becoming more dangerous (41.6%). Respondents were proportionally less afraid of being attacked (39.7%) and more worried that someone would break into their home (64.1%)

**Figure 11.0 – Perceptions of Social Disorder**



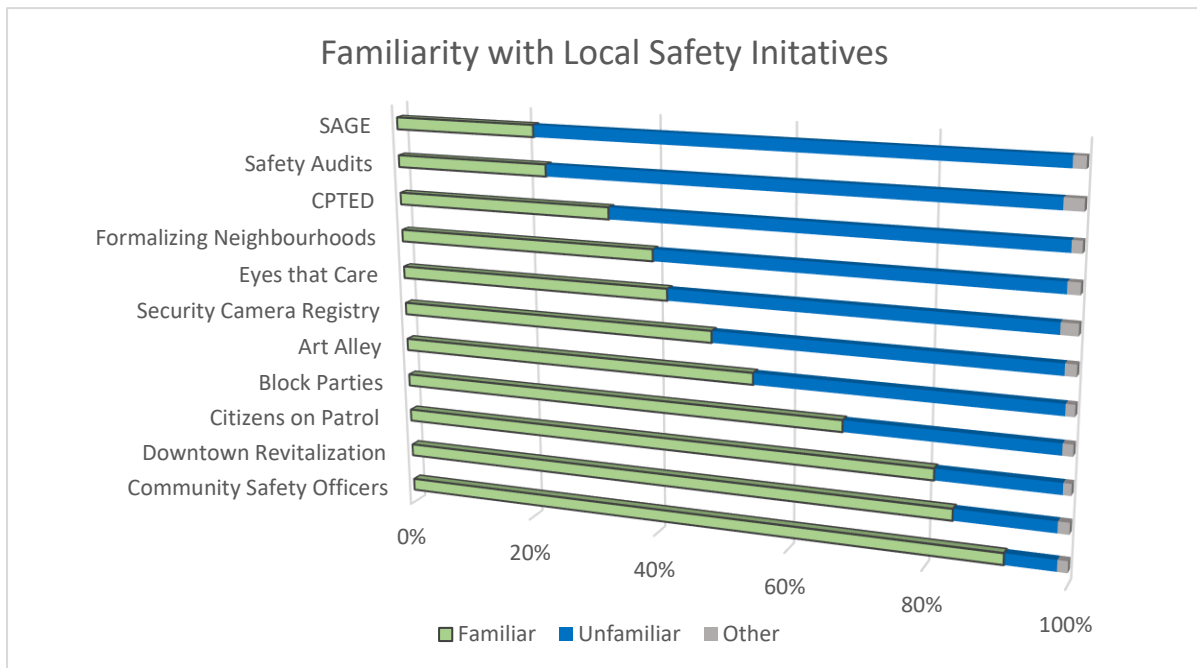
Overwhelmingly, participants identified very little social disorder problems in their neighbourhood according to Figure 11.0. Most participants responded that these problems occurred less than once a month. The responses everyday, a few times a week and a few times a month were combined to understand these issues more generally. The social disorder issues that emerged as the most common were people acting drunk and high (215, 35%), people making too much noise at night (216, 35%), kids hanging out and causing problems (205, 33%), people arguing or fighting (197, 32%) and people drinking in public (186, 30%). There was very little concern about prostitutes and panhandlers.

**Figure 12.0 – The presence of physical disorder**



When asked about the presence (or absence) of certain signs of physical disorder (Figure 12.0), the majority of participants identified that signs of physical disorder were not present on their block, 65% (376) participants identified that there were places that needed better lighting. Also 43% (249) and 36% (211) of respondents indicated that graffiti and litter and broken glass (respectively) were present on their block.

**Figure 13.0 - Familiarity with local safety initiatives**



As evidenced by Figure 13.0, participants were more familiar with some local safety initiatives than others. Participants identified that they were more familiar than not with Community Safety Officers (93%), Downtown Revitalization (85%), Citizens on Patrol (82%), Block Parties (69%) and Art Alley (56%). Alternatively, participants were less familiar with the Security Camera Registry (49%), Eyes that Care (43%), Formalizing Neighbourhoods (41%), CPTED (34%), Safety Audits (24%) and SAGE (22%).

### Perceptions of safety by neighbourhood

On average, 72% of participants responded to the question “looking at the following map<sup>3</sup>, please identify the three areas you feel the most safe” (74.2% for most safe, 72.2% for second most safe and 69.2% for third most safe). Of those who responded to the question where they felt the most safe, 90 (19.6%) identified area 1. 60 (13.4% of those who responded) identified that they felt the second most safe in area 2. 46 (10.8% of those who responded) identified that they felt the third most safe in area 3.

On average 71.6% of participants responded to the question “looking at the following map, please identify the three areas you feel the most unsafe” (73.9% for most unsafe, 71.7% for second most unsafe and 69.2% for third most unsafe). Of those who responded to the question where they felt the most unsafe, 131 (28.8%) identified area 41. 65 (14.7% of those who responded) identified that they felt the second most unsafe and 56 (13.1% of those who responded) identified that they felt the third most unsafe in area 38.

<sup>3</sup> See page 11, Figure 1.0.

Table 5.0: Three areas feel most safe and feel most unsafe.

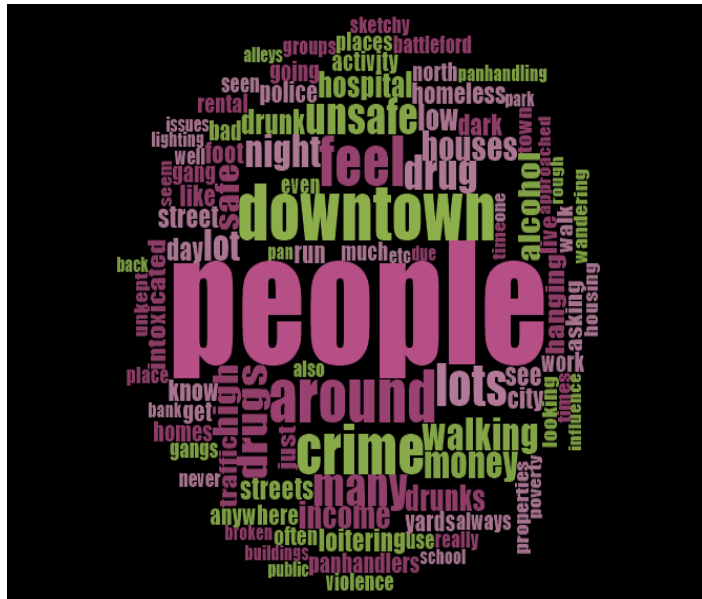
Area	Feel Safe			Area	Feel Unsafe		
	Most Safe	Second Most Safe	Third Most Safe		Most Unsafe	Second Most Unsafe	Third Most Unsafe
1	90	40	22	1	0	0	0
2	24	60	17	2	1	1	0
3	8	30	46	3	1	0	0
4	12	17	25	4	2	1	2
5	15	18	18	5	1	0	0
6	13	21	18	6	0	1	0
7	20	8	12	7	4	2	4
8	31	44	28	8	3	5	1
9	18	5	13	9	2	0	2
10	8	5	7	10	2	0	3
11	4	3	4	11	1	2	4
12	2	1	2	12	1	1	6
13	7	4	6	13	6	2	2
14	6	10	10	14	0	1	1
15	4	4	4	15	0	0	0
16	10	8	11	16	0	0	2
17	25	9	6	17	0	0	1
18	19	33	16	18	0	0	0
19	8	18	26	19	0	0	0
20	3	3	16	20	1	0	0
21	9	4	9	21	2	0	2
22	7	9	9	22	1	1	2
23	21	16	12	23	3	0	1
24	14	9	10	24	3	7	6
25	1	1	3	25	3	3	6
26	1	0	2	26	6	3	4
27	4	7	2	27	33	26	21
28	7	3	3	28	42	44	29
29	0	0	1	29	7	7	5
30	2	1	1	30	30	17	19
31	4	1	0	31	12	15	17
32	5	3	0	32	4	11	15
33	1	1	1	33	2	5	5
34	1	1	1	34	6	6	10
35	2	4	6	35	3	3	3
36	2	0	1	36	3	2	3
37	10	0	3	37	41	55	51
38	2	8	2	38	18	65	56
39	0	1	2	39	17	20	31
40	0	0	0	40	11	5	7
41	2	4	5	41	131	29	23
42	1	0	2	42	11	45	16
43	2	2	1	43	24	30	33
44	1	1	1	44	2	3	7
45	3	4	4	45	4	5	7
46	5	0	1	46	1	7	2
47	4	6	4	47	0	1	4
48	5	2	4	48	1	1	2
49	0	1	3	49	2	2	3
50	2	2	5	50	1	1	0
51	2	4	5	51	1	2	3
52	3	3	9	52	0	0	1
53	2	0	1	53	1	0	0
54	1	2	4	54	1	1	0
55	2	4	2	55	1	1	1
56	4	2	0	56	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>426</b>
<b>Missing</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>Missing</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>191</b>



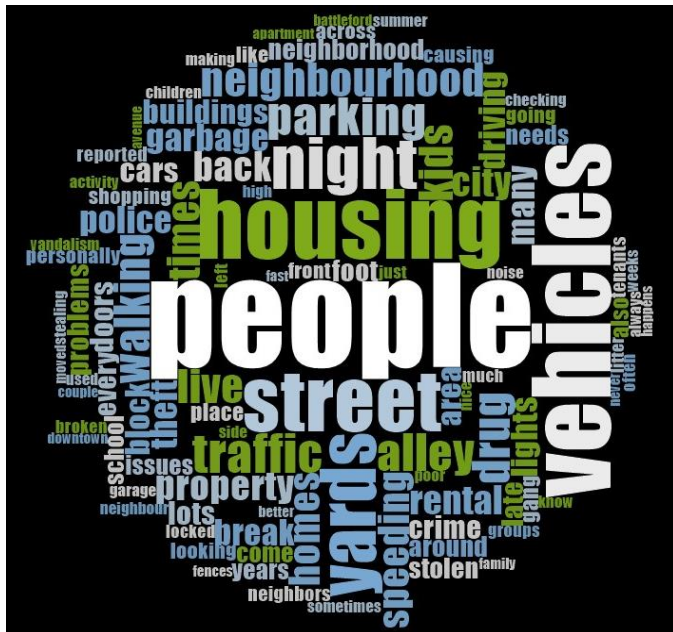


### Why do you feel unsafe in this area?

Participants were also asked to describe why they felt unsafe in the areas they identified. They described that these were areas that dealt with a lot of drug and alcohol addiction. Participants identified these areas as poorer and described feeling uncomfortable or being harassed in these areas. Adjacent is a word cloud of these responses. The largest words are the most common in participants' responses. Here the reader can see that many of the words represent a lack of safety including people they don't know or don't feel safe around, crime, alcohol and drugs.



### Other Safety Issues



Participants were then asked about other safety issues in their neighbourhood more generally. A number of themes emerged from these discussions. The word cloud here represents the common words that emerged in these responses. Again, “people” is the largest word. The other concerns according to these responses appear to be external and related to concerns around types of housing and vehicle traffic and noise, as is clear through the size of the words housing, yards, vehicles, traffic, street, night, parking, alley and speeding. Additionally, there are some concerns about property crimes and general cleanliness.

Additional responses to these questions, directly related to Area 1 as the most safe and Area 41 as the most unsafe are included in full below. These quotations were chosen because they represent overall sentiments that emerged in these response categories.

## Why do you feel safe in this area? (Area 1)

"I know the people who live on those blocks, there is seldom non-residents wandering in those areas and there is rarely reports of b&e's there"

"Lots of people watching the neighbourhood."

"I live in (different) for 8 years and never had one issue, ever. It was quiet and it felt safe at the edge or river view. Areas 1 and 2 are both in Kildeer, another place I spent the majority of my younger years, knowing many home owners there and playing and walking freely; where everyone keeps up their yards and there are few rentals."

"Rich part of town"

"Less poverty."

"Not a lot of people loitering in those areas. If you did run into trouble would feel safe asking for help"

"Newer areas with more expensive alarmed homes with garages and upper economical residents who have cleaner groomed yards, feel could approach a home owner for help if needed"

## Why do you feel unsafe in this area? (Area 41)

"I never feel safe downtown. I get approached by people for money, there are always people watching you going into the banks. People are drunk or high. I go to the library twice a week. There are drunk/high people in the lobby standing around getting out of the cold. There are people sleeping in the library. Staff need to be pro-active. No sleeping in the library. People don't obey they should be asked to leave. Common rule in thousands of libraries. I like to ride my bike places. I have "4" huge locks I use - at the library there is no bike rack. There should be a bike rack there, I have to chain my bike to a light pole. Downtown - same thing. I trust no one. "

"Aggressive panhandlers and intoxicated people who have verbally harassed me, and physically abused my family members. "

"I work evenings and nights in the downtown area. My a colleagues and I use buddy system when entering and exiting building. We circle the blocks around the building before exiting our vehicles to cross the parking lot and enter the building. We frequently encounter panhandlers, street people, addicts, youth gang members, unconscious or sleeping people, and dumpster divers. Unless we are personally threatened or impeded from working we will not call the police because our past experiences indicate a response is unlikely. "

"I don't go to the liquor store or downtown unless it's in the day. I don't drive down there at night I will take the long way around territorial drive. I refuse to shop down there or stop downtown for any reason. I even switched banks so I wouldn't have to be at RBC because of downtown. "

"Too many panhandlers hanging around down town asking for money. Groups of young kids walking across the whole street and won't move when you come behind them. Just scary."

"Whenever I go to downtown area there seems to be gangs of people hanging about.. don't feel safe going to my bank unless I have my husband with me.. the city was suppose to hire city cops to help with safety.. I have yet to see one in that area... feel they were mostly brought on to act as cash cow for city coffers instead of protecting the people."

## Key Findings and Implications

In this section, each topic area is discussed in relation to the literature and findings from other similar data sources. This is done to help provide an interpretation of these findings and what they might mean for community safety in North Battleford.

### *Demographics*

Although there are some populations that are slightly over, or under, represented, the demographics of the survey demonstrate that the sample is, in general, representative of the population of North Battleford. The average age of the sample is slightly older than the average age of North Battleford residents<sup>4</sup> (45 versus 39 years) and slightly more women than men responded (58.2% versus 53.2%). The majority of participants identified as Caucasian. While the proportion of participants who identified as Aboriginal is less than the statistics Canada numbers (12.5% versus 29%), it is still a sizeable representation of the sample.<sup>5</sup> Participants were more often married than not, employed and owned their own homes. Less than ten percent of participants identified as earning below \$20,000 a year (approximately the poverty line in Canada) and less than 5% of participants identified as having less than a high school degree or equivalent.

### *Where they work and live*

There is a good representation of the city's neighbourhoods except for College Heights. This could skew the results slightly, as this is an area that is defined as having higher rates of poverty and indigenous residents. Additionally, within North Battleford, residents work in the Downtown area more than anywhere else. However, part of this neighbourhood was identified as one of the most unsafe areas. Oftentimes, if residents do not frequent an area, their perceptions of that area can be skewed. In the case of Area 41, some of the people who worked or lived in this area identified it as the area they felt the most unsafe. More analysis of the qualitative data collected is necessary to examine the correlates of not feeling safe in this area.

### *Neighbourhood involvement and social integration*

Overall, participants have good relationships with their neighbours as around 60-70% of respondents agreed with the statements about neighbourhood integration. Additionally, over 86% knew their neighbours by name and, on average, considered about 8 of their neighbours as friends. Less than 50% agreed that people in their neighbourhood share the same values. Participants also responded that they were less likely to directly participate in their neighbourhood more formally. Less than 30% of participants responded that they would attend a neighbourhood meeting or organize efforts to address a problem. Furthermore, responses were mixed regarding the willingness to intervene. While less than half of participants would intervene with a kid skipping school, a teenager showing disrespect or if their local community centre was going to be closed down, over 65% or more of respondents would intervene in a fight in front of their home, if kids were climbing on a parked car or spraying graffiti.

These questions reflect the concept of collective efficacy, more generally. Thus, while it appears that the residents of North Battleford are well integrated into their neighbourhood, they appear to be less willing to interact with their neighbours both formally and informally. This could have implications for collective efficacy and subsequently community safety, as neighbourhood issues are

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/>

<sup>5</sup> It is important to note the differences between those with Aboriginal identity, status, and ancestry. In North Battleford, these percentages are 29, 17.9, and 14.2%, respectfully.

not identified and addressed by local residents. These relationships will need to be explored more formally through more rigorous analyses including crime rates and longitudinal data.

#### *Victimization*

A large proportion (over half) of the sample reported that they had been a victim of crime in the last two years. This is a high rate of victimization but appears to be largely influenced by theft and break and enter. This could be consistent with the research on repeat victimization. This research suggests that once you have been victimized, you are more likely to be victimized again (Farrell & Pease, 1993). International repeat victimization is, on average, 41.5% according to the International Crime Victimization Survey (van Dijk, 2001). The General Social Survey (GSS), performed by Statistics Canada, found that 37% of residents had been a victim more than once in 2014 (Perreault, 2015). Participants reported a rate of over 50% repeat victimization. This difference may provide additional insight into the issue of crime and safety in North Battleford: individuals who are being victimized are more likely than the national average to be revictimized.

Additionally, more than half of those who had been a victim of theft did not report that theft to the police. It appears that theft may be a larger issue in North Battleford than the crime data would report. However, this is not a major concern in terms of reporting compared to national averages. For example, theft is usually reported only 33% of the time (Perreault, 2015). Violent victimization is reported 38% of the time and break and enter is reported 38% of the time, on average (Perreault, 2015). Thus, the participants are reporting these incidents to the police at a higher rate on average than the Canadian population. Nonetheless, it may be useful to investigate why these thefts are going unreported and develop strategies to increase reporting or address the cause of the thefts more directly (i.e. what is driving these thefts in the first place).

#### *Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy*

Perceptions of procedural justice are important to determine if individuals feel that the justice system is fair and useful. In this study, approximately 70% of respondents agreed with the seven statements of procedural justice indicating a consensus about law and justice more generally.

In general, the findings indicate that the participants have positive perceptions of the police. Over 50% agreed with all of the statements about police behaviour except for controlling drug activity. Residents largely felt that this is an area where there is opportunity for improvement. Also, less than 7% of respondents identified that they had filed a complaint against the police. Furthermore, participants did appear to report to the police when issues emerged in their neighbourhood. Reporting to the police can be a good indicator of trust in the police, as it suggests that residents believe the police can do something about their report. This is a positive result compared to the national findings that indicate that victims of both violent and property crime who did not report to the police failed to do so because of a lack of belief in the justice system (Perreault, 2015). These findings are also consistent with the Statistics Canada findings in which North Battleford is higher than the national average (59% compared to 45%) when reporting high confidence in the police (Perreault, 2017).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> This data is to be read with caution as the national data for North Battleford is reported as unreliable by Statistics Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54889/tbl/tbl01-eng.htm>

However, approximately one third responded that, on average, they did not see a police car in their neighbourhood. This finding is not surprising considering the population size of North Battleford,<sup>7</sup> but could affect perceptions of police presence more generally. More detailed analysis of this relationship is necessary and will be conducted in future iterations of this study.

### *Feelings of safety*

Respondents largely felt safe both personally and for their children in their neighbourhood. Consistent with Statistics Canada's General Social Survey (GSS), residents were asked if they feel safe when walking in their neighbourhood at night. Approximately 52% agreed which matches the national average exactly but is less than the provincial average of 56% (Perreault, 2017). However, there were some concerns about drugs and break and enters that emerged. This is consistent with the concerns about the police's ability to address drug activity in the city and the experiences of theft and burglary victimization.

In general, participants reported very little social and physical disorder in their neighbourhoods. There were some concerns about local behaviour, but no major indicators of drugs, panhandling or prostitution. Considering North Battleford is still an emerging city in Saskatchewan, and remains predominantly rural, these findings are not surprising. These are markers of social and physical disorder that are more common in urban areas. These findings are useful then for drawing comparisons with current research on the correlates of crime and community safety in urban communities, as well as testing these correlates within North Battleford neighbourhoods for future analysis of the data. However, additional investigation into indicators of disorder in rural spaces is necessary and should be included in future iterations of the survey.

Residents demonstrated some familiarity with local safety initiatives, however there were some that appeared to be more readily identifiable than others. These initiatives include community safety officers and downtown revitalization work. Other programs may require more visibility. Because this is a baseline study, examining what is resonating with local residents and will be useful to begin to examine local support and long-term viability. However, it is important to note that identifiability does not equate with effectiveness and these programs will also need individual testing of their effectiveness over time that the survey data alone cannot address.<sup>8</sup>

Participants were fairly consistent about the areas they identified as safe and unsafe in North Battleford. Many of the individuals described feeling safe in these areas because they lived there or had family who lived there and that knew the area. They felt safe walking around and that there were less crime related problems in these areas. This was somewhat consistent in the case of the area where people felt the most safe (within the Killdeer Park neighbourhood). However, it is interesting that so many residents of the surrounding neighbourhood Killdeer Park did not identify this area as the area they felt the most safe. This is inconsistent with expectations, assuming residents would almost always choose their own neighbourhood as the safest area, not only because

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<sup>7</sup> In order to create visible police presence for a city the size of North Battleford, significant police resources would be necessary. Research is mixed regarding whether or not increased police presence contributes to community safety or simply resident's perceptions of safety. It would not be advisable then to simply increase police presence without properly testing this relationship in North Battleford.

<sup>8</sup> In the case of these initiatives, it will be important to examine program goals, implementation, interferences and outcomes alongside feelings of safety and impact on crime rates.

they know that area best, but also because if there are crime issues in that area, they often know the offenders and can address the issues informally (Patillo, 1998).

In the identified unsafe areas, participants explained that they felt concerned about the type of people who lived in these areas and crime related issues like drug and alcohol. In the case of the Downtown neighbourhood more generally, this could be partly a result of a low resident population. If there are less legitimate users after hours (neighbourhood residents), there are fewer individuals who claim ownership of the space and make it feel safer to outsiders and residents alike (Jacobs, 1961). However, despite the few respondents who identified their home neighbourhood as downtown, five of these participants identified that area as unsafe. This may indicate that even living in the area does not necessarily make it feel safer for residents. Downtown areas are consistently areas of high fear (Thomas & Bromley, 2000) and will likely need an increase in residential population (who can claim ownership of the space), as well as additional safety measures. The city has already begun to invest in these strategies.

Finally, there was a significant emphasis on the people in both the safe and unsafe areas that would suggest that concerns about different groups in these areas, and integration and inclusion more generally, could be an area to focus on. These relationships need to be examined more directly and workshopped with local stakeholders to identify strategies if there are indeed real safety issues in these areas that are not just perceived.



## Limitations and future directions

As with any study there are some limitations. The first limitation is that the student research assistants were unable to complete their allotment of surveys (30 for each team). While the students were trained and received course credit for their work, a number of students had family and other commitments that reduced the time they could spend on data collection. They also may have benefited from more training throughout the course and more time to complete the surveys. However, the students made a significant contribution to the number of surveys completed by residents from their home neighbourhoods and, thus, were an appropriate choice for involvement in research assistance. Future iterations of the survey would benefit from pairing students from North West College with grade 12 students from the local high school for course credit. Doing so could expand and diversify the responses collected by these teams and create relationships across the two schools.

Nonetheless, there are numerous benefits with keeping local students involved. It can encourage increased engagement in the local community across the life course for these students because they are actively involved in collecting research that identify issues and, with additional training, can and should be involved in developing shared solutions (King & Cruickshank, 2012). Additionally, it can provide them with translatable skills including how to talk to new people, elicit feedback, gather data, and how to maintain confidentiality. These skills can translate into customer service, public service, data analysis and research and academic paths.

There are also concerns that the respondents to the survey are generally privileged and may skew the results towards what they define as problematic. There was underrepresentation of certain marginalized groups. For example, the survey failed to capture a representative sample of the indigenous population in North Battleford. Furthermore, the annual income of the respondents was higher than expected. Future iterations of the study will need to work with local indigenous groups to ensure the survey is accessible and culturally appropriate and also increase efforts to speak with residents who are economically marginalized. However, significant efforts were made to ensure representativeness including inclusion of local students and additional surveying efforts at local events in less advantaged areas of the city including College Heights.

More generally, a few issues with the survey instrument were identified. Some questions required more appropriate response categories. In the case of social disorder, some participants pointed out that they would have liked a "never" category instead of "less than once a month." For the purposes of this study, the response category was treated as relatively equal. This response category has been altered for the next iteration of the dataset. The question about ethnicity also may require a longer, more exhaustive list and should address the different indigenous groups in the area. Feedback from participants of this survey were crucial to identifying these issues and continued feedback and suggestions are encouraged.

Reliability and validity are concerns with any survey. There is the possibility in this dataset of repeat responses. Because the survey was also available online, there was no measure to prevent respondents from participating more than once. However, the survey took an average of 18 minutes to complete and thus would be somewhat of a time commitment to repeat. Additionally, the data was tested for similar response patterns and none were found. Any and all responses that answered less than 70% of the questions were removed. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, the responses to questions about social and physical disorder demonstrated very little of either. These questions were designed within the context of urban criminological theory and research. The lack of

findings here could demonstrate that rural indicators of social and physical disorder differ from urban areas. Further testing and investigation of these constructs in rural communities are necessary.

Additionally, and importantly, further statistical analysis addressing what is currently contributing to perceptions of crime and safety in the city of North Battleford is needed. A number of the measures included in the study are also correlates of these perceptions and can be analyzed further. A cross sectional examination of the current baseline data set will be completed prior to the distribution of the next iteration of the survey.

## Conclusion

The report summarizes the results of a city-wide survey of perceptions of safety in North Battleford. The survey is unable to make any claims about the causes or correlates of crime in the city. Rather, it is a baseline survey intended to both identify issues important to participants, and also allow for future evaluations of any programs or policies implemented to address crime and safety in the city. The findings indicate that overall residents feel safe in their neighbourhoods but express some concerns about certain neighbourhoods in the city. There are concerns around alcohol and drug use and their relationship to crime more generally. More than half of participants had been victimized, but much of this victimization was theft. There is generally support for local police and the justice system and this is greater than the national average. Finally, participants were well integrated into their neighbourhood, but less likely to participate in neighbourhood level collective efficacy. Future research will aim to examine the correlates of these perceptions with crime more generally, as well as the long term evaluation of local prevention initiatives.

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