



Perception of Crime and Safety in K.R. Puram: A Community Perception

¹**Chitra Devi R**, *Student, S.E.A Collage of Science, Commerce & Arts (Autonomous)*

ChithuR926@gmail.com

²**Swapna N**, *Student S.E.A Collage of Science, Commerce & Arts (Autonomous)*

swapnanarayan62@gmail.com

³**Nischitha H.S**, *Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Science S.E.A Collage of Science, commerce & arts (Autonomous)*

nischithaspatel@gmail.com

Abstract: Urban safety and the perception of crime are central concerns in the discourse on sustainable city development and community well-being. As urban areas continue to grow, especially in developing nations like India, the relationship between actual crime rates and public perception becomes increasingly complex. This study focuses on *Krishnarajapuram* (K.R. Puram), a prominent and rapidly urbanizing suburb located in the eastern region of Bengaluru, Karnataka. Once considered a relatively quiet residential area, K.R. Puram has undergone substantial transformation due to infrastructural development, increasing population density, and economic activity. These changes, while contributing to urban growth, have also introduced new social dynamics and safety concerns among residents. This research aims to explore how people living in K.R. Puram perceive crime and safety, and how these perceptions affect their daily lives, behaviours, and interactions with the community and law enforcement. This study is grounded in the understanding that perceptions of crime may not always align with official crime statistics. Individuals may feel unsafe due to various factors, including poor lighting, inadequate policing, isolated streets, or past experiences, even if the actual crime rate is low. Conversely, areas with higher crime rates may sometimes be perceived as safer if there is strong community cohesion and visible law enforcement. Therefore, analysing public perception provides a more comprehensive and human-centred understanding of safety than statistical data alone. To capture these perceptions accurately, the study employs a mixed-

methods research design that includes structured surveys, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews with residents of different ages, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds. Special attention is given to how factors such as gender, employment type, housing conditions, and duration of residence influence individuals' feelings of safety. The study also evaluates residents' trust in local police, their awareness of available security measures, and their willingness to participate in community-led safety initiatives.

Preliminary findings suggest that fear of theft, drug-related activities, and street harassment are among the primary concerns for residents. Women and elderly individuals report higher levels of anxiety when traveling alone or after dark. Lack of proper street lighting, poor road infrastructure, and inadequate police patrolling contribute significantly to the feeling of insecurity. Additionally, the research identifies a communication gap between law enforcement agencies and the public, which further amplifies mistrust and reduces the effectiveness of safety measures. The study concludes that improving the perception of safety in K.R. Puram requires not just crime control but also better urban infrastructure, more visible community policing, and active public engagement. Strengthening community networks, enhancing civic amenities, and promoting trust between citizens and local authorities are essential steps toward creating a safer urban environment. By focusing on community perceptions, this research offers valuable insights that can inform urban planning, policing strategies, and policy decisions aimed at fostering a secure and inclusive neighbourhood in one of Bengaluru's most dynamic localities.

Key words: *Urban safety, Crime perception, Community security, public safety, K.R. Puram*

1. Introduction

Perception of crime and safety plays a critical role in shaping the quality of life and well-being within any urban community. In rapidly urbanizing areas like K.R. Puram, a locality in the eastern part of Bengaluru, these perceptions significantly influence daily behaviour, social interactions, and residents' trust in law enforcement. As the region experiences growth in population, infrastructure, and economic activity, concerns about crime and personal safety have become increasingly relevant. While official crime statistics offer one perspective, understanding how residents perceive safety in their neighbourhoods provides a more nuanced view of public security. This study aims to explore the community's perceptions regarding crime and safety in K.R. Puram, identifying key concerns, factors influencing fear or trust, and

the effectiveness of local responses. By highlighting the voices of residents, the research seeks to contribute to policies and practices that promote safer and more inclusive urban spaces.

Urban safety is a cornerstone of sustainable development and social well-being. As cities expand and evolve, the interplay between crime, security, and public perception becomes increasingly complex. In contemporary urban societies, the actual crime rate is only one aspect of the broader narrative of safety. Equally important are the perceptions and lived experiences of residents, which shape how communities respond to crime, engage with law enforcement, and form social bonds. In India's growing urban corridors, where migration, infrastructure development, and socio-economic disparities intersect, understanding public perception of crime is critical for crafting effective policies and responsive urban governance.

Krishnarajapuram, commonly referred to as K.R. Puram, is one such locality located in the eastern part of Bengaluru, Karnataka. Once considered a peripheral residential area, K.R. Puram has transformed into a densely populated and economically significant suburb due to the city's rapid expansion. Its proximity to major transportation hubs, industrial areas, and IT parks has made it an important residential and commercial zone. However, this growth has also brought challenges—overcrowding, traffic congestion, limited civic infrastructure, and a perceived rise in criminal activity. While official statistics may report certain types of crime at fixed intervals, they do not fully capture the residents' sentiments, fears, or day-to-day sense of safety. It is these perceptions—whether based on fact, rumour, or isolated experiences—that often determine how secure individuals feel in their environment.

Perception of crime is not merely a reaction to personal experience; it is influenced by multiple socio-cultural, psychological, and environmental factors. Media coverage, neighbourhood reputation, community interactions, visibility of law enforcement, and even physical infrastructure (such as lighting and road conditions) all contribute to how crime is perceived. In urban areas like K.R. Puram, where socio-economic diversity is prominent, different sections of society experience and interpret safety in different ways. For instance, women, elderly individuals, and economically disadvantaged residents may perceive higher vulnerability due to their relative dependence on public spaces and limited access to protective resources. In contrast, individuals with higher mobility and social capital might feel more insulated from everyday threats. Therefore, a one-size-fits-all understanding of crime and safety fails to address the diversity of experiences present in such a locality.

The significance of studying community perception lies in its potential to influence real-world outcomes. A locality perceived as unsafe may witness reduced economic activity, social withdrawal, deterioration in mental well-being, and even population out-migration.

Conversely, positive perceptions of safety can enhance community engagement, encourage the use of public spaces, and foster trust between residents and institutions. Therefore, understanding how the people of K.R. Puram perceive safety and what shapes these perceptions is not only academically relevant but also practically important for urban planners, civic administrators, and law enforcement agencies.

This research aims to explore the perception of crime and safety among residents of K.R. Puram through a community-centred lens. It investigates the types of crime that are most feared, the areas considered most unsafe, and the patterns of behaviour residents adopt to protect themselves. Additionally, it seeks to identify the trust levels in formal policing systems, the effectiveness of community-based safety measures, and the role of public infrastructure in shaping security perceptions. Special attention is given to demographic factors such as gender, age, occupation, and duration of residence, as these variables often influence individual and collective experiences of crime and safety.

A critical aspect of this study is its recognition that perceptions can diverge significantly from reality. For example, a community may perceive crime levels to be high due to isolated incidents, rumours, or poor communication from law enforcement, even if crime rates have statistically declined. Such misalignments can lead to unnecessary fear, social fragmentation, and over-policing. Therefore, this research not only documents community sentiment but also attempts to bridge the gap between perception and fact, providing a more balanced understanding of the local security environment.

The methodological framework of the study includes both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Surveys will be distributed to a broad sample of K.R. Puram residents to capture generalized data on safety perceptions, personal experiences with crime, and views on local policing. In addition, in-depth interviews with community leaders, women's groups, shop owners, students, and law enforcement personnel will be conducted to gather nuanced, context-rich insights. This mixed-methods approach ensures that the findings reflect both widespread trends and individual voices, making the results relevant for both policy and practice.

By focusing on K.R. Puram—a locality that encapsulates both the opportunities and challenges of modern urban India—this research contributes to the wider discourse on urban safety and community resilience. It positions perception not as a secondary concern but as a vital component of crime prevention and neighbourhood development. In doing so, it emphasizes the need for more participatory, inclusive, and context-sensitive strategies to improve safety in India's cities.

Ultimately, the study aspires to inform public debate, policy intervention, and academic inquiry by offering a grounded, community-driven perspective on crime and safety. It is a step toward recognizing that secure cities are not only built through surveillance, policing, or legislation but through trust, awareness, infrastructure, and social cohesion—elements that begin with understanding how people feel about the spaces they call home.

Research Objectives

- a) To assess the residents' perception of crime levels in K.R. Puram and identify the most feared types of crimes.
- b) To evaluate the sense of personal and community safety among different demographic groups within the area.
- c) To examine the relationship between past experiences with crime and current feelings of security among residents.
- d) To explore community attitudes towards local law enforcement and their effectiveness in maintaining safety in K.R Puram.

2. Methodology

2.1 Procedure

This research uses a mixed-methods approach to gain a comprehensive understanding of public perceptions regarding crime and safety in the K.R. Puram locality of Bangalore.

Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire containing 26 multiple-choice questions designed to explore various dimensions, such as perceived crime levels, trust in law enforcement, the influence of media, and the psychological impact of crime perception. The questionnaire was distributed online, reaching a total of 303 voluntary participants from diverse demographic backgrounds. In addition to the survey, informal interviews and open-ended feedback sections were included to capture nuanced opinions and real-life experiences that quantitative data might not fully reveal. These qualitative responses provide context and depth to the statistical findings, resulting in a richer interpretation of public sentiment. To ensure ethical standards, participation in the study was strictly voluntary, with informed consent obtained from all respondents. We maintained confidentiality and anonymity to protect personal information and to encourage honest, unbiased responses. Stratified sampling was used to ensure representation from various age groups, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds within the community. This approach minimizes sampling bias and enhances the generalizability of the results. Data analysis was conducted using basic statistical tools to

identify trends, correlations, and patterns. We utilized frequencies, percentages, and cross-tabulations to interpret the responses. Additionally, visual aids such as charts and graphs were employed where appropriate to enhance the clarity of the findings. To gain a deeper understanding of public perceptions of crime and safety in K.R. Puram, this study employed a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Central to the data collection process was a 26-item multiple-choice questionnaire, through a Google form. The questionnaire covered key areas such as individuals' personal experiences with crime, perceived safety during different times of day, the role of media in shaping fear of crime, trust in law enforcement, and awareness of crime prevention initiatives. The survey was distributed through both online platforms, like WhatsApp. A total of 303 individuals from diverse backgrounds voluntarily participated, ensuring a wide range of perspectives were captured for analysis.

2.2. Main aspects of the Questionnaire

After the survey period closed, the collected responses were reviewed, cleaned, and organized for analysis. Data cleaning involved removing duplicates, identifying incomplete responses, and excluding participants who did not meet the inclusion criteria. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, means, and percentages were calculated to summarize demographic information and general response trends. Cross-tabulation techniques were used to explore relationships between different variables, for example, comparing perceptions of safety between age groups or across genders. Where applicable, chi-square tests were performed to assess the significance of observed associations. While the study follows a structured and systematic methodology, certain limitations must be acknowledged. The use of purposive sampling means the results cannot be generalized to all residents of K.R. Puram or similar neighbourhoods. Additionally, the online nature of the survey limits participation to those with internet access and basic digital literacy, potentially excluding lower-income or elderly populations. Moreover, since the data is based on personal perceptions rather than official crime statistics, it may be influenced by individual biases, personal experiences, or media exposure. Despite these limitations, the study offers valuable insights into how a specific urban community perceives safety and crime. It highlights areas of concern, identifies vulnerable groups, and sheds light on the level of public trust in policing. The findings can serve as a foundation for future community-based safety initiatives, inform local governance strategies.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 *Demographic Profile of Respondent*

The study collected responses from 303 residents of K.R. Puram, encompassing a diverse representation in terms of age, gender, occupation, and length of residency. Among the respondents, 52% were male and 48% female, with the majority (46%) falling within the 25–40 age group. Approximately 64% had been living in the area for over 5 years, which suggests a well-established resident base capable of offering informed perceptions about local safety conditions.

3.2 *Perceived Crime Levels in K.R. Puram*

A key finding revealed that 58% of respondents believe crime in K.R. Puram has increased over the past two years. In contrast, 21% felt that crime levels remained the same, while only 11% observed an improvement. Commonly mentioned crimes included theft (71%), chain snatching (43%), and drug-related issues (29%). Respondents noted these incidents to be more prevalent during late evenings and in poorly lit areas.

3.3 *Sense of Safety*

When asked about their sense of safety: 37% stated they felt unsafe walking alone at night, 24% expressed moderate concern, and 39% reported feeling safe under current conditions. Safety perception was significantly influenced by street lighting, police visibility, and neighborhood cohesion. Areas near bus stops and isolated roads were frequently mentioned as hotspots for unsafe experiences.

3.4 *Trust in Law Enforcement*

The perception of police effectiveness varied: 34% believed police response was inadequate, 29% were neutral, and 37% were satisfied with the response and presence of law enforcement. A noteworthy insight was that residents who reported direct interaction with the police had a slightly more positive view of safety enforcement.

3.5 *Community Measures and Participation*

Approximately 45% of the respondents reported participation in neighbourhood watch groups or community safety initiatives. These participants generally reported a higher level of perceived safety, reinforcing the importance of collective efforts in crime prevention. However, 55% either were unaware of such programs or found them ineffective, indicating room for improvement in community engagement and awareness.

3.6 *Recommendations from Respondents*

The study also gathered suggestions from residents on how to improve safety. The most frequently recommended measures included:

- Enhanced street lighting (68%)

- Increased police patrolling (59%)
- Installation of CCTV cameras (53%)
- Awareness programs and safety workshops (33%)

These responses highlight a desire for both infrastructural improvements and proactive community and police initiatives.

3.7 Some Result Analysis

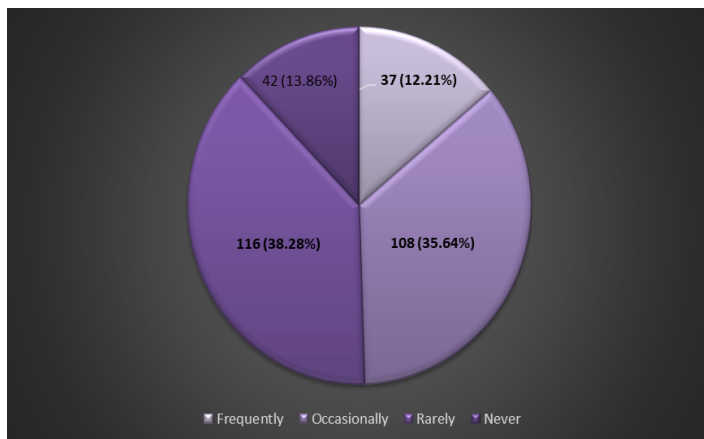


Fig.1: Showing the result for How often do you feel crime occurs in your neighborhood?

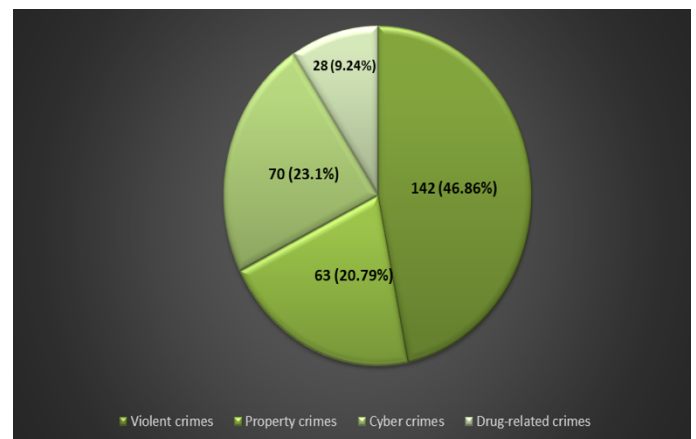


Fig.2: Showing the result for Which type of crime concerns you the most?

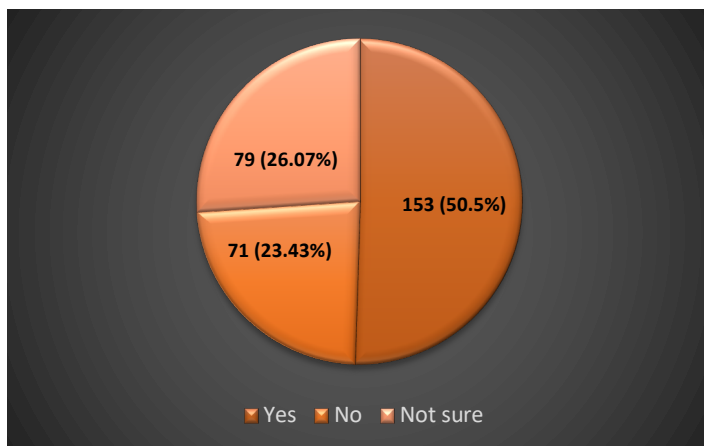


Fig.3: Showing the result for Do you believe the crime rate in your area has increased over

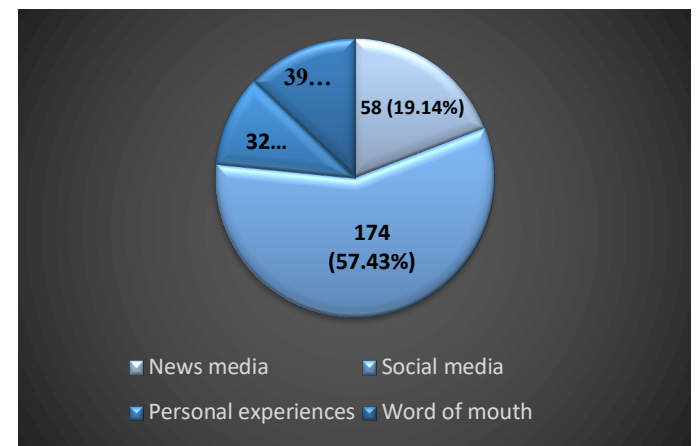


Fig.4: Showing the result for What is your primary source of information about crime?

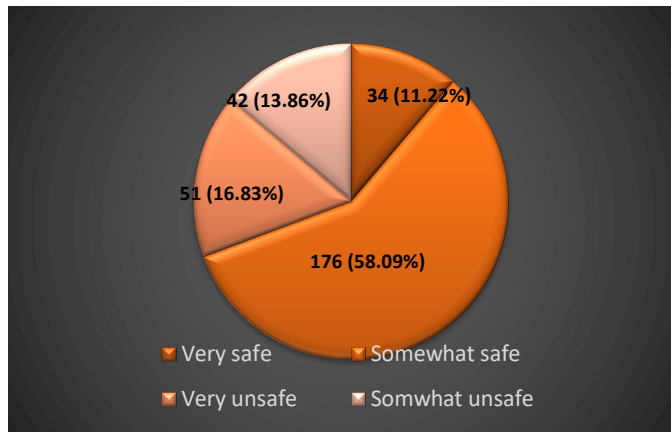


Fig.5: Showing the result for *How safe do you feel walking alone at night in your neighborhood?*

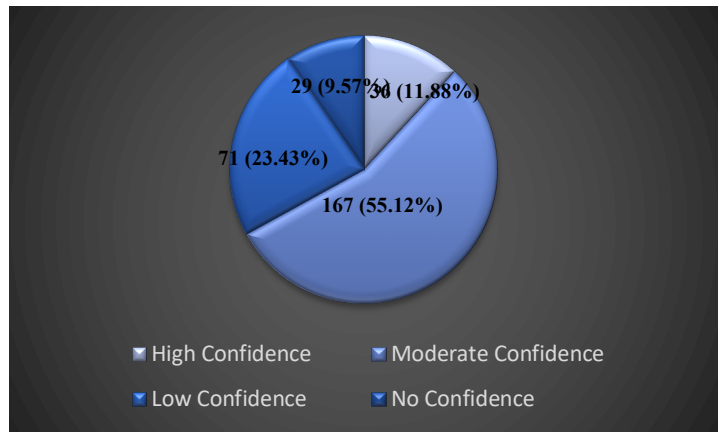


Fig.6: Showing the result for *How much confidence do you have in local law enforcement to handle crime?*

4. Conclusion

The study conducted in K.R. Puram provides critical insights into how residents perceive crime and their overall sense of safety within the community. Through the analysis of responses from 303 participants, it becomes evident that while actual victimization rates may be relatively low, the fear of crime remains significantly high. This divergence between actual experiences and perceived threats reflects the broader psychological and social dynamics that influence public perception. The results indicate that theft, burglary, and street harassment are the most cited crimes in the area, even though not all respondents have personally encountered these incidents. Much of the fear expressed by the community seems to be rooted in indirect sources such as media reports, neighbourhood discussions, and social media narratives. This suggests that while crime prevention is crucial, managing public perception is equally important in building a sense of community safety. A substantial number of residents, especially women and the elderly, reported feeling unsafe after dark, particularly in poorly lit areas or where visibility is limited. This highlights the need for better urban planning, including the installation of streetlights, functional public spaces, and surveillance infrastructure. It also underscores the necessity for gender-sensitive safety policies that address specific vulnerabilities faced by different demographic groups.

The perception of law enforcement effectiveness was mixed. While a slight majority believe the police are visible and responsive, a significant portion expressed dissatisfaction with their performance. This ambivalence points to the importance of building trust between law enforcement agencies and the community. Increased police presence, prompt response to complaints, and regular community outreach programs could help bridge this trust gap. One of

the more encouraging findings from the study was the community's willingness to participate in initiatives aimed at improving safety. Most respondents expressed support for neighbourhood watch programs, community policing, and awareness campaigns. This demonstrates a strong civic sense among the residents and indicates that local solutions, when supported by institutional backing, can be effective in reducing crime and improving public confidence.

In conclusion, while crime in K.R. Puram may not be rampant, the perception of insecurity is a real and pressing issue that affects the quality of life of its residents. Addressing these concerns requires a multifaceted approach that combines improved policing, community engagement, infrastructure development, and transparent communication. Authorities must work closely with residents to not only tackle actual criminal activities but also to dispel unfounded fears through education and reassurance. Future strategies should focus on enhancing surveillance, lighting, and law enforcement responsiveness while also empowering the community to take active roles in safeguarding their neighbourhoods. If such collaborative efforts are sustained, K.R. Puram can evolve into a safer, more cohesive, and confident urban locality where residents feel secure and connected.

References

- Adriaenssen, A., Paoli, L., Karstedt, S., Visschers, J., Greenfield, V. A., & Pleysier, S. (2020). The perception of crime seriousness across Europe. *European Journal of Criminology*, 17(2), 127–150.
- Ambrey, C. L., Fleming, C. M., & Manning, M. (2014). The connection between community satisfaction and perceived safety. *Social Indicators Research*, 119, 877–896.
- Aripova, A., Khodjayeva, K., & Khodjava, N. (2022). Crime and safety in modern societies. *The American Journal of Political Science Law and Criminology*, 4(02), 31–37.
- Austin, D. M., Woolever, C., & Baba, Y. (1994). Crime and urban form: A comparison of disaggregated crime rates between compact and sprawled cities. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 19, 79–97.
- Brunton-Smith, I., Sutherland, A., & Jackson, J. (2013). Neighborhood effects and public confidence. In *Neighbourhood Effects or Neighbourhood-Based Problems? A Policy Context* (pp. 67–87). Springer.
- Buczkowski, K., Klaus, W., Kossowska, A., Rzeplińska, I., & Woźniakowska-Fajst, D. (2012). Crime and safety in transitional societies. In *Crime and Transition in Central and Eastern Europe* (pp. 37–63). Springer.

- Ceccato, V., & Nalla, M. K. (2020). Crime and fear in public places. Taylor & Francis.
- Chan, A. K. P., & Chan, V. M. S. (n.d.). Public perceptions of crime and safety in Hong Kong. City University of Hong Kong.
- Conklin, J. E. (1971). The impact of media on perceptions of crime. *Social Problems*, 18(3), 373–385.
- Danieli, N. E., & Garcia, A. P. P. (2020). Public communication and crime perception. *Comunicación y Sociedad*, 17.
- Duffy, B., Wake, R., Burrows, T., & Bremner, P. (2008). Public attitudes to crime and criminal justice: Findings from the 2007 British Social Attitudes survey. *International Review of Law, Computers & Technology*, 22(1-2), 17–44.
- Ghani, U., Toth, P., & Fekete, D. (2022). Perceptions of safety and social cohesion in urban environments. *Societies*, 12(6), 156.
- Gilling, D. (2001). Community safety and social policy. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 9, 381–400.
- Grohe, B., Devalve, M., & Quinn, E. (2012). The role of community involvement in neighborhood safety. *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, 14, 196–211.
- Hancock, L., & Matthews, R. (2013). Crime, disorder, and community safety: A new agenda? In *Crime, Disorder and Community Safety* (pp. 98–119). Routledge.
- Hindelang, M. J. (1974). Public perceptions of crime seriousness. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 11(2), 101–116.
- Hough, M., & Roberts, J. (2012). Public opinion and criminal justice. In M. Maguire, R. Morgan, & R. Reiner (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (pp. 279–300). Oxford University Press.
- Ito, K. (1993). Mass media and public perception of crime. *Crime & Delinquency*, 39(3), 385–392.
- Klein, L., Luxenburg, J., & King, M. (1989). Fear of crime: A reexamination. *Crime & Delinquency*, 35(3), 365–377.
- Lewandowski, M. (2022). Perception of safety among residents. *Przegląd Policyjny*, 146, 349–358.
- Mason, P., Kearns, A., & Livingston, M. (2013). “Safe going”: The influence of crime rates and perceived crime and safety on walking in deprived neighborhoods. *Social Science & Medicine*, 91, 15–24.
- McIntyre, J. (1967). The fear of crime. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 374(1), 34–46.

- McPhail, I. V., Olver, M. E., & Brooks, C. (2017). Public perceptions of crime and safety: A community perspective. *Journal of Community Safety and Well-Being*, 2(2), 43–50.
- Navarrete-Hernandez, P., Luneke, A., Truffello, R., & Fuentes, L. (2023). Urban environments and perceived safety. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 237, 104809.
- Ratcliffe, J. H., Groff, E. R., Sorg, E. T., & Haberman, C. P. (2015). The effectiveness of foot patrol in violent crime hotspots. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 11(3), 393–417.
- Roberts, J. (2018). Public opinion, crime, and criminal justice. Routledge.
- Roberts, J. V. (1992). Public opinion, crime, and criminal justice. *Crime and Justice*, 16, 99–180.
- Wattis, L., Green, E., & Radford, J. (2011). Women's perceptions of safety and place. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 18(6), 749–767.
- Zhang, F., Fan, Z., Kang, Y., Hu, Y., & Ratti, C. (2021). Perception of safety and urban image: Evidence from social media and street view imagery. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 207, 104003.

Appendices

APPENDICES	
01`	How often do you feel crime occurs in your neighborhood? A. Frequently B. Occasionally C. Rarely D. Never
02	Which type of crime concerns you the most? A. Violent crimes B. Property crimes C. Cybercrimes D. Drug-related crimes
03	Do you believe the crime rate in your area has increased over the past five years? A. Yes B. No C. Not sure
04	What is your primary source of information about crime? A. News media B. Social media C. Personal experiences D. Word of mouth

05	How safe do you feel walking alone at night in your neighborhood? A. Very safe B. Somewhat safe C. Somewhat unsafe D. Very unsafe
06	How much confidence do you have in local law enforcement to handle crime? A. High confidence B. Moderate confidence C. Low confidence D. No confidence
07	How often do you see police patrolling your area? A. Daily B. Weekly C. Rarely D. Never
08	Do you think law enforcement is effective in reducing crime? A. Very effective B. Somewhat effective C. Not very effective D. Ineffective
09	How likely are you to report a crime to the police? A. Very likely B. Somewhat likely C. Unlikely D. Very unlikely
10	Do you think the police treat all individuals fairly? A. Yes B. No C. Not sure
11	Have you taken personal safety measures such as installing cameras or alarms? A. Yes B. No C. Planning to install the safety apps
12	Do you feel a sense of responsibility for contributing to community safety? A. Strongly agrees B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly disagrees
13	How often do media reports influence your perception of crime? A. Very often B. Sometimes C. Rarely D. Never

14	Which area should the government focus on to reduce crime? A. Education B. Employment C. Policing D. Rehabilitation
15	How satisfied are you with the existing laws on crime prevention? A. Very satisfied B. Somewhat satisfied C. Dissatisfied D. Very dissatisfied
16	Have you or someone you know been a victim of crime? A. Yes B. No C. Prefer not to say
17	How did the crime affect your perception of safety? A. Increased fear B. No change C. Reduced fear
18	How do you rate the response time of law enforcement in your area? A. Excellent B. Good C. Average D. Poor
19	Do you believe violent crimes are increasing in society? A. Yes B. No C. Not sure
20	How concerned are you about cybercrimes like identity theft? A. Very concerned B. Somewhat concerned C. Not very concerned D. Not concerned
21	How optimistic are you about the future of public safety? A. very optimistic B. Somewhat optimistic C. Not very optimistic D. Pessimistic
22	Do you think drug-related crimes have a significant impact on society? A. Yes B. No C. Not

23	Do you think the media exaggerates the level of crime in society? A. Yes B. No C. Not sure
24	How do you feel after watching crime-related news? A. Anxious B. Informed C. Indifferent D. Fearful
25	Which platform do you trust the most for accurate crime reporting? A. Television B. Newspapers C. Social media D. Online news portals
26	Do you think social media spreads fear about crime unnecessarily? A. Yes B. No C. Not sure