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REPORT FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY 2016-2017

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INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Community Quality of Life Survey (WVCQL) was launched during the summer of 2016. It is a telephone survey sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services (WVDJCS) and designed and implemented by researchers at the Research Center on Violence (RCV) at West Virginia University (WVU).[1] The WVCQL survey is the state's first attempt to assess rates of crime victimization outside of official police statistics. The WVCQL survey was developed in collaboration with other stakeholders and now includes a broad array of items related to crime, fear of crime, and the overall quality of life in West Virginia communities. The first wave of the WVCQL survey was distributed to a random sample of West Virginians over the age of 18 via cell and landline telephones.

The sampling frame includes individual residents of West Virginia over the age of 18 who have access to a telephone, N = 1,398,953.[2] Our random sample includes 6,310 cell phone numbers and 3,554 landline numbers.[3] From June 2016-May 2017, researchers from WVU RCV, called 9,864 phone numbers. Only about 13% of the calls resulted in someone answering the phone (n=1,281). Of those that answered, nearly 30% responded to the survey (n=358). Table 1 compares the demographics of WVQL survey respondents to the 2016 Bureau of Census demographic estimates of West Virginia residents. See Table 1.

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[1] Dr. Stephen Haas was director of the WVDJCS during the application and design phase of this project. He was instrumental in all final decisions relating to the methodology and instrumentation in this study.

[2] Our estimated population of WV residents (over 18 years old who have access to phones) was calculated using population estimates from the Bureau of Census (July 1, 2016 estimate) https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/WV#viewtop and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) The NCHS estimates that 3.9% of West Virginians 18 and older have no phone, neither landline nor cell. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/wireless_state_201602.pdf.

[3] The random sample of landline and cell phone numbers was provided by Marketing Systems Group http://www.m-s-g.com/Web/Index.aspx

Table 1. Demographics of Quality of Life Survey 2016 Compared to 2016 Census Demographics for West Virginia (n = 358)		
	WVCQL (%)	2016 Census (%)
Sex *		
Male	42.29	49.50
Female	56.57	50.50
Education		
No High School Degree	6.59	14.70
HS Degree/Some College	65.90	65.70
Bachelor's Degree or higher	27.51	19.60
Race		
White	93.86	96.60
Non-White	6.14	3.40
Age		
Average	50.70	48.50

* Four respondents to the WVCQL Survey listed their sex as "other."

In the tables below we sometimes include population estimates that were calculated by multiplying the sample percentage by the estimated population of West Virginia residents with phones. Although they are not reported here, the confidence intervals for these estimates were calculated according to Equation 1:

(Eq. 1). $1.96\sqrt{\frac{N-n}{N}\ \ \frac{P*(1-P)}{n-1}}$,

where N is the estimated population of residents in WV who are 18 and older with access to a phone (1,398,953), n is the sample size (the number of completed responses in each category), and P is the percentage of affirmative responses.

CRIME VICTIMIZATION

In order to obtain a valid annual estimate of crime, the WVCQL survey first asked whether a particular incident EVER happened to you and then if it happened in the past 12 months. For example, for the crime category "break in" the survey asks: 1) Did anyone EVER break into your home, car, or garage? and 2) Did this happened in the past 12 months. In Tables 2 and 3, we present estimates of the number of WV residents over the age of 18 who ever experienced particular property and violent crimes and an estimate of people who experienced these crimes in the past 12 months. See Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2. West Virginian's Experience with Property and Violent Crime Ever				
	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
Property Crime				
Break-in [a]	125	38.50	538,597	385.0
Objects Stolen Inside Home [b]	87	26.60	372,122	266.0
Objects Stolen Outside Home [c]	93	28.50	398,702	285.0
Pocket Picked [d]	23	7.00	97,927	70.0
Car, Bicycle, Motorcycle Stolen [e]	39	12.0	167,874	120.0
Violent Crime				
Robbery [f]	25	7.80	109,118	78.0
Assault [g]	45	14.00	195,853	140.0
Assault with a Weapon [h]	22	6.80	95,128	68.0
Sexual Assault [i]	15	4.66	65,191	46.6

*See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398,953.

[a] Break-in is defined as an incident where someone illegally breaks in to your home, car, or garage whether something is stolen or not.

[b] Objects stolen inside the home includes thefts that occur during a break in or by someone with legal access to the home.

[c] Objects stolen outside the home include anything stolen on your property but outside the home.

[d] Pocket picked or purse snatched refers to thefts from your person—inside your pockets or purse—but not with force as in a robbery.

[e] Car, bicycle or motor vehicle stolen includes the thefts of all forms of these conveyances.

[f] Robbery is defined as mugging or robbing via stick up or threatening to hurt the respondent

[g] Assault is defined as being beaten up, attacked, or hit with something

[h] Assault with a weapon is defined as being knifed at, shoot at, or attacked with a weapon

[i] Sexual assault is defined as forced sexual intercourse when the respondent did not want to engage.

Table 3. 2016 West Virginian's Experience with Property and Violent Crime Past 12 Months				
	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
Property Crime				
Break-in [a]	25	7.67	107,300	76.7
Objects Stolen Inside Home [b]	18	5.50	76,942	55.0
Objects Stolen Outside Home [c]	19	5.85	81,838	58.5
Pocket Picked [d]	1	0.31	4,337	3.1
Car, Bicycle, Motorcycle Stolen [e]	6	1.84	25,740	18.4
Violent Crime				
Robbery [f]	3	0.94	13,150	9.4
Assault [g]	7	2.19	30,637	21.9
Sexual Assault [h]	7	2.53	35,394	25.3

* See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398,953.

[a] Break-in is defined as an incident where someone illegally breaks in to your home, car, or garage whether something is stolen or not.

[b] Objects stolen inside the home includes thefts that occur during a break in or by someone with legal access to the home.

[c] Objects stolen outside the home include anything stolen on your property but outside the home.

[d] Pocket picked or purse snatched refers to thefts from your person—inside your pockets or purse—but not with force as in a robbery.

[e] Car, bicycle or motor vehicle stolen includes the thefts of all forms of these conveyances.

[f] Robbery is defined as mugging or robbing via stick up or threatening to hurt the respondent

[g] Assault is defined as being beaten up, attacked, or hit with something

[h] Sexual assault is defined as forced sexual intercourse when the respondent did not want to engage. This includes unwanted sex under conditions described in Table 5 that occurred in the previous 12 months.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to violence by a current or former spouse or partner in an intimate relationship. It involves physical, emotional, and sexual violence. In this section we report on both types of IPV beginning with physical violence by an intimate partner.

Physical Violence

With regard to physical violence, the WVCQL survey asked respondents to report how many times in the past 12 months had someone they were dating, or a spouse/partner, had done the following things to them that were NOT done in a joking or playful manner. The survey included a dating relationship which referred to ".. anyone with whom you have or have had a romantic or sexual relationship, whether short- or long-term." Table 4 provides estimates of the

number of West Virginia residents over 18 who have had at least one incident of IPV in the past 12 months. See Table 4.

Table 4. 2016 West Virginian's Experience with Intimate Partner Physical Assault Past 12 Months

	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
Shoved, shook, pinched, or scratched you, or pulled your hair.	12	4.1	57,357	41
Slapped you	12	4.1	57,357	41
Threw something at you that could hurt you.	13	4.4	61,554	44
Bent your fingers or twisted your arms.	5	1.7	23,782	17
Hit, punched, kicked or bit you.	12	4.1	57,357	41
Beat you up.	3	1.0	13,990	10
Burned you, choked you, or tried to strangle or suffocate you.	1	0.3	4,197	3
Used or threatened to use a weapon against you.	4	1.4	19,585	14
Composite IPV Physical Assault [*] [a]	24	8.2	114,714	82

* See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398,953.

[a] Intimate Partner Physical Assault is defined as any of the following incidents within the context of an intimate or romantic relationship: shoved, shook, pinched, scratched, hair pulled, slapped, object thrown at the respondent, fingers bent back, arm twisted, hit, punched, kicked, bit, dragged by hair, thrown down stairs, thrown out of car, thrown around, beat up, burned, choked, strangled, suffocated, or had a weapon used or threatened to be used against the respondent.

Sexual Violence

The WVCQL survey asked respondents about unwanted sexual experiences with current or former intimate or romantic partners. The survey asked the number of times respondents were pressured or forced to engage in sexual relations and under the following circumstances.

- You were pressured. For example, your dating or spouse partner showed anger, made promises, or threatened to end the relationship.
- You were slipped drugs and/or alcohol and couldn't physically say no.
- You were threatened with physical harm if you did not give in.

- You were being physically forced to have sex, but you were able to escape.
- You were physically forced to have sex.

Table 5 provides estimates for the number of West Virginia residents over the age of 18 who have been pressured or forced to have unwanted sex by current or former intimate or romantic partner.

Table 5. 2016 West Virginian's Experience with Sexual IPV Past 12 Months

In the last 12 months, how often have you had unwanted sex with someone you were dating or a spouse/partner because…	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
you were pressured	4	1.43	20,005	14.3
you were slipped drugs and/or alcohol and couldn't physically say no	2	0.71	9,933	7.1
he/she took advantage of you when you were physically unable to say no because you had too much to drink and/or used drugs	3	1.08	15,109	10.8
he/she threatened you with physical harm if you did not give in	1	0.36	5,036	3.6
he/she tried to physically force you, but you were able to escape it	1	0.36	5,036	3.6
he/she physically forced you to have sex	2	0.72	10,072	7.2
Composite Sexual IPV	7	2.5	34,974	25

* See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398,953.

BIAS MOTIVATED INCIDENTS

In order to assess incidents that reflect intergroup tensions, the WVQL survey asked respondents if they were subjected to a variety of negative behaviors that were motivated at least in part by real or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or political orientation. Table 6 provides estimates of the frequency of these incidents having occurred in the preceding 12 months. See Table 6.

Table 6. 2016 West Virginian's Experience with Bias-Motivated Offenses in Past 12 Months				
	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
Personal property damaged	5	1.60	22,383	16.0
Personal property stolen	4	1.30	18,186	13.0
Had objects thrown at you	2	0.60	8,393	6.0
Been chased or followed by people intent on hurting you	4	1.30	18,186	13.0
Had verbal assaults directed at you	21	6.70	93,730	67.0
Been threatened with physical assault	6	1.70	23,782	17.0
Been threatened with unwanted sexual behaviors	4	1.30	18,186	13.0
Been verbally sexually harassed	9	2.90	40,570	29.0
Been touched sexually when you didn't want to be touched	6	2.00	27,979	20.0
Been threatened with a weapon	2	0.70	9,793	7.0
Received offensive phone calls, letters, emails	8	2.20	30,777	22.0
Been unwilling exposed to racist, sexist, or other offensive on-line images	23	7.30	102,124	73.0
Bias-Motivated Violent Offense [a]	36	12.1	169,273	121.0
Bias-Motivated Property Offense [b]	9	2.9	40,570	29.0

* See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398, 953.

[a] Bias-Motivated Violent Offense combines responses to 9 bias-motivated offenses reported in this table that are alleged to have occurred in the past 12 months and that are directed against a person, including: 1) had objects through at you, 2) been chased or followed by people intent on hurting you, 3) had verbal assaults directed at you, 4) been threatened with physical assault, 5) been threatened with unwanted sexual behaviors, 6) been verbally sexually harassed, 7) been touched sexually when you didn't want to be touched, 8) been threatened with a weapon, and 9) received offensive letters, phone calls, emails, etc. This category does not include "Being unwilling exposed to racist and sexist, or other offensive online images.

[b] Bias-Motivated Property Offense combines responses to bias motivated offenses reported in this table that are alleged to have occurred in the past 12 months and that are considered property offenses, including: 1) had personal property damaged and 2) had personal property stolen.

STALKING & HARASSMENT

The West Virginia Code (Section 61-2-9a) defines stalking and harassment as willfully and repeatedly following and harassing a person ostensibly in order to begin or restore a relationship. The WVCQL survey asked respondents about their experiences with stalking and harassment type of incidents. Table 7 presents the estimates of WV residents over 18 who have experienced these behaviors in the most recent 12-month period. See Table 7 below.

Table 7. 2016 West Virginian's Experience with Stalking & Harassment Offenses in Past 12 Months				
	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
Someone watched or followed from a distance and spied on you with a listening device, camera or GPS	13	4.10	57,357	41.0
Someone approached you or showed up in places, such as your home, workplace, or school when you didn't want them to be there.	19	6.00	83,937	60.0
Someone left strange or potentially threatening items for you to find.	4	1.30	18,186	13.0
Someone sneaked into your home or car and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there.	3	0.90	12,591	9.0
Someone left you unwanted messages, including text or voice messages (not including bill collectors).	19	6.00	83,937	60.0
Someone sent you unwanted emails, instant messages, or messages sent through social media apps.	28	8.80	123,108	88.0
Someone left you cards, letters, flowers, or presents when they knew you did not want them.	1	0.30	4,197	3.0
Someone made hurtful or inappropriate comments to you online that were not done in a joking or playful manner.	23	7.20	100,725	72.0
Someone spread rumors about you online, whether they were true or not.	17	5.40	75,543	54.0
Stalking/Harassment Composite	64	20.3	283,988	203

See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398,953.

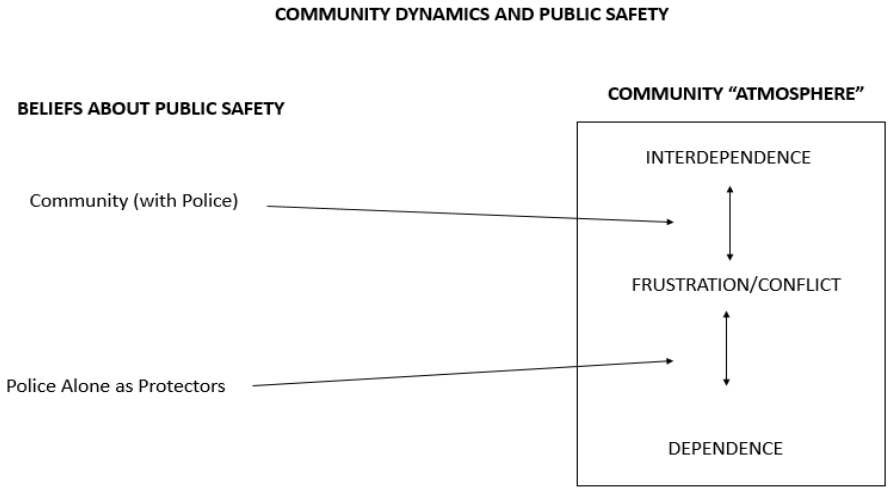
COMMUNITY DYNAMICS and CRIME, DISORDER, FEAR, AND OPIOID PROBLEMS

In this section we examine the relationship between community dynamics and crime, disorder, and drug abuse. We use the term community dynamics to refer to relations between the police and community and among community members with regard to public safety. Local

community dynamics are created by the mere fact that people who live near each other share a desire to live in a safe place. Our framework begins with basic beliefs about who is responsible for making local places safe. See Figure 1.

Residents of a community either expect they are mutually responsible for public safety or that the police alone are responsible, or at least primarily responsible. Meeting or failing to meet these basic expectations gives rise to a community atmosphere. When the expectation is for collective responsibility (i.e., residents watching out for each other) and people tend to live up to these expectations, we find high levels of Interdependence (see right side of Figure 1). When the community believe the police are primarily responsible and the police meet this expectation, we find high levels of Dependence. However, when residents expect fellow community members or the police to respond a particular way with regard to public safety, and they fail to meet these expectations, Frustration and/ Conflict become the primary community atmosphere.

Figure 1. Community Dynamics and Public Safety



The 18 items that make up the Community Dynamics Scale are presented below in Table 8.

Table 8. 2016 Community Cohesiveness Responses of West Virginia Residents			
The members of your community…	Agree/Strongly Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree/Strongly Disagree (%)
are frustrated with the police	17.87	9.97	72.16
call the police for most community problems	62.24	10.49	27.27
think the police don't seem to care	22.15	12.80	65.05
think the police do very little to prevent crime	27.65	10.92	61.43
trust the police to be highly effective crime fighters	60.82	15.12	24.05
assume the police know what is going on	67.81	13.70	18.49
rely heavily on the police to deal with all kinds of community problems	48.98	17.69	33.33
think the local police are ineffective	26.44	14.58	58.98
have confidence that the police alone are capable of preventing crime	46.39	14.09	39.52
know how to work together to prevent crime	65.68	16.83	17.49
know how to deal with minor community problems	77.18	13.09	9.73
are willing to help one another	86.53	8.08	5.39
watch out for each other's property	84.79	10.47	4.73
tell each other what is going on	80.75	12.16	7.09
trust each other	71.62	17.57	10.81
rely heavily on each other	58.44	21.62	19.93

The research team conducted factor analysis of the 18 items presented in Table 8. The 18 items loaded on three factors described in Table 9. The variables that have the highest positive relationship with factor are highlighted in bold font. Factor 1- Interdependence includes variables that indicate trust in each other and a willingness to intervene. The items that load on Factor 2- Conflict indicate that residents don't get along or that they don't trust the police to do the right things. The items loading highest on Factor 3- Dependence indicate a trust that the police alone are capable of making the community safe. See Table 9.

Table 9. Results of Community Atmosphere Factor Analysis WVCQL Survey

Generally speaking, the people in my neighborhood or community …	Factor 1 – Interdependence	Factor 2 – Conflict	Factor 3 – Dependence
…know how to work together to prevent crime	.683	-.112	.169
…don't get along with one another	-.543	**.199**	.021
…know how to deal with minor community problems	**.647**	-.208	.039
..are willing to help one another	**.807**	-.197	.003
…watch out for each other's property	**.834**	-.030	.033
…tell each other what is going on	.743	.026	.090
…do not work well together on community problems	-.672	**.164**	-.011
…trust each other	**.804**	-.134	.038
…rely heavily on each other	**.758**	.057	.295
…are frustrated with the police	-.156	**.757**	-.072
…call the police for most community problems	-.017	-.043	**.687**
…think the police don't seem to care	-.157	**.812**	-.218
…think the police do very little to prevent crime	-.116	**.793**	-.191
Trust the police to be highly effective crime fighters	.152	-.558	.551
…assume the police know what is going on	.233	-,254	**.494**
…rely heavily on the police to deal with all kinds of neighborhood problems	-.072	-.170	**.821**
…think the police are ineffective	-.100	**.790**	-.212
…have confidence that the police alone are capable of preventing crime	.200	-.256	**.665**

KMO test of sampling adequacy = .878
Cumulative variance explained = 58.3%

By pasting factor scores to each case in the database, we are able to construct communities with varying levels of Interdependence, Conflict, and Dependence. See Figure 2.

And, by based on the results of a binomial logistic regression analysis, we calculated the risk of community crime, individual victimization, fear of crime, community crime and disorder, and opioid abuse as a community problem in three community types based on levels of Dependence, Conflict, and Interdependence. These neighborhoods were constructed via Equation 2,

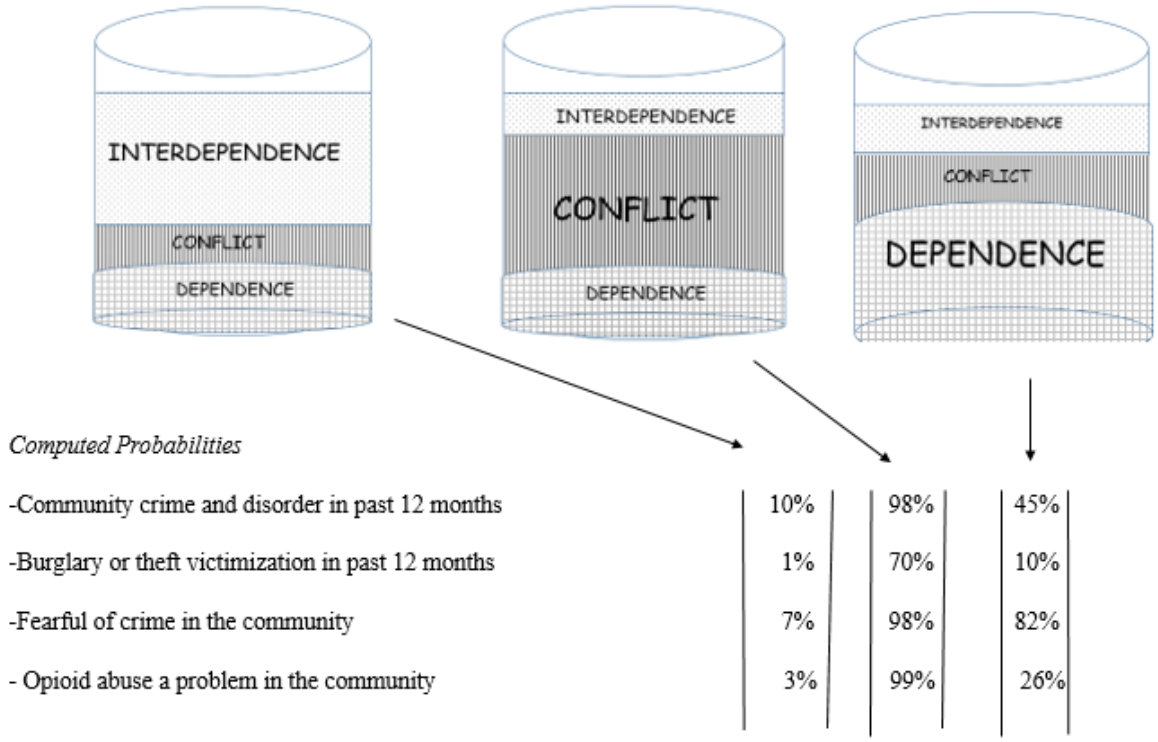
Eq. 2. $Y = e^{a+(b_1 x_1)+(b_2 x_2)+(b_3 x_3)}$

Where *a* is the intercept, b1 is the Dependence slope, b2 is the Conflict slope, and b3 is the Interdependence slope from each logistic regression analysis. The x values reflect factor analysis

regression scores follow a z score distribution with a mean of zero and standard deviation of 1. The three constructed neighborhoods are depicted in Figure 2 are meant to represent a scenario where the x value for the primary atmosphere (Interdependence, Conflict, Dependence) is +3 and the other two categories are calculated at -3. For each neighborhood type, the probabilities were calculated according to Equation 3.

Eq.3 $$\rho = \frac{e^{a+(b_1x_1)+(b_2\,x_2)+(b_3\,x_3)}}{1+e^{a+(b_1x_1)+(b_2\,x_2)+(b_3\,x_3)}}$$

Figure 2. Constructed Neighborhoods and Their Risk of Crime, Disorder, Fear, and Opioid Abuse



The dependent variables in the analysis presented in Figure 2 come from the following Tables 10-13 presented below. The WVCQL survey presents a list of possible problems and asks respondents to indicate whether they are an issue in their particular community. The choices are

a) not a problem, b) a small problem, c) a big problem, or d) not sure. The "not sure" responses were small and excluded from the analyses presented below.

Table 10. Community Disruption – Physical Disorder in West Virginia in 2016			
	Not a Problem (%)	Small Problem (%)	Big Problem (%)
Litter	45.92	34.69	19.39
Empty Buildings	58.62	25.17	16.21

Table 11. Community Disruption – Social Disorder in West Virginia 2016 in Percent			
	Not a Problem (%)	Small Problem (%)	Big Problem (%)
Neighbors who make too much noise	75.17	18.03	6.80
Homelessness	71.68	17.48	10.84
Public use of alcohol or drugs	52.96	16.03	31.01
Illegal drug dealing	38.89	20	41.11
Truancy	69.92	15.04	15.04
Disorderly groups loitering	81.21	12.06	6.74

Table 12. Community Disruption – Drug Problem in West Virginia 2016 in Percent			
	Not a Problem (%)	Small Problem (%)	Big Problem (%)
Public use of alcohol or drugs	52.96	16.03	31.01
Illegal drug dealing	38.39	20.00	41.11
Meth abuse	46.09	13.17	40.74
Pills abuse	40.80	11.20	48.00
Marijuana abuse	46.31	21.31	32.38
Cocaine abuse	60.27	14.73	25,00
Heroin abuse	46.84	16.03	37.13

In addition to the list of ongoing problems identified in tables 10, 11, and 12, the WVCQL survey asks about certain incidents that may have occurred in the respondent's community during the previous 12 months. Yes indicates that it did occur. No means that either it did not occur or the respondent is not aware if it occurred. See Table

Table 13. Community Crime in West Virginia 2016		
	Yes (%)	No (%)
Break-ins	28.81	71.19
Suspicious people were around the neighborhood	40	60
People were having a loud argument in public	31.96	68.04
Group of under-aged kids were drinking alcohol	20.41	79.59
Someone was threatened by a spouse, lover, date in a public place	12.93	87.07
Someone was assaulted by a spouse, lover, date in a public place	10.2	89.8
Composite Community Crime and Disorder	60.0	40.0

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The WVCQLS asks respondents if they know about the availability of crime victim services in the community. Respondents can select either yes, no, or don't know. See Table 14.

Table 14. 2016 Knowledge of Community Crime-Based Resources in the Past 12 Months			
	Yes (%)	No (%)	I Don't Know (%)
Knowledge of Community Resources			
Police Based Victim Services	49.04	10.51	40.45
Prosecution Based Victim Services	42.99	13.38	43.63
Mediation Services	50.32	14.10	35.58
Specialized Victim Services for Domestic Violence	57.19	14.70	28.12
Specialized Victim Services for Sexual Assault	48.24	13.74	38.02
Specialized Victim Services for Children	60.26	12.18	27.56

The WVCQL survey then asks respondents to indicate whether they used one or more of these services in the past 12 months. Table 15 presents a summary of these responses and estimates the number of WV residents over the age of 18 who used these services during the previous 12 months. See Table 15.

Table 15. 2016 West Virginian's USE of Victim Services in Past 12 Months				
	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
USE OF VICTIM SERVICES				
Police Based Victim Services	6	1.9	26,580	19
Prosecution Based Victim Services	2	0.6	8,394	6
Mediation Services	2	0.6	8,394	6
Specialized Victim Services for Domestic Violence	3	1.0	13,990	10
Specialized Victim Services for Sexual Assault	3	1.0	13,990	10
Specialized Victim Services for Children	3	1.0	13,990	10
Composite Use of Victim Services	9	2.9	40,570	29

See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398,953.

The WVCQL asks respondents about their access to a number of important general resources, including a library, churches, parks and playgrounds, community centers, grocery stores, medical centers, and public transportation. Table 16 estimates the number of West Virginia residents over the age of 18 who have access to these resources. Table 17 estimates the number of residents who say they use actually use these services, albeit frequently or infrequently. See Tables 16 and 17.

Table 16. 2016 West Virginian's Access to General Community Resources				
	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
General Community Resources				
Local library	263	90.7	1,268,850	907
Churches or other religious institutions	281	97.6	1,365,378	976
Park or playground	218	75.4	1,054,811	754
Community center	151	52.4	733,051	524
Grocery store	228	78.6	1,099,577	786
Medical center	209	72.1	1,008,645	721
Public transportation	152	52.8	738,647	528

See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398,953.

Table 17. 2016 West Virginian's USE OF General Community Resources				
	# Sample	% Sample	Estimated Number	Estimated Rate per 1000*
General Community Resources				
Local library	135	46.5	650,513	465
Churches or other religious institutions	183	63.6	889,734	636
Park or playground	145	50.1	700,876	501
Community center	61	21.2	296,578	212
Grocery store	216	74.5	1,042,220	745
Medical center	174	60.0	839,372	600
Public transportation	23	8.0	111,916	80

See footnote 1 for method for estimating the population of West Virginians 18 or older who have a telephone as 1,398,953.

SUMMARY

The rates uncovered by the first phase of the WVCQLS provide more accurate accounts of crime victimization than do police statistics. Nonetheless, the response rates remain consistently low. This is not surprising because a growing social scientific literature reveals that all types of surveys now elicit lower response rates than in the past (Pickett et al., 2017; Tourangeau, 2017). As well, some WVCQLS findings resemble data generated by similar surveys conducted elsewhere. Consider that 8.2 % of our sample reported experiencing physical variants of IPV in the year prior to the study, which is consistent with annual rates uncovered by studies specifically crafted to capture data on this problem (DeKeseredy, 2011).

What also makes this study unique is that, to the best of our knowledge, it is the first U.S. crime victimization survey to measure community psychodynamic processes. Such data are necessary because they provide important information on the contexts in which crimes occur. This study found that interdependent communities reported the highest levels of safety, while conflict communities are the least safe.

However, all the WVCQLS victimization data should be considered underestimates due to the ubiquitous problem of underreporting. Certainly, all types of victimization surveys suffer

from these issues that contribute to underreporting: embarrassment; fear of reprisal; memory error, reluctance to recall traumatic memories; and social desirability (DeKeseredy & Schwartz, 2013). What is more, it is difficult, if not impossible, to make precise comparisons with other major victimization surveys like the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) because of methodological differences, such as sampling and measurement. Still, WVCQLS data are useful for purposes of policy and practice. They provide practitioners and law makers more accurate baseline data from which to determine the nature and extent of necessary resources. Prior to the WVCQLS, the information available to all West Virginia stakeholders was limited and did not tell us about crimes that may not come to the attention of criminal justice officials. Though, we strived to help fill a major research gap in the state of West Virginia, the ultimate goal of this project is to enhance all West Virginians health and well-being. Please contact the authors of this report for more information on the data included in this report.

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