



City of Kingston

Using local data in community safety planning



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Developing Kingston's first community safety strategy

- ☛ wanted an evidence-based strategy
- ☛ avoiding tokenism in our consulting
- ☛ developed a report during 2003:

*“Community Safety in the City of Kingston
– perceptions and reported crime”*

Purpose of today's presentation

- ☛ **Not** to dwell on the results outlined in that report,
- ☛ but to focus on:
 - the **process** we undertook to obtain the data
 - the **methods** used to analyse and synthesize it
 - some **issues** and **challenges** we faced along the way



Phase 1

Obtaining the data

The process of data collection

- ☛ started as something small
- ☛ commencing October 2002
- ☛ grew throughout the course of the period
- ☛ first step was identifying what data sources were readily available:
- ☛ *Local Safety Survey, 2002*

Local Safety Survey - July 2002

- Kingston one of several municipalities participating
- Conducted by the Social Research Centre
- Representative sample of 600 people
- 100 from each of 6 local areas
- Telephone survey
- Data is weighted to represent the age and gender distributions in each grouping

Local Safety Survey 2002

☞ The results from this survey were a great starting point, but we wanted to:

- broaden the questions
- give opportunities for more open dialogue
- reach broader sectors of the community

☞ So, we developed our own
‘Community Safety Surveys’



City of Kingston

Community Safety Surveys 2003

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Community Safety Surveys

☞ Initial concept: about 6 different surveys reaching major groups:

- senior citizens clubs
- primary schools
- emergency services.

☞ To ensure inclusiveness, we added extra groups, such as:

- migrant senior citizens clubs
- Access & Equity Committee.

Community Safety Surveys

- designed each survey slightly differently for each target audience
- some with tick boxes instead of open questions
- others with council's language line attached.
- an administrative challenge, especially once replies started coming back.

Community Safety Surveys

👉 Asked:

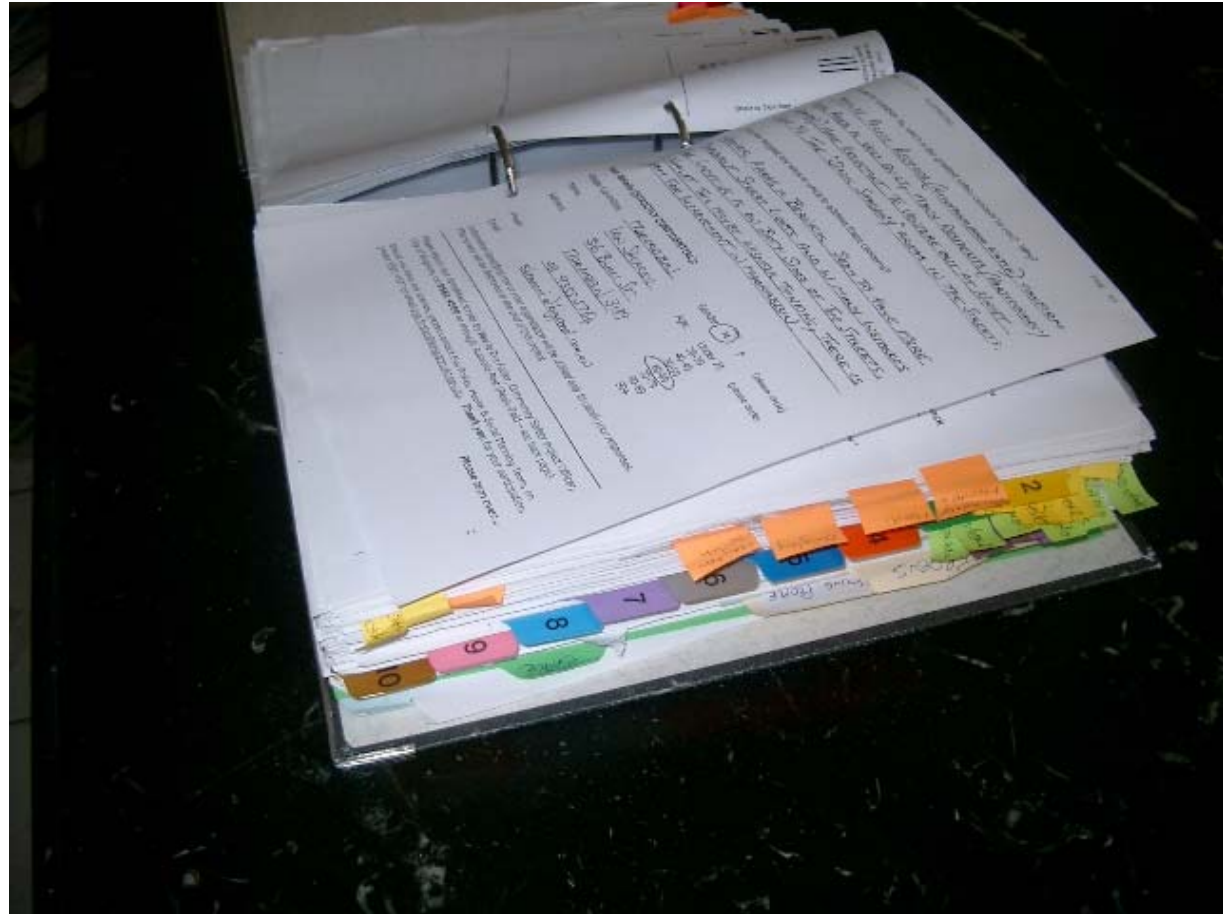
- for a safety rating out of 10 for the Kingston community.
- how safe they feel their local area is.
- any issues.
- suggestions for improvement.

Community Safety Surveys

- ☛ 450 surveys sent out to 15 different groups
- ☛ 147 responses – a 33 % response rate
- ☛ good response rate due to:
 - targeting specific segments of the community
 - letting them know their feedback will make a difference
 - printing a reply paid section on the back of the survey

Community Safety Surveys

Administrative staff
entered responses
onto Excel
spreadsheets





Police data

Reported crime

Request to District Inspector

Not a simple request - needed to specify:

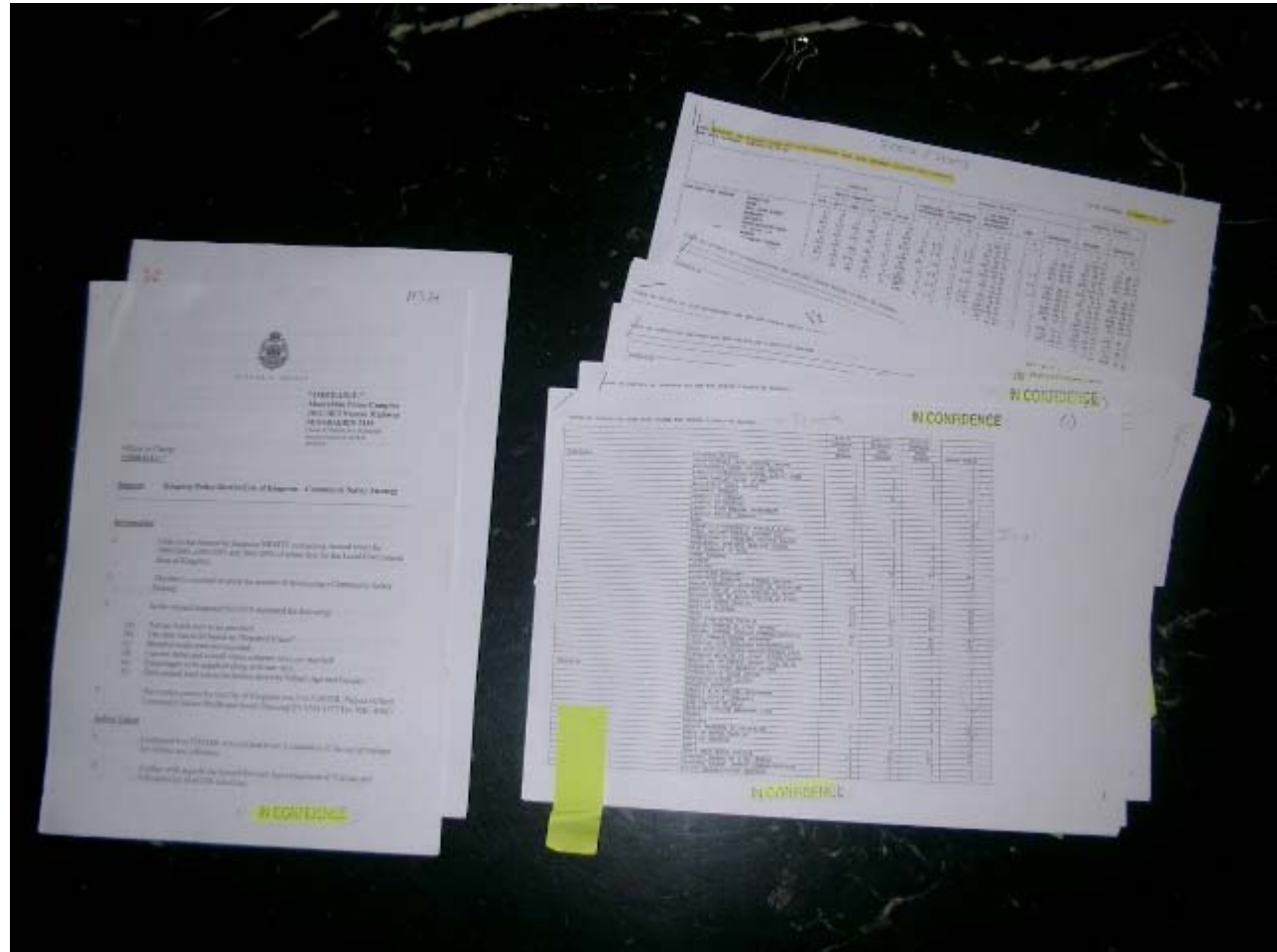
- Reported crime or cleared crime?
- How should age groupings be made?
- Did we want the age and sex of the **victim** or **perpetrator**?
- Would the **suburb** be where the offence took place or where the offender or victim was from?
- What was the percentage to represent? A percentage of all crime?

Limitations of police data

- Due to a change in boundaries in 1999, data for the entire year could not be provided.
- Advised there would be some overlapping of town borders.
- Not all information could be released regarding certain offences, eg sexual offences.
- Available domestic violence data can be difficult to interpret.
 - assault categorised as residential could consist of domestic violence, assault between neighbours or, less frequently, by strangers.

Police data for Kingston

Police data
comprised
several
spreadsheets,
plus a covering
letter of
explanation.



Conclusion - police data

- ☞ We received great cooperation from our local police
- ☞ They were clearly restricted in what they could release.
- ☞ In the end, we felt we came up with data that could give an indication of trends, but conclusions should be made with caution.



City of Kingston

Public forums

Community Safety

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Community Safety Forums

- ☞ 3 public forums in different areas of the municipality during a one week period.
- ☞ Mark Hennessy was engaged to act as facilitator at these forums.
- ☞ Challenge to attract a cross section of the municipality.
- ☞ Advertised the forums and sent invitations to recipients of the Community Safety Surveys

Community Safety Forums

- Structure of the forums was similar to the Community Safety Surveys
- A total of around 50 participants
- Many older residents
- Daytime session held at Council offices different to the offsite evening sessions - attention became more focused towards what **council** was and was not doing.
- Gave participants the opportunity to complete or take away a survey for any additional issues they did not have an opportunity to express.



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Youth forum

Community Safety

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Youth forum

- ☞ To encourage the young people to have a voice
- ☞ Facilitated by Eva Foster
- ☞ Run through Kingston's new Youth Consultative Committee
 - 12 young people from 14 to 22 years of age
 - Mission is to guide council on matters that can impact on young people
- ☞ Gave a more balanced view to our consultation.

Community Satisfaction Survey

- ☞ A large scale telephone survey of 772 Kingston residents, conducted periodically by Council
- ☞ Covering a wide range of issues relevant to community satisfaction and wellbeing
- ☞ Some community safety issues included



Phase 2

Analysing the data



Method

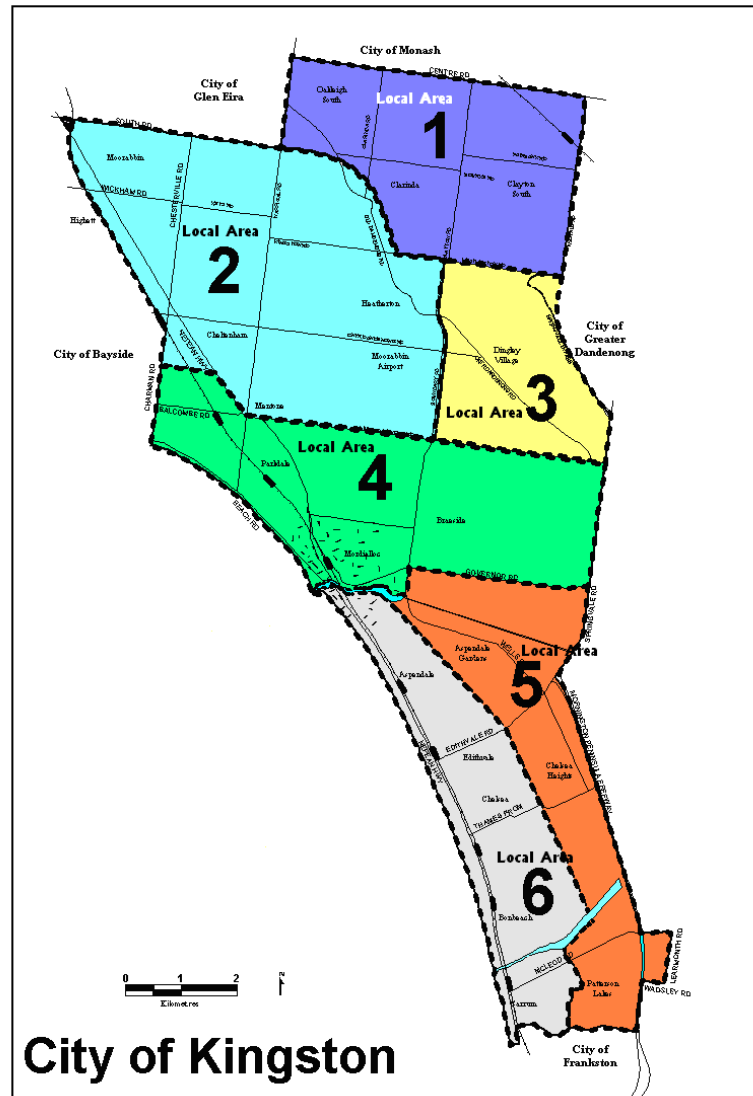
For each of the data sources:

- determine the issues arising
- with emphasis on the main issues and themes emerging, and common suggestions for action.
- prepare a synthesis of the information from all 6 data sources.

Data sources analysed

	Data source	How information was obtained	When collected	Sample	Number of respondents
1	Local Safety Survey 2002	Telephone survey + crime statistics	July 2002	Random, 100 from each of 6 local areas	600
2	Community Safety Surveys	Self completed questionnaires	Early 2003	A range of local groups invited to participate	145
3	Police reported crime statistics for Kingston	Data compiled by local police	1999 to 2002	Complete data	Not applicable
4	Community Safety Forums	Compiled by forum facilitator	March 2003	Public invitation to attend forums	50
5	Youth forum discussion	Compiled by forum facilitator	May 2003	Members of Kingston youth committee	20
6	Community Satisfaction Survey	Telephone survey	2002	Quota sample in multi languages	772

Local areas



Local Safety Survey 2002





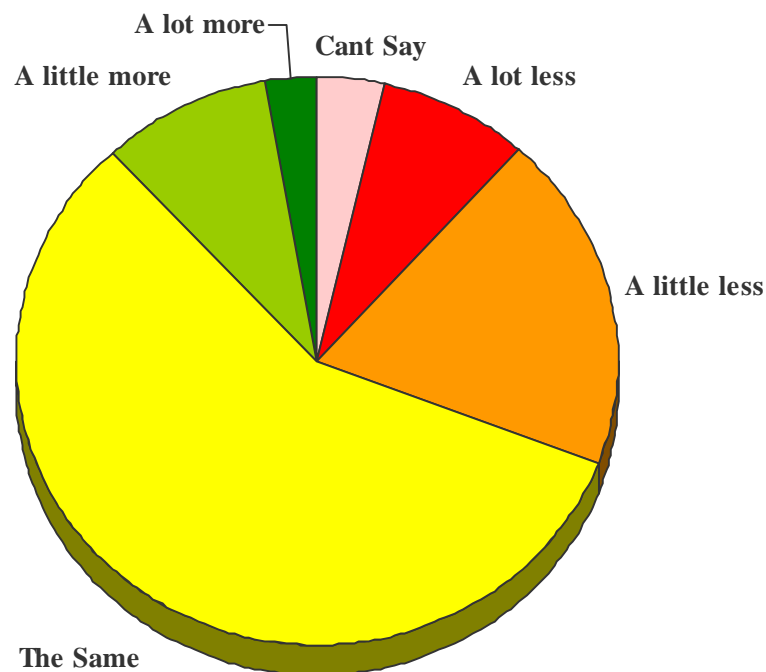
Safety in the local area

Safety in Kingston now compared to five years ago (less safe):

•Kingston 27%

Male 25%

Female 30%



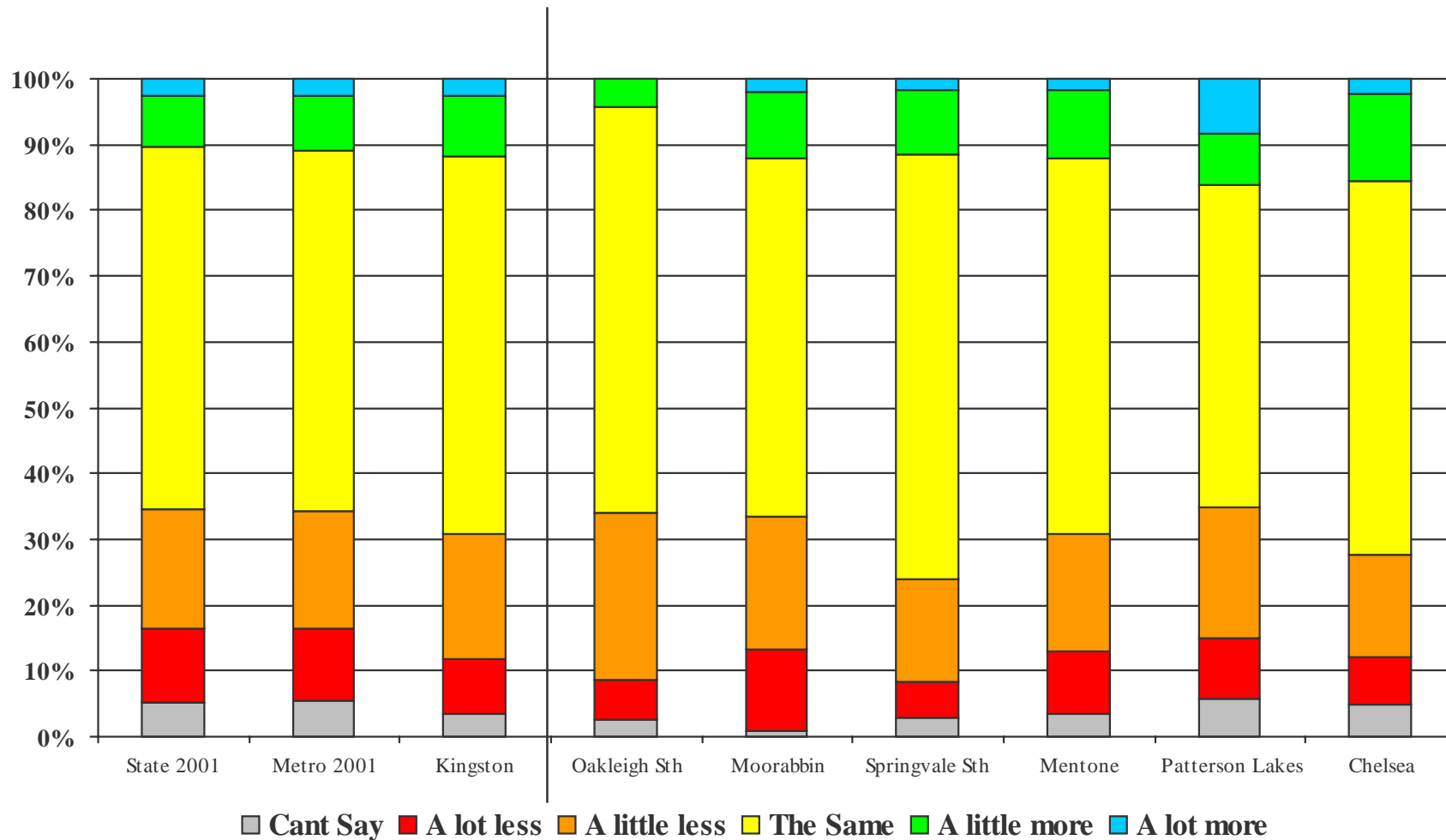
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2001

•Kingston	26%
•Metro	29%
•State	30%



Safety in the local area



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Crime Problems

What are the crime problem(s) in your local area

	<i>Kingston</i>	<i>State 2001</i>
•Household burglary	65%	73%
•Property damage	28%	23%
•Theft from cars	24%	15%
•Car theft	23%	20%
•Drugs	11%	23%
•Violence/Assaults	8%	14%

Reported Crime

High Volume Crime in Kingston

<i>High Volume Crimes</i>	<i>Kingston 2001/2002</i>		
•Theft Other	1,802	down	12.2%
•Theft from Motor Vehicles	1,686	up	8.4%
•Residential Burglary	1,277	up	4.6%
•Property Damage	1030	down	6.5%
•Theft of Motor Vehicles	1,024	down	13.1%



Reported Crime

Total Crime Rates in Kingston - 2001/2002

- slightly lower than the metropolitan average while generally being consistent with the metropolitan averages
 - 8,929 per 100,000 vs 9,705 per 100,000
- experienced 0.4% decrease in the number of offences

Perceived Likelihood of being a Victim of crime

*What do you think the likelihood is that you could be a victim of a **breaking and entering crime** within the next 12 months:*

- **Likely (Fairly & Very)** **34%**
- **Unlikely (Fairly & Very)** **62%**

*What do you think the likelihood is that you could be a victim of an **assault** within the next 12 months:*

- **Likely (Fairly & Very)** **15%**
- **Unlikely (Fairly & Very)** **79%**



Assault

Assault - Reported / Detected **627 per year**

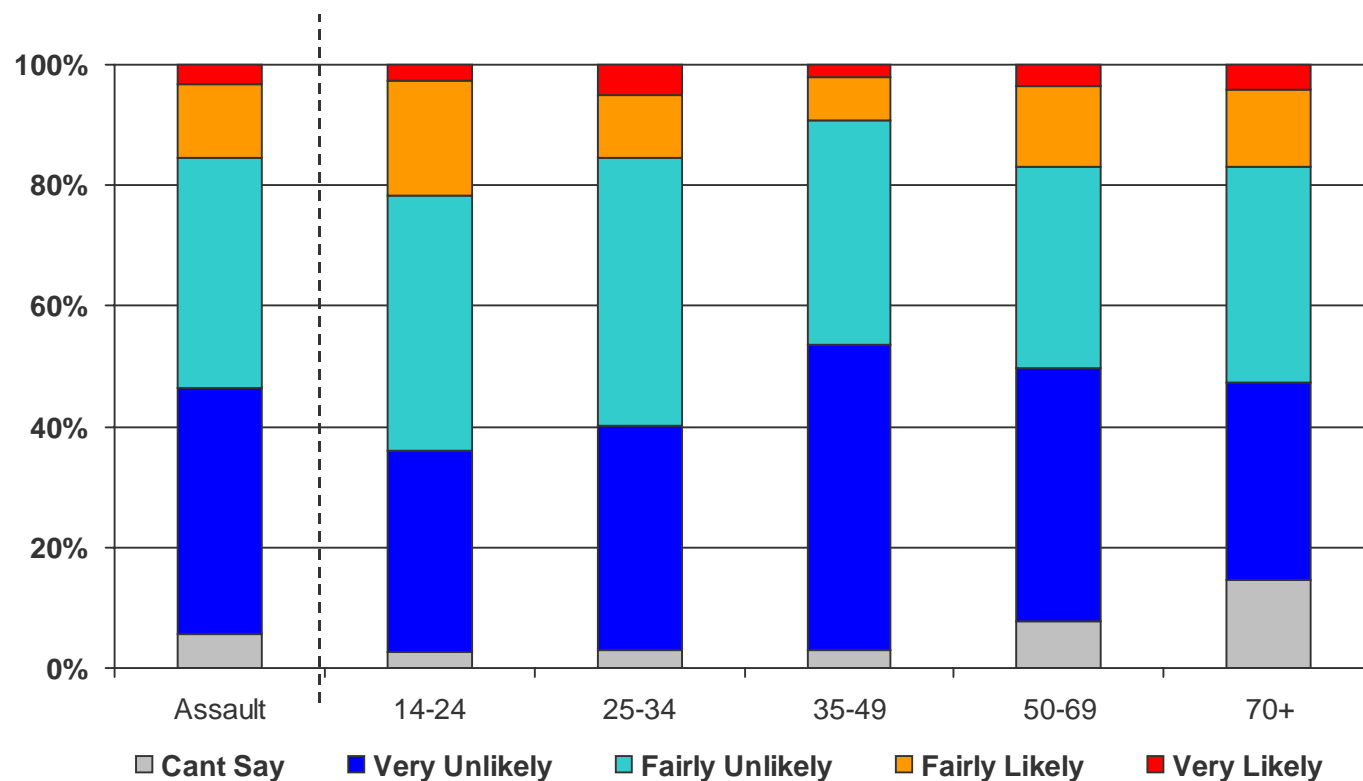
Population of Kingston **130,000**

• **Kingston Rate** **466 per 100,000 = 0.5%**

• **Metropolitan Rate** **481 per 100,000**



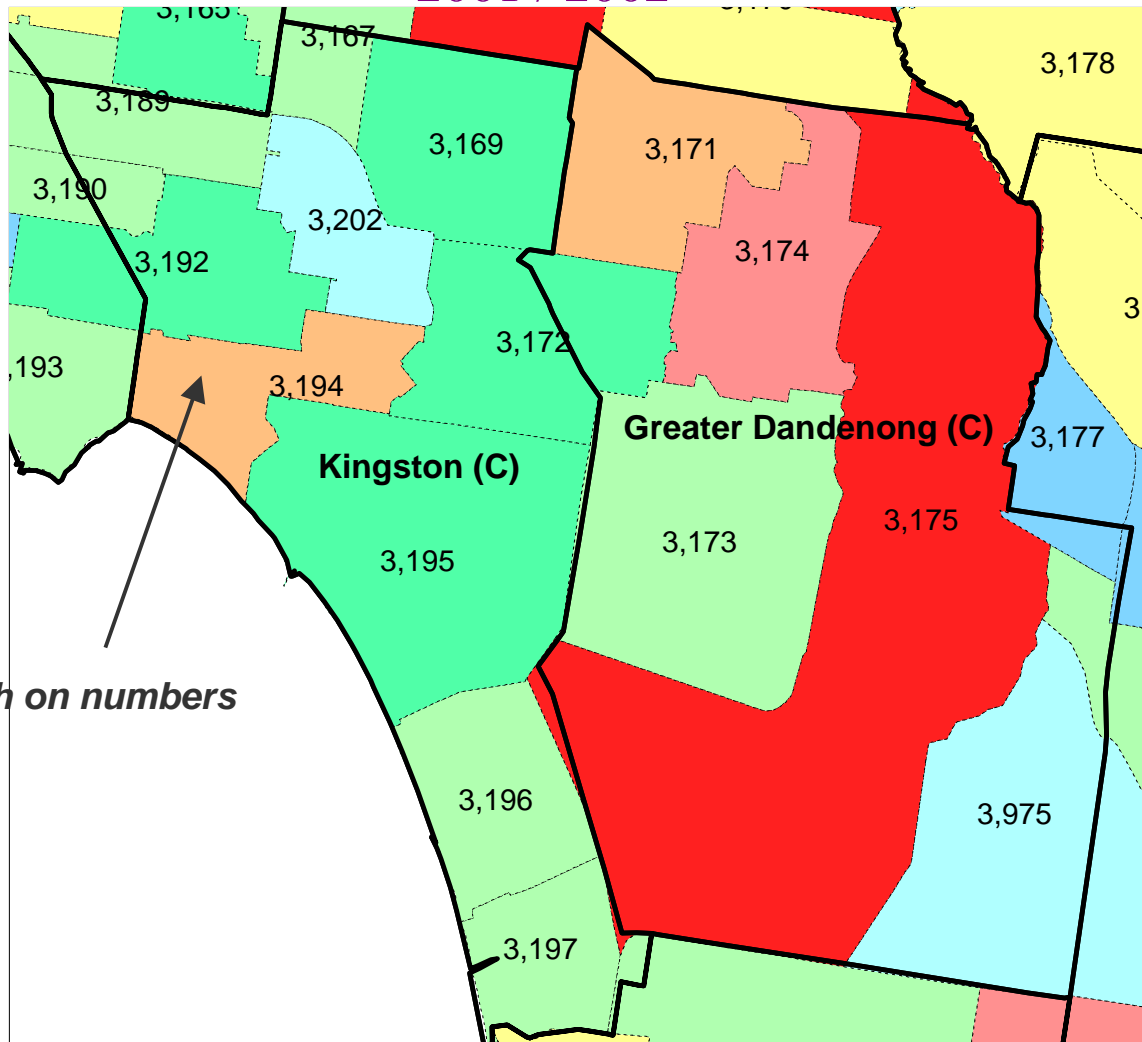
Perceived Likelihood of being a Victim of an Assault





Household Burglaries - Numbers

2001 / 2002





Unsafe locations

	<i>Kingston</i>	<i>State 2001</i>
•Railway stations	39%	30%
•Streets	24%	25%
•Parks	16%	16%
•Shops / Shopping centres	12%	21%



What could be done to make these areas safer for you?

- more police/police patrols 39%
- security 26%
 - more cameras (5%)
 - staff train stations (9%)
- lighting 29%



Awareness of various programs / initiatives:

<i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>	<i>99%</i>
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<i>Crime Stoppers</i>	<i>97%</i>
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<i>Community Safety Week</i>	<i>40%</i>
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<i>Police Schools Involvement Program</i>	<i>31%</i>
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Community Safety Surveys 2003

A set of 15 slightly varying surveys
distributed to 15 different categories of
community groups



Living in Kingston - safety ratings (out of 10)

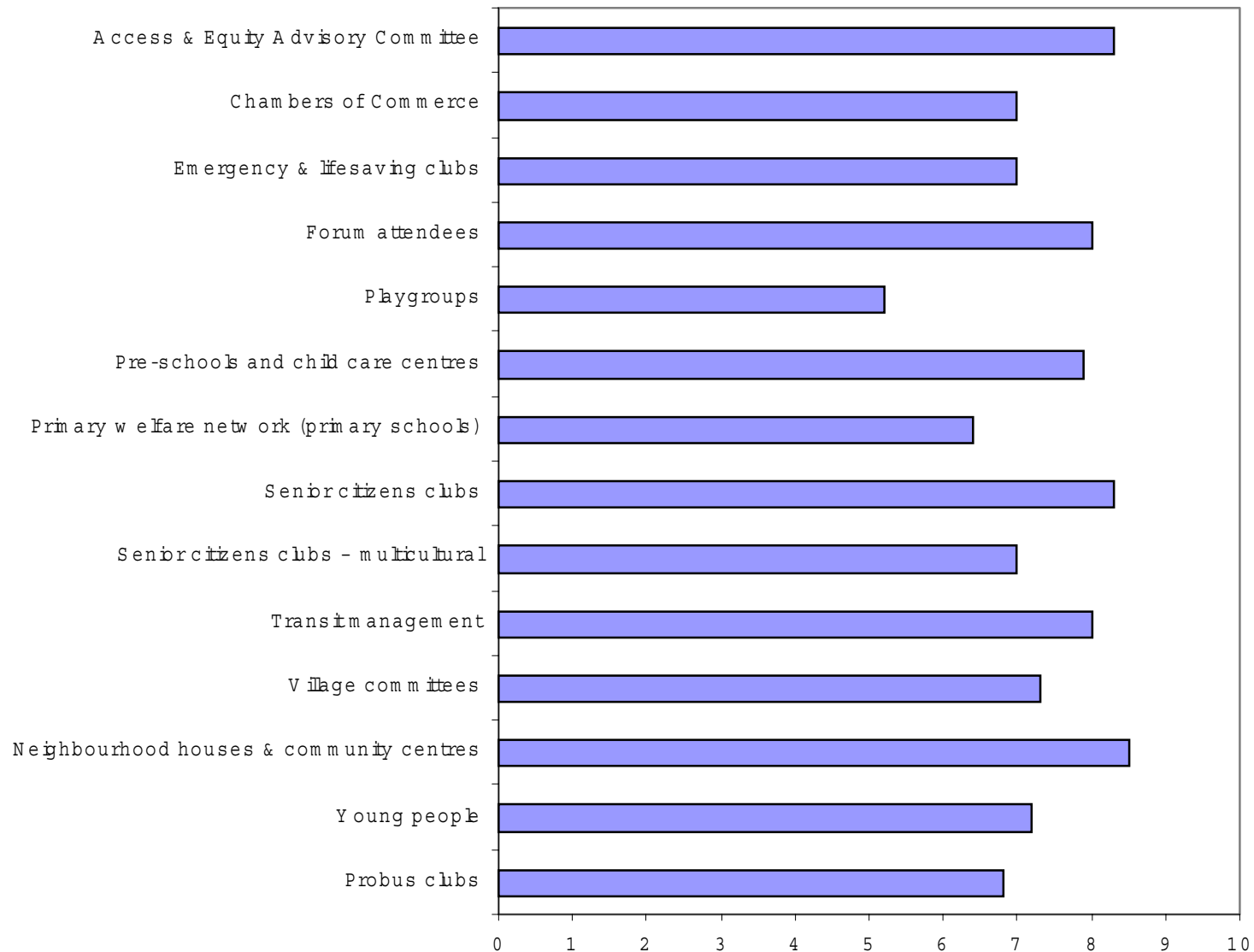




Table Safety concerns reported by the groups surveyed

Group	Traffic safety	Safe access for all, foot paths	Poor public lighting	Theft, burglary, robbery	Assault, bullying	Young people in public places	Alcohol, drugs, graffiti, vandalism	Sex offences, abduction	Public toilets	Fire safety, fireworks	Water safety	Park & play ground safety	Dogs
Access & Equity Advisory Committee	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes			
Chambers of Commerce	Yes			Yes		Yes							
Emergency & lifesaving clubs		Yes					Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes
Playgroups	Yes					Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes
Pre-schools and child care centres		Yes						Yes				Yes	
Primary welfare network (primary schools)	Yes						Yes	Yes					
Senior citizens clubs				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Senior citizens clubs – multicultural	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Transit management	Yes				Yes		Yes						
Village committees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
Neighbourhood houses & community centres	Yes				Yes								
Young people	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes
Probus clubs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Public space management											Yes	Yes	
Forum attendees													

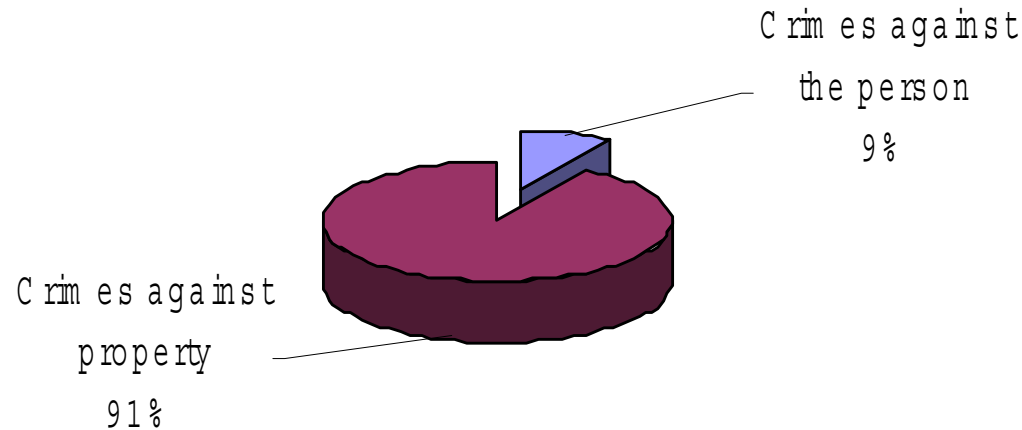


Table Safety actions by the groups surveyed

Group	Road iworks	Better access for all, foot paths	Better public lighting	More police presence, security, video	Programs / facilities for young people	Mansge alcohol supply or use	Parks / foreshore improvements	Public toilets	Fire safety programs	Water safety	Park & play ground safety	Dogs
Access & Equity Advisory Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Chambers of Commerce	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes							
Emergency & lifesaving clubs		Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes
Playgroups	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes
Pre-schools and child care centres		Yes					Yes				Yes	
Primary welfare network (primary schools)	Yes					Yes	Yes					
Senior citizens clubs				Yes	Yes	Yes						
Senior citizens clubs – multicultural	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes						
Transit management	Yes					Yes						
Village committees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					Yes
Neighbourhood houses & community centres	Yes			Yes								
Young people				Yes	Yes							Yes
Probus clubs		Yes	Yes	Yes								
Public space management										Yes	Yes	
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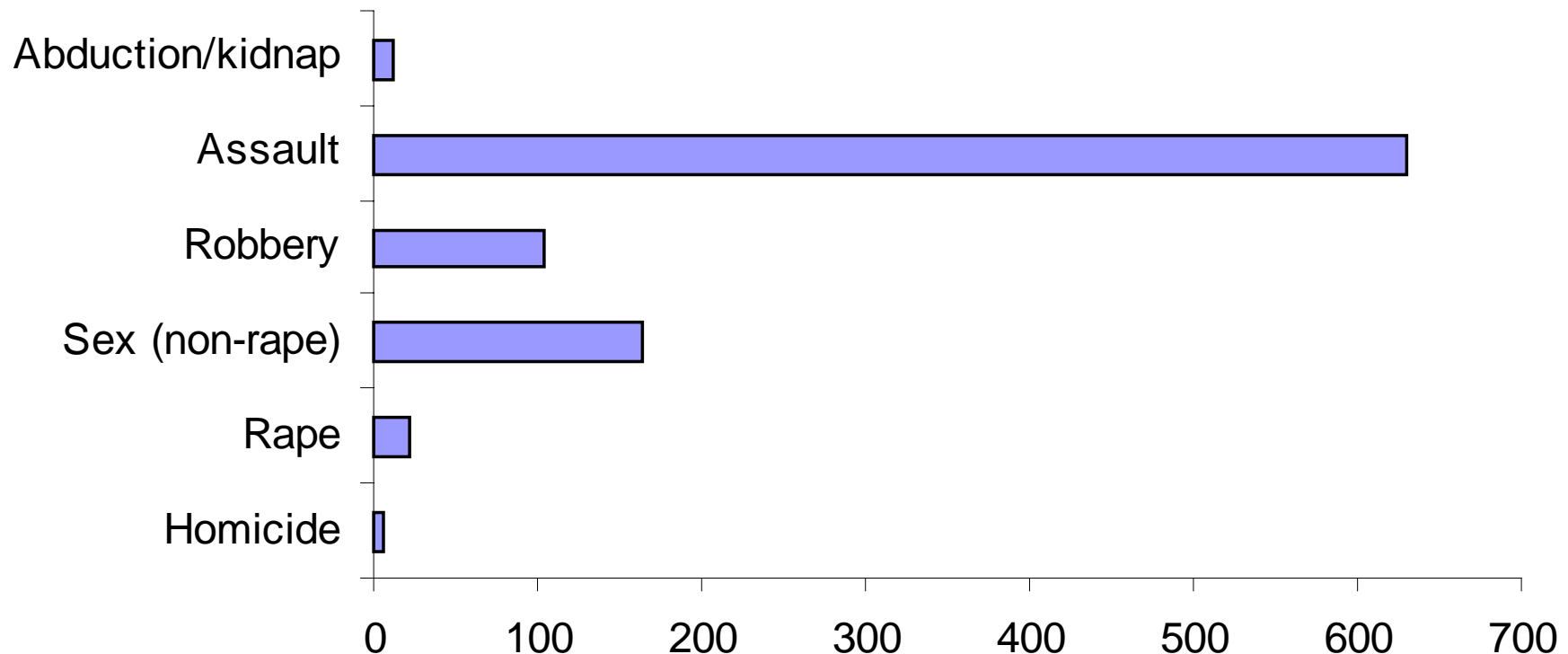
Crime data reported by police

Reported crime, City of Kingston, 1/7/01 to 30/6/01

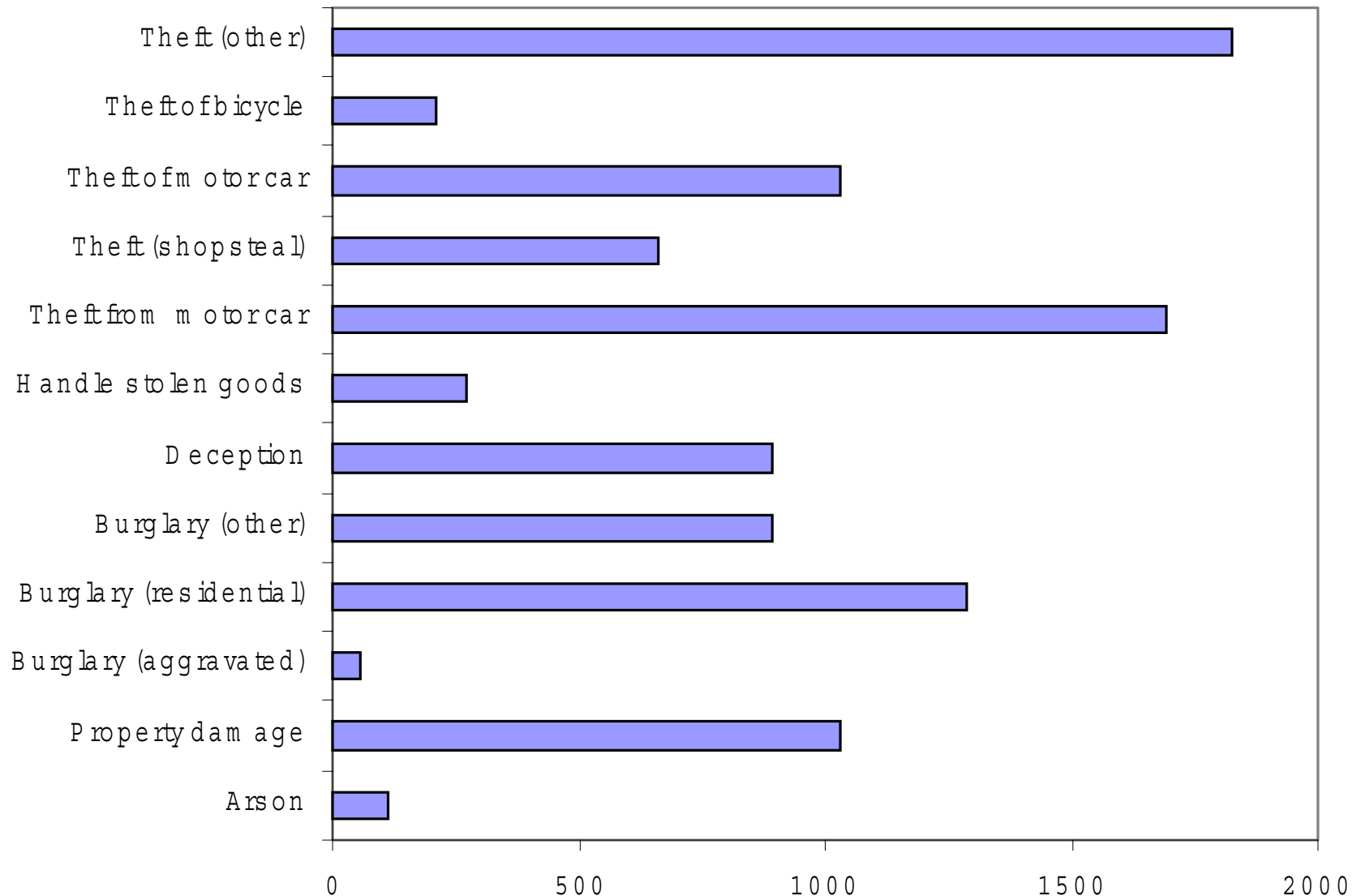




Crimes against the person reported to police, City of Kingston, 1/7/01 to 30/6/02



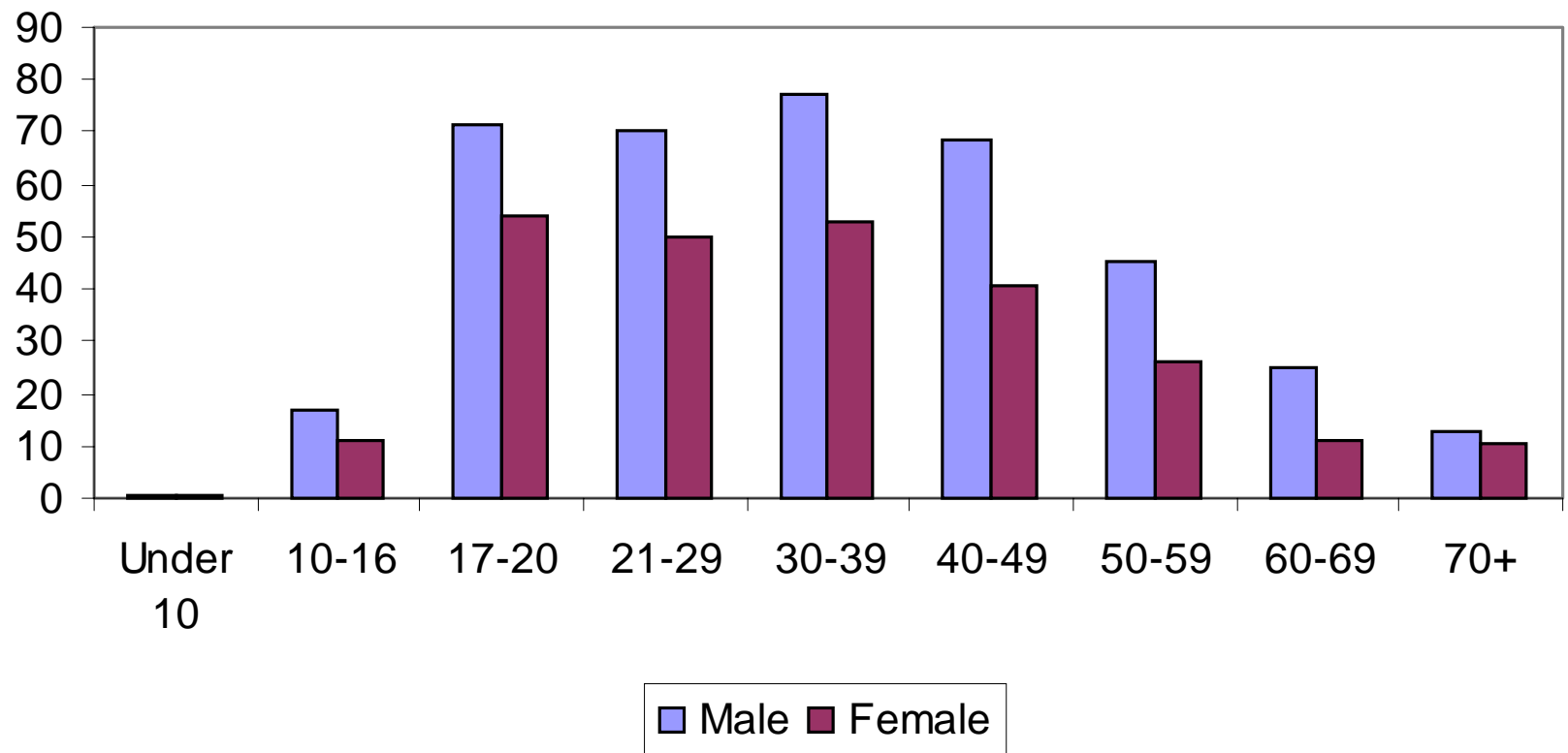
Crimes against property, City of Kingston, 1/7/01 to 30/6/02





City of Kingston

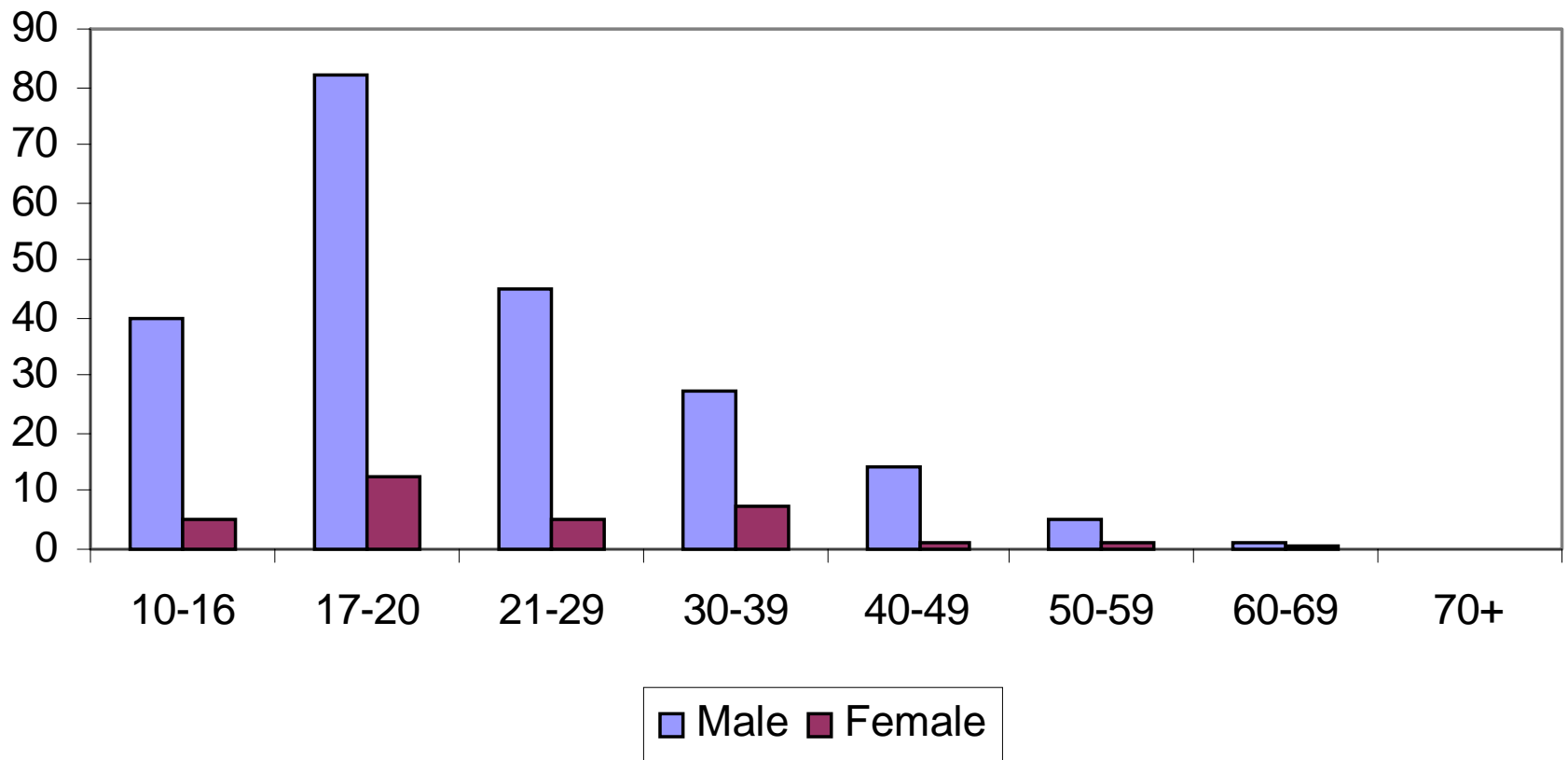
Victims of crime (per year of life) by age and sex, City of Kingston, 1/7/01 to 30/6/02





City of Kingston

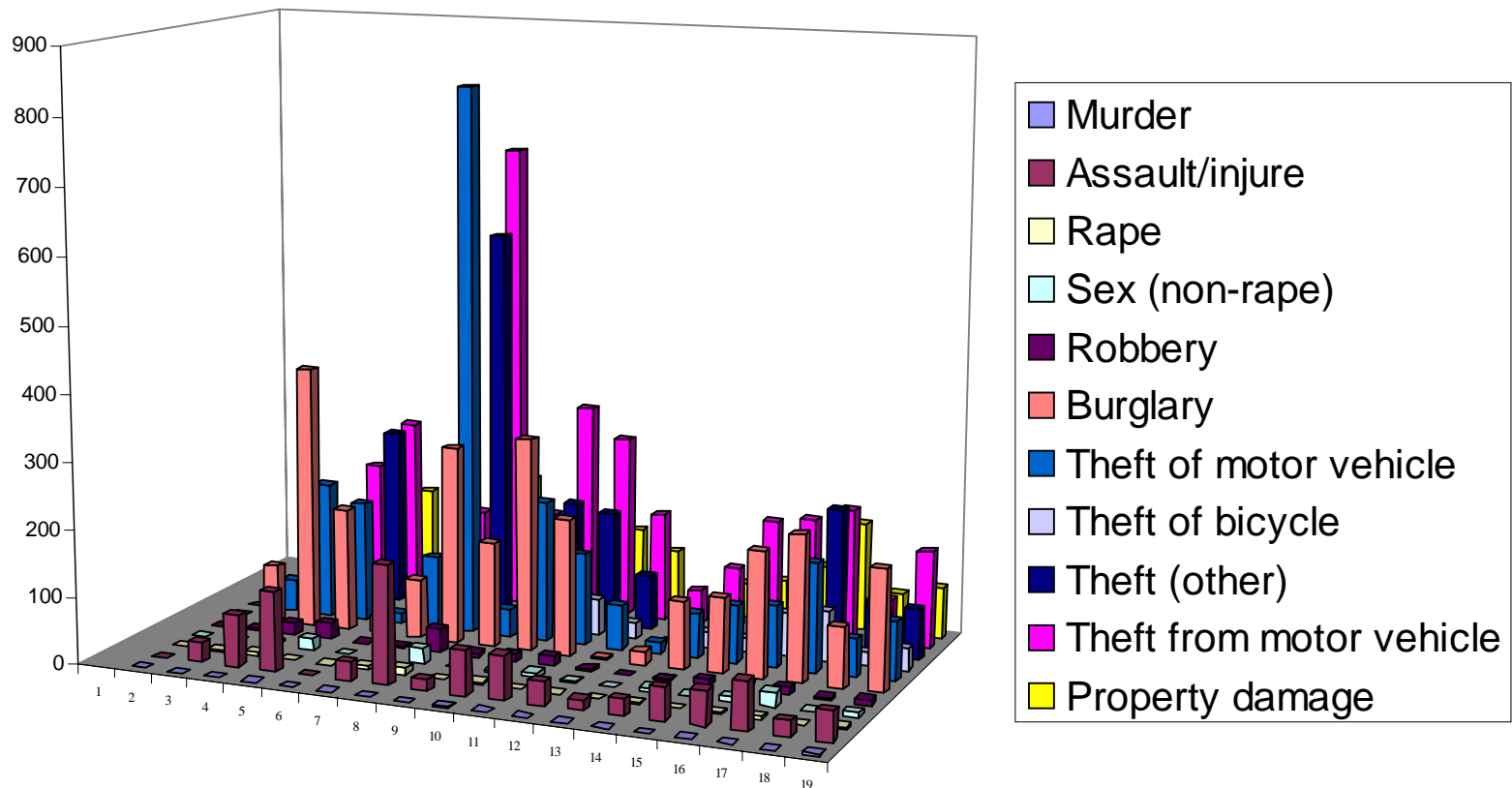
Offenders (per year of life) by age and sex, City of Kingston, 1/7/01 to 30/6/02



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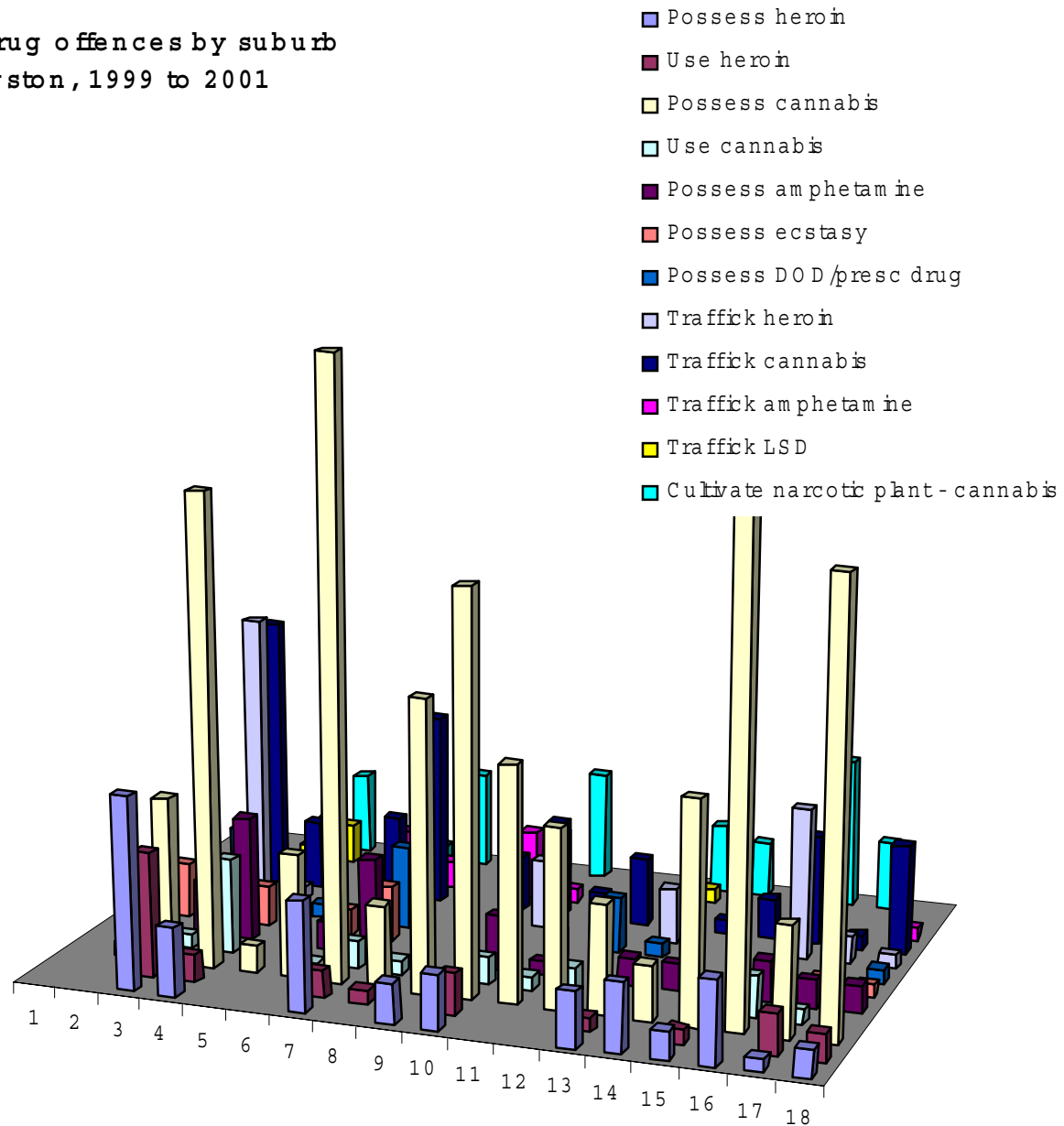
Selected offences, City of Kingston, 1999 - 2001





City of Kingston

Most frequent drug offences by suburb
City of Kingston, 1999 to 2001



Community forums March 2003

- ☛ Held on weekdays
- ☛ Clayton South, Mentone and Chelsea
- ☛ Attended by about 15 adults each, including many older people.
- ☛ Local police attended each of the sessions.
- ☛ Similar issues to Community Safety Surveys

Youth forum May 2003

- Trains and railway station environs perceived unsafe after dark
- More staffing at stations and more street lighting needed.
- More public transport required at night.
- Concerns about groups of young people hanging around – fear of and actual intimidation.
- School bullying issues – suggested commencement of anti-bullying programs in primary schools.

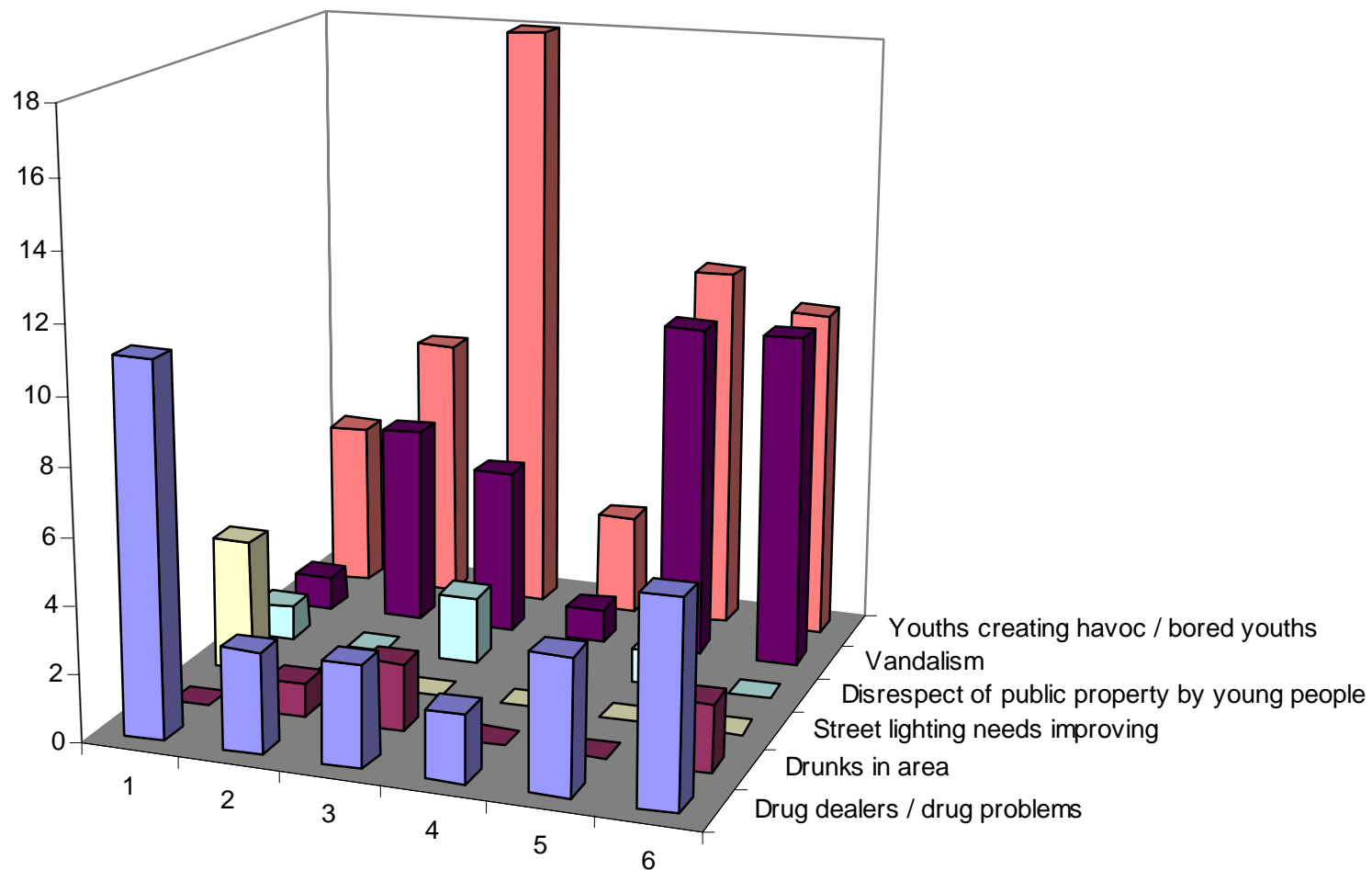
Community satisfaction survey

Trends that disturb:

Security	26%
Housing	13%
Traffic/access	13%
Pollution	8%
Relationships	2%
Other	12%

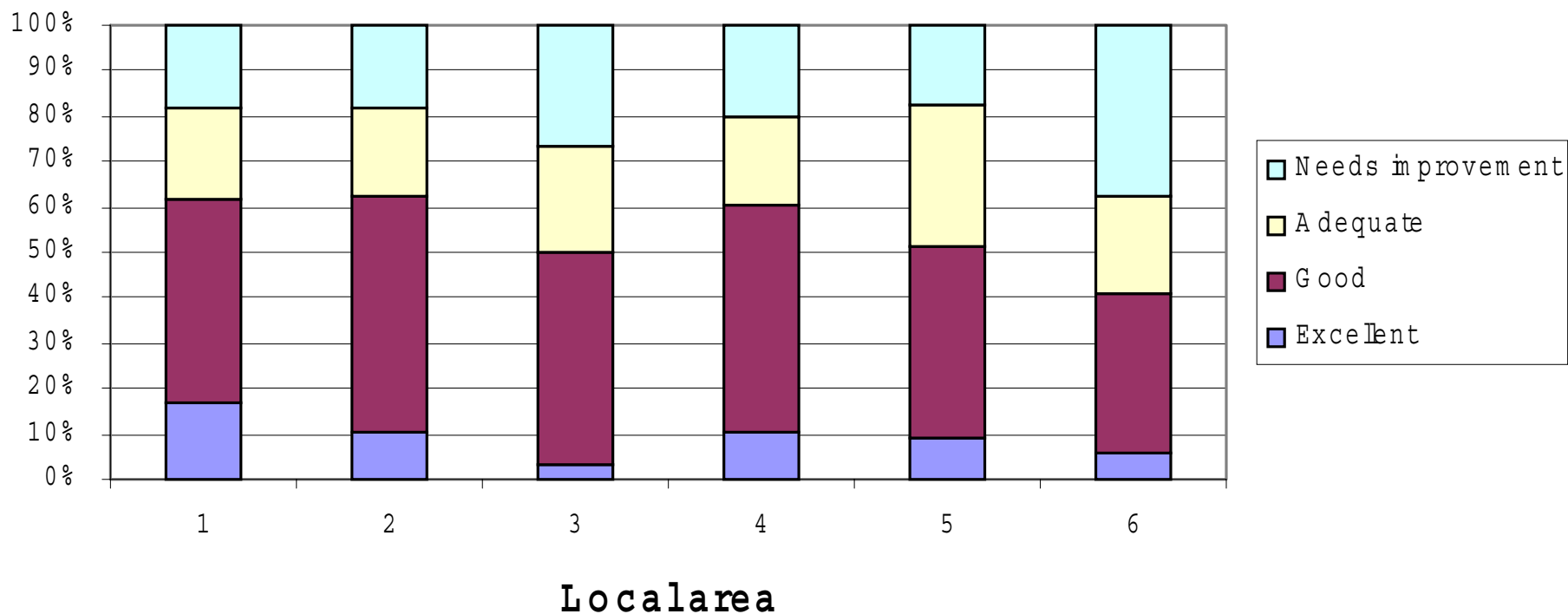


Trends that disturb: Security, City of Kingston Community Satisfaction Survey 2002





Ratings of *local footpaths* by local areas, City of Kingston Community Satisfaction Survey 2002



Community satisfaction survey

☞ In response to the issue of priorities for Council for the next 2-3 years:

- 13% of respondents nominated security
- compared to traffic (22%)
- physical environment (14%)
- services (13%)
- roads (12%).

Community satisfaction survey

- ☛ One of the major conclusions of the City of Kingston Community Satisfaction Survey is that **security** emerged as an important lifestyle factor in the minds of Kingston residents.



Some conclusions

Community safety is more than statistics

Community safety is more than statistics about crime or injuries.

It is about people's confidence to go out and participate fully in the life of the community.

People's perceptions are an essential component of a safe community.

Perception of risk vs incidence

- ☞ 15% of Kingston respondents thought they were likely to be a victim of assault in the next 12 months.
- ☞ The actual rate of assault is 0.5%, or 1 per 200 residents per year (police data).
- ☞ Respondents overestimate the risk 30 fold.
- ☞ **Providing accurate information about actual risk levels may improve people's confidence to go out and participate more fully in the life of the community.**

Some main themes

Issue

Traffic issues

Crime

Young people in public places

Safe play areas for children

Public transport

Lighting of streets and foreshore

Details

Speed and volume of traffic.

Pedestrian safety

Break-ins to houses and cars.

Assaults, vandalism

Intimidation of the young and elderly

Graffiti

Fenced off from roads and cliff tops.

Free of dogs and the detritus of anti-social behaviour.

Better security, especially at night.

Staffing of stations.

Seen as important by young and older people

Conclusions

- ☞ The City of Kingston is perceived to be a relatively safe place to live, and the Police data confirms that this is generally the case.
- ☞ Most crimes reported are against property, compared to crimes against the person.
- ☞ Local people are concerned about
 - young people in public places
 - the potential for assault
 - and a range of anti-social behaviours
 - theft from homes and cars, and theft of cars.

Conclusions

- ☞ There is widespread concern about traffic safety, including pedestrian safety.
- ☞ There are concerns about the condition of the footpaths, especially among older people and people with disabilities.
- ☞ People involved with young children expressed concerns about playground safety, especially the lack of barrier fencing between playgrounds and nearby hazards such as cliff tops and busy roads.

Overall Conclusions

- ☞ The various data sources **reinforce each other** and present a consistent view about perceived and actual community safety issues.
- ☞ Whilst the **community may overestimate** the extent of the risk they face from crimes such as assaults, the community's perception of the main problems is **generally consistent** with what the police data tell us.

Where to from here?

- ☛ Now have a substantial basis on which to develop Strategy.
- ☛ Have identified key issues in community.
- ☛ Over November and December: brainstorming sessions with relevant stakeholders to develop specific actions.
- ☛ This should lead to greater commitment to the process; make implementation easier.
- ☛ Draft of strategy due to Council early 2004.