

9/12/11  
DEAN

ELDERLY FEMALES' PERCEPTIONS  
OF VULNERABILITY TO VICTIMIZATION

by

Sandra Gail Walker  
B.Sc.N., University of Victoria, 1983

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

in the Faculty

of

Education

We accept this thesis as conforming  
to the required standard

Dr. D. Knowles, Supervisor (Department of Psychological  
Foundations in Education)

Dr. B. Timmons, Departmental Member (Department of  
Psychological Foundations in Education)

Dr. C. Attridge, Outside Member (School of Nursing)

Dr. J. McDavid, External Examiner (School of Public  
Administration)

© SANDRA GAIL WALKER, 1991

University of Victoria

All rights reserved. Thesis may not be reproduced in whole  
or in part, by photocopy or other means, without the  
permission of the author.

Supervisor: Dr. Donald Knowles

ABSTRACT

Twenty elderly females living in two neighbourhoods in Victoria, British Columbia were involved in a study to assess their perceptions of vulnerability to victimization, their related behavioural responses and, the consequences of these effects. Fear of crime was defined as one's perception of vulnerability of the potential of victimization, and was regarded as containing a cognitive and an affective component. The instrument was comprised of two sections, a questionnaire that contained eight quantifiable sections and a four part video presentation. The conceptual framework was based on Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory, (1986) explained in terms of triadic reciprocal determinism in which behaviour, cognition and other personal factors, and environmental events all operate as interacting determinants of each other. The findings revealed that health status, family and financial concerns, direct and vicarious victimization experiences, perceived recuperative capabilities from injury, social and neighbourhood integration were all factors correlated with vulnerability to victimization. No direct causal link was found between direct victimization experiences and vulnerability to victimization. The locus of social activity was the home and its immediate vicinity and involvement in night time activities were low. Information was provided for potential use for local government policy development regarding fear of skateboarders in the downtown city core.

Examiners:

Dr. D. Knowles, Supervisor (Department of Psychological Foundations in Education)

Dr. B. Timmons, Departmental Member (Department of Psychological Foundations in Education)

Dr. C. Attridge, Outside Member (School of Nursing)

Dr. J. McDavld, External Examiner (School of Public Administration)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE:
<u>ABSTRACT</u>	ii
<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	iii
<u>LIST OF TABLES</u>	v
<u>LIST OF FIGURES</u>	vi
<u>CHAPTER ONE</u>	1
INTRODUCTION	1
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	9
<u>CHAPTER TWO</u>	10
REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	10
PERCEPTIONS OF VULNERABILITY	10
SOCIAL COGNITIVE THEORY	13
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK	22
RESEARCH QUESTIONS	23
<u>CHAPTER THREE</u>	24
METHOD	24
RESEARCH DESIGN	24
SAMPLE	24
INSTRUMENT DESIGN	25
INSTRUMENT LIMITATIONS	29
PROCEDURE	30
STATISTICAL DESIGN	32
<u>CHAPTER FOUR</u>	35
RESULTS	35
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPANTS	35
NEIGHBOURHOOD INTEGRATION INVENTORY	36
SOCIAL ACTIVITY INVENTORY	40
HEALTH STATUS INVENTORY	46
CONCERN INDEX	52
TYPES OF CRIME INVENTORY	53
FEAR OF PERSONAL ATTACK	54

## PAGE

VICTIMIZATION EXPERIENCE INVENTORY	57
INDIRECT	58
DIRECT	60
CONCLUSIONS	62
VIDEO COMPONENT	72
SCENARIO 1 - TEENAGERS	76
SCENARIO 2 - ARSON	83
SCENARIO 3 - FRAUD	86
SCENARIO 4 - BREAK AND ENTER	90
CONCLUSIONS	93
<u>CHAPTER FIVE</u>	96
DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS	96
<u>REFERENCES</u>	103
<u>APPENDICES</u>	108
INSTRUMENT	108
INFORMED CONSENT FORM	124

## LIST OF TABLES

	PAGE	
TABLE 1	CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR FEAR OF CRIME	22
TABLE 2	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS RATING NEIGHBOURHOOD INTEGRATION CHARACTERISTICS	39
TABLE 3	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	43
TABLE 4	RANKING OF ISSUES THAT CAUSED WORRY	49
TABLE 5	TYPE OF CRIME BY INTENSITY OF IMPORTANCE	51
TABLE 6	COMPARISON OF INVENTORY SCORES FOR VICTIMIZED SAMPLE AND REMAINING SAMPLE	61
TABLE 7	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONCERN INDEX AND SOCIAL DETERMINANT INVENTORIES	65
TABLE 8	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE OF CRIMES, NEIGHBOURHOOD INTEGRATION AND VICTIMIZATION EXPERIENCES	66
TABLE 9	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIMIZATION EXPERIENCES, NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HEALTH INVENTORIES	67
TABLE 10	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL, HEALTH, FEAR AND VICTIMIZATION EXPERIENCES	70
TABLE 11	PROFILE OF DIRECT VICTIMIZED AND NON-VICTIMIZED SAMPLES	75
TABLE 12	COURSES OF ACTION FOR DEALING WITH TEENAGERS BY GROUP	80
TABLE 13	COURSES OF ACTION FOR DEALING WITH SKATEBOARDERS BY GROUP	83
TABLE 14	COURSES OF ACTION FOR DEALING WITH FRAUD BY GROUP	89

## LIST OF FIGURES

	PAGE
FIGURE 1 FREQUENCY OF LIMITED PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	45
FIGURE 2 ABILITY TO ATTEND TO ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING	48

## CHAPTER ONE

Our understanding of what constitutes fear of crime and how it should be measured remains quite limited. The literature shows a disparity in study findings, which I suspect is partially due to the conceptualization of fear of crime being taken for granted by many researchers and non-researchers alike. All too often, survey questions about fear of crime are not derived from any theoretical understanding of the phenomenon and are not subjected to any rigorous evaluation or validation procedures. The primary purpose of this thesis is to construct an instrument that would assist in predicting this phenomenon which is currently receiving considerable attention by politicians, police, the press, and others interested in the consequences of crime. A secondary purpose is to explore the ability of the measures in examining one prominent theoretical framework that might be applied to understanding the psychological and behavioral dimensions of being elderly, and coping with environments where crime is a possibility.

Since the late 1960's numerous researchers have paid considerable attention to two major themes: criminal victimization and the fear of crime (Antunes, Cook, Skogan & Cook, 1977; Baumer, 1985; Brillon, 1987; Brooks, 1974; Fattah & Sacco, 1989; Garofalo, 1981, 1979; Goldsmith & Goldsmith, 1975; Kennedy & Silverman, 1985; Rosenbaum &

Baumer, 1981; Skogan, 1987). Increased research interest in these areas have resulted in specific social, cultural and racial groups being singled out for investigation; the elderly have been no exception.

Before the development of victimization surveys, most of what we knew about crime was based on information found in police files. The Greater Vancouver Victimization Survey (1979) gathered information on the frequency of victimization and its distribution in the general population (Solicitor General, 1983). This survey utilized questionnaires similar to those developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1976) and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), (1976). The Vancouver survey results indicated that the elderly (65 years and above) were less victimized compared to the rest of the Vancouver population. Following this study, victimization surveys of seven major cities in Canada were conducted. Consistent with the Vancouver survey, the elderly were found to be the least victimized age group (Brillon, 1987; Fattah & Sacco, 1989; Solicitor-General Canada, 1983, 1988). The survey revealed that the elderly were victims of a restricted range of reported crimes such as burglary, fraud, harassment and vandalism. The victimization of the elderly was more a function of the neighbourhood than a function of their personal characteristics. The elderly

did not become victims simply because they were old, but because they were exposed to the risk of victimization.

An examination of the routine social patterns of the elderly suggested that they less frequently engaged in evening activities outside the home; and when they did, their preference was for low rather than high risk activities. Because older persons are less likely than are younger persons to find themselves in public places at night and in the presence of potential offenders, they experienced a lower rate of exposure to the threat of criminal victimization. In addition, it is worth noting that in many ways the elderly are somewhat freer than younger population groups to manage risk through the avoidance of persons or situations that they may perceive as threatening. In general, the elderly are less constrained by occupational and work-related roles which sometimes increase risk of victimization (Brillon, 1987; Fattah & Sacco, 1989).

Fattah & Sacco (1989) reported that crimes against the elderly tended to occur during the day, in or near the household, and they tended to involve offenders who were strangers. The locus of much elderly activity was the home and its immediate vicinity; involvement in nighttime activities was low. Moreover, there was a low probability that they will be victimized by friends and acquaintances, many of whom are themselves elderly. Patterns of

victimization, therefore, reflect the spatial, temporal and associated constraints which elderly lifestyles place upon risk.

Antunes et al. (1977) wrote that "elderly victims are more likely to be preyed upon than treated violently " (p. 323). Several American studies indicated the elderly were more often the victims of various kinds of fraud and malice than other types of crime (Fielo, 1987; Gies, 1987; Gies, 1977; Sundeen & Mathieu, 1976; Yin, 1982, 1980). Gubrium (1974) found that women over 60 were more likely to be victims of malicious mischief than females of any other age. Compared with females under 40, elderly women were more likely to be victims of counterfeiting and forgery. Fattah & Sacco (1989) found that the crimes to which elderly women were subjected in such situations as purse snatching and other personal thefts, appeared to be opportunistic in nature.

Results from numerous surveys conducted in the United States, Canada, and Britain, to estimate victimization rates (Antunes et al., 1977; Clarke & Lewis, 1982; Gubrium, 1974; Goldsmith & Goldsmith, 1975; Jaycox, 1980; Kennedy & Silverman, 1985; Rosenbaum & Heath, 1990; Stinchombe et al., 1980; Sundeen & Mathieu, 1976) suggested the aged were among the least victimized by serious crimes but were worried about all manner of problems that accompany urban life. Thorson and Thorson (1986) noted that older adults

viewed life crisis very differently than younger people. Fear of crime may simply be one manifestation of general anxiety about threats to safety and well-being (Kennedy, Northcott & Kinzel, 1977). Waller and Okihiro (1978) found in the 1655 households they surveyed in Toronto that women were more fearful of crime than were men; and with increased age, their degree of fear increased. Gaitz and Varner's (1980) research indicated that the biophysical changes associated with aging reduce the ability of the elderly to withstand or recover from undue stress. These findings raise the question, does increased fear of crime ultimately affect the well-being of the elderly?

Gubrium's (1974) survey assessed the differences in victimization and fearfulness within a variety of condominium and townhouse housing complexes; some were 'seniors only' while others were open to all age groups. This survey reported that those seniors from the age-homogeneous types of housing complexes expressed lower fearfulness than those from the age-heterogeneous types of housing units due to the degree of protectiveness and security felt by the homogeneity in the housing environments. The findings of Sundeen and Mathieu (1976) and Lawton and Yaffe (1980) further substantiate that viewpoint. This evidence, however was by no means conclusive; as some gerontologists argued that aged-heterogeneous environments were better for the elderly.

They assumed there would be an increase in social integration and mutual support, which could impact on the reduction in the level of fear of crime (Sherman, Newman, & Nelson, 1977).

One assumption from past research was that experiences of criminal victimization were strongly and directly related to increased levels of fear of crime (Stinchombe, Adams, Heimer, Scheppele, Smith & Taylor, 1980).

Intuitively, those directly victimized by crime ought to be the most apprehensive about it. Skogan (1987) suggested that there has been no convincing evidence that criminal victimization has, in fact, a causal relationship with fear of crime thereby producing greater fear of crime than does the lack of being victimized. Other research studies, also found that there was a lack of evidence supporting a causal relationship between being a victim and increased fear of crime. The research indicated however, that *the perceived risk of personal victimization* did play a role in the level of fear (Siegel, 1989; Skogan, 1987, 1981; Skogan & Klecka, 1977; Titus-Reid, 1988). Skogan (1987) also pointed out that this heightened fear of crime among the elderly was largely a product of increased fear of the *potential of personal attacks* rather than of property crimes. This increased fear was due to diminished capacities such as physical frailty, as well as fewer economic and social resources to fall back on. These findings support the

question that if the elderly are characterized by an overall low degree of victimization, why have they been singled out as an at-risk group in research into the impact of crime? One possible answer may be that the elderly, despite their low victimization, view themselves as being the most *vulnerable*. Their perception of vulnerability of victimization would seem to be the crucial variable (Clarke & Lewis, 1982; Clemente & Kleiman, 1976; Furstenburg, 1971; Kennedy & Silverman, 1985; Perloff, 1983; Rosenbaum & Heath (1990); Yin, 1982, 1980). In support for this position, a poll undertaken for the United States Department of Justice (1977) identified that those over the age of 65 reported the greatest fear of crime (Stinchombe et al., 1980). Fear of crime was defined as one's perception of risk or vulnerability of victimization. Canadian studies indicated similar findings (Atkinson, 1981; Brillon, 1987; Gomme, 1988, 1986; Muir, 1987; Stafford & Galle, 1984; Toseland, 1982). This definition for fear of crime was also cited by Clarke and Lewis (1982) and The Home Office "Standing Conference on Crime Prevention" (1989) in studies conducted in Britain. The elderly viewed this vulnerability as a serious personal problem to be dealt with in daily life. Hahn and Miller (1980) found the perceived fear of victimization to be the most pressing concern of the elderly, even surpassing problems with health and money.

In summary, studies have shown that elderly persons were victims of crime far less than other age groups. In addition there was no causal relationship between victimization experiences and increased levels of fear of crime than the lack of being victimized. The social patterns of the elderly suggested that they experienced a lower risk of exposure to criminal victimization than other age groups because their locus of activity was near their home and its immediate vicinity; and they less frequently engaged in evening activities. It was concluded that patterns of elderly victimization reflected the spatial, temporal and associated constraints which their lifestyles placed upon their risk of exposure. It seemed that despite their low victimization rates, they viewed themselves as being the most *vulnerable*. Fear of crime was defined in the literature as one's perception of risk or vulnerability to victimization. This fear engendered anxiety which can have a marked influence on the quality of life and can become more important than the crime itself.

### Statement of Purpose

In the face of the evidence presented, the present study was addressed to the following question: What are the social and affective correlates, and the cognitive estimates of elderly females' perceptions of vulnerability to victimization, their related behavioural responses; and the consequences of these effects?

The pursuit of this question was guided by constructs drawn from the literature review and aspects of Bandura's (1986) Social Cognitive Theory. Measures were developed to assist in a better understanding of the construct fear of crime in an elderly female population.

## CHAPTER TWO

Review of the LiteraturePerceptions of Vulnerability

Although numerous surveys and studies have been undertaken, extensive conceptual and methodological work remains to be done to elicit a better understanding of the elderly's perceptions of vulnerability to victimization. A wide variety of operational constructs have been employed as measures of this concept, "fear of crime", resulting in little standardization and scant knowledge of the area (Baumer, 1985, 1979; Rosenbaum, 1987; Rosenbaum & Baumer, 1981; Taylor & Hale, 1986; Yin, 1982, 1980). Consequently, reports of findings on the causes or results of fear of crime/vulnerability to victimization are difficult to interpret unless one knows how fear was measured. Contradictory findings may be explained by differences in the way fear was conceptualized or operationalized.

Fear is an ambiguous concept. Maxfield (1984) stated that feelings of fear involve a threat to oneself, not a general concern of crime in society. Scientifically speaking, fear refers to physiological responses which are usually conceptualized as following immediately from a specific event. When confronted with a situation that poses danger, people experience physiological changes that help them cope with autonomic responses of "fight or

flight" (Skogan & Maxfield, 1981; Maxfield, 1984). Garofalo, (1981) viewed fear as the anticipation of a possibly risky situation, therefore constituting "potential fear."

In attempts to discover an adequate definition of fear of crime, Furstenberg (1971) stated that fear could be measured by a person's perception of his own chances of victimization. This concept is quite different than concern about crime. Fear of crime was measured by an individual's perception of vulnerability to victimization; concern was measured by the estimation of seriousness of the crime situation in the country or neighbourhood (Furstenberg, 1971; Perloff, 1983). An individual may be concerned by the problem of crime, but not be the least afraid of being personally victimized.

Stinchombe et al. (1980) defined fear as "the perception by a person of high risk of serious damage, which the person can do nothing to alleviate or control" (p. 39). When one speaks of risk, this refers to the "probability that an individual will experience a given level of loss or damage" (p. 40). Clarke and Lewis (1982) stated that fear can be interpreted as a product of perceived threat (possibility) rather than actual threat, which can have serious repercussions on the quality of life experienced by individuals.

For the purposes of this thesis, fear of crime is defined as the *perceived vulnerability* of the probability or possibility of *victimization*, and is regarded as containing both a *cognitive* and an *affective* component. Perceived vulnerability is defined as a belief that one is susceptible to future negative outcomes and unprotected from danger or misfortune. Accompanying this cognition is an affective component, consisting of feelings of anxiety, worry, and apprehension (Perloff, 1983). This definition will be used to describe individuals' beliefs about future hypothetical events, as well as beliefs occurring due to previous victimization experiences, actual (direct) or vicarious (indirect).

Views about perceptions may have little grounding in objective fact. Nonetheless, these subjective assessments are important in that they may influence the manner in which individuals organize their daily activities. Views such as these may explain why the elderly perceive themselves as having a high probability or possibility of becoming victims while they are the least victimized age group. As a consequence it may be that some individuals may place self imposed restrictions on their social activities, which subsequently engender feelings of isolation, alienation and reduced well-being.

A major oversight in the literature, and yet an essential ingredient in studying perceptions of

vulnerability to victimization, is the lack of attention given to the role of the cognitive realm, specifically, the individual capabilities employed to process information. One can assert that an individual's characteristics, her basic individual cognitive estimates, and her resultant behavioural adaptations to the environment are operating as interacting determinants. These factors all play an integral role in the *behaviour learned* by an elderly female group, thereby creating perceptions of vulnerability to victimization. These attitudes may be reinforced by the social support network, their experiences with crime, and the social and neighbourhood integration these individuals experienced. I propose that "Social Cognitive Theory" (Bandura, 1986, 1978) specifically "Triadic Reciprocal Determinism" provides the theoretical framework for allowing a better understanding of why a group of elderly females perceive themselves more vulnerable to crime.

#### Social Cognitive Theory

The *social* portion of Social Cognitive Theory terminology acknowledges the social origins of much human thought and action; the *cognitive* portion recognizes the influential, causal contribution of thought processes to human motivation, affect, and action (Bandura, 1986, p. 65).

In the social cognitive view, people are neither driven by inner forces nor automatically shaped and controlled by external stimuli. Rather, psychological functioning is explained in terms of a model of "triadic reciprocity" in which *behavior, cognition* and other personal factors, and *environmental* events all operate as *interacting determinants of each other*. Therefore, behaviour and environmental conditions function as reciprocally interacting determinants; but so does the individual's internal personal factors (e.g., conceptions, beliefs, self-perceptions) and their behaviour. For example, an elderly female's performance and the outcome expectations influence how she may behave, and the environmental effects created by her actions in turn alter her expectations. The nature of a person is defined within this perspective in terms of a number of *basic capabilities*, for example, symbolizing, forethought, vicariousness, self-regulation and self-reflectiveness (Bandura, 1986, 1978, 1977; Salthouse, 1985). In other words, an elderly woman who previously had her purse snatched by a group of teenagers while walking down the street may employ an avoidance strategy each time she comes upon a group of teenagers by altering her behaviour thru crossing to the other side of the street. This implies that when there is a variation in certain *symbolic, situational* and social cues, she associates these cues with her past victimization experience and they serve

as guides for action. She regulates her actions on the basis of these predictors which also provides the mechanism for *foresightful* behaviour.

In the model of triadic reciprocal determinism, the term *reciprocal* refers to the mutual action between causal factors. The term *determinism* is used to signify the production of effects by certain factors, rather than in a sense of actions being determined by prior sequences of causes operating independently of the individual (Bandura, 1986; 1978).

Therefore, viewed from the perspective of reciprocal determinism, the common practice of searching for the ultimate environmental cause of behaviour is an idle exercise. In an *interacting process*, the one and the same event can be either an environmental stimulus, a response, or an environmental 'reinforcer', depending arbitrarily on when and on which side of the ongoing exchange one happens to look first in the flow of events. One cannot speak of "behavior" and its "controlling environmental conditions" as though these two factors were fundamentally different events with inherent indicators of what they are supposed to be, but rather involves a continuous reciprocal interaction between behavioural, cognitive, and environmental influences (Bandura, 1978, 1986; Salthouse, 1985).

As previously mentioned, cognitive and other personal factors are operating as interacting determinants within this model. Bandura (1986, 1978) analyzes a number of basic cognitive capabilities which are discussed below:

1. *Symbolizing capability* is the remarkable capacity to use symbols, which touches virtually every aspect of people's lives, providing them with a powerful means of altering and adapting to their environment. "Through symbols they similarly give meaning, form, and continuance to the experiences they have lived through" (Bandura, 1986, p.18). Through symbols people process and transform transient experiences into internal models that serve as guides for future action.
2. Through the exercise of *forethought*, people motivate themselves and guide their actions anticipatorily. They are likely to anticipate the consequences of their actions, set goals, and plan courses of action for the future. For example an elderly woman sees several skateboarders approaching her on the sidewalk. By representing foreseeable outcomes symbolically (she thinks that she may be knocked down), she can convert future consequences (physical injury) into current motivators and regulators of foresightful behaviour (she moves out of their way).

3. The capacity to learn by observation or *vicarious* experiences enables people to acquire rules for generating and regulating behavioral patterns without having to form them gradually by tedious trial and error.
4. People do not have to behave just to suit the preferences of others. Much of their behaviour is motivated and regulated by *self-regulatory standards* and *self-evaluative reactions* to their own actions. After personal standards have been adopted, discrepancies between a performance and the standard against which it is measured activate evaluative self-reactions, which serve to influence subsequent behaviour. Self-regulated incentives alter performance mainly through their motivational function. The act of writing is a familiar example of a behaviour that is continuously self-regulated through evaluative self-reactions.
5. *Self-reflective capability* enables people to analyze their experiences and to think about their own thought processes. When people reflect on their varied experiences and on what they already know, they can derive knowledge about themselves and the world around them.

Cognitions do not arise in a vacuum, nor do they function as autonomous causes of behavior. According to

Bandura (1986) people's conceptions about themselves and the aforementioned capabilities are developed and verified through four different processes: (a) direct experience of effects produced by their actions; (b) vicarious experience of the effects produced by somebody else's actions; (c) judgements voiced by others; and, (d) derivations of further knowledge from what they already know by using rules of inference. External influences play a role not only in the development and authentication of cognitions but in their activation as well. Different sights, smells, and sounds will elicit quite different trains of thoughts. Thus, while it is true that conceptions govern behaviour, the conceptions themselves are partly fashioned from direct or socially mediated transactions with the environment. The relationship between thought and action becomes bi-directional.

Bandura (1986) stated the following:

Confining analysis to a particular interactive segment of this triadic system sheds some light on causal processes. But it inevitably leaves unexplained some of the observed variance in events, when other determinants in the triadic system make causal contributions at various points in the interactions. For example, the interactive relationship between behavior and environmental events in social interchanges is not governed solely by the immediate behavior reciprocities between actions and social counteractions. Rather, one must take into consideration that while behaving, people entertain

thoughts about where their actions are likely to lead and what they may eventually produce. For example, *forethought* can enhance, attenuate, or nullify the proximal effects of action. (p. 26)

Bandura (1978), indicated that the relative influence exerted by these three sets of interlocking factors will vary in different individuals and under different circumstances. For example in some instances, cognitive factors may serve as powerful constraints on behaviour and they may emerge as the overriding determinants. The activation and maintenance of defensive behaviour employed by the elderly female in perceived risky situations may activate avoidance responses that keep her out of touch with prevailing environmental conditions, thus creating a strong reciprocal interaction between beliefs and action. If these women hold false beliefs about environmental conditions they may employ such strong internal contingencies that could keep them totally out of touch with reality, hence, the 'self imposed' house arrest behaviour. In other words, these women may represent outcomes of future events *symbolically*, in which they convert future consequences into current motivators and regulators of behavior and therefore, decide to isolate themselves in their homes. *Self-reflective* strategies may also be employed where ideas are verified, monitored or occurrences are predicted from these strategies. Meta-cognitive activities usually foster veridical thought

(Flavell, 1978); however, they can also produce faulty erroneous thought patterns. This could shed light upon explaining the high perceptions of fear of crime among the elderly, especially when the individual experiences reduced social interactive experiences and increased media representation.

Social cognitive theory gives sufficient attention to the increasingly powerful role that the symbolic environment plays in present-day human lives. Indeed, in many aspects of living, televised vicarious influence has dethroned the primacy of direct experience. Whether it be thought patterns, values, attitudes, or styles of behaviour, life increasingly models the media.

Fouts (1989) found that television is the mass media most used by people over 60 years of age. The amount of time spent viewing television averaged about 4.5 hours per day with information-seeking programming being the motive most frequently expressed for viewing. Additional findings indicated that the elderly acquire more reasons for increased viewing due to life circumstances (eg. loss of a loved one, immobility).

To understand the interactive relationships between behavior and environment, the investigations must be extended to include the cognitive aspects operating in the *triadic interlocking system*. "Counter-responses to antecedent acts are influenced not only by their immediate

effects, but also by people's judgements of eventual outcomes should they pursue that course of action" (Bandura, 1986, p. 27). How these actions are influenced by their momentary thoughts thus depends on people's thoughts about the rules governing outcomes (Baron, Kaufman & Stauber, 1969; Estes, 1972); the meaning they attribute to the outcomes; and, their beliefs about how their actions are likely to change future outcomes over the course of sequential interchanges (Bandura, 1986; Bandura & Barab, 1971). Therefore, within the scope of the present study it was decided to collect information about these concepts and relationships in order to look at components of this model in a descriptive sense.

Yin (1980) suggested that the literature findings on fear of crime were usually presented in unrelated postulates, and a conceptual framework was consistently missing therefore not allowing for cohesive interpretation of the data. Table 1 was adapted from findings reported by Yin (1980, 1982) and is offered as a Conceptual Framework for this thesis. This framework represents the key aspects of the *literature review and the Triadic Reciprocal Model* involved in elucidating elderly females' perceptions of vulnerability to victimization (fear of crime).

Table 1  
Conceptual Framework for Vulnerability to Victimization

The Fearful Individual	Social Determinants	Affective Determinants and Cognitive Estimates
Demographic characteristics	Previous Victimization Experience	Perceived probability/possibility of being victimized, ability to control risk, the likelihood
age	personal and/or property degree of injury/loss	Perceived seriousness of crime feared
gender	recuperation rate and difficulty	Perceived ability to recuperate from experience
economic status		Perceived Concerns of daily living
education		Health Status
Residential locale	Interactions about crime	Cognitive Capabilities
Environmental content	Vicarious experiences	Symbolizing, Forethought
type of housing	Crime rates, Mass media	Vicariousness
neighbourhood	Anticrime programmes	Self-regulation/Evaluation
Homo/heterogeneity	Social Support Network	Self-reflectiveness
physical structure (size, urban,)	quantity and quality	
	Neighbourhood Network involvement, familiarity	

### Research Questions

Evolving from this conceptual framework, the following research questions are submitted for study:

- (a) What are the characteristics of the fearful individual within a sample of elderly women?
- (b) To what extent do elderly females report the existence of victimization experiences, social support systems, neighbourhood integration, and intensity of importance to specific types of crimes?
- (c) Under certain conditions, what is the scope of elderly females perceptions in the affective dimension to their vulnerability to victimization?
- (d) What are the thoughts, feelings and intended behaviours reported by elderly females to specific environmental conditions?
- (e) To what extent do correlations exist between the aforementioned conditions?

## CHAPTER THREE

### Method

#### Research Design

A correlational design was predominantly used, to assess the relationships identified in the conceptual framework. As previously mentioned these correlates were considered to affect perceptions of elderly females' vulnerability to victimization, their related behavioural responses and, the consequences of these effects.

#### Sample

The sample consisted of elderly females living in two neighbourhoods in the City of Victoria, namely James Bay and Fairfield; each with estimated populations of 10,576 and 18,537, respectively. These two neighbourhoods were chosen because they contained the greatest proportion of elderly population at 38% and 32%, respectively in comparison to the other three Victoria neighbourhoods of Blanshard at 20%, Fernwood at 21%, and Victoria West at 10% (Statistics Canada, Census 1986).

Twenty females, between the ages of 65 to 80 years of age, living in single family and apartment/condominium dwellings from these two neighbourhoods comprised a stratified sample of convenience. Convenience samples are reasonable approaches to sampling when the study investigates relationships among variables (Jackson, 1988).

The interest of this study was not in generalizing to the general population, but rather, trying to understand the conditions under which there is, or is not, a relationship between the major variables under investigation.

Several organizations were approached as sources for potential senior participants in the study. These included: (a) New Horizons James Bay Seniors Group; (b) Fairfield Community Center; (c) Alpha Home Care Service; (d) Volunteers working at the Community Police Stations; and, (e) Seniors participating in the 'Seniors Outreach Phoning' programme, operated through the Community Police Stations at James Bay and Fairfield. This programme involved volunteers from the stations phoning the respondent each morning around 0900, to check on their well-being. All the participants in this programme lived alone and had wanted to establish regular contact with a community agency in the event of an emergency.

#### Instrument Design

The questionnaire contained eight quantifiable sections and a four part video presentation. Each section of the questionnaire and the four video scenarios were developed to reflect specific aspects identified in the literature as important dimensions in the study of vulnerability to victimization and are depicted in the

conceptual framework. Appendix 1 contains the questionnaire.

A major strength of the existing literature lies in the abundance of research devoted to identifying the effects of demographic characteristics, residential variables and fear of crime on the elderly. These dimensions represented in the conceptual framework will reveal who the fearful individuals are but not why they are fearful.

There is a relative scarcity of work explaining the variation of vulnerability to victimization (Yin, 1980). The conceptual framework identified social and psychological factors that may explain the variation in fear among the elderly. The social factors used to explain this variation were: (a) neighbourhood integration, (b) extensiveness of the social support network, (c) previous victimization experience, and (d) interactions about crime. The psychological factors directly addressed the probability, seriousness and ability to recuperate from an injury. These psychological factors were considered as within the subject's perceptual realm. Whether these perceptions were congruent with reality are irrelevant as they may still affect fear of crime. In addition the subject's health status was included as an important factor relating to perceptions of recovery rate from injury.

The variables in the cognitive aspect of the framework have not been previously mentioned in the literature and were introduced to act as interacting correlates between the "identities of fearful individuals", the social and psychological conditions and vulnerability to victimization. The research questions under study were developed as a result of these factors contained in the conceptual framework. A detailed explanation of each of the eight sections of the questionnaire will be provided in chapter four, while the video design is presented below.

Bandura's cognitive capabilities (symbolizing, forethought, vicariousness, self-regulatory and self-reflective) were directly assessed in the four video scenarios about real life situations, lasting approximately 30 to 45 seconds each. These scenarios depicted actual or potential personal and property victimizations and varied in intensity. They dealt with: (a) a street scene showing teenage skateboarders, and teenagers 'hanging around' the streets; (b) an apartment building recently affected by arson, in which an elderly woman had a heart attack; (c) a fraud case depicting an elderly woman and a 'phoney' bank detective; and (d) a home where a recent break and enter had occurred. These particular segments were chosen because they were represented in the literature as situations that most frequently impacted on elderly females. The type of crimes were generally those in which

the victim was more likely to be preyed upon than treated violently.

The author first showed one scenario, and then, using the Personal Skills Mapping Technique (Nelson & Low, 1979), asked the respondent: (a) "When I walk in the downtown area of Victoria and see teenagers 'hanging about' I usually THINK?", (b) "... I usually FEEL?", and, (c) "... I usually BEHAVE by?". Each subsequent scenario was shown in this fashion with the respondent being asked: (a) "When I view scenes like this I usually THINK?", (b) "... I usually FEEL?", and, (c) "... I usually BEHAVE by?". The responses were taped for future interpretation. The analysis of the information was examined in several stages. The results were divided into two groups, responses from those individuals who had a direct victimization experience (n=7); and those who had no previous direct victimization experience (n=13). The taped interviews were reviewed many times, then transcribed. These records were then read innumerable times looking for both the common thematic descriptions, and some affirmation of the specific cognitive capabilities employed. A broad list of categories within the three sub-sections for each scenario were initiated, with each Group handled independently. These broad categories was then labelled according to the dominant themes of each scenario for each Group. The

author then looked for similarities and differences between the groups.

#### Limitations of the instrument

All victimization studies ask respondents about a relatively limited range of crimes and victimization experiences. Therefore, the general picture drawn is one that is influenced, in the first instance, by the narrowness or the breadth of the crimes about which respondents are queried. Moreover, because a survey routinely proceeds from a fairly specific assumption about what kinds of events do and do not qualify as a crime or victimization, there is always the risk that the study will reflect researcher, rather than respondent, definitions of criminal harm. For example this study does not address, at all, victimization by governments, corporations, 'white collar crime' or fraudulent advertising to name a few.

Concurrent and predictive validity were not addressed because the author had adapted and developed the instrument from a variety of sources identified in the literature review and another instrument of known validity (a criterion measure) did not exist. No efforts were made to ascertain the construct validity of principal parts of the instruments as the study was preliminary and exploratory in nature.

Repeated administrations of the instrument to a variety of subjects was not undertaken because of the extensive time and effort that was required to make contact with subjects; nor were any reliability tests conducted with the existing sample for example, Cronbach's Alpha. Therefore one can not attest to the reliability of the instrument that in fact it would produce the same or nearly the same score if it were administered twice to the same subject.

The instruments were derived to provide information about eight related components and because of the exploratory nature of the study the rigorous development of systematic psychometric measures regarding validity and reliability were not done. Therefore this fact plus the small sample size virtually eliminates the possibility of making inferences from the findings to the elderly female population in general.

#### Procedure

Prior to a pilot study advisors, research consultants, and colleagues were asked for their scrutiny and opinions about the face and content validity of the instrument. A pilot study with six participants was conducted prior to the commencement of the actual study (n=20). The pilot sample on which the instrument was tested came from the same location as the sample on which the actual study was

conducted. Administration of the survey was done by the author. Data were gathered from personal interviews lasting approximately 45 minutes, and involved a face-to-face administration of a questionnaire and the viewing of a five minute video presentation. Initially, a phone call or personal contact was made with the women requesting their willingness to participate in the study. The author explained that the study would examine the opinions of women between the ages of 65 to 80 years old as to their sense of well-being in their community with regard to a range of topics. An appointment was scheduled with each of those who agreed to participate.

Consistency in approach and style of presentation was maintained in order to minimize researcher effect and subsequent biasing of the study results. Following any clarifying questions the participants were asked to sign an "informed consent" form agreeing to participate in the study. There were no difficulties encountered in this process as all women contacted were willing to be participants. Following the interview the author's business card was given to the participant in the event that she may have had subsequent questions or concerns. Only one participant called requesting that the author change her response from identifying her 'income' level to a 'no response' category. The researcher readily complied

with this request. Appendix 2 contains an example of the consent form.

The pilot study revealed the necessity for a procedural fine-tuning when showing the video, the necessity to borrow a VHS machine as all participants did not have their own machine, and a concern with content validity. It became apparent after the second interview that the respondents perceived "teenagers hanging around the streets" and "skateboarders" as two distinctly different situations, which elicited very different thoughts, feelings and behaviours. Therefore, the author decided to divide the question into two. In addition, the respondents had difficulty connecting the 'Arson' scenario to themselves. This question was changed to asking for impressions about fire in general. All modifications proved very successful for the balance of the pilot, and revisions were made to include these changes in the study.

#### Statistical Design

Coding of the responses for the data analysis was done for subsequent computer analysis, using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS-X). Descriptive statistics were used to describe the characteristics of the respondents. Spearman's Correlation Coefficient was used to explore the bivariate associations between various predictor variables and the criterion variable

(Vulnerability to victimization). Chi-Square based measures were also used to examine associations between nominal variables in the entire sample. This test is not appropriate when the expected cell frequencies are too small (e.g., 1.0), given that there is no way the observed frequencies could be normally distributed around it (Howell, 1985).

Qualitative analysis was performed on the taped responses to the video presentation. The content analysis was evaluated according to the type of cognitive capabilities that were employed specifically; (a) symbolizing, (b) forethought, (c) vicariousness, (d) self-regulation, and (e) self-reflective thought. This analysis was accomplished by looking for specific instances or essences within the responses and extracting the cognitive capabilities. A possible threat to internal validity of the research design may exist in that reliability was assessed and verified on the author's evaluations of these responses by only one other professional; a Criminologist familiar with Social Cognitive Theory and the Fear of Crime literature. This individual independently listened to the taped interviews and attested to the logic of the categories. Where differences in groupings occurred between investigators, items were re-examined and then categorized in ways that were acceptable to both. The 'Personal Mapping Technique' elicited very clear responses;

therefore, it was deemed as unnecessary to involve other professionals. For example, "I worry about the skateboarders a lot because they may knock me down and then I wouldn't be able to get up. I'd hurt myself badly, probably break my elbow... I always move to the other side of the street and let them pass".

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Results

The findings to each of the eight quantifiable sections will be presented first, followed by the results of the Nonparametric correlations calculated between the variables contained within each section.

#### Characteristics of the Participants

This section contained questions concerned with the respondent's age, marital status, living arrangement, educational level attained and income. These factors were identified through the literature as influencing safety and behavioural adaptations among the elderly (Brillon, 1987; Clarke & Lewis, 1982; Fattah & Sacco, 1989, Yin, 1980).

The sample (N=20) consisted of residents from James Bay and Fairfield neighbourhoods and were obtained from the following four sources: (a) Community Centers (n=4); (b) Alpha Home Care (n=7); (c) Community Police Station Volunteers (n=5); and (d) individuals involved in an Outreach Phoning program (n=4).

The age distribution ranged from 65 to 80 years ( $\bar{M}$  = 71.4 years,  $SD$  = 5.27). The majority of the sample were widowed (n=8), followed by single status, married, and divorced with frequencies of 5, 4, and 3, respectively. Eleven respondents lived alone and the remaining 9 lived with others. The eleven individuals were asked a follow-up

question; "Even though you live alone, what would you consider the frequency of contact that you have with other people on a day to day basis?" The results revealed that 6 responded always, 3 responded quite often, and 2 responded sometimes. The level of education attained was quite diverse with the majority attaining either college/university (n=8) or high school (n=6). Those having attained a college or university education had a teacher certificate, a science degree or a liberal arts degree. Five women attained elementary and 5 completed junior high school, while 4 had technical training, specifically secretarial. The range of yearly income included 8 in the less than \$14,999, 6 in "above \$30,000, 2 in \$15,000 to \$19,999, 1 in \$20,000 to 24,999, 2 in \$25,000 to \$29,999 and 1 refused to identify a range.

#### Neighbourhood Integration Inventory

The term neighbourhood refers to the home base; it is a geographic space in which one feels at home. This study specifically referred to neighbourhood as one or two blocks around the respondent's home. Urban sociologists have found that people tend to define their neighbourhood as an area within a few blocks of their own home (Baumer & Dubow, 1977; Porteous, 1977). Integration in the neighbourhood included attachment to the neighbourhood, familiarity with the neighbourhood and satisfaction with the neighbourhood

as a place to live (Riger & Lavarkas, 1981; Skogan & Maxfield, 1981).

The respondents were asked to indicate the intensity of their opinions to ten items about their neighbourhood, using choices of rarely, somewhat, quite often, and very; rated as 1 to 4, respectively. The ten variables addressed were attractiveness, friendliness of people, privacy, well kept buildings and lawns, similarity of people to themselves, pleasantness, good place to live, safety, and reputation of neighbourhood. Although no reliability test was performed, it was assumed, for this exploratory study that the ten items constituted an index. A cumulative score for the ten questions was then attained for each respondent, measuring their overall neighbourhood integration; with the maximum possible score being 40, reflecting a HIGH integration and the minimum possible score of 10, reflecting a LOW integration. In addition, respondents were asked how long they had lived in the neighbourhood, the type of dwelling they occupied and if they owned or rented their home. All these items tend to indicate attachment (Rosenbaum & Baumer, 1981).

The results of this inventory indicated a range of scores from 19 to 40 ( $\bar{M} = 33.6$ ,  $SD = 5.1$ ). The majority of the responses to the ten items were in the quite or very categories reflecting High neighbourhood integration. These scores ranged between 75 to 100 percent, for 9 out of

the 10 items; while, 'similar people to oneself' reflected a greater diversity in scores at 2 for rarely, 5 for somewhat, 7 for quite, and 6 for very similar. Frequencies and percentages for each item are reported in Table 2.

The distribution for length of time living in the neighbourhood ranged between 1 to 50 years, with a mean of 16.8, SD of 14.9, median of 11 and a bi-modal representation of 6 and 22 years. Ten women lived in apartments or condominiums, 9 lived in single family dwellings and 1 in a townhouse complex. The distribution of owners to renters was 11 and 9, respectively.

**Table 2**  
**Number of Respondents Rating Neighbourhood**  
**Integration Characteristics (N=20)**

Neighbourhood Characteristic	Count %	Ratings			
		Rarely	Some what	Quite	Very
Attractive	N %	0	3 15.00	7 35.00	10 50.00
Friendly people	N %	1 5.00	2 10.00	6 30.00	11 55.00
Private	N %	0	0	10 50.00	10 50.00
Well kept buildings	N %	0	5 25.00	6 30.00	9 45.00
Similar people to themselves	N %	2 10.00	5 25.00	7 35.00	6 30.00
Pleasant	N %	1 5.00	0	5 25.00	14 70.00
Good place to live	N %	0	1 5.00	4 20.00	15 75.00
Safe place to live	N %	0	3 15.00	10 50.00	7 35.00
Lawns well kept	N %	1 5.00	3 15.00	4 20.00	12 60.00
Good reputation	N %	0	2 10	7 35.00	11 55.00

### Social Activity Inventory

Social referred to the frequency of social contacts with other individuals, and activity referred to a flow of actions during some specified period of time (Chapin & Brail, 1969; Skogan & Maxfield, 1981). This inventory contained fourteen items addressing the frequency of leisure activities engaged both in and outside the home in the past year (January 1, 1990 to January 1, 1991), such as visiting with friends, attending social functions, participating in sports and shopping. The range of responses was from one to five, with one meaning never, two meaning a few times a year, three meaning a few times a month, four meaning a few times a week, and five meaning nearly every day. Although no reliability test was conducted to determine whether these items comprised an index, a cumulative score for the fourteen questions was then attained for each respondent which measured their overall social activity level; with the maximum possible score being 70, reflecting a HIGH social inventory and the minimum possible score of 14, reflecting a LOW social inventory.

The respondents also indicated, in a yes or no format, whether they had to limit their participation in any of these fourteen activities and the reasons preventing them from participating. The eight reasons depicted were

health, transportation, weather, distance from home, fear of victimization, financial, lack of time, and other.

The results of this inventory indicated a range of scores from 17 to 42, ( $M = 29.9$ ,  $SD = 6.9$ ) therefore, this group was assessed as low to moderately socially active.

Those activities engaged in a few times a month to nearly everyday included; walked within six blocks from home (75%), visited with friends/family in their homes (65%), gone to a restaurant (60%), shopped further than five blocks from home (65%), and shopped outside of the neighbourhood, that is beyond 10 blocks of their residence (55%).

Those activities attended the least and identified as never to a few times a year were movies (100%), sporting events (90%), seniors centers (85%), indoor sports activities (70%), and religious activities (65%).

The frequencies and percentages for the responses by category are reported in Table 3.

When the individuals were asked if they had to limit their participation in any of the aforementioned activities 14 stated Yes. Figure 1, depicts the frequency of participation ( $n=14$ ) to each of these activities. The majority of this sample identified the following activities most frequently as having reduced participation: (a) walked within 6 blocks of residence, (b) shopped further than five blocks from their residence, and outside of their

neighbourhood; and (c) attended the museum, library, educational classes, and restaurants. Overall, the reasons cited most frequently for this limited participation in the fourteen activities were: health (70 times), transportation (45 times), fear of victimization (34 times), distance from home (29 times), financial (13 times), other (10 times), weather (6 times), and lack of time (2 times). The other category was qualified by the following statements: "I have a VHS machine so that provides me with a lot of home entertainment"; "I'm interested in sports only because my son is involved, otherwise I wouldn't go"; and "I never go out at night, have no reason to".

Fear of victimization during the night referred specifically to the following activities: shopping less than 5 blocks from home (n=10), walking 6 blocks from home (n=9), shopping greater than 10 blocks from home (n=8), attending movies (n=3), educational classes (n=2), religious activities and visiting friends or family (n=1).

Table 3

Number of Respondents Reporting Frequency of Social Activities (N=20)

Activity	N	Frequencies				
		Never	Few/ Year	Few/ Month	Few/ Week	Nearly Daily
Movies	18	2	0	0	0	0
	90%	10%				
Restaurant	2	6	8	4	0	0
	10%	30%	40%	20%		
Museum	9	11	0	0	0	0
	45%	55%				
Library	9	4	2	5	0	0
	45%	20%	10%	25%		
Sporting event	16	2	1	1	0	0
	80%	10%	5%	5%		
Walk 6 blocks	5	0	1	5	9	0
	25%		5%	25%	45%	
Visit others	1	6	7	6	0	0
	5%	30%	35%	30%		
Religious activity	12	1	3	4	0	0
	60%	5%	15%	20%		
Indoor sports	12	2	1	5	0	0
	60%	10%	5%	25%		

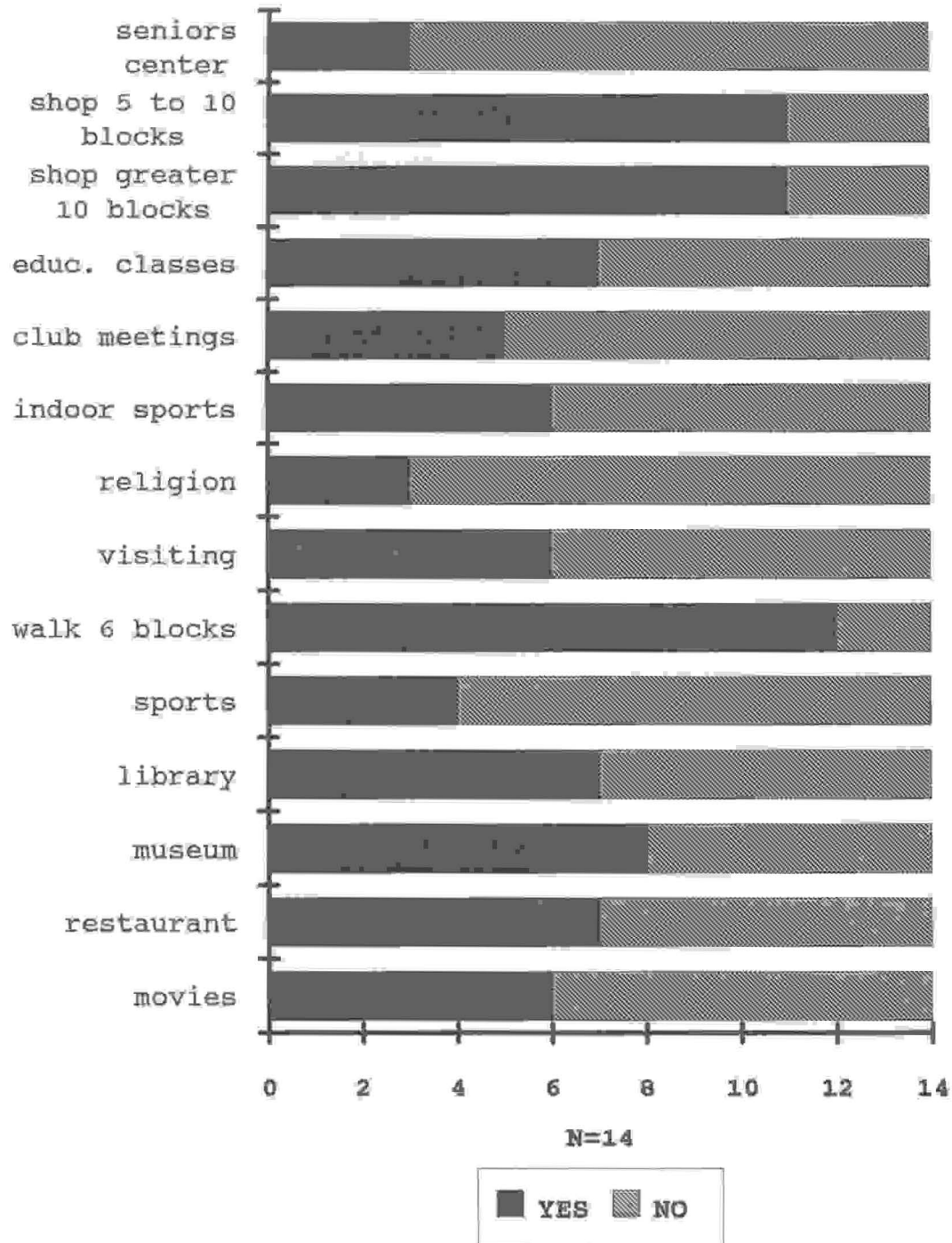
Table 3

page 2 of 2

## Frequencies

Activity	N %	Never	Few/ Year	Few/ Month	Few/ Week	Nearly Daily
Club meeting	9 45%	2 10%	6 30%	3 15%	0	
Education class	11 55%	7 35%	2 10%	0	0	
Shopping in area	5 25%	2 10%	4 20%	9 45%	0	
Shopping outside of area	6 30%	3 15%	6 30%	5 25%	0	
Seniors center	13 65%	4 20%	2 10%	1 5%	0	

Figure 1: Frequency of Limited Participation in Social Activities



### Health Status Inventory

Health is referred to as a general sense of well being as evaluated subjectively by the respondent. The respondents were asked to rate their health status from one to four; with one meaning not at all healthy to four meaning very healthy. An open-ended question format was used to assess if there were any health concerns that presently bothered them. In addition, eleven statements examined in a dichotomous format, their self-sufficiency surrounding activities of daily living, such as mobility, work around the home, and personal hygiene. A cumulative score for the eleven questions was calculated for each respondent, assuming these items comprised an index, and was used to measure their overall health status. A maximum possible score of 22 reflected a HIGH health status inventory and a minimum possible score of 11 reflected a LOW health status inventory.

The sample was evenly split on how they viewed their health, with ten responding very (n=4) or quite (n=6) healthy, and ten responding somewhat (n=8) or not at all (n=2) healthy. The four woman who stated very healthy, commented that they had no health problems worth mentioning. Their ages ranged between 65 years to 75 years, with a mean of 68.5 years.

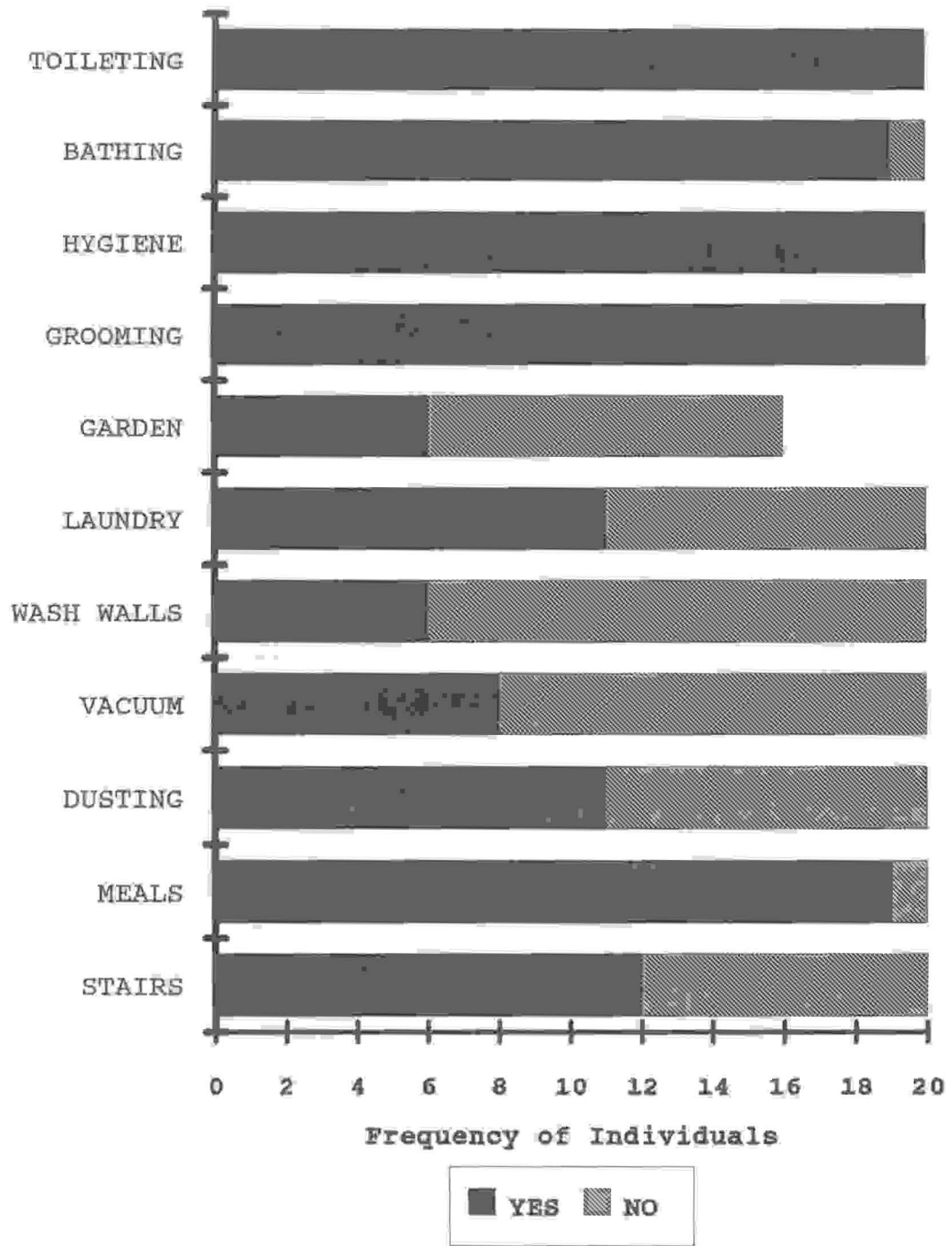
Those conditions identified by the remaining healthy group (n=6) were: back problems, surgery for breast cancer;

back surgery; high blood pressure and a heart condition; hip surgeries for replacement of prosthesis and cataract removal; osteoarthritis; a heart condition and legal blindness; and arthritis. Their age ranges were from 65 years to 80 years, with a mean of 72 years.

Those conditions made reference to by the unhealthy group (n=10) were: cancer of the lung (undergoing chemotherapy); angina; congestive heart failure and respiratory problems; kidney problems; cardiac bypass surgery and a recently fractured hip; several hip surgeries for replacement of prosthesis; and alcohol and drug abuse problems. Their age ranges were from 65 years to 78 years, with a mean of 71.

Overall, the healthy and unhealthy groups each contained the full range of ages. Scores to the Health Status Inventory ranged from 16 to 22, ( $M = 18.8$ ,  $SD = 2.3$ ), reflecting a fairly healthy sample. Even those individuals who perceived themselves as unhealthy were, for the most part, able to attend to activities of daily living without help. As one would expect those activities characterized as heavy work were the most difficult tasks. These included washing walls and gardening. Vacuuming, dusting and laundry were cited as the next most difficult tasks. Figure 2 provides a breakdown of the ability of the sample to accomplish certain tasks in mobility, household work, and personal hygiene.

Figure 2: Ability to Attend to Activities of Daily Living



Ranking of Issues that Caused WorryFIRST RANKED WORRY

	count	%
Health	7	35
Family	4	20
Personal victimization	4	20
Loneliness	2	10
Financial	1	5
Property victimization	1	5
Feeling unproductive	1	5

SECOND RANKED WORRY

	count	%
Personal victimization	4	20
Loneliness	4	20
Teenagers hanging around	3	15
Family	2	10
Property victimization	2	10
Health	1	5
Vandalism	1	5
Financial	1	5
Feeling unproductive	1	5
Illegal drugs in area	1	5

page 2 of 2

## THIRD RANKED WORRY

	count	%
Health	7	35
Property victimization	4	20
Illegal drugs	3	15
Teenagers hanging around	2	10
Family	1	5
Vandalism	1	5
Feeling unproductive	1	5
Personal victimization	1	5

## FOURTH RANKED WORRY

	count	%
Financial	5	25
Vandalism	3	15
Property victimization	3	15
Illegal drugs in area	3	15
Family	2	10
Loneliness	2	10
Teenagers hanging around	1	5
Personal victimization	1	5

Type of Crime by Intensity of Importance (N=20)

Type of Crime	Count	Ratings			
		Not at all	Some-what	Quite	Very
Assault	N %	1 5.00	1 5.00	6 30.00	12 60.00
Arson	N %	3 15.00	3 15.00	1 5.00	13 65.00
Rape	N %	4 20.00	3 15.00	1 5.00	12 60.00
Burglary	N %	7 35.00	3 15.00	3 15.00	10 50.00
Vandalism	N %	4 20.00	4 20.00	1 5.00	11 55.00
Harrassment	N %	6 30.00	4 20.00	4 20.00	6 30.00
Mischief	N %	6 30.00	5 25.00	2 10.00	7 35.00
Fraud	N %	7 35.00	4 20.00	3 15.00	6 30.00
Forgery	N %	10 50.00	2 10.00	2 10.00	6 30.00
Counterfeiting	N %	11 55.00	2 10.00	4 20.00	3 15.00

### Concern Index

This section contained two aspects. First, the respondents were asked to sort ten cards that contained items dealing with possible issues that may be worrisome in their daily life. These cards were sorted in order of importance, with the card representing the greatest worry in position one, to the least worrisome item in position ten. These items were as follows: (a) vandalism, (b) financial worries, (c) groups of teenagers hanging out on the streets, (d) health worries, (e) family worries, (f) fear of personal victimization, (g) fear of property victimization, (h) people using illegal drugs in their neighbourhood, (i) loneliness, and (j) feeling unproductive, not worthwhile. If individuals had a high level of anxiety over vulnerability to victimization they might be expected to include either of the two cards among their four major concerns. This Q-Sort method of selection was chosen over a rank-ordering question because research supports that respondents will not be able to rank in a meaningful fashion beyond the top four items (Jackson, 1988). The author then recorded the appropriate ranking for the sorted cards on the survey instrument.

Table 4 presents the distribution of those worrisome issues which were the first, second, third and fourth ranked main concerns by the subjects. Health, family worries, and personal victimization, all had a value of one

and represented the top 'First' most frequently ranked issue which caused worry. Personal victimization, loneliness, and teenagers hanging around, ranked as the top 'Second' most frequently mentioned issue, represented by a value of two. Health, property victimization, and illegal drug use, ranked as the top 'Third' most frequently mentioned issue. Financial, vandalism, and property victimization ranked as the top 'Fourth' most frequently mentioned worry.

This sample perceived vulnerability to victimization and other types of crime as main concerns in their lives along with health and family worries.

#### Types of Crime Inventory

The respondents were asked to rate ten types of crimes by their intensity of importance to them from one to four; with one meaning not at all important; two meaning somewhat important; three meaning quite important; and four meaning very important. A cumulative score for the ten questions was then attained for each respondent; with the maximum possible score being 40, reflecting a HIGH value of importance and the minimum possible score of 10, reflecting a LOW value of importance.

The findings to the crime inventory revealed a range of scores between 13 to 37, with a mean of 27.4, and a SD of 6.2. The types of crime rated either quite or very

important by 65% or higher of the sample were assault (90%), arson (70%), rape (65%), and burglary (65%). Types of crime rated either not at all or somewhat important by 55% of the sample or higher were counterfeiting (65%), forgery (60%), mischief and fraud (55%). Table 5 presents the frequencies and percentages of the ten types of crime by the intensity of importance.

These results and the literature review definitely substantiate that the video scenarios used in this assessment were the appropriate choices of those types of crime which were of major concern to these elderly females.

#### Fear of Personal Attack

This section directly addressed the respondents' opinions about fear of personal attack in their neighbourhood. These six questions were adapted from previously developed instruments measuring fear of crime, in which two basic questions were used as indicators of fear (Baumer & Dubow, 1977; Furstenberg, 1971; Yin, 1980).

The first question was dichotomous in format, "During the day/night, is there any area in your neighbourhood where you do not presently walk alone because you would be afraid?" "Yes" or "No"? Operationalizing fear in this fashion, acknowledges that fear is both situation and context specific. This question has been used repeatedly by Gallup polls in the U.S. since the middle 1960's and has

also been within the American General Social Surveys undertaken during the late 1970's and the Canadian Urban Victimization Surveys carried out during the 1980's. The Gallup polls series showed a significant linear trend, with an increase of elder fear of .42 percentage points annually.

A limitation of this question is its potential for biasing the respondents responses, therefore making it difficult to distinguish between perception of risk and the fear which that perception evokes. In spite of this limitation, we can learn a great deal about the distribution of fear from the analysis of this question.

The second question, used on the U.S. Census Bureau's National Crime Panel and many other surveys in Canada, Britain and the U.S. is "How safe do you feel, or would you feel, being alone in your neighbourhood during the day/night?" Four response options included very safe to not at all safe, rated one to four, respectively. One of the strengths of the latter measure is its apparent reliability. It was included in the U.S. National surveys in the spring and fall of 1972 and again in 1973. The percentage of affirmative answers for these three surveys were 41%, 42% and 42% (Baumer & Dubow, 1977). Skogan and Maxfield (1981) found the measure to yield reliable results. They concluded that, it was a reliable indicator of fear for personal safety. Assessments of risk are

implicit since feelings of safety on neighbourhood streets presumably reflect beliefs about the likelihood of victimization. Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient revealed  $r = 0.91$ ; and the Cornell technique of scalogram analysis revealed a reliability coefficient  $r = 0.93$ .

Both of these statements attempt to measure fear of 'street crime'. According to Baumer and Dubow (1977) fear of personal attack appears to be the most salient dimension for most people in evaluating an area's safety, especially with the elderly.

If the respondent answered somewhat or not at all safe to either during the day or night, they were asked 'Why' in an open ended format.

In answer to the question, "During the day, is there any area in your neighbourhood where you do NOT presently walk alone because you would be afraid?", 30% of the sample responded Yes. As one might expect, there was a drastic difference in response when asked about their fear of walking alone during the night, with 90% of the sample stating Yes.

When asked, "How safe do you feel, or would you feel, being out alone, in your neighbourhood, during the Day?"; 60% (n=12) of the sample responded Very safe, followed by quite safe at 30% (n=6), and somewhat safe at 10% (n=2). Areas of concern identified by those feeling somewhat safe during the day were Beacon Hill Park, the beach area along

Dallas Road, and the underground parking lot in James Bay shopping center. Again the majority of the sample felt unsafe at night with 65% (n=13) responding not at all safe, 25% (n=5) responding somewhat, and 10% (n=2) stating quite safe. No one stated very safe. Areas of concern identified by those feeling not at all or somewhat safe were the same as those reported during the day, as well as school playgrounds and any area where teenagers congregate (eg.; 7-11, Mac's).

Those women who did go out at night generally used their cars, a taxi and/or were accompanied by other people. They tended to go out to restaurants, visited friends or family, or went shopping in enclosed malls.

#### Victimization Experience Inventory

Two types of criminal victimization experiences, indirect and direct, were assessed. Indirect victimization referred to the knowledge of others' victimization experiences, the vicariousness of the experience although one is not directly involved (Bandura, 1986, 1978; Conklin, 1971; Skogan & Maxfield, 1981). Direct victimization referred to actual victimization experience, where loss was incurred by the victim, either as personal or property loss (Conklin, 1971).

Respondents were asked the following:

1. Property crime. If they personally knew of anyone whose residence had been broken into in the past year (Jan. 1990 to Jan. 1991)? For example, where something had been stolen; or attempts made to steal something; or, it had been vandalized?

2. Personal crime. If they personally knew of anyone who had been a victim of a personal crime in the past year? For example, where someone had been attacked, threatened; or roughed up?

Ancillary questions addressed: (a) the relationship and closeness with the victimized person; (b) how worrisome the incident was; and, (c) the recuperative capabilities of the individual.

The same statements were repeated to address direct victimization experiences.

#### Indirect Victimization.

Sixty-five percent (n=13) of the sample indicated they knew of someone who had been the victim of a property crime. The relationship to the victim in 6 of the 13 cases was identified as family or friends, 5 were neighbours, and 2 were acquaintances. Fifty-four percent (n=7) of this group indicated the closeness of the relationship to the victim was either very or quite close in 5 and 2 cases, respectively; forty-six percent identified somewhat and not at all close, with 3 persons in each category. Seventy-

seven percent of the women perceived that the incident was very or quite worrisome in 8 and 2 cases, respectively; while one person each, thought not at all, somewhat, and didn't know. When asked about the ability to recuperate following this property crime, 46% of the sample (n=6) stated that it was either a major and quite a problem in 4 and 2 cases, respectively; whereas 5 persons indicated somewhat and one person each, stated not at all a problem or didn't know.

In summary, of the 13 women who had known a victim of a property crime, 7 were very close to the victim. The majority of the women (n=10) thought the victim had found the incident very worrisome. Six women thought the victim had a major or quite a problem recuperating.

The results showed that 20% (n=4) of the sample had known of someone who had been personally victimized. The relationship to the victim was identified as a friend (n=1), neighbour (n=1), and an acquaintance (n=2). All four respondents indicated they were somewhat close to the victim. Three of the women perceived that the incident was very worrisome, while one person stated quite worrisome. When asked about the ability to recuperate following this personal victimization, two of the sample stated it was a major problem and two said it was quite a problem.

Direct Victimization.

The next series of questions addressed whether the respondent had been a victim of a crime against their property; whether the incident was worrisome; and how big a problem they had recuperating. This question was then repeated in terms of personal victimization experience.

Three women had experienced a property crime. It was found to be either very or quite worrisome in 2 and 1 cases, respectively. Furthermore, it had been quite or a major problem recuperating in 2 and 1 cases, respectively. These crimes included mischief and break and enter.

Four different women, from the aforementioned property victimization incidents had experienced a personal victimization; two each found it was quite or very worrisome, and had quite or a major problem recuperating. These crimes included purse snatching, robbery, and obscene phone calls.

No significant differences were revealed between those living alone to living with others on indirect or direct victimizations.

Four women had known someone who had been a victim of a either a property or a personal crime and had also been victimized (personal or property) themselves. Table 6 presents a comparison of their scores on the health, social activity, types of crime and neighbourhood integration inventories and compares the means scores between this

sample (n=4) and the remaining respondents (n=16) in the study.

These results show that the scores for the four women who had past victimization experiences were quite similar to the non-victimized sample scores (n=16), on both the health and social inventories, slightly less on neighbourhood integration, but were higher on the types of crime inventory. It would appear that there is the possibility that previous victimization experiences did have a slight impact on the importance these women placed on various types of crime but this does not prove a causal link.

Table 6

Comparison of Inventory Scores for the Victimized Sample and the Remaining Sample

Sample	Inventory Scores*			
	Health	Social Integration	Neighbourhood	Types of Crime
1	22	42	38	37
2	17	31	33	26
3	21	17	19	34
4	16	30	40	27
<u>M</u> (n=4)	19	30	32.5	31
<u>M</u> (n=16)	18.5	29.9	33.8	26.4

\* Table 6 Note. the higher the scores, the greater the health status, social and neighbourhood integration, and intensity of importance of the type of crime.

### Conclusions

Nonparametric correlations were calculated between the following variables: (a) Demographic characteristics, (b) Health inventory scores, (c) Neighbourhood integration inventory scores, (d) Social activity inventory scores, (e) Concern index, (f) Types of crime inventory scores, (g) responses to fearfulness and safety during the day and night, and (h) Indirect and direct victimization experiences. This was done in order to address the research question regarding the existence of relationships between the key variables comprising the conceptual framework and perceptions of vulnerability to victimization.

Tables 7 thru 10 represents only the significant relationships at the .05 level of probability and are depicted as follows: (a) Concern Index, (b) Types of Crime Inventory, (c) Victimization Experience(s), and (d) Social Activity Inventory.

As shown in Table 7, Spearman Correlation Coefficients revealed that significant relationships existed on the ranking on the Concern Index (a value of 1 signified the most concern, 10 the least), with Direct Property and

Indirect Property Victimization Experiences, the Neighbourhood Integration Inventory, Types of Crime Inventory, and the Health Inventory. High scores on the latter three inventories signified high neighbourhood integration, high importance on the types of crime and high health status. Victimization experiences were coded as 1="Yes", and 2="No".

Concerns about groups of teenagers hanging out on the street showed moderate associations with Direct Property Victimization and Knowledge of Someone who had experienced a Property Victimization (Indirect). Therefore, the respondents with more concerns about teenagers hanging out on the streets were more likely to have been the victim of a property crime, or have knowledge of someone who was a victim of a property crime.

Family worries were identified across two measures reflecting weak correlations on both accounts for the Neighbourhood Inventory and for the Types of Crime Inventory. In other words, the more concern the respondent had about family matters the lower they scored on neighbourhood integration. Secondly, the more concern about family worries also indicated the more importance the types of crimes placed in their lives.

Health worries were identified across two measures reflecting moderate to weak correlations for the Neighbourhood Inventory and for the Health Inventory. The

more concerned the respondent was about health worries, the higher they scored on neighbourhood integration. On the second measure, the less they were concerned about health worries, the healthier they viewed themselves or vice versa.

Financial worries and concerns about illegal drugs indicated moderate to weak associations with Neighbourhood Integration and Health status. Those respondents with low financial concerns were highly integrated within their neighbourhoods. The more concerned the respondents were about illegal drugs the greater their health status scores.

A negative, weak correlational relationship between The Type of Crime Inventory and Neighbourhood Integration (Table 8). The higher the importance placed on the types of crime the lower the neighbourhood integration. Additional Correlational analyses were then conducted on the specific types of crime and neighbourhood integration. These results identified that the higher importance placed on mischief, arson and counterfeiting the less neighbourhood integration. In addition, weak, negative associations existed between the Type of Crime Inventory and Knowledge of Someone who had been a Property Victim. This suggests that the greater value placed on the importance of the types of crime the more likely that they knew a victim of a property crime.

Table 7

**Relationship Between Concern Index and Social  
Determinants Indicated by Spearman's Rho**

Area of Concern	Statistics			Variance*
	N	Rho	Sign.	
Teen-agers hanging around the streets and Property Victim	20	0.56	0.005	31%
and Indirect Property Victim	20	0.46	0.02	21%
Family worries and Neighbourhood Integration	20	0.44	0.03	20%
and Type of Crime Inventory	20	-0.47	0.02	22%
Health worries and Neighbourhood Integration	20	-0.53	0.008	29%
and Health Inventory	20	0.36	0.05	13%
Financial worries and Neighbourhood Integration	20	0.57	0.005	32%
Illegal Drugs and Health Inventory	20	-0.47	0.02	22%

\*Note: Explained Variance

Table 8

Relationship Between Type of Crime Inventory,  
Neighbourhood Integration and Victimization  
Experiences Indicated by Spearman's Rho

Inventory	Statistics			
	N	Rho	Sign.	Variance*
Crime Inventory and Neighbourhood Integration	20	-0.41	0.04	17%
Neighbourhood Integration and Mischief	20	-0.39	0.05	15%
and Counterfeiting	20	-0.37	0.05	14%
and Arson	20	-0.38	0.05	14%
Crime Inventory and Indirect Property Victim	20	-0.38	0.05	14%
Indirect Property Victim and Fraud	20	-0.59	0.003	35%
and Vandalism	20	-0.41	0.04	17%
Indirect Personal Victim and Mischief	20	-0.41	0.04	17%
and Assault	20	-0.4	0.04	16%

\*Note: Explained Variance

Additional Correlational analyses were conducted on each of the specific types of crime and indirect property and personal victimization. These findings revealed that fraud and vandalism were cited as the crimes of greatest importance to those to know someone victimized of a property crime, and the higher the importance placed on mischief and assault the more likely that the respondents knew someone who had been the victim of a personal crime.

Table 9

Relationship Between Victimization Experiences,  
Neighbourhood Integration and Health Inventory Indicated by  
Spearman's Rho

Victimization Experiences	Statistics			
	N	Rho	Sign.	Explained Variance
Indirect Property and Neighbourhood Integration	20	0.44	0.03	19%
Direct Personal and Health Inventory	20	0.38	0.05	14%

A positive, weak correlation was found between Indirect Property Victimization and Neighbourhood Integration (Table 9). This suggests that the greater neighbourhood integration the less likely that the respondents knew a victim of a property crime. A positive, weak correlation also existed between Direct Personal

Victimization and Health status which indicated the less healthy the respondent the more likely that she had been a victim of a personal crime. A case by case analysis of the four victims of a personal crime revealed that in fact they perceived their health as not at all or somewhat healthy. Three women found the incident to be very worrisome, and one said quite worrisome; whilst two found it quite a problem to recuperate and two a major problem.

Table 10 represents positive, moderate correlations between the Social Activity Inventory, the Health Inventory and fear of walking alone during the day. As what one might expect the more socially active respondent was also healthier. On the second measure, the less socially active person was more fearful to walk alone during the day (Yes=1, No=2). Additional Correlational analyses were conducted on the specific aspects of the Social Activity Inventory and fear during the day. These results showed positive, moderate correlations revealing that the less one walked within the neighbourhood, was involved with others by visiting in their homes, and attended sports activities, the greater her fear during the day. Interesting however, was the negative, weak correlation between attending a seniors center and fear during the day; thereby suggesting that the less involved in a seniors center, the greater the reduction in fear when out alone during the day.

A positive, weak correlation existed between the Social Activity Inventory and Direct Personal Victimization, suggesting that the less socially active the respondent was the more likely that she had experienced a direct personal victimization.

Table 10

Relationship Between Social Activity, Health,  
Fear and Victimization Experience Indicated by  
Spearman's Rho

Inventory	Statistics			Variance*
	N	Rho	Sign.	
Social Activity and Health Inventory	20	0.61	0.003	36%
and Fear During the DAY	20	0.43	0.03	18%
Fear During the DAY and Walk 6 blocks	20	0.41	0.04	16%
and Visit others	20	0.53	0.008	28%
and Indoor sports	20	0.53	0.01	27%
and Outside sports	20	0.45	0.02	20%
and Seniors Center	20	-0.39	0.04	15%
Social Activity Inventory and Direct Personal Victim	20	0.41	0.04	17%

\*Note: Explained Variance

In summation, the quantitative section of analysis indicated that weak to moderate correlations did exist on a variety of variables providing support for aspects of the Conceptual Framework. Vicarious experiences about crime and low neighbourhood integration did correlate with the importance placed on specific types of crimes and perceived concerns about teenagers congregating on the streets. Direct victimization experiences were related to lower health status. The consequences were very worrisome and the ability recuperating was a problem. Low social integration also was associated with increased vulnerability to walk out alone, especially by those who had experienced a direct personal victimization.

The Triadic Reciprocal Model outlines four processes of cognitive development which the survey results indeed support or suggest could influence this vulnerability: (a) that the sample derived much of their knowledge from direct experience of the effects produced from their actions; (b) information about the nature of things was frequently extracted from vicarious experiences; (c) they possibly developed and evaluated some of their conceptions about things in terms of the judgements voiced by others; and (d) the likelihood that some of these women acquired some rules of inference to evaluate the soundness of their reasoning. This could add to their knowledge about the nature of their

environment and impact upon their perceptions about vulnerability to victimization.

The study of the cognitive, behavioural, and environmental factors and the interaction reciprocally among them is a valid approach to better understanding this construct of vulnerability to victimization; and definitely is more comprehensive than Bandura's earlier work in Social Learning Theory which did not address the cognitive domain.

#### VIDEO Presentation

The next section assesses the video presentation component of the survey instrument. The author consistently used the Personal Mapping Technique to elicit responses about the four scenarios. The responses to the three aspects of the Personal Mapping Technique (thoughts, feelings, and actions) for each scenario were specifically assessed looking for what Bandura (1986) called the five basic cognitive capabilities which make up the nature of a person. These capabilities are symbolizing, forethought, vicarious experiences, self-regulatory standards, and self-reflective capability.

The content for the four scenarios were chosen because they represented incidents suggested in the literature as those in which elderly females perceived they would be vulnerable to victimization. Groups of teenagers either congregating on the streets or

skateboarding are perceived by many elderly as situations of high risk for victimization, the consequences would be very worrisome because of their frailty and low recuperate capabilities. The results revealed moderate correlations between victimization experiences and groups of teenagers hanging around the streets. Crime statistics report elderly females are vulnerable targets for 'scam artists' who set themselves up as bank employees resulting in misappropriation of the victim's savings. Correlations did exist between the importance of crimes of a fraudulent nature and vicarious victimization experiences. Fear of burglary is high among the elderly population and fuels costly efforts at self protection which range from the installation of alarms and locks, and buying guard dogs to more drastic measures including the purchase of firearms and self-imposed "house arrest". These behavioural changes and private solutions may have major consequences for the quality of life of the elderly in general. Correlations existed with this elderly group between crimes of mischief, assault and vandalism, level of neighbourhood integration and previous victimization experiences.

The arson scene showed an apartment building following a fire and mentioned that an elderly woman had been taken to hospital following a heart attack. The scene was chosen because it potentially depicts a high intensity victimization without graphically showing the victim.

Ethically, it was decided not to choose a scenario that actually depicted a personal attack since this might possibly be too upsetting for the respondent and may have future implications for the well being of the participant. Arson did correlate with neighbourhood integration.

On account of the correlations the cases were divided into two groups; Group 1, (n=7) which comprised those individuals who had a Direct victimization experience, and Group 2, (n= 13) comprised those respondents who had No previous Direct victimization experience.

Table 11 depicts the Profile of the two Groups on the various inventories presented in the previous quantitative section. These groups were similar on the health, social, types of crime, and neighbourhood inventories. The Concern Index indicated that health worries were ranked as the top concern and fear of property and personal victimization ranked in the top four concerns, for both Groups. Group 2 respondents expressed more concern with feelings of loneliness, being unproductive or worthwhile, and financial worries, in comparison to Group 1.

Table 11

Profile of Victimized and Non-Victimized Samples (N=20)

Inventory Scores	Group	
	Victimized (n=7)	Not Victimized (n=13)
<b>Health</b>		
Range	16 to 22	16 to 22
Mean	18	18.9
Median	17	18
<b>Social</b>		
Range	17 to 42	17 to 37
Mean	29.7	30
Median	30	31
<b>Types of Crime</b>		
Range	13 to 37	19 to 33
Mean	28.7	26.6
Median	28	27
<b>Neighbourhood</b>		
Range	19 to 40	30 to 39
Mean	32.4	34.2
Median	33	33

The findings are presented in the following fashion: the elicited categories for each sub-section for the four scenarios by Group, including citations where appropriate; and the appraisal of the cognitive capabilities employed.

Scenario #1: Teenagers hanging around the streets.

Group 1, Direct Victimization Experience (n=7)

Thoughts:

Three categories emerged; Gravity, Understanding, and Caution. Generally, the majority of the women expressed that the "community", or "society" needed to provide a place for teenagers to go; as a result, there would be fewer problems with teenagers if their time was occupied. A couple of respondents expressed that not all teenagers should be painted with the same brush, because of the behaviours of specific "misguided" teenagers. One respondent thought that one does need to exercise a certain amount of caution when encountering a large group of teenagers.

Feelings:

Four categories were dominant: Tolerance, Sadness, Acceptance and Fear. The first three aspects generated two responses each, with comments like; "They don't bother me, if I don't bother them"; feelings of sadness for the youth for "having nothing better to do with their time"; and

"they have a right to be there like anyone else". One respondent was on her "guard" and felt apprehension because in the past she had her purse snatched by a group of teenagers.

Behavior:

Generally, the respondents identified four courses of action: to ignore and just walk by, avoid the situation entirely by walking to the other side of the street, advise them where the soup kitchen was, and one of caution.

The woman who had her purse snatched commented: "I'm not really frightened, but on my guard, now I hold my purse very close to me, not just with teenagers around but in crowds in general".

Interpretation:

This is an example of where, through *forethought*, *self-regulatory* and *self-evaluative* reactions, she set a plan of action based upon the past experience. Something that she had not previously done.

Group 2, No Victimization Experience (n=13)

Thoughts:

This Group generally responded very differently from Group One to the situation. This was revealed in the four categories that emerged: Unpredictable, a Nuisance, Lazy, and Non-committal. The majority of the respondents (n=7)

thought teenagers were an unpredictable group, "They give the impression that they may harass you". The remaining respondents were divided equally into three categories, with such beliefs as: they were a nuisance and resented their presence on the sidewalks, they were lazy and needed to find something to do that would encourage their taking on some responsibility, and indifference.

#### Feelings:

Four main feelings emerged from the data: Tolerance, Fear (ie: feeling unnerved or uneasy), Expressions of anger, (ie: annoyance to feeling provoked), and Sadness. One school teacher said: "I am concerned and felt very sad, I think there has to be something better to do, they really don't know what they are missing, if they would just get involved". Another woman stated "They make me feel very uneasy, because they seem to be a real mixed bunch. I don't know if they would approach me, but it's just not knowing what to expect".

#### Behavior:

Three behaviours identified by this group were; Ignoring, Caution and total Avoidance. The majority of the respondents cited the former two categories, at 6 and 5, respectively; while two respondents chose the latter.

One woman commented that she was cautious when approaching a group of teenagers. "I never wear much

jewelry when I am out walking alone. I turn the stone of my diamond ring towards the palm of my hand... You just never know if they need money and might attack". Another woman stated; "I would be very careful, I'd go around them if at all possible. This happens quite often ... when I walk down town. I don't stop going by, I wouldn't change my route unless I saw some kind of trouble or potential for trouble".

Interpretation:

This implies that their same behaviour of walking down the street varies depending upon, among other factors, the time, the place, and the persons toward whom it is directed. When variation in certain *symbolic*, situational and social cues are regularly associated with differential response outcomes, such cues come to serve as activators and guides for action. Therefore, these women were attentive to aspects of their environment that predicted outcomes that may cause them to regulate their normal actions. Regulating actions on the basis of predictors of response consequences provided the mechanism for *foresightful* behaviour.

In summation, the two groups thoughts about teenagers congregating on the sidewalk were quite different, with Group 1 expressing more gravity and understanding of the situation, while Group 2 expressed suspicion and

intolerance. Furthermore, Group 2 expressed feelings of fear and annoyance, which was not evident in Group 1. The courses of action chosen by the two groups were similar, but the distribution of responses varied as depicted in Table 12.

Table 12

Courses of Action by the Two Groups for Dealing with Teenagers Congregating on the Streets

Action	Group	
	Direct Victimization (n=7)	No Direct Victimization (n=13)
Ignore	57%	46%
Avoidance	14%	15%
Caution	14%	38%
Advice	14%	--

Skateboarders on the sidewalks.

Group 1, Direct Victimization Experience

Thoughts:

Two themes were expressed by all the respondents, that skateboarders were both very unpredictable and potentially very dangerous.

Feelings:

Fear of physical assault was the dominant feeling expressed by this group. These themes were repeated over and over again in such comments as: "They make me very nervous, I'm expecting them to crash into me.... They're so unpredictable.... You just never know what to expect.... Sometimes they come from behind and scare the daylights out of you.... I think when you are younger you can deal with this things differently.... What bothers me the most is the fear of being knocked down.... When you're older you don't "bounce back" from an injury the same as you did when you were younger".

Behavior:

The sample expressed three courses of action: Avoidance by crossing to the other side of the street, being very cautious and alert to potential danger, or, ignoring the situation entirely.

As social beings, the respondents observed the conduct of others and could profit from both the successes and misfortunes of others, as well as from their own experiences. The *symbolic capacity* to learn cognitive and behavioural skills through observation is of considerable functional value. This same *symbolic capability* enabled the respondents to regulate their actions advantageously on the basis of the knowledge gained *vicariously* about the likely benefits and risks of different courses of action.

Group 2, No Direct Victimization ExperienceThoughts, Feelings and Behaviour:

The responses expressed by this group were analogous with Group 1 for all three sub-sections. One woman stated: "They are frightening....If you were knocked down what recourse would you have, the skateboarders couldn't pay for damages, plus their parents wouldn't either. They'd say that they couldn't control their children. The consequences when you are elderly is that you don't recuperate the same as when you were younger". Additional comments included two respondents who indicated that they tolerated the 'skaters' and tended to just ignore them.

In summation, the two groups were very similar in their thoughts and feelings about "skaters". The unpredictability and possible danger of physical assault that could ensue caused the respondents to feel very vulnerable since their recuperative capabilities were decreased because of their age. Their courses of action were the same but the distributions were different as shown in Table 13.

Table 13

Courses of Action by the Two Groups for Dealing with  
Skateboarders

Action	Group	
	Direct Victimization (n=7)	No Direct Victimization (n=13)
Avoidance	43%	69%
Caution	43%	15%
Ignore	14%	15%

Scenario #2: Arson and fire in general.

Group 1, Direct Victimization Experience

Thoughts:

The following four categories emerged from the data: The Gravity that arson and fire in general could impact on their lives; noncommittal comments in which the respondents had never really given any previous thought to arson, but had thought about fire in general, and realised the Gravity of the situation; vulnerability; and treatment for the arsonists. Several commented; "Until you see something like that, I really hadn't given arson much thought, but I live in an apartment so I have thought what I would do in the event of a fire".

Feelings:

The three feelings expressed were: concern for security within one's environment, very perplexed why people would want to set fires, and fear for their well being and safety. There was one non-committal comment.

Behavior:

All the respondents had engaged in some type of fire prevention intervention(s) ranging from installing smoke detectors and purchasing fire extinguishers and rope ladders to well thought out fire escape routes. Two women mentioned they would give assistance to their neighbours because they were hard of hearing and may not hear the fire alarm.

One woman expressed "Fire of any sort makes me remember the blitz in London during the war, the thoughts and feelings come back to me as if it were yesterday... I have taken a lot of fire precautions in my home including alarms, extinguishers, smoke detectors, and also several planned escape routes. So I feel quite secure as a result... I have done everything that I can to make my home safe".

Interpretation:

This woman guided her actions based on what she had observed, or been told, and the predictive value of these cues, whether established verbally or vicariously were

maintained through *symbolic and self-reflective capacities*. These capacities enabled her to gain information based on what she already knew without having to experience or discover the probable outcomes first hand.

#### Group 2, No Direct Victimization Experience

##### Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviour:

This group's responses elicited the same categories but in different proportions. For example, 9 of the 13 women in Group 2 versus 2 women in Group 1 expressed feelings of being very worried or fearful about fire affecting their lives. All but four Group 2, respondents had some type of fire prevention intervention in place. One lady had actually made inquiries with the apartment manager regarding fire procedures because she would be unable to manage the stairs alone due to her health. She felt quite secure because the manager said he would check her apartment immediately in the event of a fire. In addition, she had a balcony to which she could go out and await assistance. This group expressed additional comments that residents needed to increase their awareness about the suspicious activities of others.

In summation, Group 2 respondents expressed more fear and uneasiness about fire than Group 1, at 69% and 29%, respectively. Those individuals in both groups who had expressed fear had employed some type of fire precaution

intervention from smoke detectors and/or alarms to well thought out escape routes. In general, Group 1 respondents were the most precautionary of the two groups with 100% having some type of intervention in place versus only 69% of Group 2 respondents.

Scenario # 3: Fraud.

Group 1, Direct Victimization Experience

Thoughts:

All the respondents expressed dismay at how gullible and foolish people were that they would be taken in by this bank 'scam'. Many commented that there was so much written about it lately that it was hard to believe that people were taken in.

Feelings:

Two themes were identified from the data; one of sympathy for the victims, and the other was feeling very perplexed that people were so foolish and naive to entrust their money to a stranger.

Behavior:

The majority of the respondents said they would either hang up and ignore the incident, or hang up and then call the police and/or the bank manager. One woman said she

would agree, then call the police and help them try to catch the person.

#### Group 2, No Direct Victimization Experience

##### Thoughts and Feelings:

The majority of the sample responded the same as Group 1, in which they saw anyone getting involved in these schemes as being very gullible, naive, stupid or foolish. One woman commented that she would never get involved personally, but she could understand that when "someone was very lonely and had no one to talk to, they were vulnerable and may be more trusting".

Four women, all with college or university education, commented that; "People need to be more self-reliant... To take on more individual responsibility for their own security...To keep informed... There are many courses offered to educate the public about such matters".

##### Interpretation:

An important factor in the judgmental component of *self-regulation* concerns the *evaluation* of activities. Whether a given performance of a behaviour will be regarded as commendable or dissatisfying depends on the personal standards against which it is evaluated. Actions that measure up to internal standards are appraised favorably, while those that don't are judged unsatisfactory. It would

seem that these women value highly the internal control over actions and the consequences of those actions.

Behavior:

Similar to Group 1, none of the women thought they would be taken in by this con artist. They would hang up and ignore the incident; hang up and then go to the bank to make inquiries, or report the incident to the police; or agree to participate and then call the police.

The respondents of both groups seemed to believe that they would be in control, and situations like the one depicted in the scenario would never happen to them. As evident in the Type of Crime inventory 55% of the sample rated fraud as 'not at all' or 'somewhat' important in their lives.

Interpretation:

Their coping skills and belief in their *self-regulatory capability* enabled them to wield influence over the external environment, or so this sample believed. However, self-reflective strategies can also produce erroneous thought patterns. Some of these women may not be manipulated as a result of powerful *symbolizing capabilities* that have provided them with meaning and continuance to the experiences they have lived through; but on the other hand some may be no match for the experienced

'con artist' who also employs powerful enactive, symbolic and vicarious sources of information.

In summation, the two groups were very similar in their thoughts, feelings, and courses of action towards fraud. Group 2 were more willing to participate in apprehending the perpetrator. Neither group viewed themselves as vulnerable nor expressed fears of victimization. The courses of action by the groups are summarized in Table 14.

Table 14

Courses of Action by the Two Groups for Dealing with Fraud

Action	Group	
	Direct Victimization (n=7)	No Direct Victimization (n=13)
Hang up, ignore	29%	38.5%
Hang up and inform	57%	38.5%
Agree and inform	14%	23%

Scenario # 4: Residential Break and Enter.

Group 1, Direct Victimization Experience

Thoughts:

The categories included: thoughts of Safety, "not really an issue"; Unsafe; Denial, " I pretend that it never would happen"; and Resignation, "if they're really intent on getting in, there is nothing I could do to stop them".

Feelings:

Two women commented that they were fearful of potential attack or theft, while the remaining respondents stated they felt quite secure and were not really worried. Interestingly, the two women who expressed fear also had the lowest scores of Group 1 and 2 on the Neighbourhood Inventory. One of the women had experienced a property victimization while the other woman had been a personal victim.

Behavior:

The majority of the sample had implemented crime prevention home security measures, for example, dead-bolt locks and blocks in window tracks, while two ladies had not taken any course of action. Two of the five apartment dwellers commented that they would "Never" live on the main floor. They had intentionally chosen a floor level on which they felt secure. Of interest, one lady had

experienced a personal victimization and the other a property victimization.

Interpretation:

People do not simply react to their immediate environment, nor are they steered completely by their past. The behaviour of these women, for example, was purposive and regulated by *forethought*. In deciding which floor to live on they anticipated the likely consequences of their prospective actions, set goals for themselves and planned the future course of action.

Group 2, No Direct Victimization Experience

Thoughts:

The majority of this group (n=8) thought their apartments or houses were secure either because of good security measures or because they thought there was a good neighbourhood network where neighbours looked out for each other. The remaining five women cited the following three perceptions about their circumstances: Resignation, "If someone is intent they will get in"; Preyed upon, "How unfortunate we have to be on our guard all the time"; Invaded, "I would never be able to replace memories".

Feelings:

The three feelings of security, vulnerability, and anger were dominant with this group.

Behavior:

Ten of the sample had employed some type of crime prevention security interventions, including having bolt locks installed, leaving lights on when not at home, or having their equipment marked (target hardening strategies). Five out of the six apartment dwellers mentioned that the elevated floor level gave them a lot of comfort which they would not have if they lived on the main floor. In fact, none of them would live on the main floor.

Two respondents in single family dwellings commented; "When you live day to day in your home you really don't see the obvious. You are used to things the way they are, so it doesn't occur to you that you need to change things to make your home more safe". They both attributed their involvement in Neighbourhood Watch programmes as having increased their knowledge and awareness of what they could do to improve home security and subsequently, implemented those interventions. Another woman commented; "There are things that I think about now, [referring to personal and home security] because I'm older that didn't bother me when I was younger, ...I'm not as quick, I couldn't defend myself the same, and wouldn't recuperate the same".

Interpretation:

*Symbolic capacity* and *vicarious experiences* enabled these women to gain information and acquire rules for

generating and regulating behavioural patterns without having to actually experience a burglary. Through the exercise of *forethought* and *self-reflective* capacity, they were motivated to guide their actions anticipatorily and plan courses of action for the future. Unfortunately, many property victims have to experience the theft before they employ home security measures. Realistically this is not to say that if one employs crime prevention strategies it makes you infallible, rather it can reduce the risk.

In summation, Group 2 respondents expressed a greater percentage of fear and vulnerability to victimization than Group 1, at 38.5% and 29%, respectively. The majority of both groups had some type of crime prevention intervention in place, at 77% for Group 2 and 71% for Group 1. More apartment dwellers from Group 2 (83%) than Group 1 (40%) had purposely chosen the floor level as an anti-crime strategy, thereby reducing their perceptions of vulnerability.

### Conclusions

This section indicates that there was no consistently direct connection between direct victimization experiences and vulnerability. The non victimized group was more fearful of arson, fire in general, and break and enters than the victimized group. Neither group were particularly fearful of fraud. Whereas, both groups were very fearful

of injury they might incur from skateboarders and were of mixed opinion about teenagers congregating on the sidewalks. As found in the literature review this study found no causal link between vulnerability to victimization, direct victimization experiences and the lack of being victimized. These findings suggest that especially in those situations where the subjects *perceived* there was the *potential for victimization* they felt very *vulnerable*. In addition the consequences were considered to be very worrisome and their ability to recuperate would be low. Many respondents cited that when one becomes elderly you "just don't bounce back the way you used to".

The Behavioral reactions to the scenarios may be categorized as follows:

1. Avoidance. This included behaviour by which the person distanced herself from those persons and situations which were perceived as a potential source of harm.
2. Home protection. The measures subsumed under this category represented a wide range of "target hardening" and fire precautionary practices intended to make the household more resistant to victimization and fire.
3. Self protection. Some of the females engaged in behaviours expressive of a "street savvy". In this way they attempted to affect their demeanor in public so as to be more aware of themselves and their surroundings and more sensitive to cues of potential danger.

4. Collective participation. This refers to involvement in community-based organizations relevant to crime control. Some of the sample participated in police-sponsored community based initiatives such as the Community Police Stations, Neighbourhood Watch or Block Parents.

controlled by environmental forces nor entirely free agents who could do as they choose.

An examination of the social patterns of this moderately active sample corresponded with findings in the literature that suggested that the elderly engaged less frequently in evening activities outside of the home (Brillon, 1987; Fattah & Sacco, 1989). The majority of the women did not walk out alone at night, nor perceived their neighbourhood as safe when out alone during the night. They perceived walking alone as a high risk situation for victimization. In addition, next to health concerns, fear of victimization was cited as one of the main reasons why these women did not go out at night to attend many of the social activities itemized in the Social Activity Inventory. Those women who did go out at night either used their cars, hired a taxi, or were accompanied by another person. Furthermore they engaged in activities perceived as low risk situations such as visiting friends or family in their homes, going to a restaurant or shopping in a mall. This result confirms earlier studies which reported that if the elderly did go out at night their preference was for low rather than high risk activities (Antunes et al.; Fattah & Sacco, 1989; Gubrium, 1974). These results would seem to contribute in part, to explaining why their rate of victimization is much lower than other female age groups. The locus of much of the respondents activities

were around the home and its immediate vicinity. The crimes this sample encountered were troublesome phone calls, vandalism, break and enters, purse snatching and other personal thefts, all of which appeared to be opportunistic in nature. The patterns of victimization, therefore, reflected the spatial, temporal and associated constraints which these elderly women's lifestyles placed upon risk.

Some literature suggested that victimization may result in restricting and limiting behaviours to the point where the victim literally placed herself under "house arrest". This was definitely not the case with these women. It would seem that the effects of possible victimization appeared more as a subtle adjustment in behaviour than a major shift in behavioural 'policy'. This was especially reflected in their responses to the scenarios.

Vulnerability to victimization was associated with health and other concerns of daily living, which substantiated research findings conducted in Britain, the United States and Canada (Brillon, 1987; Clarke & Lewis, 1982; Sundeen & Mathieu, 1976). This was shown in the responses to the Concern Index, which were manifested in worries about health, family, loneliness and finances.

Vulnerability to victimization may result in the exercise of caution by a group that frequently lacks the

control necessary to manage the risk of harm or to marshal the resources necessary to offset its consequences if victimized. These women were afraid they were incapable of defending themselves, and above all, they feared the serious consequences. If a person feels that the slightest shove may have dramatic consequences, it is easy to see that many more crimes could be perceived by that person as a threatening risk. This was evident from the worries over recuperation problems expressed by those sample members involved in a Direct or Indirect victimization encounter. In addition, the entire sample commented on how vulnerable they felt in the presence of skateboarders.

No direct connection was observed in the sample between direct victimization and vulnerability. This was especially evident in the behavioural responses of the elderly women to the scenarios. The non-victimized group were more fearful of arson and the break and enter scenarios; whilst both groups were very fearful of injury from the skateboarders and concerned about the congregation of teenagers on the sidewalk. In particular those who had either experienced a property victimization or knew of someone who had been a property victim were the most concerned about teenagers congregating on the sidewalks.

The conclusions of this study are that the results answer the research questions:

Elderly females perceived vulnerability problems are intricately related to several aspects of later life. Fear of victimization is linked to self-reported health, economic concerns, social networks and community participation and to their sense of powerlessness and vulnerability to attack. It is manifested, for example, in the fear of having an accident, of becoming ill, of being alone and not having enough money. Thus, the fear of crime may be linked with other fears than an aged person may have. The more one is afraid of injury, the more vulnerable she feels about crime. These attitudes are not fully understood and should be studied further.

In closing, I have identified some issues that I think require further research. They include the following:

To replicate this study on a much larger, random sample of elderly females is a major priority in order to assess their vulnerability to victimization, utilizing the Social Cognitive Theory as the conceptual framework. As a result of this study the author is particularly interested in studying the application of this theory and instrument development to other domains.

The pragmatic issues arising from the developing safer cities/ crime concern concepts, for example, crime prevention through environmental design initiatives (CPTED), Inter-agency collaboration, Neighbourhood Watch

and Block Parent programs and the perceptions of vulnerability to victimization should be addressed.

In addition the question of perceived risk of victimization for the elderly needs further research to determine if their actual (statistical) low risk is simply a function of the self protective measures they employed to lower the risk. It may be that by controlling for behaviour patterns (not venturing out at night for example), is comparable to other age and gender groups.

Future research could also explore what elements are at play in the thought processes of elderly females which make those who have been victimized previously, less fearful of certain crimes than those who have not been victimized. It is uncertain from this study what factors may have played a role in the observed differential response.

Finally, further exploration of the variables impacting on fear of victimization with elderly women should be researched to see if they are gender specific, or, if they can be generalized across both sexes. This would provide valuable background information for the development and delivery of crime prevention initiatives within a community. It could also support local government policy development by providing a rationale for the implementation of local by-laws discouraging certain public behaviours which put segments of society at risk to

victimization (eg. Skateboard by-laws). In addition, because the skateboarders represented a serious threat of personal injury, the elderly population and the citizenry in general may place increasingly strident demands on the police to deal with more social and order maintenance issues and not just the solution of serious crimes. These types of demands will necessitate changes in the organizational structure, culture and strategic development of police departments and their relationships with their communities.

The progressive ageing of the population in Canada over the next several decades suggest that there will be stronger demands that we become sensitive to those issues which lessen the quality of life for individuals in their elder years. This means that we must not only be aware of those activities which threaten that lifestyle but also the means with which the elderly address those activities to reduce their perceived risk. This study has made a beginning in that direction by isolating some of the factors which impact on the elderly females' perceived vulnerability to victimization and identifying some of the proactive measures they employ to reduce this risk and its concomitant fear.

### References

- Antunes, G., Cook, F., Skogan, W., and Cook, T. (1977) Patterns of personal crime against the elderly: Findings from a national survey. Gerontologist, 17, 321 - 327.
- Atkinson, T. (1981). A study of urban concerns. York University: Institute for Behavioural Science.
- Baron, A., Kaufman, A., & Stauber, K. (1969). Effects of instructions and reinforcement-feedback on human operant behaviour maintained by fixed-interval reinforcement. Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, 12, 701-712.
- Bandura, A. (1986). Social foundations of thought and action: A social cognitive theory. Englewoods Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc.
- Bandura, A. (1978). The self system in reciprocal determinism. American Psychologist, (April), 344-358.
- Bandura, A. (1977). Social learning theory. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Prentice-Hall, Inc.
- Bandura, A. & Barab, P. (1971). Conditions governing nonreinforced imitation. Developmental Psychology, 5, 244-255.
- Baumer, T. (1985). Testing a general model of fear of crime: Data from a national sample. Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, 22(3), 239 - 255.
- Brillon, Y. (1987). Victimization and fear of crime among the elderly. Vancouver: Butterworths.
- Brooks, J. (1974). The fear of crime in the United States. Crime and Delinquency, 20, (July), 241 - 244.
- Chaplin, F. & Brail, R. (1969). Human activity systems in metropolitan United States. Environment and Behavior, 1, 107-130.
- Clarke, A. & Lewis, M. (1982). Fear of crime among the elderly. British Journal of Criminology, 22(1), 49 - 62.
- Clemente, F. & Kleiman, M. (1976). Fear of crime among the aged. Gerontologist, 16(3), 207 - 210.

- Estes, W. (1972). Reinforcement in human behavior. American Scientist, 60, 723-729.
- Fattah, E. & Sacco, V. (1989). Crime and victimization of the elderly. New York: Springer-Verlag.
- Fielo, S. (1987). How does crime affect the elderly? Geriatric Nursing, (March-April), 81-83.
- Flavell, J. (1979). Metacognition and cognitive monitoring: A new area of cognitive-developmental inquiry. American Psychologist, 43, 906-911.
- Fouts, G. (1989). Television use by the elderly. Canadian Psychology, 30(3), 568-577.
- Furstenberg, F. (1971). Public reaction to crime in the streets. American Scholar, 40, 601-610.
- Gaitz, C. & Varner, R. (1980). Adjustment disorders of late life: Stress disorders. In B. Blazer (ED.). Handbook of Geriatric Psychiatry (pp. 14). New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.
- Gallup Organization (N.D.). The Gallup opinion index. Princeton: Gallup Organization Inc.
- Garofalo, J. (1981). The fear of crime: Causes and consequences. The Journal of Law and Criminology, 72(2), 829-857.
- Garofalo, J. (1979). Victimization and the fear of crime. Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, 16(1), 80-97.
- Gies, G. (1977). Defrauding the elderly. In J. Goldsmith & S. Goldsmith (Ed.). Crime and the elderly (pp. 7-19). Toronto: Lexington Books.
- Gies, T. (1987). Public perceptions of crime: Awareness or hysteria. Prevention, 4(4), 5-8.
- Goldsmith, J. & Goldsmith, S. (1975). Crime and the elderly. Toronto: Lexington Books.
- Gomme, I. (1988). The role of experience in the production of fear of crime: A test of a causal model. Canadian Journal of Criminology, 30(1), 67-76.
- Gomme, I. (1986). Fear of crime among Canadians: A multivariate analysis. Journal of Criminal Justice, 14, 123-144.

- Gubrium, J. (1974). Victimization in old age. Crime and Delinquency, 20 (July), 245 - 250.
- Hahn, P. & Miller, E. (1980). Project search and inform, Cincinnati-Hamilton County, Ohio, Cincinnati: Xavier University Graduate Correctional Department.
- Home Office. (1989). Standing Conference on Crime Prevention. Report of the working group on the fear of crime. London: Crown copyright.
- Howell, D. (1985). Fundamental statistics for the Behavioral Sciences. Boston, Mass.: Duxbury Press.
- Jackson, W. (1988). Research methods: Rules for survey design and analysis. Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice-Hall Canada Inc.
- Jaycox, V. (1980). The elderly's fear of crime: Rational or irrational? Victimology, 3(3-4), 329-334.
- Kennedy, L. & Silverman, R. (1985). Perception of social diversity and fear of crime. Environment and Behaviour, 17(3), 275-295.
- Kennedy, L., Northcott, H. & Kinzel, & Kinzel, C. (1977). Subjective evaluation of well being: Problems and prospects. Social Indicators Research, 5, 457-474.
- Lawton, M. & Yaffe, S. (1980). Victimization and fear of crime in elderly public housing tenants. Journal of Gerontology, 35(5), 768-779.
- Maxfield, M. (1984). The limits of vulnerability in explaining fear of crime: A comparative neighbourhood analysis. Research in Crime and Delinquency, 121(3), 233-250.
- Muir, R. (1987). Fear of crime: A community policing perspective. Canadian Police College Journal, 11(3), 170-196.
- Nelson, D. & Low, G. (1979). Personal skills map - instrument. Corpus Christi, Texas: Institute for the Development of Human Resources, Inc.
- Perloff, L. (1983). Perception of vulnerability to victimization. Journal of Social Issues, 39(2), 41-61.

- Rosenbaum, D. & Heath, L. (1990). The "Psycho-Logic" of fear-reduction and crime-prevention programs. In J. Edwards, R. Tindale, L. Heath, & E. Posavac (Eds.). Social influence processes and prevention: Social psychological applications to social issues, Vol 1. (221-247). New York: Plenum Publishing Corporation.
- Rosenbaum, D. (1987). The theory and research behind neighbourhood watch: Is it a sound fear and crime reduction strategy? Crime and Delinquency, 33(1).
- Rosenbaum, D. & Baumer, T. (1981). Measuring fear of crime: A recommended set of scales - user manual. Evanston, Il.: Westinghouse Evaluation Institute.
- Salthouse, T. (1985). A theory of cognitive aging. New York: Elsevier Science Publishing Co.
- Sherman, T., Newman, E., & Nelson, A. (1977). Patterns of age integration in public housing and the incidence and fear of crime among the elderly tenants. In J. Goldsmith & S. Goldsmith (Eds.). Crime and the elderly (pp.67-76). Toronto: Lexington Books.
- Siegal, L. (1989). Criminology (3rd ed.). Toronto: West Publishing Co.
- Skogan, W. (1987). The impact of victimization on fear. Crime & Delinquency, 33(1), 135-154.
- Skogan, W. (1981). On attitudes and behaviors. In D. Lewis. Reaction to crime. Beverly Hills, C.A.: Sage Publications.
- Skogan, W. & Maxfield, M. (1981). Coping with crime. Beverley Hills, CA: Sage.
- Skogan, W. & Klecka, W. (1977). The fear of crime. Washington, D.C.: The American Political Science Association.
- Solicitor General, Canada. (1988). Canadian urban victimization survey: Patterns in property crime. Bulletin, 2, Ottawa: Solicitor General Canada, Ministry Secretariat.
- Solicitor General, Canada. (1983). Canadian urban victimization survey: Victims of crime. Bulletin, 3, Ottawa: Research and Statistics Group, Programs Branch.

- Stafford, M. & Galle, O. (1984). Victimization rates, exposure to risk, and fear of crime. Criminology, 22(2), 173-185.
- Stinchombe, A., Adams, R., Heimer, C., Scheppele, K., Smith, T. & Taylor, D. (1980). Crime and punishment: Changing attitudes in America. San Francisco, CA.: Jossey-Bass Inc.
- Sundeen, R. & Mathieu, J. (1976). The fear of crime and its consequences among the elderly in three urban communities. Gerontologist, 16(3), 211-219.
- Taylor, R. & Hale, M. (1986). Criminology: Testing alternative models of fear of crime. The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, 77(1), 234-256.
- Thorson, J.A. & Thorson, J.R. (1986). How accurate are stress scales? Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 12(1), 21-24.
- Titus-Reid, S. (1988). Crime and criminology (5th ed.). Toronto: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc.
- Toseland, R. (1982). Fear of crime: Who is most vulnerable? Journal of Criminal Justice, 10, 199-209.
- U.S. Department of Justice. (1987). Victimization report. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census. (1976). Survey documentation, National crime survey, Central cities sample 1975. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.
- Waller, J. & Okhiro, N. (1978). Burglarly: The victim and the public. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Yin, P. (1982). Fear of crime as a problem for the elderly. Social Problems, 30(2), 240-245.
- Yin, P. (1980). Fear of crime among the elderly: Some issues and suggestions. Social Problems, 27(4), 492-504.

APPENDIX 1INSTRUMENT

## CONCERN INDEX

[Read the following instructions to the respondent. Place all ten cards out in front of the participant].

1.0 These cards contain ten items that deal with possible issues that you may WORRY about in your daily life. Would you please SORT these ten CARDS in order of IMPORTANCE, with the card representing the greatest WORRY in position ONE, the card representing the second worrisome issue next, and so forth, until the issue causing you the least WORRY in your daily living is at the bottom of the stack, or in position TEN.

[Record the placement of the cards in the appropriate blank below].

RANK OUT OF TEN

ITEM

- 
- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| _____ | 1.1 Vandalism in the community, such as broken windows, vacant 'run-down' buildings, writing on walls and fences.                         |
| _____ | 1.2 Financial worries   |
| _____ | 1.3 Groups of teenagers hanging out on the streets  |
| _____ | 1.4 Health worries  |
| _____ | 1.5 Family worries  |
| _____ | 1.6* Fear of personal victimization, eg. being attacked, threatened, or roughed up.   |
| _____ | 1.7* Fear of property victimization, eg. when a residence is broken into, where something is stolen; or attempts made to steal something. |
| _____ | 1.8 People using illegal drugs in your neighbourhood  |
| _____ | 1.9 Loneliness  |
| _____ | 1.10 Feeling unproductive, not worthwhile   |

## TYPES OF CRIME INVENTORY

2.0 ASK respondent to RATE the type of crime BY THE INTENSITY of IMPORTANCE.

## 2.1 Fraud, misrepresentation

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.2 Burglary

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.3 Vandalism of your property

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.4 Harrassment

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.5 Mischief

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.6 Forgery

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.7 Counterfeiting

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.8 Assault

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.9 Rape

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

## 2.10 Arson

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE IMPORTANT            4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY IMPORTANT

FEAR OF PERSONAL ATTACK

3.0 The following six questions deal with your opinion about your fear of personal attack in your neighbourhood.

3.1 During the day, is there any area in your neighbourhood where you do NOT presently walk alone because you would be afraid?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES                              2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

3.2 How SAFE do you feel, or would you feel, being out alone, in your neighbourhood, during the day?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY SAFE  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE SAFE  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT SAFE  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL SAFE

[If answered 'Somewhat' or 'Not at all safe' ASK the following Question #3.3. Otherwise SKIP to Question 3.4]

3.3 WHY do you feel unsafe?

---

---

---

3.4 During the NIGHT, is there any area in your neighbourhood where you do NOT presently walk alone because you would be afraid?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES

2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

3.5 How SAFE do you feel, or would you feel, being out alone, in your neighbourhood, during the NIGHT?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY SAFE

2 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE SAFE

3 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT SAFE

4 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL SAFE

[If answered 'Somewhat' or 'Not at all safe' ASK the following Question 3.6. Otherwise SKIP to Question 4.0]

3.6 WHY do you feel unsafe?

---

---

---

VICTIMIZATION EXPERIENCE(S) INVENTORY

## 4.0 PROPERTY:

4.1 Do you personally know of anyone, other than yourself, whose residence has been broken into in the past year? For example where something has been stolen; or attempts made to steal something; or it has been vandalized?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

4.2 Was that person a friend, relative, neighbour or acquaintance?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ FRIEND              2 \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIVE              3 \_\_\_\_\_ NEIGHBOUR  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ ACQUAINTANCE      5 \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_  
 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

4.3 Would you consider that your relationship with that person is Not at all close; Somewhat close; Quite close; or Very close?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL CLOSE  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT CLOSE  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE CLOSE  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY CLOSE  
 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

4.4 Would you say this INCIDENT of property loss was Not at all worrisome; Somewhat worrisome; Quite worrisome; or Very worrisome?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT WORRISOME  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE WORRISOME  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY WORRISOME  
 5 \_\_\_\_\_ DON'T KNOW                      9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

4.5 How big of a problem do you think this person had RECUPERATING from this incident? Would you say it was Not a problem; Somewhat of a problem; Quite a problem; A major problem?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT A PROBLEM  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE A PROBLEM  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ A MAJOR PROBLEM  
 5 \_\_\_\_\_ DON'T KNOW  
 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

4.6 Thinking back over the past year, have YOU been the victim of a crime against your property?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES            2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

4.7 Would you say this INCIDENT of property loss was Not at all worrisome; Somewhat worrisome; Quite worrisome; or Very worrisome?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT WORRISOME  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE WORRISOME  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY WORRISOME  
 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

4.8 How big of a problem DID YOU have RECUPERATING from this incident? Would you say it was Not a problem; Somewhat of a problem; Quite a problem; A major problem?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT A PROBLEM  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE A PROBLEM  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ A MAJOR PROBLEM  
 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

## 5.0 PERSONAL:

5.1 Do you personally know of anyone, other than yourself, who has been a victim of a personal crime in the past year? For example been attacked; threatened; or roughed up?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES            2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

5.2 Was that person a friend, relative, neighbour or acquaintance?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ FRIEND      2 \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIVE      3 \_\_\_\_\_ NEIGHBOUR

4 \_\_\_\_\_ ACQUAINTANCE    5 \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

5.3 Would you consider that your relationship with that person is Not at all close; Somewhat close; Quite close; or Very close?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL CLOSE

2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT CLOSE

3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE CLOSE

4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY CLOSE

9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

5.4 Would you say this INCIDENT was Not at all worrisome; Somewhat worrisome; Quite worrisome; or Very worrisome?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL

2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT WORRISOME

3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE WORRISOME

4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY WORRISOME

5 \_\_\_\_\_ DON'T KNOW

9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

5.5 How big of a problem do you think this person had RECUPERATING from this incident? Would you say it was Not a problem; Somewhat of a problem; Quite a problem; A major problem?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT A PROBLEM
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE A PROBLEM
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ A MAJOR PROBLEM
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ DON'T KNOW
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

5.6 Thinking back over the past year, have YOU been the victim of a crime against your person?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

5.7 Would you say this INCIDENT was Not at all worrisome; Somewhat worrisome; Quite worrisome; or Very worrisome?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT AT ALL
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT WORRISOME
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE WORRISOME
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ VERY WORRISOME
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

5.8 How big of a problem DID YOU have RECUPERATING from this incident? Would you say it was Not a problem; Somewhat of a problem; Quite a problem; A major problem?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT A PROBLEM
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE A PROBLEM
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ A MAJOR PROBLEM
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

HEALTH STATUS INVENTORY

6.0 Would you say that you are:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Not at All Healthy  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Somewhat Healthy  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Quite Healthy  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Very Healthy

7.0 Is there any physical condition, illness or health problem that bothers you now?

---



---



---



---

8.0 Which of the following items can you do WITHOUT HELP?

8.1 Walk up and down stairs to the second floor?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

8.2 Do ordinary work around the house, eg.

- make meals        1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 -dusting            1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 -vacuuming         1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

8.3 Heavy work around the house/yard eg.

- washing walls    1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 -laundry            1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 -gardening        1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO    9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

8.4 Attend to personal hygiene eg.

- grooming           1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 -hygiene            1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 -bathing            1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 -toileting          1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

SOCIAL ACTIVITY INVENTORY

9.0 Now I'm going to read to you a list of activities in which people sometimes engage. For each activity I mention, can you tell me the frequency you did the activity in the PAST YEAR:

[Circle the number next to each statement that best represents the frequency in the PAST YEAR.]

code: 1=NEVER DID IT; 2=A FEW TIMES A YEAR;  
3=A FEW TIMES A MONTH; 4=A FEW TIMES A WEEK;  
5=DID IT NEARLY EVERY DAY.

	NEVER	FEW/ YEAR	FEW/ MONTH	FEW/ WEEK	NEARLY EVERY DAY
9.1 GONE TO THE MOVIES	1	2	3	4	5
9.2 GONE TO A RESTAURANT	1	2	3	4	5
9.3 GONE TO A MUSEUM	1	2	3	4	5
9.4 GONE TO A LIBRARY	1	2	3	4	5
9.5 GONE TO A SPORTING EVENT	1	2	3	4	5
9.6 TAKEN A WALK WITHIN 6 BLOCKS	1	2	3	4	5
9.7 VISITED WITH FRIENDS/ FAMILY IN THEIR HOMES	1	2	3	4	5
9.8 ATTENDED A RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY	1	2	3	4	5
9.9 PARTICIPATED INDOOR SPORT (CARDS, CHESS)	1	2	3	4	5
9.10 CLUB MEETING	1	2	3	4	5
9.11 EDUCATIONAL CLASS	1	2	3	4	5
9.12 GONE SHOPPING > 5 BLOCKS FROM HOME	1	2	3	4	5
9.13 GONE SHOPPING OUTSIDE OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD	1	2	3	4	5
9.14 SENIORS CENTER	1	2	3	4	5

10.0 Do you feel you have to limit your participation in  
ANY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED ACTIVITIES?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO

[If 'NO' SKIP to Question 13]

11.0 [If 'YES', read the following Question ].

I will read the list again and you can tell me which  
activities apply and the reason you felt you had to  
limit your participation.

11.1 GONE TO THE MOVIES 1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

11.2 GONE TO A RESTAURANT 1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

11.3 GONE TO A MUSEUM 1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

11.4 GONE TO A LIBRARY 1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.5 GONE TO A SPORTING EVENT

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO    9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.6 TAKEN A WALK FOR ABOUT 6 BLOCKS

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO    9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.7 VISITED WITH FRIENDS/ FAMILY IN THEIR HOMES

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO    9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.8 ATTENDED A RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO    9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.9 PARTICIPATED IN AN INDOOR SPORT (CARDS, DARTS, ETC.)

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES    2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO    9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.10 ATTENDED A CLUB MEETING

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.11 ATTENDED AN EDUCATIONAL CLASS

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.12 GONE SHOPPING FURTHER THAN FIVE BLOCKS FROM YOUR HOME

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.13 GONE SHOPPING OUTSIDE OF OUR COMMUNITY (&gt; 10 BLOCKS)

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

## 11.14 SENIORS CENTER

1 \_\_\_\_\_ YES 2 \_\_\_\_\_ NO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ NA

_____ HEALTH	_____ FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION
_____ TRANSPORTATION	_____ FINANCIAL
_____ WEATHER	_____ LACK OF TIME
_____ DISTANCE FROM YOUR HOME	_____ OTHER _____

NEIGHBOURHOOD INTEGRATION INVENTORY

12.0 Following are some words or phrases which I would like to use to describe your neighbourhood, as it seems to you. By neighbourhood, I mean within 2 blocks of your residence. [Circle the number that best applies].

EXAMPLE: QUIET Code: 1 = RARELY QUIET; 2 = SOMEWHAT QUIET;  
3 = QUITE OFTEN QUIET; 4 = VERY QUIET.

	<u>RARELY</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>QUITE</u>	<u>VERY</u>
12.1 Attractive	1	2	3	4
12.2 People are friendly	1	2	3	4
12.3 Private	1	2	3	4
12.4 Well kept buildings	1	2	3	4
12.5 People are like me	1	2	3	4
12.6 Pleasant neighbourhood	1	2	3	4
12.7 Good place to live	1	2	3	4
12.8 Safe place to live	1	2	3	4
12.9 Lawns well kept	1	2	3	4
12.10 Good reputation	1	2	3	4

13.0 How long have you been living in your neighbourhood?  
\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS

13.1 What type of dwelling do you live in? Single family, duplex, apartment/condo, townhouse or other?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE FAMILY                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ DUPLEX  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ APARTMENT/CONDO                      4 \_\_\_\_\_ TOWNHOUSE  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

13.2 Do you rent or own your dwelling?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ RENT                      2 \_\_\_\_\_ OWN

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

14.0 The final questions deal with some general information about yourself.

14.1 Could you tell me your age? \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS

14.2 What is your marital status?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ MARRIED      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SEPARATED      3 \_\_\_\_\_ DIVORCED

4 \_\_\_\_\_ WIDOWED      5 \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE

14.3 Do you live alone or with others?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ ALONE      2 \_\_\_\_\_ WITH OTHERS

[If, responded 'ALONE' ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION, OTHERWISE SKIP TO QUESTION # 14.5]

14.4 Even though you live alone, what would you consider the frequency of contact that you have with other people on a day to day basis?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ NEVER      2 \_\_\_\_\_ SOMETIMES      3 \_\_\_\_\_ QUITE OFTEN

4 \_\_\_\_\_ ALWAYS      9 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE

14.5 What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ ELEMENTARY      2 \_\_\_\_\_ JUNIOR      3 \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL

4 \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY      5 \_\_\_\_\_ TECHNICAL

14.6 Would you mind telling me within which range of income your household received last year from all sources, before taxes were deducted?

1 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000 - 9,999      2 \_\_\_\_\_ 10,000 - 14,999

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 15,000 - 19,999      4 \_\_\_\_\_ 20,000 - 24,999

5 \_\_\_\_\_ 25,000 - 29,999      6 \_\_\_\_\_ 30,000 - & ABOVE

7 \_\_\_\_\_ REFUSED

14.7 Neighbourhood?      1 \_\_\_\_\_ JAMES BAY      2 \_\_\_\_\_ FAIRFIELD

14.8 Sample: 1 \_\_\_\_\_ COPS Volunteer      2 \_\_\_\_\_ Home Help  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ Phoning program      4 \_\_\_\_\_ Community Centers

VIDEO PRESENTATION15.0 STREET SCENE

15.1 When I walk in the downtown area of Victoria and see teenagers hanging around, I usually THINK....

5.2 when I walk in the downtown area of Victoria and see teenagers hanging around, I usually FEEL....

5.3 when I walk in the downtown area of Victoria and see teenagers hanging around, I usually BEHAVE BY ....

repeat with :

.....skateboarders.....

16.0 ARSON, FIRE in general

16.1 when I view scenes like this I usually THINK.....

16.2 When I view scenes like this I usually FEEL.....

16.3 When I view scenes like this I BEHAVE by.....

17.0 FRAUD

17.1 when I view scenes like this I usually THINK.....

17.2 When I view scenes like this I usually FEEL.....

17.3 When I view scenes like this I BEHAVE by.....

18.0 BREAK AND ENTER

18.1 when I view scenes like this I usually THINK.....

18.2 When I view scenes like this I usually FEEL.....

18.3 When I view scenes like this I BEHAVE by.....

APPENDIX 2CONSENT FORM

As part of my master degree from the University of Victoria I am conducting a research study examining your perceptions about your sense of well-being in your community. I have designed a questionnaire and a video to be used in the study. In an effort to test the validity of this instrument, I require completed questionnaires and that you view the five minute video.

The questionnaire contains seven sections and takes about 30 to 45 minutes to complete. I will read the questionnaire to you and record your responses. The questionnaire deals with issues that may concern you in your daily life, specific incidents that may or may not cause you to be fearful of personal or property victimization, and general questions about yourself, your health and involvement in your neighbourhood.

The five minute video presentation entails viewing four scenarios dealing with incidents that you may perceive as potential issues causing concern about your sense of well being in your community.

I agree that the information from the study will be used in the thesis of Mrs. Gail Walker, providing my confidentiality and the anonymity of any others who may be visible in the data is preserved. I understand that I will be completely free to withdraw from the study at any time I wish.

NAME:

---

SIGNATURE:

---

PHONE NUMBER:

---

DATE:

---

VITA

Surname:WALKER Given Names:SANDRA GAIL

Place of Birth:PONOKA, ALBERTA Date of Birth:10/07/47

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED:

University of Victoria 1979 to 1983

Alberta Hospital Ponoka 1965 to 1969

DEGREES AWARDED:

B.Sc. in Nursing University of Victoria 1983

HONOURS AND AWARDS:

University of Victoria, President's Scholarship 1982

PUBLICATIONS:

Gallagher, E. & Walker, G. (1990). Vulnerability of nursing home residents during relocations and renovations. Journal of Aging Studies, 4(1), 31-46.

Walker, S.G. (1990). Evaluating a Drug Education Program. Canadian Police College Journal, 14(4), 271-282.

Walker, S.G. & Gallagher, E. (1990). Environmental change and disruption in an extended care setting: Implications for the nursing role. Perspectives, Gerontological Nursing Association, 14,(1), 6-12.

Walker, C.R. & Walker, S.G. (1990). The citizen and the police: A partnership in crime prevention. Canadian Journal of Criminology, 32(1), 91-106.

Walker, C.R. & Walker, S.G. (1989). The Victoria Community Police Stations: An exercise in innovation. (Monograph). Ottawa: The Canadian Police College, Research and Program Development Branch.

Walker, S.G. & Walker, C.R. (in press). A critique of the 'Vision of the Future of Policing 2000 Document'. Canadian Journal of Criminology.


Walker, S.G. & Walker, C.R. (in press). The process of developing a program evaluation of a community policing initiative. The Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation.

PARTIAL COPYRIGHT LICENSE

I hereby grant the right to lend my thesis to users of the University of Victoria Library, and to make single copies only for such users or in responses to a request from the Library of any other university, or similar institution, on its behalf or for one of its users. I further agree that permission for extensive copying of this thesis for scholarly purposes may be granted by me or a member of the University designated by me. It is understood that copying or publication of this thesis for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission.

Title of Thesis: Elderly Females' Perceptions of  
Vulnerability to Victimization

Author

  
(Signature)

WANKER, SANDRA GAIL

(Name in Block Letters)

October 4/91  
(Date)