



LOVELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY 2012



Loveland Community Night Out Party



Prescription Drug Take Back



Children's Safety Village

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July 2012

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Introduction

Purpose

The primary purpose for conducting the Loveland Police Department Public Safety Survey 2012 was to determine Loveland's citizen's perceptions of personal safety as they go about living in Loveland. Loveland Police Department's on-going quest involving Problem Oriented Policing has lead us to try and understand the complicated influence that fear has on the quality of life for citizens of Loveland. "Many would argue that the local government is as obligated to deal with the fear of crime as it is to deal with the actual incident; that it is important, whatever the basis for existing fears, that citizens feel secure in their home and on their streets". ¹

We also wanted to learn what methods citizens use themselves to improve their sense of safety at home. In addition, we wanted to assess community opinions and desires regarding possible methods for improving public safety which they would like to see implemented by the Loveland Police Department in the future.

Improving the community's perception of public safety involves implementing and monitoring proactive policing strategies as well as maintaining an acceptable level of police visibility to promote public confidence. The Loveland Police Department exists for the purpose of providing an enhanced level of safety in our community, protecting the rights guaranteed to all people by the Constitution and improving the quality of life of each citizen. We work to protect those in harm's way, assist in the safe and free movement of people and traffic within the community, identify community problems and intervene as problem solvers using available resources. These and many other policing activities are intended to control and reduce crime in the community and assure the public safety of Loveland's citizens. Police Department goals and activities may be modified to meet concerns expressed by citizens in surveys.

Surveys of citizen perceptions of public safety should serve to inform the public as well as the City Council and police administrators who make management decisions regarding priorities, budgets, staffing and general or operational planning. Information obtained from this survey may be used to help identify trends and gauge progress toward meeting the public safety needs of the community.

Methodology

The Loveland Police Department Public Safety Survey 2012 was mailed to a random sample of 1742 residents in May 2012. Names of residents were drawn from the City of Loveland residential utility billing list. A total of 407 completed responses were returned for analysis which was a response rate of 23.4%. Responses from the returned surveys were compiled for analysis with no attempt made to identify respondents from the responses made on the questionnaires. The identity of those Loveland citizens who may have inadvertently made themselves known on the returned survey or envelopes will remain anonymous.

While the number of respondents represents only a small fraction of the total number of households in the City, the random sampling procedure used to select the survey mailing list ensures that results are statistically reliable within $\pm 5\%$ at the 95% confidence level. This means that there is a 95% probability (95 out of 100 times) that the true proportion of responses in Loveland's entire population for any item or

¹ Goldstein, H. Policing A Free Society, Cambridge, MA: Ballinger Publishing Co, 1977.

question on the survey would be within 5% sampling error. Another way to look at this is as follows: if 62% of the survey respondents "always feel safe and secure in Loveland", then 95 out of every 100 times that this survey might be administered to Loveland residents, the percentage of the entire population that "always feels safe and secure" will fall between 57% and 67% ($62\% \pm 5\%$).

The reader should keep in mind that any comparative differences which are less than 10% are not statistically significant due to the $\pm 5\%$ sampling error. This is especially so for comparisons involving small sample size.

Survey responses within the patrol district in which respondents live are also presented for most of the items/questions. This information may help evaluate citizen concerns and assist the Loveland Police Department in development of specific strategies (i.e. SARA projects) for particular patrol districts in the City. The survey items/questions (dependent variables) considered in the analysis included:

1. respondent's levels of concern about the occurrence of specific criminal activities in their neighborhood
2. perceived personal safety in respondent's neighborhood and while using public transportation, bicycling on City streets or using the City's hike and bike paths
3. respondent's general fear about crime in Loveland and how their level of fear may have changed during the past 12 months
4. relative importance of various methods for improving public safety in the community.

Patrol district, gender and age of respondents were the independent variables in most of the analyses. Appropriate chi-square test procedures were used to determine the statistical significance of differences. Detailed data regarding responses to specific survey questions is available upon request.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank several individuals for their contributions to this effort. Delora Dixon of the Loveland IT Department for computer programming the selection of residents who received the survey. Members of the Loveland Police Department Senior Volunteers for helping prepare the surveys for mailing.

Most importantly, I want to thank the citizens of Loveland who took the time to complete and return the surveys for analysis. All citizen responses and comments were noted and will be considered thoughtfully and carefully.

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Executive Summary

Significant findings of this survey include:

- 92.8% of respondents feel safe and secure in their neighborhood. Compared to 92.1% in 2009, 94.5% in 2006, 94.6% in 2003 and 93.5% in 2002.
- Fear of crime has remained unchanged for 78.6% of the respondents during the last 12 months. This compares with 72.9% in 2009, 76.0% in 2006 and 72.1% in 2003.
- 63.4% of respondents were moderately to very concerned about identity theft. This is a 7.3% increase compared to responses from the 2003 survey.
- 37.2% of respondents were moderately to very concerned about methamphetamine being manufactured or sold near their home. This compares with 46.7% in 2009 and 45.6% in the 2006 survey.
- 43.9% of respondents were moderately to very concerned about road rage. This compares with 53.8% in 2009, 60.1% in 2006 and 65.0% in 2003.
- 61.7% of respondents were concerned about safety of children at schools compared to 68.3% in 2009, 70.5% in 2006 and 71.2% in 2003.
- 72.5% of respondents were concerned about safety in City parks. However, 89.6% of respondents feel safe using City hike and bike paths.
- 82.5% of respondents felt that budgeting, planning, training and preparing the Police Department for a large scale natural disaster was moderately to very important. Training and planning for dealing with terrorist activity was second with 58.5% and dealing with a pandemic medical illness was 48.1%.
- The same crimes were ranked among the top two in perceived frequency of occurrence for the sixth survey in a row.

Speeding cars ranked number one in all surveys.

Occurs constantly in 15.9% of neighborhoods.

Occurs very frequently in 19.5% of neighborhoods.

Barking dogs ranked number two in all surveys.

Occurs in 93.2% of neighborhoods.

Occurs constantly in 20.4% of neighborhoods.

- According to respondents, 65.7% believe that criminal gang activity never occurs in their neighborhood as compared to 53.6% in 2009, 62.6% in 2006 and 73.3% of 2003 survey responses.

- Ranking of methods for improving public safety in the community included:

1. Police visibility	4. Additional street lights (not traffic lights)
2. More parental control	5. Ability to share data/information with other
3. Neighborhood Watch Programs	law enforcement agencies
- 46.9% of respondents ranked police visibility as the most effective method for improving public safety. 68.5% ranked police visibility in the top three methods.
- Surprisingly few respondents use simple and inexpensive methods for improving their personal safety.
 - Only 44.0% place sticks in their patio door or window tracks.
 - 75.4% do **not** have timers on interior lights.
 - 12.5% do **not** have dead bolt door locks.
- 39.1% of respondents have weapons for self defense compared with 43.1% in 2009, 37.7% in 2006 and 30.7% in 2003.
- 74.0 % of respondents do **not** avoid any area of Loveland during either the day or night as compared to 71.2% in 2009, 73.1% in 2006 and 77.8% in 2003.
- Use and sale of illegal drugs, public intoxication and property theft are major concerns for respondents from District 1.
- Many written comments from respondents across all districts regarded antisocial behavior, drug abuse and public intoxication encountered in downtown Loveland. Focused police action to deal with these criminal activities may be appropriate.

Compilation of Survey Findings

I. Demographics of the Survey Respondents

The number of years that respondents have lived in Loveland.

	<u>2012 survey</u>	<u>2009 survey</u>	<u>2006 survey</u>	<u>2003 survey</u>
50 years & above	5.4% (n= 21)	9.0% (n= 45)	4.9% (n=22)	10.0% (n= 51)
20 to 49 years	32.4% (n=127)	43.0% (n=216)	38.4% (n=174)	71.6% (n=364)
10 to 19 years	22.1% (n= 87)	21.5% (n=108)	20.5% (n= 93)	16.3% (n=83)
Less than 10 years	40.1% (n=157)	26.5% (n=133)	36.2% (n=164)	2.0% (n=10)

Age groups of survey respondents.

19 – 30 years old	7.2% (n=29)	6.7% (n= 34)	7.1% (n=33)	1.9% (n=10)
31 – 42 years old	13.4% (n=54)	12.5% (n= 63)	16.8% (n=78)	4.2% (n=22)
43 – 54 years old	19.2% (n=77)	19.2% (n= 97)	25.3% (n=117)	26.5% (n=138)
55 – 66 years old	25.4% (n=102)	29.4% (n=149)	24.2% (n=112)	28.8% (n=150)
67 years old or older	34.8% (n= 140)	32.2% (n=163)	26.3% (n=122)	38.6% (n=201)

The number of males and females who returned completed surveys for analysis.

Males	42.0% (n=171)	43.7% (n=224)	43.7% (n=205)	50.7% (n=260)
Females	56.3% (n=229)	51.7% (n=264)	54.2% (n=254)	49.3% (n=253)

Respondents reporting that they currently have children between the ages of 5-18 who were attending schools in Loveland.

Yes	19.2% (n=78)	15.3% (n=77)	20.9% (n= 98)	12.3% (n= 64)
No	78.4% (n=319)	84.7% (n=427)	78.4% (n=367)	87.7% (n=457)

Type of households in which survey respondents live.

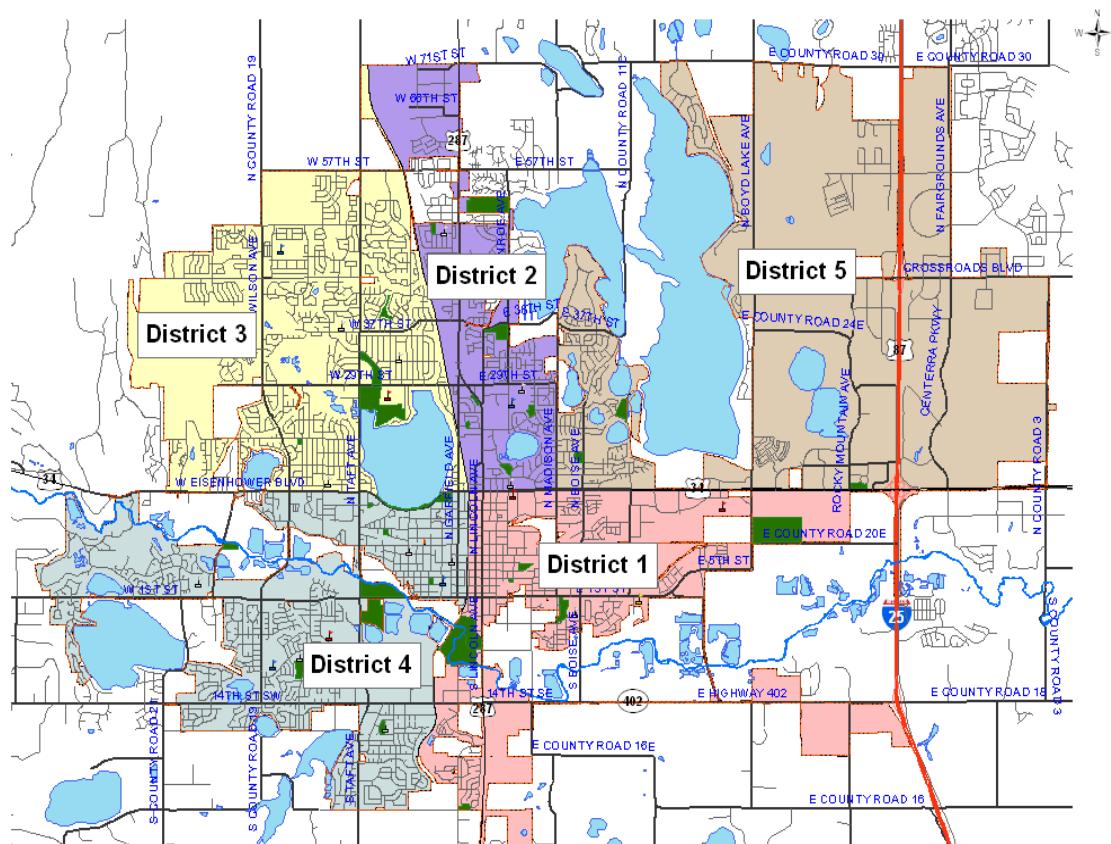
Single adult				
no children under age 18	22.9% (n=92)	25.3% (n=128)	19.1% (n=89)	20.0% (n=103)
Two or more adults				
no children under age 18	53.7% (n=216)	50.7% (n=256)	53.5% (n=249)	67.1% (n=346)
Single adult with child/				
children under age 18	6.0% (n=24)	4.6% (n=23)	5.8% (n=27)	2.1% (n= 11)
Two or more adults with child/				
children under age 18	17.4% (n=70)	19.4% (n=98)	21.5% (n=100)	10.9% (n= 56)

Type of housing in which survey respondents live.

	2012 survey	2009 survey	2006 survey	2003 survey
Single-family house	80.1% (n=322)	82.8% (n=419)	80.0% (n=372)	87.7% (n= 457)
Mobile home	0.7% (n=3)	3.6% (n=18)	1.9% (n=9)	3.3% (n= 17)
Duplex	5.2% (n=21)	5.7% (n=29)	6.0% (n=28)	4.0% (n= 21)
Condo/townhouse	10.0% (n=40)	2.4% (n=12)	8.2% (n=38)	3.5% (n= 18)
Apartment	4.0% (n=16)	5.5% (n=28)	3.9% (n=18)	1.5% (n= 8)

The map below illustrates the five Loveland Police Department Patrol Districts. The percentage and total number of survey respondents from each district was as follows:

Patrol District 1 (Southeast)	15.3% (n=60)	17.3% (n=87)	10.6% (n=48)	1.0% (n=55)
Patrol District 2 (Northcentral)	14.8% (n=58)	20.7% (n=104)	14.0% (n=63)	7.6% (n=88)
Patrol District 3 (Northwest)	29.9% (n=117)	32.6% (n=164)	33.3% (n=150)	7.7% (n=189)
Patrol District 4 (Southwest)	29.2% (n=114)	23.7% (n=119)	34.4% (n=155)	28.1% (n=141)
Patrol District 5 (Northeast)	10.7% (n=42)	5.8% (n=29)	7.8% (n=35)	5.6% (n= 28)



Demographic summary

59.9% of respondents had lived in Loveland for 10 years or more while 40.1% had lived in Loveland an average of 4.4 years.

60.2% of the respondents were 55 years-of-age or older compared to 61.6% in the 2009 survey, 50.5% in the 2006 survey and 67.4% in the 2003 survey.

42.0% of respondents were male, 56.3% were female and 1.7% did not indicate their gender.

District 3 had the highest response rate with 29.9% followed by District 4 (29.2%), District 1 (15.3%), District 2 (14.8%) and District 5 (10.7%).

78.4% of respondents had no children under the age of 18 residing in their home.

80.1% of respondents live in a single-family dwelling.

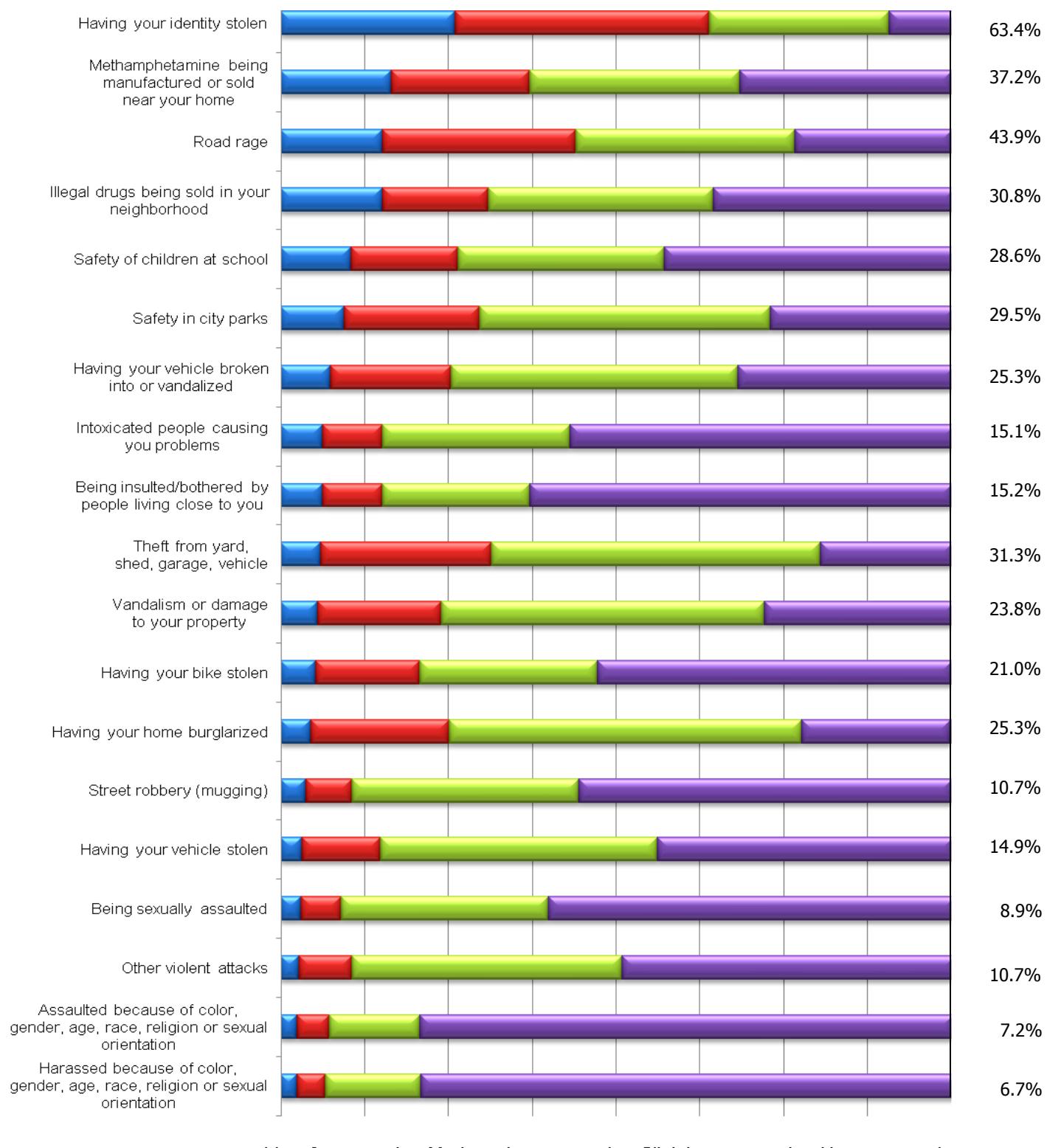
II. Perceptions of Safety and Security

A total of 92.8% of respondents feel safe and secure in their Loveland neighborhood. This percentage has remained essentially unchanged since the year 2000 survey (92.1% in 2009, 94.5% in 2006, 94.6% in 2003, 93.5% in 2002 and 94.2% in 2000). In spite of apparently feeling safe as they go about living in Loveland, 36.2% of respondents are somewhat fearful about crime in Loveland and 2.5% are very fearful. The level of fear of crime in Loveland has remained the same during the past 12 months for 78.6% of respondents but increased for 18.7% of respondents. Changes in the level of fear of crime were not significantly different among patrol districts or gender but were increased among 31-54 year old respondents ($p < .10$) as compared to other age groups. Respondents generally feel quite safe in Loveland especially while walking in their neighborhood during the day (96.5%) or at night (84.0%), while crossing the street in their neighborhood (88.2%), using parking areas in their neighborhood (93.9%), using the City's hike and bike paths (89.6%) or using public transportation (91.7%). However, females do not feel as safe as males while walking in their neighborhoods after dark ($p < .001$). A total of 25.7% of respondents did not feel safe while bicycling on City streets. Perceptions of safety were not significantly different among patrol districts.

The chart below summarizes the level of concern which respondents reported about various criminal activities in their neighborhood.

How concerned are you about the following happening in the area in which you live?

The percentage of respondents either very concerned or moderately concerned is indicated at the right of each bar.



■ Very Concerned ■ Moderately concerned ■ Slightly concerned ■ Not concerned

Respondents in this survey expressed greater concern about the possible occurrence of particular crimes in their neighborhood than their perception of the actual occurrence of such crimes (comparison of survey Questions 9 and 17). Heightened levels of concern about possible occurrence of a crime likely help reduce actual occurrence of crime due to citizen implementation of procedures and behaviors that prevent criminal activity. Examples include avoiding certain places at night, installing home security devices and protecting their personal identity.

Identity theft and the manufacture or sale of methamphetamine were the top two concerns among respondents in the survey. A total of 63.4% of respondents were moderately to very concerned about **identity theft**. Respondents who were 55-66 years-of-age were much more concerned about identity theft (76.4%, p<.002) than any other age group while respondents who were less than 43 years-of-age were less concerned (51.2%). Differences in level of concern among gender and patrol district in which respondents lived were not statistically significant.

The **manufacture or sale of methamphetamine** in their neighborhood was of moderate to very important concern to 37.2% of respondents while the use or sale of illegal drugs in their neighborhood was of moderate to very important concern to 30.8% of respondents. Respondents from patrol District 1 were more concerned about the use or sale of illegal drugs in their neighborhood (p<.06) than were respondents from other districts. Illegal drug activity occurred very frequently in 9.3% of neighborhoods and hardly ever occurred in 64.7% of neighborhoods. Differences in level of concern about drug abuse or sale among gender and age groups were not statistically significant.

A total of 43.9% of respondents were moderately to very concerned about **road rage**. Whether the concern about road rage involves respondents as drivers of vehicles, pedestrians or as bicyclists on City streets cannot be determined from the survey. A total of 88.2% of respondents felt safe crossing the road in their neighborhood while 74.3% felt safe bicycling on City streets. Differences among age, gender or patrol districts for concerns about road rage or related safety issues were not statistically significant.

Law enforcement efforts to curb excessive speed, careless driving, drunk driving and driver fatigue may help to modify unsafe road use behavior or road rage. Respondents may feel unsafe if one or more drivers consistently drive at excessive speeds or carelessly up and down the streets in their neighborhoods.

A total of 28.6% of respondents were moderately to very concerned about the **safety of children in schools**. Safety of children at school was of some level of concern to 61.7% of all respondents with males being more concerned than females (65.8 vs 57.9%, p<.10). Respondents who were 31-54 years-of-age and older than 66 years were more concerned than other age groups (34.1 vs 16.7%, p<.001). The community is apparently concerned about the criminal activity that does or may occur in the school environment. School children are among the most defenseless populations in our community. Police resources likely need to remain significantly focused on their safety.

Safety in City parks was of some level of concern to 72.5% of respondents with females being more concerned than males (75.2 vs 69.4%, p<.03). Differences in level of concern were not statistically significant among age groups or patrol districts. Citizens may feel vulnerable to criminal activity when few other people are present in the park. However, 89.6% of respondents feel safe while using the City **hike and bike paths** with no statistically significant differences in level of concern among age, gender or patrol district in which respondents lived.

Vandalism, property theft, motor vehicle theft and **burglary** were at moderate to very concerned levels for 15–31% of respondents. Respondents who were less than 55 years-of-age ($p<.001$) or female ($p<.06$) were more concerned about theft of their bicycle than males or other age groups. Males were more concerned than females about having their vehicle broken into or vandalized (77.6 vs 60.2%, $p<.003$). Property theft was of moderate to very important concern to 31.3% of respondents but only 1.5% reported that property theft occurred very frequently in their neighborhood. Respondents who were less than 43 years-of-age reported that thefts of property ($p<.03$) and autos ($p<.08$) occurred more frequently in their neighborhoods. Property thefts were perceived to occur less often in patrol Districts 3 and 4 than in other districts (24.0 vs 10.1 %, $p<.003$).

Problems caused by **intoxicated persons** were of moderate to very important concern to 21.3% of respondents. Public intoxication was perceived to occur three times more often among 19-30 year old respondents (15.0 vs 4.5%, $p<.002$) than among older age groups. This problem was of much greater concern to respondents from District 1 than from other patrol districts (58.3 vs 40.1%, $p<.04$).

Anti-social behavior involving **insult, harassment, mugging** and **assault** were of moderate to very important concern to only 7-15% of respondents. Respondents who were less than 43 years-of-age were more concerned about being insulted or bothered by other people than were older age groups (29.3 vs 11.8%, $p<.008$). All other differences among age, gender and patrol districts were not statistically significant. Concern about harassment, assault and other violent attacks was comparatively low along with the perception of the frequency of occurrence of such crimes in respondent's neighborhoods. This is concurrent with the high feeling of safety while walking in their neighborhood during the day expressed by 96.5% of respondents. Many of the written comments received from respondents involved concerns about all types of antisocial behavior, public intoxication and drug abuse activity in the downtown area.

Sexual assault was a moderate to very important concern for 8.9% of respondents but hardly ever occurred in 91.9% of neighborhoods. Women were much more concerned about sexual assault than men (56.0 vs 19.0%, $p<.001$) while respondents older than 66 years-of-age were much less concerned (23.2 vs 48.8%, $p<.001$) than younger age groups. Differences among patrol districts were not statistically significant.

Respondents ranked **speeding cars** as the most frequently occurring crime in their neighborhood. This was especially so for respondents who were more than 30 years-of-age ($p<.06$). Speeding cars were perceived to occur very frequently in 35.4% of neighborhoods and constantly in 15.9% of neighborhoods with no statistically significant differences among gender or patrol districts. Respondents ranked increased police visibility, better enforcement of drunk/drug driving laws, improved driver education, speed enforcement through cameras and lower speed limits 1st, 7th, 11th, 16th and 20th, respectively, out of 20 methods for improving public safety. Many of the written comments received from respondents involved concerns about speeding cars.

Barking dogs occur in the neighborhoods of 93.2% of respondents with 37.2% reporting that dogs barked almost constantly in their neighborhood. Barking dogs and **dogs and cats running loose** ranked as the second and fourth most frequently occurring criminal activity, respectively, in Loveland neighborhoods. Dogs and cats were perceived to run loose in the neighborhoods of 82.6% of respondents and almost constantly by 29.1%.

A total of 24.6% of respondents reported that **unsupervised youth** occurred in their neighborhoods. Parental control was the second most frequently suggested method of improving public safety in the community. **Graffiti** never occurs in 38.0% of neighborhoods while **gang activity** never occurs in 65.7% of neighborhoods.

III. Measures Taken to Increase Personal Safety

The percent of respondents who indicated that they had any of the following items in their home was as follows:

	2012	2009	2006	2003
Dead bolt door locks	87.5% (n=356)	77.6% (n=398)	81.8% (n=369)	74.1% (n=386)
Exterior motion activated lighting	28.3% (n=115)	39.0% (n=200)	28.6% (n=129)	32.4% (n= 69)
Weapons for self defense	39.1% (n=159)	43.1% (n=221)	37.7% (n=170)	30.7% (n=160)
Broom sticks in patio door/window tracks	44.0% (n=179)	33.5% (n=172)	38.1% (n=172)	29.6% (n= 54)
Exterior flood lights	27.3% (n=111)	28.5% (n=146)	24.4% (n=110)	24.4% (n=127)
Timers for turning on interior lights	24.6% (n=100)	18.1% (n=93)	21.1% (n= 95)	27.4% (n=143)
Guard dogs	3.7% (n=15)	17.9% (n=92)	16.4% (n= 74)	13.6% (n= 71)
Security alarm	9.8% (n=40)	5.1% (n=26)	6.2% (n= 28)	8.8% (n= 46)

Interestingly, only 44.0% of respondents place sticks in their patio door or window tracks, 75.4% do not have timers on interior lights and 12.5% do not have dead bolt door locks. All of these are simple and inexpensive methods of increasing personal safety. Educational programs by Loveland Police Department personnel regarding some of these methods for improving personal safety might be beneficial to the community.

Fewer female than male respondents indicated that their homes had dead bolt locks (87.3 vs 94.6%, $p<.02$). Only 15.0% of respondents who were less than 55 years-of-age had timers for turning on interior lights in their homes while 31.0% of older respondents had such timers ($p<.007$). Over half (54.2%) of males indicated that they had weapons of self defense at home as compared to 30.0% of females ($p<.001$). Respondents who were less than 55 years-of age were more likely to have weapons of self defense than older respondents (48.8 vs 33.1%, $p<.03$). Differences in the measures taken to increase personal safety were not statistically significant among patrol districts.

IV. Methods of Improving Public Safety

Respondents were asked to rank the effectiveness of 20 different methods for improving public safety in Loveland. The table appearing on the next page ranks the methods on the basis of the most frequently occurring value assigned by respondents (mode).

Police visibility is the most effective method for improving public safety according to 46.9% of survey respondents. More parental control ranked as the second most effective method. These methods were also ranked as the top two most effective in the 2009, 2006 and 2003 surveys. City Departments other than the Police Department could help improve public safety by working with the citizens and acting on some of these suggestions. For example, better street lighting, cleaning up trashy areas in the City, reducing overgrown shrubs and trees, reducing on-street parking and providing bicycle lanes involve cooperative efforts among several City departments.

Respondents were also asked to indicate the importance of budgeting, planning, training and preparing the Police Department for dealing with large scale natural disasters, terrorist activity and pandemic

medical illnesses. A total of 82.5% of respondents felt that preparation for large scale natural disasters was moderately to very important. Preparation for natural disasters was more important to females than males ($p<.09$). A total of 58.5% of respondents felt that preparation for dealing with terrorist activity was important. However, it was much more important to respondents over 66 years-of-age than to those under 31 years-of-age (67.4 vs 37.9%, $p<.001$). Budgeting, planning, training and preparation for pandemic medical illness were moderately to very important for 48.1% of the respondents and were more important to respondents over 42 years-of-age than to younger groups (50.3 vs 38.5%, $p<.05$).

Respondent ranking of methods for improving public safety

- 1.** Police visibility
- 2.** More parental control
- 3.** Neighborhood watch programs
- 4.** Additional street lights (not traffic lights)
- 5.** Ability for local law enforcement agencies to share data and information
- 6.** Police officer and staff training
- 7.** Better enforcement of drunk/drug driving laws
- 8.** Clean up trashy areas of the City
- 9.** Additional school resource officers in the schools
- 10.** Reduce overgrown shrubs and trees
- 11.** Improve driver education
- 12.** Northern Colorado regional crime lab
- 13.** Use of laptop computers in the officer's vehicle
- 14.** Carry personal alarms/self defense
- 15.** More bicycle lanes
- 16.** Speed and/or red light enforcement through cameras
- 17.** Less on-street parking
- 18.** Mark household valuables with identification tags
- 19.** Police substation at the outdoor mall
- 20.** Lower speed limits

V. Neighborhood Criminal Activities

Respondents were asked to record how often particular crimes occurred in their Loveland neighborhoods on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = "never occurs" and 5 = "constantly occurs"). The following table ranks the perceived frequency of criminal activity from most often at the top to most infrequent at the bottom of the table.

2012 Rank	Concern/Crime	Mean	Number of responses	2009 Rank	2006 Rank	2003 Rank	2002 Rank	2000 Rank
1	speeding cars	3.15	359	1	1	1	1	1
2	barking dogs	3.15	339	2	2	2	2	2
3	running stop signs	2.82	291	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4	dogs running loose	2.77	298	5	4	3	3	4
5	unsupervised juveniles/youth	2.66	293	3	3	4	5	3
6	code violations	2.35	211	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7	illegal drug activity	2.28	215	6	5	11	11	12
8	loud parties or noises	2.12	292	7	6	6	6	6
9	graffiti	1.97	237	10	13	20	15	14
10	theft from automobiles	1.96	234	8	10	8	10	9
11	vandalism	1.95	259	11	7	7	8	7
12	domestic violence	1.93	193	14	10	12	12	11
13	other thefts	1.91	198	12	12	9	9	10
14	violence in schools	1.91	148	13	8	n/a	n/a	n/a
15	abandoned or junk vehicles	1.86	270	8	9	10	7	8
16	public intoxication	1.70	248	18	15	14	16	16
17	vagrancy/loitering	1.70	241	17	16	16	17	18
18	burglary	1.67	202	16	14	13	13	13
19	criminal gang activity	1.59	181	14	18	18	19	17
20	auto theft	1.51	189	4	17	15	18	20
21	sexual assaults	1.40	172	20	20	21	21	21
22	personal assaults	1.39	193	19	19	19	20	19

Respondents indicated that speeding cars and barking dogs were the most frequently occurring criminal activities in their neighborhoods for the sixth survey in a row. The perceived frequency of auto theft

activity decreased from 4th place in 2009 to 20th this year. The lower ranking is consistent with surveys prior to 2009. The frequency of abandoned or junk cars decreased from 8th place in 2009 to 15th this year which is similar to surveys prior to 2009. Graffiti continues to increase in perceived frequency. It was in last place in the 2003 survey and is now listed as the 9th most frequent crime in local neighborhoods. Violence in schools has dropped from 8th place in 2006 to 14th this year. The 3rd and 6th most frequently occurring criminal activities were running stop signs and code violations, respectively, which were not included in previous surveys. The remaining crimes showed little change in rank between the year 2009, 2006, 2003, 2002 and 2000 surveys.

The extreme similarity of responses between the surveys done during the past twelve years would appear to indicate that the criminal activities occurring in Loveland neighborhoods generally remained the same. Furthermore, the $\pm 5\%$ sampling error disallows accurate determination of actual changes in perceptions or clear determination of trends across years unless those changes are large (greater than 10%).

VI. Areas of Loveland Which Citizens Avoid

Respondents were asked whether or not they avoided particular areas in Loveland for **fear of crime** and, if so, to indicate the location. A total of 74.0% of respondents indicated that they did not avoid any area of Loveland for fear of crime either during the day or at night as compared to 71.2% in the 2009 survey, 73.1% in 2006 and 77.8% in 2003. A total of 26.0% of respondents avoided certain areas. Of the 95 responses that indicated they avoid certain areas, 90.5% indicated they avoid the area on Friday and Saturday nights. Respondent's listed specific areas they most often avoided as downtown, City parks and the hike and bike paths.