From 1985 to 1991 the percentage of all U.S. households identifying "crime" as a neighborhood problem increased from 5% to 7%, according to the American Housing Survey. Crime has become a particular neighborhood concern among black households. Asked what bothers them about their neighborhood, the percentage of all black households reporting "crime" almost doubled from 9% to 17%. Among central city black households in 1991, 23% said "crime" was a neighborhood problem, up from 12% in 1985.

Black households were most likely to identify "crime" as a neighborhood problem, 1985-91

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of residence</th>
<th>All households</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Elderly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Excludes missing data and those occupant units not considered in a neighborhood, ranging from 1% to 4% of units in subpopulations.

Question: "Is there anything about the neighborhood that bothers you?"
which includes disliked neighbors, while "crime" was mentioned by 12%. In 1989 and 1991 "crime" displaced "people" as the most often specified problem.

The percentage of all white households mentioning "crime" as a neighborhood problem also increased during this period, but it was consistently lower than that of black households. Among white central city households, "crime" never became the most frequently mentioned neighborhood problem, despite an increase from 8% in 1985 to 13% in 1991.

- Central city households (15%) were more likely to have identified "crime" as a neighborhood problem in 1991 than suburban households (5%) or rural households (2%). This has been the case since 1985 when this particular question was first asked.

Perception reflects victimization

In general, how different types of households assessed neighborhood crime reflected how much they were victimized by crime. Black households regularly mentioned "crime" as a neighborhood problem more frequently than white households and have consistently had a higher percentage of violent crime victimization as well as overall victimization.

- During the period addressed by this report, central city households were consistently more likely to have experienced a violent crime than either suburban or rural households.

Most State prison inmates report having committed their offense outside their own neighborhood

The 1991 BJS survey of State prison inmates found a majority (57%) of inmates had committed the offense for which they were serving time outside their own neighborhood. This included an estimated 69% of property offenders and 55% of violent offenders.

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