



August 2025

Community Attitudes Toward the Use of Technology in Law Enforcement

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Executive Summary

This report presents findings from a community survey conducted in Leon County, Florida, home to the state capital, Tallahassee. The survey assessed residents' views on law enforcement technologies, their perceived effectiveness, privacy concerns, satisfaction with law enforcement, and broader crime and safety issues. It also examined how these opinions varied across socio-demographic groups such as household income, race and ethnicity, age, and neighborhood crime rates. Below are the key findings and policy recommendations:

- **General Support for Law Enforcement Technologies:** The survey revealed broad support for law enforcement technologies, especially for their perceived effectiveness in reducing crime and improving public safety. Technologies like closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) and the real time crime center (RTCC) received the highest levels of support, while automated license plate readers (ALPR) had the least favorable reception.
- **Low Public Awareness of Law Enforcement Technologies:** A significant portion of respondents were unaware of many of the law enforcement technologies currently in use, particularly ALPR, facial recognition systems (FRS), and the RTCC. This suggests a need for increased community outreach and education to raise awareness about how these technologies work and their role in public safety.
- **Public Concern About Crime:** A large proportion of respondents across all socio-demographic groups view crime as at least "somewhat of a problem" in Tallahassee and Leon County, with at least 50% of nearly every socio-demographic group considering crime to be "a big problem." However, residents are notably less concerned about neighborhood crime compared to perceptions of crime in the broader city and county. Nonetheless, crime remains a significant issue for most residents.
- **Privacy Concerns Across Demographics:** Privacy concerns are more pronounced among lower-income groups and racial and ethnic minorities, who are more likely to express apprehension about technologies like CCTV, FRS, and social media searches (SMS). This underscores the need for targeted outreach efforts to address privacy concerns and provide transparency on how these technologies are used.
- **Favorable Attitudes Toward Local Law Enforcement:** Overall, residents expressed a positive sentiment toward local law enforcement, with high levels of satisfaction regarding police efforts to address crime in their neighborhoods. While most groups were satisfied,



August 2025

lower-income and minority communities expressed slightly lower levels of satisfaction and greater concerns about transparency.

- **Generational Differences in Technology Perceptions:** Older residents (65+) generally expressed higher levels of support for law enforcement technologies, while younger residents (under 30) showed more privacy concerns and were less supportive of certain technologies, particularly ALPR and FRS.
- **Racial and Ethnic Differences in Technology Perceptions:** There were notable differences in attitudes toward technologies based on race and ethnicity, with Black and Hispanic respondents showing more skepticism toward technologies like ALPR and FRS compared to White respondents. However, these groups showed more support for the RTCC, indicating the importance of targeting specific concerns in different communities.
- **Neighborhood Crime Rate and Technology Support:** Residents in low-crime neighborhoods expressed higher levels of support for certain technologies like CCTV, while those in high-crime neighborhoods were more skeptical, especially regarding the effectiveness of these tools in reducing crime.
- **Transparency Concerns:** Transparency was a concern, especially among lower-income and minority groups, who expressed lower satisfaction with law enforcement's transparency in using these technologies. Increasing transparency and public engagement can help build trust, especially in communities with heightened skepticism.
- **Targeted Policy Recommendations:** The findings suggest that law enforcement agencies should prioritize outreach, education, and transparency to address community concerns, with specific efforts focused on racial and ethnic minorities, lower-income populations, and younger generations. Furthermore, effective communication strategies, grounded in research and best practices, should be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of technologies like ALPR, CCTV, and the RTCC in reducing crime and enhancing public safety.

Over the past several decades, technological advancements have transformed nearly every sector of society, including industries such as manufacturing, transportation, education and health care. Law enforcement agencies have also adapted, leveraging advancements in computing and technology to enhance efficiency, improve communication, and increase operational effectiveness (Carter, 2009; Willis et al., 2018). For example, the introduction of cell phones and portable computers in patrol cars

significantly improved how officers and deputies gather, analyze, and share information. The increasing use of computers also led to programs like COMPSTAT, which reshaped how agencies make strategic decisions and allocate limited policing resources (Weisburd, et al. 2002). Similarly, the widespread adoption of computerized record management systems (RMS) and computer-aided dispatch systems (CAD) has transformed agency operations (Byrne and Marx 2011). Building on these



August 2025

innovations, law enforcement agencies are now experiencing a second technological revolution, characterized by the increasing use of advanced technologies such as automated license plate readers (ALPR), closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV), facial recognition systems (FRS), and social media searches (SMS).

These technologies are seen as essential for improving law enforcement efficiency. More recently, the adoption of ALPRs allows for automatic scanning of license plates, significantly speeding up the process of tracking vehicles. Other technologies, such as body-worn cameras (BWC), drones, and real-time crime centers (RTCCs), further enhance transparency and support investigations. Research indicates that agencies using these tools experience reduced response times and improved case clearance rates (Choi et al., 2014; Goldenberg et al., 2014; Hollywood, et al., 2019; Mazerolle et al., 1998; Morrow et al., 2016). Moreover, these technologies are believed to improve officer safety, increase crime-solving efficiency, and contribute to overall crime reduction (Ariel et al., 2015; Hollywood et al., 2019; Morrow et al., 2016). Likewise, many cities are exploring the use of gunshot detection technology (GDT), designed to automatically detect and report gunshots using acoustic sensors.

However, the increased use of various technologies in law enforcement, particularly those involving enhanced surveillance, has raised concerns about privacy and civil liberties. Critics argue that these tools may intrude too deeply into civilians' daily lives and disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color (ACLU, 2020; Fasman, 2021; Isakjee & Allen, 2013;

Rainie et al., 2022). Conversely, law enforcement agencies contend that these are often the same communities where crime rates are high, and many demands for increased surveillance and police resources come from residents within these neighborhoods. While both perspectives may have merit, a lack of empirical evidence remains, and thus rigorous systematic research is needed to understand public perceptions of surveillance technologies and their implications for privacy and crime reduction. This report aims to fill this gap by examining attitudes toward these technologies in the overall population and across various socio-demographic groups.

The purpose of this report is to present findings from a survey conducted in Leon County, Florida, home to Tallahassee, a medium-sized city in the Southeast where many of these law enforcement technologies are currently used. The survey's primary objective was to assess opinions on law enforcement technologies, including awareness of their usage, perceived effectiveness in reducing crime, and privacy concerns. In addition to these technology-specific questions, the survey also gathered information on residents' concerns about crime in their neighborhood and in the broader city and county, as well as their attitudes toward law enforcement. These additional questions provide context to the findings about law enforcement technology, helping to frame how residents' perceptions of crime and law enforcement may influence their views on technology. All questions were broken down by four—age, household income, race and ethnicity, and neighborhood crime levels—allowing us to explore how these factors shape residents' perceptions and attitudes.



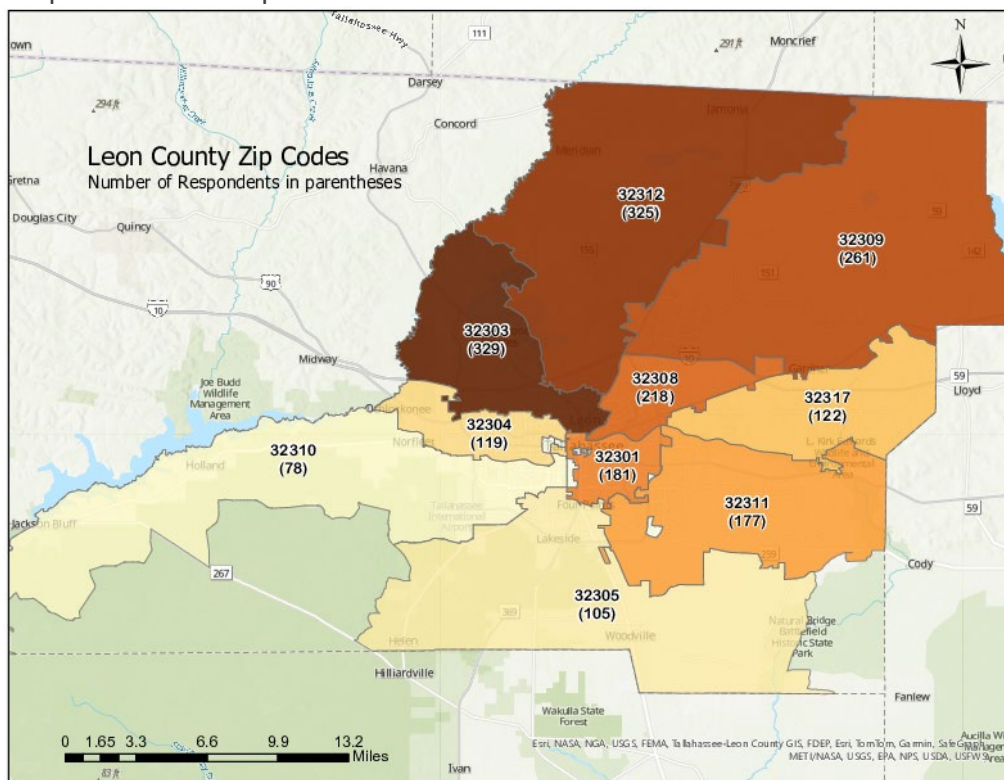
August 2025

About the Survey

The survey was administered to a random sample of residential addresses from the U.S. Postal Service Delivery Sequence File using the ‘push-to-web followed by mail’ method. This approach combines the advantages of probability-based sampling with mailed questionnaires and the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of online surveys (Dillman 2017; Lynn 2020). The initial mailing in September 2023 included a cover letter with a web address and QR code directing respondents to the online survey. Non-respondents received three follow-up mailings, with the final reminder sent in mid-December. The second follow-up included a printed copy of the survey and a

self-addressed, stamped envelope for those without internet access or preferring a printed survey. In total, 1,915 surveys were completed from 15,000 mailed invitations to participate. This response rate of about 13% is consistent with prior research comparing response rates across different survey modes (Sinclair et al., 2012). Appendix 1 provides descriptive statistics of the respondents, showing that the sample skews more White, educated, and affluent compared to the population of Leon County. As shown in the map below, responses were received from all Leon County zip codes, except those consisting solely of non-residential areas, such as university and state government campuses.

Figure 1.
Responses Across Zip Codes





August 2025

Results for the Full Sample

Views on the Use of Technology in Law Enforcement

Respondents were asked about their views on several technologies, many of which are currently used by local law enforcement. These technologies included automated license plate readers (ALPR), closed circuit television cameras (CCTV), social media searches (SMS), facial recognition systems (FRS), body-worn cameras (BWC), gunshot detection technology (GDT), and the real time crime center (RTCC). Anticipating that many residents would be unfamiliar with these terms, respondents were given brief descriptions of each technology in the questionnaire. Respondents were asked whether they believed these technologies were currently in use, whether they were effective in reducing crime, and whether they posed privacy concerns.

Figure 2 shows the percentage of respondents who were unsure or incorrect about whether each technology was being used by their local law enforcement agency. It is important to note that all of these technologies, except GDT, were used by local law enforcement at the time of the survey. The results reveal significant gaps in public awareness. For every technology except BWCs, more than half of respondents were unsure or incorrect about whether the technology was in use. This lack of awareness was particularly high for ALPR, FRS, and GDT, each of which exceeded 80%. Additionally, over 75% of respondents were unaware of the RTCC. The significant lack of knowledge about these technologies highlights a potential barrier to effective community policing and public trust. It suggests that law enforcement agencies may

need to enhance their outreach and education efforts to inform residents about the technologies being used in their communities, the purposes of these technologies, and their intended benefits.

Figure 2.

Knowledge of Technologies in Use

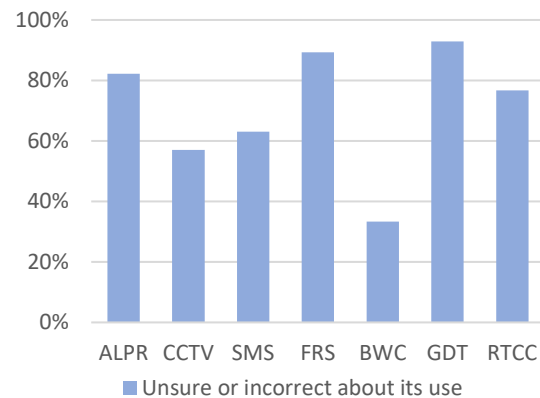


Figure 3 shows respondents' views on the usefulness of each technology for reducing crime. The data reveal that at least 50% of respondents agreed that each technology could help reduce crime, with particularly favorable views toward CCTV and the RTCC, both exceeding 70%. Notably, ALPR received the least favorable support, with just over half of respondents believing it contributes to crime reduction. Examining the other end of the spectrum—the percentage of respondents who *disagreed* that the technologies are useful for reducing crime—reveals that fewer than 20% held unfavorable views toward any of the technologies. This suggests that the vast majority either see the technologies as beneficial or have no opinion, and only small percentages believe these technologies are not useful. These results indicate broad support for law enforcement technologies, but also some hesitation about the effectiveness of specific tools.



August 2025

Figure 3.
Are these Technologies Useful for Reducing Crime?

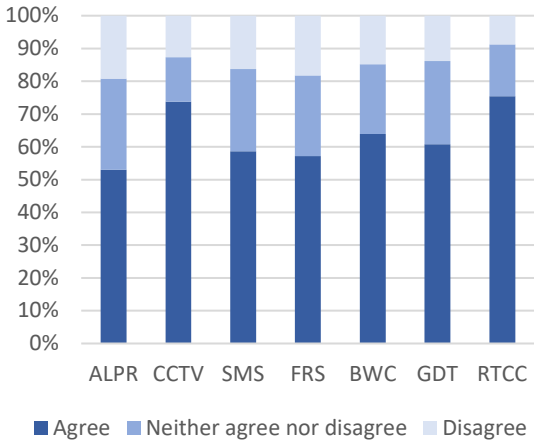
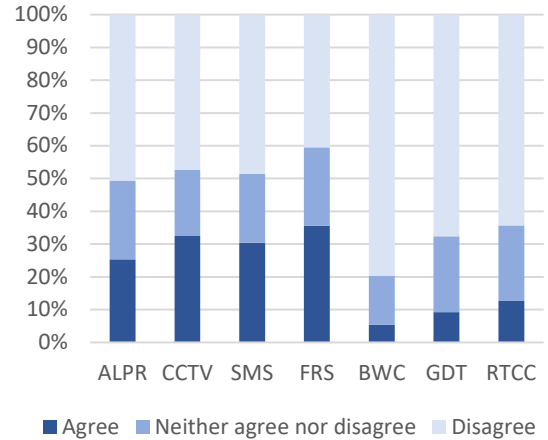


Figure 4 presents the findings regarding privacy concerns related to these technologies. The results reveal that the majority of respondents do not view these technologies as infringing on their privacy. Fewer than 6% expressed concern about BWCs, and only around 10% were concerned about GDT and the RTCC. FRS and CCTV raised the most concern, with approximately one-third of respondents expressing apprehensions about privacy. These findings suggest that while privacy is not a major concern for most residents, certain technologies, particularly those involving surveillance, may require further public education and transparency.

Figure 4.
Do these Technologies Infringe on Privacy?



The next two figures present responses to questions asking which goals are likely to be improved by the use of technology in law enforcement, as well as additional, more detailed questions about specific technologies. Figure 5 shows that 60% or more of respondents believe law enforcement technology helps reduce crime, save lives, shorten police response times, and improve neighborhood or county safety; fewer than 8% believe that none of the goals are improved. This strong support reflects a community expectation that technology can play a significant role in enhancing safety and efficiency in law enforcement.



August 2025

Figure 5.
Which Goals are Likely to be Improved by the use of Technology

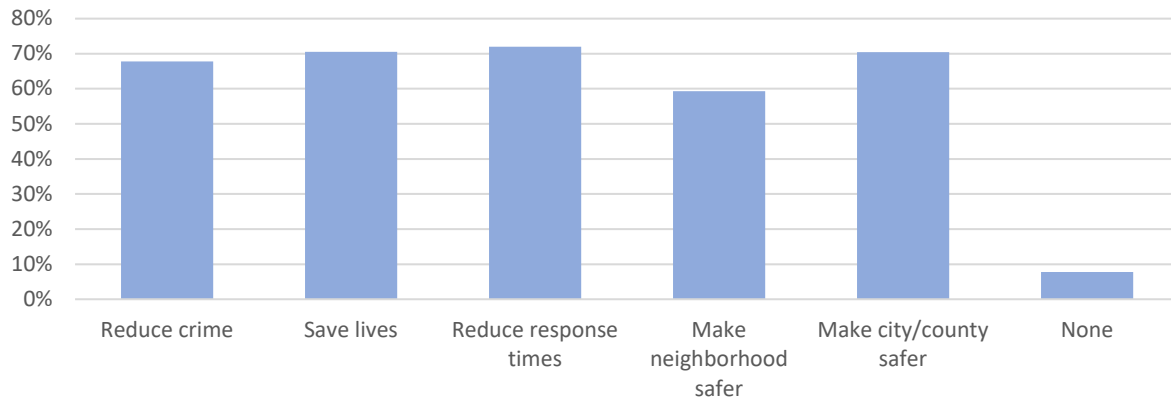
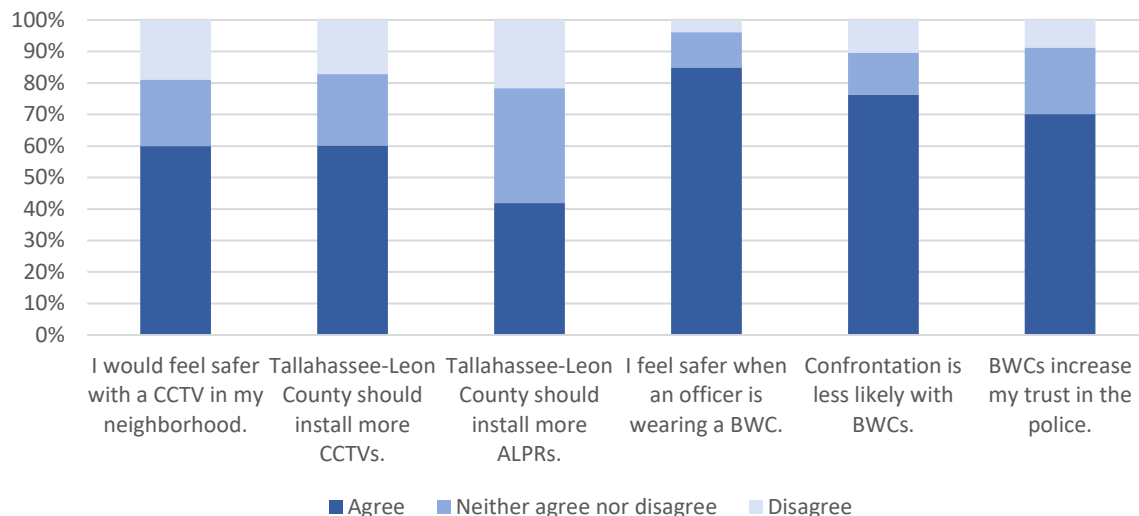


Figure 6 presents responses to more detailed questions about certain technologies. Notably, 60% of respondents indicated they would feel safer with a CCTV camera in their neighborhood, and the same percentage believes more CCTVs should be installed in the city and county. In contrast, respondents were less favorable toward ALPRs, with fewer than half (42%) reporting they would like more of them. Attitudes toward BWCs are especially positive, with more than 70%

reporting they would feel safer if an officer was wearing a BWC (85%), that confrontation is less likely with BWCs (76%), and that BWCs increase trust in the police (70%). These findings suggest a favorable perception of technologies that enhance community safety and foster trust, while the mixed feelings toward ALPRs highlight the need for continued dialogue and education regarding their role in policing

Figure 6.
Additional technology Specific Questions





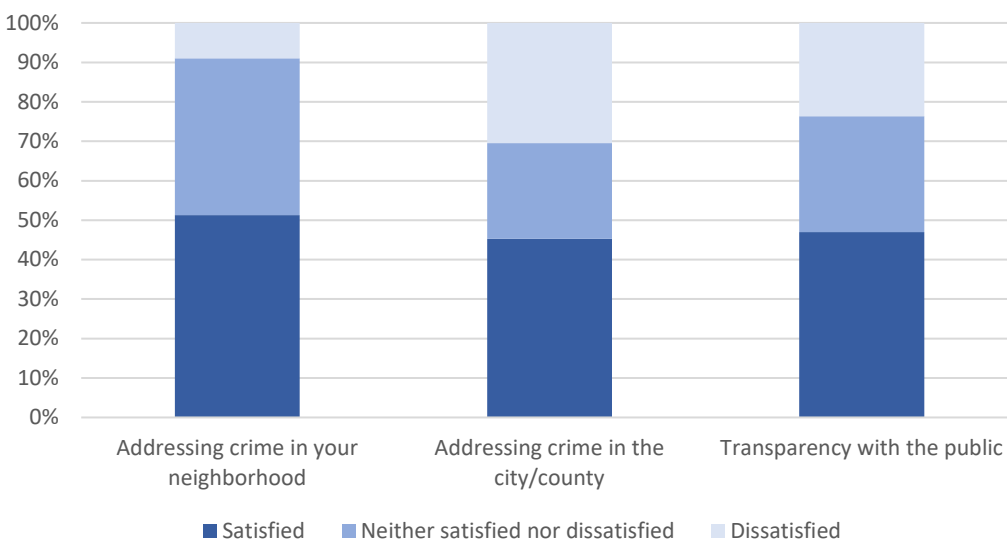
August 2025

Satisfaction with Law Enforcement and Fear of Crime

Understanding community perceptions of crime, personal safety, and law enforcement effectiveness is important for evaluating the role of technology in policing. Satisfaction with law enforcement efforts and fear of crime are deeply intertwined, influencing how residents view their neighborhoods, interact with law enforcement, and respond to the presence of surveillance technologies. This section explores two key aspects of public opinion: respondents' satisfaction with law enforcement's effectiveness in addressing crime and their broader concerns about crime in their city, county, and neighborhood. By examining these factors, we can better understand how community perceptions of crime and safety may influence support for or opposition to the use of law enforcement technologies.

Figure 7 presents respondents' attitudes toward law enforcement, focusing on satisfaction with how police address crime in neighborhoods and in the broader city or county, as well as perceptions of transparency among law enforcement agencies. A majority of respondents expressed general satisfaction, with over half reporting they were satisfied with law enforcement efforts in their neighborhoods and fewer than 10% expressing dissatisfaction. Satisfaction levels were slightly lower for law enforcement's handling of crime at the city/county level, with fewer than 50% reporting satisfaction and over 30% expressing dissatisfaction. Likewise, fewer than half of respondents were satisfied with the transparency of law enforcement in their interactions with the public.

Figure 7.
Satisfaction with Law Enforcement





August 2025

Figures 8 and 9 present residents' general perceptions of crime and safety. Figure 8 shows how residents perceive crime as a problem in Tallahassee-Leon County. Approximately 53% view crime as a "big problem," with an additional 39% considering it "somewhat of a problem," indicating widespread concern. Only about 8% perceive crime as a lesser issue. Figure 9 focuses on how safe residents feel walking alone in their neighborhood after dark. The findings reveal that residents tend to feel safer in their own neighborhoods than in the broader city and county. Over one-third reported feeling "very safe" walking alone at night, and nearly three-quarters felt at least "somewhat safe." In contrast, about 17% felt "somewhat unsafe" and only 10% felt "very unsafe" in their neighborhood.

Figure 8.
How Big of a Problem is Crime in Tallahassee-Leon County Overall?

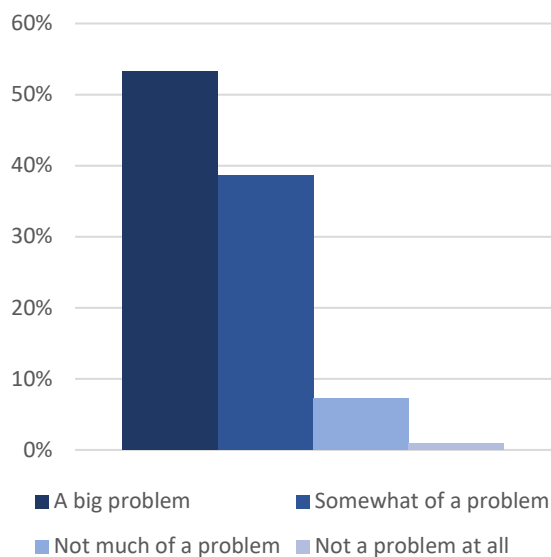
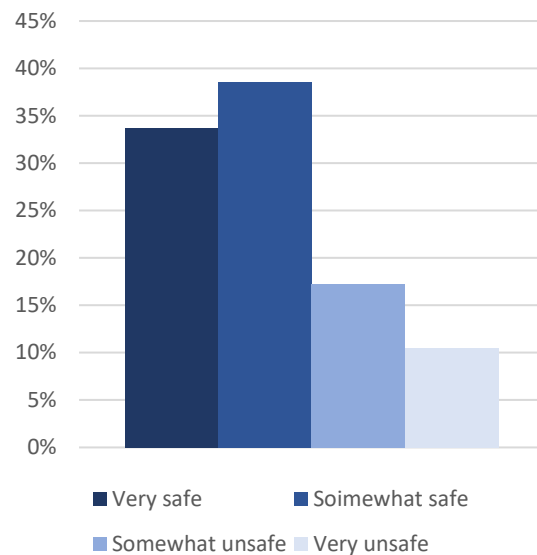


Figure 9.
How Safe do You Feel Walking Alone in Your Neighborhood After Dark?



Overall, the survey findings indicate significant concern about crime within the community, particularly in the broader city and county, and a generally positive sense of safety within residents' neighborhoods. While crime is viewed as a considerable issue, many residents report feeling safe in their own neighborhoods, suggesting that perceptions of safety can vary at the neighborhood level compared to broader community concerns. These general attitudes provide a foundation for understanding how socio-demographic characteristics may influence opinions on crime, safety, and law enforcement technology, which will be explored in the following sections.



August 2025

Policy Recommendations Based on the Full Sample Results

The findings to this point suggest several key policy implications for law enforcement agencies considering the use of advanced surveillance technologies:

- **Enhanced Community Outreach and Education:** The significant lack of public awareness, particularly regarding technologies like ALPR, FRS, and the RTCC, highlights the need for law enforcement to enhance outreach and education efforts. Agencies should prioritize transparency and public engagement to ensure residents understand how these technologies work and contribute to crime reduction.
- **Public Engagement and Transparency:** Law enforcement should engage the community through public forums, town halls, and online platforms to allow open discussions and address concerns about surveillance technologies. Transparent communication about how these technologies enhance public safety while safeguarding privacy will be essential to build trust.
- **Privacy Protection:** With varying levels of privacy concerns among residents, law enforcement should conduct broad public education campaigns to clarify how these technologies are used and the measures in place to protect privacy. Clear communication on data usage, storage, and security can help alleviate concerns.
- **Reinforcing Effectiveness Through Evidence:** While residents are generally positive but cautious about the effectiveness of these technologies, law enforcement should reinforce the message

that these tools are effective in reducing crime and enhancing public safety. Drawing on objective, rigorous research and evidence-based studies will help support these claims and align law enforcement actions with public expectations.

Results Broken Down by Respondent Characteristics

The results presented above offer an overview of respondents' general attitudes toward law enforcement technologies, satisfaction with law enforcement, and concerns about crime and neighborhood safety. While these findings provide valuable insights into the community's overall perspectives, exploring how these views differ across subgroups can reveal important patterns and help understand how various factors shape residents' perceptions of law enforcement and safety. This section examines these variations by household income, age, race and ethnicity, and neighborhood crime levels.

Breakdowns by Household Income

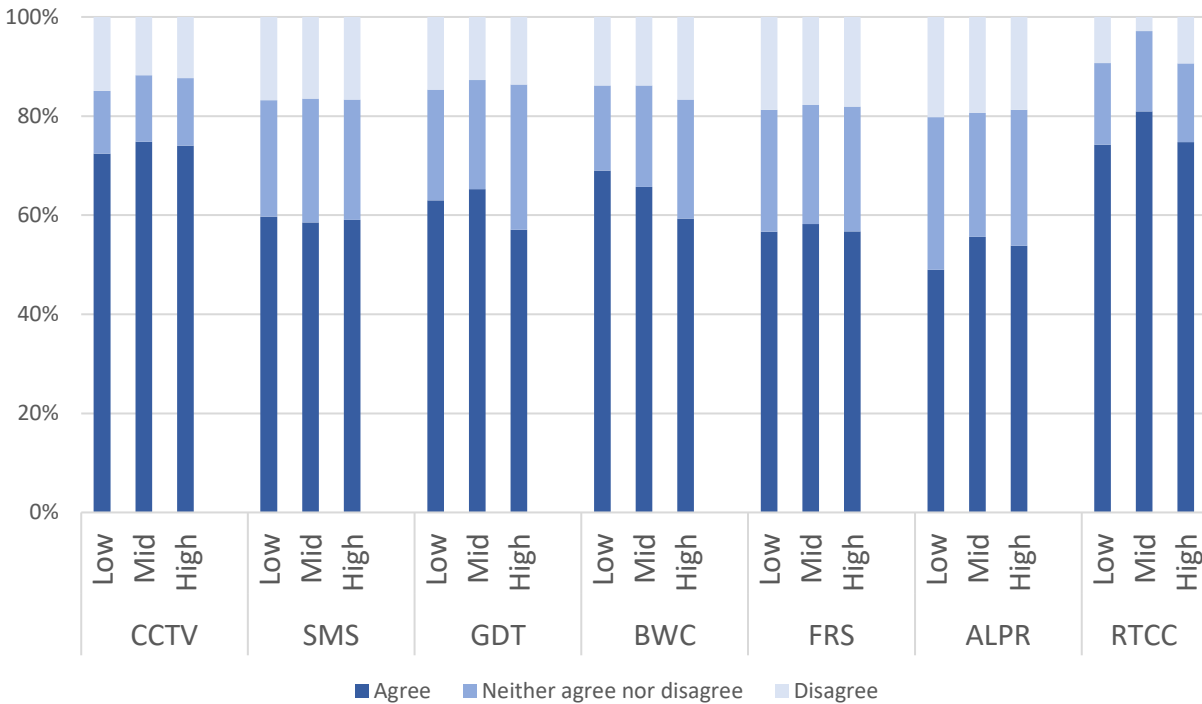
Responses regarding the usefulness of the various technologies were broken down by categories of household income, with the "low" category representing households with an income less than \$50,000, "mid" representing incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000, and "high" representing incomes over \$100,000. The first set of bars in Figure 10 addresses levels of support for CCTV cameras. Here we see that about 72% of low-income respondents agreed that CCTVs can reduce crime, with support only slightly higher for those with middle and high incomes (75% and 74%, respectively).



August 2025

Figure 10.

Are these Technologies Useful for Reducing Crime? By Household Income



Support for SMS and FRS was also very similar across income groups.

Larger differences are seen for GDT, BWC, ALPR, and the RTCC, though patterns vary across technologies. For example, support for GDT was higher among low- and middle-income compared with high incomes. Similarly, low-income respondents were more favorable toward BWC relative to those with high incomes by about a 10% difference—the largest difference across all the technologies. In contrast, low-income respondents were the least favorable toward ALPR, while support for the RTCC was highest among middle-income households.

Next, we examine whether concerns about privacy vary across these income levels. Figure 11 demonstrates a clear and

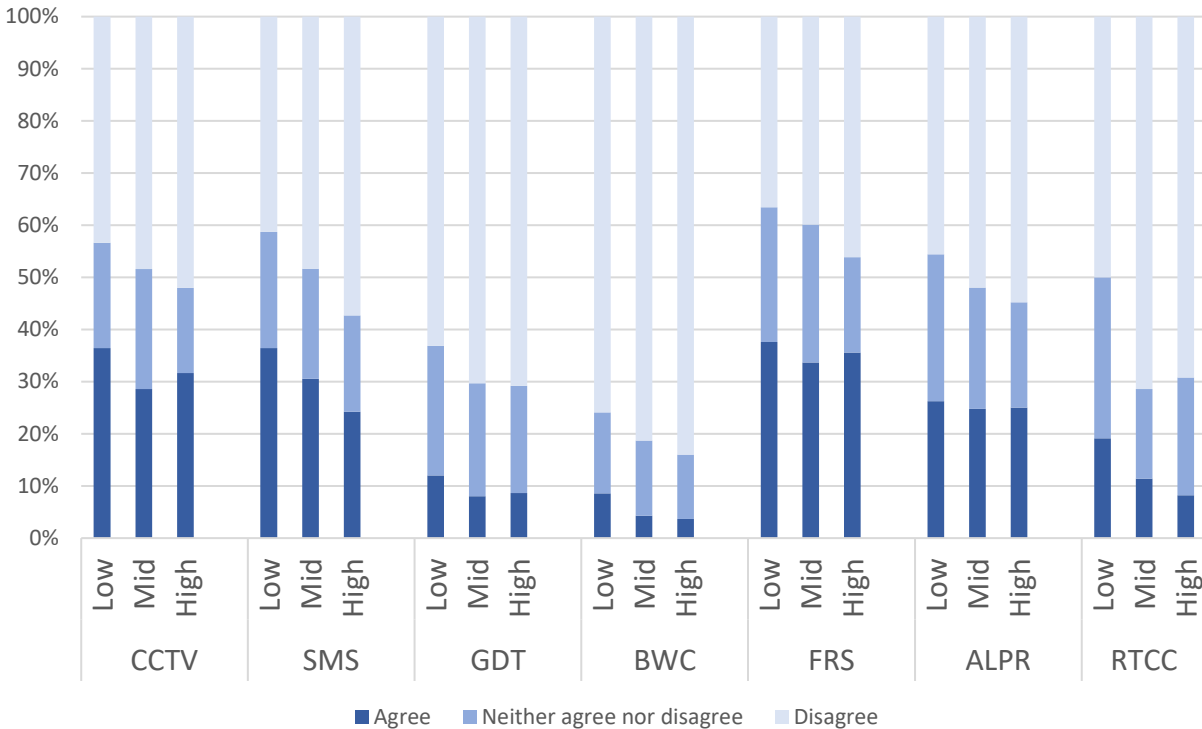
consistent trend: low-income respondents tended to express more concern about privacy violations compared to those with high incomes, though the differences are generally small. The largest discrepancy was observed for SMS, where 36% of low-income respondents agreed that it infringes on their privacy, compared with only 24% of high-income respondents. A similar pattern emerges for views on the RTCC, although levels of concern were notably lower across all income levels compared with most of the other technologies. Reflecting the findings for the full sample discussed above, privacy concerns for GDT and BWC were very low across the board. However, the breakdown by income shows that low-income residents continue to express the greatest concerns about privacy.



August 2025

Figure 11.

Do these Technologies Infringe on Privacy? By Household Income



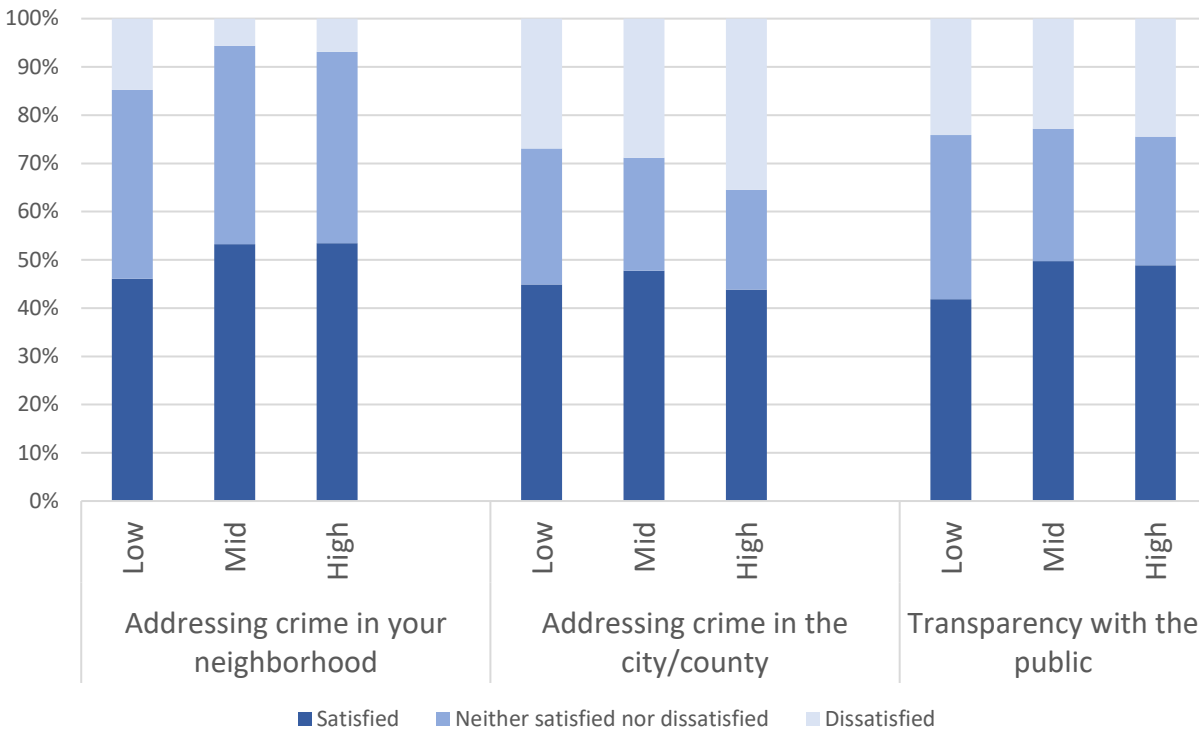
Next, we look at how attitudes toward law enforcement vary by household income. Figure 12 reveals that satisfaction with police efforts to address crime in neighborhoods and in the broader city and county was relatively consistent across all income groups. However, low-income respondents had somewhat lower levels of

satisfaction with addressing crime in the neighborhood and with transparency compared to middle- and high-income groups. These findings suggest that while overall satisfaction with police is relatively uniform, transparency and neighborhood crime concerns are more prominent among lower-income respondents.



August 2025

Figure 12.
Satisfaction with Law Enforcement by Household Income



Figures 13 and 14 continue the breakdowns by household income, focusing on concerns about crime and safety. Residents in all income groups seem to share similar views on crime in the city overall, with about 50% rating crime as “a big problem,” and another 40% rating it as “somewhat of a problem.” Across all groups, less than 10% viewed crime as “not much of a problem” or “not a problem at all.” On the other hand, Figure 22 shows that views about *neighborhood* safety vary more substantially across income

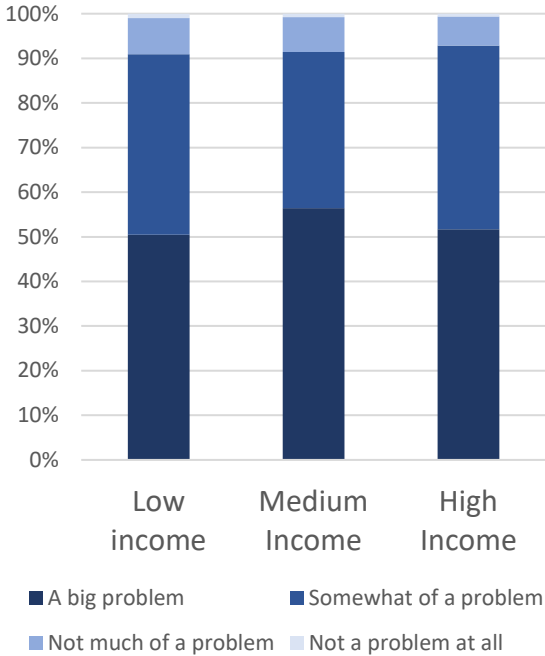
levels. Among low-income individuals, about 58% feel “somewhat safe” or “very safe,” compared with 73% among medium-income respondents and about 82% among those with high income. These results suggest that income plays a significant role in perceptions of safety, with lower-income residents more likely to feel vulnerable and unsafe after dark.



August 2025

Figure 13.

How Big of a Problem is Crime Overall? By Household Income

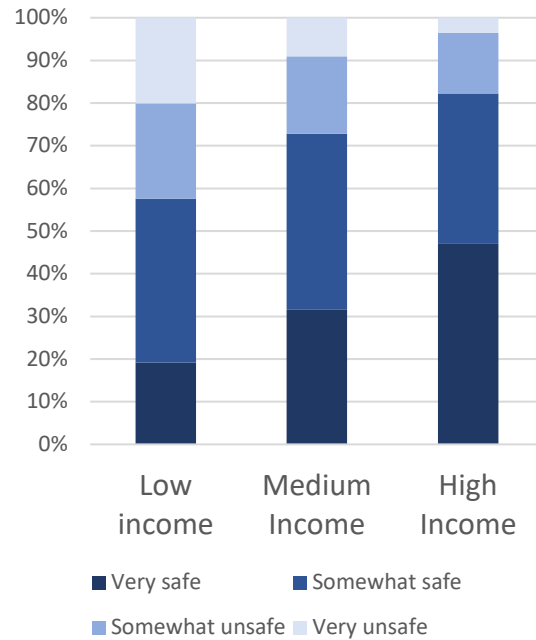


Breakdowns by Race and Ethnicity

Building on the previous breakdowns, Figure 15 examines how views on the usefulness of these technologies for reducing crime vary across racial and ethnic groups. Due to small sample sizes for other groups, this analysis focuses on White, Black, and Hispanic respondents. While views on the usefulness of CCTV, BWC, and GDT are similar across groups, more noticeable differences emerge for other technologies. For example, Black respondents reported less support for ALPR,

Figure 14.

How Safe Do You Feel Walking Alone in Your Neighborhood After Dark? By Household Income



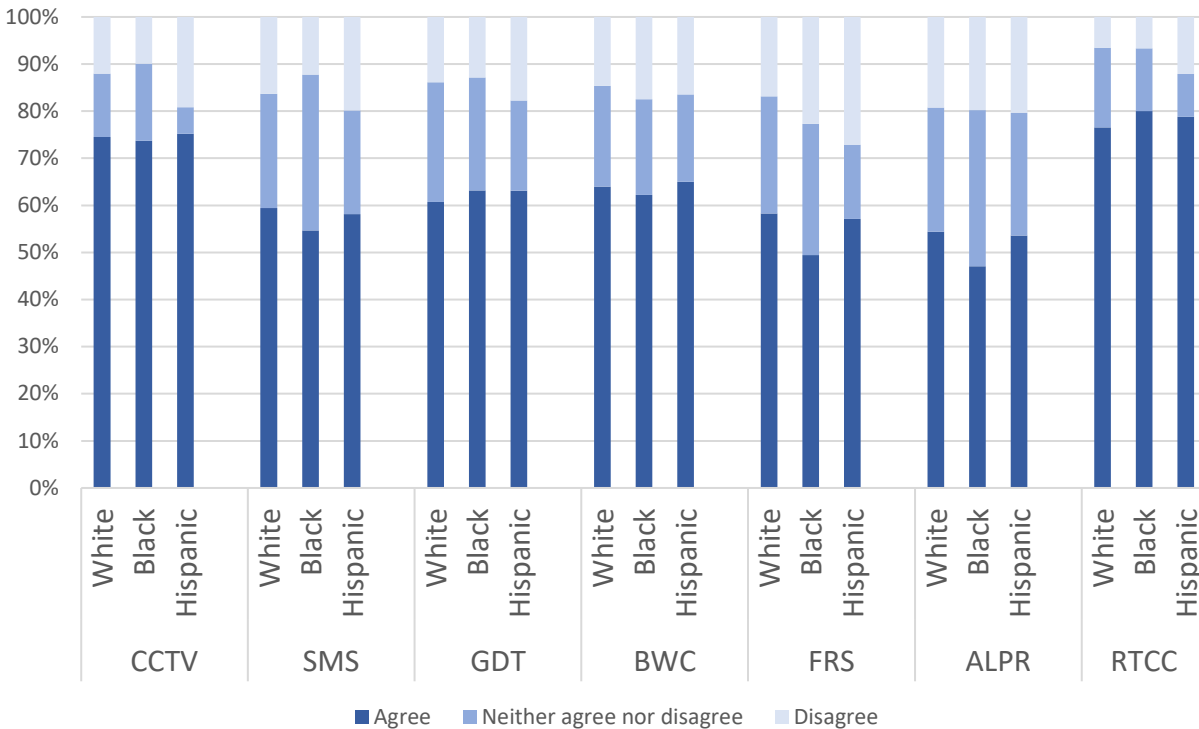
SMS, FRS, and BWC compared to their White and Hispanic counterparts. Although the differences for BWC are small, the gap between Black and White respondents for ALPR is just over 7%, about 5% for SMS, and nearly 9% for FRS. While these differences are not large, they suggest that Black respondents tend to be less convinced of the effectiveness of these technologies, possibly reflecting concerns about their implementation and impact. An exception to this trend is the RTCC, where Black and Hispanic respondents expressed the highest levels of support for its effectiveness.



August 2025

Figure 15.

Are these Technologies Useful for Reducing Crime? by Race/Ethnicity



Examining levels of *disagreement* that these technologies are useful provides additional insights, as low support does not necessarily correspond to high opposition; many respondents may report being neutral. While Black respondents tended to show lower levels of support, these were not always matched by higher levels of opposition. For instance, although Black respondents were the least supportive of SMS, they were also the least likely to doubt its usefulness for reducing crime. In contrast, opposition levels regarding ALPR were similar across groups, but Black respondents consistently reported low support and higher opposition regarding FRS. Hispanic respondents showed a contrasting pattern for FRS: while 57% agreed that it is useful for reducing

crime, 27% expressed opposition, the highest among the racial groups.

Figure 16 examines whether concerns about privacy infringement vary across racial and ethnic groups. The results show no clear pattern across the technologies. For technologies such as GDT, BWC, and ALPR, Black respondents appear to be slightly more concerned about privacy infringement than the other groups. For instance, while the overall concern for GDT was low, a somewhat larger percentage of Black respondents expressed worry compared to the others. Conversely, Hispanic respondents exhibited slightly higher concern regarding CCTV (39%) than White and Black respondents (31% and 28%, respectively). Despite these variations,



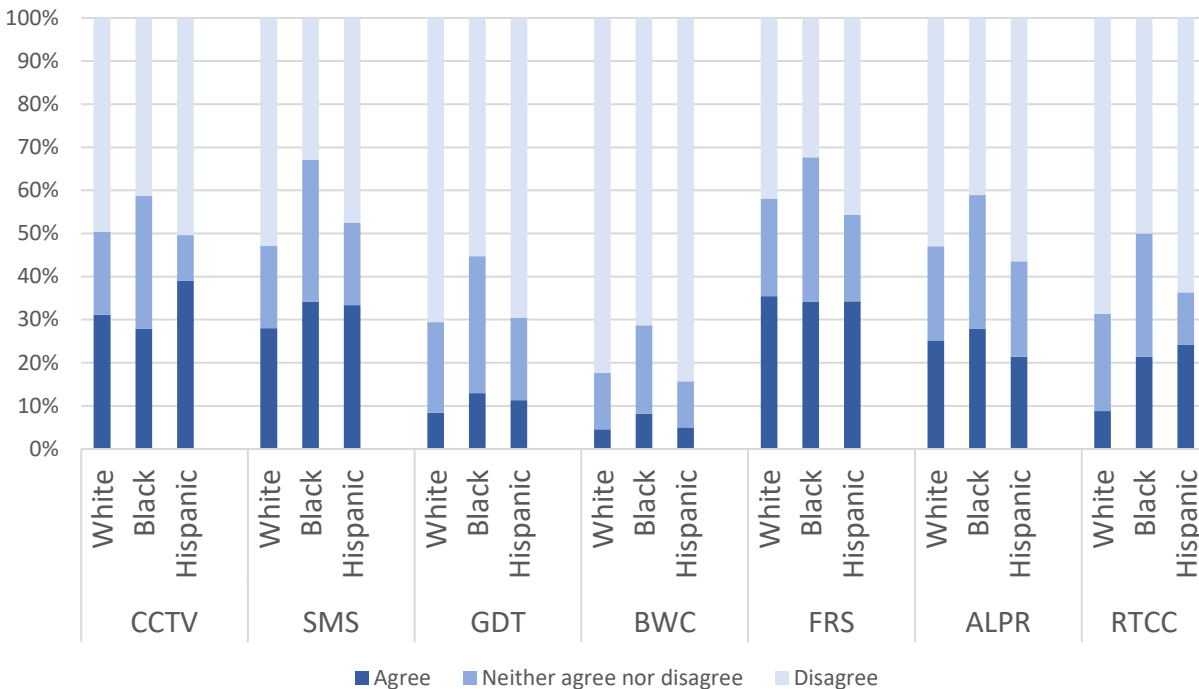
August 2025

when focusing on the percentage of respondents who *disagree* that these technologies infringe on their privacy, Black respondents consistently reported the lowest level of disagreement for every technology. For example, around 50% of both White and Hispanic respondents felt SMS does not infringe on their privacy, while only about 33% of Black respondents shared this view. Taken together, these results suggest that Black residents are generally more concerned about privacy violations from these technologies compared to other groups.

Figure 17 presents satisfaction with law enforcement by race and ethnicity. The results show that White and Black respondents reported similar levels of satisfaction across all three measures—addressing crime in neighborhoods, addressing crime in the city/county, and transparency. In contrast, Hispanic respondents consistently reported lower satisfaction across these measures. While differences in satisfaction regarding transparency were small, Hispanic respondents were notably more likely to express dissatisfaction, with 36% indicating concern compared to just over 20% for White and Black respondents.

Figure 16.

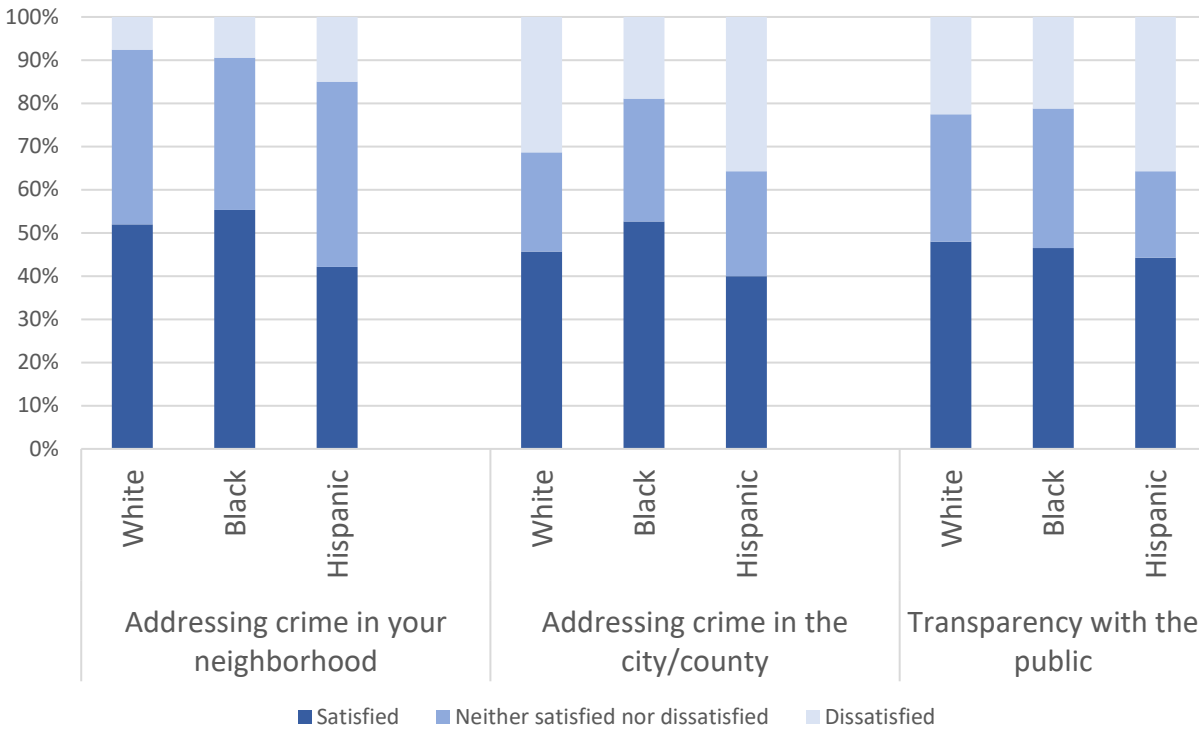
Do these Technologies Infringe on Privacy? by Race/Ethnicity





August 2025

Figure 17.
Satisfaction with Law Enforcement by Race/Ethnicity



In Figure 18, we see how perceptions of crime vary across different racial and ethnic groups. The results show that most respondents, regardless of racial or ethnic background, considered crime in the city and county to be “a big problem.” Notably, fewer than 10% of both White and Black respondents viewed crime as “not much of a

problem” or “not a problem at all,” whereas about 13% of Hispanic respondents held these views. This suggests that White and Black respondents generally had a slightly greater sense of concern about crime compared to Hispanic respondents.



August 2025

Figure 18.

How Big of a Problem is Crime Overall? By Race/Ethnicity

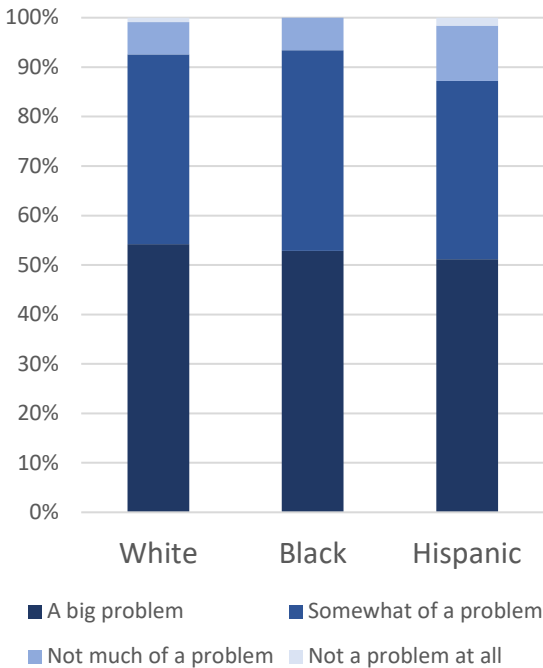
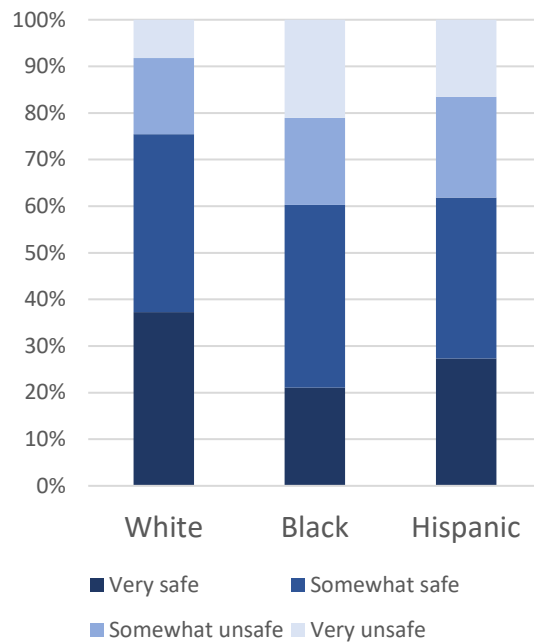


Figure 19 examines whether feelings of neighborhood safety varied by race and ethnicity, revealing notable differences. Black and Hispanic respondents reported feeling less safe compared to White respondents. Nearly 40% of Black and Hispanic residents felt either “somewhat unsafe” or “very unsafe,” whereas only about 25% of White respondents shared these concerns. In contrast, over 37% of white residents felt “very safe” in their neighborhood, compared with 21% of Black respondents and 27% of Hispanic respondents. These findings suggest that racial and ethnic minorities may experience higher levels of fear and insecurity, which could be linked to various factors, such as neighborhood safety, previous experiences,

Figure 19.

How Safe Do You Feel Walking Alone in Your Neighborhood After Dark? By Race/Ethnicity



or perceptions of law enforcement presence and efficacy.

Breakdowns by Age

Next, we examine whether beliefs about law enforcement technology, satisfaction with law enforcement, and concerns about crime vary by age, with categories including under 30, 30 to 49, 50 to 64, and 65 and older. The results show considerably greater variation across age groups compared to the variation seen by income and race/ethnicity. Figure 20 reveals that for nearly every technology, respondents aged 65 and older generally expressed the highest levels of agreement that law enforcement technologies reduce crime. For example, nearly 62% of those over age 65 believed that ALPRs reduce crime, compared with only 39% of those



August 2025

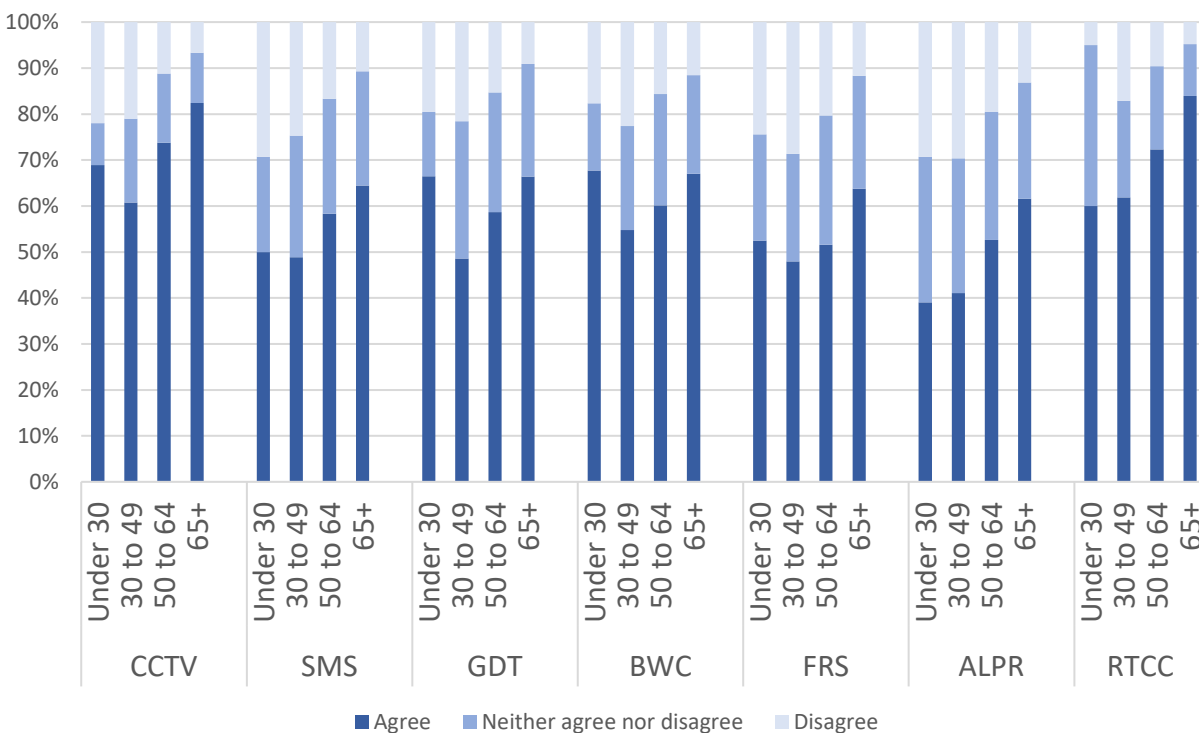
under 30 and 41% of those aged 30 to 49. A similar pattern is observed for the RTCC, though support was higher across all age groups compared with support for ALPRs. GDT and BWC display a different pattern, with the youngest (under 30) and oldest (65+) age groups showing the highest levels of support, while those aged 30 to 49 exhibited substantially lower levels of support.

These findings suggest that older respondents may be more convinced of the

effectiveness of these technologies for crime reduction, indicating a potential generational difference in perceptions of law enforcement tools. This pattern is particularly notable when comparing it to the previous analysis by income, where some groups also shared lower support for certain technologies. Overall, these insights highlight the importance of considering age-related factors in discussions about community safety and the acceptance of law enforcement technologies.

Figure 20.

Are these Technologies Useful for Reducing Crime? By Age Group





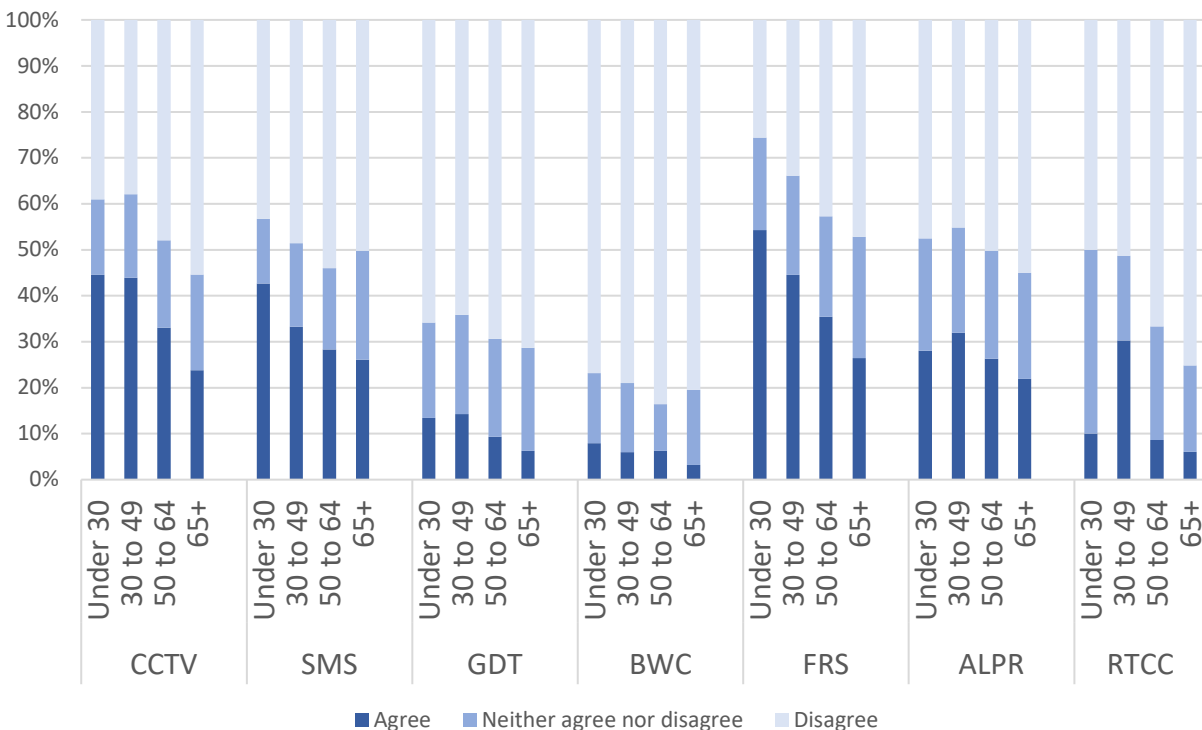
August 2025

Figure 21 examines concerns about privacy across age groups, with younger respondents expressing more privacy concerns than older respondents. The difference is most pronounced for FRS, where over 54% of those under 30 felt that this technology infringes on their privacy, compared with just 26% of those aged 65 and older. Smaller, though similar, differences were observed for CCTV and SMS. Fewer than 15% of any group, and often much lower percentages, expressed privacy concerns about GDT and BWC. Concerns about the

RTCC were generally low across all age groups, though 30% of respondents aged 30 to 49 believe the RTCC presents a privacy issue. These findings suggest that younger respondents are generally more apprehensive about the privacy implications of these technologies, reflecting a generational divide in attitudes. This trend contrasts with earlier findings related to income and race, further underscoring the need to consider multiple demographic factors when discussing privacy and law enforcement technology.

Figure 21.

Do these Technologies Infringe on Privacy? By Age Group





August 2025

Figure 22.
Satisfaction with Law Enforcement by Age Group

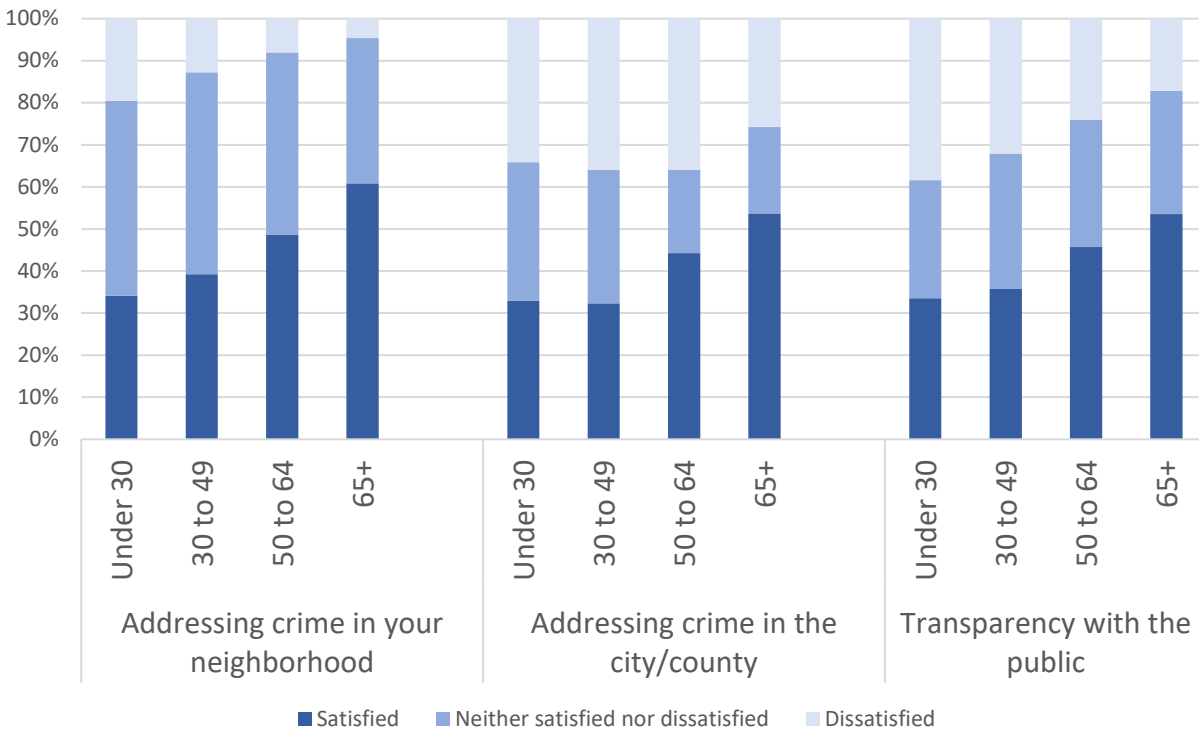


Figure 22 examines attitudes toward law enforcement across age groups. Older respondents (65+) expressed the highest satisfaction with police efforts to address crime in neighborhoods and the broader city/county, as well as with transparency. On the other hand, younger respondents, particularly those under 30, reported among the lowest satisfaction across all three measures. These generational differences suggest that older respondents are generally more favorable toward law enforcement, while younger respondents may have higher expectations for transparency and accountability.

Figure 23 illustrates how crime is perceived across different age groups. The data show a general trend in which most respondents, regardless of age, considered crime to be a

“big problem” or “somewhat of a problem” by most respondents in every age group. However, respondents 65 and older were the most likely to rate crime as a “big problem,” with nearly 60% expressing this view. At lower ages, the perception of crime as a “big problem” declined slightly, with respondents under age 30 showing the lowest level of concern (about 47%). This youngest group was also most likely to view crime as “not much of a problem” or “not a problem at all,” with about 15% expressing these views, compared with fewer than 5% in the older two groups. These findings suggest that younger residents may feel less affected by crime or perceive it as less of a pressing issue compared to their older counterparts.



August 2025

Figure 23.

How Big of a Problem is Crime Overall? By Age Group

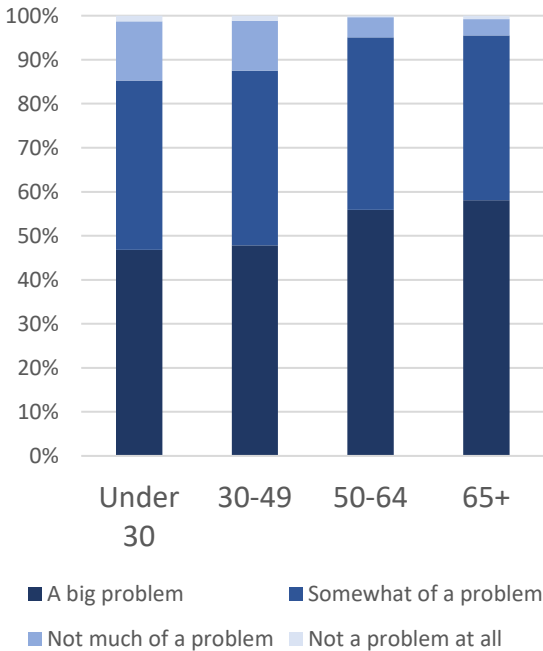
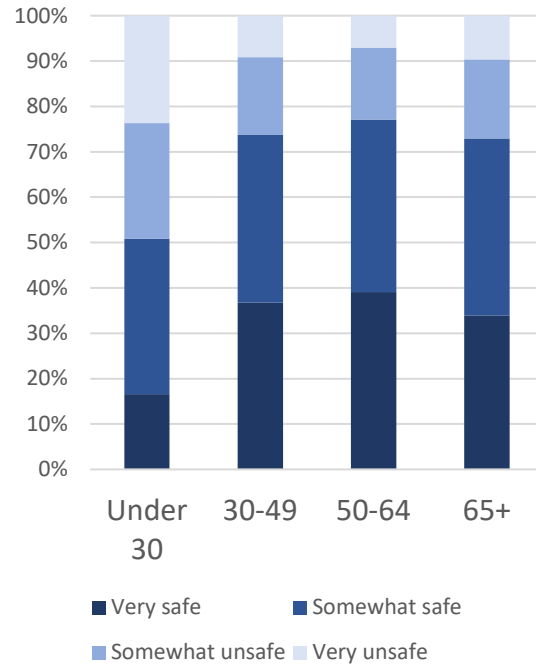


Figure 24 examines differences across age groups in feelings of safety when walking alone in the neighborhood after dark. The data show that the youngest group felt the least safe, with 50% feeling “somewhat unsafe” or “very unsafe,” while about 75% of those in older age groups felt “very safe” or “somewhat safe.” This suggests that older individuals may feel more secure in their neighborhoods, likely due to factors like familiarity with their surroundings, increased life experience, and possibly better economic resources, which can improve both personal safety and access to safer environments. In contrast, younger individuals may be more concerned about neighborhood safety or crime, especially in urban areas or those with fewer economic resources, which could lead to higher perceived vulnerability.

Figure 24.

How Safe Do You Feel Walking Alone in Your Neighborhood After Dark? By Age Group



Breakdowns by Neighborhood Crime Rate

The final breakdown examines whether perceptions of technology effectiveness differ by neighborhood crime rates. Crime rate categories were created by ranking tracts based on their total crime rates from the 2022 Uniform Crime Report and dividing them into three equal groups. It stands to reason that residents in high-crime areas may be more skeptical about the value of these technologies, given that many of these tools are used by local law enforcement but crime remains high in their neighborhoods. Figure 25 shows that, for nearly all technologies, respondents from high-crime neighborhoods were less likely to agree that these tools contribute to crime reduction. The largest difference was for FRS, where nearly 61% of those in low-



August 2025

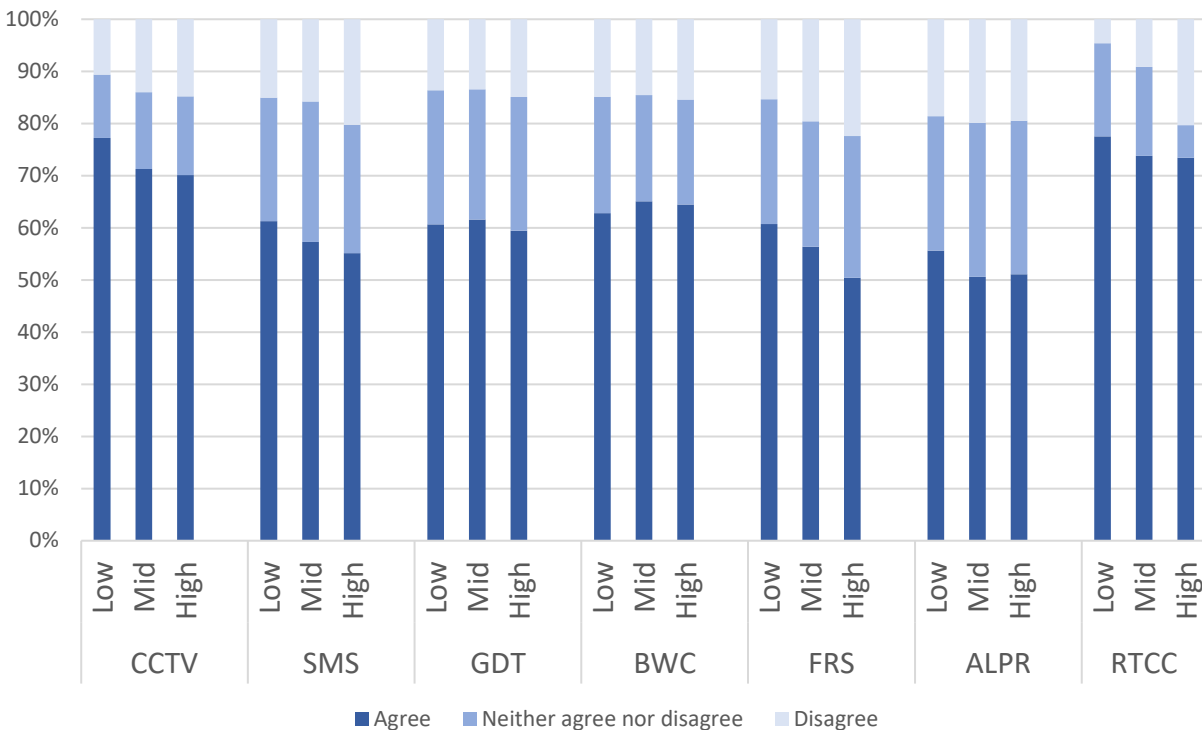
crime neighborhoods expressed support, compared with just over 50% of those in high-crime areas. A similar trend is seen for CCTV, SMS, ALPR, and the RTCC, though the differences are less pronounced. Respondents in neighborhoods with moderate crime levels generally fall between those in high- and low-crime areas.

Focusing on levels of *disagreement* reveals a striking contrast regarding views of the RTCC, which shows the largest difference in

perceptions among all technologies. In low-crime neighborhoods, fewer than 5% of residents expressed doubt about the RTCC's effectiveness. In contrast, over 20% of respondents in high-crime neighborhoods disagreed that the RTCC reduces crime, creating a notable gap of 15%. While disagreement was generally low across all neighborhood crime categories, these results highlight how neighborhood crime rates influence perceptions of law enforcement technologies.

Figure 25.

Are these Technologies Useful for Reducing Crime? by Neighborhood Crime Rate





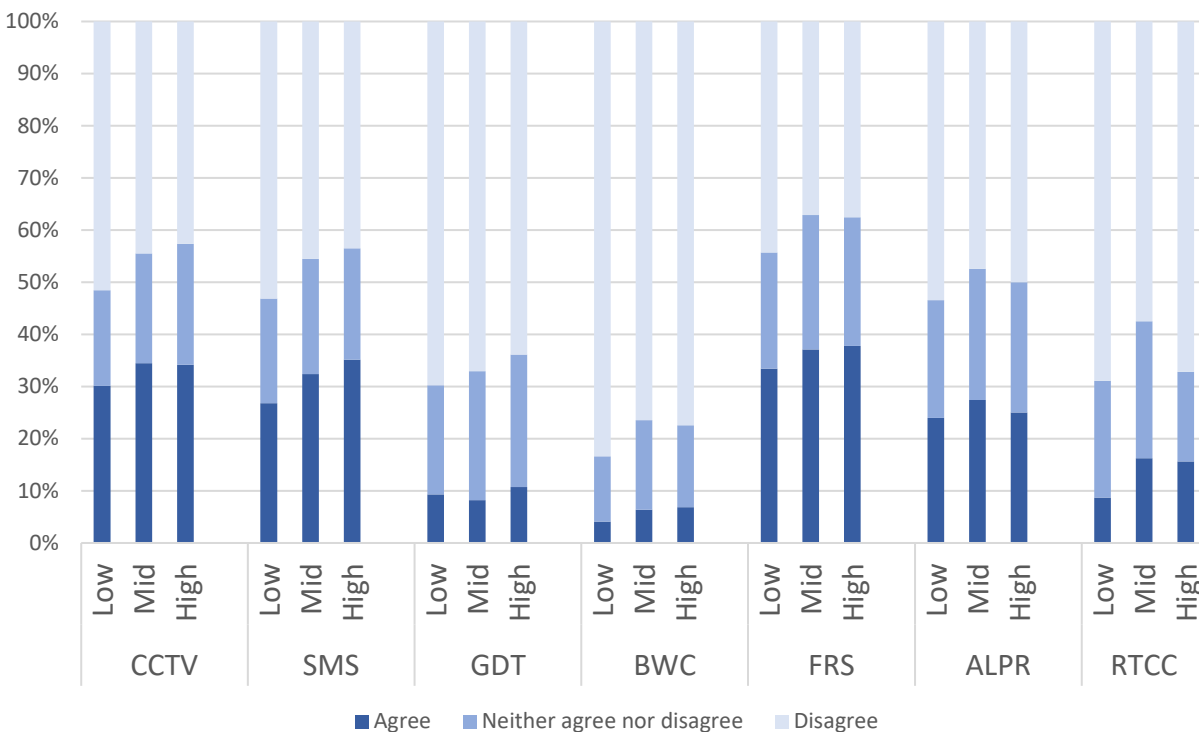
August 2025

Next, we examine whether privacy concerns differ among residents living in neighborhoods with varying crime rates. Figure 26 shows that privacy concerns were relatively low across all neighborhood crime levels, with agreement that technologies infringe on privacy generally falling between 25% and 35% for CCTV, SMS, FRS, and ALPR. Concerns were considerably lower among all groups for GDT, BWC, and the RTCC. However, when differences did arise, residents in high-crime neighborhoods consistently expressed slightly greater privacy concerns compared with those in low-crime neighborhoods.

Figure 27 continues the breakdown by neighborhood crime levels, now examining attitudes toward law enforcement. As expected, respondents in low-crime neighborhoods reported the highest satisfaction with police efforts to address crime in both their neighborhoods and the city/county, along with the highest satisfaction with transparency. In contrast, residents in high-crime neighborhoods expressed significantly lower satisfaction and transparency ratings, indicating that perceptions of law enforcement are shaped by direct experiences with local crime levels.

Figure 26.

Do these Technologies Infringe on Privacy? by Neighborhood Crime Rate





August 2025

Figure 27.

Satisfaction with Law Enforcement by Neighborhood Crime Rate

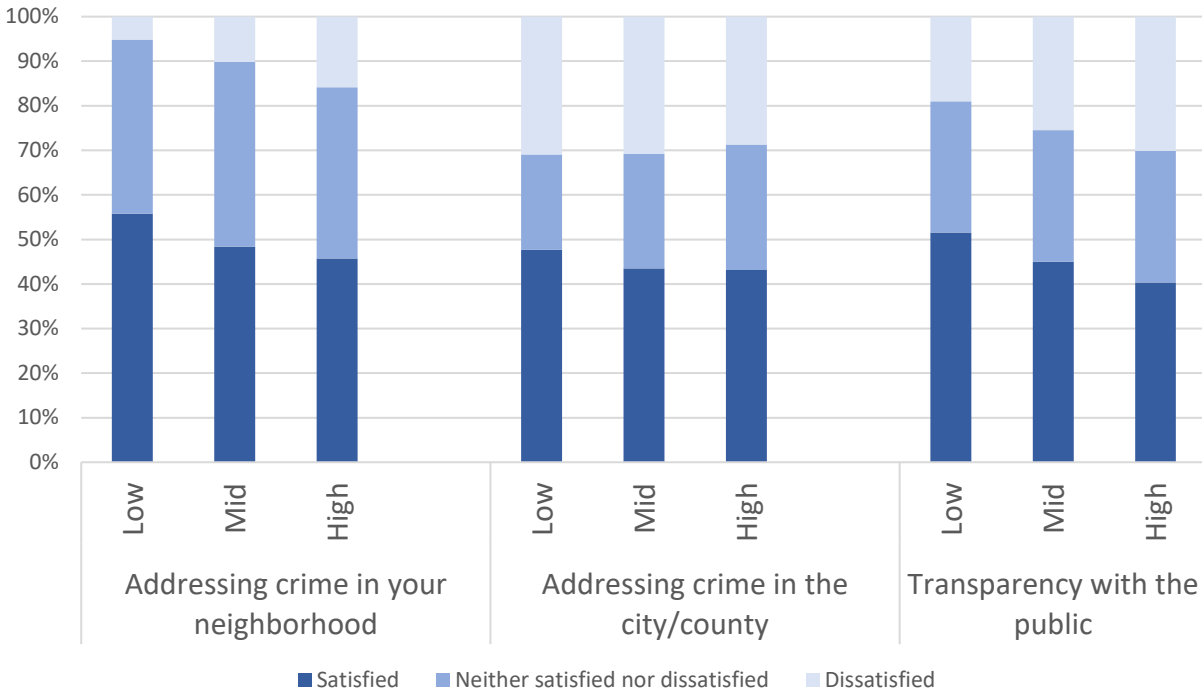


Figure 28 builds on the previous analysis by exploring how residents' perceptions of crime vary by neighborhood crime rate. Across all crime rate categories, the vast majority of respondents considered crime to be at least "somewhat of a problem." Interestingly, perceptions of overall crime as a "big problem" decrease slightly as the neighborhood crime rate increases. In low-crime neighborhoods, the highest percentage of respondents (around 56%) considered crime to be "a big problem," while medium-crime and high-crime neighborhoods showed a decline in those perceptions (52% and 48%, respectively). This may suggest that residents in high-crime areas have become more accustomed to crime, possibly leading to a perception of "normalcy" or

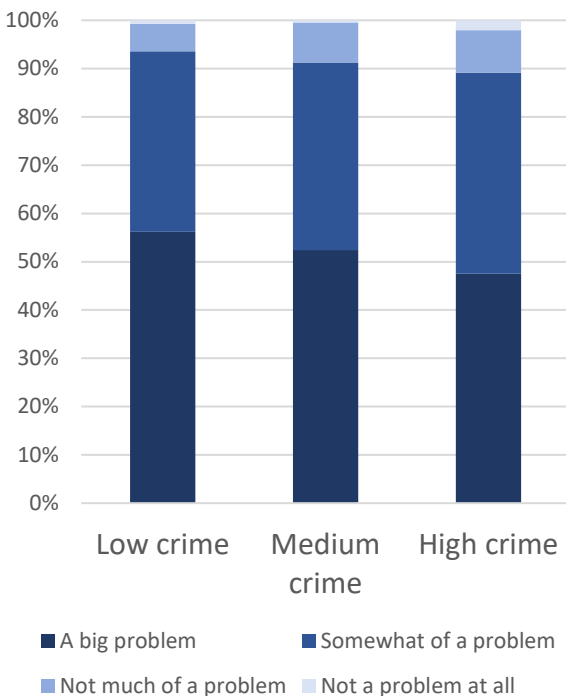
reduced sensitivity to crime concerns. In contrast, residents in low-crime neighborhoods may perceive crime as a more significant threat due to its relative rarity.



August 2025

Figure 28.

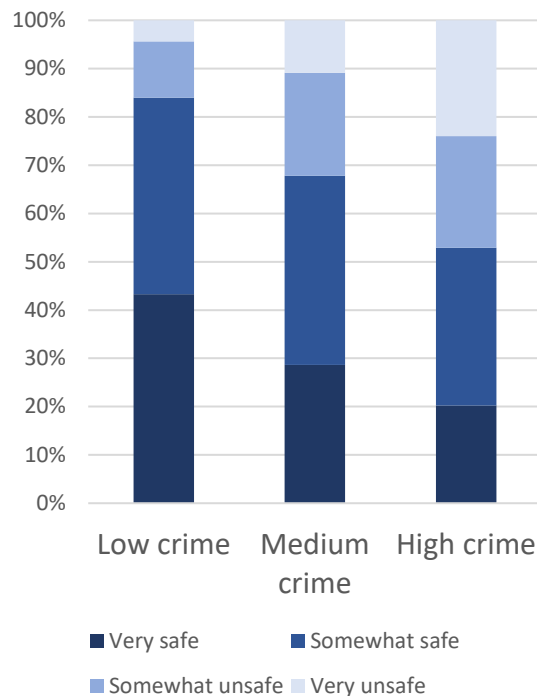
How Big of a Problem is Crime in the City and County Overall? By Neighborhood Crime Rate



Finally, Figure 29 shows how safe residents feel walking alone in their neighborhood after dark, broken down by neighborhood crime rate. As expected, and in contrast with the results for overall crime in Tallahassee and Leon County, feelings of safety decrease as the neighborhood crime rate rises. In low-crime neighborhoods, the vast majority of residents (84%) felt “very safe” or “somewhat safe,” while this percentage dropped markedly in medium-crime and high-crime neighborhoods. This trend is consistent with the general understanding that higher crime rates in a neighborhood lead to greater feelings of fear and insecurity among residents.

Figure 29.

How Safe do You Feel Walking Alone in your Neighborhood After Dark? By Neighborhood Crime Rate



Policy Recommendations Based on Group Breakdown Results

The findings from the group breakdowns reveal that, across all demographic groups, views on law enforcement technologies were generally favorable, with significant support for their potential to reduce crime and enhance public safety. However, while support was broad, varying levels of concern about privacy and differing perceptions of law enforcement effectiveness were observed across different socio-demographic groups. Based on these findings, the following targeted policy recommendations are suggested to better align law enforcement practices with the unique needs and concerns of these communities:



August 2025

- **Outreach and Education:** The significant differences in privacy concerns across income groups, particularly among low-income respondents, underscore the need to expand current outreach and education efforts. Law enforcement agencies should implement communication strategies tailored to these communities, emphasizing the safeguards in place to protect privacy and how technologies contribute to crime reduction. Public meetings, educational campaigns, and community forums can help build trust and address these concerns effectively.
- **Transparency and Trust:** The lower levels of satisfaction with law enforcement transparency, especially among low-income and minority communities, suggest that increased transparency is crucial. Law enforcement agencies can build stronger community relationships by sharing more information about how technologies are used, how data is managed, and how these tools contribute to community safety. This transparency can help mitigate skepticism and foster trust in law enforcement practices.
- **Addressing Racial and Ethnic Concerns:** The differences in attitudes toward certain technologies, particularly facial recognition systems and automated license plate readers, indicate that Black and Hispanic communities may be more wary of surveillance technologies. Law enforcement agencies should focus on community engagement in these groups, addressing concerns about the disproportionate impact of certain technologies. Ensuring that these technologies are used equitably and that

their deployment is carefully monitored for fairness can help alleviate concerns.

- **Generational Differences:** The generational divide in attitudes toward technology, with older respondents showing higher levels of support, suggests that law enforcement agencies may require different strategies for engaging with younger generations. Tailored outreach to younger audiences, particularly through digital platforms and interactive tools, may help bridge the gap in perceptions and foster a more informed and supportive public.
- **Differences by Neighborhood Crime Rate:** Finally, the variation in attitudes based on neighborhood crime rates highlights that high-crime areas may require more targeted strategies to improve perceptions of law enforcement technology. Residents in these areas are more skeptical of the effectiveness of these tools in reducing crime. Therefore, law enforcement agencies should focus on showing the positive impact of technology in high-crime neighborhoods through evidence and success stories. This can help shift perceptions and increase support for these tools.

By focusing on these targeted policy implications, law enforcement agencies can more effectively align their practices with the diverse needs and concerns of their communities, leading to better outcomes in both public safety and community relations.



August 2025

Appendix 1. Descriptive Statistics

	Count	Percent
Demographic		
Gender		
Male	701	40.4%
Female	995	57.3%
Prefer not to say	40	2.3%
Race/ethnicity		
White or Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	1,327	77.1%
Black or African American (non-Hispanic)	173	10.1%
Hispanic	81	4.7%
Other (non-Hispanic)	140	8.1%
Economic		
Education		
Less than a high school diploma or GED	20	1.1%
High school diploma or GED	113	6.5%
Some college credit, but no degree	245	14.1%
Associate's degree	174	10.0%
Bachelor's degree	562	32.3%
Master's degree	421	24.2%
Doctorate or professional degree	205	11.8%
Income group		
Low income	477	29.1%
Middle income	536	32.7%
High income	625	38.2%
Family structure		
Marital status		
Married	925	53.8%
Widowed	166	9.7%
Divorced	278	16.2%
Separated	12	0.7%
Never Married	339	19.7%
Children under 18 at home		
Yes, children under 18	311	18.2%
No, children under 18	1,400	81.8%
Zip code		
32301	181	9.5%
32303	328	17.2%
32304	118	6.2%
32305	105	5.5%
32308	215	11.3%
32309	258	13.5%
32310	78	4.1%
32311	175	9.2%
32312	325	17.0%
32317	126	6.6%



August 2025

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August 2025

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