

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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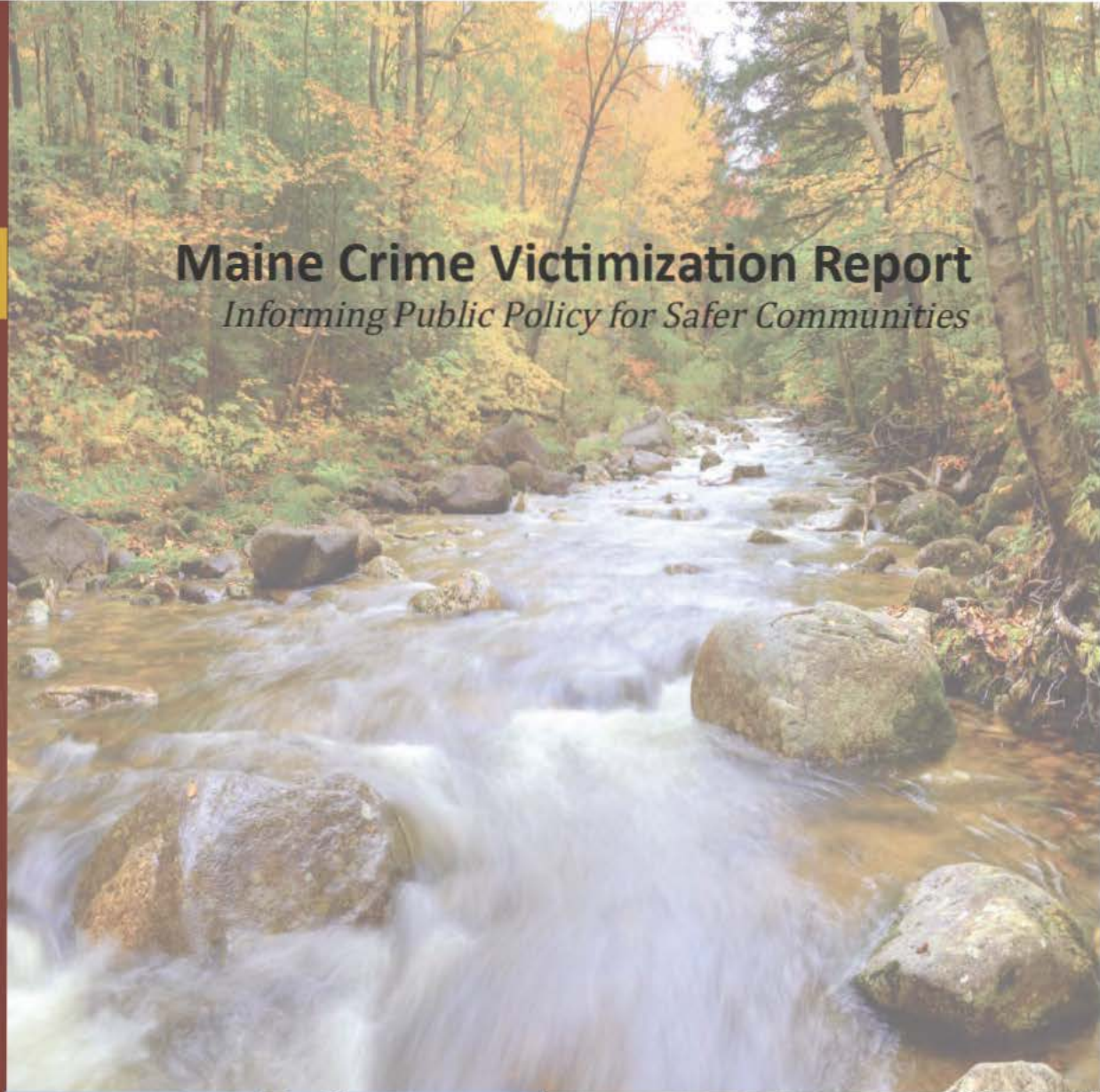


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**2011**

# **Maine Crime Victimization Report**

*Informing Public Policy for Safer Communities*



**Muskie School of Public Service**  
**University of Southern Maine**

## **About the Muskie School of Public Service**

The Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine educates leaders, informs public policy, and strengthens civic life through its graduate degree programs, research institutes and public outreach activities. By making the essential connection between research, practice, and informed public policy, the School is dedicated to improving the lives of people of all ages, in every county in Maine and every state in the nation.

## **About the Maine Statistical Analysis Center**

The Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) operates as a collaborative service of the USM Muskie School of Public Service, and the Maine Department of Corrections. The Maine SAC is partially supported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and guided by an advisory group of policy makers from the Maine Department of Public Safety, Maine Department of Corrections, Maine Criminal Justice Commission, and Maine Judicial Branch. The Maine SAC collects, analyzes, and provides criminal justice data and information to criminal justice professionals, policymakers, researchers, students, advocates, and the public.

## **US Department of Justice**

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# 2011 Maine Crime Victimization Survey Report

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## *Executive Summary*

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The purpose of the Maine Crime Victimization Survey (MCVS) is to better understand the nature and extent of crime in Maine. This report discusses findings of the 2011 survey and highlights areas of comparison with the original MCVS, which was conducted in 2006.

Many states, including Idaho, Utah, and Minnesota, have conducted state specific crime victimization surveys because the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), a national data source on crime trends, cannot be parsed to the state level. Maine has been and is following this trend to better understand the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization.

This survey complements the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), which are the only comprehensive data source of reported crime in Maine. UCR data are collected by local law enforcement, and compiled and released by the Maine Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state and national analysis. While the UCR provides information on selected reported crimes and arrests made by law enforcement agencies, it does not provide information about unreported crimes or the characteristics of victims and offenders.

*The following is a summary of key findings from the 2011 survey:*

### *Crime Perceptions*

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#### *Most Mainers Feel Safe in Their Communities*

*93.8% of those surveyed report feeling safe in the community where they live, and 87.9% say they are never or almost never fearful of being the victim of a violent crime.*

***Those who report being victimized by crime differ in their perceptions of safety:*** Victims of crime are more likely to report feeling unsafe in their communities and express fear of being a victim of a violent crime, when compared to non-victims.

***Mainers feel local law enforcement performs well:*** A majority of survey respondents (72.5%) view law enforcement performance in their communities as good or very good. Those who have been victimized by crime in the last 12 months, especially those victimized by violent crime, have a less positive view of law enforcement.

***Mainers perceive substance abuse and family issues as contributing to crime:*** Survey respondents say substance abuse (illegal drugs and alcohol) and family-related issues contribute a great deal to the crime problems in Maine. Asked to respond on a four-item scale from “none or hardly any” to “a great deal,” respondents rated illegal drugs (63.4%) and the lack of parental discipline (53.7%) as most responsible for crime in Maine.

## *Crime Victimization Rates*

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*Respondents report highest victimization rates for identity theft, property crimes and stalking*

<b>Identity theft:</b>	15.0% of respondents report being victimized by identity theft in the previous 12 months.
<b>Property Crime:</b>	13.8% of respondents report being victimized by property crime in the previous 12 months.
<b>Stalking:</b>	12.3% of respondents report being the recipient of unwanted behavior, which constitutes stalking, in the previous 12 months.

*Respondents report being threatened with violence nearly twice as often as being the victim of a violent crime*

<b>Threats of Violence:</b>	7.4% of respondents report being threatened with physical harm in the previous 12 months.
<b>Violent Crime:</b>	3.8% of respondents have been the victim of a violent crime (includes robbery, assault, sexual assault, and rape) in the previous 12 months.

*Most victims of violent crimes do not report to local law enforcement:* Two-thirds of respondents who are victims of a violent crime say they did not report the incident to local law enforcement.

*Nearly one in five report being the victim of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault in their lifetime:* 18.2% of respondents report they have been the victim of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault during their lifetime. The lifetime rate is significantly different by gender, with a third (32.1%) of females and 5.3% of males responding affirmatively.

*Stalking victims are more likely to be the victims of other crimes:* Respondents who report one or more stalking behaviors directed at them are nearly three times more often the victim of a violent crime (10.7%) and twice as often the victim of a property crime (25.5%) than the overall average (3.8% and 13.8% respectively).

## *Characteristics of Victims & Offenders*

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***No differences existed in victimization rates by living arrangements or geographic location:*** Single, divorced, or widowed respondents report victimization at rates comparable to respondents who are married/living with a partner (38.7% to 34.0% respectively). Urban areas also report victimization rates comparable to more rural areas in Maine.

***Most respondents threatened with or victimized by violence believe the offender was under the influence:*** Two-thirds (65.6%) of victims believe the offender was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time the victimization occurred.

***Firearms are used in few crimes:*** Seven percent (6.7%) of respondents say they were either threatened with a firearm or one was used in commission of a violent crime. This rate is consistent with firearm violence rates reported in the UCR.

## *Comparison between 2006 and 2011*

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***Mainers give increased positive marks to local law enforcement performance:*** Nearly three quarters of survey respondents (72.5%) in 2011 rate local law enforcement as doing a good or very good job in their community. The 2011 rate is significantly higher than the 2006 approval rate of 66.4%, and is a positive indicator of community satisfaction with law enforcement over the last five years.

***Identity theft has grown in the past five years:*** Overall, 15.0% of the respondents in 2011 say they have been victimized by identity theft in the previous 12 months. This rate is statistically significantly higher than the 2006 rate of 10.4%. The most common form of identity theft is someone using or attempting to use credit cards without the respondent's knowledge (12.0%). That rate nearly doubled from 2006.

***Reporting crime to the police declined significantly:*** Overall, 40 percent (40.4%) of 2011 respondents who were victimized by a crime say they reported the incident to local law enforcement agencies, significantly lower than the (52.7%) rate in 2006. Stalking crimes and identity theft reporting rates also fell significantly between 2011 and 2006, even though the incidence increased.

***Fewer victims were told about their rights in 2011 than in 2006:*** Only 16.1% of victims in the current study who reported their crime to local law enforcement in the previous 12 months say they were told of their rights as crime victims. This is roughly ten percentage points lower than reported in 2006.



## *Methodology*

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The Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) at the Muskie School of Public Service conducted the Crime Victimization Survey of Maine residents between January and May 2011. Researchers developed a random sample of both landline and cell phone numbers of Maine residents and conducted telephone surveys to gather data about perceptions of crime, criminal victimization rates, and the characteristics of victims and offenders. In all, 837 adults over the age of 18 completed the survey. Researchers weighted data by gender, income, age, and the respondents' county of residence to ensure the characteristics of the survey sample represented the statewide population.

With funding from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, the SAC collaborated with the Survey Research Center to conduct the survey. Staff from the SAC and the Survey Research Center used the same instrument developed for the 2006 Maine Crime Victimization Survey to determine whether victimization rates have significantly changed over the past five years, and to identify ongoing state-level victimization issues (information on state trends). Researchers administered the survey via random digit dialing until they completed 837 survey responses. SAC researchers conducted the analysis of the data and authored this report.

The SAC used statewide percentages of gender, household income, and age from the Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey for Maine and county distributions from the 2010 Census to weight the data to ensure a representative sample of the statewide population. The MCVS has a 95% confidence level with an error rate of plus or minus 3.39%. Because this survey derives its victimization estimates from interviewing a sample of respondents, the estimates are subject to a margin of error. This report provides confidence intervals for all victimization estimates. This report also describes trend data, comparing 2011 results to 2006 results as valid (or significant) only if there is at least a 95 percent confidence that the measured changes are not the result of sampling variation.

Urban and non-urban areas in this report were calculated using Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes (RUCAs). RUCAs are a Census tract-based classification scheme that utilizes the standard Bureau of Census Urbanized Area and Urban Cluster definitions in combination with work commuting information to characterize all of the nation's Census tracts regarding their rural and urban status and relationships. A ZIP Code RUCA approximation was developed by linking each census tract to the surrounding zip code. This typology was employed in 2011 to identify respondents' location as either urban, suburban, large rural town, or small town/isolated rural. This method replaces the 2006 coding scheme which defined cities of over 10,000 population as urban and the rest of the state as rural. Appendix A lists the Maine zip codes by RUCA definition.

The table on the next page contains key demographic and descriptive information about survey participants.

**Demographics (n=837)**

<b>Age (Weighted)</b>		<b>Educational Attainment</b>	
18-24	11.4%	8th Grade or Less	1.0%
25-34	14.8%	9th-12th No Diploma	3.6%
35-44	17.7%	Diploma or GED	30.2%
45-54	20.9%	Some College or 2-yr Degree	32.6%
55-64	16.4%	Bachelor's Degree	20.6%
65 and older	18.8%	Graduate Degree	12.0%
<b>Gender (Weighted)</b>		<b>Employment Status</b>	
Female	50.4%	Employed Full-Time	48.2%
Male	49.6%	Employed Part-Time	12.6%
<b>Household Income (Weighted)</b>		Student	5.4%
Less than \$20,000	21.1%	Homemaker	4.5%
\$20,000-\$49,999	34.1%	Unemployed	5.8%
\$50,000-\$79,999	22.3%	Retired	18.2%
\$80,000-\$99,999	9.2%	Disabled	5.4%
More than \$100,000	13.3%	<b>Lifetime Maine Resident</b>	
<b>Race</b>		Yes	51.0%
White	96.7%	No	49.0%
Non-White	3.3%	<b>How long living in Maine</b>	
<b>Ethnicity</b>		Less than 5 years	9.7%
Hispanic/Latino	1.0%	5 to 9 years	8.7%
Franco-American	19.8%	10 to 19 years	20.2%
Another Ethnicity	79.2%	More than 20 years	61.4%
<b>Marital Status</b>		<b>Firearms at Home</b>	
Single	25.6%	Yes	46.6%
Married	55.1%	No	53.4%
Divorced	9.5%	<b>Geographic Distribution (RUCA definition)</b>	
Widowed	6.2%	Urban Core	33.1%
Separated	0.3%	Suburban	16.6%
Opposite-sex partner sharing home	2.4%	Large Rural Town	15.5%
Same-sex partner sharing home	0.9%	Small Town/Isolated Rural	32.1%



## SECTION I – CRIME PERCEPTIONS

*Perception of crime is an important element of criminal justice analysis, because perception does not always mirror reality and can have great influence over public policy decisions. In this survey, the majority of Mainers report feeling very safe in their own communities. Most are not fearful of being victimized by violent crime.*

*Maine residents also believe law enforcement is doing a good job, and that crime has remained relatively constant over the past three years. When asked whether illegal drugs are a problem in their neighborhoods, most say no, but respondents do identify illegal drugs—along with lack of parental discipline, the economy, and alcohol—as factors responsible for Maine’s crime problems.*

*Respondents answered questions about their perceptions of crime and safety in Maine communities in this section of the survey.*

**Most Mainers feel safe in their communities:** More than 90 percent (93.8%) of respondents report feeling safe in their communities, which is statistically unchanged from 2006 (95.0%). While male and female respondents report almost identical rates regarding community safety, large rural town respondents were significantly less likely to report feeling always or almost always safe in their community (86.2%) compared to respondents living in other areas of Maine (95.2%).

Those who report being victimized by crime in the last 12 months, and those who do not differ in their perceptions of safety. Of those who report being a crime victim in the last 12 months, 87.7% report always or almost always feeling safe in their communities, compared to 97.2% of those who were not a victim.

Victims of violent and property crimes are even less likely to report feeling safe in their communities, 71.0% and 80.9%, respectively.

## How safe do you feel in your community?

	Always or Almost Always Safe	Sometimes	Never or Almost Never Safe
Total (n=837)	93.8%	3.5%	1.5%
Male (413)	95.1%	3.4%	1.6%
Female (420)	94.9%	3.6%	1.5%
Urban Core (267)	95.3%	3.0%	1.4%
Suburban (139)	96.4%	2.9%	0.7%
Large Rural Town (130)	86.2%	12.3%	1.5%
Small Town/Isolated Rural (269)	93.7%	5.9%	0.4%
Not a Crime Victim (533)	97.2%	1.3%	0.8%
Crime Victim (302)	87.7%	8.0%	3.4%
Victim Property Crime (116)	80.9%	18.3%	0.9%
Victim Violent Crime (32)	71.0%	22.6%	6.5%
Victim Stalking (103)	82.5%	15.5%	1.9%

**Most Mainers are not fearful about being victimized by a violent crime:** Most survey respondents (87.9%) report they are never or almost never fearful about becoming a victim of violent crime. Differences occur in gender and whether the respondent was a victim of crime in the previous 12 months. 16.0% of female respondents are at least sometimes fearful about becoming a victim of violence, compared to 8.3% of males. Most respondents (93.4%) who were not victims of crime in the last 12 months are not fearful about violent victimization, while 78.1% of those victimized within the last 12 months report that they are not fearful.

## How often are you fearful of being the victim of a violent crime?

	Never or Almost Never	Sometimes	Always or Almost Always
Total	87.9%	10.7%	1.3%
Male	91.8%	7.3%	1.0%
Female	84.0%	14.3%	1.7%
Urban Core	86.5%	12.4%	1.1%
Suburban	87.0%	11.6%	1.4%
Large Rural Town	86.9%	10.8%	2.3%
Small Town/Isolated Rural	89.6%	9.7%	0.7%
Not a Crime Victim	93.4%	5.6%	0.9%
Crime Victim	78.1%	19.9%	2.0%
Property Crime Victim	75.9%	21.6%	2.6%
Violent Crime Victim	65.6%	25.0%	9.4%
Stalking Victim	65.0%	31.1%	3.9%

Taken together, these two questions reveal positive perceptions about both personal and community safety. Moreover, these numbers reflect Maine's low violent crime rate, which from the latest (2009) Uniform Crime Reports is the lowest in the nation, and nearly four times lower than the national average.

**Victims are significantly more likely to believe crime has increased over the last three years:** An examination of crime numbers reported to local law enforcement agencies in Maine shows that overall, crime declined by 1.0% between 2006 and 2010. During this period, reported violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) increased 4.3%, while reported property crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson) decreased by 1.2%.<sup>1</sup> Survey respondents have consistent perspectives about their own communities. 52.7% of respondents believe the crime rate has stayed constant over the past three years.

Nearly 40% (38.2%) of *all* respondents believe crime in their community has either greatly or somewhat increased over the past three years. However, very few (9.1%) feel that crime has actually either greatly or somewhat decreased over the past three years.

<sup>1</sup> See Maine's Department of Public Safety's *Crime in Maine* webpage at [http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime\\_in\\_maine/cim.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/cim.htm) for crime data by year.

**Over the past three years, do you believe crime in your community has...?**

	Greatly or Somewhat Decreased	Stayed the Same	Greatly or Somewhat Increased
Total	9.1%	52.7%	38.2%
Male	9.0%	53.6%	37.3%
Female	9.0%	52.1%	38.9%
Urban Core	12.7%	48.6%	38.6%
Suburban	7.5%	56.4%	36.1%
Large Rural Town	4.8%	60.0%	35.2%
Small Town/Isolated Rural	7.9%	52.6%	39.5%
Not a Crime Victim	10.4%	58.3%	31.2%
Crime Victim	6.5%	43.2%	50.3%

Males and females perceive crime rate changes in their communities similarly. Among female respondents, 38.9% believe that crime in their community has somewhat or greatly increased over the past three years, compared to 37.3% of male respondents. Further, no differences are found between urban and rural respondents. 38.6% of urban residents believe that crime has greatly or somewhat increased over the past three years, compared with 38.1% of non-urban (suburban, large rural town, small town/isolated rural) respondents. As in the gender analysis, these differences are not statistically significant.

*Those who report being victimized by crime during the previous 12 months are significantly more likely to believe crime has increased over the prior three years.* Half (50.3%) of victims report their belief that crime has somewhat or greatly increased over the prior three years, while only 31.2% of non-victims report similarly.

The difference between how respondents perceive changes in crime over the past three years and the crime information reported to law enforcement should not be considered surprising. Law enforcement reports its data as part of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). For the UCR, local law enforcement report only Index Crimes, which include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

However, UCR crimes comprise only a fraction of the total number of crimes. When compared to the total number of arrests in 2009, Index Crimes accounted for roughly 15% of all arrests. Therefore, it is likely that more crimes are occurring in Maine neighborhoods than are captured in the crime index. For example, drug abuse violations and DUI represent nearly a quarter of all arrests in Maine, and have increased significantly over the past 10 years. As certain crimes increase, even marginally, those living in the community may sense an overall crime change locally.

Another factor to consider when comparing respondents' perceptions is that official crime rates only include the incidents *reported* to a local law enforcement agency. When criminal incidents are not reported to police, they are not reflected in the UCR. As will be described in Section II, the percentage of respondents who do not report the incident to local law enforcement is significant.

The MCVS asks whether the respondent feels illegal drugs are a problem in his or her neighborhood. As in 2006, roughly half (52.9%) of respondents do not feel illegal drugs are a problem. However, this response is significantly different upon examination by geographic locale and victimization in the previous 12 months.

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*Half of the respondents do not view drugs as a problem in their neighborhood*  
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Half (49.7%) of non-urban respondents think drugs are a problem in their neighborhood, compared to 41.4% of urban respondents. The survey responses show that residents in small rural towns were significantly more likely to feel that illegal drugs were a problem in their neighborhood than residents living in the urban centers or the suburbs. One of the differences among urban and rural respondents may be that people living in larger cities do not view drugs as a high-priority crime problem compared to other crimes. Also, many law enforcement officials speculate the increase in drug abuse has been felt more acutely in rural communities.

**Do you feel illegal drugs are a problem in your neighborhood? (Percentage who answered, “yes”)**

	2011	2006
Total	46.9%	47.6%
Male	47.5%	50.0%
Female	46.7%	45.4%
Urban core	41.4%	38.8%
Suburban	39.1%	NA
Large Rural Town	44.7%	NA
Small Town/Isolated Rural	56.5%	NA
Not a Crime Victim	38.7%	40.2%
Crime Victim	61.8%	62.7%

More than 60 percent (61.8%) of victims felt illegal drugs were a problem in their neighborhood, compared to only 38.7% of non-victims. This difference is statistically significant and similar to how respondents perceive changes in crime over the past three years.



## How would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community?

	Very Good or Good	Acceptable	Very Bad or Bad
Total	72.5%	23.4%	4.1%
Male	74.2%	20.4%	5.4%
Female	71.0%	26.3%	2.7%
Urban core	81.1%	17.8%	1.1%
Suburban	71.5%	23.4%	5.1%
Large Rural Town	74.8%	21.3%	3.9%
Small Town/Isolated Rural	63.8%	29.8%	6.4%
Not a Crime Victim	77.0%	20.5%	2.5%
Crime Victim	64.8%	28.2%	7.0%
Property Crime Victim	59.1%	33.9%	7.0%
Violent Crime Victim	41.9%	45.2%	12.9%
Stalking Victim	59.4%	30.7%	9.9%

Nearly three quarters of survey respondents (72.5%) in 2011 rate local law enforcement as doing a good or very good job in their community. The 2011 rate is significantly higher than the 2006 approval rate of 66.4%, and is a positive indicator of community satisfaction with law enforcement over the last five years.

Satisfaction with local law enforcement, however, is influenced by whether the respondent was a victim in the previous 12 months and where they reside. Seventy-seven percent of non-victims rate law

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*A majority of survey respondents (72.5%) view law enforcement performance in their communities as good or very good.*  
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enforcement performance positively, compared to 64.8% of those victimized in the last 12 months. This difference is equally pronounced when the respondent rates local law enforcement's job as bad or very bad. Just 2.5% of non-victims rate law enforcement performance as bad, compared to 7.0% of all victim respondents and 12.9% of violent crime victims. Also, respondents living in urban centers rated local law enforcement performance good or very good at significantly higher rates than respondents from other parts of the state. For example, there was nearly an 18 percentage point difference between urban core and small town respondents on rating local law enforcement performance as good or very good.

These findings reflect Maine Department of Public Safety statistics that show Maine's law enforcement authorities (LEA) are doing a better job at identifying potential perpetrators than law enforcement in other states.

Maine LEA have higher rates of identifying and arresting suspects (clearance rates) for property and violent crimes, except for rape, than the national average.<sup>2</sup> Part of the success may lie in better community awareness of who lives in the neighborhood, and the communities' willingness to work with law enforcement to help find the perpetrator.

Survey respondents say substance abuse (illegal drugs and alcohol) and family-related issues contribute a great deal to the crime problems in Maine.

**Mainers perceive substance abuse and family issues as contributing to crime:** Survey respondents say substance abuse (illegal drugs and alcohol) and family-related issues are top contributing factors to crime problems in Maine. Asked to rate 13 different items on a four-point scale from “a great deal” to “none or hardly any,” respondents most frequently choose illegal drugs and lack of parental discipline as the items most responsible for crime in Maine. Respondents also identify the economy and breakdown of family life as contributors to crime. These results are similar to the 2006 survey results, when respondents perceived substance abuse and family issues as contributing factors to crime. The economy was not rated as important a

factor in 2006 as it is in 2011, reflecting the severe economic downturn the United States has experienced since the middle of 2008.

**How much do you believe the following contribute to our crime problems here in Maine?**

Social Issue	A Great Deal	A Moderate Amount	A Little	None or Hardly Any
Illegal Drugs	63.4%	30.7%	4.3%	1.6%
Lack of Parental Discipline	53.7%	35.4%	9.9%	1.0%
The Economy	50.3%	33.4%	12.0%	4.4%
Breakdown Of Family Life	46.9%	36.9%	13.3%	2.9%
Alcohol	39.0%	44.1%	12.9%	4.0%
Moral Decay	34.1%	33.4%	21.4%	11.1%
Domestic Violence	33.9%	43.5%	17.1%	5.5%
Criminal Justice System Too Easy	25.9%	34.0%	21.0%	19.1%
Too Much Leisure Time	25.4%	29.1%	22.1%	23.4%
TV/Movie/Video Game Violence	22.1%	28.7%	26.3%	22.9%
Availability Of Guns	19.8%	25.8%	23.6%	30.8%
Population Increase	12.7%	30.0%	30.2%	27.1%
Gangs	12.7%	25.7%	29.4%	32.2%

<sup>2</sup> Go to Maine’s Department of Public Safety’s *Crime in Maine 2009* report at [http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime\\_in\\_maine/2009contents.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/2009contents.htm) and the FBI’s *Crime in the United States (CIUS)* report at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr#nibrs>

Factors less frequently identified by respondents in Maine are population increase, the availability of guns, and gangs. Interestingly, four items were rated differently by gender by over ten percentage points as being responsible for crime problems either “a great deal” or “a moderate amount.” Female respondents say Availability of Guns, TV/Movie/Video Game Violence, Alcohol, and Too Much Leisure Time are contributors to violence in Maine at significantly higher rates than men.

**Percentage of men and women who believe the following social issues were responsible for the crime problems in Maine either “a great deal” or “a moderate amount.”**

Social Issue	Women	Men	Absolute Difference
Illegal Drugs	94.0%	95.3%	1.3%
Lack of Parental Discipline	88.7%	89.3%	0.6%
The Economy	83.7%	83.5%	0.2%
Breakdown Of Family Life	84.5%	83.0%	1.5%
Alcohol	88.9%	77.2%	11.7%
Moral Decay	70.3%	64.6%	5.7%
Domestic Violence	81.2%	73.5%	7.7%
Criminal Justice System Too Easy	62.9%	57.1%	5.8%
Too Much Leisure Time	59.3%	49.0%	10.3%
TV/Movie/Video Game Violence	58.8%	42.3%	16.5%
Availability Of Guns	58.8%	32.2%	26.6%
Population Increase	46.0%	38.9%	7.1%
Gangs	41.1%	35.2%	5.9%

*The next section examines crime victimization rates in Maine.*

## SECTION II – CRIME VICTIMIZATION RATES

*One-third (36.2%) of all survey respondents report being victimized during the previous 12 months in Maine. While this rate may appear high, it is not significantly higher than the 2006 rate (32.9%). It is important to remember that Maine’s crime victimization rate includes threats of violence, identity theft, and stalking, which are not captured in other states’ crime victimization rates or in the national crime victimization survey. When the crime victimization rate is restricted to only property and violent crimes, the Maine rate drops to 15.8%, which is lower than comparable rates found in the Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Utah state surveys.*

Survey respondents were asked if they had personally experienced certain types of crime during the previous 12 months. Those who reported some type of victimization were asked follow-up questions about the type of crime. The crimes are divided into five categories: property crimes, violent crimes, threat of violence, stalking crimes, and identity theft.

### Crime Victimization

Type of Crime (Number of victims from 2011 survey)	2011	2006	95% Confidence Intervals (2011) <sup>3</sup>
Overall (n=302)	36.2%	32.9%	32.9% - 39.5%
Property Crimes (115)	13.8%	14.6%	11.4% - 16.1%
Violent Crimes (32)	3.8%	4.8%	2.5% - 5.1%
Threat of Violence (62)	7.4%	8.6%	5.7% - 9.2%
Stalking (103)	12.3%	11.7%	10.1% - 14.6%
Identity theft (126)*	15.0%	10.4%	12.7%- 17.5%
Property & Violent only (132)	15.8%	18.1%	13.4% - 18.3%
Hate crime (28)	11.4%	15.9%	6.0% - 12.5%
Reported to police (123)* <sup>4</sup>	40.4%	52.7%	35.2% - 46.3%

\*=Statistically significant difference between 2011 and 2006 survey

Overall, one-third (36.2%) of the respondents report being victimized by a crime in the previous 12 months. In addition, 11.4% of those who report victimization during the previous 12 months believe the offenses committed against them were fueled by their personal characteristics (hate crime).

Only 40.4% of respondents who report they were victimized in the previous 12 months reported the event to local law enforcement. This decline was a significant change from the previous survey’s rate of 52.7%.

<sup>3</sup> A confidence interval is a range around a measurement that conveys how precise the measurement is. The confidence interval tells us more than just the possible range around the estimate. It also tells us about how stable the estimate is. A stable estimate is one that would be close to the same value if the survey were repeated. An unstable estimate is one that would vary from one sample to another. Wider confidence intervals in relation to the estimate itself indicate instability. The precise statistical definition of the 95 percent confidence interval is that if this victimization survey was conducted 100 times, 95 times the percent of respondents would be within the calculated confidence intervals and five times the percent would be either higher or lower than the range of the confidence intervals.

<sup>4</sup> The reported to police rate’s denominator is the 302 respondents who said they were the victim of a crime.

The highest victimization rate is for Identity theft (15.0%), then Property Crimes (13.8%), followed by Stalking (12.3%), Threat of Violence (7.4%) and Violent Crimes, which includes robbery, assault, sexual assault and rape (3.8%). Between 2006 and 2011, identity theft's increase was the only statistically significant change among crime categories.

Overall Crime Rate(Number of victims from 2011 survey)	2011	95% Confidence Intervals (2011)
Overall (n=302)	36.2%	32.9% - 39.5%
Male (140)	33.9%	29.3% - 38.5%
Female (161)	38.3%	33.7% - 42.9%
Urban core (104)	39.1%	33.2% - 45.0%
Suburban (44)	31.7%	24.0% - 39.4%
Large Rural Town (48)	36.9%	28.6% - 45.2%
Small Town/Isolated Rural (96)	35.7%	30.0% - 41.4%

Male and female respondents report similar victimization rates. Among female respondents, 38.3% report they were the victim of a crime during the previous 12 months, compared to 33.9% of male respondents. Further, no differences are found between urban and non-urban respondents. 39.1% of urban residents were the victim of a crime during the previous 12 months, compared with 34.9% of non-urban respondents. As in the gender analysis, these differences are not statistically significant.

### ***Property Crime***

Survey respondents were asked if they had been *the victim of a property crime such as someone attempting to steal or stealing your car, breaking into or trying to break into your home, or vandalizing your property*. 13.8% of respondents report experiencing this type of victimization in the last 12 months. Respondents living in urban areas have a higher victimization rate (16.5%) than those living in non-urban areas<sup>5</sup> (12.4%). Respondents between 18-24 years old have the highest property crime victimization rate by age group at 20.2%, compared to 10.4% for respondents over the age of 55.

<sup>5</sup> Due to small sample sizes, suburban, large rural town and small town/isolated rural designations are not used in specific crime analysis, but are aggregated as non-urban core.

Male and female respondents experience property victimization at similar rates (14.5% and 13.3%).

Property Crime	2011	2006	95% Confidence Intervals (2011)
Overall rate (n=115)	13.8%	14.6%	11.4% - 16.1%
Reported to police (75)	65.6%	68.7%	56.9% - 74.3%
Female (56)	13.3%	NA	10.1% - 16.6%
Male (59)	14.5%	NA	11.1% - 17.9%
Urban core(44)	16.5%	NA	12.0% - 21.0%
Non-urban core (66)	12.4%	NA	9.6% - 15.2%

Two-thirds (65.6%) of property crime victims report the event to law enforcement, which is a nearly two-thirds higher rate of reporting than any other crime category. Victims living in more urban areas are more likely to report property crime to the police (70.5%) than rural residents (61.9%), as are female victims (72.5%) compared to male victims (58.9%). Property crimes have a far lower clearance rate than violent crimes, so it is likely that the high rate of reporting is due to the fact that in order to process an insurance claim, one often needs a police report.

### **Violent Crime**

The survey asks a series of questions about specific crimes. The four crimes—Robbery, Assault, Sexual Assault, and Rape—are categorized as violent crimes in this analysis. Overall, 3.8% of respondents say they have been the victim of violent crime over the past 12 months. Only one-third (33.3%) of violent crime victims reported the incident to the police. The 2011 violent crime victimization rates were lower than in 2006. However, given the small sample size of violent crime victimization, the difference is not statistically significant, although it may be suggestive.

Violent Crime	2011	2006	95% Confidence Intervals (2011)
Overall rate (n=32)	3.8%	4.8%	2.5% - 5.1%
Reported to police (11)	33.3%	49.6%	17.9% - 50.8%
Female (17)	4.0%	5.3%	2.2% - 5.9%
Male (14)	3.4%	4.4%	1.6% - 5.1%
Urban core(10)	3.8%	NA	1.5% - 6.0%
Non-urban core (22)	3.9%	NA	2.3% -5.5%

Female respondents report being victimized by violent crime at a rate of 4.0%, which is not significantly higher than the male rate of 3.4%. No differences are observed between those living in urban and non-urban areas. There appears, however, to be a significant difference among age groups as 12.9% of respondents between 18 and 24 years old were victims of a violent crime, compared with 2.9% of those 25 to 54 and 1.7% of those aged 55 and over.

The next few paragraphs examine each violent crime independently.

### **Robbery**

Respondents were asked whether *someone took or attempted to take something directly from the respondents using force*. Of the sample of 837, 11 (1.3%) report being victimized by robbery in the last 12 months. Given the low number of positive responses, no statistical differences are seen between males and females, or between those living in urban and non-urban areas.

### **Assault and Domestic Violence**

2.0% responded affirmatively to the question, *in the last 12 months, did anyone injure you with a weapon or assault you with physical force*. The sample size is too small to show statistical differences between non-urban and urban areas. This survey defines all assault, threatening, and rape cases committed by a family member, including an ex-spouse or partner, as the crime of **domestic violence**.<sup>6</sup> During the last 12 months, 0.8% (6 of 837) of those surveyed identified themselves as experiencing domestic violence. While this rate may appear small, applied to the entire adult population in Maine (18 years and older) the actual number of cases may be higher. Part of the explanation for the low rate may be either the wording of the question and follow ups, or whether respondents were willing to share the information with the interviewer. Another possible explanation is that the rate is within a confidence interval where there is 95% certainty that the actual domestic violence rate in Maine lies somewhere between 0.1% and 1.3%.

### **Sexual Assault**

Just over one percent (1.2% or 10 of 837) of respondents say they were forced into **unwanted sexual activity, such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, or sexual assault** during the last 12 months. Another 0.6% (5 of 837) of all respondents say someone forced or attempted to force them into unwanted sexual intercourse in the last 12 months. Taken together, the sexual crime victimization rate is 1.2%. All the sexual assault victims in the sample are women. Except for one case, all report that they knew their perpetrator prior to the assault.

*Nearly one in five report being the victim of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault in their lifetime.*

The survey asks respondents whether in their lifetime they have ever been forced or someone attempted to force them into unwanted sexual intercourse. A total of 18.2% report in the affirmative, which was the same as 2006. The lifetime rate is significantly different by gender, with 32.1% of females and 5.3% of males responding affirmatively.

<sup>6</sup> This rate was determined by asking a series of follow up questions about the perpetrator. The respondent was not asked directly if they experienced domestic violence.

### **Threat of Violence**

When asked if anyone **threatened to hit, attack, or beat them**, 7.4% of respondents report in the affirmative, lower than the estimated rate in 2006 of 8.6%.

Nearly two-thirds of survey respondents who answered affirmatively report that they were threatened in the past 12 months by someone known to them (62.8%), compared to over one-third (34.4%) who were threatened by a stranger.

This category of crime shows no statistically significant gender differences, as males received threats compared to females at a rate of 9.5% vs. 5.3%. Overall, 30.7% of the victims alerted law enforcement regarding threats made against them on one or more occasions, which was significantly lower than the 2006 reporting rate of 44.7%. In 2011, urban residents were threatened at a lower rate (5.7%) than rural residents (8.2%), which was the reverse from the 2006 survey.

Respondents who were threatened with violence were three times as likely to be a victim of a property or violent crime (42.6%) than respondents who were not threatened (13.8%).

Threat of Violence	2011	2006	95% Confidence Intervals (2011)
Overall rate (n=62)	7.4%	8.6%	5.7% - 9.2%
Reported to police (19)	30.7%	44.7%	19.2% - 42.1%
Female (22)	5.3%	6.1%	3.1% - 7.4%
Male (39)	9.5%	11.3%	6.6% - 12.3%
Urban core(15)	5.7%	NA	2.9% - 8.4%
Non-urban core (46)	8.1%	NA	5.9% - 10.4%

### **Firearms**

Less than ten percent (6.7%) of respondents say they were either threatened with a firearm or one was used in commission of a violent crime in the past 12 months. This rate is consistent with firearm violence rates reported in the UCR. Maine's rate of firearm use in the commission of a crime from the 2009<sup>7</sup> UCR was 10.0%, nearly three times lower (28.8%) than the national average. Moreover, Maine reported the third lowest rate of firearm use in violent crimes in the country in 2009. In 2009, only 120 violent firearm crimes were committed in Maine. This total ranked third lowest in the nation behind North Dakota (39) and Vermont (98).

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime\\_in\\_maine/cim.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/cim.htm) and <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr#nibrs>



## Stalking Crime

Because there is widespread interest in understanding the scope and type of stalking behaviors in Maine, this survey used the same questions from the 2006 survey to compare the stalking rates from the two time periods.

~~~~~  
*Stalking  
 Victims are  
 more likely to  
 be the victims  
 of other  
 crimes.*  
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The survey measured stalking by asking a series of questions about various types of behaviors, all of which can be considered intimidating and potentially dangerous. Respondents were asked about each of those behaviors, and whether they felt threatened by at least one type of stalking behavior.

Overall, 12.3% of respondents said they were the victim of stalking behavior in the past 12 months, slightly higher than the 2006 overall stalking rate of 11.7%.

### Did you feel threatened by another person as a result of any of the following behaviors?

Stalking Crime	2011	2006	95% Confidence Intervals (2011)
Overall rate (n=103)	12.3%	11.7%	10.1% - 14.6%
Reported to police (28)	28.6%	39.3%	19.4% - 37.2%
Female (71)	16.9%	11.4%	13.3% - 20.5%
Male (32)	7.7%	11.9%	5.2% - 10.3%
Urban (35)	13.2%	NA	9.1% - 17.2%
Non-urban core (68)	12.0%	NA	9.3% - 14.6%

On the whole, women are stalked at twice the rate of men, 16.9% and 7.7% respectively. Despite stalking encompassing a wide range of behaviors, women are twice as likely to face stalking behaviors across all the types listed below.

Stalking Behaviors	2011	2006	2011 Female	2011 Male
Unsolicited letters (48)	5.8%	2.4%	8.6%	2.9%
Following or spying (41)	4.9%	5.4%	7.2%	2.7%
Communicating against your will (32)	3.8%	3.6%	5.0%	2.7%
Unsolicited calls (29)	3.5%	5.7%	4.8%	2.2%
Standing outside home/work (25)	3.0%	4.2%	5.3%	0.7%
Showing up where you are (19)	2.3%	2.4%	3.1%	1.5%
Leaving unwanted items (9)	1.1%	1.7%	1.7%	0.5%

Respondents who were stalking victims in this survey often report being profoundly affected by the experience. Just 28.6% say they reported the incident to local law enforcement. Stalking victims are much more likely to feel unease about their personal safety, and are twice as likely to be a victim of a property or violent crime (34.0%) than respondents who are not stalking victims (13.3%).

### **Identity Theft**

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), identity theft is defined as the use or attempted use of an account or identifying information without the owner's permission. In 2004, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) included questions regarding identity theft for the first time. Identity theft was defined to include three behaviors:

1. *unauthorized use or attempted use of existing credit cards*
2. *unauthorized use or attempted use of other existing accounts such as checking accounts*
3. *misuse of personal information to obtain new accounts or loans or to commit other crimes*

~~~~~  
*Identity Theft  
has grown  
significantly in  
the past five  
years.*  
~~~~~

This survey follows the NCVS example and examines these three types of incidents that can be defined as identity theft. Respondents reported whether they discovered certain accounts being used without their knowledge.

Overall, 15.0% of the respondents say they have been victimized by identity theft in the previous 12 months. This is significantly higher than the 2006 rate of 10.4%. The most commonly reported form of identity theft is someone using or attempting to use credit cards without the respondent's knowledge (12.0%).

That rate nearly doubled from 2006. 4.7% of respondents report that other accounts have been illegally accessed, and 3.5% report that someone has used or attempted to use their personal information without permission.

Two-thirds of respondents victimized by identity theft say they did not lose money from the event, and 24.4% said that the amount of money lost in the incident is less than \$500. 11.4% say they have had problems with their banking and credit card accounts as a result of the incident, down from 17.0% in 2006, suggesting that banks and other credit card providers may be doing a better job of helping consumers resolve any illegal credit card transactions.

Identity theft	2011	2006	95% Confidence Intervals (2011)
Overall rate (n=116)	15.0%	10.4%	11.6% - 16.3%
Reported to police (25)	21.3%	27.3%	13.8% - 28.8%
Female (69)	16.4%	11.6%	12.9% - 20.0%
Male (55)	13.3%	9.0%	16.6% - 20.0%
Urban Core (41)	15.4%	11.1%	11.1% - 19.8%
Non-urban core (85)	14.9%	10.3%	12.0% - 17.8%
Used or attempted to use credit cards or numbers w/o permission (100)	12.0%	6.7%	9.8%-14.2%
Other accounts accessed (39)	4.7%	4.3%	3.2%-6.1%
Used personal info to obtain new credit (29)	3.5%	2.6%	2.2%-4.7%

Unlike in 2006, identity theft does not affect respondents younger than 55 at higher rates than older respondents (over 55). Women report slightly higher rates of victimization for identity theft than men, 16.4% to 13.3%, although this difference is not significant. Income levels do not affect identity theft rates; although those earning between \$20,000 and \$50,000 have the lowest identity theft rate at 11.3%, while those earning between \$80,000 and \$100,000 have the highest rate at 18.8%.

*Most victims of violent crime do not report to local law enforcement.*

Overall, only 21.3% of identity theft victims report the incident to local law enforcement, down from 27.3% in 2006. This change may reflect the continued attitude that it is not worth going to local law enforcement for this type of victimization, and that respondents are relatively satisfied with the response from their banks and credit card companies. While many victims try to deal

with this problem directly, it remains a crime and is reported by the FBI as the fastest growing crime in the country.

### **Underreporting Crime**

Overall, 40.4% of respondents who were victimized by a crime say they reported the incident to local law enforcement agencies, significantly lower than the 52.7% rate in 2006. Stalking crimes and identity theft reporting rates also fell significantly between 2006 and 2011. Respondents are far more likely to report property crime incidents (65.6%) than violent crime incidents (33.3%). The violent crime reporting rate is influenced by an extremely low rate of reporting by victims of sexual assault and rape, which is consistent with national trends.

The MCVS did not ask crime victims why they did or did not report the crime to law enforcement authorities. However, the Bureau of Justice Statistics found in 2002 the most common reasons for not reporting violence to the police were because it was a “private/personal matter” (20%), because the violence was considered “not important enough” (17%), or because it was “reported to some other official” (14%).<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=96>

Reporting to Local Law Enforcement in Maine	2011	2006
Overall*	40.4%	52.7%
Property Crime	65.6%	68.7%
Violent Crimes	33.3%	49.6%
Threat of Violence	30.7%	44.7%
Stalking Crimes*	28.6%	39.3%
Identity theft*	20.3%	27.3%

*\*=Statistically significant difference between 2011 and 2006 survey*



### SECTION III – CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

Crime victimization surveys offer an opportunity to understand specific characteristics of offenders, the circumstances of the crime, and more detailed information about the victims (including their relationship to the offender). Crime victimization surveys are the primary source of information on the characteristics of criminal victimization and on the number and types of crimes not reported to law enforcement authorities.

Among key findings in this section is that most victims are not told of their rights as a victim. In addition, victims tend to be younger and have less income. Areas defined as urban core by the Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes have higher victimization rates than zip codes not part of the urban core. Offender and offense characteristics reveal that many victims believe the offender was under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the incident occurred. Also, very few respondents identify the offender as a juvenile.

The basic demographics of victims show 53.5% are female and 46.5% are male; 95.7% are white, and 4.0% are non-white; 19.7% are Franco-American, while 0.3% are of Hispanic origin. Franco-Americans were the only demographic to show a statistically significant change in crime victimization.

#### Victims

Victim Demographics	2011	2006	95% Confidence Intervals (2011)
Female (161)	53.5%	49.4%	47.7% - 58.9%
Male (140)	46.5%	50.6%	40.7% - 52.0%
Non-white (12)	4.0%	4.9%	1.8% - 6.2%
White (288)	95.7%	95.1%	93.0% - 97.7%
Franco-American (59)*	19.7%	11.3%	15.1% - 24.0%
Hispanic Origin (1)	0.3%	0.8%	NA

\*=Statistically significant difference between 2011 and 2006 survey

**Most victims are not told of their rights:** The survey asks a series of questions to respondents who identify themselves as having been victimized by crime in the past 12 months. Only 16.1% of victims who reported their crime to local law enforcement were told of their rights as a crime victim, significantly lower than the rate in 2006 of 26.0%. This is a troubling figure for some policymakers, since efforts have been made to provide more information to victims over the past few years. This low rate suggests more work needs to be done in this area.

The survey also asks a series of questions to determine whether respondents use certain services after victimization. The most common service used by victims was talking to a mental health professional (11.3%). In addition, 4.0% of victims incurred out-of-pocket medical costs, and only 2.2% received medical treatment.

As a result of the victimization, 6.2% of all victims lost time from work. The majority of respondents who lost time from work missed between one to five days, although the sample was too small to generalize to crime victims across the state. The sample size was also too small to provide definitive results about out-of-pocket losses due to criminal victimization.

The results of this survey continue to measure improvements to victim services and gain a better understanding of the services they use.

	2011	2006
Told of rights as a crime victim* (40)	16.1%	26.0%
Received medical treatment for any physical injury (6)	2.2%	1.9%
Talked to a mental health professional (22)	11.3%	12.3%
Had out of pocket medical expenses (8)	4.0%	6.1%
Lost time out from work (15)	6.2%	7.4%

\*=Statistically significant difference between 2011 and 2006 survey

**Young people report a higher rate of victimization:** Generally, younger respondents are more likely to have been victimized by crime during the last 12 months. The greatest differences are seen with violent crimes and threats of violence. Looking first at violent crimes, 12.9% of those between 18 and 24 years old are victims, compared with 2.9% of those 25 to 54 and 1.7% of those aged 55 and over. Of those 18 to 24, 12.9% report they have been victims of threats of violence in the last 12 months, compared to 10.6% of those 25 to 54, and only 2.5% of those aged 55 and over.

Age of Victim	Overall Victimization Rate	Violent Crime Victimization Rate
18-24	45.2%	12.9%
25-34	40.2%	1.7%
35-45	40.7%	4.2%
45-54	37.8%	2.9%
55-59	40.0%	2.7%
60-64	35.6%	3.4%
65-74	23.5%	1.2%
75-84	17.0%	0.0%
85+	25.0%	0.0%

Turning to nonviolent types of offenses, 20.2% of those aged 18 to 24 report being victims of property crime, compared to 10.8% of those 55 and over. Identity theft victimization is reported by 6.5% of respondents aged 18 to 24, and 10.8% of respondents 55 and older. Finally, stalking victimization is reported at a rate of 24.5% for respondents 18 to 24 years old, and 7.6% of respondents over 55.

Age of Victim	Property Crime Victimization Rate	Identity theft Victimization Rate	Stalking Victimization Rate
18-24	20.2%	6.5%	24.5%
25-34	16.5%	13.2%	14.9%
35-45	15.9%	17.2%	12.5%
45-54	14.0%	19.2%	12.3%
55-59	16.0%	20.0%	10.7%
60-64	10.2%	22.0%	6.8%
65-74	7.4%	11.1%	8.6%
75-84	7.5%	5.7%	3.8%
85+	0.0%	20.0%	10.0%



**Those living alone are victimized at nearly the same rate as those living with a partner:** Single, divorced or widowed respondents report overall victimization at equal rates as respondents who are married/living with a partner (38.7% to 34.0% respectively). For violent and property crime victimization, single, divorced, or widowed respondents are more likely to be a victim (19.4%) as respondents who are married/living with a partner (15.7%), which is consistent with national findings.

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*No differences existed in victimization rates by living arrangement or geographic location.*  
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**No significant differences are found between residents living in the urban core compared with non-urban areas:** Across all crime categories no differences are observed between those living in urban and non-urban areas. Even at the urban, suburban, large rural town, or small town/isolated rural level, no statistically significant differences emerged.

**Income level correlates with victimization in Maine:** This survey finds that the overall level of victimization respondents experience tends to decrease as their level of income increases. Individuals earning less than \$20,000 were victimized at a rate of 45.6%, more than eight percentage points higher than the other income categories.

This finding is especially true with stalking crime victimization, as 22.8% of those making less than \$20,000 are victims of a stalking crime, compared to 7.8% of those making \$20,000 to \$50,000, and 12.1% of those making over \$50,000. These rates are similar for threats of violence, as 10.8% of respondents who make less than \$20,000 are threatened with violence, compared with 5.9% of those with an income between \$20,000 and \$50,000, and 8.3% of those earning over \$50,000.

Income Level	Overall Victimization Rate	Violent Crime Victimization Rate
Less than \$20,000	45.6%	5.7%
\$20,000 to less than \$50,000	30.9%	3.1%
\$50,000 to less than \$80,000	37.1%	4.2%
\$80,000 to less than \$100,000	34.8%	2.9%
\$100,000 or more	36.0%	4.0%

Property and identity theft crime rates are more evenly distributed across income categories. Property crime rates are the highest among individuals in households earning less than \$20,000 (18.4%), followed by households earning over \$100,000 (18.0%), and households earning between \$80,000 and \$100,000 (14.5%). Households earning between \$80,000 and \$100,000 have the highest identity theft crime rate at 18.8%, followed by households earning between \$50,000 and \$80,000 (18.0%) and households earning more than \$100,000 (15.0%).

Income Level	Property Crime Victimization Rate	Identity Theft Victimization Rate	Stalking Victimization Rate
Less than \$20,000	18.4%	14.6%	22.8%
\$20,000 to less than \$50,000	12.9%	11.3%	7.8%
\$50,000 to less than \$80,000	11.3%	18.0%	13.1%
\$80,000 to less than \$100,000	14.5%	18.8%	8.7%
\$100,000 or more	18.0%	15.0%	13.0%

While respondents of different income categories were equally likely to be notified of their rights as victims, there were significant differences by income level in whether they believed the police were doing either a good or very good job. Respondents with household income levels of less than \$20,000 rated police as doing a good or very good job only 62.2% of the time compared with 84.0% for respondents with household income levels of more than \$100,000.

**How would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community?**

	Very Good or Good	Acceptable	Very Bad or Bad
Less than \$20,000	62.2%	30.8%	7.1%
\$20,000 to less than \$50,000	72.6%	23.0%	4.4%
\$50,000 to less than \$80,000	71.7%	24.1%	4.2%
\$80,000 to less than \$100,000	81.2%	15.9%	2.9%
\$100,000 or more	84.0%	16.0%	0.0%

**Most victims threatened or victimized by violent crime believe the offender was under the influence:**

Respondents who report being victimized in the last 12 months were asked whether the offender appeared to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Almost two-thirds (65.6%) of those victimized by violent crime or threatened with violence believe the offender was under the influence when the crime occurred. Also, more than half (53.6%) of those who were threatened with physical harm believed the offender was under the influence.

**Most victims identify the offender as an adult:** The vast majority of victims (82.8%) say the offender was an adult. Only 17.1% identify the offender as a juvenile. This finding is consistent with trends in Maine showing that juveniles account for fewer and fewer arrests over the last ten years. The share of all arrests of juveniles peaked in the mid-1990s before falling to its lowest level in 2009 (12.1%). Moreover, juveniles are more likely to be linked to property crimes than violent crimes. Juveniles accounted for nearly one-quarter (22.8%) of total property crime arrests in Maine, compared with 11.5% of the violent crime arrests in 2009.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> See *Crime in Maine 2009* report at [http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime\\_in\\_maine/cim.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/cim.htm)



## *SURVEY QUESTIONS*

1. *How safe do you feel in the community where you live? Would you say . . .*
  - Always safe
  - Almost always safe
  - Sometimes safe
  - Almost never safe, or
  - Never safe
  - Don't Know
  - N/A
  
2. *How often are you fearful of being the victim of a violent crime? Would you say . . .*
  - Never
  - Almost never
  - Sometimes
  - Almost always, or
  - Always
  - Don't Know
  - N/A
  
3. *How would you rate the job law enforcement is doing in your community? Would you say . . .*
  - Very good
  - Good
  - Acceptable
  - Bad, or
  - Very bad
  - Don't Know
  - N/A
  
4. *Over the past three years, do you believe that crime in your community has:*
  - Greatly decreased
  - Somewhat decreased
  - Stayed the same
  - Somewhat increased
  - Greatly increased?
  - Haven't lived here 3 years
  - Don't Know
  - N/A

5. *Do you feel illegal drugs are a problem in your neighborhood?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know
- N/A

6. *Lack of parental discipline . . .*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

---

*Following is a list of factors which may be responsible for crime problems. How much do you believe each one contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*

---

*Family Life*

7. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*

- A great deal
- A moderate amount
- A little, or
- None or hardly any
- Don't know
- N/A

*Illegal Drugs*

8. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*

- A great deal
- A moderate amount
- A little, or
- None or hardly any
- Don't know
- N/A

**Gangs**

9. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

**Moral Decay**

10. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

**TV, Movies or Video Game Violence**

11. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

**Alcohol**

12. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or none or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

*Population Increase*

13. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

*Domestic Violence*

14. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

*The Criminal Justice System is too Easy*

15. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

*Too Much Leisure Time*

16. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

*Availability of Guns*

17. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

*The Economy*

18. *How much do you believe this contributes to our crime problems here in Maine?*
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - A little, or
  - None or hardly any
  - Don't know
  - N/A

19. *Are there any other factors that you believe are responsible for our crime problems here in Maine?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A

20. *What are those factors?*



---

*Following are several questions about events that occurred over the last 12 months while you were living in Maine. Your responses to these questions will be kept completely confidential.*

---

21. *In the last 12 months, were you the victim of a property crime such as someone attempting to steal or stealing your car, breaking into or trying to break into your home, or vandalizing your property?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

22. *Did you report it to the police?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

23. *Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol or drugs?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

---

*The next few questions are related to identify theft. They refer to episodes of identity theft discovered by you during the last 12 months.*

---

24. *In the last 12 months, have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing credit cards or credit card numbers without your permission?*

- Yes
- No
- Bank account/credit card was hacked into
- Don't know
- N/A

25. *In the last 12 months, other than a credit card account, have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use any of your existing accounts (e.g. telephone account, bank account) without your permission?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A
26. *In the last 12 months, have you discovered that someone used or attempted to use your personal information without permission to obtain NEW credit cards or loans, run up debts, or open other accounts, or otherwise commit theft, fraud, or some other crime?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A
27. *Did you report this misuse (of credit cards, personal information, etc.) to the police?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A
28. *Please estimate the total dollar amount you actually lost while your credit cards, accounts, and/or personal information were being misused. Was it . . .*
- None
  - Less than \$500
  - \$500 to \$1,000
  - \$1,001 to \$10,000, or
  - More than \$10,000?
  - Don't know
  - N/A
29. *As a result of this misuse, have you or anyone in your household had banking problems or problems with credit card accounts?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A

**Violent Crime**

**30. In the last 12 months, did anyone take, or attempt to take something directly from you by using force, or threat of force?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

**31. Did you report it to the police?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

**32. Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol or drugs?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

**33. Did the offender use a gun or a firearm?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

**34. Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?**

- Juvenile (under age 18)
- Adult (age 18 or older)
- Both
- Don't know
- N/A

**35. Was the person who did this to you . . .**

- A stranger
- A casual acquaintance
- A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home
- A person or people who are well know to you, excluding family
- You did not see anyone
- Don't know
- N/A

36. *In the past 12 months, did anyone threaten to hit, attack or assault you?*  
 Yes  
 No  
 Don't know  
 N/A
37. *Did you report it to the police?*  
 Yes  
 No  
 Don't know  
 N/A
38. *Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol or drugs?*  
 Yes  
 No  
 Don't know  
 N/A
39. *Were you threatened with . . .(check all that apply)*  
 Physical force  
 A knife  
 A gun (or firearm)  
 A club  
 Another weapon  
 Don't know  
 N/A
40. *Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?*  
 Juvenile (under age 18)  
 Adult (age 18 or older)  
 Both  
 Don't know  
 N/A
41. *Was the person who did this to you . . .(check all that apply)*  
 A stranger  
 A casual acquaintance  
 A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home  
 A person or people who are well know to you, excluding family  
 You did not see anyone  
 Don't know  
 N/A

42. *Was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?*  
Yes  
No  
Ex-partner or Ex-spouse  
Don't know  
N/A
43. *Has the threatening behavior of your spouse, significant other, or partner increased in frequency or severity over the past 12 months?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
44. *In the past 12 months, did anyone injure you with a weapon or assault you with physical force?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
45. *Did you report it to the police?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
46. *Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol or drugs?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
47. *Was the injury caused by . . .(check all that apply)*  
Physical force  
A knife  
A gun (or firearm)  
A club  
Another weapon  
There was no injury  
Don't know  
N/A

48. *Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?*  
Juvenile (under age 18)  
Adult (age 18 or older)  
Both  
Don't know  
N/A
49. *Was the person who did this to you . . .(check all that apply)*  
A stranger  
A casual acquaintance  
A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home  
A person or people who are well know to you, excluding family  
You did not see anyone  
Don't know  
N/A
50. *Was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?*  
Yes  
No  
Ex-partner or Ex-spouse  
Don't know  
N/A
51. *Has the abusive behavior by your spouse, significant other, or partner increased in frequency or severity over the past 12 months?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
52. *In the last 12 months did anyone force you or attempt to force you into any unwanted sexual activity such as touching, grabbing, kissing, fondling, etc.?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
53. *Did you report it to the police?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A

54. *Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol or drugs?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
55. *Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?*  
Juvenile (under age 18)  
Adult (age 18 or older)  
Both  
Don't know  
N/A
56. *Was the person who did this to you . . . (check all that apply)*  
A stranger  
A casual acquaintance  
A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home  
A person or people who are well know to you, excluding family  
You did not see anyone  
Don't know  
N/A
57. *Was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?*  
Yes  
No  
Ex-partner or Ex-spouse  
Don't know  
N/A
58. *In the last 12 months, did anyone force you, or attempt to force you to have sex with them?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
59. *Did you report it to the police?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A

60. *Was the person who did this to you under the influence of alcohol or drugs?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
61. *Was the person or people who did this to you a juvenile, an adult, or both?*  
Juvenile (under age 18)  
Adult (age 18 or older)  
Both  
Don't know  
N/A
62. *Was the person who did this to you . . .(check all that apply)*  
A stranger  
A casual acquaintance  
A family member, including an unmarried partner living in your home  
A person or people who are well know to you, excluding family  
You did not see anyone  
Don't know  
N/A
63. *Was the family member your spouse, significant other, or partner?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
64. *In your lifetime has anyone ever forced or attempted to force you to have sex with them?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
65. *During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person following or spying on you?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A



66. *During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person sending you unasked for letters or written correspondence, including email and texting?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
67. *During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person making unasked for phone calls to you?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
68. *During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person standing outside your home, school or workplace?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
69. *During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person continually showing up at places where you were?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
70. *During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person leaving unwanted items for you?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
71. *During the last 12 months, have you felt threatened by another person trying to communicate with you against your will (other than in ways previously mentioned)?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A

72. *Did you report any of these incidences to the Police?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
73. *During the past 12 months, have you been the victim of any other crimes that we have not already discussed?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
74. *What was the crime?*
75. *Did you report it to the Police?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
76. *Over the course of your lifetime, have you ever been the victim of any of the crimes in this survey? This would include property crimes, identity theft, threatening, and so on.*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
77. *As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you received medical treatment?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A
78. *As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you received medical treatment for any physical injury?*  
Yes  
No  
Don't know  
N/A

79. *As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you talked to a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health professional?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A
80. *As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you lost time from work?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A
81. *As a result of being a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, have you contacted a crisis or support hotline?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A
82. *Did you have out-of-pocket medical expense as a result of being a crime victim?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
  - N/A
83. *Please estimate your out-of-pocket medical expenses as a result of being a crime victim. Was it ...*
- Less than \$500
  - \$500 - \$1000
  - \$1001 - \$10,000
  - More than \$10,000
  - Don't know
  - N/A
84. *Please estimate the number of days lost from work as a result of being a victim of crime.*
- 1-5 days
  - 6-10 days
  - More than 10 days
  - Don't know
  - N/A

85. *Did anyone tell you or your family about your rights as a crime victim, such as what you would be notified about or how you could participate in prosecution, sentencing or corrections decisions?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

86. *Who informed you about your rights as a victim? (check all that apply)*

- Lawyer
- Police
- Prosecutor/DA
- Victim/Witness Advocate
- Judge
- Other (specify)
- No one
- Don't know/not sure
- N/A

87. *Do you believe you were the victim of a crime due to your race, gender, sexual orientation or identity?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

88. *In what year were you born?*

89. *Gender:*

- Female
- Male
- Don't know
- N/A

90. *Which category best describes your racial background?*

- White/Caucasian
- African American/Black
- American Indian
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Bi-racial or multi-racial
- Other (specify)
- Don't know
- N/A

91. *What is your ethnic background?*

- Hispanic/Latino
- Franco-American
- Another ethnicity
- Don't know
- N/A

92. *What is your marital status?*

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Separated
- Opposite sex partner sharing a home
- Same sex partner sharing a home
- Don't know
- N/A

93. *What is your highest grade of school or level of education you have completed so far?*

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade or less
- Some high school, but did not graduate
- High School graduate or GED
- Some college or 2-year degree
- 4-year college degree
- More than 4-year college degree
- Don't know
- N/A

94. *How many children under the age of 18 live at your current residence?*

- 0
- 1
- 2-3
- 4-5
- More than 5
- Don't know
- N/A

95. *Please tell me the category that best describes your total household income before taxes in 2010:*

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 to less than \$50,000
- \$50,000 to less than \$80,000
- \$80,000 to less than \$100,000
- \$100,000 or more
- Don't know
- N/A

96. *Which of the following best describes your present employment status?*

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Student
- Homemaker
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Disabled
- Don't know
- N/A

97. *Have you lived in Maine your entire life?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- N/A

98. *How long have you lived in Maine?*

- Less than 5 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-19 years
- 20 years or more
- Don't know
- N/A

99. *How long have you lived at your current residence? (years)*

100. *How long have you lived at your current residence? (months)*

## Appendix A

Urban Core/Non-Urban Core <i>RUCA 4 Classification – Urban Core</i>	
ZIP CODE	
03804	04116
03901	04122
03903	04123
03904	04212
03905	04223
03908	04240
04005	04241
04006	04243
04007	04280
04013	04401
04017	04402
04021	04411
04032	04412
04033	04423
04034	04444
04038	04461
04062	04468
04063	04469
04064	04473
04070	04489
04072	
04074	
04078	
04082	
04092	
04096	
04098	
04101	
04102	
04103	
04104	
04105	
04106	
04107	
04110	
04112	

Urban Core/Non-Urban Core  
*RUCA 4 Classification – Suburban*

ZIP CODE		
03902	04087	04448
03909	04090	04449
03910	04091	04450
03911	04093	04453
04002	04094	04455
04004	04097	04456
04014	04108	04467
04015	04109	04474
04019	04220	04475
04020	04222	04488
04024	04230	04493
04027	04236	04495
04028	04238	04496
04029	04250	04928
04030	04252	04932
04039	04253	04933
04040	04256	04939
04041	04258	04953
04042	04260	04969
04043	04263	
04046	04266	
04047	04274	
04048	04282	
04049	04283	
04050	04288	
04054	04291	
04055	04410	
04057	04417	
04061	04418	
04068	04419	
04069	04422	
04071	04427	
04075	04428	
04077	04429	
04084	04434	
04085	04435	



Non-Urban Core  
*RUCA 4 Classification – Large Rural Town*

ZIP CODE	
04330	04363
04332	04364
04333	04548
04336	04562
04338	04565
04344	04567
04345	04579
04347	04854
04359	04858
04841	04910
04846	04917
04861	04918
04864	04926
04901	04927
04903	04935
04937	04962
04944	04989
04963	04003
04975	04008
04011	04066
04053	04079
04073	04287
04083	04001
04086	04056
04530	04076
04341	04095
04343	04259
04346	04265
04348	04284
04351	04349
04352	04547
04353	04563
04355	04350
04357	
04358	
04360	

Non-Urban Core  
*RUCA 4 Classification – Small Town/ Isolated Rural*

ZIP CODE		
04257	04763	04408
04268	04764	04413
04271	04766	04414
04275	04786	04415
04276	04787	04420
04281	04921	04421
04462	04951	04424
04609	04762	04431
04619	04765	04441
04644	04777	04442
04662	04779	04443
04672	04783	04454
04675	04924	04464
04730	04941	04472
04736	04949	04476
04756	04952	04478
04769	04973	04479
04773	04228	04485
04915	04254	04490
04938	04290	04491
04940	04292	04492
04950	04451	04535
04967	04459	04536
04992	04487	04537
04843	04010	04538
04976	04022	04539
04471	04037	04541
04497	04216	04543
04733	04219	04544
04734	04225	04549
04735	04226	04551
04738	04255	04553
04757	04261	04554
04758	04278	04555
04760	04285	04556
04761	04406	04558

Non-Urban Core  
*RUCA 4 Classification – Small Town/ Isolated Rural*

ZIP CODE		
04564	04654	04964
04568	04655	04966
04570	04658	04970
04571	04664	04971
04573	04669	04982
04575	04673	04985
04576	04676	04227
04605	04677	04234
04606	04680	04294
04607	04681	04740
04611	04683	04742
04612	04684	04745
04613	04685	04772
04614	04686	04956
04615	04691	04983
04616	04693	04984
04617	04737	03906
04622	04739	03907
04623	04741	04009
04624	04743	04416
04626	04744	04426
04627	04770	04457
04629	04774	04463
04630	04781	04481
04631	04788	04930
04634	04851	04342
04635	04852	04354
04640	04853	04572
04642	04863	04574
04643	04923	04578
04645	04925	04847
04648	04936	04855
04649	04945	04856
04650	04947	04857
04652	04954	04859
04653	04961	04860

Non-Urban Core  
*RUCA 4 Classification – Small Town/Isolated Rural*

ZIP CODE		
04862	04679	
04865	04694	
04922	04732	
04978	04746	
04986	04747	
04987	04750	
04988	04751	
04016	04759	
04051	04768	
04088	04775	
04217	04776	
04221	04780	
04224	04785	
04231	04848	
04237	04849	
04239	04850	
04262	04911	
04267	04912	
04270	04920	
04286	04929	
04289	04942	
04430	04943	
04438	04955	
04460	04957	
04625	04958	
04628	04965	
04637	04972	
04646	04974	
04656	04979	
04657	04981	
04660		
04666		
04667		
04668		
04671		
04674		

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- Ellis King, Correctional Planning Analyst, Maine Department of Corrections
- June Koegel, President and CEO, Volunteers of America
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