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**Resource 5: Community safety survey template**

This is a template for a survey that can be completed by business owners and/or local residents in areas nearby to the target area before and after your public safety infrastructure project is implemented.

The survey instrument may be adapted to reflect the outputs and outcomes specific to your project. The text in blue throughout provides guidance on the how each section may be adapted to suit the specifics of your project and evaluation. The questionnaire has been split into modules. You don’t need to include all of the modules—you can limit the survey to those modules and questions most relevant to your project.

But, remember—you must ask the same questions in both the baseline and follow-up surveys. That way you can compare the results and measure change over time.

This survey has been adapted from:

Lee M, Ellis J, Balmer N & Clancey G 2014. Perceptions of crime and safety: Survey design and implementation. Report to the City of Sydney

**Introductory page (if paper-based)**

You are invited to participate in a survey being conducted by <…Council> on safety in <target area>. The purpose of the survey is collect information from people aged 18 years or over on levels of crime and disorder in <target area>, perceptions of safety and prior victimisation.

You have been invited to participate because you live or work near <target area>. The survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

The survey is entirely confidential and no personally identifying information will be collected at any stage. You are welcome to withdraw from the survey at any time, should you wish to do so.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact <contact person> on <telephone number> or <email address>.

**Welcome script (if telephone survey)**

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is <…..> I am undertaking research on behalf of <….Council>. We are asking people aged 18 years and over about their views on safety in <target area>.

Everything you tell me will be treated confidentially. No individual person or business will be identified.

Do you have 10 minutes or so to answer some questions?

*IF THE PERSON REFUSES, thank them for their time and complete response monitoring form*

*IF THE PERSON AGREES, complete the attached survey*

**Interview start time:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_am/pm

**Interview date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Module A: DEMOGRAPHICS**

This section includes a set of core demographic questions that should be included in all surveys to provide a profile of the sample and also confirm eligibility for participation (ie does the person spend a decent amount of time in the target area?)

***To begin, I’d like to ask you some questions about yourself (script for telephone survey).***

1. Do you: *(Select all that apply)*
   1. Live near <target area>?
   2. Own a business near <target area>?
   3. Work near <target area>?
2. How long have you been living / working in the <target area>? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
   *(If less than <12 months>, STOP survey and thank respondent for their time. We are only interested in speaking to people who have been living or working in the area for a period of no less than <12 months>)*
3. Do you identify as:
   1. Female
   2. Male
   3. Other
   4. Prefer not to say
4. Please tell me your age:
   1. Age (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Prefer not to say
5. Which language do you speak most often at home?
   1. English
   2. Language other than English
   3. Prefer not to say
6. What are your three most significant sources of information about safety and crime? *(Select a maximum of three responses)*
   1. Personal experience
   2. Word of mouth / information from other people
   3. Newspapers – hardcopy
   4. Newspapers – online
   5. Television
   6. Radio
   7. Crime fiction / true crime / documentaries
   8. Social media
   9. The police
   10. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Module B: LEVELS OF CRIME AND DISORDER IN TARGET AREA**

This section is aimed at understanding community perceptions of the nature and severity of crime and disorder problems. You may like to reduce the number of offence categories to focus on the issues of greatest concern in your area. Just make sure the same categories are used in the follow-up survey.

***The following questions are about levels of crime and safety issues in <target area> in the past 12 months (if paper-based)***

***Now I would like to ask you some questions about levels of crime and safety issues in <target area> in the past <12 months> (script for telephone survey)***

1. For each issue, tell me whether you think is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem in <target area>?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Major problem** | **Minor problem** | **Not a problem** |
| Graffiti |  |  |  |
| Vandalism / property damage |  |  |  |
| Noisy, rowdy, inconsiderate behaviour |  |  |  |
| People hanging around in the street |  |  |  |
| Street drinking |  |  |  |
| Drug use and drug dealing |  |  |  |
| Violence and aggressive behaviour |  |  |  |
| Stealing from people and cars |  |  |  |
| Burglary |  |  |  |

**Module C: SATISFACTION WITH INFRASTRUCTURE IN TARGET AREA**

The questions in this section are designed to elicit information about the community’s overall satisfaction with the infrastructure in the target area. You may like to select the questions that relate most closely to your project. The final open-ended question in this section provides an opportunity for respondents to elaborate on their overall perceptions

1. How satisfied are you with the overall appearance of <target area>?
   1. Very satisfied
   2. Satisfied
   3. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
   4. Dissatisfied
   5. Very dissatisfied
   6. Don’t know
2. How satisfied are you with how well the <target area> is maintained? (eg general cleanliness, damaged property repaired etc)
3. Very satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
6. Dissatisfied
7. Very dissatisfied
8. Don’t know
9. How satisfied are you with the level of security in the <target area>?
10. Very satisfied
11. Satisfied
12. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
13. Dissatisfied
14. Very dissatisfied
15. Don’t know
16. How satisfied are you with the level of lighting in <target area> at night?
17. Very satisfied
18. Satisfied
19. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
20. Dissatisfied
21. Very dissatisfied
22. Don’t know
23. How satisfied are you with how easily people can see one another when visiting <target area>?
24. Very satisfied
25. Satisfied
26. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
27. Dissatisfied
28. Very dissatisfied
29. Don’t know
30. What are your overall perceptions of the <target area>?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Module D: PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY**

This section is aimed at understanding the community’s perceptions of safety in the 12 months before and after implementing your public safety infrastructure project.

1. How safe do you feel when spending time in the <target area> during the day?
2. Very safe
3. Safe
4. Neither safe nor unsafe
5. Unsafe
6. Very unsafe
7. Don’t know or prefer not say
8. How safe do you feel when spending time in the <target area> at night?
9. Very safe
10. Safe
11. Neither safe nor unsafe
12. Unsafe
13. Very unsafe
14. Don’t know or prefer not say

***The following questions ask you about how concerned you were about experiencing different types of crime in <target area> during the <day/night> in the last <12 months> (if paper-based)***

***Now I’m going to ask about how concerned you were about experiencing different types of crime in <target area> during the <day/night> in the last <12 months> (script if telephone)***

This section is focused on understanding the level and frequency of worry in the community about crime. These questions have been included to enable you to measure change over time. You may like to change the offence categories to focus on the issues of greatest concern in your area. For lighting projects, the survey may be targeted to focus on perceptions of safety after dark.

1. In the last <12 months>, have you ever felt worried about <your business being burgled (broken into)> <at night>?
2. Yes
3. No 🡪 Go to Q19
4. How often have you felt worried in the last <12 months>?
5. Some of the time
6. Most of the time
7. All of the time
8. Don’t know or prefer not to say
9. On the most recent occasion, how worried did you feel?
10. Not very worried
11. A little worried
12. Quite worried
13. Very worried
14. Can’t remember
15. Prefer not to say
16. In the last 12 months, have you ever felt worried about <being harassed in public> at <target area)> <at night>?
17. Yes
18. No 🡪 Go to Q22
19. How often have you felt worried in the last <12 months>?
20. Some of the time
21. Most of the time
22. All of the time
23. Don’t know or prefer not to say
24. On the most recent occasion, how worried did you feel?
25. Not very worried
26. A little worried
27. Quite worried
28. Very worried
29. Can’t remember
30. Prefer not to say
31. In the last 12 months, have you ever felt worried about <being physically assaulted> at <target area)> <at night>??
32. Yes
33. No 🡪 Go to Q25
34. How often have you felt worried in last <12 months>?
35. Some of the time
36. Most of the time
37. All of the time
38. Don’t know or prefer not to say
39. On the most recent occasion, how worried did you feel?
40. Not very worried
41. A little worried
42. Quite worried
43. Very worried
44. Can’t remember
45. Prefer not to say

**Module E: AVOIDING CRIME**

***The following questions ask you about precautions that you have taken to avoid crime (if paper-based)***

***Now I would like to ask you about precautions that you have taken to avoid crime (script for telephone)***

1. How often [if at all] do you avoid certain areas or streets in <target area> during the day?
2. None of the time
3. Some of the time
4. Most of the time
5. All of the time
6. Don’t know or prefer not to say
7. How often [if at all] do you avoid certain areas or streets in <target area> at night?
8. None of the time
9. Some of the time
10. Most of the time
11. All of the time
12. Don’t know or prefer not to say

**Section F: EXPERIENCE OF CRIME**

The final section of the survey asks about people’s experience of crime. This section can be used to determine whether experiences of actual victimisation are related to perceptions of safety. It can also provide a way of measuring changes in self-reported victimisation. As with Section B and Section D, you may like to reduce (or change) the number of offence categories to focus on the issues of greatest concern in your area.

1. This final set of questions asks about whether you or anyone you know has experienced crime at or near <target area> in the last <12 months>. Please answer yes or no to the following statements:

|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Prefer not to say** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| My home / business was burgled / broken into in the last year |  |  |  |
| I had something stolen from me at <target area> in the last year |  |  |  |
| I have been insulted or harassed in public at <target area> in the last year |  |  |  |
| I have been physically assaulted in public at <target area> in the last year |  |  |  |
| Someone I know has had their home / business burgled / broken into in the last year |  |  |  |
| Someone I know had something stolen from them at <target area> in the last year |  |  |  |
| Someone I know has been insulted or harassed in public at <target area> in the last year |  |  |  |
| Someone I know has been physically assaulted in public at <target area> in the last year |  |  |  |

That concludes the survey. Thank you very much for your time

-- END SURVEY --