

# Crime Rate Perception: An investigation into social media influence on crime rate perception and misconception

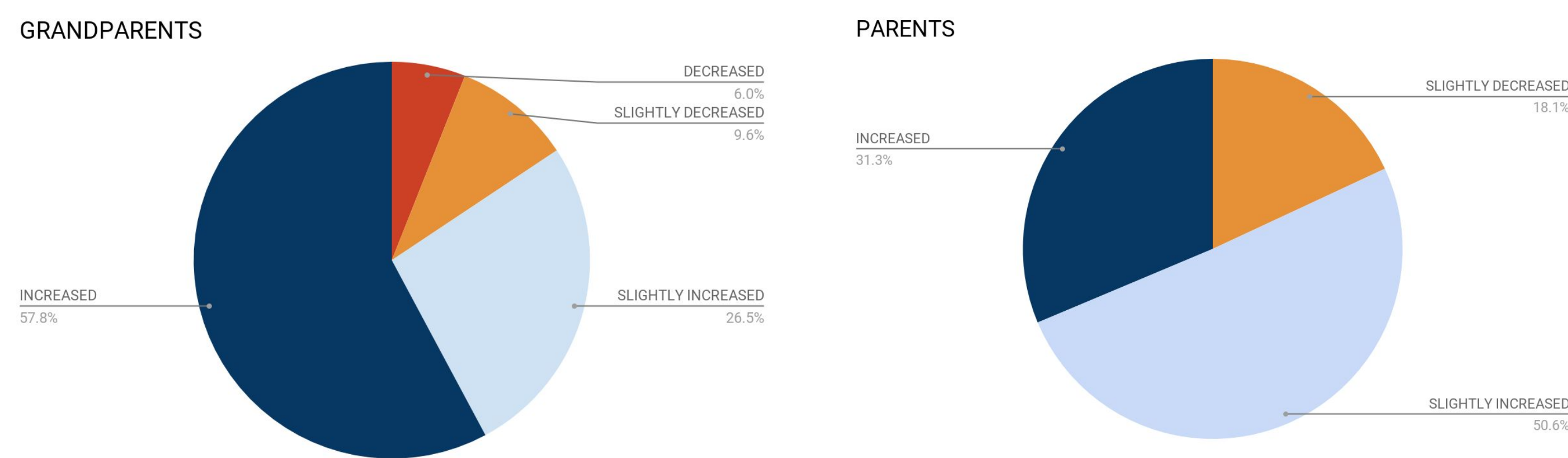


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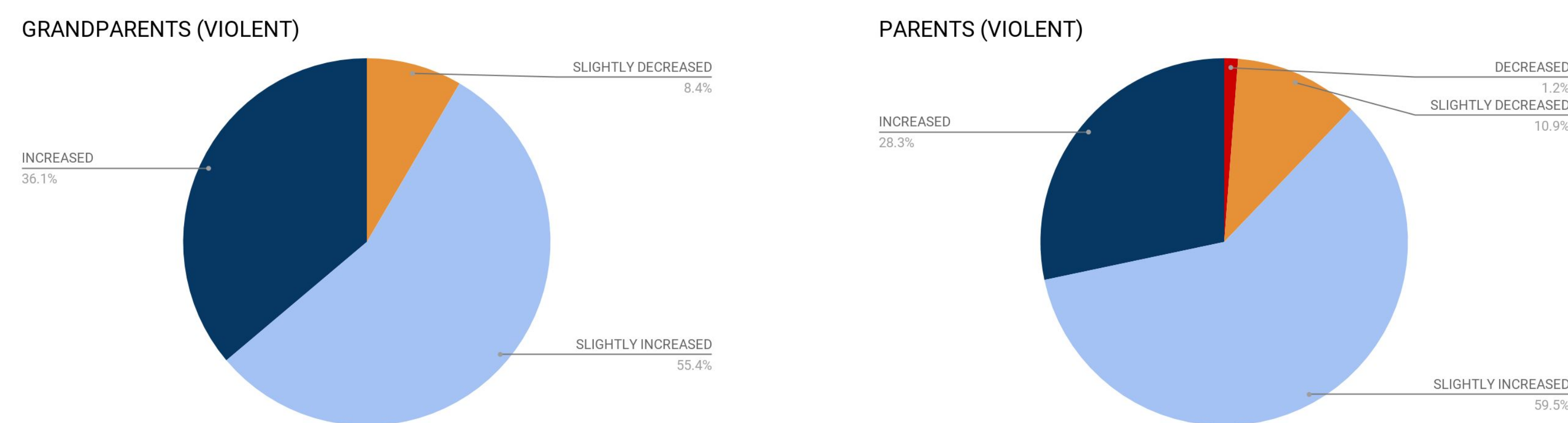
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This research explored the perceptions of how crime rates have changed compared to the current perception of past generations, whether social media has influenced those perceptions, and if those perceptions remain even when presented with current and historical data on crime rates.

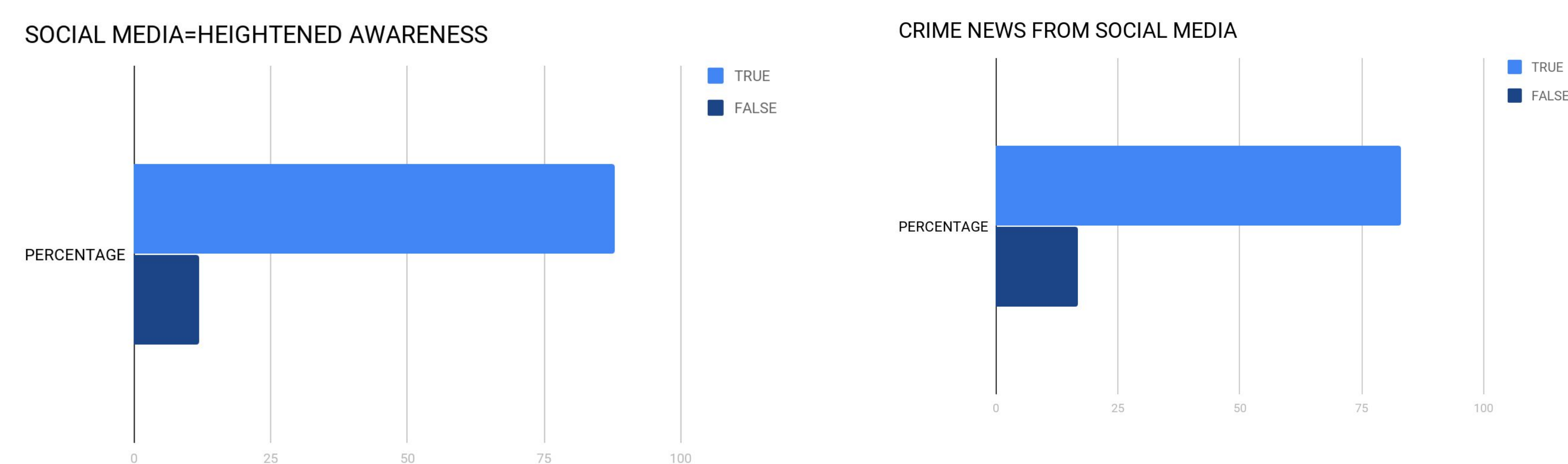
We asked participants to rate their perceptions of crime rates from their grandparents and parents generations to now ranging from “decreased” “slightly decreased” “slightly increased” or “increased”



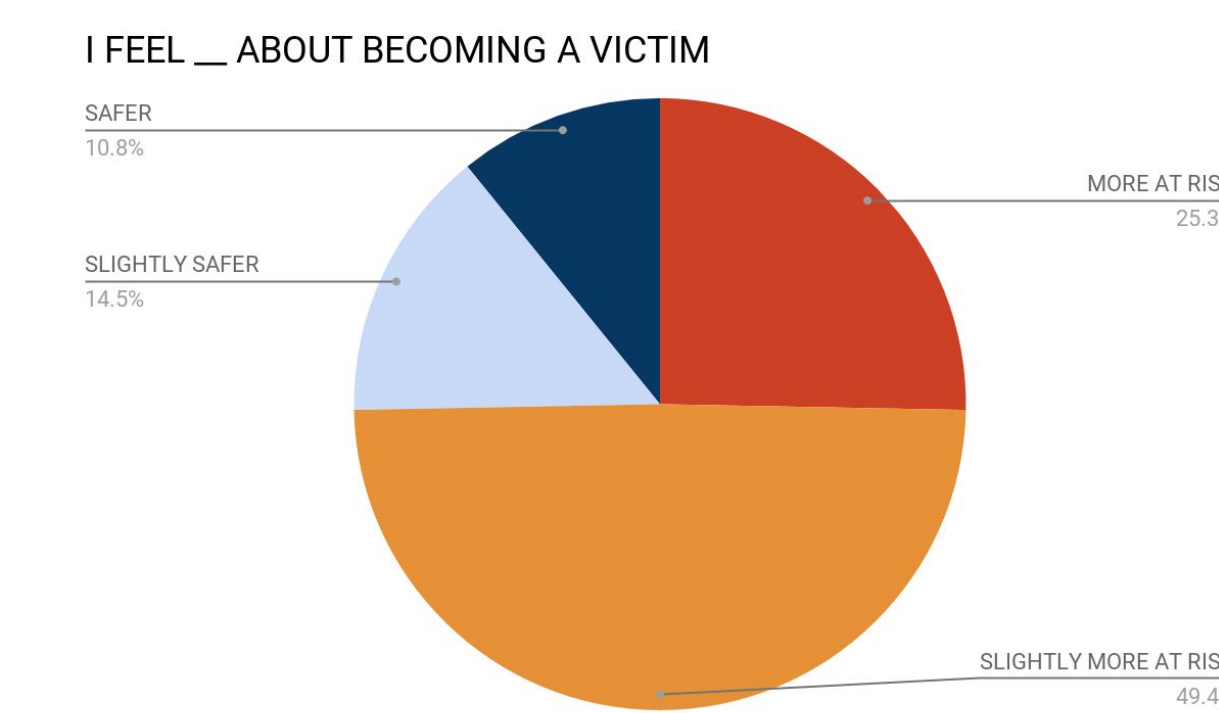
Then, we asked them to rate their perceptions of *violent* crime rates from their grandparents and parents generations to now.



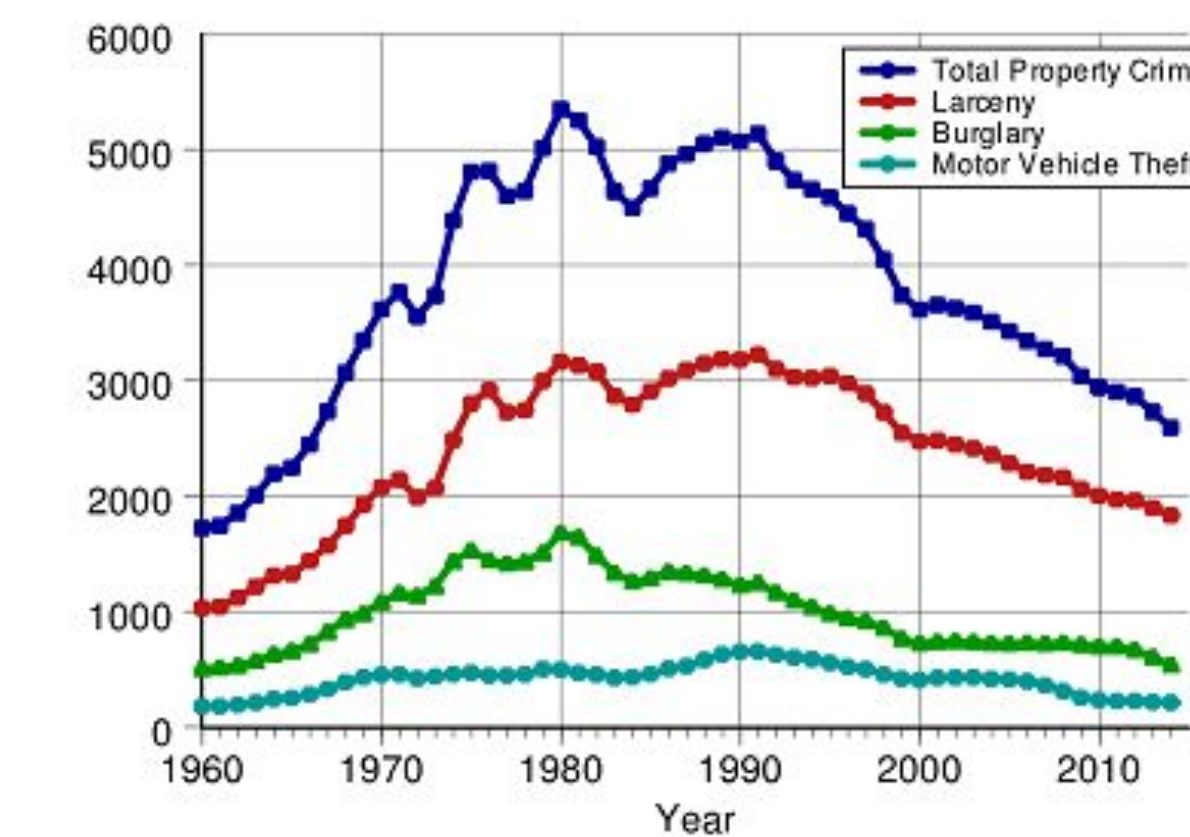
They were then asked if they felt social media had heightened their crime awareness, whether or not they got the majority of their crime news from social media, and where they received that news.



Participants were then asked if they felt “more at risk” “slightly more at risk” “slightly safer” or “safer” in regards to being a victim of a crime today.



Participants were then shown a graphic of crime rates from 1960s-present.



They were then asked again, with the information they had been shown, if they believed crime rates had increased or decreased, and if they believed crime rates would increase or decrease in the future.

