GPI Atlantic

MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATION OF THE GENUINE PROGRESS INDEX TO NOVA SCOTIA

PEACE & SECURITY
AN INTRODUCTORY
COMPARISON OF
GLACE BAY & KINGS COUNTY

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1. Introduction

In 2001, Genuine Progress Index (GPI) surveys were randomly sent to residents of the town Glace Bay and the region of Kings County, Nova Scotia. The purpose was to measure quality of life and overall well-being. 1708 surveys were returned from Glace Bay, and 1898 surveys were returned from Kings County. Overall, an extremely high response rate was achieved even though the surveys were very lengthy.

Glace Bay is a community on Cape Breton Island. It is home to approximately 19,000 people and is the fourth largest urban area in Atlantic Canada. Kings County is somewhat different. The region is about one hour away from the city of Halifax and is residence to approximately 50,000 people. This report examines the similarities and differences between Glace Bay and Kings County with regard to peace and security issues. We pay particular attention to the relationship between victimization rates, views on justice, views on current controversial issues like gun laws and marijuana legalization and other variables such as employment, income and education levels in Glace Bay and Kings County.

The two areas in our study represent contrasting profiles of rural communities. Glace Bay is heavily invested in the mining industry. The area has recently suffered a major economic setback with the closing of area coal mining operations. Kings County is one of the more affluent rural areas in Nova Scotia with a strong agricultural base, as well as active logging, fishing, manufacturing and service industries.

Between 2001 and 2003, these two communities were involved in the design and implementation of a comprehensive community survey in partnership with GPI Atlantic and several other partners. The purpose of the survey was to collect baseline data for the monitoring of community well being and progress. The questionnaire survey was comprehensive, examining a variety of topics including:

- Household demographics
- Labour Force Activity
- Health
- Core Values
- Care giving
- Voluntary Activity and Community Service
- Personal Security and Crime
- Ecological Footprint
- Time Use

This paper will first look at some simple demographics and descriptive statistics. Then a more concentrated examination of crime and attitudes towards the justice system is completed. A more detailed analysis on topics such as gun control, legalizing marijuana and fairness in the justice system reveals several interesting results. Finally we suggest several new areas of potential research and some readings for interested readers.

Despite the breadth of this overview we do come away with a few very precise bits of information. Higher levels of education are significantly related to views on the legalization of marijuana and tougher gun control laws. Respondents with higher levels of education seem to favour tighter gun control laws and support the legalization of marijuana.

There is clear difference between Glace Bay and Kings County when we look at the rates of victimization and views on marijuana legalization, the need for tougher gun control laws and the need for tougher sentencing. One very interesting result, that should be examined more closely in future research is the difference in victim behaviour after being victimized that exists between genders. Despite there being no significant difference between the gender of victims, females were more likely to alter their behaviour after being victimized then males. One can speculate reasons for this, and future research might consider an analysis of costs associated with these types of behavioural changes.

Employment status is, in general, not significantly correlated with views on justice, marijuana laws or gun laws. Only when Employment Status was categorized did greater detail emerge. Being a student was a significant predictor for all three dependent variables. Being a student was significantly correlated with views that a tougher stance
on gun control was needed, that marijuana should be legalized and that justice system was fair to everyone.

Other than the significant relationship between being unemployed or retired and the view that marijuana should respectively be legalized or not, employment status did not play a statistically significant role for views on marijuana and gun laws as well as views on justice system fairness. Factors such as location, gender and education level seemed to play the largest role.

2. Demographics and Descriptive Statistics

We begin our examination of the data with brief overview of some of the more general and stylized statistics. Tables 1 through 6 examine variable such as gender, age, household earnings, education levels and employment status. We did not note a significance difference in the gender distribution of respondents in the two locations is present. (Table and Figure 1)

We did note a significance difference in the age distribution of respondents in the two locations. The Kings County sample contained a larger proportion in their late thirties, early forties and a smaller proportion in their early twenties. (Table and Figure 2)

Table 1. Gender of Respondents (in percentage)

Gender	Glace Bay	Kings County
Male	42.6	44.6
Female	57.1	54.6
No response	0.2	0.8
Pearson Chi-Square = 1.739		$p<0.187$

Figure 1. Gender of Respondents (in percentage)

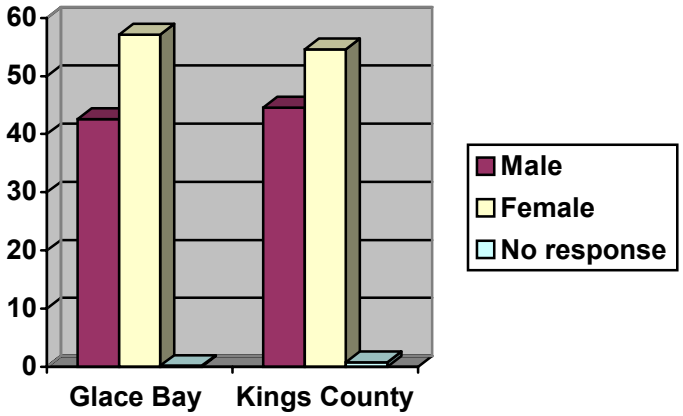
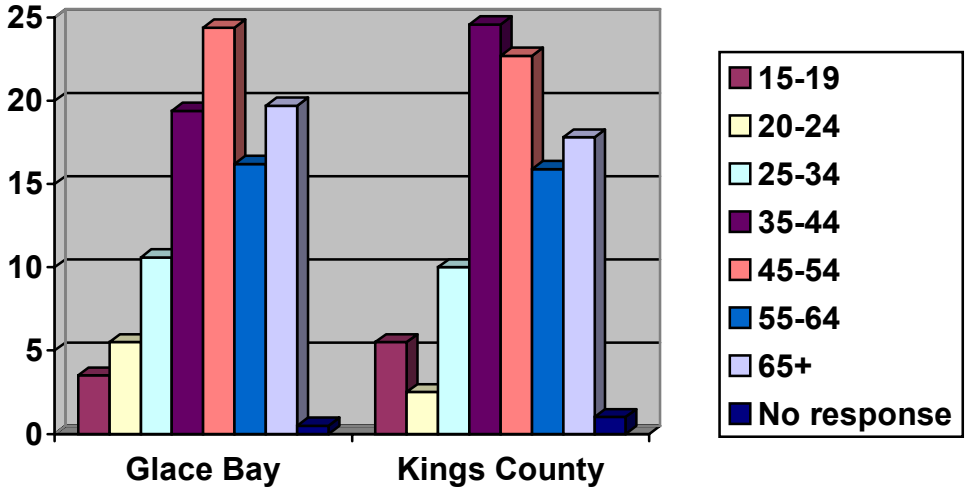


Table 2. Age Groups of Respondents (in percentage)

Age	Glace Bay	Kings County
15-19	3.5	5.5
20-24	5.5	2.5
25-34	10.6	10.0
35-44	19.4	24.6
45-54	24.4	22.7
55-64	16.2	15.9
65+	19.7	17.8
No response	0.5	1.0

Pearson Chi-Square = 42.494 $p<0.000$

Figure 2. Age Groups of Respondents (in percentage)

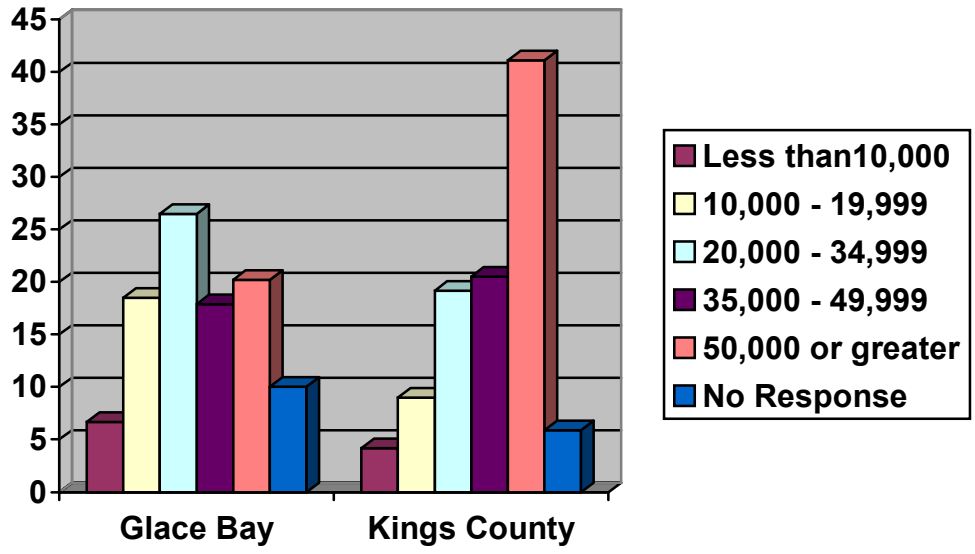


There was also a significant difference in the income distribution of the two sets of respondents, with a substantially larger proportion of Glace Bay residents in the lower income brackets. We note especially the percentage of residents with household incomes $50,000 or greater. (Table and Figure 3)

Table 3. Total Household Income Brackets of Respondents (in percentage)

Income Group	Glace Bay	Kings County
Less than10,000	6.7	4.2
10,000 - 19,999	18.5	9.0
20,000 - 34,999	26.5	19.2
35,000 - 49,999	17.9	20.5
50,000 or greater	20.2	41.1
No Response	10.01	5.9
Pearson Chi-Square = 255.064	p<0.000	

Figure 3. Total Household Income Brackets of Respondents (in percentage)



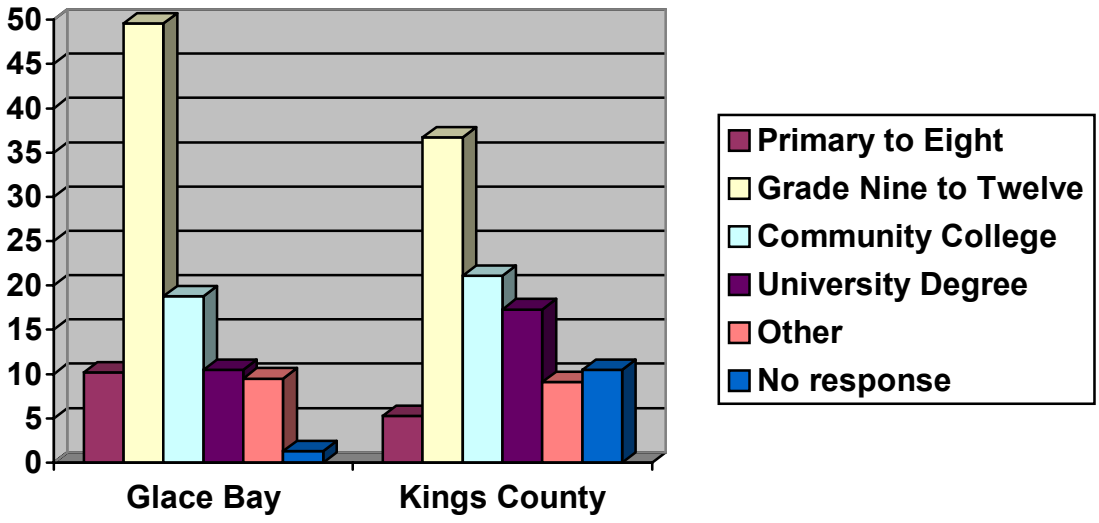
For education levels we observe that Glace Bay respondents also had a substantially lower proportion of respondents with higher levels of educational attainment. In Glace Bay almost sixty percent of the respondents did not have more than a high school education. For Kings County this figure is just over forty percent. (Table and Figure 4)

Table 4. Highest Level of Education Attained by Respondents (in percentage)

Education Level	Glace Bay	Kings County
Primary to Eight	10.2	5.3
Grade Nine to Twelve	49.6	36.7
Community College	18.8	21.1
University Degree	10.5	17.3
Other	9.5	9.1
No response	1.3	10.5

Pearson Chi-Square = 86.312 p<0.000

Figure 4. Highest Level of Education Attained by Respondents (in percentage)



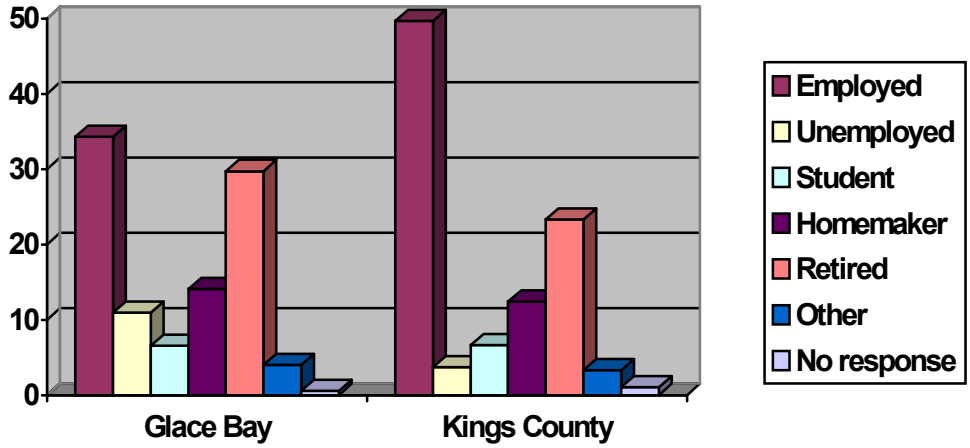
Employment status for respondents in Glace Bay was also significantly different than in Kings County. Glace Bay had a substantially lower proportion of respondents employed and a substantially higher level of respondents that were retired. We note a key difference in the percentage of respondent reporting "unemployed" in Glace Bay and Kings County. (Table and Figure 5)

Table 5. Employment Status of Respondents (in percentage)

Employment Status	Glace Bay	Kings County
Employed	34.3	49.7
Unemployed	10.9	3.7
Student	6.5	6.6
Homemaker	14.1	12.4
Retired	29.7	23.3
Other	4.0	3.3
No response	0.5	1.0

Pearson Chi-Square = 132.094 p<0.000

Figure 5. Employment Status of Respondents (in percentage)



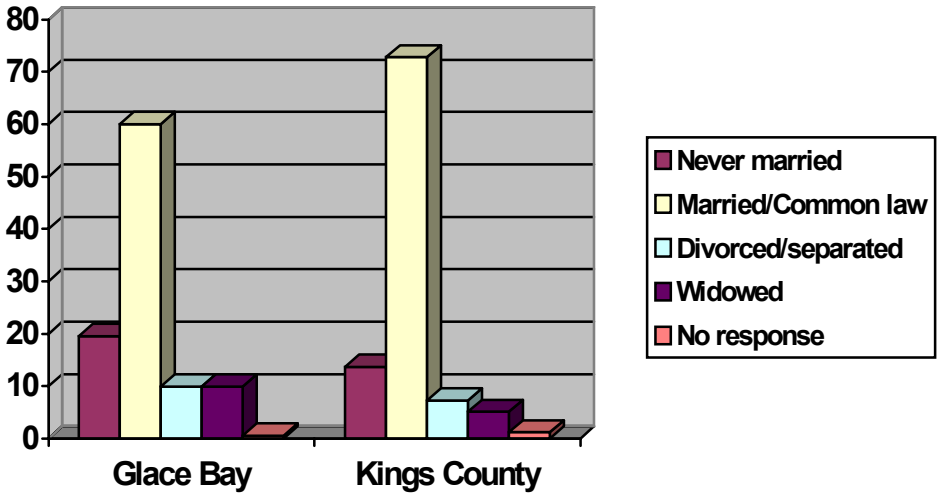
Kings County respondents also had a substantially higher proportion of respondents that were married or living common law and a significantly lower proportion of respondents that have never been married. This may be linked to the age distribution. (Table and Figure 6)

Table 6. Marital Status of Respondents (in percentage)

Marital Status	Glace Bay	Kings County
Never married	19.6	13.7
Married/Common law	60.0	72.8
Divorced/separated	9.9	7.3
Widowed	9.9	5.1
No response	0.6	1.2

Pearson Chi-Square = 76.360 $p<0.000$

Figure 6. Marital Status of Respondents (in percentage)



3. Analysing Crime and Attitudes

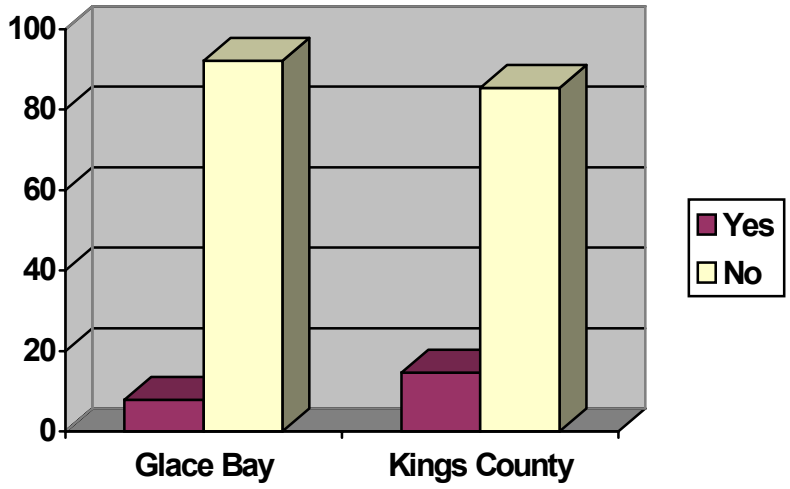
Next, we turn our attention to a more specific analysis of crime and attitudes towards the justice system. First we note a most basic statistic; have you been a victim of crime in the past 60 months? Respondents from Kings County had a significantly higher rate of victimization then respondents from Glace Bay. The rate in Kings County is almost double that of Glace Bay. (Table and Figure 7)

Table 7. Victims of Crime in Past 60 Months

Victim	Glace Bay	Kings County
Yes	7.8	14.6
No	92.2	85.4

Pearson Chi-Square = 40.429 p<0.000
Number of Valid Cases = 3529

Figure 7. Victims of Crime in Past 60 Months



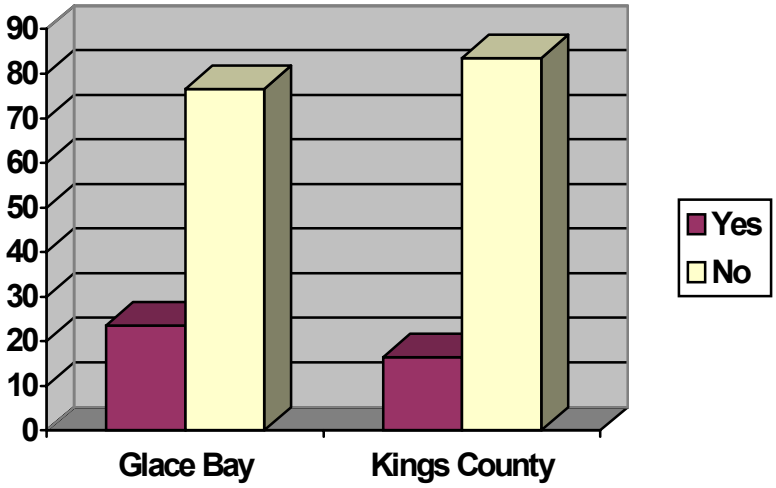
However, when queried about whether or not their business was victimized, the results are less conclusive. We note the relatively small sample size and the time difference (12 months verses 60 months). For business victimization, there is not a significant difference between Kings County and Glace Bay. (Table and Figure 8)

Table 8. Business Victimized in Past 12 Months

Victimized	Glace Bay	Kings County
Yes	23.5	16.5
No	76.5	83.5

Pearson Chi-Square = 1.726 p<0.189
Number of Valid Cases = 292

Figure 8. Business Victimized in Past 12 Months



Of interest in this survey, were individuals' opinions about various "headline" news stories. Respondents for Kings County were significantly more against the need for tougher gun control laws. (Table and Figure 9)

With regards to legalizing marijuana, Kings County respondents had a significantly higher approval compared to Glace Bay. In Glace Bay 21.3% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed, while in Kings County that figure was 26.7%. (Table and Figure 10)

Kings County and Glace Bay respondents also differed on their beliefs that tougher sentences are needed for sentencing. Over 71% of Glace Bay respondents agreed or strongly agreed while in Kings County that number was 66.2%. (Table and Figure 11)

When it came to the gender of crime victimization over the last 60 months we noted no significant difference between male and female. (Table and Figure 12)

However, despite the information about the gender of crime victimization we observed a significant difference in victim behavioural change. Over 38% of females changed their behaviour after being victimized, while only 31.1% of males did likewise.
(Table and Figure 13)

Table 9. Tougher Gun Control Laws

Tougher Laws for Guns	Glace Bay	Kings County
Strongly Disagree	5.6	10.1
Disagree	7.6	18.1
Neutral	17.6	23.2
Agree	36.3	25.9
Strongly Agree	32.9	22.8

Pearson Chi-Square = 169.929 $p<0.000$
Number of Valid Cases = 3447

Figure 9. Tougher Gun Control Laws

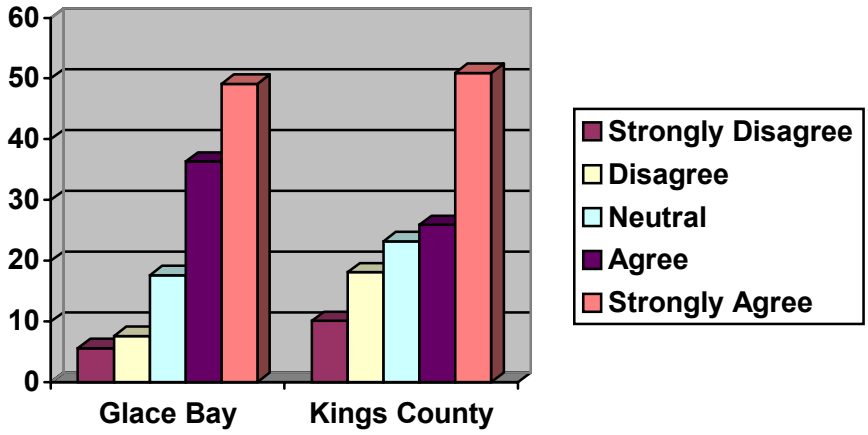


Table 10. Legalize Marijuana

Legalize Marijuana	Glace Bay	Kings County
Strongly Disagree	24.7	22.2
Disagree	24.2	21.0
Neutral	29.7	30.1
Agree	12.7	17.4
Strongly Agree	8.6	9.3

Pearson Chi-Square = 19.586 $p<0.001$
Number of Valid Cases = 3449

Figure 10. Legalize Marijuana

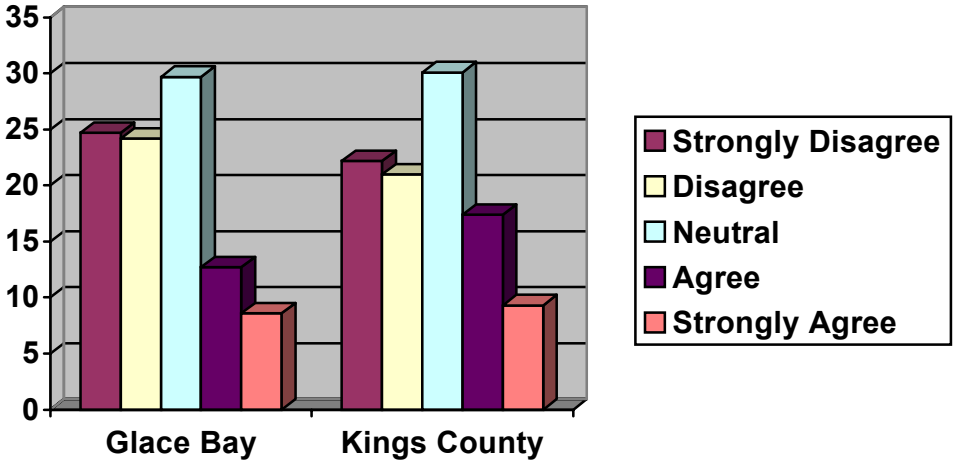


Table 11. Need Tougher Sentences

Tougher Sentences	Glace Bay	Kings County
Strongly Disagree	4.2	3.7
Disagree	8.7	10.9
Neutral	16.0	19.1
Agree	45.3	45.5
Strongly Agree	25.8	20.7

Pearson Chi-Square = 19.423 $p<0.001$
Number of Valid Cases = 3435

Figure 11. Need Tougher Sentences

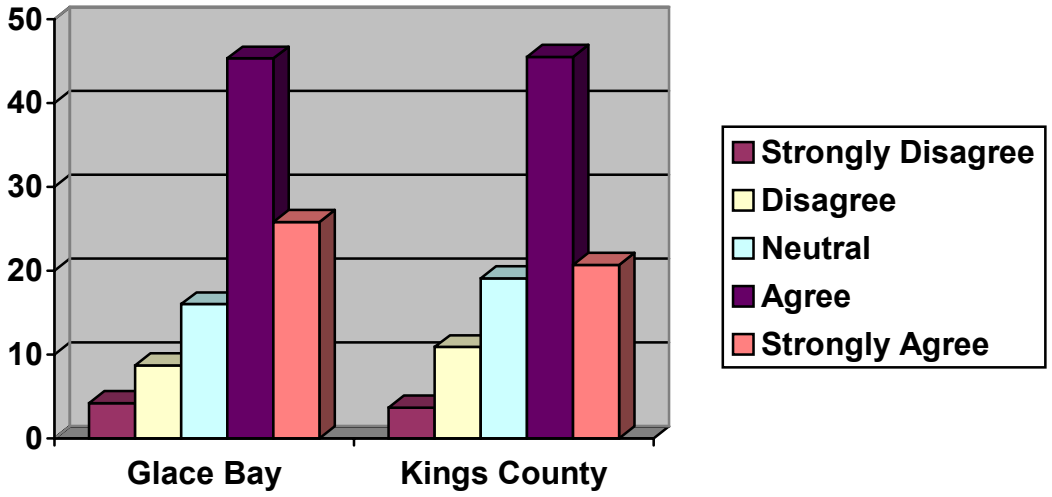


Table 12. Gender and Victimization

Gender	A victim of crime in past 60 months	
	Yes	No
Male	11.9	88.1
Female	10.9	89.1

Pearson Chi-Square = 0.784 $p<0.376$
Number of Valid Cases = 3521

Figure 12. Gender and Victimization

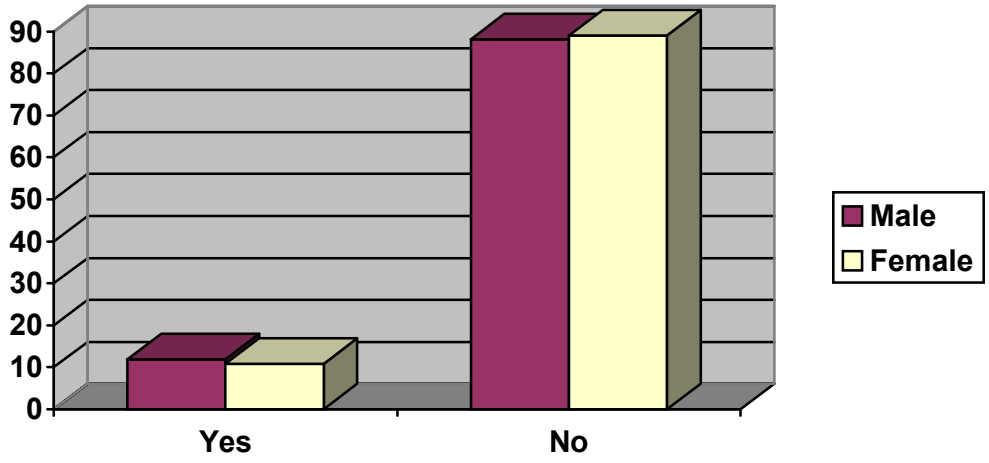
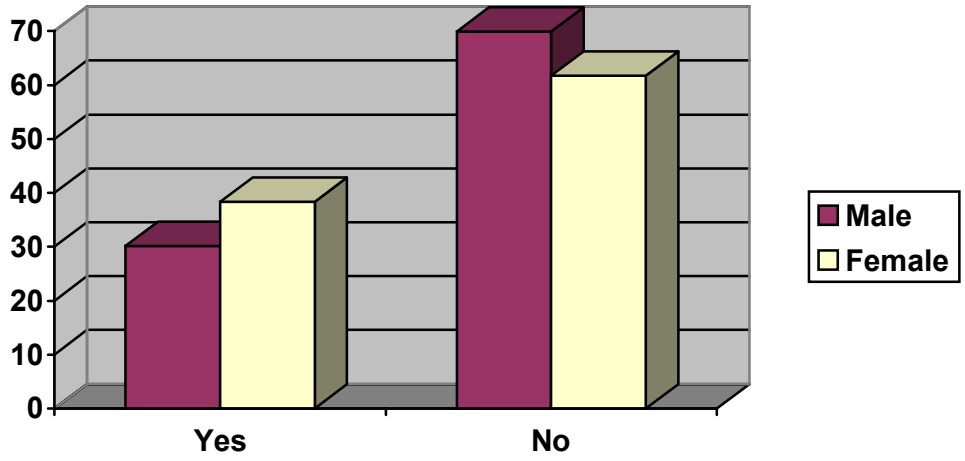


Table 13. Gender and Victim Behaviour Change

Gender	Change of behaviour due to crime	
	Yes	No
Male	30.1	69.9
Female	38.3	61.7

Pearson Chi-Square = 2.858 $p<0.091$
Number of Valid Cases = 379

Figure 13. Gender and Victim Behaviour Change



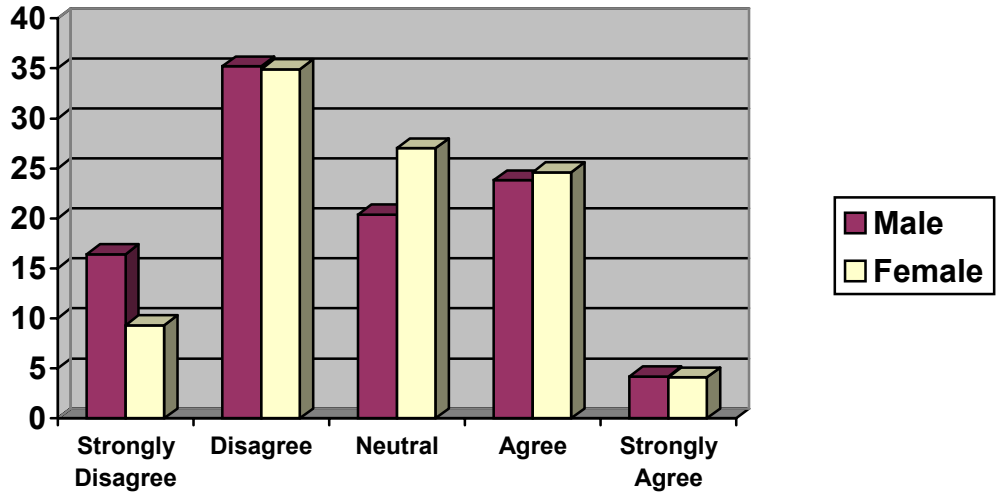
When asked if, in their opinion, the justice system is fair to everyone, 51.6% of male respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed. For females this number was 44.2%. We noted this as a significant difference. (Table and Figure 14)

Table 14. Gender and Justice System Fairness

Gender	The justice system is fair to everyone				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Male	16.4	35.2	20.4	23.8	4.2
Female	9.3	34.9	27.0	24.6	4.1

Pearson Chi-Square = 48.769 $p<0.000$
Number of Valid Cases = 3418

Figure 14. Gender and Justice System Fairness



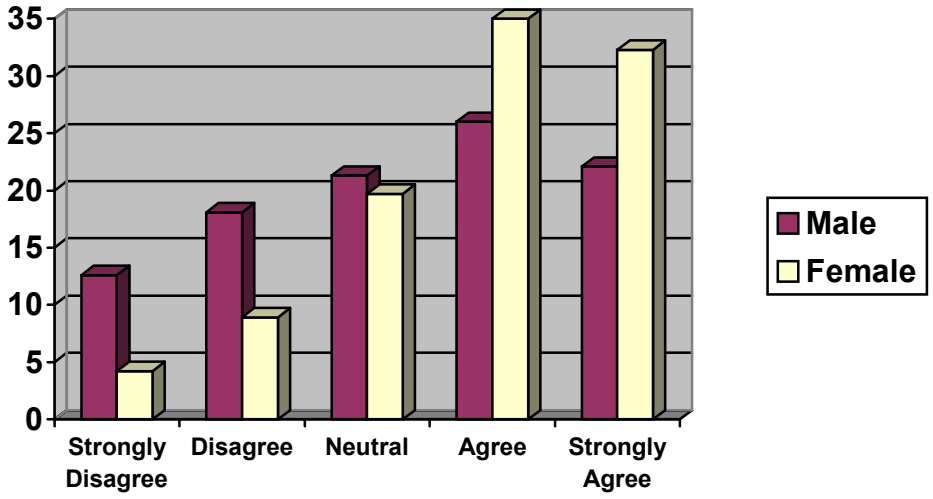
As was the case with the opinion of "justice system fairness" males had significantly different responses to the idea of needing tougher gun control laws. For males, 40.7% disagreed with the need for tougher gun laws. For females, this number was only 13.1%. (Table and Figure 15)

Table 15. Gender and Tougher Gun Laws

Gender	Gun control laws need to be tougher				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Male	12.6	18.1	21.3	26.0	22.1
Female	4.2	8.9	19.7	35.0	32.3

Pearson Chi-Square = 185.861 $p<0.000$
Number of Valid Cases = 3441

Figure 15. Gender and Tougher Gun Laws



Male and female respondents again held significantly different views on whether marijuana should be legalized. Only 20.1% of females agreed or strongly agreed with having marijuana legalized. For male respondents 29.0% felt similar. (Table and Figure 16)

Next we want to examine how employment status and education levels breakdown over the support of some of these contentious issues. We have a general significant difference but point out the support for tougher gun control laws is relatively higher for respondents who are unemployed and homemakers. (Table and Figure 17)

For the legalization of marijuana another significant difference is present amongst the various employment statuses. Significantly more respondents who were either unemployed or a student supported the legalization of marijuana. Homemakers and retirees were the least supportive. (Table and Figure 18)

We did not note a significant difference between education level when it came to the need for tougher gun control laws. (Table and Figure 19)

However, education level amongst respondents does seem to play a significant role when it comes to the legalization of marijuana. Most notable is that respondents with highest levels of education in either grammar or high school (50.6% and 47.4 respectively) are significantly more opposed to the legalization of marijuana then individuals with either college or university education (41.5% and 42.6% respectively). (Table and Figure 20)

Table 16. Gender and Marijuana Legalization

Gender	Marijuana should be legalized				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Male	22.2	20.7	28.1	17.3	11.7
Female	24.4	24.1	31.4	13.3	6.8

Pearson Chi-Square = 41.197 p<0.000
Number of Valid Cases = 3443

Figure 16. Gender and Marijuana Legalization

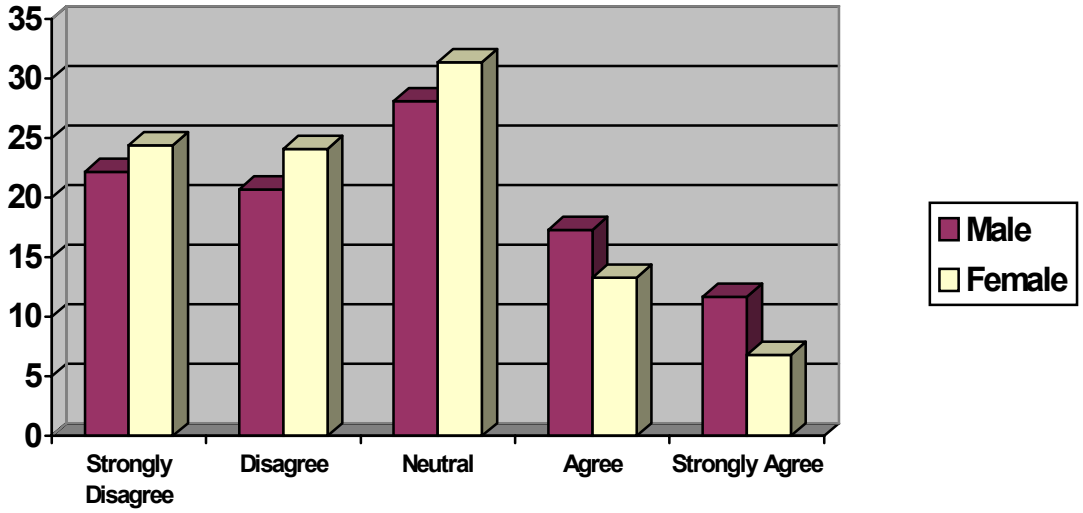


Table 17. Employment Status and Tougher Gun Laws

Gender	Gun control laws need to be tougher				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Employed	8.2	14.1	20.9	29.7	26.7
Unemployed	6.0	12.3	21.0	30.2	30.6
Student	5.3	10.6	24.3	32.7	27.0
Homemaker	5.6	9.1	19.0	33.8	32.5
Retired	9.0	12.9	19.8	32.0	26.3
Other	12.8	15.2	16.0	28.0	28.0

Pearson Chi-Square = 33.008 p<0.034
Number of Valid Cases = 3434

Figure 17. Employment Status and Tougher Gun Laws

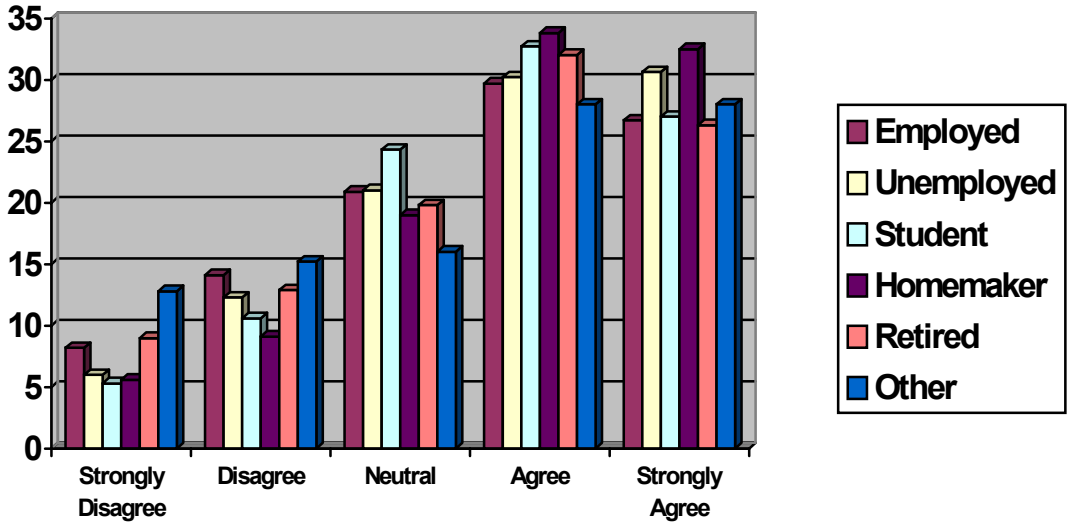


Table 18. Employment Status and Legalizing Marijuana

Gender	Legalize Marijuana				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Employed	20.3	21.7	32.4	16.9	8.6
Unemployed	21.0	14.7	32.1	13.5	18.7
Student	15.9	18.6	29.6	16.8	19.0
Homemaker	27.0	24.8	29.8	12.8	5.7
Retired	29.4	26.5	25.3	12.6	6.3
Other	23.4	20.2	29.0	19.4	8.1

Pearson Chi-Square = 130.476 $p<0.000$
Number of Valid Cases = 3435

Figure 18. Employment Status and Legalizing Marijuana

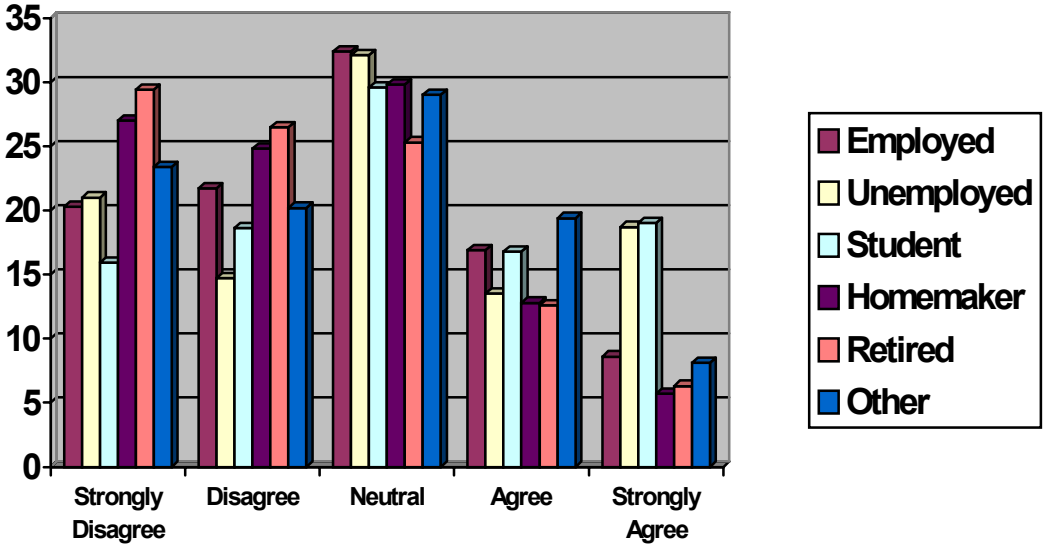


Table 19. Education Level and Tougher Gun Laws

Gender	Gun control laws need to be tougher				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Primary – Gr. 8	9.1	11.7	16.7	31.8	30.7
Gr. 9 –12	8.2	13.0	18.8	30.9	29.1
College	7.3	13.1	22.7	30.1	26.8
University	7.0	12.6	22.4	32.5	25.5
Other	7.5	12.5	20.6	33.1	26.3

Pearson Chi-Square = 12.654 p<0.698
Number of Valid Cases = 3249

Figure 19. Education Level and Tougher Gun Laws

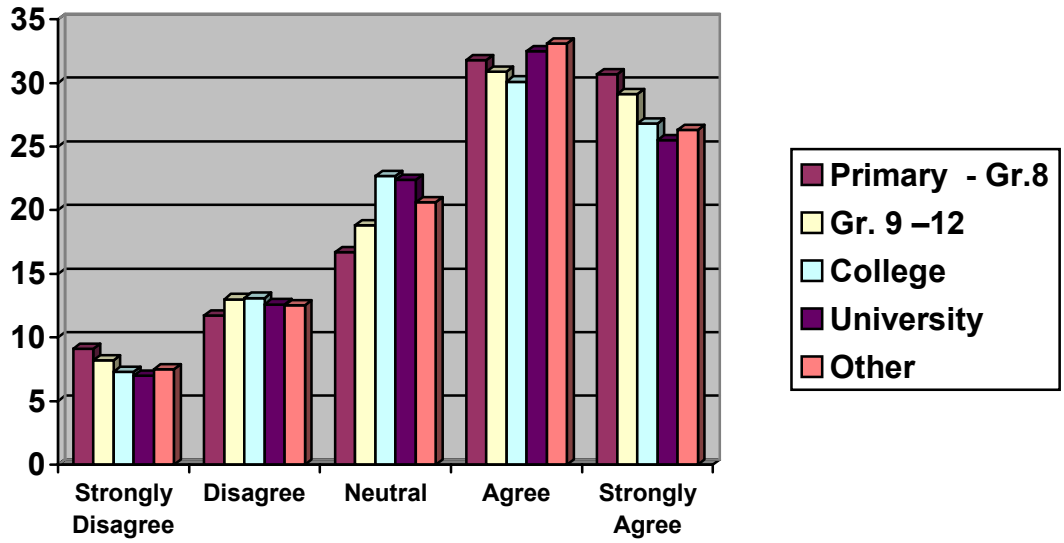
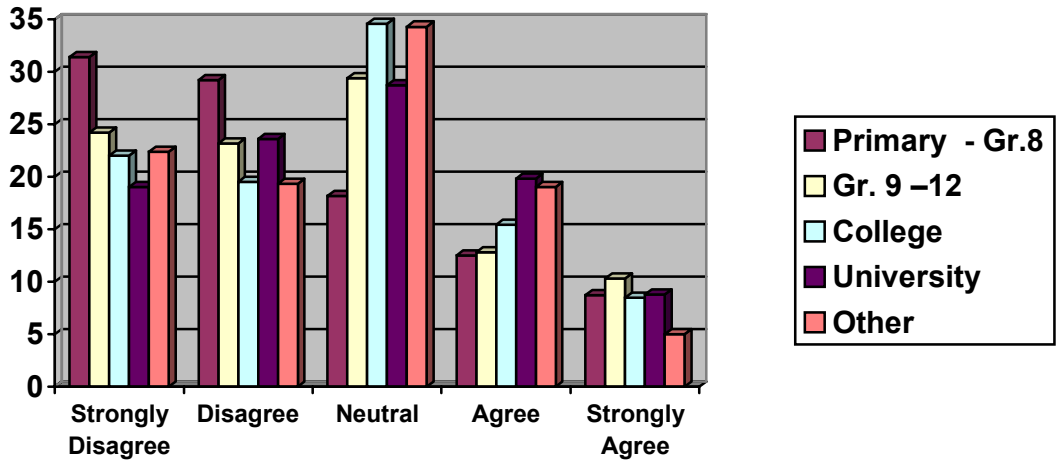


Table 20. Education Level and Legalizing Marijuana

Gender	Legalizing Marijuana				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Primary – Gr. 8	31.4	29.2	18.2	12.5	8.7
Gr. 9 –12	24.2	23.2	29.4	12.8	10.3
College	22.0	19.5	34.6	15.4	8.5
University	19.0	23.6	28.7	19.8	8.8
Other	22.4	19.3	34.3	19.0	5.0

Pearson Chi-Square = 67.932 p<0.000
Number of Valid Cases = 3251

Figure 20. Education Level and Legalizing Marijuana



4. Views on Justice

In this final section we examine the attitudes towards some of the more contentious social issues currently being discussed using binary logistic regression analysis. For Tables 21 through 26 we converted the dependent variable scale by setting a response of Strongly Disagree, Disagree to "1.0" and Neutral, Agree and Strongly Agree to "0.0". For the first regression our dependent variable was Justice System Fairness – is the justice system fair to everyone.

Table 21. Justice System Fairness

Variable	Estimated Coefficient	Standard Error	p-value
Location	0.072	0.072	0.313
Gender	-0.340	0.067	0.000
Age	0.070	0.027	0.009
Marital Status	-0.125	0.059	0.033
Employment Status	-0.038	0.024	0.113
Education Level	0.167	0.034	0.000
Household Earnings	-0.018	0.010	0.078

Number of Observations:	2987	Cox & Snell R-square:	0.020
Nagelkerke R-square:	0.026	-2 Log Likelihood:	4081.512
Chi-square(7):	59.349	Prob. > Chi-square:	0.000

Our results indicate that all variables except Location and Employment Status are significant predictors of Justice System Fairness. Notable is the sign of estimated coefficients for Education Level and Household Earnings. For example, there is a significant positive relationship between respondents reporting a higher household earnings level and respondents reporting that they

think the justice system is fair to everyone. This is just the opposite for education levels. Higher education levels are significantly related to thinking the justice system is not fair to everyone.

For the legalization of marijuana we converted the dependent variable scale by setting a response of Strongly Disagree, Disagree to "1.0" and Neutral, Agree and Strongly Agree to "0.0". For the regression our dependent variable was Legalize Marijuana – marijuana should be legalized.

Table 22. Legalize Marijuana

Variable	Estimated Coefficient	Standard Error	p-value
Location	-0.295	0.072	0.000
Gender	0.131	0.064	0.041
Age	0.092	0.022	0.000
Employment Status	0.031	0.024	0.199
Education Level	-0.150	0.034	0.000
Household Earnings	-0.012	0.010	0.222

Number of Observations:	3016	Cox & Snell R-square:	0.033
Nagelkerke R-square:	0.044	-2 Log Likelihood:	4080.998
Chi-square(6):	100.066	Prob. > Chi-square:	0.000

Again, Employment Status is not a significant predictor, and for legalizing marijuana, Household Earnings is not as well. However, Education Level remains a significant predictor on views about legalizing marijuana. Higher education levels are significantly correlated with the view that current marijuana laws should be relaxed.

For the dependent variable, Tougher Guns Laws – should we have more strict guns laws in place we refer to Tables 23 and 24.

Table 23. Tougher Gun Laws

Variable	Estimated Coefficient	Standard Error	p-value
Location	0.711	0.091	0.000
Gender	-1.309	0.086	0.000
Age	0.002	0.027	0.940
Employment Status	-0.020	0.030	0.492
Education Level	-0.145	0.044	0.001
Household Earnings	-0.004	0.013	0.745

Number of Observations:	3008	Cox & Snell R-square:	0.351
Nagelkerke R-square:	0.468	-2 Log Likelihood:	2870.456
Chi-square(6):	1299.517	Prob. > Chi-square:	0.000

We note in particular the significance of Education Level and its sign. As the education level of the respondents increase so to does their agreement with the need for tougher gun control laws. We categorize both Education Level and Employment Status in Table 24 below.

Table 24. Tougher Gun Laws (categorized employment and education)

Variable	Estimated Coefficient	Standard Error	p-value
Location	0.793	0.097	0.000
Gender	-1.330	0.100	0.000
Age	-0.045	0.034	0.188
Unemployed	-0.206	0.190	0.278
Student	-0.821	0.251	0.001
Homemaker	0.290	0.177	0.102
Retired	-0.030	0.152	0.841
Other (Empl. Status)	0.384	0.239	0.107
Grade 9-12	-0.254	0.162	0.117
College	-0.407	0.186	0.029
University	-0.669	0.207	0.001
Other (Education)	-0.351	0.218	0.107
Household Earnings	0.004	0.013	0.762

Number of Observations:	3008	Cox & Snell R-square:	0.356
Nagelkerke R-square:	0.474	-2 Log Likelihood:	2847.359
Chi-square (13):	1322.695	Prob. > Chi-square:	0.000

Interestingly, being a student, particularly in college or university plays a key role in the predictability of views on gun control laws. We are interested in examining the legalization of marijuana and views on justice system fairness with employment status and education levels categorized. The results are found in Tables 25 and 26 below.

Table 25. Legalize Marijuana (categorized employment and education)

Variable	Estimated Coefficient	Standard Error	p-value
Location	-0.208	0.075	0.006
Gender	0.267	0.075	0.000
Age	0.066	0.027	0.016
Unemployed	-0.408	0.151	0.007
Student	-0.356	0.183	0.052
Homemaker	0.126	0.129	0.327
Retired	0.238	0.121	0.049
Other (Empl. Status)	-0.053	0.206	0.798
Grade 9-12	-0.555	0.138	0.000
College	-0.751	0.155	0.000
University	-0.651	0.170	0.000
Other (Education)	-0.796	0.179	0.000
Household Earnings	-0.008	0.011	0.427

Number of Observations:	3016	Cox & Snell R-square:	0.044
Nagelkerke R-square:	0.059	-2 Log Likelihood:	4181.064
Chi-square (13):	135.850	Prob. > Chi-square:	0.000

Similar to Table 22 above we note no significant changes in the sign or magnitude of the location, age, gender and household income variables. We note the significance of education levels and employment statuses such as unemployment, student and retired. More education, unemployment and being a student are all significantly correlated with favouring the legalization of marijuana.

Again when we examine views on the fairness of the justice system for all respondents we obtain similar results to those found in Table 21 above.

Table 26. Justice System Fairness (categorized employment and education)

Variable	Estimated Coefficient	Standard Error	p-value
Location	0.091	0.074	0.220
Gender	-0.387	0.074	0.000
Age	-0.019	0.027	0.487
Unemployed	0.130	0.146	0.372
Student	-0.406	0.179	0.024
Homemaker	0.051	0.129	0.690
Retired	-0.108	0.121	0.374
Other (Empl. Status)	0.090	0.205	0.659
Grade 9-12	0.322	0.135	0.017
College	0.483	0.153	0.002
University	0.612	0.168	0.000
Other (Education)	0.770	0.177	0.000
Household Earnings	-0.013	0.011	0.233

Number of Observations:	2990	Cox & Snell R-square:	0.022
Nagelkerke R-square:	0.029	-2 Log Likelihood:	4145.020
Chi-square (13):	65.088	Prob. > Chi-square:	0.000

All results are similar in sign and magnitude to those in Table 21 above. One particular difference is the significance of Student in the categorization of employment status. Being a student is significantly and positively related to the view that the justice system is fair to everyone. This however contrasts with the significance of the Education Level variables. More education is significantly correlated with the view that the justice system is not fair for everyone.

5. Conclusions and Extensions

Notwithstanding the breadth of this overview we do come away with a few very precise bits of information. Higher levels of education are significantly correlated with views on the legalization of marijuana, justice system fairness and tougher gun control laws. Respondents with higher levels of education were significantly more in favour of tighter gun control laws and the legalization of marijuana. As well, higher education levels are significantly correlated with

views that the justice system is not fair to everyone. These results took into account, location, age, gender, household income and employment status.

There is clear difference between Glace Bay and Kings County when we look at the rates of victimization and views on marijuana legalization, the need for tougher gun control laws and the need for tougher sentencing. Respondents in Glace Bay are significantly more supportive of the need for tougher guns laws, significantly more against the idea of legalizing marijuana and significantly more in favour of the need for tougher sentencing. However, respondents in Kings County were almost twice as likely to have been a victim of crime in the past sixty months when compared to respondents in Glace Bay.

One very interesting result, that should be examined more closely in future research is the difference in victim behaviour after being victimized. Despite there being no significant difference between the gender of victims, females were more likely to alter their behaviour after being victimized then males. One can speculate reasons for this, and future research might consider an analysis of the costs associated with these types of behavioural changes.

Associated with this result was a continuous level of significant difference between genders on different opinions about crime. Females viewed the justice system as fair to everyone significantly more than males. Females were more in favour of stricter gun laws and not nearly as supportive when it came to legalizing marijuana.

Employment status was, in general, not significantly correlated with views on justice, marijuana laws or gun laws. Only when Employment Status was categorized did greater detail emerge. Being a student was a significant predictor for all three dependent variables. Being a student was significantly correlated with views that a tougher stance
on gun control was needed, that marijuana should be legalized and that justice system was fair to everyone.

Other than the significant relationship between being unemployed or retired and the view that marijuana should (respectively) be legalized or not, employment status did not play a statistically significant role for views on marijuana and gun laws as well as views on justice system fairness. Factors such as location, gender and education level seemed to play the largest role.

Somewhat surprising was the general lack of significant correlation between attitudes towards crime and household income. For legalizing marijuana, the need for
tougher gun laws and views on the fairness of the justice system, household income was not significantly correlated.

The data provided by the 2001 Genuine Progress Index (GPI) surveys is simply outstanding. Such a rich database can and should be studied for years. Such extensions might include:

- Costs of crime
- Analysis of what a “Just” society
- Prescription medication and crime
- Youth crime and justice
- Work place crime and white-collar crime

6. Other Suggested Readings

Poverty, affluence, and income inequality: neighbourhood economic structure and its implications for health, *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 57, Issue 5, September 2003, Pages 843-860. Ming Wen, Christopher R. Browning and Kathleen A. Cagney.

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