

**Virginia Police Department  
Public Safety Survey**

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. All of your responses will be absolutely confidential.

**Section I: Your Community**

1. Please rate the seriousness of the following crimes and quality of life issues in Virginia for the past 5 years. (Check only one box for each item)

	Very Serious	Moderate Serious	Slightly Serious	Not a Problem	Don't Know
Burglary/House break ins					
Assaults					
Domestic Violence					
Unlawful drug use					
Unsupervised house parties					
Animal control problems					
Drinking groups in woods/parks					
Graffiti					
Litter					
Unlawful weapon use					
Loitering					
Property theft					
Organized gangs					
Speeding motor vehicles					
Poor driving attitudes					
Drunk driving					
Credit card/check fraud					
Computer/Internet problems					
Skateboarding/Rollerblading in business districts					
Vehicle theft					
Harassing/Annoying phone calls					
Vandalism					
Parking problems					
Solicitors					
Bicycles on sidewalks					
Pedestrian safety					
Public drinking					
Unnecessary noise					
Other:					

2. Have you ever been the victim of a crime *in* Virginia? YES ( ) NO ( )
3. Have you ever been a victim in a crime outside Virginia? YES ( ) NO ( )
4. In Virginia, have you ever: *(Check all that apply)*

- Stopped to ask an officer advice or directions
- Stopped to talk to a police officer about a community issue
- Called the police station to discuss a community issue
- Been involved in a traffic accident which required police intervention
- Been involved in a police/community outreach program (ex. DARE, Bicycle Safety)
- Been stopped for a traffic offense
- Been questioned by the police and released (other than for a traffic offense)
- Reported a crime
- Been arrested
- Filed a formal complaint against a Virginia Police Officer/Department

5. In your opinion how much have the following factors contributed to the crime rate in Virginia over the past 5 years? *(Check only one box for each subject)*

	Large Influence	Moderate Influence	Slight Influence	No Influence	Don't Know
Courts are too lenient					
Drug/alcohol abuse					
Lack of alternative activities for youth					
Lack of education					
Lack of jobs/employment					
Limited police presence					
Poor parenting					
Poverty/low income					
Intolerance of differences based on race, religion, sexual orientation, etc.					
Social programs/welfare					
Over population					
Availability of weapons					
Lack of respect					
Affluence					
Other:					

6. Does your neighborhood have a citizen crime watch group?  No  Yes  
If no, would you participate in a crime watch group?  No  Yes

7. What kind of security do you use at home? *(Check all that apply--this survey is anonymous)*

- alarm systems  sensor lights  standard door & window locks  window grills  
 dead bolt locks  anti-open devices in windows  
 dog  exterior/interior burglar bars  do not secure home

8. In your opinion, how likely is it that you will be the victim of a **property** crime in Virginia over the next 5 years?

- highly likely  moderately likely  slightly likely  Not at all Likely

9. In your opinion, how likely is it that you will be the victim of a **violent** crime in Virginia over the next 5 years?

- highly likely  moderately likely  slightly likely  Not at all Likely

10. How much time do you spend actively participating in the community (community-based programs, committees, boards, etc.) each month?

- 1-7 hrs  8-12 hrs  13-20 hrs  21+ hrs  don't participate

In your opinion, compared to other communities on the Iron Range, how safe is Virginia overall?

- much safer  slightly safer  about the same  
 less safe  much less safe

What do you believe about the prevalence of crime in Virginia?

*(Please check only one category)*

- Crime has increased in Virginia over the last five years.  
 Crime has remained the same in Virginia over the last five years.  
 Crime has decreased in Virginia over the last five years.  
 Don't know.

Please check one response for each statement:

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
I feel safe at home					
I feel safe walking alone in my neighborhood after dark					
I feel safe walking with others after dark in my neighborhood					
I feel that my personal property is safe when I leave home					
When returning home at night, I feel safe					
I feel safe leaving my home/car unlocked during the day in Virginia					
I feel safe <i>with others</i> biking					
I feel safe <i>alone</i> biking					
I feel safe walking <i>alone</i> in Virginia's shopping districts <i>at night</i>					
I feel safe walking <i>with others</i> in Virginia's shopping districts <i>at night</i>					
I feel safe <i>alone</i> in parks and recreation areas in Virginia					

How serious is the illegal drug problem in the following areas in Virginia?  
*(Please check one box for each item)*

	<b>Very Serious</b>	<b>Somewhat Serious</b>	<b>Slightly Serious</b>	<b>Not Serious</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
High Schools					
Elementary Schools					
Playgrounds & recreation areas					
Within the adult community					

**Section II: The Department**

Please respond whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

*(Please check one box for each item)*

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
The police presence in my neighborhood is appropriate for the need					
Traffic enforcement in Virginia meets the needs of the community					
The Police Department gives proper attention to minor crimes (i.e. vandalism, disturbances, etc.)					
The Police Department is providing appropriate community education and outreach programs					
Efforts of the Police Department to enforce the law are compatible with community needs					
Virginia police officers perform an appropriate amount of patrolling on foot in Virginia area					
There is an appropriate representation of female officers in the Virginia Police Department					
The Police Department responds to emergency calls in a timely manner					
Virginia police officers treat people with respect					
Virginia police officers respect the rights of individuals and treat people fairly					
Telephone calls to the Virginia police station are handled professionally and courteously					
A formal complaint brought against a Virginia police officer will receive a fair, objective and timely response					
The Virginia Police Department solicits and welcomes community input					
Virginia police officers are respected by the community					
The Virginia Police Department has a good public image					
The Virginia Police Department does its job well					
Virginia police officers look professional in appearance					
Police information provided in local newspaper is useful					
Virginia police officers provide timely and useful information to persons reporting crimes					

11. How effective do you believe the following Virginia Police & Community programs are on the crime problem and quality of life issues? *(Please check only one box for each)*

	<b>Very Effective</b>	<b>Somewhat Effective</b>	<b>Slightly Effective</b>	<b>Not At All</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
D.A.R.E. program					
Bike Patrol					
Domestic violence response advocate					
Family services program					
Web Page					
Traffic Enforcement					
Dedicated Parking Enforcement Officer					
E911 Combined Dispatch Center					
VPD Facility Access					
Peer leadership program in schools					
Youth-at-risk intervention program					
Alcohol/tobacco sale compliance checks					
Juvenile diversion program for first time criminal offenders					
Boundary Waters Drug task force					
Police accreditation program					
"Directed patrol" to high incident areas					
False burglar alarm bylaw enforcement					
All-night winter parking enforcement					
Long Term assignments of Patrol Officers to a single area of town rather than random assignments					



**Section IV: Your Comments**

*Please feel free to use as much space or additional pages as necessary.*

**The thing I like best about the Virginia Police Department is:**

**The thing I would most like to see improved at the Virginia Police Department is:**

**Please list the most significant values or characteristics that a Virginia Police Officer should possess.**

**Other comments or expansion of previous answers *(use reverse side of page if more space is needed)*:**

If you have any questions or comments regarding the survey, please contact Chief Mattson's Office at (218) 749-3570 or email at [youngmattsonn@virginiapd.com](mailto:youngmattsonn@virginiapd.com).



