

# **A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF CRIME ON STUDENTS' SOCIAL MOBILITY.**

**By**

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**Hons (Psychology)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The quality of life of people is often determined by how safe they feel to engage in activities. We are living in a country where the moral order is being decayed for reasons that can and cannot be explained. This research set out to investigate whether there is an association (if any) between the fear of crime and various respondent characteristics and what the impact of crime has on students' social mobility in different settings. Another reason for investigation was to determine what students' perceptions of safety are in various places. Taking a closer look at what students perceive as the important causes of fear of moving around in Cape Town. A questionnaire was used to investigate these questions. The final sample included 298 students from 4 tertiary institutions in the Western Cape region.

The results of the research showed that there is a relationship between student characteristics and fear of crime. It also showed that race was a strong predictor for the fear of crime among students. The research results are similar to previous research that have been carried out about the fear of crime. The research showed that students are affected by the fear of crime and most students fear moving around Cape Town because of a lack of police presence and fear for their personal safety.

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Thank you to God above for making this possible.

### Declaration

This is to declare that this dissertation represents my own work both in conception and execution, unless otherwise stated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natale Anthea Le Roux', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Natale Anthea Le Roux

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# CHAPTER 1

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the topic of the research. It contains the motivation for the study, the aims of the study and the hypotheses.

### 1.1. Motivation for the study

The members of the age group 21 - 35 years are the most victimized group in Cape Town (Camerer, Louw, Shaw, Artz & Scharf, 1998). In a country where democracy is only beginning, each person should be free of feeling fearful, apprehensive or scared. Living in a province, namely the Western Cape, which has one of the highest crime rates, makes it virtually impossible not to be aware of the impact that crime has on people's lives.

According to Camerer, et al. (1998) certain people were more at risk for specific crimes. White people living in Cape Town were more likely to be victimized by property crimes, whilst Africans were more at risk for murder and coloured people were more at risk for personal assault. In South Africa, which has a diversity of people and varying economic status, people respond differently to the impact of crime. It is the intention of this research to highlight the impact of crime and how it influences the mobility of students.

Being a female student and due to the prevalence of crime in the Western Cape, the researcher has a personal interest to find out what other students are doing to protect themselves against becoming victims of crime. The researcher is interested to find out if the mobility of students is in any way affected by the presence of crime.

Not much research been conducted on students and the impact that crime has on their

social mobility. Students are a mobile group since they have to attend lectures, engage in practical work, internships and some even have part time work. They are always travelling and exposed to the threat of crime. Students are at the brink of economic independence. It is typical for students to frequent bars, discos, movies, theatres, etc.

When students are at the university or technikons they have the opportunity to develop in 3 dimensions

- development as a person
- development as a student
- development in relation to some specific career.

Does this presence of crime affect them or curb their social or recreational activities? This question will be explored in the research.

The following serves as motivation for the study:

1) Students are the new leaders of the country. How does crime impact their lives on campus and in their social world ? Not much research has focused on students and their social mobility in terms of crime.

2) The Western Cape has recently been having bomb/ terrorist attacks at social and leisure places.

It is for these reasons, the researcher is limiting the research to students. They are developing young adults and they are the future economic backbone of the country. It is of interest to know how crime affects their lives. The purpose of the study is to find out whether student lifestyle, mobility or sociability has been influenced by the presence of crime.



## **1.2. Statement of the problem**

**1.2.1. What is the impact of crime on student's sociability in the following settings?**

**1.2.1.1. movement in the shopping setting**

**1.2.1.2. movement in the social setting**

**1.2.1.3. movement in the recreational setting**

**1.2.1.4. movement in the institutional setting**

**1.2.2. Is there a relationship between the fear of crime and the following respondent?  
characteristics?**

**1.2.2.1 gender**

**1.2.2.2 race**

**1.2.2.3 age**

**1.2.2.4 urban rural dichotomy**

**1.2.3 Does the fear of crime influence students' movement to the following settings:**

**1.2.3.1. institutional**

**1.2.3.2. social**

**1.2.3.3. recreational**

**1.2.3.4. shopping**

**1.2.4. How safe do students feel in the following settings:**

**1.2.4.1. institutional**

**1.2.4.2. social**

**1.2.4.3 recreational**

**1.2.4.4 shopping**

**1.2.5. What are the reasons that students do not travel around in Cape Town ?**

### **1.3 Aims of the study**

**In this study the following aims would like to be achieved.**

**1.3.1. To find out whether there is an association (if any) between the fear of crime and respondent characteristics such as age, gender, race and place they originate from.**

**1.3.2. To determine the impact of crime on students' social mobility in different settings, namely institutional, recreational, social and shopping settings.**

**1.3.3. To determine students perception of safety in different settings, namely:**

**1) institutional**

**2) social**

**3) recreational**

**4) shopping**

**1.3.4. To determine what students perceive are the important causes of fear for moving around in Cape Town.**

## **1.4. Hypotheses**

1.4.1. There is no relationship between the fear of crime and the following respondent characteristics:

- a) gender
- b) race
- c) age
- d) rural-urban dichotomy

1.4.2 There is no difference between the fear of crime and students' social mobility to the following places:

- a) institutional
- b) social
- c) recreational
- d) shopping

1.4.3 There is no difference between how fearful students feel and being in the following places:

- a) institutional
- b) social
- c) recreational
- d) shopping

## **1.5. Operational definitions**

For the purposes of this study, it is imperative to define concepts that will be used throughout the dissertation. In this paper these concepts will be explained and defined as follows:

**Impact**, the term impact shall mean the effect or the influence that crime has.

**Crime** is an act of violence against people, property or businesses, and is usually punishable by law. Crime manifests in different forms, assault, personal theft, household theft, sexual abuse, etc. For the purposes of this study we will only be concerned with personal crime, (crime related to the individual)

**Fear** is a response to subjectively defined risk and personal vulnerability. It is a physiological state and an expressed attitude, some physical manifestations include rapid heartbeat or the release of adrenaline.

**Student** in this study shall refer to a person who is studying at a tertiary institution in order to qualify for some occupation or devotion. The person is undertaking some form of learning or investigation under instruction at a university or other place of higher education or technical training.

#### **1.6. Delimitation of study**

This study was limited to the 4 major tertiary institutions in the Cape metropole area in the Western Cape Province. Stellenbosch University was excluded since they fall under another municipality entirely, yet the researcher admits it would have shed interesting light to the research

#### **1.7. Organisation of the study**

Chapter 1 introduces the research topic and it contains the motivation of the study, the statement of the research problem, the aims of the study, hypotheses that were generated and the operational definitions. Chapter 2 introduces the literature review. It consists of literature pertaining to the research topic. Fear, crime and more specifically the fear of crime.

Chapter 3 introduces the research design and procedures. This chapter covers the study sample, the sampling design, research instrument and the method of scoring. Chapter 4 consists of the results of the study. This chapter also discusses the results. The analysis of the research hypotheses are also included in this chapter. Chapter 5 contains the summary, recommendation and the limitations of the research.

### **1.8 Summary**

In this chapter the researcher introduced the subject matter. The motivation and reason for embarking on this research was also outlined. The aims of the research have been postulated and the research methodology was highlighted. It is the intention of this research that students studying at tertiary institutions be the focus of the research. The aim of the research is to understand how crime impacts on student's mobility. The following chapter reviews literature concerning the fear of crime and the models of fear of crime.

## **CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **2.1. INTRODUCTION**

Studies in the field of crime have focused on peoples' perceptions of crime, the fear of crime and people's reactions to crime. Crime is rapidly increasing in South Africa and has some of the highest rates of violent crime in the world (Camerer, Louw, Artz & Scharf, 1998). This chapter introduces the topic of the research. In section 2.2 the fear of crime concept is introduced. This is followed by the fear of crime models in section 2.3. In section 2.4 we examine research that has been done in the field of fear of crime and gender, age, race and residential abode. In section 2.5 studies on the relationship between social mobility and the fear of crime is explored. In section 2.6 studies on safety in different settings is explored. The impact of crime is discussed in section 2.7.

### **2.2. FEAR OF CRIME CONCEPT**

Fear of crime is defined as an "emotional response of dread or anxiety to crime or symbols that a person associates with crime" (Ferraro, 1995:4). A distinction is made between fear of crime and perceived risk. Perceived risk is the "recognition of a situation as possessing potential danger, real or imagined" (Ferraro, 1995:8). He further maintains that "fear involves an emotional, and physiological reaction to perceived danger". Perceived risk involves a cognitive judgment whereas fear is emotive in character. Fear of crime and the concern for crime has been used interchangeably and this has led to ambiguous or distorted results with regard to the fear of crime.

Research into the fear of crime has basically been investigated in two ways, namely formless fear and concrete fear (Keane, 1998). Formless fear is identified as people's

perceptions of fear, whereas concrete fear assesses the likelihood of becoming a victim of a criminal act. Some research studies done by Skogan and Maxfield (1981), based on the formless fear dimension, have shown that older black women of a lower socio-economic class, who are unmarried, urban dwellers tend to be more fearful. Research studies have shown that young black woman, urban dwellers and educated people tend to express concrete fear.

Fear of crime impinges on the well being of people (Skogan, 1987). Fear of crime, as a subjective state could be a reaction to past victimization, or the anticipation of being a victim (Mawby, 1987:103). Fear of crime has also been viewed as a political problem (Pantazis, 2000: 414). Attempts at reducing the fear of crime have also featured in British government proposals and consultation documents (Pantazis, 2000:414). According to Keane (1998:40), the research on fear of crime has been considerable but not much attention has been paid to the behavioural consequences of fear. Constrained behaviour and fear are 2 likely outcomes when perceived risk is high. Constrained behaviour heightens the fear of crime (Liska, Sanchirico & Reed, 1988). According to Macquire and Pointing (1987: 171) the problem with the fear of crime, is formulated as a relationship between high crime rate (objective fact) and fear of crime (subjective attitude).

It is rather difficult to separate formless fear and concrete fear from each other since people who are fearful believe that they are at risk of being victims of crime. Concrete fear is indeed an assessment of potential fear of the person of being a potential victim.

Killas (1990) has identified 3 key factors to explain the emergence of the fear of crime.

These are:

- 1) the exposure to the risk,
- 2) lack of effective defence, protective measures,
- 3) and the anticipation of serious consequences.

Research on the fear of crime has also moved away from using only individual characteristics and investigated the impact of structural and environmental inhibitors or predictors, e.g. public transport, neighbourhood incivility, etc. This trend of research has emerged in the late 1980's. Joseph (1997) in her research refers to the interaction between the person and his/her environment and how it influences people's fear for crime. Looking at structural factors is as important as the individual differences. Often there are places which are identified as hot spots and this is a thriving place for crime.

### **2.3. MODELS OF FEAR OF CRIME.**

There are basically 5 models that have been used by researchers to explain and describe the emergence of fear of crime. Researchers have used these models to show why people fear crime.

- 1) the irrational model,
- 2) cognitive model these two models come from the victimization perspective,
- 3) social control model which comes from social control theory,
- 4) social psychological model
- 5) Lifestyle model proposed by Hindelang, Gottfredson and Garofalo (1978).

A brief outline of these models will be given.



### **2.3.1. Irrational model**

Some researchers believe that the fear of crime is an irrational response to a perceived situation. Research has also shown that the fear of crime is disproportionate to actual risk of victimization (Skogan, 1987; Liska, Lawrence & Sanchirico, 1982). According to Mawby (1987:103) fear of crime is a response to media distortion, an irrational response or a relativistic assessment of crime.

### **2.3.2. Cognitive model**

These theorists maintain that fear is a rational response to a perceived threat or harm (Baumer, 1985:241). People who are physically or socially vulnerable, e.g. women and the poor, have a greater fear of crime. This model uses the concept of vulnerability to explain why women, the young, the elderly and the poor are particularly fearful of crime. The cognitive model sees past victimization experience as contributing to the individual's level of fear of crime.

### **2.3.3. Social control model**

These researchers attribute the fear of crime as a consequence of perceived erosion of social control that is evident in many urban areas Glanz (1989), e.g. the incivilities in the neighbourhood. Incivilities are defined as: "low level breaches of community standards that signal erosion of conventionally accepted norms and values" (Lagrange, Ferraro, Suspancic 1992:312). People are fearful as a result of their perceptions of the decline of moral order in society. People who perceive their neighbourhoods or areas of residence as unsafe tend to be more fearful as was shown in the Cape Town survey (Camerer, et.al., 1998) as well as research by May and Dunaway (2000).

#### **2.3.4. A social psychological model**

In this model the fear of crime is associated with 4 social psychological components.

- 1)     attractivity, how people see themselves or their possessions as attractive targets for criminal activities.
- 2)     Evil intent of the perpetrator
- 3)     power, the degree of self-assurance and feeling of control that a person has with respect to possible threat or assault by another. One's own power and the power of the other person.
- 4)     Criminalizable space refers to the situation in which a crime may take place, the time and presence of others (Farral, Bannister, Ditton, & Gilchrist, 2000:400).

The main reason for constructing this model was that previous models looked at sociological variables and ignored social psychological and psychological factors that may be important to explain the fear of crime (Farral, et al 2000:400).

Social psychological research suggests that there are important differences in what produces fear for men and women.

#### **2.3.5. Lifestyle model proposed by Hindelang, Gottredson and Garofalo in (1978).**

Lifestyle refers to how people involve themselves in daily activities and special events on a predictable basis. It encompasses how people spend their time and money at work as well as at leisure (Karmen, 1989). Researchers who have utilized this model for their research include Baldassare (1986) and Mawby (1987).

The likelihood of an individual becoming a victim depends on their lifestyle. People have different lifestyles and some are more exposed to situations of crime and have a higher

risk of becoming victims of crime, e.g. people who travel by means of public transport have greater risk than those people who have their own transport.

In the present research, the researcher does not use any particular model but has used an eclectic approach in understanding the fear of crime. The researcher believes that a person's fear of crime is seen as a rational response to neighbourhood incivilities and the knowledge that crime exists in his/her neighbourhood. Sociological and psychological factors also play a role in the person's fear of crime and this needs to be accounted for. A person's lifestyle, which is often associated with socio economic status does to a certain degree add to a person's fear of crime.

#### **2.4. STUDIES ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS AND THE FEAR OF CRIME.**

In most research the fear of crime was only measured by 1 question. This has been a centre of debate, as some researchers maintain that the use of 1 question does not accurately measure the fear of crime. The use of 1 question to measure the fear of crime might be insufficient, since it is not clear whether the response to the question is as a result of an emotional reaction or as a result of perceived risk (Pantazis, 2000). It is recommended to use more than 1 question to measure the fear of crime. It would also be more appropriate to use a multivariate approach in assessing the determinants of fear of crime, as it is statistically more useful.

The question used to measure the fear of crime was, *"How safe do you feel when walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark"* (Pantazis, 2000; Baldassare, 1986; Liska, Lawrence & Sanchirico 1982). This question has been asked in most of the crime surveys as well as in the British Crime Surveys of 1982 and 1994.

#### **2.4.1. Gender and fear of crime.**

Gender has proven to be the most consistent predictor of fear of crime (Ferraro, 1996). Women have identified rape as the most important fear provoking activity when it comes to their personal safety.

Research findings from Clemente and Kleinman (1977) showed that gender had more predictive power than any of the other independent variables. Sixty one percent of females were afraid to walk alone in their neighbourhood at night. The research done by Pantazis (2000) explores vulnerability and the fear of crime among poor people in Great Britain. In order to understand the fear of crime of poor people, one should look at other issues such as job loss, debt and unemployment. The research of Pantazis (2000) used the data analysis of the British Crime Survey done in 1994. The question to measure the fear of crime was: *"How safe do you feel when walking alone in your local area after dark"*. Results showed that 33% of all people feel unsafe when walking alone in their neighbourhood. Sixty seven percent of poor women felt unsafe compared to 34 % of poor men. The research findings found that the impact of gender on safety perceptions was less significant in poor households.

Women's fear of crime is perceived by seeing themselves as potential victims, whilst men find distrustful people fear provoking (Pantazis, 2000:401). According to Pantazis (2000) women fear crime more than men, and this is ascribed to women's vulnerability.

## 2.4.2 Race and fear of crime studies

A research done by Liska, Lawrence and Sanchirico (1982) explores the fear of crime as a social fact, which varies across situations and the structural characteristics of cities. Fear of crime was measured by the question *"How safe do you feel or would you feel being out alone in your neighbourhood at night (during the day)"*.

The research findings showed that there is an association between the racial composition and fear of crime. The Cape Town survey showed similar results. The different racial groups experienced different types of victimization, e.g. whites experienced more property crime and Africans experienced more violent crime (Camerer, et. al., 1998).

A research by Joseph (1997) set out to examine the nature and cause of fear of crime among the elderly, paying special attention to environmental factors and the perception of vulnerability. This research was interested in the interaction between the person and his/her environment and how it influences the fear of crime in the elderly person.

Environmental factors were measured by a 10 item index and it assessed issues such as safety around their neighbourhoods, safety of certain areas, perceived safety at homes and perceived safety of public transport. Perception of vulnerability was measured on a 4-item index. Fear of crime was measured on two dimensions. Firstly concrete fear of crime, which ascertained the fear of four major crimes, e.g. assault, robbery, burglary, and murder. The second dimension was formless fear, the perception of threat to one's security, which included fear of being alone, fear of strangers, fear of going outside, and fear for their personal safety. The results showed that 70% of the respondents had high levels of fear of crime. The elderly were also more prone to formless fear of crime than to concrete fear of crime. Seventy three percent of the respondents said that they have avoided going out at nights due to their fear of crime. To combat the fear of becoming

victims, 70 % of the elderly noted that they had taken precautions against becoming victims, e.g. being more cautious, acquiring a weapon or having a guard dog.

Research done by Parker and McMorris (1993) was carried out on Hispanics and African Americans. The research was undertaken because of lack of research on ethnic minorities and fear of crime. The researchers wished to determine the fear of crime and the likelihood of victimization in Hispanics and black ethnic minorities in the USA.

A questionnaire was used to assess the subway (underground train) rider's perceptions of crime on the subway after dark. Also to assess the subway rider's attitudes toward the guardian angels (peace keepers or protectors). Fear and victimization was measured in this research. Fear was measured by the question *"When riding the subway after dark, how worried are you about being robbed, threatened, beaten up, or anything of that sort"*

The likelihood of victimization was an index of the respondents' anxiety about criminal victimization. This was measured by four items. A reliability index of Cronbach's alpha, = 0.790 was obtained on the four-item scale.

The research findings showed that gender and victimization were strong correlates for fear of crime for the pooled sample of black and Hispanic respondents. Gender and age were the strongest predictors of fear of crime. Blacks (women and elderly) who reported greatest risk of victimization were more fearful of crime than those who reported the least likelihood of being victimised in the future.

Women, the elderly, and individuals who reported the greatest likelihood of future victimization were more fearful than men. Younger respondents and individuals who reported the least risk of future victimization. These findings are consistent with previous studies (Skogan & Maxfield, 1981). The researchers have offered the following

explanations for the consistent findings. Firstly, women, elderly people, and individuals who have been victimized feel less capable of defending themselves, (vulnerability) and secondly, women, the elderly, and people who have experienced victimization tend to live close to areas or in areas with high levels of crime.

Blacks are more likely to be victims of crime against their person than whites (Clemente & Kleinman, 1977). Africans in South African cities were greater at risk of experiencing violent crimes than in the other race groups (Camerer, et. al., 1998). Results from the 1994 British Crime Survey has indicated that some population groups may feel less safe than others which could be due to their social economic position or their physical inabilities (Pantazis, 2000:414).

#### **2.4.3 Age and fear of crime studies**

The elderly are vulnerable due to the age and their agility. A study by May and Dunaway (2000) looked at the predictors of fear of crime among adolescents and whether it differs from the predictors of adult fear of crime. The study was carried out at school and the results showed that perceived neighbourhood incivility was the best predictor for adolescent fear of crime. Perceived safety at school was the second best predictor of adolescent fear of crime. The results also showed that adolescent fear of crime was different to adult fear of crime. The predictors for adult fear of crime are gender, race and age. This has been consistent with most research on the fear of crime (Ferraro, 1995; Pantazis, 2000; Keane, 1998).

Pupils who perceived their school as an unsafe environment tend to be more fearful. The grade level of the pupils was also significant. Pupils in the lower grades were more fearful

than the ones in the higher grades. When the researchers controlled gender they found that black male adolescents were more fearful of crime at school. Perceptions of safety were found to be an important factor in the female fear of crime but not male fear of crime.

A research done by Baldassare (1986) explored the fear of crime among the elderly. Fear of crime was measured by the following question: *"Would you say it is safe to go out walking at night where you live?"* The results showed that women were more fearful than men. Research findings showed that income had a significant relationship between age and the fear of crime. Income is used as a measure of lifestyle and also an indicator of the amount of socialising people do outside of the home environment.

According to Williams and Singh (1994) the youth not only have to cope with growing up, they have to contend with crime. Research have shown, that youth that are fearful are likely to have lower grades, lower self esteem and fewer friends than those who are not fearful. Research done by Williams and Singh (1994) looked at some of the defensive actions taken by the youth to protect themselves. The results showed that school-going youth employed strategies to defend or protect themselves against becoming victims of crime.

According to May and Dunaway (2000) pupils who exhibited low levels of safety at school or in their neighbourhoods, were more likely to be fearful of criminal victimization. The phenomena underlying the fear of crime in adults and adolescents is different. Fearful adults adopt avoidance techniques and adaptive strategies when travelling at night (Hale, 1996; Ferraro, 1995).



#### **2.4.4. Urban - rural and fear of crime studies.**

Research done by Shweitzer, Kim and Mackin (1999) explored the relationship between the environment and the fear of crime in urban neighbourhoods. The perceived crime level was measured by three items. The results showed that fear of crime is strongly related to low sense of community than to actual crime. This means if people have a strong sense of community, in being able to combat crime, they were less fearful. The residents living on the blocks with high crime were more likely to be renters, black, lower income, and new to the block.

According to research findings people living in urban areas have greater fear of crime because of high crime levels in these areas (Skogan & Maxfield, 1981; Ferraro 1995).

#### **2.4.5 Other predictors and fear of crime**

Another predictor for fear of crime is wealth. The available research shows that poor people are much more fearful than the rest of the population (Pantazis, 2000:416). Poor people are less likely to have their homes protected; no insurance and they are exposed to potential threatening situations because they rely on public transport. Another factor is that poor people live in places which has high levels of crime and this also leads to increased anxiety for their safety.

Another predictor for fear of crime is that of previous victimization. Previous victimization and greater perception of risk for victimization, by the individual, has been positively linked to the fear of crime (Ferraro, 1995). Vulnerability, the powerlessness to resist attack, e.g. lacking physical strength, has also been proven to be a predictor for fear of crime.

Neighbourhood incivilities have also been proven a predictor for fear of crime (May & Dunaway, 2000; Pantazis 2000; Hartnagel, 1979).

## **2.5. STUDIES ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL MOBILITY AND THE FEAR OF CRIME**

Mobility gives people access to services (Ferreira & Mostert, 1986). People have to travel to work, school and activities. If they do not own their own transport they have to make use of public transport. People who spend more time in vulnerable locations, deserted areas, derelict buildings, bars, or leave their property unguarded are more likely to be victimized.

Research done by Keane (1998) explored how the fear of crime influences the behaviour and mobility of women. The results showed that women who felt worried were likely to restrict their behaviour. According to the results, 67 % of women reported they would walk in their neighbourhoods if they felt safer. The research showed that the women under used parking garages and their neighbourhood. Results also indicated that if fear was decreased the overall mobility of women who are fearful, would have more freedom to moving around. However this is in contrast to research done by Liska, Sanchirico and Reed (1988) who maintain that reducing crime does not necessarily lead to the reduction of fear by people.

Research by Keane (1998), did not look at factors that would increase women's mobility or what the causes are for lack of mobility. In our present study we explore what students think are factors or reasons for not walking or moving around in Cape Town.

According to research by Liska, Sanchirico and Reed (1988) fear constrains behaviour, which in turn increases fear. People who fear crime tend to constrain their behaviour to safe

areas. This research looked at the reciprocal effects of fear of crime and constrained behaviour for different age groups.

Fear and constrained behaviour was measured by the following questions:

*"How often do you go out in the evening for entertainment such as restaurants, theatres, etc?" "Have you limited or changed your activities in the past year because of crime?"* Fear of crime was measured by the following question for both day and night.

*"How safe do you feel or would you feel out alone in your neighbourhood at night (day)."*

The researchers assumed that the level of education was an indicator of lifestyle and affects the level of socialising outside of the home. The findings of the research showed that age was an important predictor for constrained behaviour. Fear was also affected by constrained behaviour and gender, however constrained behaviour was affected by fear and age. The results also showed that constrained behaviour increases fear.

Research done by Ferreira and Mostert (1986) explored the problems that the elderly experienced in getting around in the city of Durban. Thirty four percent of elderly expressed fear of being mugged or pick pocketed. From the results it showed that gender and age were important variables in explaining the fear of victimization in the elderly (Ferreira & Mostert, 1986:36). Results also showed that frequent use of buses was the second most important predictor in the case of being mugged and fear of becoming a victim of crime. It has also been shown that perceptual barriers, emotions such as anxiety, fear and apprehension have inhibited the mobility of the aged. Being mobile and travelling to places requires that the person feel safe and the free of being attacked.

## 2.6. STUDIES ON SAFETY IN DIFFERENT SETTINGS.

Most of the researchers exploring the fear of crime have tried to identify how safe people felt in various places. As with most research, fear of crime was measured by asking the respondents how safe they felt or would feel in certain areas, e.g., their neighbourhood. According to Nasar and Jones (1997) safety in public places are influenced by two interrelated physical cues which may produce fear. This being 1) entrapment, barriers that prohibit easy escape, and 2) concealment. The time of day has also been found to be related to fear of crime, the evening creates more fear than during the day (Camerer, et al 1998).

The Cape Town crime survey explored the nature and the extent of crime within Cape Town. In this research, the variable race was used in analysing the results because race is said to correspond to socio economic patterns in society (Camerer, et. al., 1998).

The results showed that victims of violent crimes were at risk when visiting places or engaging in entertainment. Fear was highest at night when respondents showed they felt very unsafe. Fifty percent of Africans and 56% of coloured people felt very unsafe after dark. According to the findings coloured people were the most fearful group in Cape Town. Coloured and Africans said they felt very unsafe where they lived. People who perceived their neighbourhoods as unsafe places are more fearful. Results of the Pretoria crime survey showed that 43% of the respondents felt very safe, while 38% felt fairly safe walking in their neighbourhood during the day. However at night 50% felt very unsafe and 19% felt a bit safe. Fifty seven percent of elderly people felt very unsafe walking in their neighbourhoods at night. Forty nine percent of the respondents indicated that the inner city of Pretoria was an unsafe area at night.

A research study done by Noaks and Noaks (2000) wanted to determine the impact of crime at schools. How crime affected school pupils while they were travelling to school and when at school. The results of their research showed that girls were more worried about becoming victims of crime. When at school both girls and boys expressed a concern for crime and not adequately being protected at school. 56% of school pupils made use of protecting devices, like knives or whistles. A third of the students expressed not feeling safe at school.

A research study by Killas and Clerici (2000) explored measures of vulnerability in relation to fear of crime in Switzerland. Fear of crime was measured in 3 contexts, *How safe or unsafe do you feel after 10pm, while:*

- a) *walking in your neighbourhood*
- a) *riding in public transport (train, bus, tram)*
- a) *walking home from the train, tram/ bus stop*

The results showed that roughly 25% admitted feeling somewhat unsafe, while 30% avoided places or people while walking at night in their neighbourhood.

According to Felson (1994:56) modern society has 3 settings that produce crowds and are places for crime to thrive. These are the shopping malls, college campuses and nighttime activities. All 3 places have high densities of people and high levels of crime. These three settings will be discussed briefly.

Shopping malls are fast becoming the new centres for entertainment. All people need to buy basic goods and services and these are readily available to the public at the shopping malls. People frequent these places and unbeknown to them there are many nooks where criminal activities occur.

At university campuses there are high density of people. Students, lecturers, administrators and visitors. It is hardly possible to know who belongs there or not. Also most colleges form part of the community or the city and the buildings are located within the city, e.g. Cape Technikon and the University of Cape Town. Felson (1994) maintain it is easy for criminals to thrive on campuses, since access is easily obtained. Recently tertiary institutions have started to protect their institutions with visible security and security checks. At the University of the Western Cape, and Cape Technikon students have to produce their student cards in order to gain access to the premises and buildings. The erection of fences, more visible security personnel, access control are some measures that have been employed to keep crime out.

Night time activities also create opportunities for crime to take place. People frequent bars, restaurants, theatres, movies, nightclubs, etc. People are often in relaxed moods and may not be aware of the dangers around them. Felson (1994) believes that places of entertainment at night are associated with criminal activity.

In the literature of fear of crime, the concept of hot spot crime arises. Hot spots refer to certain places that evoke higher levels of fear among people than other places. These could be places that are concealed, poorly lit areas, bus stops or derelict buildings. According to Nasar and Jones (1997) hot spots of fear have been looked at in two ways, namely distal and proximate levels. The distal level refers to persons that may experience a concern about the chance of becoming a victim, e.g. the park being an unsafe place to be at night. The proximate level refers to cues that evoke site-specific fears, e.g. areas with derelict buildings or gang-invested areas (Nasar & Jones, 1997).

The research by Nasar and Jones (1997) explored the concept of hot spots and looked at 3 areas on a university campus to see how safe females felt walking alone at night. Safety was associated with lighting, an unobstructed view and activity. Seventy seven percent of

respondents associated well-lit areas with safety. Thirty eight percent of respondents associated safety with the presence of people around and 34.6% of respondents associated safety with the openness and ability to see across the area. This research may not be generalised to the other groups but it does highlight some of the issues of what causes fear among students when walking around, e.g. concealed places, not being able to see ahead or unlit areas and other factors.

Most research done on how safe people feel have been about places such as their immediate neighbourhood, schools and universities. The general pattern that has been followed by researchers have been to see whether people are avoiding sites and situations associated with crime and how they go about protecting themselves while in sites or situations associated with crime.

## **2.7. IMPACT OF CRIME**

The present study is concerned with how the fear of crime impacts on students' social mobility. The researcher therefore explores how fear has impacted on people's lives. According to Skogan and Maxfield (1981:p13) "what people do about crime would be the best barometer of its impact upon people's lives". According to Glanz (1994) the impact of crime is generally measured in terms of financial loss that has been incurred and the negative effect it has on the quality of life of the members of society. People who have been victims of personal crimes are more likely to do things to protect themselves (Skogan and Maxfield, 1981).

Crime is debilitating and causes fear, anxiety, resentment, mistrust and dissatisfaction with life (Liska, Lawrence & Sanchirico, 1982). It makes people lose the impetus or motivation to discover their environments and what it has to offer. People tend to avoid places, limit

themselves to their homes and not frequent areas, especially at night. In so doing they are changing ordinary daily living to cope with the omnipresence of crime. People start to become suspicious, mistrust others and are afraid of strangers.

Avoidance behaviour or constrained behaviour is some of the ways that people use to protect themselves against becoming victims. This in itself reduces people's mobility. There are mixed findings about the relationship between the fear of crime and constrained behaviour (Liska, Sanchirico & Reed, 1988). Their research showed that constrained behaviour has heightened the fear of crime among people and not vice versa. Fear and social behaviour may be reciprocal; fear constrains behaviour and leads to protective behaviour, which in turn reduces fear.

According to Hartnagel (1979) the fear of crime causes residential dissatisfaction and psychological distress among the elderly. The use of avoidance behaviour as precautionary behaviour is a predictor in avoiding specific places, e.g. using public places (Keane, 1998).

People's reactions to the threat of crime are generally aimed at reducing the risk of becoming victims. They curtail their normal activities and sometimes isolate themselves. This could have a negative effect on the quality of their lives, since they do not engage in activities, to avoid exposure to crime. The fear of crime leads to avoidance behaviour; people isolating themselves and erecting barriers (Glanz 1991; Liska, Sanchirico & Reed 1988). In research done by Glanz (1991) people indicated that they had changed their behaviour because of the fear of crime. People who did not have a fear of crime did not change their behaviour. According to Conklin (1975) the public's fear of crime in an area may reduce patronage of local businesses, especially after dark. Crime reduces



interpersonal trust and erects barriers between people just to reduce the risk of becoming victims of crime.

In South Africa vigilante action groups have been established as a direct response to the governments ineffectiveness to curb the increase of crime. In the Western Cape the vigilante group People Against Gangsterism And Drugs (PAGAD) was formed. In Johannesburg the Masingafi (let us not die) was established to fight the tsosis. Kangaroo courts are springing up in parts of South Africa because the communities are fed up with the inefficient protection and policing. These groups however have also resorted to violent measures to meet out justice to perpetrators.

Victimologist and criminologist have identified concepts or terms to describe the ways in which people try to reduce the risk of becoming victims. Furstenburg (1972) identifies 4 such terms:

- 1) crime prevention measure - personal protection
- 2) avoidance strategies - actions that people take that would limit or reduce their personal exposure to situations e.g. staying at home at nights
- 3) risk management tactics - they minimize their chances of being harmed, when exposure is unavoidable, e.g. carrying a weapon, or travelling in groups
- 4) crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) creating defensive space, erecting fences, having guard dogs, etc.

According to Glanz (1994) there are basically 3 factors which determines an individuals response to crime:

- a) the perception of crime in the environment
- b) psychological factors e.g. fear, anxiety
- c) personal circumstances e.g. gender, age or race.

## **2.8. SUMMARY**

This chapter has looked at the literature surrounding the fear of crime. It has attempted to show the link between certain personal characteristics of the individual in relation to the fear of crime. An overview of previous research done in the field of research was given with the research designs that were used as well as the results of previous researches. The chapter also reviewed models of fear of crime that other researchers used to explain the emergence of fear of crime. Since this study is interested in determining the impact of crime on students' social mobility it was important to look at the impact that crime has on people's lives. To reiterate Skogan and Maxfield (1981:p13) "what people do about crime would be the best barometer of its impact upon people's lives". This chapter has served as an introduction into the research topic. The concept of students, mobility and the fear of crime have been introduced. This chapter aimed at acquainting the reader with the research topic, namely the fear of crime.

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH DESIGN AND PROCEDURES**

### **3.1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter deals with the method of the research design and how the research instrument was administered. The research approach that has been adopted in this study is explanatory and descriptive in nature. Explanatory to gain information about the impact of crime on students' mobility. Descriptive because there is a wealth of information on the fear of crime in the world as well as in South Africa.

### **3.2. THE STUDY SAMPLE**

The study sample consists of tertiary students in the Cape region. The students are from the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape, Peninsula Technikon and Cape Technikon. The study employed the cluster sampling design. The researcher did not make use of a sampling frame. The names of all the faculties of the tertiary institutions were placed in a bowl. A faculty name was then drawn. Afterward the researcher placed the names of all the departments in that faculty in the bowl. The name of a department was then drawn. In this department the students were selected for the research. The sample therefore consisted of students from the following departments:

UCT - Sociology department (Humanities)

UWC- Philosophy and Foreign languages (Arts)

Peninsula Technikon - Public health (Science)

Cape Technikon - Information technology (Commerce).

These students form the "participant pool". They may not be representative of the larger student population, but for the purposes of this research the selected students were a sample

of all the possible subjects available for the research, (Leong & Austin, 1996:101). 360 questionnaires were administered and 324 were returned, only 298 were filled in correctly (N=298).

### **3.3. RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

A questionnaire was used because this was the best possible way to obtain information from the students. The questionnaire was divided into 4 sections:

Section 1 was used to get biographical data of the respondents.

Section 2 asked 21 questions about how worried the respondents were in various places, and they had to rate their level of worry. Very worried = 4, worried = 3, somewhat worried = 2 and not worried = 1. Non response was coded 0. A copy of the questionnaire is found in the appendice.

Section 3 of the questionnaire asked 9 questions in which the respondents had to rate how safe they felt in various settings. Very unsafe = 4, unsafe = 3, safe = 2, very safe = 1. Non response was coded 0.

In section 4 an open-ended question was asked to get responses from students, which they felt were the reasons for lack of mobility in Cape Town.

### **3.4 METHOD OF SCORING**

The respondents had to indicate by means of an X in a box whether he/she was very worried, worried, somewhat worried or not worried in relation to a particular question. The respondents also had to rate how safe they felt in certain places. A open ended question in which the respondents had to list 5 reasons which they thought were the main cause of fear of moving

around in Cape Town.

The categories were scored by assigning values 4,3,2,1. Very worried = 4, somewhat worried = 3, worried = 2 and not worried = 1. No response was coded 0.

A maximum score of 84 could be obtained for section 2 and a minimum of 0. High total scores indicated a very worried student when it comes to the fear of crime. Low total scores indicated that the student was not worried about their mobility and the fear of crime.

In section 3 the categories were scored by assigning values 4, 3, 2,1. Very unsafe = 4, unsafe = 3, safe = 2, very safe = 1. Non response was coded 0.

A maximum of 36 could be obtained and a minimum of 0. High total scores in this section indicated a respondent who did not feel very safe. A low total score therefore indicated a student who felt very safe.

### **3.5 DATA ANALYSIS OF THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

*Reiteration of the aims of the research are:*

3.5.1. To find out whether there is an association (if any) between the fear of crime and respondent characteristics such as age, gender, race and place of abode.

3.5.2. To determine the impact of crime on students' social mobility in different settings, namely institutional, recreational, social and shopping settings.

3.5.3. To determine students perception of safety in different settings, namely:

i) institutional

ii) social

iii) recreational

iv) shopping

3.5.4 To determine what students perceive are the important causes of fear for moving around in Cape Town.

To analysis the first aim, chi square will be calculated to determine the relationship between the fear of crime and respondent characteristics. Cross tabulations between the respondent characteristics will also be done. The reason for choosing this statistical test is because we have frequencies. To analysis the second aim, analysis of variance will be used to determine the impact that crime has on students' social mobility.

For the third aim, the analysis of variance will also be used. The fourth aim the frequencies of the all the statements will be done and also be ranked in order to determine the important causes for not moving around in Cape Town.

### **3.6 PROCEDURES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTRUMENT**

Similar research had been done by Keane (1998) and Williams and Singh (1994). The researcher with the help of the supervisor developed the research instrument.

Permission had to be gained from the various institutions. The University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape wanted to have an ethics statement, a copy of the research proposal and a copy of the research instrument before permission was given to carry out research on their institutions. After these were given to the various institutions, access to the students given. The researcher made prior arrangements with the four institutions about administering the questionnaires. In most cases the researcher administered the instrument. In other instances the lecturers administered the questionnaires. The research topic was

introduced to the students and participation was voluntary.

The researcher visited the institutions at the beginning of September till mid October 2001. The researcher found the timing perhaps not conducive since most of the students were preparing for university holidays and for exams. Nonetheless I visited the institutions and was helped by the various departments and the staff whilst doing the research. At Cape Technikon, the Head of department asked me to address the staff of the Information technology and tell them about my research.

The major problem that the researcher experienced, while doing the fieldwork was not having a support system. The far distances between the researcher and the supervisor made communication very difficult. It was frustrating as it was a first time for the researcher.

### **3.7 CONCLUSION**

This chapter covered the research design and procedures that were followed whilst carrying out the research. The following chapter presents the analysis and the results of the research.

## CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

This chapter deals with the presentation of the data and data analysis followed by the results of the research.

### 4.1. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCALE.

The scale comprising a questionnaire was administered to 360 tertiary students. There were 298 usable questionnaires and these were used for data analysis.

### 4.2. ANALYSIS OF DATA

Hypothesis 1: There is no relationship between the fear of crime and gender. The formula below can be used to test the relationship between 2 categorical variables which are cast in a 2 x 2 contingency table.

Table 4.2.1. Relationship between gender and the fear of crime.

Fear of crime			
Gender	Fearful	Not Fearful	Total
Male	39	75	114
Female	97	87	184
Totals	136	162	298

Df = 1 alpha = 0.05.

$$\chi^2 = \frac{N(AD - BC)^2}{(A+B)(C+D)(A+C)(B+D)}$$



A  $\chi^2$  of 9.72 was obtained. This value is greater than the critical value and therefore significant at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $\alpha = 0.01$ . We therefore reject the null hypothesis and retain the alternate hypothesis, which states that there is a relationship between the fear of crime and gender.

To test for the degree of association (if any) between variables gender and fear, we use the following formula, also called the contingency coefficient. This is the correlation coefficient that is appropriate to use for data in an  $r \times c$  contingency table.

$$C = \sqrt{\frac{\chi^2}{N + \chi^2}}$$

$$C = \sqrt{\frac{9.72}{298 + 9.72}}$$

$$= 0.17 \rightarrow$$

The maximum value of the contingency coefficient is not 1 as would be expected. The estimate for the maximum value of  $C$  is computed by the following formula:

$$C_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{k-1}{k}},$$

where  $k$  = the number of categories of the variable that has the fewest categories. In this case we substitute the  $k = 2$  and  $C_{\max} = 1$ . Therefore a correlation coefficient of 0.17 is very low.

## INTERPRETATION

The hypothesis that there is no relationship between the fear of crime and gender has not been confirmed by this study.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no relationship between the fear of crime and race. To test this hypothesis, the chi square ( $\chi^2$ ) test for independent samples, will be used.

Table 4.2.2. Relationship between race and the fear of crime.

**Fear of crime**

Race	Fearful	Not fearful	Totals
White	24 (43.8)	72 (52.2)	96
African	67 (47.0)	36 (56)	103
Coloured	34 (37.0)	47 (44)	81
Indian & Other	11 (8.2)	7 (9.8)	18
Totals	132	162	298

Df = (r-1) (c-1) = 4; alpha = 0.05.

A of  $\chi^2$  of 33.95 was obtained. It is greater than the critical value alpha = 0.05 and alpha = 0.01 and therefore it is statistically significant. We reject the null hypothesis and retain the alternate hypothesis, which states that there is a difference between the fear of crime and race.

To test for the degree of association (if any) between variables race and fear, we use the following formula, also called the contingency coefficient.

$$C = \sqrt{\frac{\chi^2}{N + \chi^2}}$$

$$C = \sqrt{\frac{33.95}{298 + 33.95}}$$

$$= 0.32 \rightarrow$$

A contingency coefficient of 0,32 was obtained and this is a weak correlation.

## INTEPRETATION

The hypothesis that there is no relationship between the fear of crime and race has not been confirmed by this study. There is a difference in race and the fear of crime.

**Hypothesis 3:** There is no relationship between the fear of crime and age.

Table 4.2.3. Age and the fear of crime.

Fear of crime			
Age	Fearful	Not fearful	Totals
17 – 19	40	53	93
20 – 22	53	72	125
23 – 25	29	20	49
26 +	14	14	28
Totals	136	162	298

$Df = (r-1) (c-1) = 3$ ;  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

The obtained  $\chi^2 = 4.55$  is smaller than the critical value at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . We therefore retain the null hypothesis.

## INTEPRETATION

The hypothesis that there is no relationship between the fear of crime and age has been confirmed by this study.

**Hypothesis 4:** There is no relationship between the fear of crime and place of abode.

Table 4.2.4 Place of abode and fear of crime.

Place of Abode	Fear of crime		Totals
	Fearful	Not fearful	
Urban Area	82	125	207
Semi urban	32	24	56
Semi rural and rural	2	3	5
Other	20	10	30
Total	136	162	298

$Df = (r-1)(c-1) = 4$ ,  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

The calculated  $\chi^2$  is 11,52. It is greater than the critical value of 9,49 at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and we therefore reject the null hypothesis. There are significant results and there is a relationship between the fear of crime and the place of residence.

To test for the degree of association (if any) between the variables race and fear, we use the following formula, also called the contingency coefficient.

$$C = \sqrt{\frac{\chi^2}{N + \chi^2}}$$

$$C = 0.19 \rightarrow$$

A contingency coefficient of 0,19 was obtained and this is a weak correlation.

## INTEPRETATION

The hypothesis that there is no relationship between the fear of crime and place of abode has not been confirmed by this study. There is a relationship between the fear of crime and place of abode of students.

**Hypothesis 5:** There is no difference between the fear of crime and students' social mobility to the following places:

- a) institutional setting
- b) social setting
- c) recreational setting
- d) shopping setting

### **ASSUMPTIONS OF ANOVA**

1) The samples are randomly distributed and are independent. 2) The dependent variable is measured on an interval scale. 3) The dependent variable is normally distributed in the population and 4) that the population variances are equal.

The data does not conform to a normal distribution and therefore distribution free tests are used to test this hypothesis. The Kruskal Wallis test is the non-parametric equivalent of the one-way analysis of variance. It tests whether several independent samples are from the same population. The only requirement of this test is that the dependent variable is measured on an ordinal level. This test is run in SPSS 10.0 and is found in **Statistics, Non parametric Tests, K Independent Samples**. Each setting is analysed separately and a look at where the differences were in the various settings is also analysed.

#### **a) institutional setting**

A Kruskal Wallis chi square of 95.333 is obtained for students going to the university. This statistic is significant beyond  $p < 0.001$ . This means that the levels of fear in students are not the same when travelling to universities or technikons. The null hypothesis that there is no difference between the fear of crime and students' social mobility to the institutional setting is then rejected.

A further investigation, using the Kruskal Wallis H statistic, to determine where these differences lie, showed that there were no significant difference between males and females when going to the universities or technikons, ( $\chi^2 = 0.618$  df = 3,  $p > 0.892$ ).

Similar results were found for age, ( $\chi^2 = 7.299$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p > 0.063$ ). Significant results were found for race and residence. For race ( $\chi^2 = 11.400$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and for place of abode ( $\chi^2 = 11.299$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.010$ ).

## INTERPRETATION

The results show that males and females students with different ages do not feel any different with regards to their level of fear whilst travelling to and from the universities.

### b) social setting

A chi square of 150.384 at  $df$  equalling 3, is significant beyond  $p < 0.001$ , when students are going to and from social activities. This means that the levels of fear of students are not the same when travelling to places of social activities. The null hypothesis that there is no difference between the fear of crime and students' social mobility to the social setting is then rejected.

The Kruskal Wallis H, test was also used to further investigate where the difference lies. The results were significant for the place of abode and gender ( $\chi^2 = 13.440$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.010$  and  $\chi^2 = 11.439$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.010$ ). Race and age were not significant for students travelling to social activities ( $\chi^2 = 6.240$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p > 0.101$ ;  $\chi^2 = 6.744$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p > 0.081$ ).

## INTERPRETATION

Gender influences the student's fear of crime in relation to travelling to social activities. The different races and the ages of the students do not influence the fear of crime levels in relation to travelling to social activities.

#### c) recreational setting

The result of  $\chi^2 = 122.738$  is significant beyond  $p < 0.001$ . This means that the levels of fear of crime of students are not the same when travelling to places of recreational activities. The null hypothesis that there is no difference between the fear of crime and students' social mobility to the recreational setting is rejected.

Further examination using the Kruskal Wallis H statistic, yielded that age was the only variable not significant ( $\chi^2 = 6.244$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p > 0.100$ ). Gender, race and place of abode were all significant. ( $\chi^2 = 7.948$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.047$ ;  $\chi^2 = 16.253$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ;  $\chi^2 = 10.844$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.013$ ).

#### INTERPRETATION

Factors that influenced the fear of crime whilst travelling to recreational activities were students' background, gender and place of residence.

#### d) shopping setting

The result of  $\chi^2 = 144.660$  is significant beyond  $p < 0.001$ . This means that the levels of fear of crime of students when travelling to shopping centres or malls are not the same. The null hypothesis that there is no difference between the fear of crime and students' social mobility to shopping centres is rejected. Further investigation shows that gender was the only variable which was not significant, ( $\chi^2 = 1.001$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p > 0.801$ ), whilst race, age and place of abode were all significant, ( $\chi^2 = 15.359$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.002$ ;  $\chi^2 = 9.874$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.002$ ;  $\chi^2 = 12.906$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.005$ ).

#### INTERPRETATION

Results shows that gender does not influence the level of fear of crime for students when going to shopping centres or malls. The level of fear of crime is however influenced by factors such as the race of the student, age and place of residence of the student.

**Hypothesis 6:** There is no difference in the safety of students and being in the following places:

- a) institutional setting
- b) social setting
- c) recreational setting
- d) shopping setting

A non-parametric test, the Kruskal Wallis H statistic was used to test this hypothesis. Each setting was analysed separately and analysis were done to determine where the differences occur (if any).

a) institutional setting

The result of  $\chi^2 = 54.520$  is significant beyond  $p < 0.001$ . This means that the level of safety of students at their institution differs. The degrees of freedom (df) are equal to the number of groups minus 1, in this case (4-1=3). The null hypothesis that there is no difference between the safety of students and being in an institutional setting is rejected. Further investigation showed that gender, race and age were not significant ( $\chi^2=7.149$ , df = 3,  $p > 0.067$ ;  $\chi^2=1.644$ , df = 3,  $p > 0.650$ ;  $\chi^2= 1.783$ , df = 3,  $p > 0.619$ ).

b) Social setting

The result of  $\chi^2 = 109.397$  is significant beyond  $p < 0.001$ . This means that the level of safety of students at various social settings differs. The null hypothesis that there is no difference between the safety of students and being in a social setting is rejected. Gender was not a significant factor for students feeling safe at social activities ( $\chi^2= 6.199$ , df = 3,  $p > 0.102$ ). Race, age and place of abode were significant though, ( $\chi^2= 16.551$ , df = 3,  $p < 0.001$ ;  $\chi^2= 16.225$  df = 3,  $p < 0.001$ ;  $\chi^2= 11.573$ , df = 3,  $p < 0.009$ ).



## INTERPRETATION

When students are at social settings, gender did not make a difference in how safe they felt being there. Contrary to this, race age and the place of residence of the students did determine whether they felt safe being at social settings.

### c) Recreational setting

The result of  $\chi^2 = 134.850$  is significant beyond  $p < 0.001$ . This means that the levels of fear of crime of students at recreational settings are not the same. The null hypothesis that there is no difference between the safety of students and being in a social setting is rejected. A further investigation shows that gender, race and age were not significant, whereas place of residence was indeed significant ( $\chi^2 = 8.866$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.031$ ).

## INTERPRETATION

This result shows that the place of residence of the student determines how safe the student feels being at recreational settings.

### d) shopping setting

The result of  $\chi^2 = 165.826$  is significant beyond  $p < 0.001$ . This means that the levels of fear of students at the shopping settings differ. The null hypothesis that there is no difference between the safety of students and being in the shopping setting is rejected.

Further analysis showed, that gender was not significant ( $\chi^2 = 2.325$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p > 0.508$ ), whereas race, age and place of abode were significant ( $\chi^2 = 13.417$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.004$ ;  $\chi^2 = 94$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.035$ ;  $\chi^2 = 10.665$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.014$ ).

## INTERPRETATION

Again we see that gender does not play a role in how safe students feel when at the shopping malls. However for race, age and place of abode, this is different. The racial background of

the student, the age and where the student resides will determine how safe the student feels at the shopping mall.

**Aim 4:** Determine the reasons why students' fear walking around in Cape Town.

Table 4.2.5 Rank order of fear producing situations and circumstances.

Statement	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Fear of using public transport	143	11.64	2
Afraid for their personal safety	633	51.56	1
Rape and sexual assault	124	10.1	4
Fear of gangs & gang related activities	95	7.7	5
Lack of police presence	141	11.5	3
Poverty, street kids and homeless	32	2.6	7
Racism, racial tension	25	2.0	8
Other, women drivers, flying saucers	35	2.9	6
Total	1228	100	

## INTERPRETATION

Students have indicated that they were afraid of moving around in Cape Town for various reasons. The most important reason with 51,56%, is that students' fear for their personal safety. This is followed by fear of using public transport.

## 4. 3. OTHER STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Regression analysis was performed in order to see which independent variables were strong predictors for the fear and safety of students. Categorical data is often found in the social science, survey research and research in the behavioural sciences (Muelman & Heiser, 1999:1). In this research the responses to the questions are categorical data and to analyse the data we need to use the appropriate data analysis techniques for categorical data. This statistical test is found in **SPSS, Analyse, Regression, Optimal Scaling**. The goal of categorical regression is to describe the relationship between a dependent variable and a set of predictors. When you do a categorical regression analysis with gender, race, age and

residence as predictor variables and fear as the independent variable, we observe the following results. Only 24% of variance is explained by the predictor variables. Standardised coefficients indicate the importance of the predictor variables.

Table 4.3.1 Categorical regression analysis.

Model Summary

Multiple R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
.496	.246	.236

Table 4.3.2 Anova table of a categorical regression analysis

ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	73.358	4	18.340	23.920	.000
Residual	224.642	293	.767		
Total	298.000	297			

Table 4.3.3 Coefficients of categorical regression analysis.

Coefficients

	Standardized Coefficients		F
	Beta	Std. Error	
GENDE	.234	.052	20.354
RACE	.322	.053	36.971
AGE	.145	.053	7.524
residenc	.184	.052	12.547

In table 4.3.3 race explains more of the variance with 32%, gender has only 23%. Another categorical analysis with gender, race, age and residence as predictor variables and safety as independent variables we observe the following results.

Table 4.3.4 Categorical regression analysis.

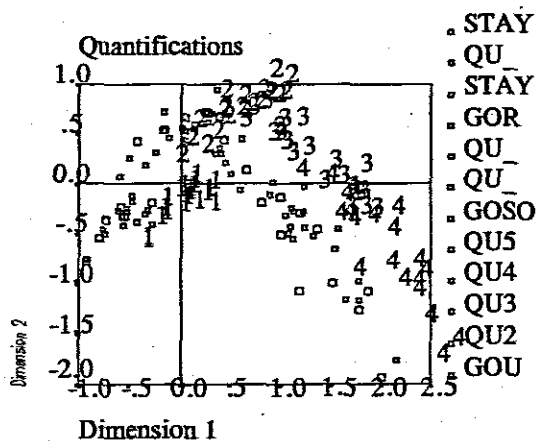
Model Summary		
Multiple R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
.346	.120	.108

Table 4.3.5 Coefficients of categorical regression analysis.

	Standardized Coefficients		F
	Beta	Std. Error	
GENDER	.145	.058	6.295
RACE	.189	.059	10.407
AGE	.146	.058	6.265
residence	.167	.058	8.356

In table 4.3.4 you see that only 12% of variance is explained by the predictor variables (these variables being gender, race, age and place of abode). All the coefficients are extremely low.

Homogeneity analysis was also performed. When you do a homogeneity analysis in SPSS 10, Analyse, Data reduction, Optimal Scaling on all the questions we get a unidimensional solution. This means that there is only one trait or characteristic that is being measured, in this case fear. One can therefore assume that fear of crime or fear is what is being measured in the first half of the questionnaire. In the second half of the questionnaire the same picture is found and this relates to the safety of the students. The aim of homogeneity analysis is to describe the relationship between two or more nominal variables in a low dimensional space.



*Figure 4.1 Homals plot of category quantifications.*

When you get a horseshoe picture, as in figure 4.1, this indicates that there is a dominant first dimension in which the items are ordered. We can thus assume that fear is the construct, which is being measured. The people that have scored 1's are less fearful and the respondents who scored 4's were more fearful.

## SUMMARY

This chapter presented the analyses of the data and testing of the hypotheses. The results will be discussed in the following chapter. The implications of the research will also be presented as well as the recommendations for future research.

## CHAPTER 5

### 5.1 DISCUSSION

The researcher embarked on this research to determine whether a relationship existed between the characteristics of a student and fear of crime. Also to determine whether students' social mobility was affected by crime. Most of the results obtained was as expected yet some results were startling to the researcher.

The first 4 hypotheses showed that a relationship existed between the demographic composition of the students and fear of crime. These findings are consistent with previous research. Women are referred to as the fairer sex. Women's nature is that of the care giver, the submissive one and the weaker sex. Women are socialised in this way and society entrenches it. Men on the other hand are expected to be the provider, the protector and the macho man. It stands to reason that women are more vulnerable than men. They are not easily able to defend themselves. Women are more fearful than men when it comes to their personal safety and the presence of danger, whether real or imagined.

From previous research (Camerer, et al., 1998) the different race groups experience different types of crimes. In townships where there are continuous gang warfare one would expect the people to feel more fearful in their neighbourhood since they live in unsafe areas. In this present research travelling to places was significant for the different races. If people perceive their neighbourhoods to be unsafe then they would act accordingly. This could mean not walking alone, not venturing out at night or even protecting themselves with a weapon. Race was an important factor in determining how safe or fearful the student felt when travelling to various places. Although the researcher did not examine which places created more anxiety among the different races, it can be assumed it is linked to the distances the students have to travel to get there. In most of the African and Coloured townships there is a serious shortage of recreational, sporting and leisure places

especially for the youth. This is also viewed as a reason why the youth opt to join gangs. Students then have to travel to places to attend and practise their chosen activity. If there are adequate recreational facilities available to the students and youth they would less likely to join a gang.

The hypothesis to test whether there was a relationship between age and fear of crime using the total fear score was not significant. This could result from the small class intervals in the age group. When we looked at the individual settings and fear of crime, we see that age was significant when students went to their academic institutions and the shopping centres. The average age of the students in the sample was 23 years old. Students feel a lot less inhibited to travel or go places, yet the omnipresence of crime is there. Students are young and have just found their economic and social independence and are ready to "conquer" the world. Students are affected by crime and this was evident from the results of this research.

The relationship between the place of residence and fear of crime was also significant. This means that people from different residential areas experience fear of crime differently. For the individual settings, results showed that residence was significant for all settings.

The results obtained are consistent with research findings that the fear of crime is influenced by factors such as gender, race and age. Low economic areas are usually crime infested, high unemployment rates and have high crime levels. Students who live in these areas will also be exposed to these elements and fear for their personal safety. These places are unsafe and neighbourhood incivilities are rife. The perception that crime is all around you makes you feel unsafe and unprotected. If students live in more affluent areas they would be exposed to different types of crime, for e.g. their personal safety and personal belongings being stolen.

Studies showed that female, blacks with low education and low income and who reside in urban areas have an increased level of fear of crime (Ferraro, 1995; Hale, 1996; Lagrange,

Ferraro & Suspanici 1992). A reason that has shown why certain people are fearful of crime is that of vulnerability. Women, the elderly and children proved to be more vulnerable to fear of crime. In this research we were not able to see this because students were the target population. According to Camerer et. al. (1998) African people were more fearful of violent crimes whereas white people were fearful of property crime. People were also more fearful if they perceived their neighbourhood as places of incivilities.

The main reason which students named for not moving around in Cape Town was fear for their personal safety. Crime is a serious matter. Students perceive their personal safety as the number 1 reason for not moving or travelling around in Cape Town. South Africa has staggering crime rates and features among the highest in the world. The Cape Flats in the Western Cape is notorious for being infested with gangs and gang warfare. It is therefore not surprising that students feel unsafe in their neighbourhoods. This brings us to the concept of neighbourhood incivilities. Students perception of their personal safety is affected by their unsafe neighbourhoods and lack of safety and security that the police should offer.

Using public transport is also a prohibiting factor for students to move around. Public transport is fairly regular and consistent in Cape Town. Most trains lack visible security and safe guarding for the commuters. Trains and mini bus taxis have been known to be criminal havens where people are being mugged and even killed. Taxi warfare and gang warfare have claimed the lives of many innocent bystanders. It is not surprising that students would feel unsafe using these transport mediums.

The fourth reason that prohibits moving around in Cape Town is sexual assault and rape. Women are usually the targets for these crimes. Cape Town has been renamed Rape Town. Women have shown that they feel more threatened than males. When women are in these situations they are vulnerable and easy targets.



Mobility is an everyday fact, whether you are walking to school, going to the supermarket or just strolling in your neighbourhood. People everywhere should be able to feel free and safe to walk out their front door and not have to worry about becoming another statistic of crime.

The regression analysis was carried out to see which independent variable was the strongest predictor of fear of crime and safety. In the analysis for the fear of crime only 24% of the variance is explained by the combination of the 4 predictors. The results show that race is the stronger predictor for fear of crime. This confirms some of the previous analyses, which showed that race, was certainly a factor in how fearful students felt going to certain places. The results for the analysis with safety and the predictor variables showed that only 12% of the variance was explained by the combined weight of the predictors. Once again race was the stronger predictor for how safe students felt being at the various places.

The results of the homogeneity analysis showed a uni-dimensional graph, figure 4. 1, which tells us that there was only one factor that was measured, in this case fear. The results of the research have shown that students do feel fearful when travelling to certain places. From the research we have seen that the demographic background of the student especially their race was a significant factor. Race was an important reason on how fearful the student felt going to places. Gender did not play as an important role as expected.

In conclusion the research attempted to gauge an idea of the social mobility of students in various settings as well as how safe they felt going to these places. Students are affected by the fear of crime and moving around. The question whether their movement has been curbed by fear has not been answered.

## **5.2 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

A limitation the researcher had limited access to SPSS and time constraints to have carried out more data analyses to get a clearer picture of where exactly fears of going to places were. Also which race group feared going to which places, whether recreational or social. Instead these were lumped together. This research overlooked other factors that play a role in the fear of crime, like the safety of the places, whether students were travelling alone and environmental factors.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The researcher undertook the study because she found the topic of interest to see whether fear of crime affects students' mobility in and around Cape Town. Since it was the first time to undertake such a research, the researcher did not have a close support network in assisting in research. For first-time researchers it is important to always have a support network around to assist in problems that crop up. When doing research at institutions it is imperative to plan well in advance and to make contact with the various institutions to facilitate research progress.

## **5.4 SUMMARY**

This was the final chapter of the research paper on the fear of crime and students' social mobility. The research had clear aims and ideas to be pursued. However, some of the important reasons why students felt fearful in certain places were not highlighted. The research showed that students felt fearful in places but which places were not really clear. In this final chapter the researcher attempted to give reasons for the results that were obtained. This chapter also highlighted some of the limitations of the research as well as recommendations for future research.

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## FEAR OF CRIME AND YOUR MOBILITY

This is a study of crime and the extent to which crime hinders your movements from place to place. Please complete the questionnaire. Information will be kept strictly confidential. Your responses are for research purposes only. The questionnaire will not take more than 10 minutes of your time.

A. PLEASE MARK WITH AN X ☐ IN ONE BOX WHICH BEST APPLIES TO YOU.

1. Gender:

1. Male	2. Female
---------	-----------

2. Race:

1. White	2. African	3. Coloured	4. Indian	5. Other.....
----------	------------	-------------	-----------	---------------

3. Age:

1. (17-19 years)	2. (20-22 years)	3. (23-25 years)	4. 26+
------------------	------------------	------------------	--------

4. Please indicate where you stay while studying:

1. Urban area	2. Semi urban area	3. Semi rural area	4. Rural area	5. Other: Specify .....
---------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------	-------------------------

5. Please name the place and province where you reside when not studying.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. At which institution are you studying?

1. UCT	2. UWC	3. Cape Tech	4. Pen Tech	5. Other .....
--------	--------	--------------	-------------	----------------

7. Are you a:

1. Full time student	2. Part time student
----------------------	----------------------



B. PLEASE INDICATE BY MEANS OF AN X ☐ IN A BOX NEXT TO EACH STATEMENT.

Very worried	Worried	Somewhat worried	Not Worried
-----------------	---------	---------------------	----------------

TO WHAT EXTENT WILL THE FEAR  
OF CRIME WORRY YOU WHEN:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Travelling from where you stay to the campus of your institution. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Walking around at the stadium for a soccer/rugby match.           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Walking alone in your neighbourhood.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Going to the cinema at night.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Visiting your girl/boyfriend at nights.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Going to discos or nightclubs.                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Visiting your family or friends.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Attending lectures after hours on your campus.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Going to a recreational activity.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. When engaging in a sporting activity e.g. running, soccer, etc.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Walking alone after dark in your neighbourhood.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Roaming around the campus of your institution.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. You are at the cinema.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Going to the shopping malls/centres.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. You are at the theatre.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Very worried	Worried	Somewhat worried	Not Worried
--------------	---------	------------------	-------------

**TO WHAT EXTENT WILL THE FEAR OF CRIME WORRY YOU WHEN:**

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 16. Travelling to the place of your religious worship, church, mosque, temple, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Walking around in the local shopping malls.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. Travelling to parties or social gatherings.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. You are at the discos or nightclubs.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. When you are at parties or social gatherings.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. Travelling to restaurants.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Safe	Very safe
-------------	--------	------	-----------

**HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU ARE AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:**

- |                                     |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 22. The campus of your institution. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. Your home during the day.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24. The local shopping malls.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25. The corner/local shop.          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26. The park nearest your home.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27. Home with friends and families. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28. Discos and nightclubs.          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29. Restaurants.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30. Internet cafes.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**C. LIST IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU, FIVE THINGS WHICH ARE  
THE MAIN CAUSE OF FEAR FOR MOVING AROUND IN CAPE TOWN.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE  
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY.**