



# Resident Involvement in Community Policing Increases Public Safety

**-Examining “Community Commitments” (Medborgarlöften) in a  
Socially Disadvantaged Area in Sweden**

Lovisa Brodin & Victor Eklund

# Introduction

- Increased fear of crime in Sweden
  - Age
  - Women
  - Socially disadvantaged areas
- “Community commitments”
  - Increased engagement by citizens decreases fear of crime
  - Weakness in previous implementation:
    - Low involvement
    - Difficulties reaching citizens in areas with low trust in police.



# Community Commitments in Vivalla



- Violent crime
- Vandalism
- Littering
- Illegal traffic
- Stolen and illegal mopeds
- Manned police station
- Police presence at evenings in the area.

# The Aim of the Study

- Examine levels of fear of crime in a socially disadvantaged area in Sweden.
  - Differences regarding gender and age
  - Factors leading to fear of crime
- Examine the experience of increased feelings of safety based on the work with “community commitments” in the area.
  - Differences regarding gender and age

# Method

- Quantitative method - cross sectional
- Questionnaire
  - 37 item questionnaire.
- Selection criteria
  - 15 y ->
  - Resident in Vivalla
- Data gathering - on site and social media
  - 62 respondents (59, 7 % women,  $M=35$ ,  $SD=17, 5$ )



# Results – Fear of Crime

- Higher levels of fear of crime in Vivalla compared to Sweden in general.
  - 13,2 % were classified as particularly unsafe (4% in general).
- Women in the area felt more unsafe than men
  - Fear of crime increased with age (15-24, 25-44 and 45->) but not significantly.

# Results – Fear of Crime

- Factors causing fear of crime in the area according to the citizens →
  - Littering, dark areas, arson and housing used for dealing drugs.
  - Increasing age → more likely to indicate that several factors caused unsafety.
  - Women → felt more concerned of being victims of violence and robbery.



## Results – “Community Commitments”

- Low knowledge about the content of the “community commitments”
  - Between 25 to 56,7 % knew about the preventive actions made by police (Except for manned police station in the area – 70%).
- Citizens in age 25-44 experienced significantly higher levels of increased safety based on the work with “community commitments”.
- If the citizen were aware of the content of the “community commitments” it was significant related to perceive higher levels of increased safety.



# Conclusions

- The importance to reach out and involve citizens in the work with “community commitments”.
  - Prioritize adolescents (15-19), middle-age and older people (45-).
  - Prioritize women
  - Prioritize and prevent crimes and other factors that matters most to the citizens.
- Suggestions:
  - Safety Tour→ Community commitments
  - Bridging the gap

# Strengths and Weaknesses

- Weaknesses:

- Skewed age categories
- Relatively few respondents.



May effect the representativity negatively.

- Strengths:

- Questionnaire translated to Arabic and English.
- Questions, index and age categories from previous studies → Reliability and validity.

# Thank you!

Lovisa Brodin: [lovisa.brodin@hotmail.com](mailto:lovisa.brodin@hotmail.com)

Victor Eklund: [victor.eklund@hotmail.com](mailto:victor.eklund@hotmail.com)