



Police Service Evaluations
for
Lethbridge Regional Police Service

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Methodology

-  **Population** The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 86,659 residents (2010 municipal census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (69,327). A total of 42,373 Lethbridge residents are male (48.9%) while 44,286 are female (51.1%). South Lethbridge is home to 30,144 residents (34.8%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 31,399 residents (36.2%). There are 25,116 north Lethbridge residents (29.0%). Coaldale has a total population of 6,943 residents (2009 Census).
-  **Sample Data** were collected by Lethbridge College and Athabasca University students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods in the winter of 2011. Students interviewed 771 randomly selected, adult Lethbridge and Coaldale residents by telephone on February 12–13, 2011 under the supervision of School of Liberal Arts faculty members Faron Ellis, PhD and Marda Schindeler, MA. Telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoCanada directories. We sincerely appreciate and thank all those who took time to respond to our survey. Full methodological notes for samples from previous Lethbridge and Alberta Public Opinion Studies can be obtained by visiting the CSRL web pages at: www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl
-  **Representativeness** Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the city of Lethbridge. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender, age and area of the city of Lethbridge).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of ± 3.51 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data. For example, the Lethbridge subsample margin of error is ± 3.77 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, while the Coaldale subsample has a margin of error of ± 9.52 percentage points 19 times out of 20.
-  **IB Commons Call Centre** Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre and applications developed by the Open Source Learning Lab. We thank Dr. James Manis and the OSL for their efforts in working with us to establish and maintain the IB Commons Call Centre.
-  **Sponsorship** These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Lethbridge residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. This particular set of question was sponsored by Lethbridge Regional Police Service. We thank LRPS for its support of our research efforts.

Executive Summary

Perceptions of Lethbridge Regional Police Service

Performance

A substantial majority of Lethbridge residents (70.5%) believe Lethbridge Regional Police Service is doing a good job policing their community, up marginally from 2010 (69.9%). Only a small minority (5.9%) believes LRPS is doing a poor job, while slightly less than one-quarter (23.6%) say the police are performing adequately. A clear majority of Coaldale residents (63.3%) believe Lethbridge Regional Police Service is doing a good job, down slightly from 2010 (68.2%) but significantly more than the 49.6% who thought similarly in 2007.

Meeting Expectations

A clear majority of Lethbridge residents (67.0%) believe LRPS is doing a good job in meeting expectations, up slightly from what was measured in 2010 (65.4%). A clear majority of Coaldale residents (69.2%) believe LRPS is doing a good job meeting expectations, up from 62.6% in 2010, and up significantly from 2007 (43.3%).

Changes in Meeting Expectations

Most Lethbridge residents (79.9%) believe LRPS has neither improved nor worsened in meeting expectations in the past year. Of those who believe LRPS has changed in meeting expectations, four times more Lethbridge residents believe LRPS has improved (16.0%) than believe LRPS has gotten worse (4.1%). Most Coaldale residents (82.8%) also state that LRPS has neither improved nor worsened in meeting expectations over the past year. A further 11.2% believe LRPS has improved in meeting expectations while only 6.2% believe LRPS has gotten worse.

Attitudes and Behavior of LRPS Officers

The vast majority of Lethbridge residents (89.8%) believe that LRPS officers are polite and respectful when conducting their duties. Only one in ten Lethbridge residents believe LRPS officers are somewhat impolite and disrespectful (7.5%) or only very impolite and disrespectful (2.6%). Coaldale residents are even more likely to believe that LRPS officers are polite and respectful (95.1%) with very few (4.9%) perceiving LRPS officers to be impolite and disrespectful.

Direct Contact with LRPS Officer in Past Year

A majority of Lethbridge residents (54.7%) had some direct in-person contact with a LRPS officer over the past year. A similar proportion of Coaldale residents (58.4%) had contact with a LRPS officer in the past year.

Executive Summary (continued)

Community Safety

Neighborhood Safety

A majority of Lethbridge residents (54.2%) feel very safe in their neighborhoods and a further 41.4% feel somewhat safe. Very few feel somewhat unsafe (3.5%) while fewer still (1.0%) feel very unsafe in their neighborhoods. The vast majority of Coaldale residents feel very safe in their neighborhoods (77.6%) with a further 20.8% feeling somewhat safe. Only 1.6% feels somewhat unsafe. No Coaldale residents told us that they feel very unsafe in their neighborhood.

Downtown Safety

Lethbridge and Coaldale residents also feel safe in downtown Lethbridge, although less safe than they feel in their own neighborhoods. A majority of Lethbridge residents feel somewhat safe (52.4%) while nearly another third (30.7%) feel very safe downtown. Very few Lethbridge residents do not feel safe downtown, with most of those (15.0%) saying they feel somewhat unsafe. Only 1.9% feel very unsafe when visiting downtown Lethbridge.

Coaldale residents feel just as safe when visiting downtown Lethbridge as do Lethbridge residents. Over three-quarters of all Coaldale residents feel safe in downtown Lethbridge, with 25.5% feeling very safe and a further 57.0% feeling somewhat safe. Less than one-fifth of Coaldale residents feel unsafe in downtown Lethbridge, with all of those feeling somewhat unsafe (17.4%). No Coaldale residents told us that they feel very unsafe in downtown Lethbridge.

Perceptions of Lethbridge Regional Police Service

Performance

A substantial majority of Lethbridge residents (70.5%) believe Lethbridge Regional Police Service is doing a good job policing their community, up marginally from 2010 (69.9%). Only a small minority (5.9%) believe LRPS is doing a poor job, while slightly less than one-quarter (23.6%) say the police are performing adequately.

Within the city of Lethbridge, majorities in all demographic groups provide Lethbridge Regional Police Service with positive evaluations. Women (74.5%), upper income earners (74.3%), university graduates (80.8%) and seniors (79.6%) are most positive. Lower income earners (66.7%), men (66.4%) and the youth (59.9%) are less positive, although still much more positive than negative. Interestingly, although those who had direct personal contact with a LRPS officer in the past year are more likely to state that LRPS is doing a poor job (7.2%) than are those who had no contact (4.4%), those with contact are almost as likely to state LRPS is doing a good job (68.4%) compared to those with no contact (73.0%). Further, these slight differences are not statistically significant. Only the gender and education differences are statistically significant.

A clear majority of Coaldale residents (63.3%) believe Lethbridge Regional Police Service is doing a good job, down slightly from 2010 (68.2%) but significantly more than the 49.6% who thought similarly in 2007.

Performance	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Good	63.7	64.1	69.9	70.5	49.6	68.2	63.3
Adequate	27.7	28.7	24.5	23.6	28.9	29.0	31.5
Poor	8.6	7.2	5.6	5.9	21.5	2.8	5.2

Performance	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Very good	19.9	23.7	17.3	21.1	11.1	20.6	17.6
Good	43.8	40.4	52.6	49.4	38.5	47.7	45.7
Adequate	27.7	28.7	24.5	23.6	28.9	29.0	31.5
Poor	6.1	5.5	3.4	4.6	12.6	1.9	3.5
Very Poor	2.5	1.7	2.2	1.4	8.9	0.9	1.7

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Lethbridge Regional Police Service Performance (February 2011)

Gender*/Municipality	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Good	66.4	74.5	70.5	63.3
Adequate	27.0	20.3	23.6	31.5
Poor	6.7	5.2	5.9	5.2

Contact in past year	Yes	No
Good	68.4	73.0
Adequate	24.4	22.6
Poor	7.2	4.4

Area	South	North	West
Good	71.2	63.5	75.4
Adequate	24.0	27.1	20.2
Poor	4.8	9.4	4.4

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Good	66.7	73.5	74.3
Adequate	25.9	21.0	19.4
Poor	7.4	5.5	6.3

Education*	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Good	68.4	70.4	59.6	80.8
Adequate	23.7	26.8	29.2	16.4
Poor	7.9	2.8	11.1	2.8

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Good	59.9	68.3	70.4	79.6
Adequate	32.1	22.3	23.9	17.8
Poor	8.0	9.4	5.6	2.6

Visits Downtown	Daily	Weekly	Monthly or less
Good	71.3	71.8	68.5
Adequate	23.1	23.9	22.4
Poor	5.6	4.3	9.1

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Perceptions of Lethbridge Regional Police Service

Meeting Expectations

Lethbridge residents are similarly positive when asked to rate how LRPS is meeting residents' expectations of what a police service should be doing to make the community a safe and secure place to live. A clear majority of Lethbridge residents (67.0%) believe LRPS is doing a good job in meeting expectations, up slightly from what was measured in 2010 (65.4%).

Within the city of Lethbridge, women (69.2%), upper income earners (74.0%), seniors (71.8%) and university graduates (77.3%) are most likely to believe LRPS is meeting their expectations of what a police service should be doing. North Lethbridge residents (60.5%) and the youth (55.8%) are the least likely to state LRPS is meeting their expectations, but both of these groups are still much more positive than negative. Again, no statistically significant differences are measured between those who had direct personal contact with a LRPS officer in the past year and those who did not. Approximately two-thirds of both groups state that LRPS is doing a good job meeting expectations. Further, those with contact (67.8%) are somewhat more likely to think LRPS is doing a good job meeting expectations than are those who had no contact (65.8%).

LRPS continues to improve in meeting Coaldale residents' expectations. A clear majority of Coaldale residents (69.2%) believe LRPS is doing a good job meeting expectations, up from 62.6% in 2010, and up significantly from 2007 (43.3%).

Meeting Expectations	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Good	64.3	58.3	65.4	67.0	43.3	62.6	69.2
Adequate	30.2	35.0	29.6	26.7	40.3	31.8	26.2
Poor	5.6	6.7	5.0	6.3	16.4	5.6	4.6

Meeting Expectations	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Very good	15.9	14.8	14.5	15.5	6.7	16.8	15.3
Good	48.4	43.5	50.9	51.6	36.6	45.8	53.9
Adequate	30.2	35.0	29.6	26.7	40.3	31.8	26.2
Poor	3.6	5.5	4.3	4.6	9.0	5.6	3.7
Very Poor	2.0	1.2	0.7	1.7	7.5	0.0	0.9

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Meeting Expectations (February 2011)

Gender/Municipality	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Good	65.0	69.2	67.0	69.2
Adequate	28.9	24.5	26.7	26.2
Poor	6.1	6.3	6.3	4.6

Contact in past year	Yes	No
Good	67.8	65.8
Adequate	25.5	28.6
Poor	6.8	5.6

Area	South	North	West
Good	69.3	60.5	70.6
Adequate	27.6	30.0	23.4
Poor	3.1	9.5	6.0

Household Income*	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Good	61.0	69.5	74.0
Adequate	28.7	25.9	20.8
Poor	10.3	4.6	5.2

Education*	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Good	62.5	69.0	57.1	77.3
Adequate	27.0	26.9	32.9	20.8
Poor	10.5	4.1	10.0	1.9

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Good	55.9	67.4	69.8	71.8
Adequate	32.2	26.2	25.5	24.3
Poor	11.9	6.4	4.7	3.9

Visits Downtown	Daily	Weekly	Monthly or less
Good	74.3	68.4	61.6
Adequate	22.0	25.6	29.9
Poor	3.7	6.0	8.5

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Perceptions of Lethbridge Regional Police Service

Changes in Meeting Expectations

Most Lethbridge residents (79.9%) believe LRPS has neither improved nor worsened in meeting expectations in the past year. Of those who believe LRPS has changed in meeting expectations, four times more Lethbridge residents believe LRPS has improved (16.0%) than believe LRPS has gotten worse (4.1%).

Within the city of Lethbridge, statistically significant differences in opinion are measures between areas of the city, education and age groups. For example, seniors (26.4%), lower income residents (18.5%) and those with less formal education (24.1%) most likely to state LRPS has improved in meeting their expectations. No statistically significant differences were measured between those who had contact with LRPS and those who did not.

Most Coaldale residents (82.8%) also state that LRPS has neither improved nor worsened in meeting expectations over the past year. A further 11.2% believe LRPS has improved in meeting expectations while only 6.2% believe LRPS has gotten worse

	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Improved	24.3	17.4	18.2	16.0	16.7	15.6	11.1
Stayed the same	71.9	77.2	78.4	79.9	67.5	80.2	82.8
Gotten worse	3.7	5.4	3.4	4.1	15.9	4.2	6.2

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Changes in Meeting Expectations (February 2011)

Gender/Municipality	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Improved	17.9	14.2	16.0	11.1
Stayed the same	77.7	82.4	79.9	82.8
Worsened	4.4	3.5	4.1	6.2

Contact in past year	Yes	No
Improved	16.6	15.3
Stayed the same	78.4	81.8
Worsened	5.1	2.9

Area*	South	North	West
Improved	20.8	16.4	11.2
Stayed the same	76.9	77.8	84.5
Worsened	2.3	5.8	4.3

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Improved	18.5	17.8	8.8
Stayed the same	73.6	79.6	87.6
Worsened	7.9	2.6	3.5

Education*	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Improved	24.1	17.4	13.4	10.9
Stayed the same	73.0	79.0	76.8	88.5
Worsened	2.8	3.6	9.8	0.5

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Improved	9.2	11.8	13.8	26.4
Stayed the same	83.2	81.1	83.3	72.5
Worsened	7.6	7.1	3.0	1.1

Visits Downtown	Daily	Weekly	Monthly or less
Improved	15.5	16.3	15.7
Stayed the same	83.5	78.9	79.8
Worsened	1.0	4.8	4.5

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Perceptions of Lethbridge Regional Police Service

Attitudes and Behavior of LRPS Officers

The vast majority of Lethbridge residents (89.8%) believe that LRPS officers are polite and respectful when conducting their duties with almost half of those stating LRPS officers are very polite and respectful. Less than one in ten Lethbridge residents (7.5%) believe LRPS officers are somewhat impolite and disrespectful or very impolite and disrespectful (2.6%).

All demographic groups within the city of Lethbridge agree by overwhelming majorities that LRPS officers are polite and respectful. Statistically significant differences can be measured within only two demographic groups. Younger residents and those who visit downtown Lethbridge least often are somewhat less likely than other age groups to think LRPS are polite and respectful. But even here it must be noted that both groups are still much more likely to think LRPS officers are polite and respectful than to think they are impolite and disrespectful. Similarly, where other sub-group differences are measured they are slight and those believing LRPS officers to be polite and respectful outnumber those who think otherwise by a margin of at least seven to one.

Coaldale residents are even more likely to believe that LRPS officers are polite and respectful (95.1%) with very few (4.9%) perceiving LRPS officers to be impolite and disrespectful.

	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Polite & respectful	89.2	89.9	91.8	95.1
Impolite & disrespectful	10.8	10.1	8.2	4.9

	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Very polite & respectful	40.8	40.0	45.9	43.7
Somewhat polite & respectful	48.4	50.0	45.9	51.4
Somewhat impolite & disrespectful	8.1	7.5	7.1	3.9
Very impolite & disrespectful	2.7	2.6	1.1	1.0

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Attitudes and Behavior (February 2011)

Gender/Municipality	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Polite and respectful	88.1	91.7	89.9	95.1
Impolite and disrespectful	11.9	8.3	10.1	4.9

Contact in past year	Yes	No
Polite and respectful	90.1	89.9
Impolite and disrespectful	9.9	10.1

Area	South	North	West
Polite and respectful	91.4	87.7	90.4
Impolite and disrespectful	8.6	12.3	9.6

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Polite and respectful	89.4	90.3	89.1
Impolite and disrespectful	10.6	9.7	10.9

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Polite and respectful	87.8	93.9	84.8	93.5
Impolite and disrespectful	12.2	6.1	15.2	6.5

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Polite and respectful	87.3	86.7	90.1	94.8
Impolite and disrespectful	12.7	13.3	9.9	5.2

Visits Downtown*	Daily	Weekly	Monthly or less
Polite and respectful	91.4	92.4	84.5
Impolite and disrespectful	8.6	7.6	15.5

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Attitudes and Behavior (February 2011)

Gender*/Municipality	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Very polite/respectful	33.7	46.2	40.0	43.7
Somewhat polite/respectful	54.5	45.5	50.0	51.4
Somewhat impolite/disrespectful	8.6	6.4	7.5	3.9
Very impolite/disrespectful	3.3	1.9	2.6	1.0

Contact in past year	Yes	No
Very polite/respectful	43.2	34.5
Somewhat polite/respectful	46.9	55.5
Somewhat impolite/disrespectful	6.7	8.4
Very impolite/disrespectful	3.2	1.7

Area	South	North	West
Very polite/respectful	43.6	31.2	44.0
Somewhat polite/respectful	47.4	56.5	46.8
Somewhat impolite/disrespectful	7.1	9.1	6.5
Very impolite/disrespectful	1.9	3.2	2.8

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Very polite/respectful	36.9	38.4	43.6
Somewhat polite/respectful	53.1	51.9	45.5
Somewhat impolite/disrespectful	5.6	7.0	10.3
Very impolite/disrespectful	4.5	2.7	0.6

Education*	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Very polite/respectful	32.8	38.9	32.3	52.7
Somewhat polite/respectful	55.7	55.0	52.4	40.9
Somewhat impolite/disrespectful	6.1	5.3	12.2	5.9
Very impolite/disrespectful	5.3	.8	3.0	0.5

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Very polite/respectful	23.5	30.9	46.8	53.5
Somewhat polite/respectful	64.4	55.1	43.7	41.3
Somewhat impolite/disrespectful	6.8	10.3	8.4	4.5
Very impolite/disrespectful	5.3	3.7	1.1	0.6

Visits Downtown	Daily	Weekly	Monthly or less
Very polite/respectful	38.5	42.3	35.1
Somewhat polite/respectful	53.8	49.8	49.5
Somewhat impolite/disrespectful	6.7	7.6	8.0
Very impolite/disrespectful	1.0	.3	7.4

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Perceptions of Lethbridge Regional Police Service



Direct Contact with LRPS Officer in Past Year

A majority of Lethbridge residents (54.7%) had some direct in-person contact with a LRPS officer over the course of the past year. West (56.1%) and North Lethbridge (58.9%) residents were more likely than South Lethbridge residents (50.0%) to have had contact. Upper income residents (60.0%) had more contact than did lower income residents (45.3%), while the youth (65.5%) were more likely to have had contact with a LRPS officer than were other age groups, especially seniors (35.3%). Also, those who visit downtown most (71.8%) were much more likely to have had direct contact with a LRPS officer in the past year than were those who visit downtown less frequently.

A similar proportion of Coaldale residents (58.4%) had contact with a LRPS officer in the past year.

Direct Contact with LRPS Officer in the Past Year (February 2011)

Gender/Municipality	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Yes	58.1	51.4	54.7	58.4
No	41.9	48.6	45.3	41.6

Area	South	North	West
Yes	50.0	58.6	56.1
No	50.0	41.4	43.9

Household Income*	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Yes	45.3	62.7	60.0
No	54.7	37.3	40.0

Education*	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Yes	41.3	56.6	58.1	60.5
No	58.7	43.4	41.9	39.5

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Yes	65.5	62.2	59.3	35.3
No	34.5	37.8	40.7	64.7

Visits Downtown*	Daily	Weekly	Monthly or less
Yes	71.8	50.3	52.4
No	28.2	49.7	47.6

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Community Safety

Neighborhood Safety

For the most part, Lethbridge and Coaldale residents feel very safe in their neighborhoods.

A majority of Lethbridge residents (54.2%) feel very safe in their neighborhoods and a further 41.4% feel somewhat safe. Very few feel somewhat unsafe (3.5%) while fewer still (1.0%) feel very unsafe in their neighborhoods.

Women are just as likely to feel safe as are men, while seniors are just as likely to feel safe in their neighborhoods as are other age groups. The youth, west Lethbridge residents and upper income residents are most likely to feel safe in their neighborhoods. North Lethbridge residents are least likely to feel very safe in their neighborhoods and slightly more likely than other residents to feel somewhat unsafe.

The vast majority of Coaldale residents feel very safe in their neighborhoods (77.6%) with a further 20.8% feeling somewhat safe. Only 1.6% feel somewhat unsafe. No Coaldale residents told us that they feel very unsafe in their neighborhood.

	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Very safe	60.7	49.8	59.9	54.2	48.2	67.9	77.6
Somewhat safe	32.2	42.9	36.2	41.4	43.9	30.3	20.8
Somewhat unsafe	4.9	6.6	3.5	3.5	5.8	1.8	1.6
Very unsafe	2.1	0.7	0.4	1.0	2.2	0.0	0.0

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Evaluations of Neighborhood Safety (February 2011)

Gender/Municipality	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Very safe	57.4	51.3	54.2	77.6
Somewhat safe	38.0	44.6	41.4	20.8
Somewhat unsafe	2.9	3.9	3.5	1.6
Very unsafe	1.7	0.3	1.0	0.0

Contact in past year	Yes	No
Very safe	53.4	54.9
Somewhat safe	42.1	40.6
Somewhat unsafe	3.9	2.9
Very unsafe	0.5	1.6

Area	South	North	West
Very safe	58.1	38.4	63.6
Somewhat safe	38.5	54.5	33.7
Somewhat unsafe	2.6	6.6	1.6
Very unsafe	0.9	0.5	1.2

Household Income*	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Very safe	48.3	49.8	66.1
Somewhat safe	44.4	44.8	31.1
Somewhat unsafe	4.4	5.0	2.8
Very unsafe	2.9	0.5	0.0

Education *	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Very safe	46.8	53.7	43.3	67.9
Somewhat safe	50.6	42.9	47.8	28.9
Somewhat unsafe	2.6	2.7	6.7	2.3
Very unsafe	0.0	0.7	2.2	0.9

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Very safe	47.6	50.0	59.6	55.9
Somewhat safe	49.0	40.3	36.7	41.5
Somewhat unsafe	1.4	9.7	2.3	2.1
Very unsafe	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.5

Visits Downtown*	Daily	Weekly	Monthly or less
Very safe	69.4	52.1	49.1
Somewhat safe	27.0	43.7	46.0
Somewhat unsafe	2.7	3.1	4.4
Very unsafe	0.9	1.1	0.4

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Community Safety

Downtown Safety

Overall, Lethbridge and Coaldale residents also feel safe in downtown Lethbridge, although less safe than they feel in their own neighborhoods.

A majority of Lethbridge residents feels somewhat safe (52.4%) while nearly another third (30.7%) feel very safe downtown. Very few Lethbridge residents do not feel safe downtown, with most of those (15.0%) saying they feel somewhat unsafe. Only 1.9% feels very unsafe when they visit downtown.

Women feel slightly less safe when they are downtown than do men. Seniors are more likely than any other age group to feel very safe downtown, while the younger residents are the less likely to feel very safe when visiting downtown Lethbridge.

Coaldale residents feel just as safe when visiting downtown Lethbridge as do Lethbridge residents. Over three-quarters of all Coaldale residents feel safe in downtown Lethbridge, with 25.5% feeling very safe and a further 57.0% feeling somewhat safe. Less than one-fifth of Coaldale residents feel unsafe in downtown Lethbridge, with all of those feeling somewhat unsafe (17.4%). No Coaldale residents told us that they feel very unsafe in downtown Lethbridge.

	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Very safe	24.1	23.2	25.1	30.7	16.2	24.5	25.5
Somewhat safe	54.9	53.1	53.6	52.4	56.2	57.8	57.0
Somewhat unsafe	16.9	19.6	18.1	15.0	22.3	15.7	17.4
Very unsafe	4.0	4.0	3.2	1.9	5.4	2.0	0.0

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Evaluations of Downtown Safety (February 2011)

Gender*/Municipality	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Very safe	36.0	25.6	30.7	25.5
Somewhat safe	51.1	53.7	52.4	57.0
Somewhat unsafe	12.1	17.9	15.0	17.4
Very unsafe	0.9	2.8	1.9	0.0

Contact in past year	Yes	No
Very safe	29.4	31.8
Somewhat safe	51.5	53.5
Somewhat unsafe	16.4	13.4
Very unsafe	2.7	1.3

Area	South	North	West
Very safe	32.6	29.7	29.6
Somewhat safe	50.2	52.0	54.9
Somewhat unsafe	15.4	14.9	14.6
Very unsafe	1.8	3.5	0.8

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Very safe	29.2	30.7	35.6
Somewhat safe	51.6	54.0	48.6
Somewhat unsafe	17.2	13.4	13.6
Very unsafe	2.1	2.0	2.3

Education*	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Very safe	27.7	28.7	22.4	40.7
Somewhat safe	54.1	55.2	55.2	47.7
Somewhat unsafe	17.6	14.7	18.4	10.3
Very unsafe	0.7	1.4	4.0	1.4

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Very safe	26.9	24.6	32.1	36.5
Somewhat safe	55.2	53.5	51.6	50.3
Somewhat unsafe	16.6	19.0	14.4	11.6
Very unsafe	1.4	2.8	1.9	1.7

Visits Downtown*	Daily	Weekly	Monthly or less
Very safe	40.4	33.8	20.4
Somewhat safe	42.2	52.5	58.3
Somewhat unsafe	12.8	12.8	19.0
Very unsafe	4.6	0.8	2.4

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Downtown Lethbridge

Frequency of Visits to Downtown Lethbridge

Most Lethbridge residents frequent downtown on a regular basis. About one in six (15.9%) go downtown daily, while a further 51.6% visit downtown on a weekly basis. One in five Lethbridge residents (19.7%) visits downtown at least monthly, while only 12.7% go downtown infrequently. Men, south Lethbridge residents, upper income earners, and younger residents are among those who visit downtown Lethbridge most frequently.

Coaldale residents visit downtown Lethbridge less frequently than do Lethbridge residents. Nevertheless, almost half of all Coaldale residents (46.5%) visit downtown Lethbridge on a weekly basis, and a further 7.5% make daily trips to downtown Lethbridge. Another quarter (27.0%) report making monthly visits to downtown Lethbridge while about one-fifth of all Coaldale residents (19.1%) report infrequent visits to downtown Lethbridge.

	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Daily	23.6	19.9	20.4	15.9	12.2	7.5	7.5
Weekly	47.8	46.2	47.0	51.6	36.7	35.5	46.5
Monthly	28.7	33.8	32.6	32.4	51.0	57.0	46.1

	Lethbridge 2006	Lethbridge 2007	Lethbridge 2010	Lethbridge 2011	Coaldale 2007	Coaldale 2010	Coaldale 2011
Daily	23.6	19.9	20.4	15.9	12.2	7.5	7.5
Weekly	47.8	46.2	47.0	51.6	36.7	35.5	46.5
Monthly	17.4	19.3	21.3	19.7	27.3	31.8	27.0
Few times per year	4.8	7.3	6.3	7.1	12.9	15.0	13.2
Rarely or never	6.4	7.3	5.0	5.6	10.8	10.3	5.9

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Frequency of Visits to Downtown Lethbridge (February 2011)

Gender*/Municipality*	Male	Female	Lethbridge	Coaldale
Daily	17.1	14.8	15.9	7.5
Weekly	52.4	51.0	51.6	46.5
Monthly or less	30.6	34.2	32.4	46.1

Contact in past year*	Yes	No
Daily	21.0	9.8
Weekly	47.6	56.2
Monthly or less	31.4	34.0

Area	South	North	West
Daily	19.7	12.9	15.0
Weekly	45.7	47.6	60.6
Monthly or less	34.6	39.5	24.4

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Daily	14.2	13.5	22.7
Weekly	51.0	58.0	48.3
Monthly or less	34.8	28.5	29.1

Education*	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Daily	10.2	17.8	14.7	19.6
Weekly	46.5	55.5	50.3	55.1
Monthly or less	43.3	26.7	35.0	25.2

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Daily	20.4	17.9	18.0	8.8
Weekly	58.5	45.7	51.6	50.8
Monthly or less	21.1	36.4	30.4	40.4

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Demographics

Gender (%)		Area of City (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Male	49.1	South	33.3	Under \$40,000	35.7	H-School/less	22.9	18-29	21.6
Female	50.9	North	30.1	\$40-\$80,000	34.6	Some P-Sec.	21.3	30-44	20.6
		West	36.6	Over \$80,000	29.6	Col-Tech-Grad	25.7	45-64	30.8
						University Grad	30.1	65 or older	27.0

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Questions

How would you rate the job the Lethbridge police are doing in policing our community?

We would like to know how the Lethbridge Regional Police Service is meeting your expectations about what the police should be doing to keep Lethbridge a safe and secure place to live and work.

In the past year, would you say that Lethbridge Regional Police Service has improved in meeting your expectations of what a police service should be doing, has neither improved nor worsened, or that Lethbridge Police Service has gotten worse in meeting your expectations of what a police service should be doing?

Overall, how would you rate Lethbridge Regional Police Service officers' attitudes and behavior?

Have you had direct contact with a Lethbridge Regional Police Service officer in the past year?

Overall, how safe do you feel in your neighborhood?

Overall, how safe do you feel when visiting, working or shopping in the Downtown core of Lethbridge?

How often do you visit downtown for work, shopping, entertainment or other business?