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EXPLORATORY RESEARCH OF THE K.I. SAWYER COMMUNITY REGARDING THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF POLICE SERVICE

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EXPLORATORY RESEARCH OF THE K.I. SAWYER COMMUNITY REGARDING
THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF POLICE SERVICE

By

Gabriel Lee Green

THESIS PROSPECTUS

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ABSTRACT

EXPLORATORY RESEARCH OF THE K.I. SAWYER COMMUNITY REGARDING THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF POLICE SERVICE

By

Gabriel Lee Green

There is a lack of funding for police patrols and police officers in the state of Michigan due to Michigan's budget crisis. This lack of funding affects the number of officers quality of police services provided, especially in rural communities. Current research suggests that the lack of police services equates to a reluctance to report crime. This study examines the perceptions of K.I.Sawyer residents, who are located in a rural community near Gwinn, Michigan, regarding their level of satisfaction relating to police services provided to the community. The current study focuses on the participant's perceptions and attitudes regarding the fact that K.I. Sawyer does not have a local municipally operated police agency and how that affects their willingness to rely on police services or report illegal activities.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my wife Tiffany, who has always encouraged me to accomplish my goals.

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INTRODUCTION

Currently, three separate police departments provide police services to the K.I. Sawyer community located in a remote area of Marquette County in the State of Michigan. The Michigan State Police, Forsyth Township and Marquette County Police Departments share responsibilities for providing police services to the K.I. Sawyer community of 1799 residents.

The fact that K.I. Sawyer does not have its own police department can be detrimental to the community for several reasons. The most prominent problem that seems to underlie all others is the time it takes officers to respond to calls for help, which is often a predominant measure of police effectiveness in the minds of residents. According to 1ST Lieutenant Helton of the Negaunee State Police Post facility, K.I. Sawyer averages more than 130 emergency 9-11 calls a month, 12 to 15 of which involve assault complaints, including domestic violence. Since K.I. Sawyer is so far from the main areas of patrol, travel time is a crucial disadvantage to the several agencies that cover Marquette County—the largest county in the state of Michigan (approximately 1,873 square miles). This does not take into account the fact that officers may also be detained by other incidents within the county before being able to travel to K.I. Sawyer. Coordinating who responds to what call can also be a problem when responsibility for a community is shared by more than one police department, not to mention those departments having relatively few officers on duty. Also, according to a police officer from the Forsyth Township, residents of K.I. Sawyer feel discouraged from making police reports because they view police officers as unwilling to take the time to fill out a

police report and also due to their assumptions that they will be charged a monetary fee for the police report. All these factors affect response time, which in turn influences residents' views on the effectiveness and concern of the police departments commissioned to protect them. Furthermore, police presence within the community also determines whether residents feel protected. A timely response and strong police presence tend to depict a police force that is available and dependable, which fosters trust and respect among residents. A slow response time and an absence of officers translate to a general feeling of abandonment and mistrust due to unfamiliarity with these vital members of a community. According to Weisheit, Falcone and Wells (2006) officers feel a sense of being inconvenienced and overextended while residents interpret lack of prompt action as a sign of neglect and unreliability on the part of those meant to be trusted at all costs. Distrust spurs a lack of cooperation and support for the police, which in turn creates a higher crime rate and worsened quality of life.

Many of the studies regarding police practices have been conducted in urban areas. Research related to rural policing practices and crime is limited; however current trends in the literature suggest that rural residents such as those at K.I. Sawyer may express concerns over a lack of police presence, poor response rates, unsatisfactory attitudes, and reduced police powers along with residents being afraid to leave their properties unattended and a need to see more officers "on the beat." (Weisheit, Falcone and Wells, 2006; Baird-Olson, 2000; Cordner & Scarborough, 1997; Falcone, Wells & Weisheit, 2002).

This study examines if there is a low level of satisfaction with current police

services in K.I. Sawyer and whether the police departments are held in high regard by the residents of K.I. Sawyer. The current study also examines the participant's perceptions and attitudes regarding the fact that K.I. Sawyer does not have a local, municipally operated police agency and how that affects their willingness to rely on police services or report illegal incidences.

In completion of the afore-mentioned objectives, this study will first present a Historical Overview which will cover the background of the problem as well as an explanation of the hypothesis and the potential limitations of the research. Chapter Two's Literature Review will address the current breadth of information and research regarding rural policing. Chapter Three examines in detail the methodology implemented in this study; namely, research design, research questions, research sample, time frame, questionnaire development, data collection, etc. Chapter Four reveals the results of the study through data analysis and interpretation, while Chapter Five provides concluding remarks. In summation of the study, References and Appendixes are included for additional examination.

CHAPTER ONE: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Situated on approximately 5,200 acres in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base (K.I. Sawyer) is a decommissioned U.S. Air Force base in Marquette County, just south of the city of Marquette. The base was named after Kenneth Ingalls Sawyer, a former Marquette County road commissioner who proposed an airport for the area, about twenty miles south of the city of Marquette. The county airport, Sawyer International, now occupies a portion of the base and has scheduled airline flights and some general aviation activity (Gwinn/Sawyer Chamber of Commerce, 2009).

The airport was built in 1944 and leased to the Air Force in 1955. K.I. Sawyer Airport officially opened as a joint civil-military facility on April 8, 1956 (Gwinn/Sawyer Chamber of Commerce, 2009). In 1993, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission of the federal government selected the base for deactivation. K.I. Sawyer was officially closed at the end of September 1995. The decision meant the loss of more than 4,500 jobs and a military payroll of over \$100 million per year. The anticipated impact to the area and economy was almost beyond comprehension. However, many individuals and agencies did not give up on K.I. Sawyer. Rather, they saw the prospect of developing a community and creating new and diverse economic opportunities.

Today, a portion of the working section of K.I. Sawyer has been converted into Sawyer International Airport, which replaced the smaller Marquette County Airport just southwest of Marquette, as the region's primary civilian airport (K.I. Sawyer Air Heritage Museum - base history, 2009). According to Scott Bammert, Corporate Manager of Macasu Inc. and Co-chair of the K.I. Sawyer Community Council, the closing of K.I.

Sawyer military base marked a new beginning for the community of K.I. Sawyer in which, “We as local leaders are given the task of reinventing the base’s usefulness, realigning existing structures, building new ones, and replacing hundreds of jobs.” Bammert explains, “It can seem overwhelming, but with leadership, cooperation, and creativity, it’s possible to rapidly recover and even prosper in such fields as transportation, education, commerce, industry, new neighborhoods, community support services, recreation, and conservation.” K.I. Sawyer quickly created more new jobs than the 788 civilian positions lost when the base closed in 1995. Major tenants include American Eagle Airlines’ 250-employee regional aircraft maintenance center, Louisiana-Pacific’s \$30 million state-of-the-art lumber mill, and American Communication Network’s 165-employee customer service call center. Now more civilians live at Sawyer instead of just military personnel (Gwinn/Sawyer Chamber of Commerce, 2009).

Area neighborhoods prospered after the closing of the base. The newly vacated and seemingly purposeless terrain presented a ready market for land buyers looking to make a deal. Soon, K.I. Sawyer became known as a place site for affordable homes as land buyers converted the space into inexpensive housing. According to Bammert, currently about half of the K.I. Sawyer population owns a home whereas the other half rents. Single-parent families, young adults who make an \$8 to \$10 hourly wage and retired workers are especially attracted to K.I. Sawyer’s affordable housing. “Competition is so fierce out here, they usually look for the best price [in housing],” describes Bammert, “Some may be cheaper, and others offer more utilities and amenities.” Many apartments cover utility costs with the price of rent, a financial luxury

for many who cannot afford the typically high cost of heat in winter. With the reasonably priced housing market, a growing economy, and insightful leaders, K.I Sawyer has continually strived to prosper and develop despite the closing of the Air Force base ten years ago.

Background of Problem

K.I. Sawyer is considered a census designated place (CDP). The United States Census Bureau delineates census designated places in order to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not incorporated legally under the laws of the state in which they are located. Boundaries of census designated places are determined by local or tribal officials who are not elected to serve traditional municipal functions. Boundaries typically coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or other legal boundary (“Cartographic boundary files,” 2001). K.I.Sawyer’s lack a municipally operated government is a primary factor that affects its lack of local police services. Thus, the main problem is that K.I. Sawyer residents are very likely unsatisfied with the current level of police service. The lack of trust and respect for the police due to unaddressed needs likely causes residents to feel unsafe and crime to go unreported, problems that are sure to compound over time.

Currently, K.I. Sawyer does not have its own police department, which is detrimental to the community for several reasons, the most important of which is a longer response time. K.I. Sawyer is located in a remote area of the county. The closest Michigan State Police barrack is located in Negaunee, Michigan which is 22 miles from K.I. Sawyer and the closest Marquette County Police unit is located in Marquette which

is 19 miles away. The Forsyth Township Police is headquartered in Gwinn Michigan; this is 12 miles away from K.I. Sawyer and only provides services to the Forsyth Township area of K.I. Sawyer. All of this distance results in increased response time—“the speed at which police respond to calls for service [which] has traditionally been seen as a crucial aspect of crime fighting and crime prevention” (Lyman, 2005, p. 123).

Not only do three separate police departments have to divide up responsibilities with regard to K.I. Sawyer (which unavoidably leaves discrepancies in whether or not the police are responding to crimes in an effective manner), but responding to incidents at K.I. Sawyer may also take time away from their own communities over which they are responsible. Situations where police resources are busy responding to crimes within their respective communities lengthens response time. K.I. Sawyer residents must wait for a unit to clear their current call before responding and depending on where that unit is located; the response time could be an hour or more. Also, situations may arise where there is no response or a longer response time based on a lack of communication or lack of coordinating between agencies. In a life threatening situation, such a practice could lead to a disaster and the possible loss of evidence caused by contamination of the crime scene or exposure to weather.

Undoubtedly, these problems could determine the outcome of a life-or-death situation. At the very least, officers feel overextended and inconvenienced while residents feel they cannot depend on those who above all, should be the most reliable given their civic duty (Weisheit, Falcone and Wells, 2006). According to Payne, Berg, & Sun (2005), problems compound when these negative attitudes go unaddressed.

This problem is significant because distrust brings about a lack of cooperation and support for the police, which in turn bring about a higher crime rate and worse quality of life (pg 33). Not only does the valued relationship between protector and protected disintegrate, but also the very role of protector is in jeopardy due to insufficient resources in the event of a crisis.

Lack of a sufficient number of officers on duty is also a factor that influences perceptions of services provided. According to More and Miller (2005), when the police are efficient, effective and productive, the members of the community feel a collective sense of safety and security. When an area is not adequately covered by the police, it is difficult to accomplish this objective.

According to the Forsyth Township Police Department (FTPD), there are normally three police officers on duty. Two police officers are in one car from 7AM to 5PM four days a week (the days vary). The other police officer works 5PM until 1AM five days a week (usually M-F). The FTPD only covers the Forsyth Township portion of K.I. Sawyer (which comprises approximately is half of the K.I. Sawyer Community) along with the rest of Forsyth Township which includes the city of Gwinn and an additional 186 square miles of the surrounding area. FTPD doesn't have a night shift and there is always the possibility that an officer may ask for sick leave, personal time, or vacation. Further complicating the issue is the fact that at least one day per week, there is no police coverage between 7AM and 5 PM. This lack of coverage suggests the need for a police unit at K.I. Sawyer.

The other two law enforcement agencies with responsibilities for K.I. Sawyer are

also stretched thin. According to Helton (2008), the Marquette County Police Department (MCPD) along with the Michigan State Police (MSP) covers the Sands Township section of K.I. Sawyer along with the entire population of Marquette County. The MCPD does not have a night shift because their road patrol ends at 12 AM every night leaving the responsibility to cover all of Marquette County to the Michigan State Police (MSP).

The MSP did have a small police unit on K.I. Sawyer from June 4, 2006 through September 9, 2006, which consisted of seven troopers specifically assigned from six different MSP posts in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Since the detail ended in September 2006, the MSP assigns one car, eight hours a day to K.I. Sawyer (the eight hours vary).

K.I. Sawyer is not the primary responsibility of any of the three police departments that provide services. Due to the allocation of police resources, K.I. Sawyer is especially vulnerable at night (1:00AM-5:00AM). The only night patrol that is remotely close to K.I. Sawyer is provided by the MSP located in Negaunee. This patrol consists of a single patrol car manned by two officers who provide coverage for all of Marquette County. Police coverage of K.I. Sawyer is therefore highly obviously very limited.

Current trends in the literature suggest that rural residents may express concerns over a lack of police presence, poor response rates, unsatisfactory attitudes, and reduced police powers along with residents being afraid to leave their properties unattended and a need to see more officers “on the beat.” (Weisheit, Falcone and Wells, 2006; Baird-Olson, 2000; Cordner & Scarborough, 1997; Falcone, Wells & Weisheit, 2002). Many of

these conditions are obvious to the residents at K I Sawyer and may influence their perceptions regarding the level of police services provided. Quality relationships based on shared values are essential in order to foster community support (Weisheit, Falcone and Wells, 2006). The three police departments responsible for K.I. Sawyer may not be able to relate to K.I. Sawyer's community values, resulting in significantly less respect for the police departments.

The hypotheses guiding this research are that because of this lack of relationship, the three police departments responsible for K.I. Sawyer may not be able to relate to K.I. Sawyer's community values, resulting in a significantly lower respect for the police departments, along with low levels of satisfaction with police service, and ultimately, K. I. Sawyer residents not feeling safe in their own community. The null hypotheses are that there is a high level of satisfaction; K. I. Sawyer residents respect the three police departments providing police services to the community, that police are regarded highly by the community, and that K. I. Sawyer residents feel safe in their community. These questions could eventually help to determine how to best serve the K.I. Sawyer area in the future, including whether a police force stationed in K. I Sawyer is needed.

There are many benefits to rural and community policing, particularly for K.I. Sawyer seeing as there is a strong possibility of important yet unaddressed needs. The research has the potential of being thought-provoking for the residents and extremely informative for the criminal justice community. Residents who are interested in furthering the development of their community may see this as an area to focus improvement on and subsequently take action to toward petitioning the State for more

funding. It may give local police organizations a better understanding about perceptions of police service. These perceptions may help guide future research in determining if residents are reluctant to call the police to report any types of incidents to police agencies due to the distance in which police agencies have to travel. The results can be used to help assess the effectiveness of past programming and to help to guide future programming in this area. By completing the survey used for research, residences will be able to share their experiences and give specific suggestions about how the criminal justice field can better serve current and future residents at K.I. Sawyer.

Limitations

According to Creswell (2002) limitations are potential weaknesses in the study. These weaknesses include factors such as small sample size, inadequate participation, measurement errors, and other aspects associated with data collection and analysis. The current study is limited by the honesty of the participant's responses during the interviews.

The number of questions used for the current study was a limiting factor as well. The questions were limited to encourage a higher response rate. Further, the findings are limited to a self-reporting survey; there is no way to validate the numerous self-reporting surveys created by researchers. Second, the study's focus on a sample size of K.I. Sawyer residents means that the data obtained should be considered representative of the K.I. Sawyer population, however the sample will be generalized to the target population for purposes of this study.

One reason people do not fill out questionnaires is that it seems like too much trouble. Once a questionnaire is started, some tend to lose patience and not complete it entirely.

Another concern regarding this type of survey is the percentage return rate that should be achieved. According to Babbie & Maxfield, (2005) the body of inferential statistics used in connection with survey analysis assumes that all members of the initial sample complete and return their questionnaire. Because this almost never happens, response bias becomes a concern. Nevertheless, overall response rate is one guide to the representativeness of the sample respondents. If the response rate is high, then there is a less chance of significant response bias than if the rate is low.

A high response rate of at least 50 percent is adequate for analysis and reporting. A response rate of 60 percent is good and a response rate of 70 percent is very good (Babbie & Maxfield, 2005). However, that these are only rough guides; they have no statistical basis, and a demonstrated lack of response bias is far more important than a high response rate (Babbie & Maxfield, 2005).

Another potential problem associated with surveys is determining if the participants are telling the truth. The residents of K.I. Sawyer could be upset regarding no police unit at K.I. Sawyer, and because they are upset, the potential to lie about their perceptions in relation to the police could be great, along with the possibility of lying. The latter may occur due to the researcher is in their home administering the survey or they are filling out the survey simply because their landlord asked them to or they may not fully understand the questions being asked of them.

When dealing with a married household, the male resident usually filled out the survey instrument resulting in a difference of opinions between husband and wife regarding incidents reported and perceptions of the local police agency.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

Despite rural policing being a valuable and widespread institution, most of the research on the police role centers on policing in urban areas. This is particularly intriguing given that the majority of police departments in the United States are smaller departments located in rural areas. To put this in sharper focus, 87 percent of police departments in the United States have 25 or fewer officers (Baker, Wolfer, & Zezza, 2002). While the number of studies on rural crime is increasing, only a handful of researchers examine policing in rural areas.

The limited research relating to rural policing results in significant gaps in the literature. A review of the available literature reveals the majority literature on rural policing appearing in non-peer review journals, magazines, and newspaper articles. An extensive search of the World Wide Web, college and university websites, the U.S. Department of Justice/federal websites and databases, peer review journals such as the *Journal of Behavior Sciences*, *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, and the *Canadian Journal of Criminology* provided limited information regarding the topic. However, interviews with 1st Lieutenant John Helton from the Michigan State Police, Jeanette Maki, President of the Gwinn Sawyer Chamber of Commerce and Scott Bammert, Corporate Manager of Macasu Inc. and Co-chair of the K.I. Sawyer Community Council provided much insight into K.I. Sawyer's current demographics and police resources as a community.

The absence of research on rural and small-town police departments could be attributed to several reasons. First, rural culture is characterized as un-accepting of outsiders and suspicious of government (Weisheit, Well, & Falcone, 2006). Rural residents as well as police thus might be less likely to accept strangers and share information with outsiders, making it difficult to conduct funded research in rural areas. Second, even when researchers have access to rural police agencies, an acceptable officer sample size is difficult to obtain since rural and small-town departments employ only a very small number of officers. Researchers have to either accept a small sample or gain information from multiple jurisdictions, which could be very costly and time consuming given the geographic isolation and insular culture of small-town police departments. Finally, small town police are ignored by police researchers because of the popular assumption that rural police officers are not law enforcement officers in the truest sense of the word because they are not battling a crime problem that is in any way comparable to the urban crime problem (Falcone, Wells, & Weisheit 2002).

Rural crime may not be comparable to urban crime in magnitude, but rural policing has contributed to the rise of community-oriented policing (COP). According to Gaines, Worrall, Southerland, and Angell (2003) explorations regarding the distinctions between urban policing and policing in rural environments have concluded that rural police are more attuned to and have a longstanding acceptance of the basic tenets of community policing. Recent research confirms that this community-oriented policing (COP) is implemented in most rural and small-town police departments (Thurman & McGarrell, 1997). Rural police chiefs and sheriffs claim that their departments were

performing COP for several years since some of the core elements of COP, such as general problem solving and close ties with citizens, mesh with the rural styles of policing. Though formal community policing and rural policing are not totally identical, COP could be viewed as a formalized and rationalized version of small-town policing (Weisheit et al., 2006). Weisheit, et al. (2006) identifies three broad themes of community policing that are important to policing in rural areas:

1. The police should be accountable to the community.
2. They should connect and be integrated into the community instead of focusing on incidents.
3. They should be orientated to solving general problems instead of focusing on incidents.

Weisheit, et al., (2006) found these themes to have a stronger presence in rural policing than in urban policing. This is important because while urban communities emphasize the need for police to exclusively control crime, rural police have a more integrated role to play in order to serve the community in ways that not only control but also solve and prevent crime.

In accordance with the preventative nature of COP, Weisheit, et al., (2006) indicate that current research concludes that crime is less frequent in rural areas. The belief that crime is less frequent in rural areas is supported by the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) (2006) data that present crime by type and population group. However, a number of researchers have concluded that rural areas experiencing rapid growth will also experience a disproportionately large increase in crime (Thurman & McGarrell 1997;

Payne, Berg, & Sun, 2005). K.I. Sawyer has had a considerable population growth of 24.67 % since the year 2000 (U.S. Census, 2006). In 21 of 23 studies regarding crime in rural areas, Freudenburg and Jones, (1991) concluded that more crime occurred in rural areas that were experiencing rapid growth. Freudenburg and Jones indicated that “the accumulated findings may best be explained by narrowly focusing on changes in community social structure that accompany rapid growth and result in impairment of informal social controls, particularly the declines in a community’s density of acquaintanceship”. Based on the literature, increasing growth and development at K.I. Sawyer could possibly foreshadow an increase in crime, one that could be deflated by an independent police force. With such a young community as K.I. Sawyer (where the median age is 30) this could be an opportune time to introduce and start integrating a new police department so that crime levels continue to be low.

Payne, Berg, and Sun (2005), note that perhaps the most comprehensive research on rural and small-town policing was conducted by Weisheit et al. (1994). Using survey and interview data collected from a variety of rural areas throughout the country, Weisheit et al. (2006) examined a number of issues in rural crime, justice, and policing. Three major findings on policing in general and the kinds of tasks performed by rural officers in particular could be summarized from their research. First, policing in rural and urban areas vary in terms of the specific kinds of activities commonly handled in the two communities. Rural and small-town police departments emphasize crime prevention and services activities, whereas urban agencies focus on enforcing law and controlling crime through arrests. Like their urban counterparts, rural departments have to tailor strategic

and tactical changes to meet the needs of their communities (Cordner & Scarborough, 1997). For example, tactical changes such as organizing activities for youths, protecting natural resources, and preventing crime against the agriculture industry are suitable, while citizen patrols and major cleanups might not be necessary in rural areas. Second, small-town officers are called upon and expected to carry out a wider range of tasks than their urban counterparts since other social services are either nonexistent or too remote to provide timely services. Police in rural areas are expected to perform a variety of tasks, usually with inadequate training. Finally, policing styles in rural areas are largely a reflection of the relationship between police and the community. The rural community is often close-knit; thus, rural officers utilize a policing style that is more responsive to residents in their areas. It is not uncommon for rural officers to receive calls for minor problems at their homes at all hours of the day, providing an informal and non-compensated form of service to the community (Falcone et al., 2002; Weisheit et al., 2006).

Acknowledging the differences between rural and urban crime and culture, it is expected that police in rural and urban areas should approach work differently. Weisheit, et al., (2006) findings are largely supported by evidence from other qualitative studies that also stress the importance of historical, social, and cultural contexts in understanding and shaping policing in rural areas (Baird-Olson, 2000; Payne, Berg, & Sun 2005). According to Flanagan, who has examined public opinion data about the police role, the larger the community the more likely citizens are to believe that police should limit their

role to enforcing criminal laws. Conversely people from smaller communities are more likely to want police to perform a wide range of services because other social services are either nonexistent or are more remote than the police.

Rural officers are more likely to find themselves physically isolated and socially under a microscope. This is the inverse for many inner-city officers. The actions of police officers in smaller communities are known to most of the population because of the effective informal communication networks that are more highly visible. Small town police enjoy less latitude in deviating from dominant community values as a result (Eisenstein, 1982). This may be seen as a negative situation; officers in small rural departments have fewer colleagues with whom they can socialize off duty; they also have less privacy and more difficulty in separating their professional and personal roles (Baker, Wolfer, & Zezza, 2002). However, police officers should be encouraged to set an example for the community in both their professional and personal lives. They may also feel a sense of satisfaction in providing another social outlet to those in the community. In urban areas, 54 percent of the citizens reported having a great deal of respect for the local police, whereas 61 percent of rural citizens reported this (Weisheit, Falcone, and Wells 1994).

Another characteristic of rural departments is their general lack of written policies. Compared with urban areas, rural officers often work with lower budgets, less staff, less equipment and fewer written policies; however, rural police appear to be more respected and efficient than urban officers (Weisheit, Falcone and Wells, 2006). The less formal nature of rural life, along with the small size of many rural departments, makes

complex bureaucratic procedures less necessary for day-to-day operations; therefore rural departments are less likely to have detailed written policies in a variety of areas, a situation that can place them in legal jeopardy when problems arise. These problems could range from ineffective police training to negligent hiring. According to More and Miller (2005), there is no doubt that effective police training benefits all concerned: the community, the police officer, and the department.

While rural and urban policing may share a variety of concerns, there are also problems either unique to the rural setting or complicated by the rural environment. As noted previously, funding received by many small municipalities not only makes staffing difficult, but may make it impractical for their department to tap into statewide systems for record checks or vehicle registrations. The self-contained natures of rural communities make it difficult to generate support for training, equipment, or services that would increase the routine interactions between the local agency and the state or national enforcement groups.

According to the Associated Press (2007), there is a lack of funding for police patrols and police officers in the state of Michigan due to Michigan's budget crisis. Limited funding is an obstacle that the K.I. Sawyer community is facing. Budget cuts results in fewer officers for patrol and fewer officers' results in a reluctance to report crime. This is a dilemma that is a major characteristic of rural departments in general (Weisheit, Falcone & Wells, 2006). Despite cuts in Michigan's budget, police agencies remain viable and communities like K.I. Sawyer should strive to understand the importance of their existence and work toward their realization.

Many factors and considerations constitute the decision to provide K.I. Sawyer with its own police department. In spite of limited research on the subject of rural policing, personal interviews and field experts provide credible information for the purpose of this study. The rural departments' tendency to implement community-oriented policing focuses more on connecting to the community and problem-solving rather than centering most attention on incidents. Overall, rural policing in the form of a community policing model is very advantageous even with the obstacles these small agencies face.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (1990) notes that "urban police tend to be efficient; rural police tend to be effective" (p. 8). The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) attributes the effectiveness of rural policing to the closeness of police to the community, that is, "being a part of a culture" rather than apart from it. Due to the importance placed on involved and integrated responsibilities of police officers, small communities like K.I. Sawyer may benefit greatly from a police post close by instead of being the shared responsibility of three different police agencies.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

This study examines the level of satisfaction with the current level of police service in K.I. Sawyer and whether the police departments are held in high regard by the residents of K.I. Sawyer. The current study examines the participant's perceptions and attitudes regarding the fact that K.I. Sawyer does not have a local, municipally operated police agency and how that affects the residents of K.I. Sawyer in their willingness to rely on police services or to report illegal incidences, as well as their perceptions regarding safety in the communities..

Research Design

According to Creswell (2002), a research design refers to how data is collected, analyzed and interpreted. In order to understand human behavior, we must first research and develop a scientific understanding of the underlying systems or components (Boulding, 1981). The research design guiding this research is a pre-experimental, one-shot case study. According to Campbell and Stanley (1963), much research in education today conforms to a design in which a single group is studied only once, subsequently to some agent or treatment presumed to cause change. Such studies often involve tedious collection of specific detail, careful observation, testing and the like, and in such instances involve the error of misplaced precision. In the case studies of this design, a carefully studied single instance is implicitly compared with other events casually observed and remembered. The inferences are based upon general expectations of what the data would have been had the treatment not occurred, etc (Campbell & Stanley, 1963).

Appropriateness of Design

According to Babbie and Maxfield (2005), a case study is a research strategy in which the researcher's attention centers on an in-depth examination of one or a few cases in many dimensions. A case study is used when a researcher has information from a single community, organization or political entity and wants to generalize to other communities, organizations or political entities about occurrences of that type. The research method guiding this research is a one-shot case study design/model which may provide a sound basis for scientific generalization. Other research methods considered for the current study included grounded theory, ethnographic, and qualitative inquiry. These methods were rejected for several reasons. Grounded theory is appropriate when exploring the common experiences of individuals in hopes of developing a theory (Creswell, 2002). The purpose here is to develop an understanding of the phenomenon of rural policing. Ethnographic research methods were also considered and rejected. Ethnographic research is used for exploring the shared culture of a group of people (Creswell, 2002). Ethnography relies on close observations for an extended period of time and may possibly involve participation by the investigator in order to increase understanding of a particular culture. Scientific descriptions of cultures are not within the scope of the current research. Qualitative inquiry is based on constructivist philosophical assumptions that are grounded in the subjective point of view (Creswell, 1998). Coyle and Williams (2000) indicated that traditionally, the role of the researcher in positivist science was to maintain a discrete distant from the study allowing for the forming of truly objective opinions.

In post-positivist science, it is recognized that research is seldom value free and the researcher's perceptions will influence and shape the research process.

Research Questions

Since there is no police post in K.I. Sawyer, there is likely the lack of close relationships between the community and the three police departments patrolling the area of K.I. Sawyer. The hypotheses guiding this research are that because of this lack of relationship, the three police departments responsible for K.I. Sawyer may not be able to relate to K.I. Sawyer's community values, resulting in a significantly lower respect for the police departments, along with low levels of satisfaction with police service, and ultimately, K. I. Sawyer residents not feeling safe in their own community. The null hypotheses are that there is a high level of satisfaction; K. I. Sawyer residents respect the three police departments providing police services to the community, that police are regarded highly by the community, and that K. I. Sawyer residents feel safe in their community. These questions could eventually help to determine how to best serve the K.I. Sawyer area in the future, including whether a police force stationed in K. I Sawyer is needed.

Research Sample

The community in which the K.I. Sawyer resident population resides is a small rural community 19 miles from Marquette, Michigan. K.I Sawyer's classification as a rural community essentially defines its needs in terms of law enforcement. According to Maki (2009), as of 2007 K.I. Sawyer's population consisted of 797 households, which represents the population frame for this research. In order to determine an appropriate

random sample size, The University of Florida IFAS Extension advises that for a population of 797 households, a random sample should consist of 238 households. This represents a 30% simple random sample.

Time Frame

The researcher will administer the survey randomly from May 1, 2009 through June 8, 2009. The cutoff date for responses to the survey is Monday, June 8, 2009. Analysis will continue through June 2009 and the completed thesis will be submitted to the thesis committee for approval. The results of this survey are explained in chapter 5.

Questionnaire Development

According to Babbie and Maxfield, (2005) survey research methods are frequently employed in the social sciences, including the criminal justice field. Often surveys and other questioning techniques are very common methods of data collection because of the authenticity and insight gained through personal and individual input across a wide base of human subjects. They are best suited for studies that have individual people as the units of analysis and they are often used for other units of analysis as well, such as households. In general, surveys can be used to evaluate policy that seeks to change attitudes, beliefs and perceptions.

Aiman-Smith and Markham (2004) pointed out that a survey is a systematic process for collecting data to empirically measure specific aspects of organizational concepts. Surveys provide a means for collecting consistent data from participants in a research study. Objective questions typically force respondents to choose from among

alternative answers provided or to rank or rate items provided. Such questions enable a simple quantitative analysis of the responses. Surveys can also ask open-ended questions to gather qualitative comments from the respondents (Covey, 2002).

Elements

The survey included a cover letter explaining the purpose of the research. A total of 23 questions were then broken down into two sections: I) Background information and II) Information Regarding Participant's Perception of Law Enforcement.

Part I of the questionnaire asks basic demographic questions such as gender, marital status, age, minor children (children under the age of 12) living in the household, how long they have lived at K.I. Sawyer, and the number of persons in the household. These questions were used to compare differences between the categories of respondents and their level of satisfaction with the current level of police service in K.I. Sawyer.

Part II of the questionnaire includes questions regarding safety, law enforcement problems, reported crime to any local police agency, and perceptions regarding the local police agencies and their level of performance. For example, respondents are asked; "The local police officers treat the people of K.I. Sawyer with respect." The answers range from Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, and Uncertain.

Methodology

The questionnaire is a self constructed survey modeled after samples of police surveys used to determine opinions about safety, about police priorities, and about the performance of police personnel. Each question covered one specific issue in the research and the questions were worded clearly. Leading questions and questions based on

assumptions were avoided. The length of the survey was carefully considered and a significant effort was devoted to making the survey interesting and easy to follow. The questionnaire was short, similar questions were grouped together, and each question was examined for ease of understanding and simplicity.

These steps were taken to help establish the content validity of the survey instrument. Content validity is the degree to which a test is consonant with the content, skills or objectives it is suppose to measure (Popham, 1975). Also, there were two individuals with expertise in questionnaire development working to provide curricular validity for the individual survey instrument.

The survey instrument (Appendix A) was developed using a Likert scale format in combination with closed ended ordinal level questions to measure whether the participants agreed with the findings of the qualitative portion of the current study. The close-ended questions required the respondents to select an answer from among several options. In all, 21 of the 23 questions were close-ended.

Field Testing

The method for this particular survey was tested for: (1) length of time required for completion and (2) confusion regarding the wording of the survey. Eighteen subjects from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who were not familiar with rural policing and who were demographically similar to K.I. Sawyer residents, took an average of eight minutes to complete the survey and stated that there was no confusion regarding the wording on the survey. This group judged that the items were appropriate to the topic and had face validity.

Face validity is a way of describing whether a test appeared on the basis of visual inspection to measure what it was suppose to (Popham, 1975).

Informed Consent/Confidentiality

Informed consent is a form that participants read prior to participating in research. The participants in the study were informed of the nature of the study and advised that their participation in the study was voluntary (Appendix B).

The information collected during the current study was not released to the public in any way that would permit someone to link specific individuals with their responses. All identifying information was omitted after the data were analyzed. Participants were advised that they could withdraw from the study at any time. Participants were advised that by completing and returning the survey instrument, they were deemed to have given their consent to participate in the current study.

This research poses minimal risk to participants. There is a slight possibility of emotional risk attached, as personal questions are asked. Respondents may feel intimidated completing this survey because they may have had recent contact with the police and it may have been negative. To manage and minimize risk, subjects will be protected in the following ways:

1. Subjects will be informed that their participation is voluntary, and they can choose not to answer questions they find sensitive, problematic, or otherwise discomfoting.
2. Subjects will be informed that their responses are anonymous.

Data Collection

The questionnaire will be delivered and the data will be collected by hand to one third (every third house) of the residents dwelling on K.I. Sawyer. Directions for completing were included with the survey. Along with delivering to every third house, the researcher distributed and collected completed surveys by the following means:

1. K.I. Sawyer's Community Association meeting in which the researcher distributed the survey to community residents and collected the completed surveys.
2. Distributed surveys to Macasu Inc. Tower Vacation Homes, Sawyer Village and Eagle Ridge Apartments. The realtors distributed the survey instrument to their renter population and collected the completed surveys. The surveys were held for pickup.
3. Distributed surveys to the local store in K.I. Sawyer. K.I. Sawyer residents had the opportunity to fill out a survey while in the store.
4. Distributed the survey to any K.I. Sawyer resident the researcher saw while on K.I. Sawyer.

Since an adequate response was necessary for any meaningful analysis, it was deemed critical to get as large a response as possible; this action may have an impact regarding generalizing of the findings, however.

Analysis of Data

A primary consideration of the researcher is that the data analysis is credible and understandable to the community and participants. The purpose of testing a hypothesis is

to determine the probability that it is supported by fact (Tuckman, 1972). Creswell (2002) indicated that descriptive statistics provide information that helps the researcher in determining the overall trends and the distribution of the data.

Inferential statistics will be used to evaluate and to draw conclusion about the populations. Hypothesis testing requires setting a level of significance, calculating test statistics, and rejecting or failing to reject the null hypothesis (Creswell, 2002). The non-parametric Mann-Whitney test will be used to assess the strength of the evidence in order to draw conclusions about the sample data.

Benefits

The possible benefits for the participants may include the intrinsically beneficial effect resulting from expression of feelings and experiences regarding the lack of police presence at K.I. Sawyer. Another possible benefit may include self-realization of feelings or opinions previously unacknowledged by the subject. The survey has the potential of being thought-provoking for the residents and extremely informative for the criminal justice community. It will give local police organizations a better understanding about perceptions of police service and the impact it has on residents calling the police to report any types of incidents to police agencies because of the distance in which police agencies have to travel. By completing this survey, residents will be able to share their experiences and give specific suggestions about how the criminal justice field can better serve current and future residents at K.I. Sawyer.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter consists of data gathered from a self-reporting survey administered to residents of the K.I. Sawyer community. The questionnaire was delivered by hand to one third (every third house) of the residents dwelling on K.I. Sawyer. Directions for completing were included with the survey. Along with delivering to every third house (35 completed surveys), the researcher distributed and collected completed surveys by the following means:

1. K.I. Sawyer's Community Association meeting in which the researcher distributed the survey to community residents and collected the completed surveys. (14 completed surveys).
2. Distributed surveys to Macasu Inc. Tower Vacation Homes, Sawyer Village and Eagle Ridge Apartments. The realtors distributed the survey instrument to their renter population and collected the completed surveys. The surveys were held for pickup (18 surveys completed).
3. Distributed surveys to the local convenience store named "The Shoppette" in K.I. Sawyer. K.I. Sawyer residents had the opportunity to fill out a survey while in the store (9 surveys completed).
4. Distributed the survey to any K.I. Sawyer resident the researcher saw while in K.I. Sawyer. (8 completed surveys).

Surveys were circulated amongst the sample and participants were advised that the sample was completely voluntary. Of the 238 residents chosen by the random sample, 84 residents elected to participate in the study resulting in a 35% response rate.

This chapter is divided into four separate sections. Section one describes the demographics of those who participated in the survey. Section two explains the experiences of safety and level of police services at K.I. Sawyer. Section three examines the opinions of K. I. Sawyer residents regarding their perceptions of local police officers/agencies and section four gives the results of the open-ended questions regarding whether K.I. Sawyer residents would like a police post located in their community and what, if anything, would they change about their local police. Each section will provide descriptive data specific to the questions discussed in each section.

Section One: Participant Demographics

A total of 84 participants responded to the in the survey resulting in a response rate of 35%. Female participants slightly out-numbered males by 14% as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Gender of the K.I. Sawyer Residences

Gender	N	%
Male	36	43
Female	48	57
Totals	84	100

The majority of participants responding were female (57%). The fact that the majority of participants responding to the survey are females might affect the result as females may view a lack of police presence differently than males.

The majority (57%) of K. I. Sawyer residences were between the ages of 25 and 54 as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2

Age of the K.I. Sawyer Residences

Age	N	%
18-24	7	8.33
25-34	20	23.86
35-44	16	19.10
45-54	22	26.20
55-64	11	13.00
65 and older	8	9.51
Totals	84	100

Participants responding to the study are K. I. Sawyer residents that are single, married, separated, or divorced as indicated in Table 3

Table 3

Marital Status of the K.I. Sawyer Residences

Marital Status	N	%
Married	46	55.76
Separated	5	6.00
Divorced	13	15.48
Widower	0	0
Single	20	22.76
Totals	84	100

Of the participants responding, 35% had minor children (children 12 years old and under) living with them (see Table 4).

The fact that the majority of households at K. I. Sawyer do not contain any minor children may affect perceptions of safety and level of police services.

Table 4

Minor Children Living with the K.I. Sawyer Residence

Minor children	N	%
No	55	65.47
Yes	29	34.53
Totals	84	100

The average number of minor children per household is two. The range of minor children per household is one to seven children with the mode also being two children per household. The results are displayed in Table 5.

Table 5

Number of Minor Children per Household(s)

Number of minor children per household	N
Range	0-7
Mean	2
Mode	2

Of the participants responding, 50% have lived at K.I. Sawyer thirteen months to five years. The average length lived at K.I. Sawyer is 7 years 5 months. The range regarding length lived is 1 month to 30 years. The results are displayed in Table 6. The fact that the majority (97%) of households of K. I. Sawyer has been living there ten years or less may affect perceptions of safety and level of police services.

Table 6

Number of Years Residing at K.I. Sawyer

Length lived at K.I. Sawyer	N	%
1-12 months	11	13.10
13 months to 5 years	42	50.00
6 to 10 years	28	33.33
10 to 15 years	1	1.19
16 to 20 years	0	0
More than 20 years	2	2.38
Totals	84	100

Of the participants responding, the majority (50%) have two to three persons living in the same household. The results are displayed in Table 7. The fact that the majority of households at K. I. Sawyer contain two to three persons living in the same household may affect perceptions of safety and level of police services.

Table 7

Number of Persons in Household

Number of Persons in household	N	%
1	15	17.86
2-3	42	50.00
4-5	25	29.76
6 or more	2	2.38
Totals	84	100

Section Two: Experiences at K.I. Sawyer

Of the 84 respondents to the survey, 38% of those surveyed indicated they had been the victim of a crime in the community of K.I. Sawyer.

A significant number of residents (23%) do not feel safe in their home while 40% do not feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood (see Table 8).

Table 8

Community and Safety

Question	Respondents	No	Yes	Uncertain
Have you ever been the victim of a crime in the community of K.I. Sawyer?	84	62%	38%	N/A
Do you feel safe in your own home?	84	5%	77%	18%
Do you feel safe walking alone in your neighborhood?	84	21%	60%	19%

It is important to note that there was a significant difference between male and female residents regarding perceptions of community and safety. For example, a significant number of female residents (29%) do not feel safe in their home while 50% do not feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood compared to 14% of males not feeling safe in their home while 28% do not feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood. For this reason, Table 9 has also been provided to compare both female and male perceptions of community and safety. The fact that the majority of households surveyed at K. I. Sawyer were male may affect perceptions of safety and level of police services. See Table 9 for further details.

Table 9

Female/Male Perceptions of Community and Safety

Question	Female	Female	Female	Male	Male	Male
	No	Yes	Uncertain	No	Yes	
Uncertain						
Have you ever been the victim of a crime in the community of K.I. Sawyer?	60%	40%	N/A	64%	36%	N/A
Do you feel safe in your own home? 14%	8%	71%	21%	0	86%	
Do you feel safe walking alone in your neighborhood? 20%	31%	50%	19%	8%	72%	

The survey solicited information regarding what K.I. Sawyer residents believed to be the most serious law enforcement problem in their neighborhood. The survey also asked if every criminal incident against them or persons in their household was reported to the local police in the last year and if not, what the main reasons for not notifying the police were. The residents ranked their top three choices for each question (one meaning most important and so on) with four having no rank.

According to K.I. Sawyer residents, the most serious law enforcement problem in their neighborhood was Vandalism with 43 total responses. The second most serious was Drugs (36 responses) with Domestic Violence the third most serious although K.I. Sawyer residents ranked Domestic Violence first in regards to seriousness. Thefts

(general), automobile thefts, and bicycle thefts had a total of 62 responses and were considered significant (see Table 10). The results could be misleading since there are only 84 residents responding however, the residents ranked their responses from most serious (1) to least serious (3) with (4) meaning the resident put a check mark on the specific problem but did not explicitly rank it (respondents did not enumerate their responses). For purposes of this study, any item that was checked, whether explicitly ranked or not ranked, was tallied in the total responses, which reflect a total of 3 checked responses (whether ranked or not ranked by the respondent) for each of 84 surveys collected, totaling 252 total rankable responses (3 check marks per survey, times 84 total surveys, equaling 252 total rankable responses).

Table 10

Law Enforcement Problems

What is the most serious law enforcement problem in your neighborhood? (Rank)	1	2	3	4	Total
Thefts (general)	5	4	5	17	31
Thefts (auto)	3	3	1	13	20
Thefts (bicycle)	0	0	1	11	11
Vandalism	8	7	7	21	43
Drugs	5	8	10	13	36
Assault	1	3	2	5	11
Burglary/Robbery	0	3	2	6	10
Domestic Violence	15	4	5	9	33
Minors Drinking	2	2	1	14	18

Traffic	4	0	0	6	10
Parking	2	2	2	3	8
Parties/Noise	4	3	2	12	21
Totals	49	39	38	130	252

K.I. Sawyer residents marked “no incidents” 59.53% of the time (see Table 11) with only 7.14% of residents reporting all criminal incidents against them. One in three K.I. Sawyer residents did not report crime to the local police. The fact that one third of households surveyed at K. I. Sawyer would not contact the police for all incidents against them may affect perceptions of safety and level of police services.

Table 11

Criminal Incidents Reported

In the last year, was every criminal incident against you or persons in your household reported to the local police?	N	%
No, 1 was not reported	19	22.60
No, 2 was not reported	7	8.33
No, 3 was not reported	1	1.20
No, 4 was not reported	1	1.20
All were reported	6	7.14
No incidents	50	59.53
Totals	84	100

K. I. Sawyer residences provided several reasons for not notifying police of criminal incidents. For those incidents not reported, reasons cited were “I didn’t think it would do any good” (19 responses) and “I didn’t think I would be taken seriously” (20 responses) were the main reason for not notifying the police (See Table 12).

The residents ranked their responses from most serious (1) to least serious (3) with (4) meaning no rank (respondents did not enumerate their responses) totaling (3) responses per resident. 59.53% of residents reported no incidents thus leaving question 12 blank.

Table 12

Reasons for Not Reporting Incidents to Police

What was the main reason for not notifying the police?	1	2	3	4	Total
Didn't want to get involved	0	1	3	0	4
Didn't want to go to court	0	0	0	1	1
Didn't think it was important enough	4	0	0	2	6
Didn't think it would do any good	10	6	1	2	19
Didn't want to get someone in trouble	0	0	0	0	0
Fear of retaliation	1	2	2	2	7
Fear of insurance Increase	0	0	0	1	1
Didn't think I would be taken serious	14	2	2	2	20
Other	1	0	0	1	2
Totals	30	11	8	11	60

Section Three: Perceptions Regarding Local Police Officers/Agencies

Participants were asked to report their opinions regarding their local police agencies. Fifty-three percent of the 84 residents reported that they “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” that police presence in their neighborhood is appropriate as indicated in Table 13.

Table 13

Perception of Local Police Officers

	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4%	The police presence in your neighborhood is appropriate for the need.	14%	29%	33%	20%
15%	The local police officers treat the people of K.I. Sawyer with respect.	13%	37%	25%	10%
21%	Local police officers respond to emergency calls (911 calls) in a timely manner.	8%	18%	35%	18%

Table 14 reports how male and female residences view their local police agencies.

As indicated in Table 14, males hold less favorable views of their local police than do females. As noted earlier, there were a total of 48 female responses along with 36 male responses. Data is expressed in percentage form unless otherwise indicated.

Table 14

Male/Female Perceptions of Local Police Officers

Question	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Uncertain	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	The police presence in your neighborhood is appropriate for the need.	19	10	25	31	37	31	19	22	0
The local police officers treat the people of K.I. Sawyer with respect.	11	15	39	35	31	21	8	10	11	19
Local police officers respond to emergency calls (911 calls) in a timely manner.	6	10	31	8	24	42	22	15	17	25

Participants were asked to report their opinions regarding their local police agencies. Forty six percent marked “Satisfactory” regarding how they would rate the helpfulness of the local police agencies with twenty-three percent marking “Poor”. As with the courtesy of the local police agencies 18% of K.I. Sawyer residents respectively reported “Poor” or “Very Poor with 39% of K.I. Sawyer residents respectively reporting “Poor” or “Very Poor to the quality of service that the local police agencies provide to the community of K.I. Sawyer. Interestingly, 29% of K.I. Sawyer residents reported “Poor” or “Very Poor” with regards to how they would rate their local police agencies as a whole.

Table 15

Residence's Rating of Local Police Officers

Question	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
Total					
How would you rate the helpfulness of the 100% local police agencies?	11%	19%	46%	23%	1%
How would you rate the courtesy of the local 100% police agencies?	11%	32%	39%	17%	1%
Please rate the quality of service that the local 100% police agencies provide to the community of K.I. Sawyer.	7%	14%	41%	32%	6%
Overall, how would you rate your local police 100% agencies as a whole?	11%	14%	46%	28%	1%

Table 16 reports how male and female residents view their local police agencies.

Table 16

Male/Female Rating of Local Police Officers

Question	Very Good		Good		Satisfactory		Poor		Very Poor	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
How would you rate the helpfulness of the local police agencies?	8	12	14	23	47	46	28	19	3	0

How would you rate the courtesy of the local police agencies?	6	15	33	30	39	40	19	15	3	0
Please rate the quality of service that the local police agencies provide to the community of K.I. Sawyer.	3	10	14	15	36	44	36	29	11	2
Overall, how would you rate your local police agencies as a whole?	3	15	8	18	52	40	31	25	6	0

As indicated in Table 16, males show less favorable views of their local police than do females. As noted earlier, there were a total of 48 female responses along with 36 male responses. Data is expressed in percentage form unless otherwise indicated.

With regards to a neighborhood community meeting, 86% of residents would attend a community meeting in their neighborhood to discuss local problems, obtain information and learn crime prevention tips, with 97% stating they would attend the meeting 3-4 times a year or once a month.

Section Four: Perception of a Dedicated Police Force for K. I. Sawyer

The final two questions asked K.I. Sawyer residents whether they would like to have a dedicated police post at K.I. Sawyer, and were also asked what, if anything, they would change about their local police. Surprisingly, only one respondent, a male over the age of 65, wouldn't like a dedicated police post at K.I. Sawyer. See Appendix C for further details.

Table 17

Perceptions of Residences Regarding a Dedicated Police Post (Rounded percentages)

Would you like a dedicated police post at K. I. Sawyer?	Yes	No	Total
	99%	1%	100%

Further, K.I. Sawyer residents were asked what they would like to change about their local police. While responses to this question were broad, many respondents did touch on the concept of quicker response time to crime and more police presence to deter crime. Some residents were of the opinions that they need a police force that can provide services twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Other suggestions included spending more time patrolling the K. I. Sawyer community. See Appendix C for further details.

Review

According to the self-reporting survey, 38% of K.I. Sawyer residents stated they have been the victim of a crime. Additionally, 40% of those residents do not feel safe in their community and are reluctant to walk alone in their own neighborhood. The participants in the survey were asked to report their opinions regarding their local police officers and their local police agencies. Fifty-three percent of the residents reported that they “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” that the police presence in their neighborhood is appropriate for their needs. Additionally, 35% reported that they “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” regarding how local police officers treat the people of K.I. Sawyer, with 53% reporting that they “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” on how the local officers respond to emergency calls. Additionally, only 46% marked “Satisfactory” regarding how they

would rate the helpfulness of the local police agencies with 23% of respondents marking “Poor” on how they would rate the helpfulness of their local police agencies. As with the courtesy of the local police agencies, 18% of K.I. Sawyer residents, respectively, reported “Poor” or “Very Poor” with 39 % reporting “Poor” or “Very Poor” regarding the quality of service that the local police agencies provide to the community of K.I. Sawyer. Nearly 30% of K.I. Sawyer residents reported “Poor” or “Very Poor” with regards to how they would rate their local police agencies as a whole.

For testing differences in ordinal scale data between two independent groups, the non-parametric Mann-Whitney U-test was most appropriate (Tangen,1997). Table 18 displays the Hypotheses for the research and Table 19 displays the results of the Mann-Whitney test for each of the four hypotheses.

N1 reflects the total number of responses noted as Satisfactory or Very Satisfactory, or Strongly Agree or Agree where indicated, whereas N2 reflects the total number of response ranked as Disagree or Strongly Disagree, or Poor or Very Poor where indicated. The tables in which these totals where calculated are listed below in Table 18.

Table 18

Hypotheses for the research

H1: K. I. Sawyer residents do not respect the three police departments providing police services to the community. Table 13 – 29 people

H01: K. I. Sawyer residents respect the three police department providing police services to the community. Table 13 - 42 people

H2: K. I. Sawyer residents are not satisfied, in general, with police services provided to the community. Table 15 - 24 people

H02: K. I Sawyer residents are satisfied with police services provided to the community. 18 people

H3: Lack of community relationship results in police not being able to relate to K I Sawyer community values. 32 people

H03: Lack of community relationship does not affect police ability to relate to K I Sawyer community values. 18 people

H4: K I Sawyer residents do not feel safe in their community 11 people, Table 8

H04: K I Sawyer residents feel safe in their community based on average rating between 2 safety variables in Table 8 = 58 people

Table 19

Mann-Whitney U Test Results

1	2		P (two-tailed)	P (one-tailed)
4	4	0.0	0.685 714	0.342 857
normal approx z = 0.57735			0.563 702*	0.281 851*

*These values are approximate.

The two samples are not significantly different ($P \geq 0.05$, two-tailed test)

Details:

```
command: "/home/leon/bin/utest -nt 60 4 4 10.0"
results:
34.2857%,75.7143%
28.1851%, 71.8149% (z = 0.57735)
```

According to Tuckman (1972) the Mann-Whitney U-test is a nonparametric test which compares two or more samples for possible significant differences and does not require that data be normally distributed or sample variances equal. These data (representing the number of K.I. Sawyer respondents for each hypotheses and null hypotheses) were transformed to ranks and subjected to a Mann-Whitney U-test because of the skewness of the distribution (the tendency of the distribution of the data to be nonnormal). Data from the samples are combined and cast into ranks. The ranking technique transforms interval data into ordinal data. Next, group data are regrouped, and the ranks are summed for each group. Use the formulas (To calculate the value of Mann-Whitney U test, use the following formula:

Where:

U = Mann-Whitney U test

N_1 = sample size one

N_2 = Sample size two

R_i = Rank of the sample size given in Tuckman's book to calculate U for each group.) The smaller of these two U values is then checked against the U value given in Table V labeled Critical values of U in the Mann-Whitney test in Tuckman's book for the appropriate n 's. If the value in the table is larger, than the groups are significantly different.

To interpret the U values calculated in Table 19, the researcher looked in Table V labeled Critical values of U in the Mann-Whitney test under $n_1 = 9$, $n_2 = 9$; at the .05

significance level $U = 17$. Since the smaller U obtained in this experiment was 9 for each hypotheses, it is possible to conclude that the residents of K.I. Sawyer do not respect the three police departments providing police services to the community, are not satisfied with police services provided to the community, do not feel safe in their community and there is a lack of community relationship results in police not being able to relate to K. I. Sawyer community values.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS

This study examines if there is a low level of satisfaction with the current level of police service in K.I. Sawyer and whether the police departments are held in high regard by the residents of K.I. Sawyer. The current study also examines the participant's perceptions and attitudes regarding the fact that K.I. Sawyer does not have a local municipally operated police agency and how that affects their willingness to rely on police services or report illegal incidences. Since research of K.I. Sawyer regarding their local police agencies has not been conducted at Northern Michigan University or any other university to the researcher's knowledge, the information presented is unique and not comparable to other studies. However, the data presented regarding K.I. Sawyer residents' perceptions of police service provided information about attitudes towards local police officers, reasons for unreported crime, what residents think are the most serious crimes committed in K.I. Sawyer, reasons why K.I. Sawyer residents believe they need a police post and what they would like changed about the local police program.

The hypotheses guiding this research are that because of this lack of relationship, the three police departments responsible for K.I. Sawyer may not be able to relate to K.I. Sawyer's community values, resulting in a significantly lower respect for the police departments, along with low levels of satisfaction with police service, and ultimately, K. I. Sawyer residents not feeling safe in their own community. The null hypotheses are that there is a high level of satisfaction; K. I. Sawyer residents respect the three police departments providing police services to the community, that police are regarded highly

by the community, and that K. I. Sawyer residents feel safe in their community. These questions could eventually help to determine how to best serve the K.I. Sawyer area in the future, including whether a police force stationed in K. I Sawyer is needed.

According to the study, there is not a high level of satisfaction with the current police services, neither are the police departments - responsible for providing police services to K.I. Sawyer held in high regards by the residents. The research indicates that one in three K.I. Sawyer residents did not report criminal incidents committed against them to the local police. The main reasons for not reporting were, “I didn’t think it would do any good,” and “I didn’t think I would be taken seriously.” The fact that one third of households surveyed at K. I. Sawyer would not contact the police for all incidents against them is particularly troubling considering that a significant number of residents (23%) do not feel safe in their home while almost half (40%) do not feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood.

It is disconcerting to see that despite feeling unsafe and even having been the victim of crime, residents do not have enough confidence in the police to report incidents. This attitude is no doubt a product of the somewhat alarming response to the question of timeliness in the event of an emergency.

Over half of those surveyed expressed dissatisfaction with the way police responded to emergency (911) calls. If it is perceived that police do not or cannot respond appropriately to *emergency* calls, how can they be trusted to manage other, less urgent incidents?

Further, the research indicates that K.I. Sawyer residents do not hold their local police departments in high regards because they do not have a high level of satisfaction with the police officers themselves. Minimum to low levels of satisfaction were expressed in areas such as how officers treated residents, helpfulness, and courtesy. Nearly 30% of K.I. Sawyer residents surveyed rated their police agencies as “Poor” or “Very Poor.”

The hypotheses guiding this research are that because of the lack of a close relationship between the police and the K.I. Sawyer community, the three police departments responsible for K.I. Sawyer may not be able to relate to K.I. Sawyer’s community values, resulting in a significantly lower respect for the police departments, along with low levels of satisfaction with police service, and ultimately, K. I. Sawyer residents not feeling safe in their own community. I neither accept nor reject the hypothesis that the police departments may not be able to identify with K.I. Sawyer’s community values on the basis that more research is needed to further determine K.I. Sawyer’s community values and whether or not police officers’ actions and attitudes are consistent with these values. I accept the hypotheses that there is a low level of respect and satisfaction on behalf of K.I. Sawyer residents regarding the police and police services. I also accept the hypothesis that K.I. Sawyer residents do not feel safe in their own community due to the fact that many reported feeling unsafe in their homes and while walking in their neighborhood.

The data collected has implications for the police departments currently responsible for K.I. Sawyer, as well as the residents themselves. There is a need to

recognize these attitudes and a civic duty to improve on the existing relationship so K.I. Sawyer residents can feel confident in the ability and willingness of the police to assist them in times of need. Survey results indicate a willingness on the part of the residents to actively attend meetings as often as monthly to work toward solving these problems.

In terms of safety, residents feel the need to see more police presence in their neighborhoods so that they do feel safe in their own community. Perhaps the responsible police departments can arrange a training session specifically geared toward better serving K.I. Sawyer, while active petition for more police officers for Forsyth Township takes place until an independent police agency can be implemented.

An independent police agency, while needed especially in order to shorten response time, is an item that will most likely be on the council agenda for years. Until the State of Michigan finds room in the budget for it, council members (including both residents and police officers) should continue to petition every year for a grant while encouraging the growth and development that is the vision of many regarding K.I. Sawyer. Eventually, if the community gains a municipal government, an independent police agency will have to take priority. In the meantime, police and residents will need to actively work together to resolve their issues. Further research can also be of assistance.

The survey results open numerous avenues for future research. The present findings serve as the basis for conducting more K.I. Sawyer studies involving what exactly would merit a police post in K.I. Sawyer. Other issues to consider are community values and if the actions of the police are consistent with those values. The officers'

perceptions and attitudes relating to providing police services to the K.I. Sawyer community, and a comparison of the current results to those of the same survey conducted in another rural community. It is further suggested that research be conducted to allow other data sources to either confirm or contradict the current findings.

This study broadens the awareness of not only K.I. Sawyer residents to their own collective perceptions of police service so as to precipitate change as a community toward meeting needs, but also those who are currently providing police service and researchers who are looking to further the studies conducted in this area of law enforcement.

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THIS SECTION COVERS DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF.

1. Gender: Female _____ Male _____

2. Marital Status: Married _____ Separated _____ Divorced _____ Widower _____ Single _____

3. Age: 18-24 _____ 25-34 _____ 35-44 _____ 45-54 _____ 55-64 _____ 65 and over _____

4. Do minor children (children 12 years old and under) currently live with you?

No _____ Yes _____ If yes, how many? _____

5. How long have you lived at K.I. Sawyer?

Years _____ Months _____

6. Number of Persons in Household (including yourself): 1 _____ 2-3 _____ 4-5 _____ 6 or more _____

PART II.

THIS SECTION WILL TOUCH ON EXPERIENCES AT K.I. SAWYER.

(For the purpose of this survey, Michigan State Police, Forsyth Township Police and Marquette County Police Departments represent your local Police authorities)

7. Have you ever been the victim of a crime in the community of K.I. Sawyer?

No _____ Yes _____

8. Do you feel safe in your own home?

No _____ Yes _____ Uncertain _____

9. Do you feel safe walking alone in your neighborhood?

No _____ Yes _____ Uncertain _____

10. In your opinion, what is the most serious law enforcement problem in your neighborhood?
(Please rank your top 3)

59

___ Thefts (general)	___ Vandalism	___ Burglary/Robbery
___ Traffic	___ Parking	___ Parties/Noise

Thefts (from auto) Drugs Domestic Violence
 Thefts (bicycle) Assault* Minors Drinking

11. In the last year, was every criminal incident against you or persons in your household reported to the local police?

No, 1 was not reported No, 3 were not reported
 No, 2 were not reported No, 4 or more were not reported
 Yes, all was reported No Incidents

12. What was the main reason for not notifying the police? For those incidence not reported, please rank the top 3.

Didn't Want to Get Involved Didn't Want to Get Someone in Trouble
 Didn't Want to Go to Court Fear of Retaliation
 Didn't Think it Was Important Enough Fear of Insurance Increase
 Didn't Think it Would Do Any Good Didn't Think I would be taken seriously
 Other _____

13. The police presence in your neighborhood is appropriate for the need.

Strongly Agree _____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Strongly Disagree _____ Uncertain _____

14. The local police officers treat the people of K.I. Sawyer with respect.

Strongly Agree _____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Strongly Disagree _____ Uncertain _____

15. Local police officers respond to emergency calls (911 calls) in a timely manner.

Strongly Agree _____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Strongly Disagree _____ Uncertain _____

16. How would you rate the helpfulness of the local police agencies?

Very Good _____ Good _____ Satisfactory _____ Poor _____ Very Poor _____

17. How would you rate the courtesy of the local police agencies?

Very Good _____ Good _____ Satisfactory _____ Poor _____ Very Poor _____

18. Please rate the quality of service that the local police agencies provide to the community of K.I. Sawyer. Very Good ____ Good ____ Satisfactory ____ Poor ____ Very Poor ____

19. Overall, how would you rate your local police agencies as a whole? Very Good ____ Good ____ Satisfactory ____ Poor ____ Very Poor ____

20. Would you attend a community meeting in your neighborhood to discuss local problems, obtain information, and to learn crime prevention tips (personal safety, etc)? No ____ Yes ____

21. If yes, how often would you attend? ____ 1 time a month ____ 3-4 times a year ____ 1 time a year

22. Would you like to have a police post at K.I. Sawyer? No ____ Yes ____

If no, Why not? _____

If yes, Why? _____

23. What, if anything, would you like to change about your local police?

Assault: A crime that occurs when one person tries to physically harm another in a way that makes the person under attack feel immediately threatened. Actual physical contact is not necessary; threatening gestures that would alarm any reasonable person can constitute an assault.

Thank you for your Participation!

APPENDIX B: K.I. SAWYER COMMUNITY SURVEY COVER LETTER

Dear K.I. Sawyer Resident:

If you are as tired of surveys as I am, you may be inclined to recycle this. Please resist that temptation because I need your input! This important survey will take just a few minutes of your time, and will be of the utmost value to me and to the community of K.I. Sawyer. My name is Gabriel Green and I am a graduate student in the Criminal Justice Program at Northern Michigan University. For my master's thesis project, I am conducting a survey regarding if there is a high level of satisfaction with the current level of police service in K.I. Sawyer and whether the police departments are held in high regard by the residents of K.I. Sawyer.

In order to maintain absolute confidentiality of the results, The Office of Institutional Research will be assisting me with this survey. Your name will never be linked to your responses. Your individual data and responses will not be shared with any Northern faculty, police or community service agency.

The enclosed questionnaire asks about safety in K.I. Sawyer, about police priorities, and about the performance of police personnel. By completing this survey you will be able to share your experiences and provide specific suggestions about how your local police agencies can better serve our current and future residents at K.I. Sawyer.

Please take about 10 minutes to complete this very brief survey and return it in the enclosed self address stamped envelope in the next few days. Thank you very much for helping me with this project. I would like to thank you for your time and emphasize how important your participation is to this research, as well as to K.I. Sawyer.

If you have any questions regarding your involvement as a research subject you may contact Dr. Cynthia Prosen, Dean of Graduate Studies of Northern Michigan University (906-227-2300) cprosen@nmu.edu. If you have any questions regarding the nature of this research project, they will be answered by Dr. Thomas Capers (906-227-1615) ccapers@nmu.edu.

Thank you in advance.

Gabriel Green

APPENDIX B: EFFECTIVENESS OF DETERRENT STRATEGIES

Reasons for a Dedicated Police Post at K. I. Sawyer

A police force is needed. Without one, the response time is very slow. Also, a presence at Sawyer does stop crime before it happens. Less car vandalism when they were here.

Police presence is very important.

To feel safer.

We live here for space and low cost housing but we shouldn't have to be without police officers here just because we don't have any money.

It would help cut down on the crime and other things that go on around here.

I believe there would be a lot less violence and drug abuse if there was a constant presence.

Being a single mom, I fear something is going to happen to me and it will take a long time for the police to show up. I also think Sawyer is not taken seriously when it comes to the police.

Being in a somewhat secluded area from "local" officers, it would be reassuring and comforting knowing that in an emergency, help is not too far away.

For obvious reasons.

My neighborhood is quiet but the other side of K.I. Sawyer needs a lot better coverage to stop vandalism, drugs, gang activity etc.

We need more. When we called about dogs or anything they get here way too late. We need them here when something is happening.

Quicker response time to crimes, more police presence (deterrent) to crime.

More employment.

A police post at K.I. Sawyer would help change the perception that K.I. Sawyer is an unsafe place to live. It would help clean up the problems we have at K.I. Sawyer and deter any criminal activity from moving in.

Don't have to wait for the police, they will be here. Police presence equals less crime.

Response time is unsatisfactory.

There are like 3000 residents to date.

There use to be a police post here and (2) police officers who used to live right on K.I. Sawyer who got free rent but that was 10 years ago.

They would keep crime down.

I would feel a lot safer if there was a police post near my house.

To have police nearby.

For quicker response time.

Presence deters...When the law is present...Border activities decline, especially for potential first time Law breakers.

It worked in the past when the state police were assigned here.

More police for 24 hour protection.

Shorter response time.

To provide faster response and a lawful presence. Presence is a great deterrent.

Greater presence equals less crime/problems.

I am trying to make it on my own; it would be nice to have police officers around so the crime would go down. I don't think we are taken seriously here by the other police departments.

I believe one is needed desperately.

A faster response time.

Concentrated on the base.

Helps improve response time, increase community involvement, and get better people on base and a better perception of safety.

Would be closer, easier and quicker to get to wherever the crime is and its lots closer than in town. We need a police office open here.

Because K.I. needs a full time officer for better response time and stop some of the things going on here.

Quicker response time and just knowing that there is someone here.

For quicker response time and for a deterrent for crime.

Presence helps, response time will be a little better.

More police presence might keep the kids in order and out of trouble. Also, better response time for emergencies.

It is extremely important that we have their presence in base. Just knowing they are "around" helps minimize the activity. It is scary without them.

We need a police presence.

Traffic and drugs.

There is too much drugs and the traffic is terrible.

Would keep the kids out of trouble. (Under 18).

The presence of the officers would deter criminal activity.

Maybe people would behave better if they knew police were close.

Every community needs police presence.

We need it because there are a lot of people out here.

For protection.

State police force is being cut; County police are 23 miles away-15 min. In an emergency, the Township police in the evening are limited by where they are.

As long as they go after the people that need to be gotten, not people that are just minding their own business (like riding their bikes to the trails)

If anything to enforce a curfew of everyone out walking and in the streets past 11:00PM.

In my opinion, nobody needs to be out that late because that is when most crimes are committed.

Because the whole base isn't covered by one police agency.

Helps keep crime in check, people speed through roads, lets kids know there's consequences to their actions.

Feel more secure and feel their presence would deter crime.

To help watch out for vandalism and all the minors that are not being watched by anyone.

Faster response to emergencies.

There are a lot of people at Sawyer and there is a need for a police presence, especially in the summer when vandalism is high.

Sawyer is a growing community. Although I have not been a victim of crime, I have heard that there are areas of high crime. It would be a comfort to many residents to have a police post at Sawyer.

Maybe it would cut down on the hoodlums who run around at night yelling through the neighborhood and breaking into the empty places.

It would keep the teenagers in line.

Presence of police as a deterrent.

I think a presence on base would help be a deterrent for someone planning a criminal act.

Lots of young teenagers out causing damage.

Changes regarding the Local Police at K.I. Sawyer

Not having to pay money to make a police report.

I wish they were closer.

Have them be available out here at Sawyer. I think my family is among a minority out here simply because we obey the law. A lot of people who don't obey the law move out here. They know there is less police coverage and they commit more crimes and not get caught.

Having police patrol as much as they could will cut down on crime and other things that go on around here.

To be taken seriously.

We used the 911 service recently and it took over 20 minutes for anyone to show up.

More coverage where the trouble makers are.

We need them here for anything. We need to feel if we call they will be here and will help with everything, even dogs.

More drive bys (presence) in community.

We need a police force that can be run 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To take us seriously.

More local police.

When a police officer is called comes out on a call, a report has to be mandatory.

More police officers.

More police officers in general.

How long it takes them to respond and their attitude about my side of the base. The police say it is worse than the other side and I feel it is 50/50.

More police driving around the neighborhood.

Faster response time.

Better attitudes especially towards K.I. Sawyer residents.

Being more active in the community as a help to keep Sawyer safe.

The attitude that if you don't like the conditions and events at Sawyer, then live or move elsewhere. If you don't like it, leave.

Investigate and follow up better.

Respect for K.I. Sawyer.

A Less lackadaisical attitude towards minor crimes committed on base.

Need more officers.

Professionalism, Presence.

More officers would be nice and we need a police station here.

Spend more time on K.I. Sawyer. Most of the problem is not enough officers to go around, so we lose out here at K.I.

K.I. residents are not viewed as favorable as other communities and K.I. isn't seen as a safe place to live. If police response time and attitudes improves, so should the quality of life.

More community activities involving them and more of a visible presence in the sketchy areas and where kids congregate.

We need more of a police presence.

Have them out here more.

They need to be on K.I. more.

I would like to see the Forsyth Police department receive more funding for police officers.

We need more police officers.

I believe the State police are great however; the county and Twp. Police look down on you the moment they know you are from the base. There is more than one style of people who live here.

Keep a better eye on kids late at night. There is no reason for them to be out late at night.

Investigating and prosecuting theft.

More presence.

Get more officers on staff to be at Sawyer 24/7/365.

I would like to see drive bys, checking buildings at different times.

We definitely need a post out here. Watch for kids who seem up to something... They usually are, trust me.

Their idea that not all people out here are trouble, poor and on welfare.

They need to be at Sawyer.

More coverage, be more visible to the public.