

Understanding the Perceived Impact of Facebook Neighbourhoods on Property Crime in Vancouver, B.C.

Invitation: You are invited to take a short survey for this study because you live in Vancouver and are part of a Vancouver-based Facebook Neighbourhood Group (SFU Study #3000377).

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to explore perceptions of the crime prevention aspect of Vancouver Facebook Neighbourhood Groups (FNGs) in Vancouver. Your responses will be used to help advance our understanding how useful FNGs are, in terms of crime prevention.

This research is undertaken Marika Lopez, BA (Hons) as part of the Master of Arts in Criminology program at Simon Fraser University, Canada. This research is not funded and there are no conflicts of interest to report. This project is anticipated to be published in the Summer of 2027.

Voluntary Participation:

Your participation is voluntary. You have the right to refuse to participate in this study. If you decide to participate, you may still choose to withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences to the education, employment, or other services to which you are entitled or are presently receiving.

This survey should take around 10-15 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary, and you can skip any question you do not want to answer. Please avoid providing identifying details in your responses.

Study Procedures:

If you agree to participate in the study, you will be asked to spend between 10-15 minutes filling out a survey questionnaire (“Understanding the Perceived Impact of Facebook Neighbourhood Groups on Property Crime in Vancouver, B.C.”) consisting of multiple choice, scaled and open-response questions. The questions ask about your Facebook Neighbourhood Group, perception of the group, perception of property crime and perception of the Vancouver Police Department. Your participation in each and every question is optional.

Potential Risks of the Study:

We do not think there is anything in this study that could harm you or be bad for you. Some of the questions we ask might bring up indirect emotional responses to personal discourse regarding property crimes.

Potential Benefits of the Study:

The potential benefits of participating in this survey are your contribution to the progress of the field of digital community crime prevention in Vancouver. This research may lead to recommendations made to Vancouver City Hall and the Vancouver Police Department.

Payment:

This study is voluntary, and we cannot compensate you for your time.

Confidentiality:

No identifying information (name, email, phone number or IP address) is collected. Please avoid providing identifying details in your responses. You can exit this survey at any time, and your

responses will not be saved. Once submitted, responses are anonymous and cannot be traced back to you.

Data Security:

Data will be stored on my password protected, SFU OneDrive folder, where me and my supervisors will be the only ones with access. Data will be stored for 5 years after completion of this MA degree for future research purposes. Results may be published or presented at conferences, symposiums and other research-related events.

As SurveyMonkey is an external provider of service to SFU, support for the service is provided directly by SurveyMonkey. SFU policies and guidelines related to the use of personal information are subject to SFU's Terms of Service for SurveyMonkey. SurveyMonkey is hosted in Canada, however the parent company, SurveyMonkey, Inc. is owned and operated in the United States of America.

This is an anonymous survey, which is being conducted which is being conducted for Marika Lopez's thesis in SFU's MA in Criminology degree program. The information collected will only be used for this purpose.

Research data and contact information will be stored in two places: on SurveyMonkey's data server, based in the USA, and on the researcher's SFU OneDrive folder. The data will be password protected and only accessible to the research team. The data will be stored on the OneDrive folder for 5 years, following the thesis completion date. Risk of a data breach is minimal but participants should be aware that no information uploaded to the Internet can be considered secure in perpetuity.

Study results:

The results of this research will be made available as a published graduate thesis, which will be reviewed and supervised by the PI, Dr. Richard Frank, and Co-Investigator, Dr. Curt Griffiths, made public at the SFU Library Website. The results of this research may also be published in journal articles and books, and presented in conferences.

Contacts for information about this study:

If you are interested in learning more about the terms or processes mentioned in this survey, or have any questions about this topic, please contact the researcher at marika_lopez@sfu.ca
If you have any concerns about the direction of this survey, please contact the researcher's thesis supervisors, Dr. Richard Frank (richard_frank@sfu.ca), Dr. Curt T Griffiths (curt_griffiths@sfu.ca).

If you have any concerns about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, please contact the Director, Research Ethics and Security at hreb@sfu.ca or 778-782-6593.

By clicking "I consent" you confirm that you understand the purpose of this study and agree to voluntarily participate.

I have read the Participation Information section above. I understand the purpose and nature of this study. I understand that my participation is voluntary and anonymous, and that I can withdraw at any point prior to submission. I consent to participate in this survey.

- I consent
- I do not consent