

## Indiana Criminal Victimization Survey

# Property Crime Victims in Indiana

The Indiana Criminal Victimization Survey, a recent survey of Indiana citizens conducted by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), suggests that nearly 1 in 5 Indiana households were the victim of some type of property crime in 2010. During the summer and fall of 2011, researchers from the Indiana University Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) partnered with ICJI to analyze survey data and found that, generally, survey respondents who were younger (under the age of 35), less educated (individuals whose reported education level was *high school/GED graduate* or less), or lower income (a reported annual household income of less than \$50,000) were more likely to be a victim of property crime. This brief summarizes survey findings on the characteristics of Indiana property crime victims by four property crime categories: *household burglary, property theft, motor vehicle theft, and vandalism.*

### BACKGROUND

Consistent and reliable data are essential to the formation of informed criminal justice policy and the development of effective prevention and intervention programs. Additionally, information about rates and types of crime helps state and local criminal justice organizations attract the federal funds they need to support improved policy and program development.<sup>1</sup> In Indiana, some state and local law enforcement agencies report into the FBI Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), but no

### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

#### Survey Administration

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) commissioned the Glengariff Group, Inc. (Glengariff) to administer the Indiana Crime Victimization Survey of 2,500 Indiana residents. The survey was conducted between March 30, 2011 and April 16, 2011.

The survey instrument was designed by ICJI and Glengariff to obtain respondent data regarding criminal victimization and victim demographics. As part of the survey, participants were asked to indicate whether they, or, depending on the crime type, a member of their household were a victim of a number of crime types during 2010. The crimes covered four broad categories, including property crime (burglary, motor vehicle theft, property theft, and vandalism), violent crime (rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, assault, and robbery), threats of crime, and identity theft. Respondents that reported being victimized were asked follow-up questions regarding police notification of crime(s) and their relationship to the offender(s). Survey participants also were asked a series of demographic questions.

The survey results were based on completed telephone interviews with 2,500 adults ages 18 and older. Glengariff used random-digit dialing to contact participants. An interview was considered complete when the respondent completed the entire survey instrument. According to Glengariff, to obtain an accurate representation of the Indiana adult population, the survey sample was stratified by county, region, gender, age, and ethnicity according to population data reported by the 2010 United States Census. Glengariff also stratified Indiana counties into seven regions. The number of respondents required to complete the survey in each county was determined by the county's percentage of Indiana's total population.

Glengariff reported that results of the survey have a margin of error of +/- 1.96 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence.

#### Survey Analysis

ICJI requested the assistance of CCJR in analyzing and reporting survey findings, and ICJI provided the Indiana victimization survey data, survey instrument, and a brief overview of the Glengariff survey and sampling methodology. Survey results by individual respondent were supplied to CCJR in the form of an MS Excel data file. CCJR worked with ICJI staff to identify crime types to be covered in two topical briefs (property crime and identity theft) as well as select demographic variables by which results would be analyzed.

A difference between proportions test was performed to determine whether there was a statistically significant difference in victimization by the following demographic variable categories:

- **Age group** – 1) ages 34 and under; and, 2) ages 35 and over
- **Education level** – 1) less than associate degree; and, 2) associate degree or higher
- **Household income** – 1) less than \$50,000; and, 2) \$50,000 and over

A z-statistic was calculated to test the significance of the difference between the proportions of survey respondents who answered *Yes* and *No* to questions about victimization for each of the four property crime categories.

<sup>1</sup>Timely and Accurate Data Reporting Is Important for Fighting Crime, IU Center for Criminal Justice Research, Stucky and Thelin (2007).

*A research partnership between the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute  
and the IU Center for Criminal Justice Research*



**Table 1: Indiana victimization survey respondents, by property crime victimization, 2010**

Demographic characteristics	Survey population		Reported property crime victimization		Difference (percentage pts)
	Count	Percent	Count (incidents)	Percent	
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	1,250	50.0	314	48.2	-1.8
Female	1,250	50.0	337	51.8	1.8
<b>Age group</b>					
<i>Age (known)</i>	2,395	100.00	632	100.00	
18-24	103	4.3	46	7.3	3.0
25-34	231	9.6	99	15.7	6.0
35-44	589	24.6	166	26.3	1.7
45-54	611	25.5	144	22.8	-2.7
55-64	502	21.0	112	17.7	-3.2
65 or older	359	15.0	65	10.3	-4.7
Unknown/not reported	105	na	19	na	na
<b>Education level</b>					
<i>Education level (known)</i>	2,419	100.00	638	100.00	
Less than a high school diploma	130	5.4	49	7.7	2.3
High school/GED graduate	818	33.8	224	35.1	1.3
Some college	427	17.7	112	17.6	-0.1
Technical/vocation school or certificate	100	4.1	21	3.3	-0.8
Associate degree	196	8.1	58	9.1	1.0
College graduate	520	21.5	124	19.4	-2.1
Post graduate degree/work	228	9.4	50	7.8	-1.6
Unknown/not reported	81	na	13	na	na
<b>Household income</b>					
<i>Household income (known)</i>	1,690	100.00	467	100.00	
Less than \$10,000	135	8.0	49	10.5	2.5
\$10,000 - \$29,999	375	22.2	104	22.3	0.1
\$30,000 - \$49,999	387	22.9	133	28.5	5.6
\$50,000 - \$74,999	365	21.6	79	16.9	-4.7
\$75,000 - \$99,999	210	12.4	52	11.1	-1.3
\$100,000 or more	218	12.9	50	10.7	-2.2
Unknown/not reported	810	na	184	na	na

Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011



**Notes:**

*Property crime victims* are defined as survey respondents who identified themselves as a victim of *household burglary, property theft, motor vehicle theft, or vandalism* by answering "yes" to any of the following questions:

*Household burglary:* During 2010, did anyone break in or attempt to break into your home, garage, shed or other buildings on your property?

*Property theft:* During 2010, were any items such as bicycles, lawn furniture or toys, belonging to you or a household member stolen from OUTSIDE your home?

- Motor vehicle theft:*
- 1) During 2010, were any vehicles such as a car, truck, van, motorcycle, or moped belonging to you or a household member stolen?
  - 2) During 2010, were any vehicle accessories, such as tires, fuel, batteries, or hubcaps belonging to you or a household member stolen? These would be parts, not the full vehicle.
  - 3) During 2010, were any items such as cash, CDs, an iPod, cell phones, bags, purses, packages or any similar items taken from the inside of a vehicle belonging to you or a household member?

*Vandalism:* During 2010, did anyone vandalize, intentionally damage, or destroy any property belonging to you or a household member such as a vehicle, your home, farm equipment, a garage, a mailbox or other types of property?

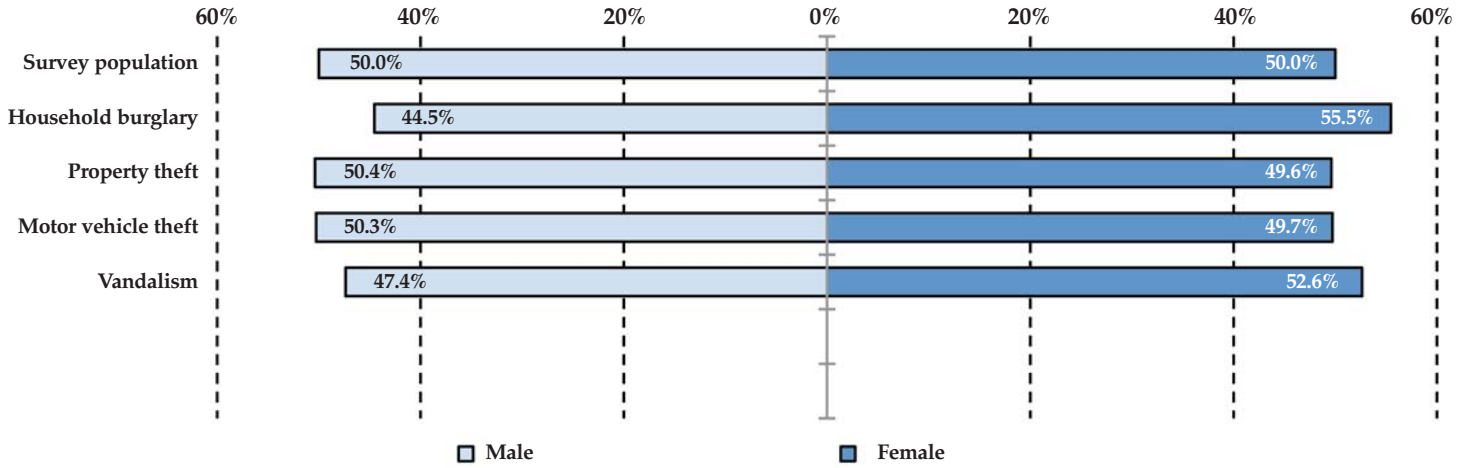
*Count (incidents)* is defined as the total number of reported incidents among each property crime type. Some survey respondents reported being the victim of more than one property crime. A total of 482 survey respondents reported they or someone in their household was the victim of one or more property crimes in 2010.

*Unknown/not reported* not included in percent calculations.

legislation exists that mandates the collection of crime data. Thus, crime data collection is voluntary and unregulated. In an effort to supplement reported Indiana crime data and to better understand crime and victimization in Indiana, ICJI conducted the first Indiana Criminal Victimization Survey in the spring of 2011 (see text box on Survey Methodology). The Indiana survey was designed to be similar to the annual National Crime

Victimization Survey (NCVS), conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. However, direct comparisons of Indiana data to national historical trends and other NCVS findings are not provided due to the fact that this is the first year for the Indiana survey and the survey instrument is less comprehensive in nature than the nationwide survey.

Figure 1: Percentage of Indiana property crime victims by gender, 2010



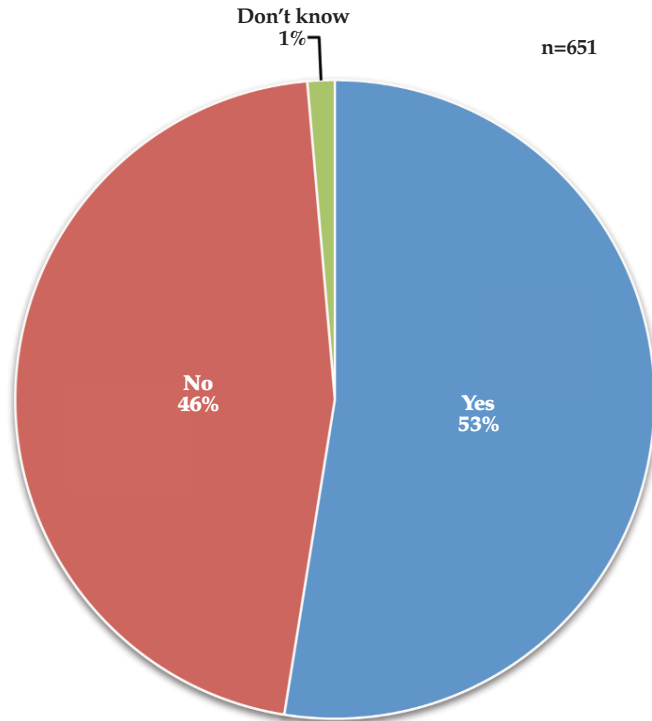
Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011

### PROPERTY CRIME - GENERAL

The Indiana Criminal Victimization Survey measures property crimes of *household burglary*, *property theft*, *motor vehicle theft*, and *vandalism*. Nearly 20 percent (482) of respondents reported a total of 651 property crime victimization incidents. Some survey respondents reported being the victim of more than one type of property crime. When compared to the total survey population, individuals who were younger (under the age of 35), less educated (individuals whose reported education level was *high school/GED graduate* or less), or lower income (a reported annual household income of less than \$50,000) represented a disproportionately high percentage of survey respondents who reported being a victim of property crime (Table 1). While the total survey population is evenly distributed by gender, women represent a disproportionately high percentage of respondents who reported being victims of household burglary (55.5 percent) and vandalism (52.6 percent) (Figure 1).

Among property crime victims, 46 percent indicated they did not report the crime to the police (Figure 2). *Property theft* and *motor vehicle theft* were the property crime types with the highest percentage of respondents who did not report the crime to police at 64.1 percent and 50.3 percent, respectively. *Believed the police would not be able to do anything or would be inefficient* (117) and *felt the offense was minor or not important* (105) were the reasons most frequently given for not reporting the crime to the police, accounting for 74 percent of property crime victim responses (Table 2). Respondents indicated that 61 percent of property crime victim incidents were committed by a *stranger or unknown person*, while 16 percent were committed by a person they *knew or had seen before* (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Property crime victims: Was the crime reported to the police by you or someone else?



Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011

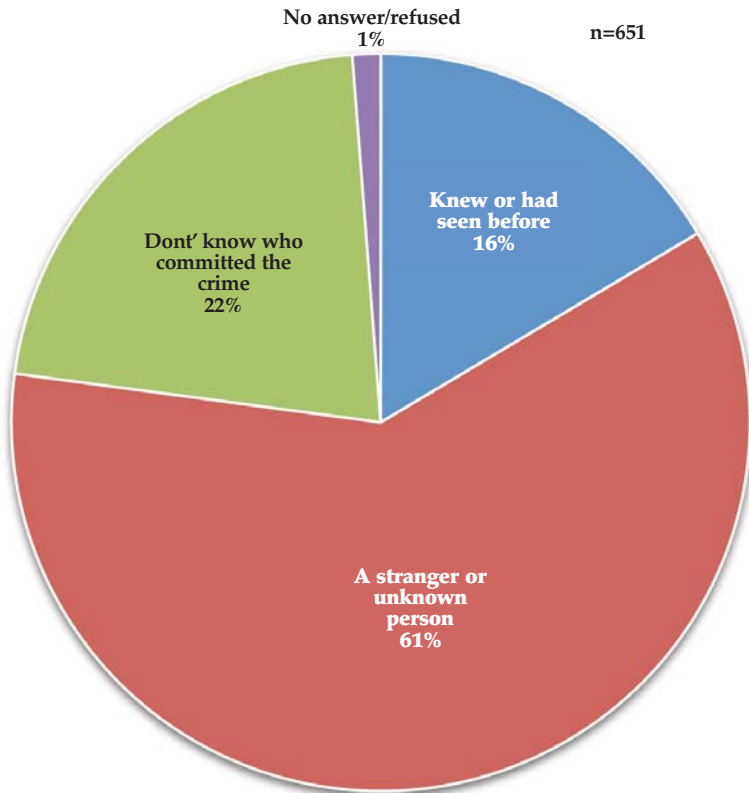
Note: n = total number of responses for each incident of property crime reported. Some respondents reported being a victim of more than one property crime.

**Table 2: Reasons given for not reporting crime to the police, by property crime type, 2010**

	Property crime type				
	Total	Household burglary	Property theft	Motor vehicle theft	Vandalism
<b>All property crime incidents</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>209</b>
Incidents where victim did not report crime to the police	300	30	84	92	94
<i>Percent not reporting crime to the police</i>	<i>46.1%</i>	<i>23.4%</i>	<i>64.1%</i>	<i>50.3%</i>	<i>45.0%</i>
<b>Reason not reported to the police</b>					
Believed it was a private or personal matter and the police didn't need to be involved	31	4	9	8	10
Believed the police would not be able to do anything or would be inefficient	117	9	28	34	46
Did not find out about it right away	28	4	7	12	5
Did not want to get the offender into trouble	6	0	4	2	0
Didn't know the incident was a crime	4	1	1	0	2
Feared the offender or others	1	0	0	0	1
Felt the offense was minor or not important	105	8	35	34	28
Other/don't know	8	4	0	2	2

Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011

**Figure 3: Property crime victims: Was the person who committed the crime someone you knew or had seen before, or was it a stranger or unknown person?**



Nearly 20 percent of survey respondents reported they or someone in their household had been a victim of property crime in 2010.

Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011

Note: n = total number of responses for each incident of property crime reported. Some respondents reported being a victim of more than one property crime.

## HOUSEHOLD BURGLARY

Five percent (123 of 2,500) of respondents stated that during 2010, they were the victim of *household burglary*. The 35 to 44 age group represented the largest portion (27.6 percent) of *Yes* responses to the question, *Did anyone break in or attempt to break into your home, garage, shed or other buildings on your property?* The percentage of household burglary victims that fell into the 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups was also disproportionately high when compared to the age distribution of *No* responses to this same question (Figure 4).

Thirty-seven percent of *household burglary* victims reported their education level to be a *high school/GED graduate*, compared to 34 percent among respondents who indicated they were not victims of household burglary. Respondents reporting their education level to be *less than a high school diploma* and *some college* also represented a disproportionately high percentage of household burglary victims when compared to those who indicated they were not victims of *household burglary*. Nearly 35 percent of *household burglary* victims reported their annual household income to be between \$30,000 and \$49,999.

For *household burglary*, the effect of age, education, and income was found to be statistically significant at a 90 percent confidence interval ( $p < .10$ ) (see Survey Methodology for an explanation of significance testing).

## PROPERTY THEFT

More than five percent (131 of 2,500) of respondents reported being the victim of *property theft*. Both the 35 to 44 and the 25 to 34 age groups represented disproportionately high percentages of property theft victims when compared to the age distribution of *No* responses to this same question (Figure 5). The largest portion of *Yes* responses to the question, *Were any items such as bicycles, lawn furniture or toys, belonging to you or a household member stolen from outside your home?* occurred in the 35 to 44 age group (29.5 percent).

Nearly 40 percent of *property theft* victims reported their education level to be a *high school/GED graduate*, compared to 34 percent among respondents who indicated they were not victims of *property theft*. Each of the three household income groups that fall below \$50,000 per year represented a disproportionately high percentage of *property theft* victims when compared to those who indicated they were not victims of *property theft*. Over 68 percent of *property theft* victims reported their annual household income to be less than \$50,000.

A statistically significant effect for both age and income was found at a 95 percent confidence interval ( $p < .05$ ). For *property theft*, the effect of education was not found to be statistically significant.

## MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Survey respondents reported a total of 183 incidents of *motor vehicle theft* in 2010. Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding victimization related to *motor vehicle theft*. Specifically, respondents were identified as victims of *motor vehicle theft* if they answered *Yes* to one or more of the following questions:

- Were any vehicles such as a car, truck, van, motorcycle, or moped belonging to you or a household member stolen?
- Were any vehicle parts, such as tires, fuel, batteries, or hubcaps belonging to you or a household member stolen?
- Were any items such as cash, CDs, an iPod, cell phones, bags, purses, packages, or any similar items taken from the inside of a vehicle belonging to you or a household member?

The 35 to 44 age group represented the largest portion (27.7 percent) of *motor vehicle theft* victims. The percentage of *motor vehicle theft* victims in both the 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups was also disproportionately high when compared to the age distribution of respondents who indicated that they were not victims of *motor vehicle theft* (Figure 6).

Each of the three household income groups that fall below \$50,000 per year represented a disproportionately high percentage of *motor vehicle theft* victims when compared to those who indicated they were not victims of *motor vehicle theft*. Nearly 64 percent of *motor vehicle theft* victims reported their annual household income to be less than \$50,000.

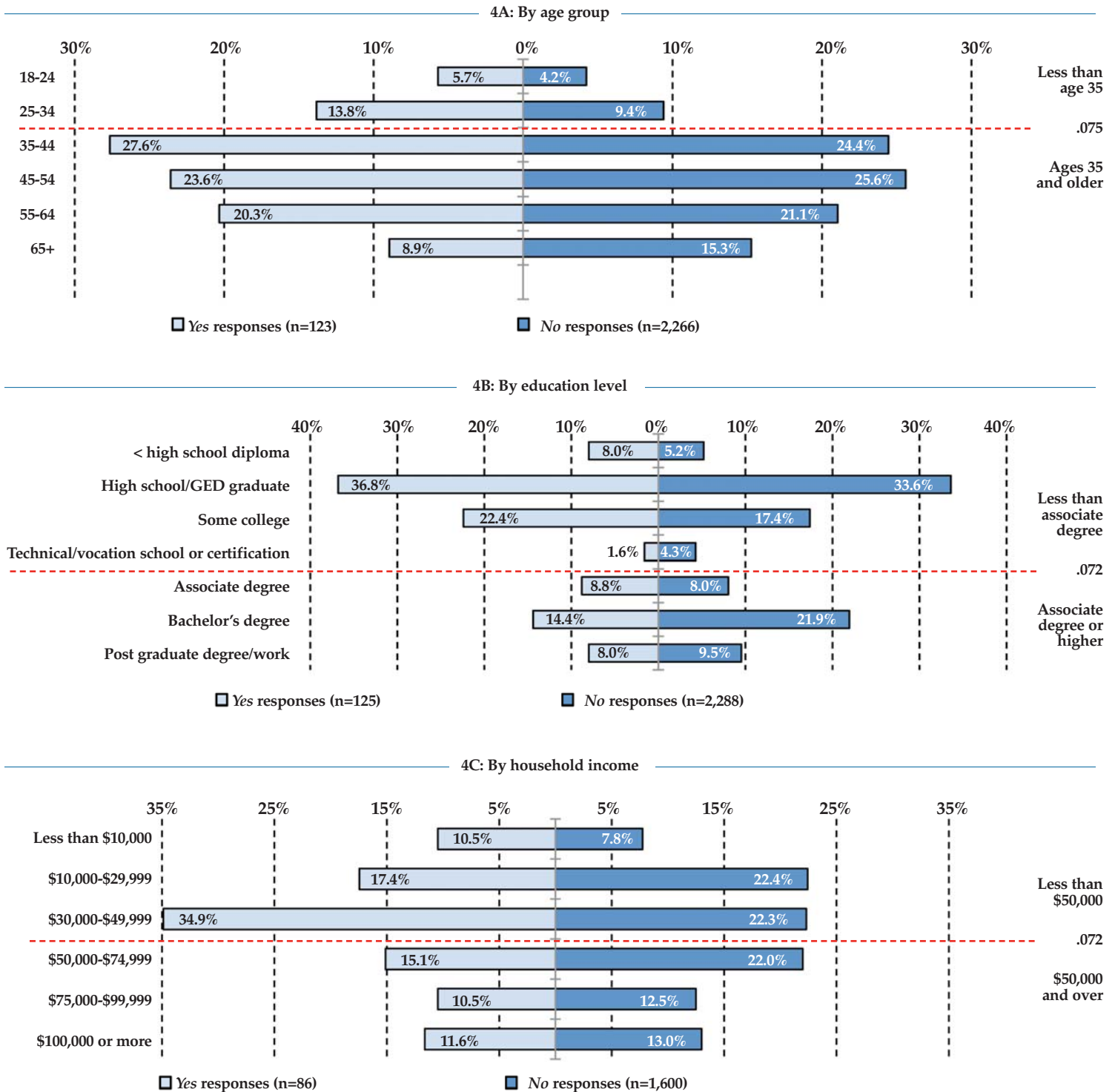
A statistically significant effect for both age and income was found at a 95 percent confidence interval ( $p < .05$ ). The effect of education on *motor vehicle theft* victimization was not found to be statistically significant.

## VANDALISM

Eight percent (209) of survey respondents reported being the victim of *vandalism* in 2010. The largest portion of *Yes* responses to the question, *Did anyone vandalize, intentionally damage or destroy any property belonging to you or a household member such as a vehicle, your home, farm equipment, a garage, a mailbox, or other types of property?* occurred in the 45 to 54 age group (27.1 percent). Both the 18 to 24 and the 25 to 34 age groups represented disproportionately high percentages of *vandalism* victims when compared to respondents who indicated that they were not victims of *vandalism* (Figure 7). Among *vandalism* victims, a statistically significant effect for age was found at a 95 percent confidence interval ( $p < .05$ ). The effect of education and income was not found to be statistically significant.



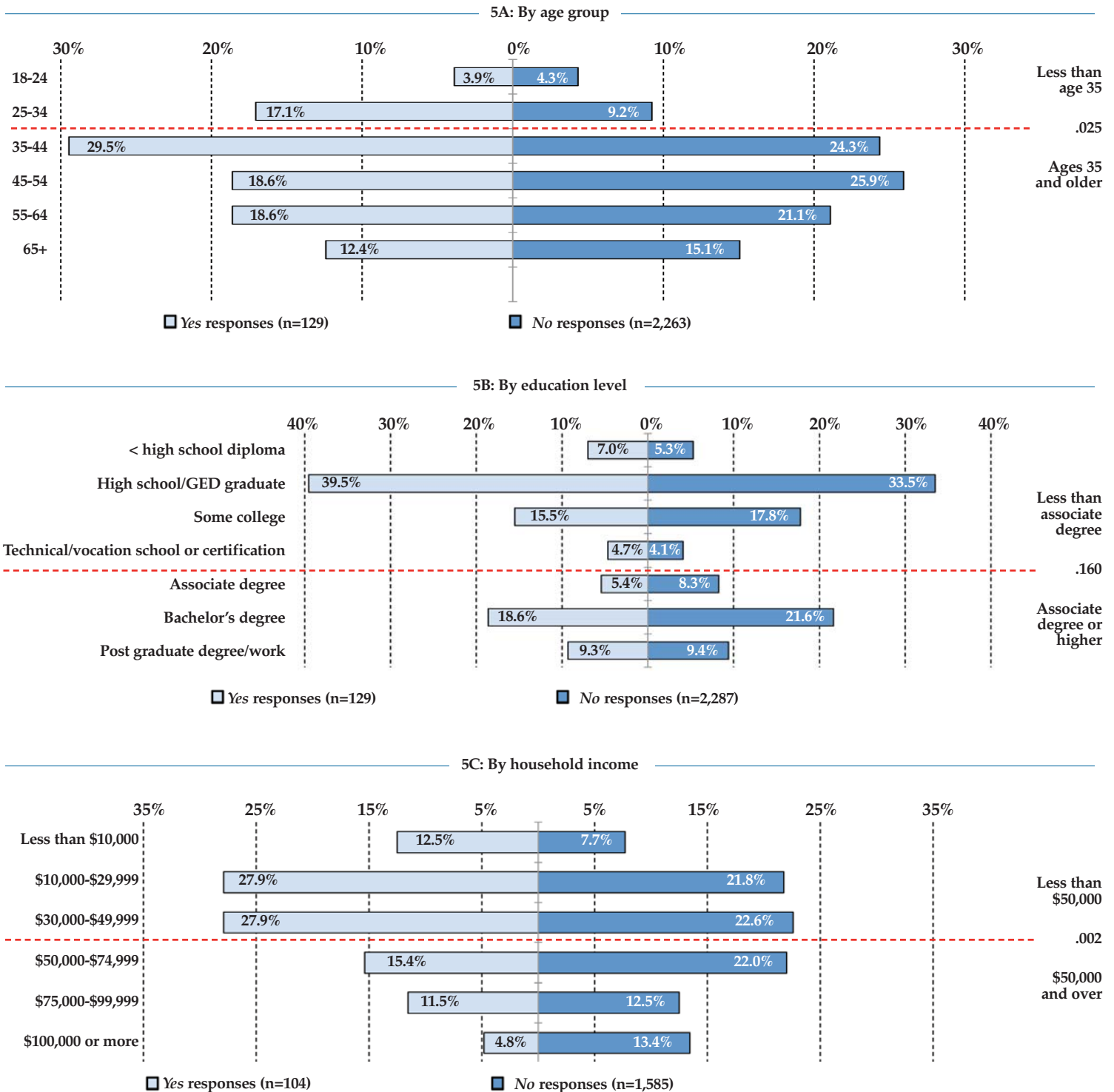
Figure 4: Indiana household burglary victims, by age group, education level, and household income, 2010



Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011

Notes:  
 Household burglary victims are those survey respondents who answered "yes" to the question, *During 2010, did anyone break in or attempt to break into your home, garage, shed or other buildings on your property?*  
 Yes/No responses for categories above the red line were compared to responses for categories below the red line to determine if differences were statistically significant  
 A statistically significant age effect (between respondents *less than age 35* and those *ages 35 and older*) was found at a 90% confidence level ( $p < .10$ ,  $z = 1.83$ ,  $p = .075$ ).  
 A statistically significant education effect (between respondents with *less than associate degree* and those with an *associate degree or higher*) was found at a 90% confidence level ( $p < .10$ ,  $z = 1.85$ ,  $p = .072$ ).  
 A statistically significant income effect (between respondents with incomes *less than \$50,000* and those with *incomes \$50,000 and over*) was found at a 90% confidence level ( $p < .10$ ,  $z = 1.85$ ,  $p = .072$ ).  
 Includes only responses where age (4A), education (4B), and income (4C) were reported.

Figure 5: Indiana property theft victims, by age group, education level, and household income, 2010



Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011

Notes:

Property theft victims are those survey respondents who answered "yes" to the question, *During 2010, were any items such as bicycles, lawn furniture or toys, belonging to you or a household member stolen from OUTSIDE your home?*

Yes/No responses for categories above the red line were compared to responses for categories below the red line to determine if differences were statistically significant

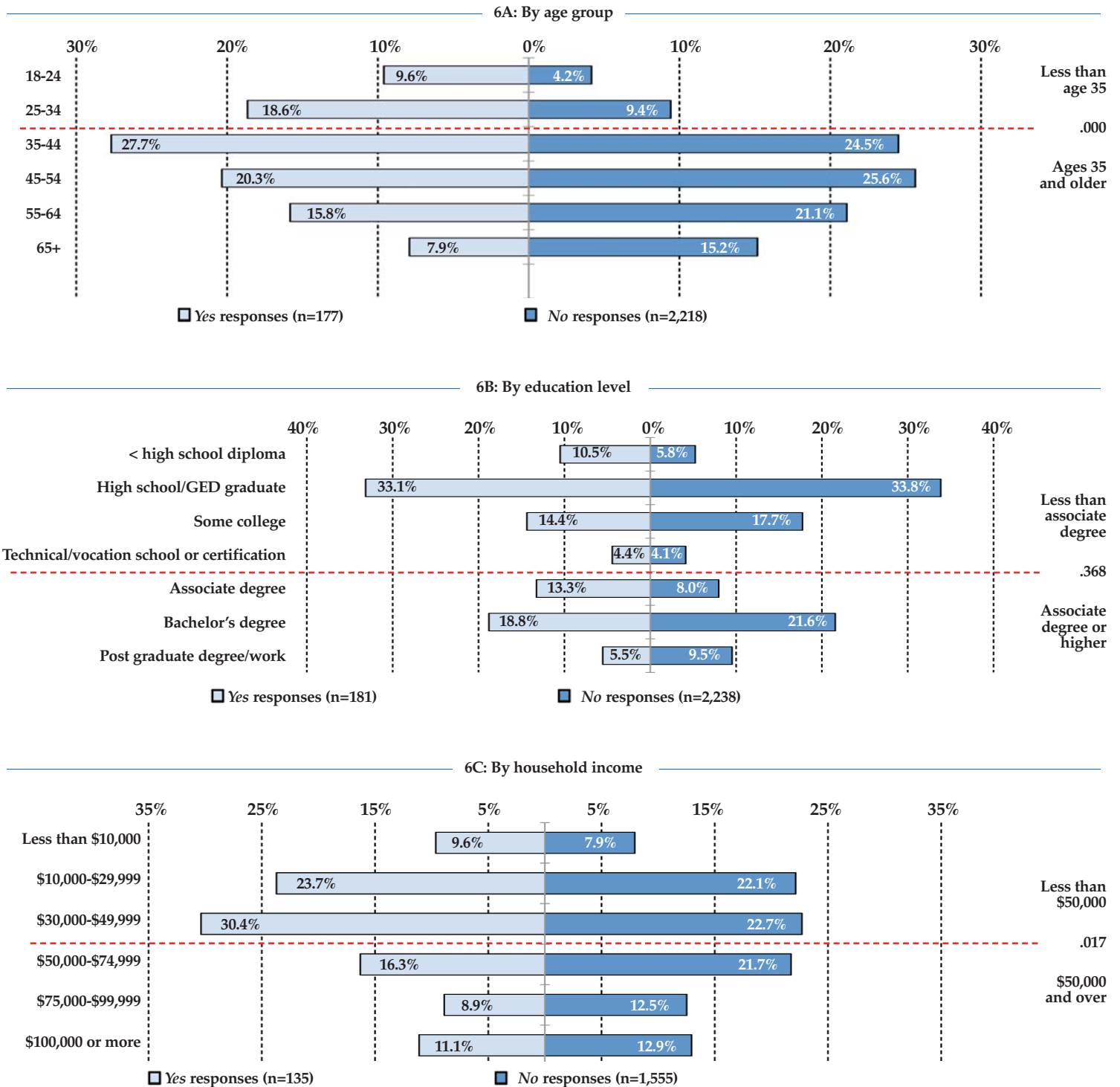
A statistically significant age effect (between respondents *less than age 35* and those *ages 35 and older*) was found at a 95% confidence level ( $p < .05$ ,  $z = 2.35$ ,  $p = .025$ ).

A statistically significant education effect (between respondents with *less than associate degree* and those with an *associate degree or more*) was not found to be significant,  $z = 1.35$ ,  $p = .160$ .

A statistically significant income effect (between respondents with incomes *less than \$50,000* and those with incomes *\$50,000 and over*) was found at a 95% confidence level ( $p < .05$ ,  $z = 3.21$ ,  $p = .002$ ).

Includes only responses where age (5A), education (5B), and income (5C) were reported.

Figure 6: Indiana motor vehicle theft victims, by age group, education level, and household income, 2010



Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011

Notes:

Motor vehicle theft victims are those survey respondents who answered "yes" to one or more of the following questions:

During 2010, were any vehicles such as a car, truck, van, motorcycle or moped belonging to you or a household member stolen?

During 2010, were any vehicle parts, such as tires, fuel, batteries, or hubcaps belonging to you or a household member stolen?

During 2010, were any items such as cash, CDs, an iPod, cell phones, bags, purses, packages or any similar items taken from the inside of a vehicle belonging to you or a household member?

Yes/No responses for categories above the red line were compared to responses for categories below the red line to determine if differences were statistically significant.

A statistically significant age effect (between respondents less than age 35 and those ages 35 and older) was found at a 95% confidence level ( $p < .05$ ),  $z = 5.56$ ,  $p = .000$ .

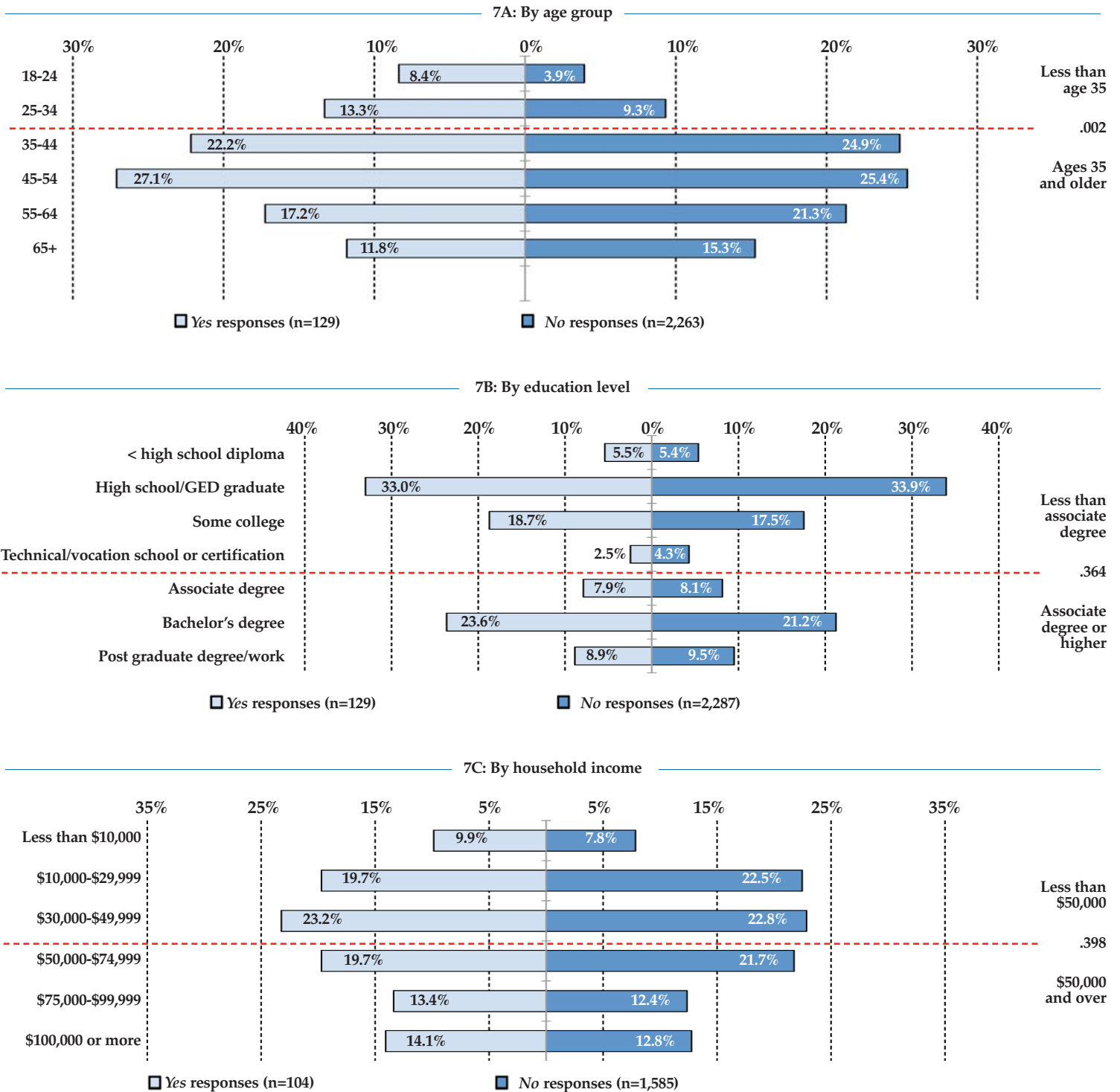
The education effect (between respondents with less than associate degree and those with an associate degree or higher) was not found to be significant,  $z = 0.404$ ,  $p = .368$ .

A statistically significant income effect (between respondents with incomes less than \$50,000 and those with incomes \$50,000 and over) was found at a 95% confidence level ( $p < .05$ ),  $z = 2.51$ ,  $p = .017$ .

Includes only responses where age (6A), education (6B), and income (6C) were reported.



Figure 7: Indiana victims of vandalism, by age group, education level, and household income, 2010



Source: Indiana Victimization Survey, ICJI, 2011

Notes:

Property theft victims are those survey respondents who answered "yes" to the question, *During 2010, were any items such as bicycles, lawn furniture or toys, belonging to you or a household member stolen from OUTSIDE your home?*

Yes/No responses for categories above the red line were compared to responses for categories below the red line to determine if differences were statistically significant. A statistically significant age effect (between respondents *less than age 35* and those *ages 35 and older*) was found at a 95% confidence level ( $p < .05$ ,  $z = 3.32$ ,  $p = .002$ ). The education effect (between respondents with *less than associate degree* and those with an *associate degree or higher*) was not found to be significant,  $z = -0.43$ ,  $p = .364$ . The income effect (between respondents with incomes *less than \$50,000* and those with incomes *\$50,000 and over*) was not found to be significant,  $z = -0.07$ ,  $p = .398$ . Includes only responses where age (7A), education (7B), and income (7C) were reported.



This publication was prepared on behalf of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) by the Indiana University Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR).

An electronic copy of this document can be accessed via the CCJR website ([www.ccjr.iupui.edu](http://www.ccjr.iupui.edu)), the ICJI website ([www.in.gov/cji/](http://www.in.gov/cji/)), or you may contact the Center for Criminal Justice Research at 317-261-3000.

### **The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute**

Guided by a Board of Trustees representing all components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety, and victim services. ICJI develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.

### **Indiana University Public Policy Institute**

The Indiana University (IU) Public Policy Institute is a collaborative, multidisciplinary research institute within the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Indianapolis. The Institute serves as an umbrella organization for research centers affiliated with SPEA, including the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment and the Center for Criminal Justice Research. The Institute also supports the Office of International Community Development and the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR).

### **The Center for Criminal Justice Research**

The Center for Criminal Justice Research, one of two applied research centers currently affiliated with the Indiana University Public Policy Institute, works with public safety agencies and social services organizations to provide impartial applied research on criminal justice and public safety issues. CCJR provides analysis, evaluation, and assistance to criminal justice agencies; and community information and education on public safety questions. CCJR research topics include traffic safety, crime prevention, criminal justice systems, drugs and alcohol, policing, violence and victimization, and youth.

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