



ARCHIVED - Archiving Content

Archived Content

Information identified as archived is provided for reference, research or recordkeeping purposes. It is not subject to the Government of Canada Web Standards and has not been altered or updated since it was archived. Please contact us to request a format other than those available.

ARCHIVÉE - Contenu archivé

Contenu archivé

L'information dont il est indiqué qu'elle est archivée est fournie à des fins de référence, de recherche ou de tenue de documents. Elle n'est pas assujettie aux normes Web du gouvernement du Canada et elle n'a pas été modifiée ou mise à jour depuis son archivage. Pour obtenir cette information dans un autre format, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

This document is archival in nature and is intended for those who wish to consult archival documents made available from the collection of Public Safety Canada.

Some of these documents are available in only one official language. Translation, to be provided by Public Safety Canada, is available upon request.

Le présent document a une valeur archivistique et fait partie des documents d'archives rendus disponibles par Sécurité publique Canada à ceux qui souhaitent consulter ces documents issus de sa collection.

Certains de ces documents ne sont disponibles que dans une langue officielle. Sécurité publique Canada fournira une traduction sur demande.

HV
7431
C322
2000

Canadian Attitudes Towards the Prevention of Crime

Final Report

October 4, 2000

Copyright of this document does not belong to the Crown.
Proper authorization must be obtained from the author for
any intended use.
Les droits d'auteur du présent document n'appartiennent
pas à l'État. Toute utilisation du contenu du présent
document doit être approuvée préalablement par l'auteur.

Submitted to:

National Crime Prevention Centre
The MacDonald Building
123 Slater Street, 9th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

LIBRARY
SOLICITOR GENERAL CANADA
NOV 26 2003
BIBLIOTHÈQUE
SOLLICITEUR GENERAL CANADA
OTTAWA (ONTARIO)
K1A 0P8

Submitted by:

Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Head Office: 99 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1100, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L7 - Tel: (613) 235-7215 - Fax: (613) 235-8498
Toronto Branch: 480 University Avenue, Suite 1006, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2 - Tel: (416) 598-8002 - Fax: (416) 598-2543

E-mail: pobox@ekos.com
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

HV
7431
C322
2000

HV
7431
C322
2000

Canadian Attitudes Towards the Prevention of Crime

Final Report

October 4, 2000

Copyright of this document does not belong to the Crown.
Proper authorization must be obtained from the author for
any intended use.
Les droits d'auteur du présent document n'appartiennent
pas à l'État. Toute utilisation du contenu du présent
document doit être approuvée préalablement par l'auteur.

Submitted to:

National Crime Prevention Centre
The MacDonald Building
123 Slater Street, 9th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

LIBRARY
SOLICITOR GENERAL CANADA
NOV 26 2003
BIBLIOTHÈQUE
SOLLICITEUR GENERAL CANADA
OTTAWA (ONTARIO)
K1A 0P8

Submitted by:

Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Head Office: 99 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1100, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L7 - Tel: (613) 235-7215 - Fax: (613) 235-8498
Toronto Branch: 480 University Avenue, Suite 1006, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2 - Tel: (416) 598-8002 - Fax: (416) 598-2543
E-mail: pobox@ekos.com
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Outline

- A.** Objectives and Methodology
- B.** Overview of Quantitative Findings by Study Themes
- C.** Detailed Survey Results
 - i. Key Indicators of the Public Opinion Landscape
 - ii. Crime Victimization
 - iii. Perceptions of Crime
 - iv. Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System and Crime Prevention
 - v. Crime Prevention Implementation and Roles
- D.** Appendix
 - i. Annotated Survey Questionnaire
 - ii. Focus Group Guide



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

A. →

Objectives and Methodology

Objectives

- The purpose of the research is to provide a better understanding of potential target markets for messaging, communications and programming activities consistent with the goals and responsibilities of the National Crime Prevention Centre.
- More specifically, this study:
 - ✓ Measures broad perceptions of crime
 - ✓ Examines and compares attitudes to crime prevention and other methods of crime reduction
 - ✓ Measures attitudes towards the effectiveness of crime prevention programs
 - ✓ Exposes some of the underlying values and beliefs driving public imagery and perceptions of crime prevention policy
 - ✓ Gauges public awareness and knowledge of crime prevention programs and activities
 - ✓ Appraises the appetite for, and receptivity to, information and messages about crime prevention



Ekos Research
Associates Inc.

Methodology (a)

- Two-fold linked approach incorporating quantitative (telephone survey of the General Public) and qualitative (focus group) facets of public opinion research.
- National stratified random sample of 1,520 interviews
 - ✓ Pan-Canadian results valid to within ± 2.6 percentage points at a confidence level of 95 per cent
 - ✓ Statistical error margins are larger for regions and other demographic sub-groups
 - ✓ Interviewing conducted July 17th to July 28th, 2000

Methodology (b)

- A series of 4 clustered focus groups were conducted during the period of August 29th to September 7th, 2000. Discussion groups were held in each of Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.
- The purpose of the focus groups was to complement the survey research on Canadian attitudes towards crime prevention and crime prevention policy.
- In each location, the clustered focus groups were set up as a series of four or five successive triads, segmented according to previously identified dimensions. In each triad, the participants shared similar values, priorities, and attitudes towards crime prevention issues. The targeted participants were members of the general public who had taken part in the quantitative survey on crime prevention issues.



Ekos Research
Associates Inc.



Overview of Quantitative Findings by Study Themes

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Overview of Quantitative Findings by Study Themes

Key indicators of the Public Opinion Landscape

- This series of questions and indicators provide an important substantive context to frame the findings. Ekos' long-term tracking of certain questions also provides a longer timeframe in which to look at the changes that may be occurring, in terms of the magnitude and the direction of changes. There is continued evidence of what we have called a new "humanomic" ethic: a desire to blend economic and social policy with a greater emphasis on active human investment (e.g., skills, early childhood intervention, etc.) over traditional passive social investments (e.g., welfare).
- The survey reveals that Canadians are increasingly optimistic about their personal future. Other studies have shown that fewer and fewer Canadians feel like they have lost control over their economic future. In a parallel measure, there has also been a steady decline in the proportion of Canadians who are "culturally" insecure. Cultural insecurity, and its proxy measurement nostalgia, refers to the sense of unnerving change and incertitude. The economic rebound, as indicated by macro-economic measurements such as successive periods of lower unemployment figures, appears to have had a positive (albeit lagged) impact on these measures of public confidence and security.
- Despite these increasingly optimistic soundings, there is also a clear sense that Canada is facing serious problems and challenges. A majority of Canadians do not think the problems surrounding poverty are exaggerated. There is also a clear split on whether governments present a positive or negative force in their lives.
- Human capital priorities for government continue to supersede fiscal priorities. Improved economic indicators may be driving the demand for increased attention to human investment issues such as health care and education. The priorities set for crime and justice also remain high, indicating not only a search for security but also a search for a healthier society. Looking at the goals and values for government, security outweighs prevention, however there are indications that the relative importance of security is waning.

- Overall, Canadians show a keen interest in public issues and have a sustained, strong sense of belonging to Canada and to the community. However, on all these issues of priority, economic optimism and measures of civic culture, the results are heterogeneous. The segmentation of the population reveals that key areas where Canadians differentiate themselves, both in terms of what messages they identify with and what actions or policies they would be most receptive to.

Crime Victimization and Perceptions of Crime

- The series of questions relating to exposure to crime and the sense of vulnerability Canadians have towards crime are an important measurement, beyond the backdrop statistical data on crime rates.
- First, there is a disjuncture between who is perceived to be vulnerable to being a victim of crime and who has actually been a victim of a crime. While Canadians tend to think low SES, women, and older people are the most vulnerable to crime, results show that exposure to crime is more highly concentrated among the exact *opposite* demographic groups. Canadians appear to be receiving or interpreting distorted messages about crime and crime prevention, which in turn is reflected in the distorted sense of urgency they express about the crime rate in Canada.
- Overall, most feel their neighbourhoods are safe, especially from violent crime. Exposure to property crime, however, is more widespread among Canadians. A greater proportion of respondents, while still a minority, believe that it is very likely they will be a victim of a property crime within the next year. And while fear of violent crime victimization is more highly concentrated among lower SES and women in particular, exposure and risk with regard to property crime is more widespread.
- How does this affect the perception of crime and crime prevention in Canada? The disconnect between the fears, anxieties and actual exposure is evident when we ask whether or not the crime rate is increasing in their community. Approximately half as many Canadians are inclined to say that crime is increasing in their community, compared to the proportion who say that crime is on the rise in Canada.

- The same patterns are in evidence when we look at different types of crime. According to Canadians, the incidence of crime in their community is consistently lower (less likely to be increasing) than it is in Canada. The gap narrows (to a 14 percentage point difference) around property crime and youth crime but it is substantially larger when we ask Canadians to think about violent crime and family violence. The extreme example is hate crimes, which appear to be increasing elsewhere in Canada but not in their community at anywhere near the same extent. Cyber and computer crimes are also affecting the community to a much lesser extent. Although messages and information appear to be widespread, there is no strong local identification with these types of crimes.
- No single factor accounts for the increase or decrease in crime. There is a strong recognition that a combination of factors working together, both upstream and downstream, affect the rate of criminality.
- Looking at a number of factors that may have contributed to the increase in the overall crime rate both in the community and in Canada, Canadians are more inclined to say that a lenient criminal justice system has the greatest impact on the increase in the crime rate. Coming a close second is deteriorating family values, especially looking at the crime rate at a community level. Respondents are more likely to assign a greater importance to poverty as a factor contributing to the increase in crime in the country compared to the increase in crime in the community. The contribution of insufficient crime prevention is deemed to less important compared to these other aforementioned factors.
- On the other hand, when we asked them how these factors may have contributed to the *decrease* in the overall crime rate (asked of those who thought the crime rate was decreasing), we find that an increased emphasis on crime prevention has a more positive outcome on the crime rate.
- Although there is room for discussion on the factors that have contributed to the increase or decrease in the crime rate – simply by the fact that not all of these factors may have been present to the same degree for their effect to register with a comparable intensity – there is a schism on the genus of criminality.

Later exploration in focus groups indicate that there is a stark contrast between those who believe a lenient criminal justice system produces crime and those who believe poverty and a poor family situation are the major causes of crime. The subsequent segmentation analysis in response to this survey reveals some strong clustering around values, attitudes and beliefs about crime prevention. Pivotal to these beliefs is the question of the factors that produce crime.

Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System and Crime Prevention

- Although prevention gets the nod as the main goal for the criminal justice system, Canadians are divided (and perhaps confused) about what they mean by crime prevention. Comparing the ideal (the goal of the criminal justice system) and what they see as the most effective means for reducing crime, it is obvious that they are not always one and the same. Providing opportunity and training for youths may be the best way to prevent crime, but in the short run, community policing is seen as the most effective way to invest in crime reduction. As a long-term investment, social development is seen as a better example of crime prevention (programs that support parents and children, recreational activities for youth) than approaches that focus on deterrence and avoidance. However, when Canadians are asked what has led to an increase in the crime rate, they are more likely to point to a lenient justice system. Balancing the long-term benefits of social development with the short-term benefits gained by a tougher "enforcement" approach appears to be one of the challenges facing Canadians on the issue of crime prevention.
- Are crime prevention programs effective? Canadians offer no ringing endorsement, but then again, most are unable to identify a single crime prevention program in their community. The low awareness of actual crime prevention programs is symptomatic of the disconnection Canadians feel with regard to crime in their community. There is a lack of exposure and effective communications from community crime prevention programs.

- Concern for safety is the top priority, outweighing the economic costs of crime or societal/personal values two to one. However, a large majority of Canadians are willing to recognize the extended benefits of crime prevention, the spill-over effect of increased social development initiatives. With that in mind, there is a broad sense that government should continue to place an important emphasis (if not increased emphasis) on crime prevention in Canada.
- There is a widely-shared belief that crime prevention provides a healthy return on investment. However, Canadians are not willing to swallow the message blindly and without reservation. There is a strong degree of scepticism about the effectiveness and appropriateness of crime prevention. Accountability and measurement, as well as evaluation of crime prevention programs, are important aspects of the relationship of trust that Canadians have with government interventions and involvement.

Crime Prevention Implementation and Roles

- Community involvement and partnerships with police, government and schools are very appealing to Canadians when they look at crime prevention. Successful implementation of crime prevention programs is within reach of all of these groups, especially when they are seen to be working together.
- There is wide support for active government involvement in crime prevention programs. Not only do Canadians support the emphasis that government puts on crime prevention, there is also support for wide-reaching activities and interventions for the federal government.
- The low credibility assigned to politicians on crime prevention may be an indication of the rising cynicism towards government and political figures. Experts, specialists and community groups are perceived as far more credible on this issue. This reinforces the need to form partnerships between government, police and the communities when addressing crime prevention strategies.

C. →

Detailed Survey Results

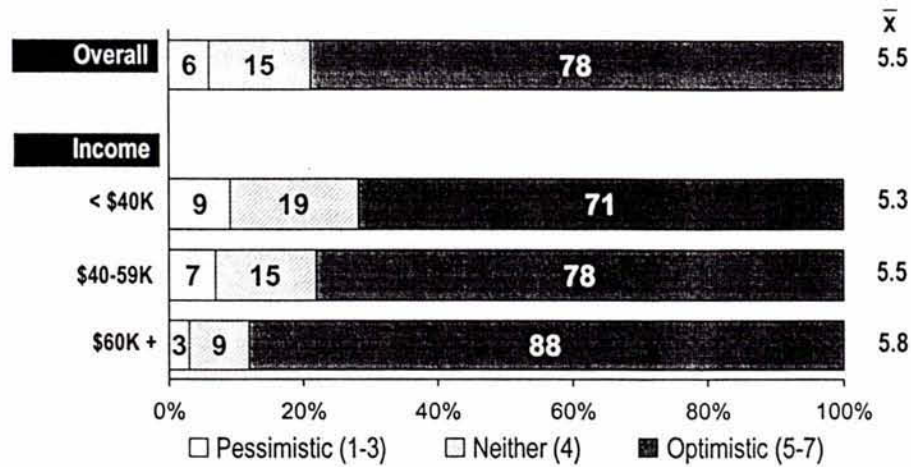


Key Indicators of the Public Opinion Landscape



Optimism About Personal Future

“Thinking about your personal future, how would you describe yourself?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

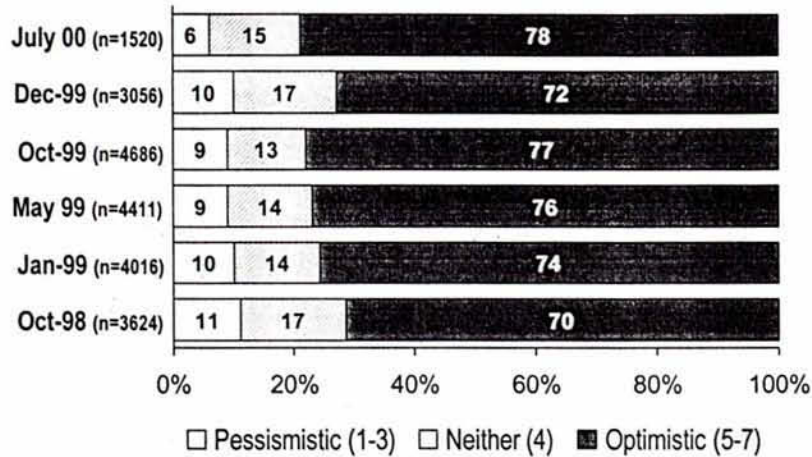
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- A strong majority of Canadians (78 per cent) are optimistic about their personal future. Very few (six per cent) are outright pessimistic about their personal prospects.
 - The proportion of optimistic respondents increases among Canadians with higher household incomes and respondents with higher educational attainment.
 - Younger Canadians (under the age of 25) are among the most optimistic about their personal future.

Tracking Personal Optimism

“Thinking about your personal future, how would you describe yourself?”



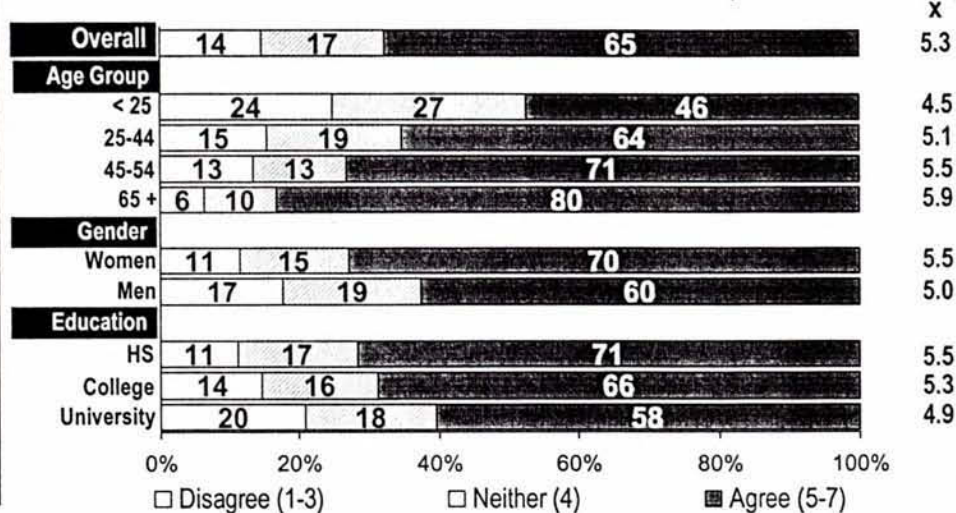
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- The proportion of Canadians indicating that they are optimistic about their personal future steadily increased over the course of a year, from October 1998 to October 1999. From the slight downturn in December 1999 (72 per cent optimistic), it rebounded in July 2000 to its highest level since the initial tracking point in October 1998.
- The steady improvement in the levels of personal optimism reflects macro-economic indicators. There is (finally) a sense that the economy is improving and will continue to do so.

Cultural Insecurity

"The Canada I remember when I was growing up was a safer, more comfortable, more harmonious place to live."



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

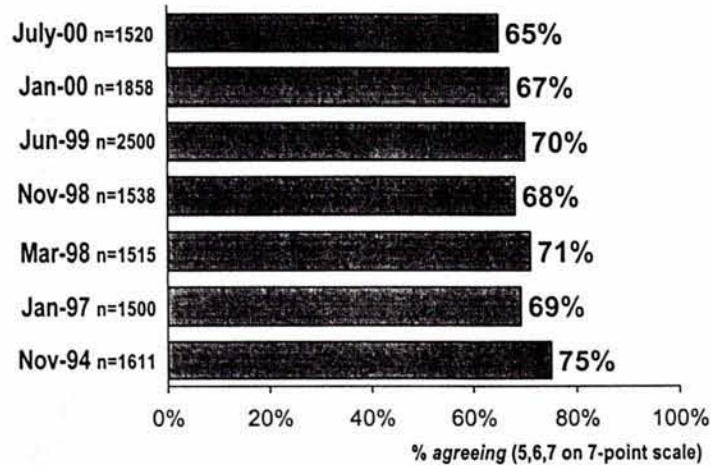
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Nearly two out of three Canadians are inclined to agree that the Canada they remember when growing up was a safer, more comfortable, more harmonious place to live. This measurement of nostalgia is a proxy for insecurity, that is, an unsettled fear that one's culture is in danger of disappearing.
 - There is some difference between men and women but most of the variation can be accounted for in the age demographic. As Canadians age, they are more likely to show greater cultural insecurity. Canadians over the age of 65 are almost twice as likely as those under the age of 25 to agree with that statement (80 per cent of older Canadians agree, compared to 46 percent among Canadians under the age of 25).
 - A university-level education greatly reduces the likelihood of expressing a high level of cultural insecurity or nostalgia for the way things were in Canada.

Tracking Cultural Insecurity

"The Canada I remember when I was growing up was a safer, more comfortable, more harmonious place to live."



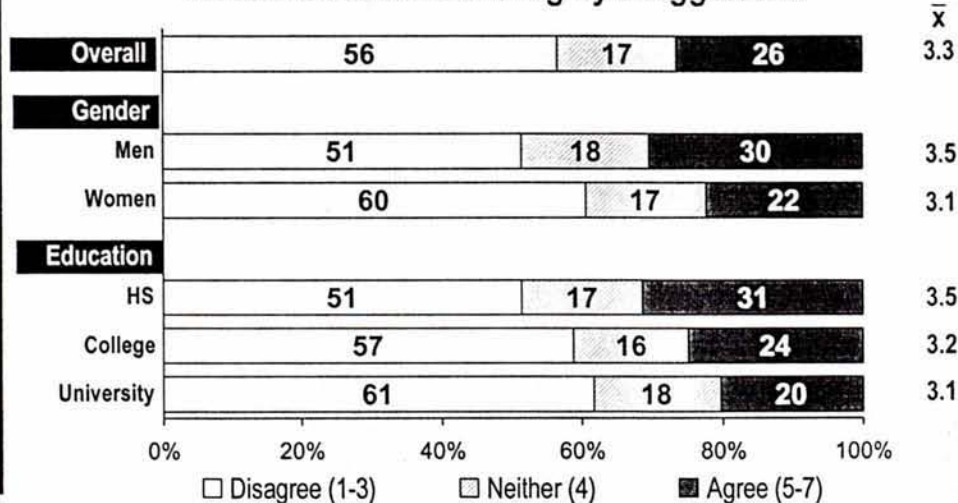
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government, National Immigration Survey,
Productivity Study, Crime Prevention Survey

- Tracking the perceptions of Canadians over the past few years, Canadians are less and less inclined to agree that the Canada they remember when growing up was a safer, more comfortable, more harmonious place to live. Although this opinion still represents a strong majority (65 per cent), it is significantly lower than it was when we started tracking the data in November 1994 (75 per cent).
- The perceived diminution in the level of cultural insecurity reflects some of the rising economic tides and personal optimism about the future.

Perceptions of Poverty

“Personally, I believe that the problems of low-income Canadians are highly exaggerated.”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

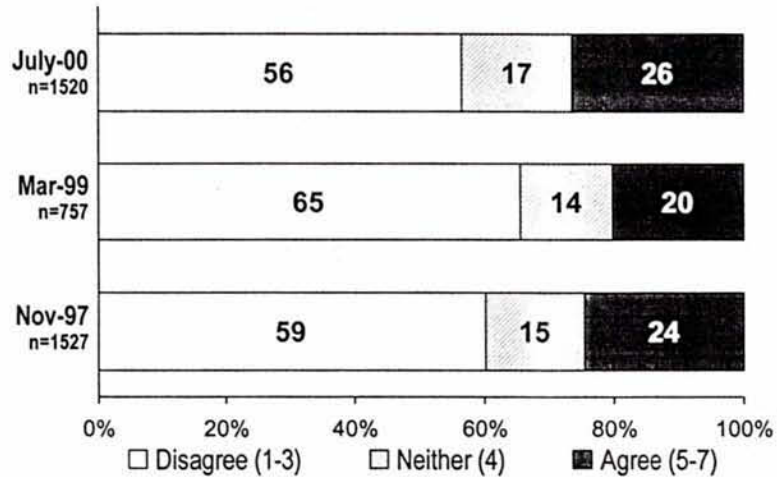
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Few Canadians (26 per cent) are inclined to think that the problems of low-income Canadians are highly exaggerated. A majority of Canadians (56 per cent) disagree with that statement while 17 per cent hold a neutral position, neither agreeing nor disagreeing that the difficulties facing the less fortunate in Canada are overstated.
 - Women, as well as respondents with higher levels of education, are less prone to think that the problems of low-income Canadian are highly exaggerated.
 - On the other hand, there is evidence that a higher proportion (at least three in ten) among men, Canadians over the age of 65, as well as those with an education level of high school or less, display much less empathy for the problems faced by low-income Canadians.
 - In a somewhat surprising revelation, the household income of respondents does not appear to influence the opinions and views expressed in this item.

Tracking Perceptions of Poverty

“Personally, I believe that the problems of low-income Canadians are highly exaggerated.”



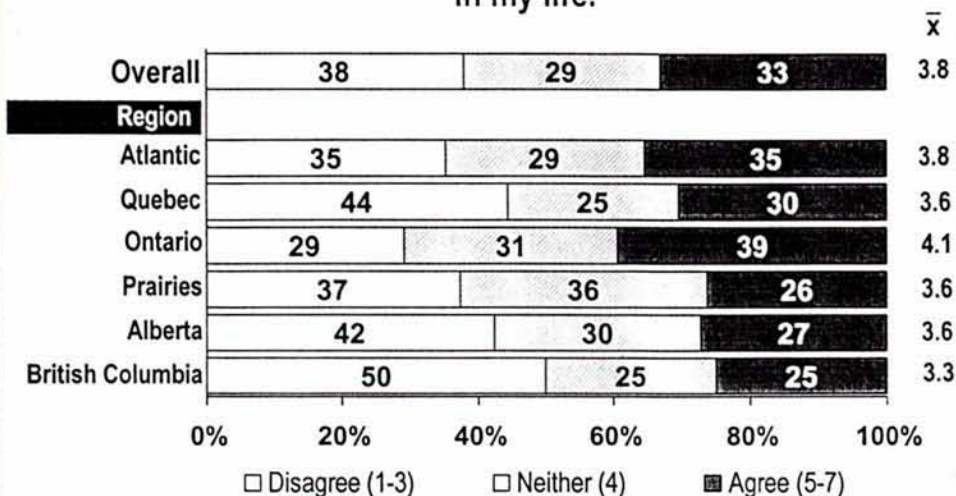
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- The proportion of Canadians who think that the problems of low-income Canadians are highly exaggerated has varied somewhat in recent years, rising to 26 per cent in the most recent polling, up from 20 per cent in March 1999.

Impact of Government

"All in all, government is a positive force in my life."



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

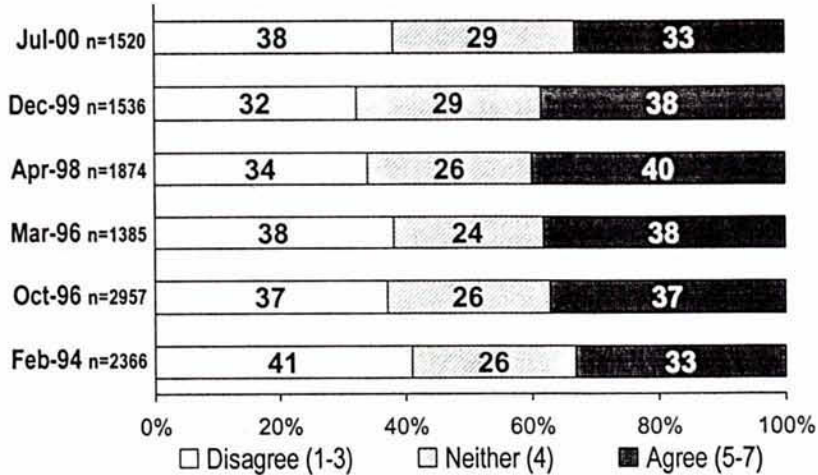
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Canadians are split on their reaction to the impact of government on their life into three broad groups – the positive, the negative and the indifferent. One in three respondents think that overall, government is a positive force in their life whereas a slightly higher proportion (38 per cent) disagree with this statement.
 - Nearly one in two Canadians over the age of 65 (49 per cent) think that government is a positive force in their life. On the other hand, we find that only one in four respondents between the ages of 25 and 44 (26 per cent) agree with this position.
 - There are some interesting regional variations in the response patterns to this question, which may be more of a reflection of the provincial rather than the federal government. Respondents from Ontario are among the most likely to indicate that government is a positive force in their life (39 per cent), whereas only one in four respondents from British Columbia share this opinion. Overall, respondents from British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec are not as likely as other Canadians to say that government is a positive force in their life.

Tracking Impact of Government

"All in all , government is a positive force in my life."



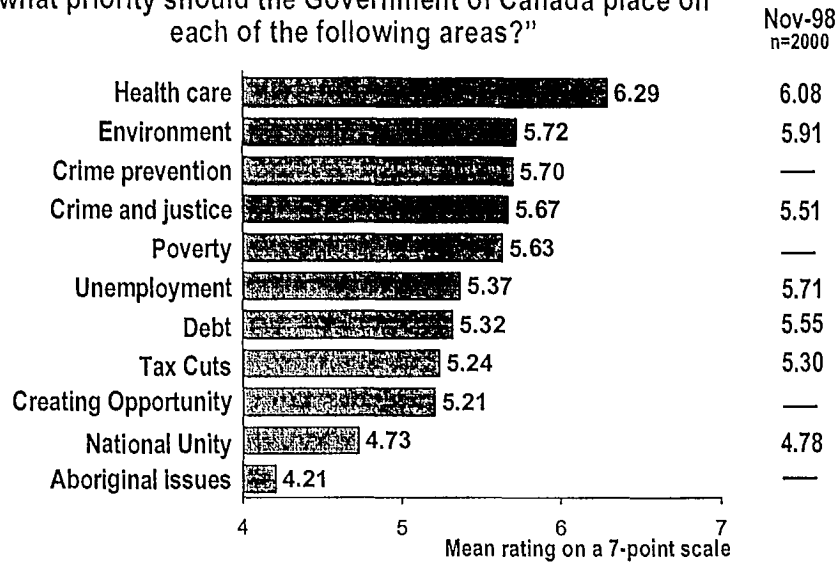
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- There have been no dramatic shifts in the response patterns since this item was first tracked in 1994. The slight increasing trend among respondents who feel government is a positive force in their life peaked in April 1998, showing a reversing downward shift in the last two soundings. The levels in July 2000 are very similar to the initial sounding in February 1994.

Priorities for Government

"Thinking not just of today but over the next five years, what priority should the Government of Canada place on each of the following areas?"



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

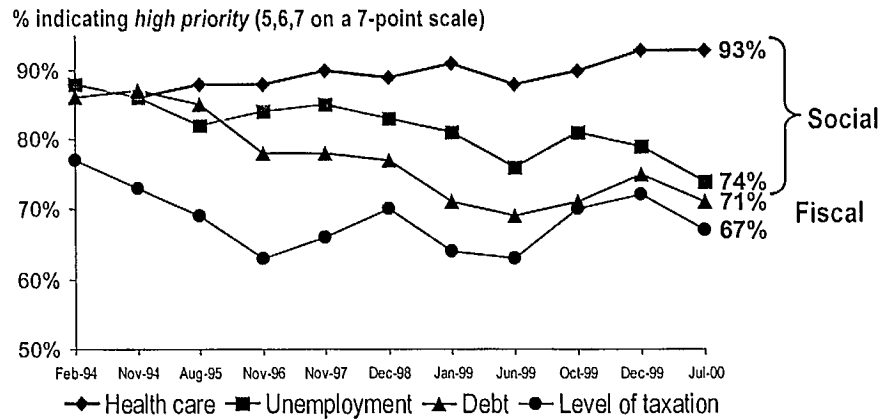
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Health care continues to be the most important concern for Canadians, receiving the highest level of priority for the federal government to deal with over the next five years. Nearly all (95 per cent) give it a high priority rating of at least "5" on a 7-point scale.
- Just below the priority level set for health care, a set of issues comprised of such wide-ranging topics as the environment, crime prevention, crime and justice and poverty occupy a second level of concern for Canadians. Economic concerns make up a third set of issues, notably unemployment, debt, tax cuts and creating opportunities. Canadians are somewhat less concerned by national unity and Aboriginal issues, placing relatively lower levels of priority on these last items.
 - There are significant gender differences in the level of priority given to most of these items. Women assign a higher level of priority than do men for health care, crime prevention, crime and justice, unemployment, and addressing poverty. Men, on the other hand, are relatively more concerned by the federal debt.
 - Regional variation is important on issues of poverty (higher in Atlantic provinces and Quebec), tax cuts (Quebec and Alberta), unemployment (Atlantic provinces), and the environment (Ontario).

Longer-Term Tracking of Priorities

"Thinking not just of today but over the next five years, what priority should the federal government place on each of the following areas?"



Note: "debt and deficit" replaced by "debt and public finances" in January, 1998

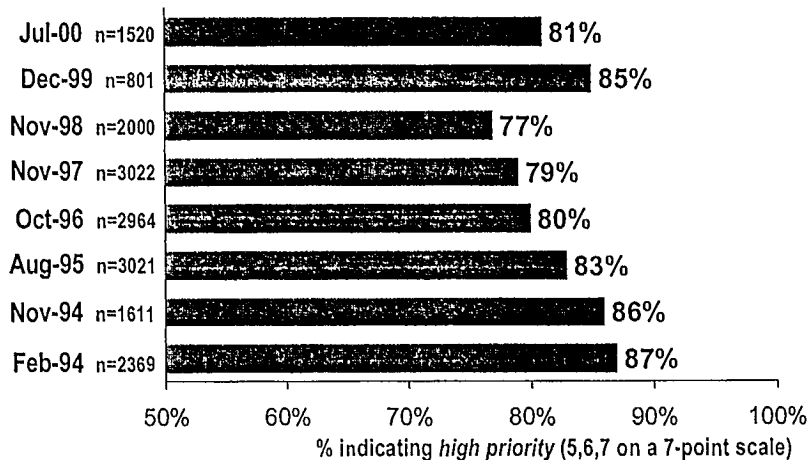
Copyright 2000
Ekos Research Associates Inc.
No Reproduction Without Permission

Rethinking Government

- The previous slide points to a slight downward shift in the level of concern and priority accorded to items such as tax cuts, unemployment and the debt compared to the sounding in December 1998. On the other hand, Canadians are increasingly more concerned with issues surrounding health care and the environment. Looking at the data over the past several years, the shifts in Canadians' priorities for government show a net decline in fiscal priorities.
- Human capital issues of health, education and children are the top concerns, particularly for less affluent Canadians. The advantage of social human priorities over fiscal (tax and debt) priorities has widened during the nineties. Contrary to claims of burgeoning tax rage, concerns with taxation levels are actually lower today than when the current federal government first took office. There has been a modest rise in concern with the level of taxation over the past year, but characterizing it as a "rage" is overstated.
- The decline in the importance accorded to unemployment reflects the sustained period of improved economic fortunes over the past few years.
- The real dominant issue remains health care with 93% giving it a high level of priority. There is little evidence of relaxed concerns following last year's budget.

Tracking of Priorities

"Thinking not just of today but over the next five years, what priority should the federal government place on crime and justice?"



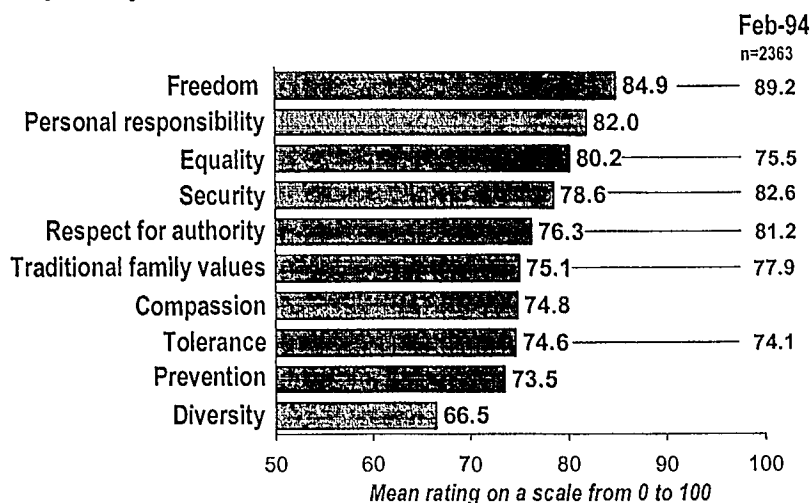
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- From the initial point in February 1994 to the sounding in November 1998, there was a slow decline in the priority Canadians would like the federal government to assign to crime and justice. However, the level of priority for crime and justice rebounded in December 1999 back to the earlier levels. The latest sounding in July shows another relative decline, with just over eight in ten respondents indicating that it should be a high priority for the federal government over the next five years.
 - Women assign a significantly higher priority to both crime prevention and crime and justice issues for government. On both indicators, at least 85 per cent of women rate these issues as highly important, compared to just over three out of four men.
 - Crime and justice and crime prevention are increasingly important priorities among respondents with lower levels of educational attainment.

Tracking Values for Government

"If you were to direct the federal government as to which goals or values should be most important in shaping its direction, how important would you say each of the following goals or values should be?"



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

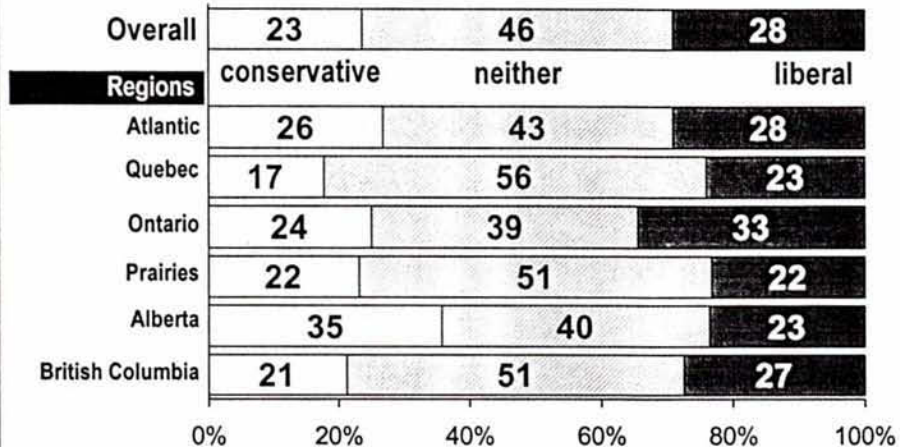
n=1520

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- Above all other values and goals mentioned, Canadians rate freedom, personal responsibility and equality the highest. Security and respect for authority are also relatively important to Canadians, as are traditional family values, compassion, tolerance and prevention. Rating significantly lower (an average of 66.5 on a scale of 0 to 100) is diversity.
 - With the exception of the value assigned to freedom, which ranks equally high among both sexes, women tend to give a higher rating to most of the values and goals for shaping the direction of the federal government.
- While the scores assigned to freedom, security, and respect for authority have declined over the past few years, it is interesting to note that the value assigned to equality has risen over the same time period. Available tracking data for traditional family values and tolerance show a spike in January 1997, however no noticeable long-term trend.

Ideological Persuasion

“Do you consider yourself a (small c) conservative or a (small l) liberal?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

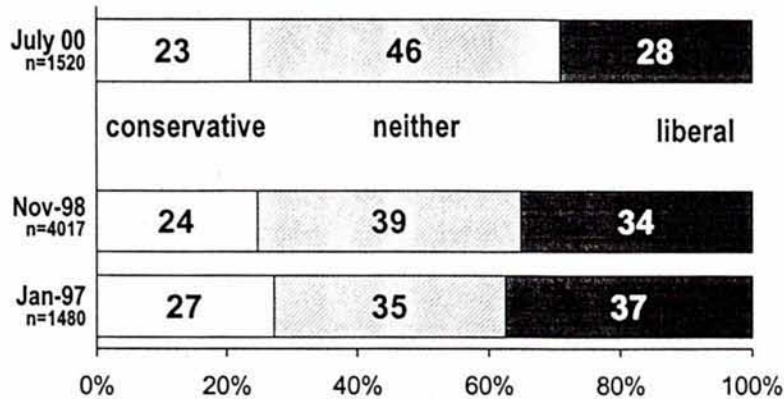
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- There is a slight lean towards small “l” liberalism over small “c” conservatism (28 per cent vs. 23 per cent) however the largest segment of the population (46 per cent) identifies itself with neither ideological label.
 - There are some important regional variations in identifying with either small “l” liberalism or small “c” conservatism. A stronger proportion (33 per cent) from Ontario consider themselves liberal, while 35 per cent of respondents from Alberta say they are conservative. Over one in two respondents from Quebec, the Prairies and British Columbia do not consider themselves either conservative or liberal.
 - Identification with small “c” conservatism appears to increase with age (29 per cent among those over the age of 65, compared to 19 per cent among the youngest age group).
 - Respondents with a university-level education are among the most likely to say they are small “l” liberal (35 per cent). On the other hand, more than half of respondents with an education level of high school or less (53 per cent) indicate they lean neither liberal nor conservative in their ideology.

Tracking Ideological Persuasion

“Do you consider yourself a (small c) conservative or a (small l) liberal?”



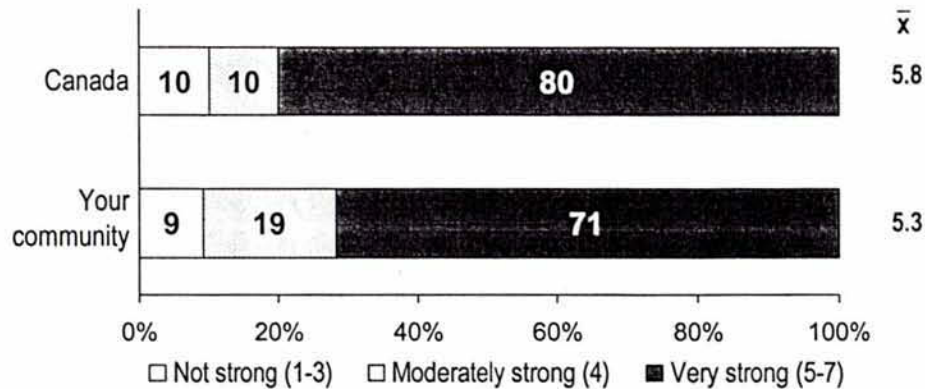
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- Over the past three and a half years, there has been a slight shift away from the labels of small “c” conservative and small “l” liberal. The migration is more important among those who say they are small “l” liberal, from 37 per cent in January 1997 to 28 per cent in July 2000. In the most recent sounding, a clear plurality claim to be neither conservative nor liberal in their ideological leaning.

Sense of Belonging

"Some people have a stronger sense of belonging to some things than others. Please tell me how strong your own personal sense of belonging is to ..."



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

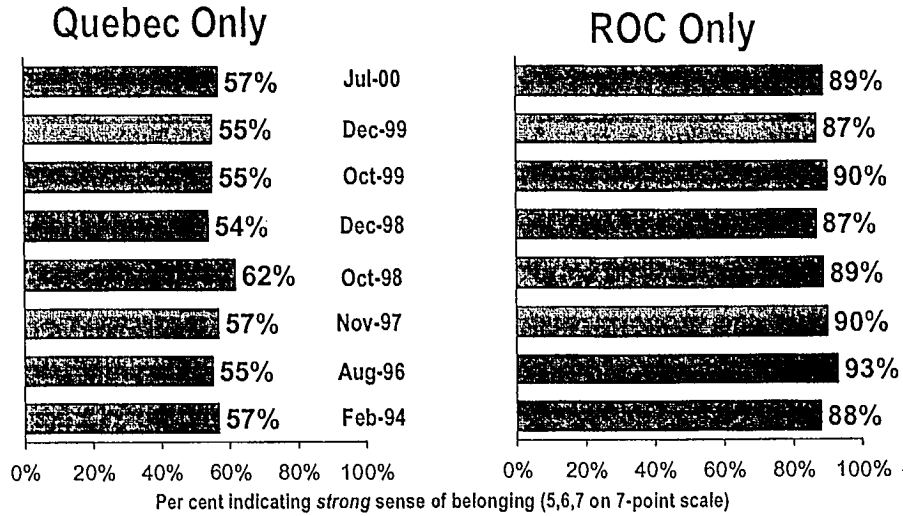
n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Canadians' personal sense of belonging is very high, with eight in ten saying they have a strong sense of belonging to their country and seven in ten reflecting a strong sense of belonging to their community.
 - A sense of connection and belonging, both to their community and to Canada, is highest among the oldest age cohort. More than eight in ten respondents over the age of 65 have a strong sense of belonging to their community; the proportion rises to 90 per cent when asked to rate their attachment to their country.

Tracking Sense of Belonging to Canada

Strong belonging to Canada



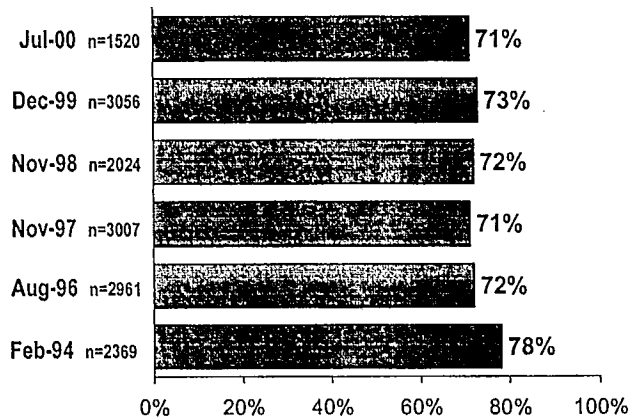
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- When the responses from Quebec are isolated from the rest of Canada, there is remarkable evidence of a continued strong and stable sense of belonging in all nine other provinces. Quebec's attachment to Canada is much less significant.

Tracking Sense of Belonging to Community

Strong belonging to community



Per cent indicating *strong* sense of belonging (5,6,7 on 7-point scale)



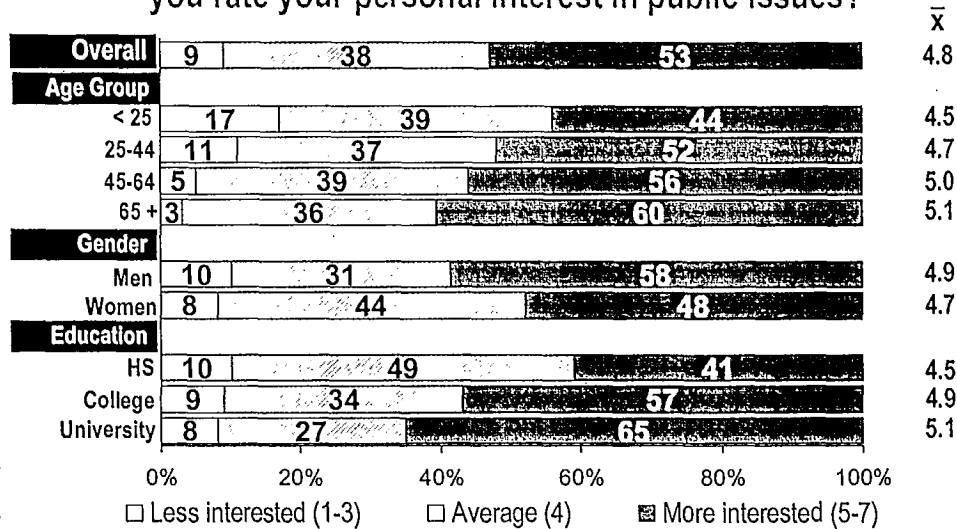
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- With the exception of the higher initial sounding in February 1994 (78 per cent), the proportion of the Canadian population who express a strong sense of belonging to their community has hovered just above seven in ten respondents.
- These results are important to note with respect to the focus of crime prevention programs and activities supported by NCP.

Personal Interest in Public Issues

“Compared to the average Canadian, how would you rate your personal interest in public issues?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

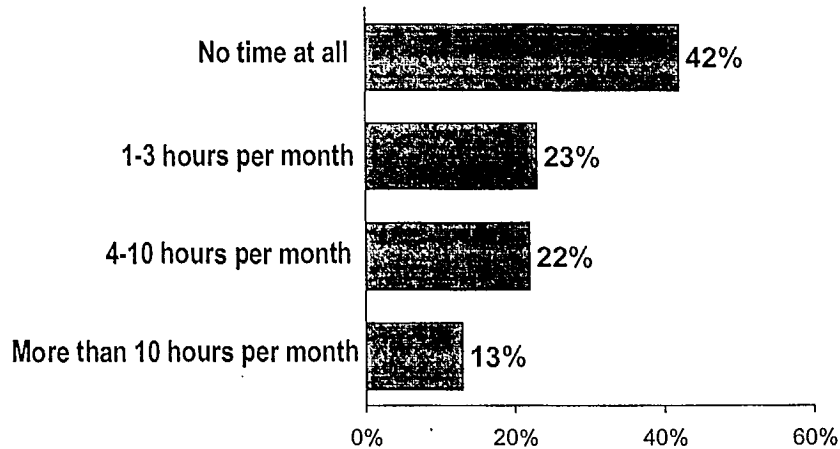
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- The perception that Canadians have about their interest in public issues rates fairly high, with more than half (53 per cent) indicating they have an above average personal interest in these issues. Nearly four in ten (38 per cent) say their interest is about the same as the average Canadian.
- The apparent paradox (more than half of the respondents believe their level of interest is above average) is resolved by replacing the relative level of interest with the absolute level of interest.
 - The level of personal interest increases with the age of the respondent, as well as with educational attainment.
 - Men are also more likely than women to express a greater personal interest in public issues is higher compared to the average Canadian.

Volunteer and Charity Work

“During the past month, how much time have you devoted to performing volunteer or charity work in your community?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Community involvement through volunteer and charity work is an activity that few Canadians say they devote a great deal of time to. At least four in ten Canadians (42 per cent) say they devote no time at all, whereas 23 per cent indicate they devote one to three hours per month and 22 per cent say they spend from four to ten hours per month performing volunteer or charity work in their community. The proportion who say they devote more than ten hours per month tapers off to 13 per cent overall.
 - Respondents with higher levels of educational attainment tend to say they perform more hours of volunteer and charity work within their community.

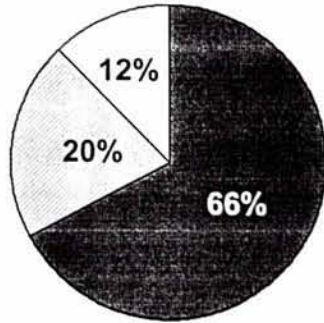
ii. →

Crime Victimization

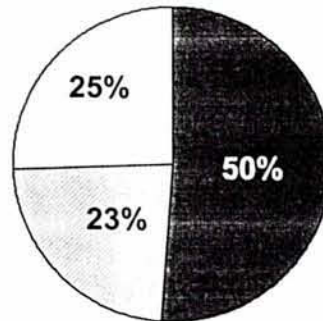
Crime Victimization (a)

“How likely is it that within the next year you will be the victim of ...?”

a violent crime



a property crime



$\bar{X} = 2.7$

■ Not likely (1-3)

□ Somewhat likely (4)

□ Very likely (5-7)



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

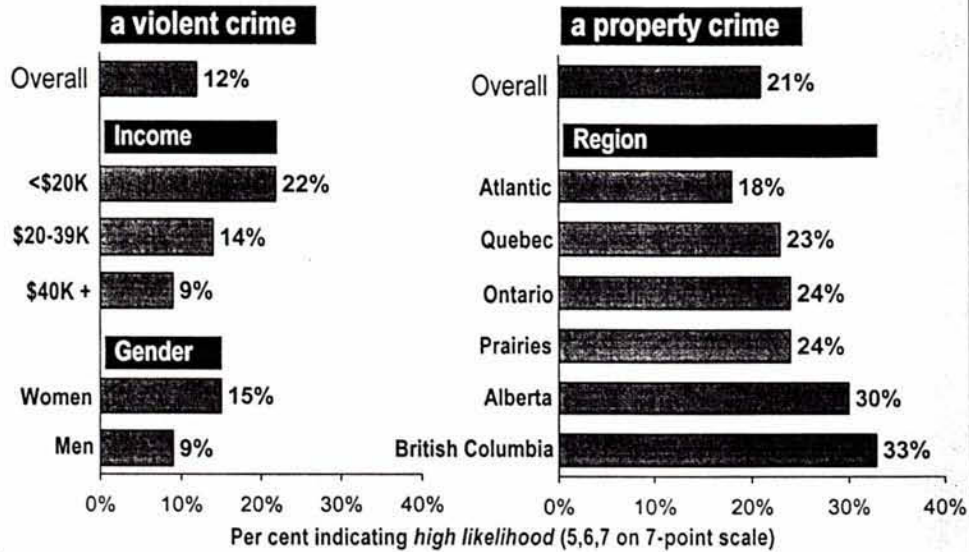
n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Canadians see themselves as more vulnerable to property crime, with one in four respondents believing that it is more than somewhat likely they will be a victim of a property crime within the next year.
- The proportion of Canadians who believe they will be a victim of a violent crime is half that size (12 per cent), with two out of three saying that is not likely they will be a victim of a violent crime within the next year.

Crime Victimization (b)

“How likely is it that within the next year you will be the victim of ...?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

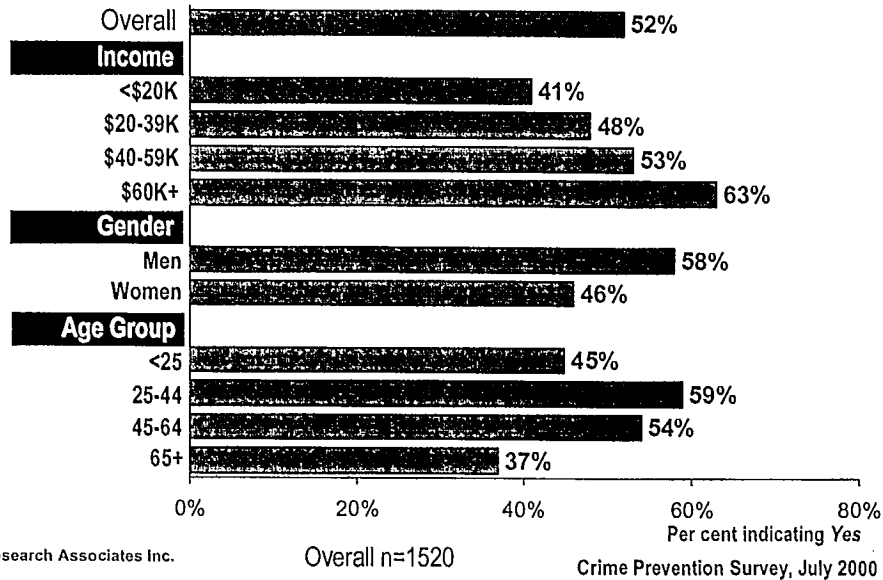
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- The percent of Canadians who believe they will be victims of a violent crime within the next year declines among those with higher household income. A combination of lifestyle and heightened sense of vulnerability make women, as well as those under 25 and those over 65 more likely to say that they are highly likely to be a victim of a violent crime.
- While approximately one in five Canadians say that it is highly likely that they will be victims of a property crime within the next year, the perception of vulnerability to this type of crime appears to increase significantly from East to West across the country.

Crime Victimization (c)

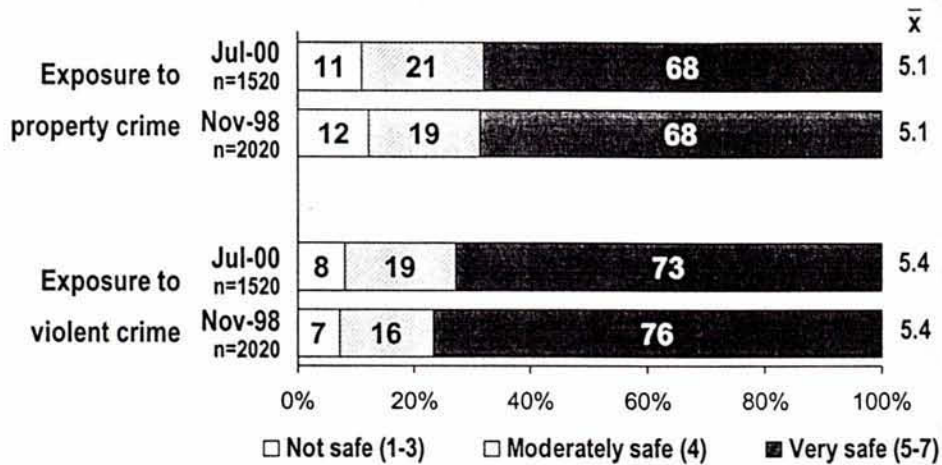
“Have you ever been the victim of a crime?”



- Overall, just over one in two Canadians say they have been the victim of a crime.
- Contrary to the perception Canadians have about the likelihood of being the victim of a crime (the perception of vulnerability), a higher proportion of respondents aged 25-64, more men than woman, as well as high income earners, have been victims of crime. Additional research points to a significant disconnect between actual crime victimization and the perceived threat of victimization.

Tracking Exposure to Crime

“Thinking about your family’s exposure to (...) how safe is your neighbourhood?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

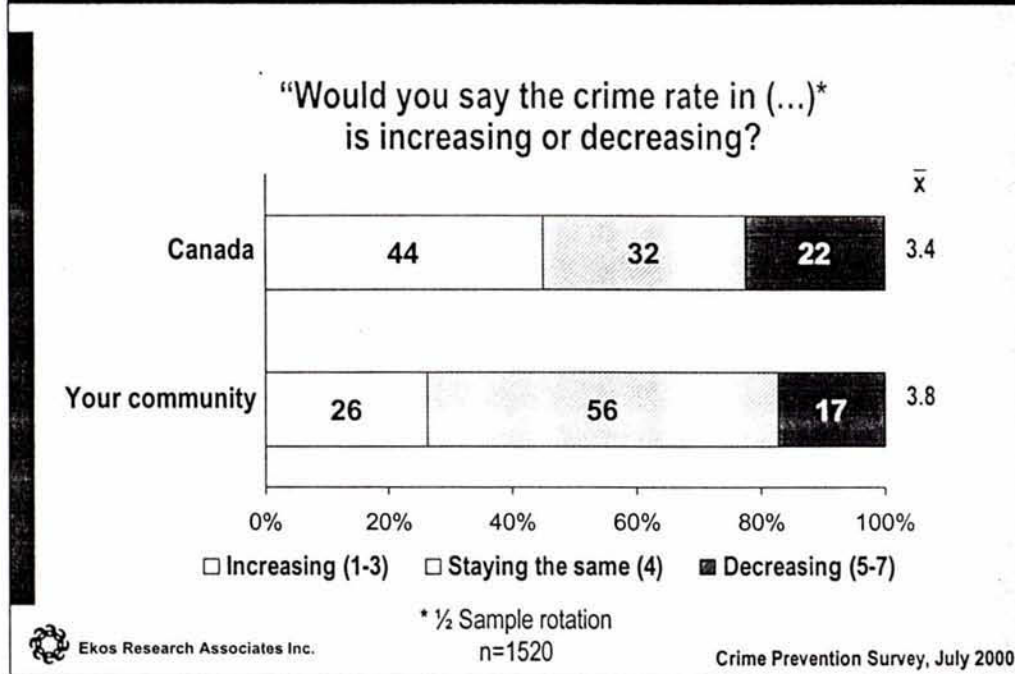
- Both with reference to property crime and violent crime, Canadians feel fairly safe in their neighbourhoods. More than two out of three respondents say their neighbourhood is very safe in terms of exposure to property crime and three out of four feel they are safe from violent crime. These response patterns have changed little since the previous sounding in November 1998.
 - The sense of vulnerability to both property and violent crime is heightened among respondents with lower household incomes, as well as among those who have previously been victim of a crime.

iii. →

Perceptions of Crime



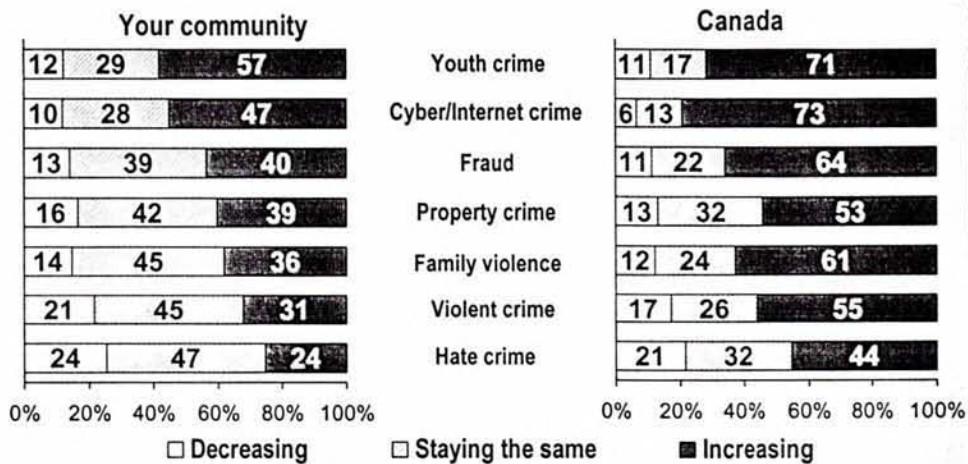
Changes in Crime Rate



- There is a stronger sense that the crime rate is increasing in Canada (44 per cent), but this is less apparent when asked if the crime rate is increasing in their community (26 per cent). Canadians are far more inclined to think that the crime rate in their community is staying the same (56 per cent).
- The distortion in the perceived crime rate is evidenced by the contrasting sense that crime in Canada is increasing on the whole, whereas the crime rate in the respondents' own communities is more likely to be about the same.
 - There are few demographic differences in the perceived changes in crime rate in the community. Increased vulnerability and exposure to crime is a strong determining factor among those who believe crime is increasing in their community.
 - Looking at the changes in the incidence of crime in Canada, a greater proportion of women believe crime in Canada is on the rise (53 per cent, compared to 35 per cent of men), as do respondents with lower levels of educational attainment (49 per cent among those who have completed, at most, high school).

Specific Changes in Crime Rates

“To what extent do you think each of the following types of crime is decreasing or increasing in (...)?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

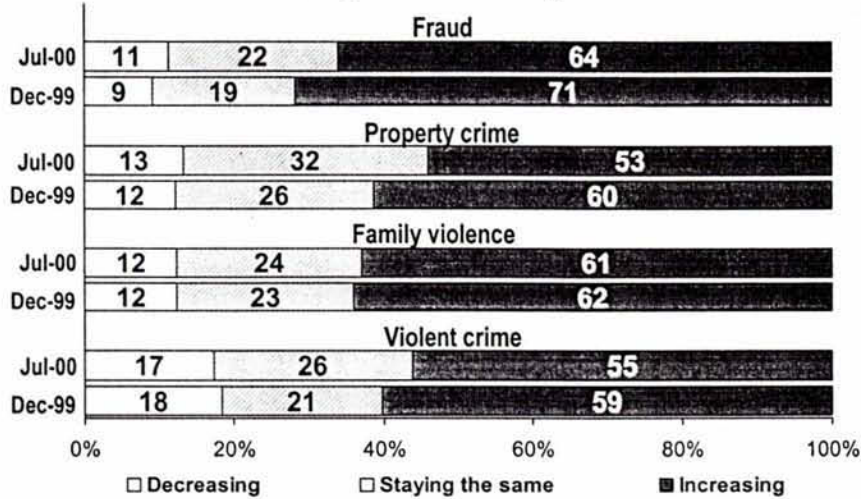
* ½ Sample rotation
n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Looking at the changes in perceived rate of incidence of different types of crime, there is additional evidence that more Canadians are inclined to think that crime is increasing in Canada than in their immediate community. While a similar proportion think that these crimes are decreasing both across Canada and in their community, a higher proportion of respondents say that crime rates are staying the same in their community and increasing in Canada.
- The extreme examples include hate crime, where 24 per cent think it is increasing in their community and 44 per cent think it is increasing in Canada. Relative to the increase in the community, the proportion who believe it is increasing across Canada is 20 percentage points (or 83 per cent) greater. The proportion who believe there is an increase of cyber/Internet crime, fraud, family violence and violent crime is also at least 20 percentage points higher in Canada than in the respondents' community. Youth crime and property crime are also 14 percentage points higher (57 per cent in the community, compared to 71 per cent who think youth crime is increasing across Canada and 39 vs. 53 per cent for increase in property crime).
- While most feel their neighbourhoods (communities) are fairly safe from property and violent crimes, there is a continued perception that crime rates are increasing. The disconnect between what people perceive (or know) about their community and the general image they have formed about the incidence of crime in Canada needs to be explored further.

Tracking Changes in Crime Rate

"To what extent are the following types of crime is decreasing or increasing in Canada?"



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Jul-00 n=1520

Dec-99 n=1520

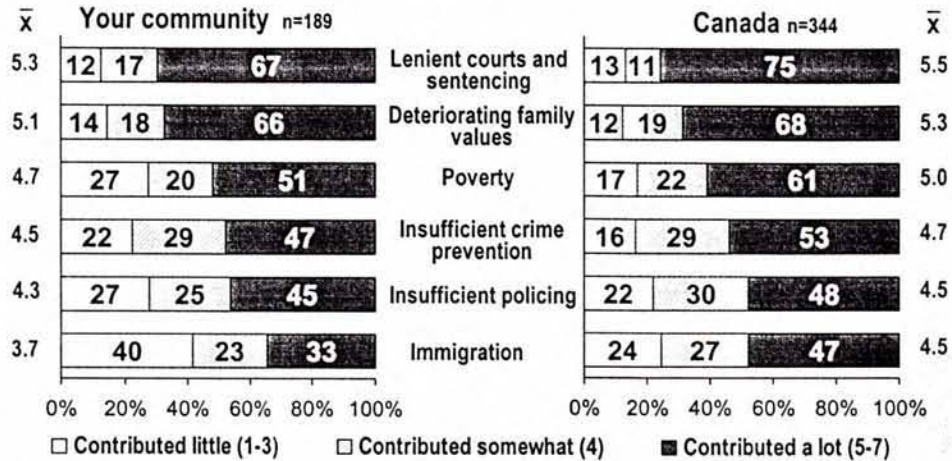
Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- Compared to the results in December 1999, there have been few changes in the response patterns to the incidence of crime in Canada. The perception that fraud, property crime and violent crime are escalating has tempered somewhat with slightly more saying that they are staying the same or decreasing.

Contributing Factors to Increase in Crime

Asked of those who thought crime rate was increasing

“How much have the following factors contributed to the increase in the overall crime rate in (...)?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

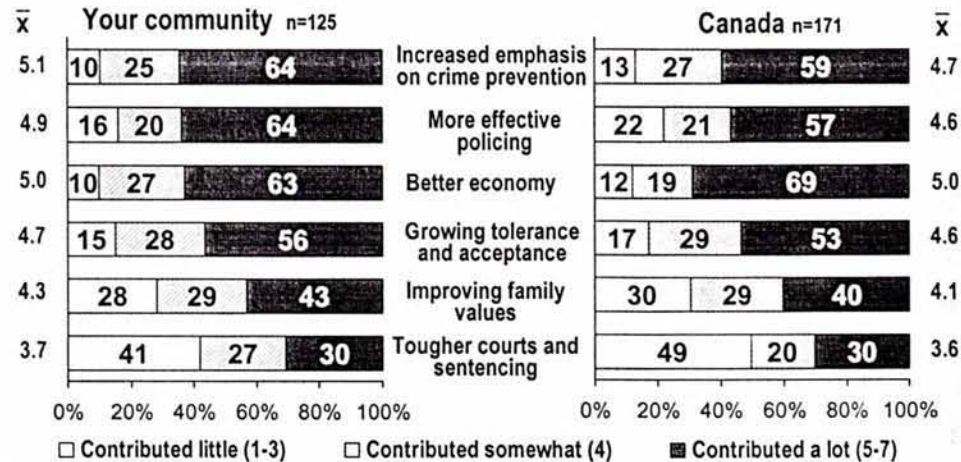
Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- When asked to rate the extent to which certain factors contribute to the increase in the overall crime rate in their community (the question was only asked of those who thought the crime rate was increasing), two out of three respondents think lenient courts and sentencing as well as deteriorating family values contribute a lot to this problem in their community. Approximately one in two say poverty (51 per cent), insufficient crime prevention (47 per cent), and insufficient policing (45 per cent) contribute a great deal to increased crime in their community. Canadians are more likely to say that immigration contributes little (40 per cent) rather than a lot (33 per cent) to the increase in crime in their community.
- The pattern of responses are similar for the factors leading to the increased crime rate in Canada, although the degree of detachment probably tends to increase the likelihood of saying that each factor contributes a lot. The mean responses (on a seven-point scale) are all higher when we look at the perceived impact of these six factors on the increased crime rate in Canada. For instance, three out of four say lenient courts and sentencing contribute a lot to the increase of crime in Canada; six in ten say poverty is a very important factor in Canada (compared to only 51 per cent who agree that is is an important factor affecting the crime rate in their community). Far more respondents believe immigration is an important factor in the increase of the crime rate in Canada (47 per cent) than it is in their community (33 per cent).
- These results are interesting since they clearly demonstrate the disjuncture between the perception of crime in the community and the view of crime in Canada, both in terms of its incidence and its derivation.

Contributing Factors to Decrease in Crime

Asked of those who thought crime rate was decreasing

“How much have the following factors contributed to the decrease in the overall crime rate in (...)?”



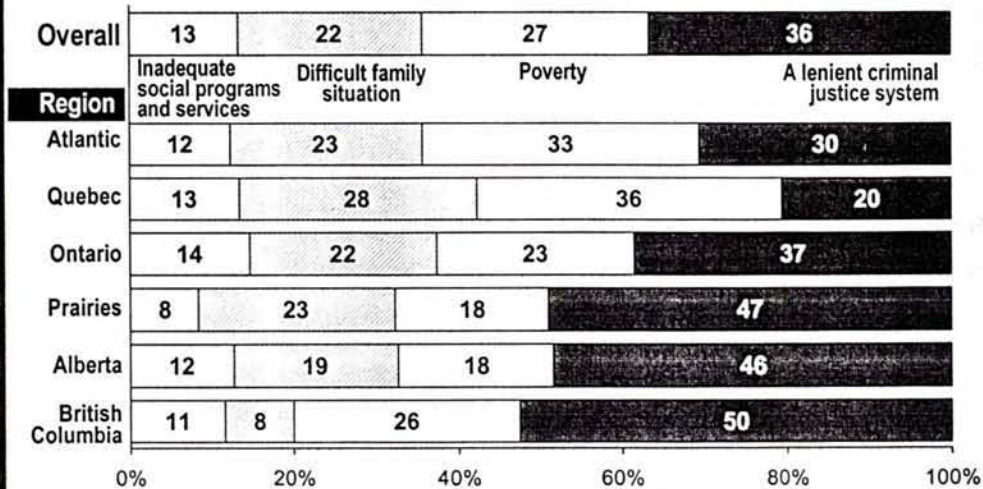
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Canadians are most likely to say that crime prevention, effective policing and an improved economy have contributed to a large extent to the decrease in the incidence of crime in their community and in Canada overall. To an important, but somewhat lesser extent, growing tolerance and acceptance have also positively contributed to the decrease in the local and national crime rate.
- The extent to which improving family values and (especially) tougher courts and sentencing have contributed to the reduction of crime is certainly mitigated. For example, nearly one in two Canadians say harsher sentencing and courts have contributed little to the decrease in the overall crime rate in Canada. These results are interesting in the way they show the contrast between those who think crime is on the rise and those who think the crime rate is decreasing. On the one hand, the lenient court system is one of the most important factors in the increase in crime. Conversely, those who think crime is decreasing assign the least importance to the impact of tougher courts and sentencing.

Factors Producing Crime in Canada

“Which of the following is the most significant factor producing crime in Canada?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

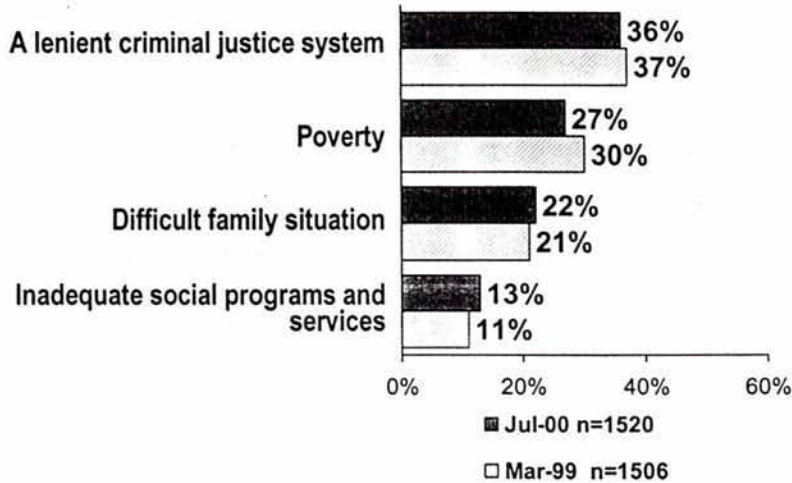
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Looking at the different causal factors of criminality, Canadians are most likely (36 per cent) to say that a lenient criminal justice system is the most significant factor *producing* crime in Canada. However, it is important to note that a majority (62 per cent) select one of the three remaining options, that is, poverty (27 per cent), difficult family situation (22 per cent) or inadequate social programs and services (13 per cent).
- The idea that a lenient criminal justice system *produces* crime is based on assumptions that low deterrence and punitive consequences enhance the opportunity for crime. The remaining three factors of crime, on the other hand, draw on causality that is retrospective (events and situation in the past will lead to future behaviour) instead of prospective (I probably won't get caught and if I do, I can beat the system).
 - There are some pretty strong regional differences in response to this question. One in two respondents from British Columbia and just under half from Alberta and the Prairies think a lenient criminal justice system is the most important factor producing crime in Canada. In Quebec, respondents assign a much higher responsibility to poverty (36 per cent) and to a difficult family situation (28 per cent).

Tracking Factors Producing Crime

“Which of the following is the most significant factor producing crime in Canada?”



 Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

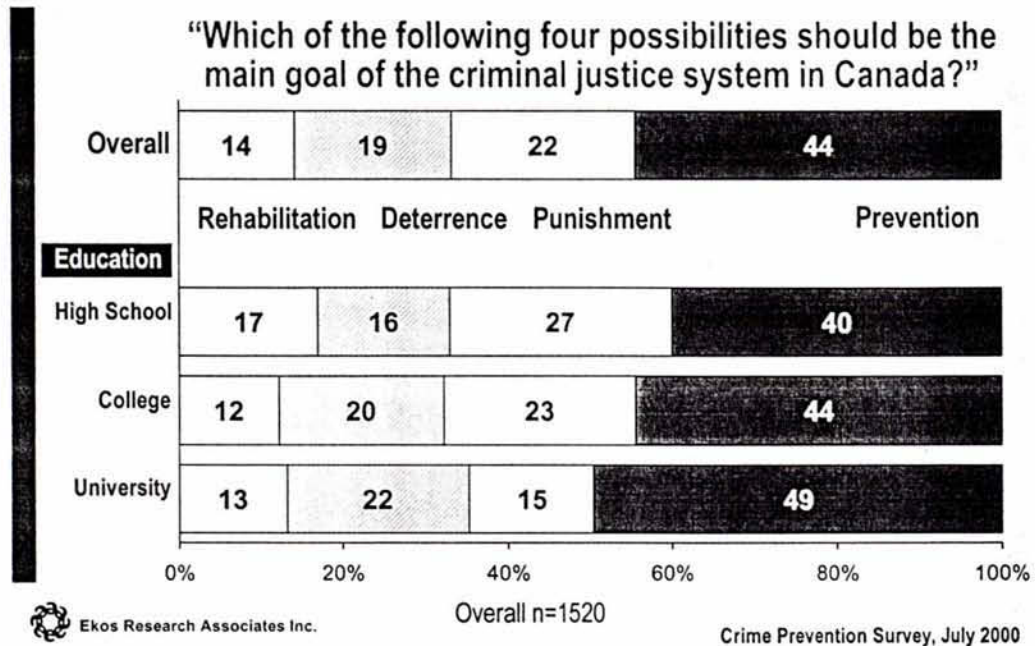
- There have been very few changes in the attitudes and opinions of Canadians about the principal causes or roots of crime in Canada. Responses in July 2000 are virtually identical to the ones from the previous sounding in March 1999.

iv. →

Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System and Crime Prevention



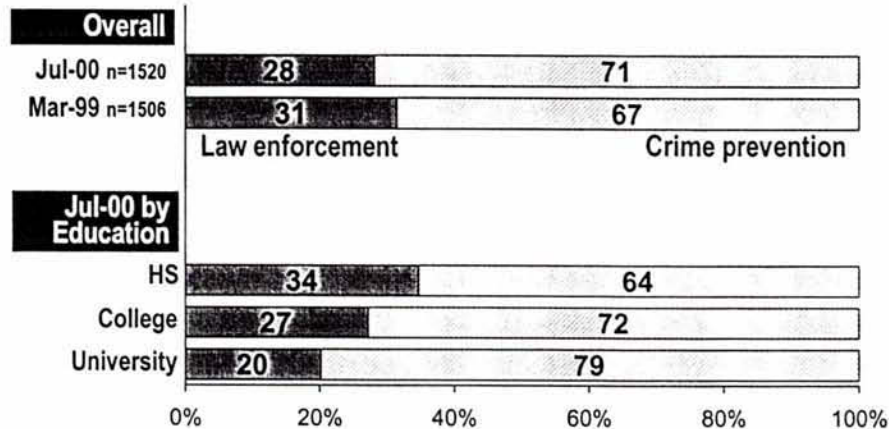
Main Goal of the Criminal Justice System



- Given the choice between four main goals, Canadians are twice as likely to say that the main goal of the criminal justice system in Canada should be prevention (44 per cent) rather than punishment (22 per cent). Fewer than one in five are likely to say deterrence (19 per cent) and fewer still think rehabilitation (14 per cent) should be the most important goal for the criminal justice system.
 - As their level of educational attainment increases, respondents are more likely to say prevention should be the most important goal (nearly one in two among university graduates) and less likely to think that punishment or rehabilitation should be the objective for the criminal justice system.

Cost-Effective Criminal Justice System

“One of the goals of crime prevention and law enforcement is to reduce the economic and social costs of crime to society. Of the following two approaches, which would you say is more cost-effective?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

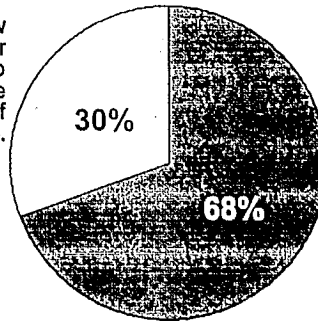
- A strong majority of Canadians view crime prevention, rather than law enforcement, as a more cost-effective way of managing the criminal justice system. The proportion who believe so increased marginally from 67 per cent in March 1999 to 71 per cent in July 2000.
 - Similar to the findings on the main goals for the criminal justice system, increased educational attainment appears to be linked with a stronger endorsement of crime prevention as a more cost-effective way of reducing the economic and social burden of crime. It is important to note, however, that even among respondents with lower levels of educational attainment, nearly two out of three Canadians believe crime prevention is a more cost-effective approach than law enforcement.

Youth Crime Prevention (a)

“Which of the following two statements comes closest to your own view?”

The best way to prevent youth crime is ...

Through increased law enforcement and tougher sentences for youth crimes so that young people will think twice about the consequences of committing a crime.



By giving young people who are at risk of offending opportunities to get involved in positive activities such as job training programs, drug rehabilitation programs and recreational programs aimed at building their self-esteem.



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

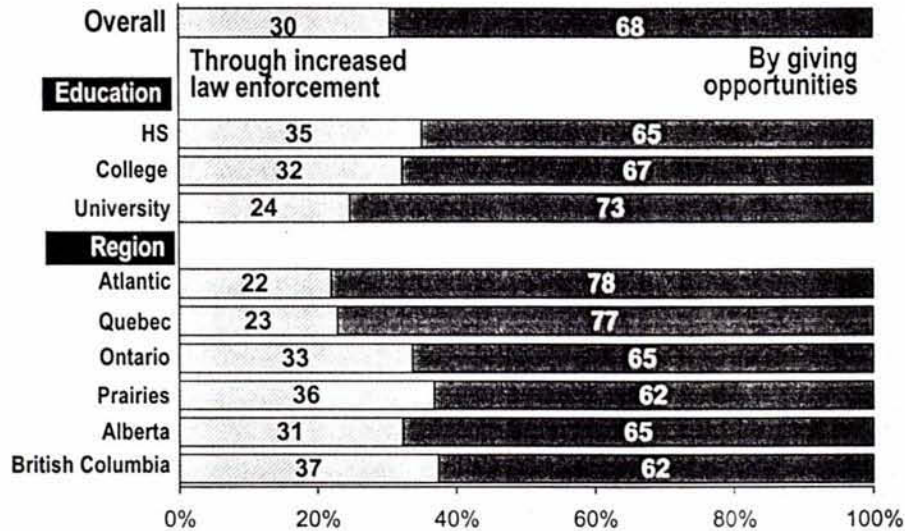
n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- For more than two out of three Canadians, the best way to approach crime prevention among youth is to offer opportunities (intervention and prevention) rather than increase enforcement and punitive consequences for youths who commit crimes.
- These results confirm some of the earlier findings that looked at the root causes of crime. They also reflect the previous economic trade-off between crime prevention and law enforcement in determining which approach is more cost-effective.

Youth Crime Prevention (b)

The best way to prevent youth crime is ...



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

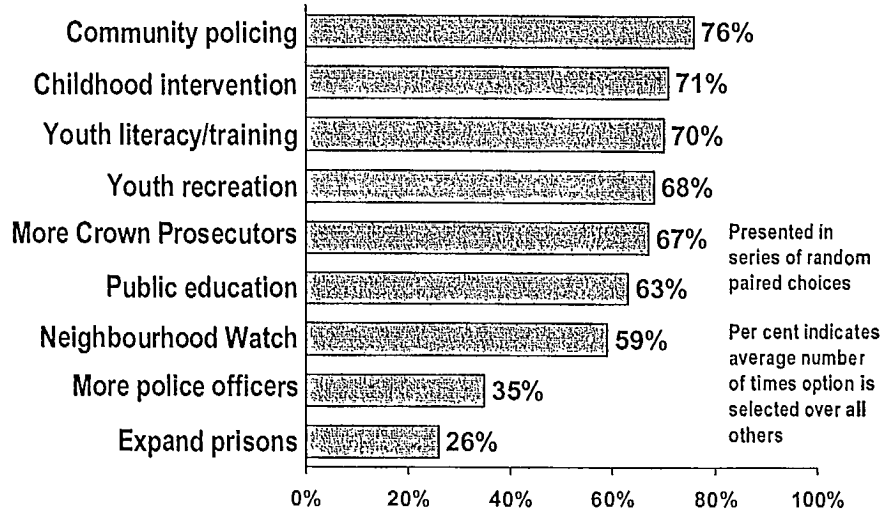
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Respondents with higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to see crime prevention as providing opportunities rather than increasing deterrence and punitive consequences.
 - There are some regional differences in evidence, noting that respondents from the Atlantic provinces and Quebec are among the most likely to favour giving opportunities to youth in order to prevent crime. Support for increasing law enforcement as a means of preventing crime is strongest in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Prime Minister for a Day

“Which would be most effective in reducing crime?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

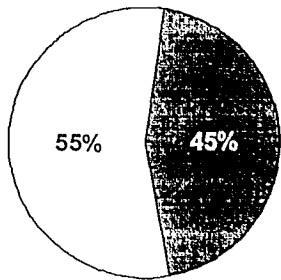
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Respondents were placed in a hypothetical situation that supposed they were Prime Minister for a day and had to decide what was the most effective program to invest in in order to reduce crime.
- Forced to choose between a series of randomly paired choices, the results show that more than three out of four times, community policing was selected over all other options.
- Childhood intervention and investment in youth literacy programs are favoured at least seven in ten times, followed closely by youth recreation programs (68 per cent) and more crown prosecutors (67 per cent). Public education and Neighbourhood Watch are selected more than half the time as the most effective way to address crime reduction.
- It is clear from the results of this trade-off exercise that having more police officers (35 per cent) and expanding prisons (26 per cent) are the least likely to be selected by respondents as the most effective way of reducing crime in Canada.

Awareness of Crime Prevention Programs

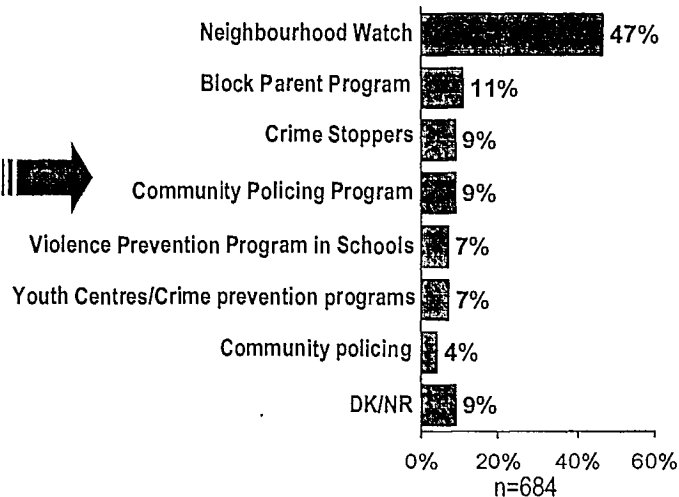
“Are you aware of any crime prevention programs in your community?”



□ No
 ■ Yes

n=1520

“If yes, can you identify one of these programs?”



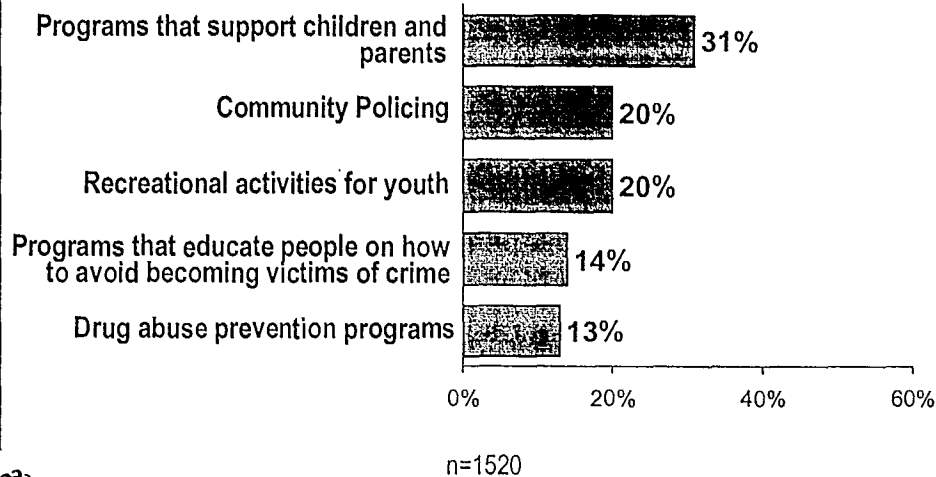
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Awareness of crime prevention initiatives is relatively low, with fewer than half indicating they are aware of prevention programs in their community. In fact, when asked to recall (specifically) some of the prevention programs in their community, very few were able to recall community crime prevention programs that are not operated by the police. Almost one in two (47 per cent) mention Neighbourhood Watch, a crime prevention (enhanced community surveillance) program run by the police. Nearly one in ten mention Crime Stoppers, a program run by the police to apprehend criminals *after the fact*.
- The relatively low recall of violence prevention programs in school, youth centres and crime prevention programs is indicative of the lack of exposure and effective communications from these community crime prevention programs.

Best Examples of Crime Prevention

“In your opinion, which of the following is the best example of crime prevention?”



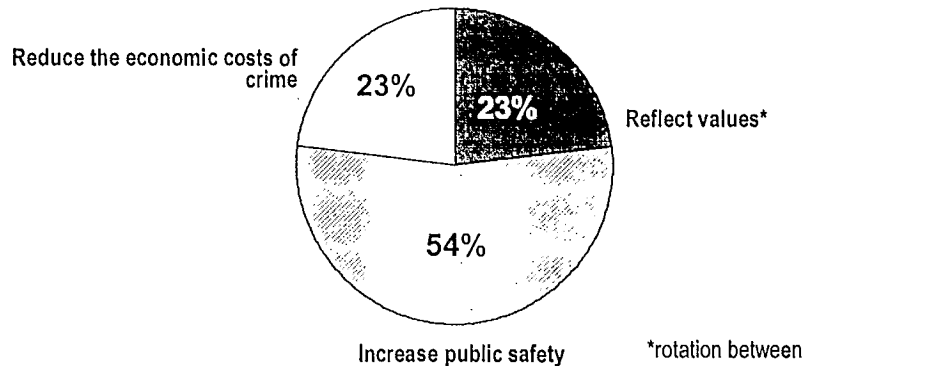
Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- A majority of respondents choose a form of early intervention and support as the best example of crime prevention, whether it be supporting children and parents (31 per cent), recreational activities for youth (20 per cent) or drug abuse prevention programs (13 per cent). One in five select community policing (visible deterrence, active enforcement) in their community while a further 14 per cent believe the best way to prevent crime is to learn how to better avoid being a victim.
 - Men are more likely than women to indicate community policing as the best example of crime prevention (24 per cent, compared to 16 per cent among women who select that option). On the other hand, a greater proportion of women lean towards programs that support children and parents (33 per cent, compared to 28 per cent among men).
 - There are few regional differences in the response patterns, mostly reflecting dissimilarities between Quebec and the rest of Canada. Respondents from Quebec more firmly endorse programs that support children and families (38 per cent) as well as drug abuse prevention programs (18 per cent). The level of support for the remaining options is considerably lower, with only 14 per cent of respondents from Quebec believing that increased community policing is the best way to prevent crime.
 - Respondents under the age of 25, as well as those with an educational attainment of, at most, high school are among the strongest supporters of drug abuse prevention programs.

Crime Prevention Programs

“Of the following three possibilities, which one would you say is the best reason for having crime prevention activities and programs. Is it because crime prevention activities and programs...?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

n=1520

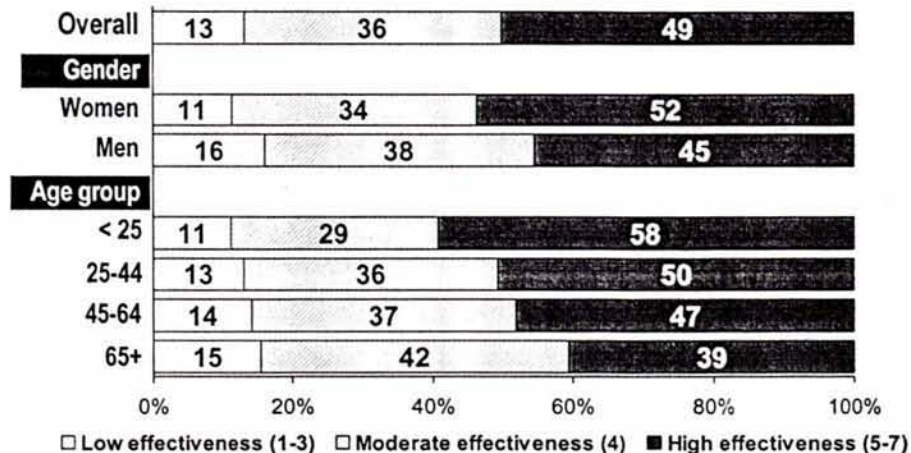
*rotation between
Your personal/Canadian values

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- The top concern for Canadians in promoting crime prevention is to increase public safety (54 per cent). The remaining share of the opinion is evenly split between those who think the best reason to support crime prevention programs and activities is in order to reduce the economic costs of crime (23 per cent) or because it reflects the personal and social values of Canadians (23 per cent).
 - The idea that crime prevention should reflect values has a much stronger resonance in Quebec (35 per cent).

Effectiveness of Crime Prevention Programs (a)

"How effective would you say crime prevention programs are?"



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

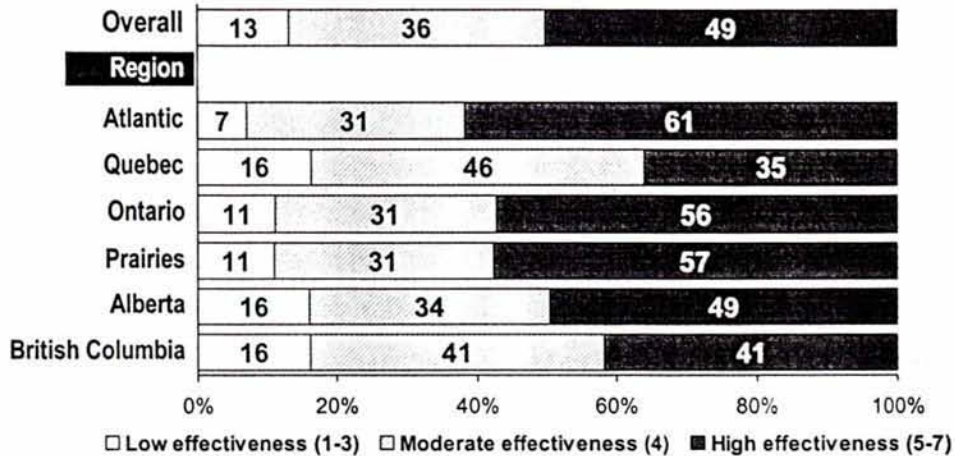
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Approximately one in two Canadians (49 per cent) believe that crime prevention programs are highly effective while a further 36 per cent think they are moderately effective.
 - Women, as well as younger Canadians, are among those most likely to rate crime prevention programs as highly effective.
- These results are viewed with a certain degree of caution. While most believe that crime prevention programs are at least moderately effective, it should be noted that previous results revealed that general (or specific) awareness of crime prevention programs is relatively low.

Effectiveness of Crime Prevention Programs (b)

"How effective would you say crime prevention programs are?"



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

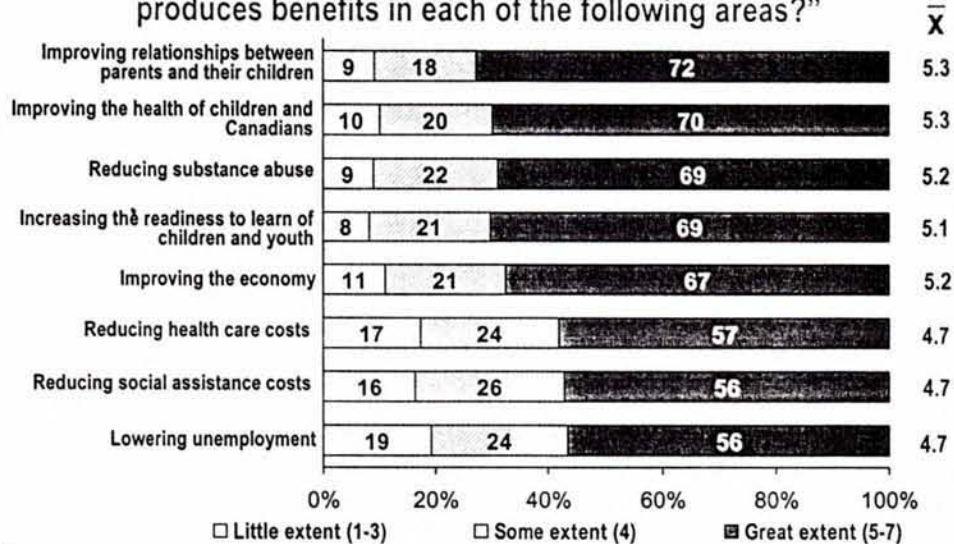
Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- There is some regional variation in the perception of the effectiveness of crime prevention programs. Overall, and across Canada, few people think crime prevention programs have little effect, ranging from seven per cent in the Atlantic provinces to as high as 16 per cent in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. Respondents from Atlantic Canada, Ontario, and the Prairies are among the most likely to think that crime prevention programs are highly effective. A larger proportion of respondents from Quebec (46 per cent) tend to think that crime prevention programs are moderately effective.

Benefits of Crime Prevention

Asked of those who thought crime prevention was at least moderately effective
 "To what extent, if any, would you say crime prevention also produces benefits in each of the following areas?"

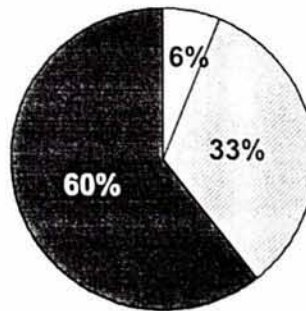


Ekos Research Associates Inc. n=1281 Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- It is broadly understood that crime prevention offers widespread benefits in many areas of society. Early intervention and prevention not only improves the relationship between parents and children, it also increases readiness and preparedness to learn. This "head start" is reflected in an improved overall health of the Canadian population, lower substance abuse and an overall stronger economy. To an important but somewhat lesser extent, an investment in crime prevention programs is also seen as having positive spill-over effects in reducing health care costs, social assistance costs and lowering the unemployment rate.
 - There are few demographic differences in the response patterns to this question. On the whole, women are more likely than men to firmly believe that crime prevention produces benefits in the areas relating to children and youth. In particular, they see greater benefits from crime prevention actions in improving relationships between parents and children, improving the health of children and increasing the readiness of children and youth to learn.
 - A greater proportion of respondents with higher household incomes believe that crime prevention also leads to reduced substance abuse and lowered social assistance costs.

Emphasis on Crime Prevention Programs

“Bearing in mind that most crime prevention programs are funded by tax dollars, what emphasis should governments place on crime prevention?”



- Less emphasis (1-3)
- About the same emphasis (4)
- More emphasis (5-7)

$\bar{X}=5.1$

n=1520

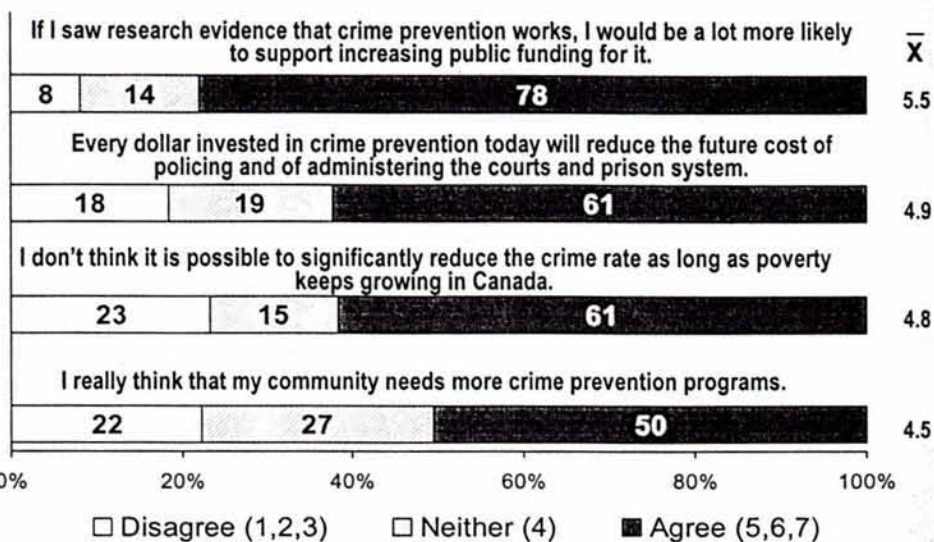


Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- With just under one in two respondents believing that crime prevention programs are more than moderately effective, a majority of Canadians (60 per cent) would rather see the government invest more (tax) dollars in crime prevention. Approximately one in three think the government should continue to place the same emphasis on crime prevention and very few would like to see less attention paid to crime prevention.
 - The level of support for *more* emphasis on crime prevention is highest among women (64 per cent, compared to 57 among men), respondents with lower household incomes (68 per cent among respondents with household incomes less than \$20,000) and respondents from Atlantic Canada (69 per cent).
 - Support for increased emphasis on crime prevention is not only highest among the most vulnerable (72 per cent of those who believe there is a high likelihood they will be a victim of a violent crime), it also resonates quite clearly among those who believe the goal of the criminal justice system is to prevent crime (65 per cent). Those who think the criminal justice system should focus on punishment of criminals, on the other hand, show much weaker support for increased emphasis on crime prevention activities (54 per cent).

Perceptions of Crime Prevention (a)



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

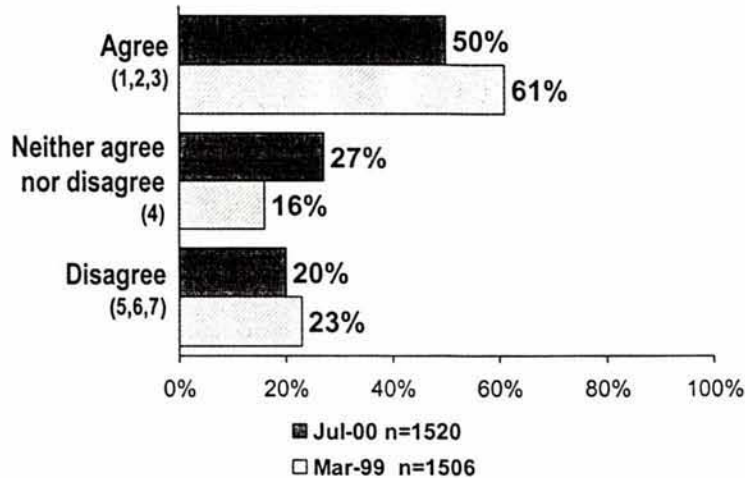
n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- Even though Canadians do not strongly believe that crime prevention programs are very effective, they are more likely to want to increase public investment in that area. These results are reflected once again in the support given to increased public funding for crime prevention if demonstrable evidence is put forward to show that it works. Fundamentally, Canadians believe in crime prevention, and given the opportunity to see that it actually produces results, eight in ten respondents would be willing to increase public funding for similar programs and activities.
- A majority (61 per cent) believe that there is a healthy return on investment in crime prevention, leading to a reduction in the future costs of policing and of administering the courts and prison system.
- Recalling one of the principal root causes of crime, six in ten Canadians draw a strong link between an increasing crime rate and the persistence and pervasiveness of poverty in Canada.
- Despite the support for more public investment in crime prevention, a very slim majority thinks that their community needs more crime prevention programs. The relative reluctance to increase the number of crime prevention programs in their community may be a reflection of the disconnect between the perception of the incidence of crime at a National level and the understanding most Canadians have that crime in their communities is not increasing to the same degree.

Tracking Desire for Community Crime Prevention

"I really think that my community needs more crime prevention programs."

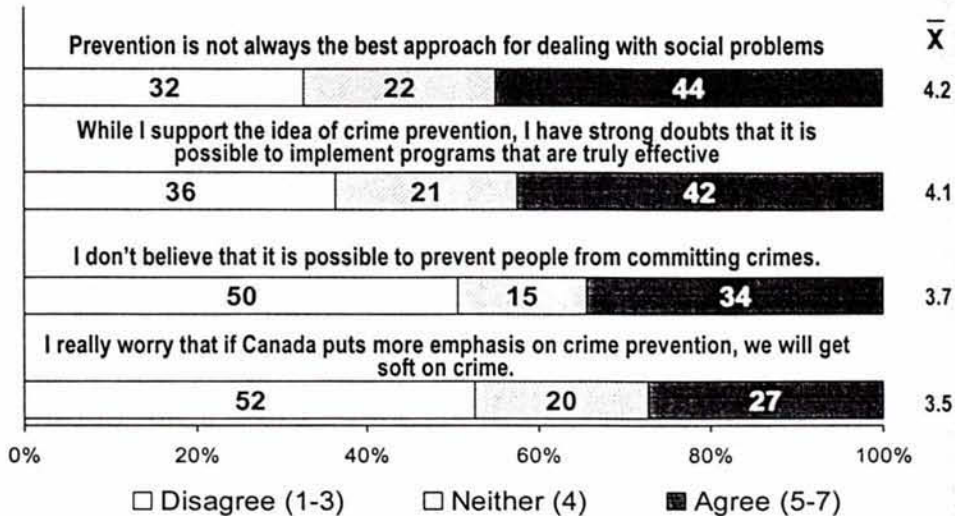


Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- The proportion of Canadians who think their community needs more crime prevention programs has decreased significantly over the last 16 months, from 61 per cent in March 1999 to 50 per cent in July 2000.
 - Respondents from Quebec are among the most likely to agree (58 per cent) that their community needs more crime prevention programs. Support for this position is lowest in Ontario (47 per cent) and in Alberta (45 per cent).
 - A higher proportion of women (54 per cent, compared to 47 per cent of men) think their community needs more crime prevention programs.
 - Support is also stronger among respondents with household incomes less than \$40,000 (58 per cent, compared to 47 per cent among those earning annual incomes above \$40,000).
 - The strongest support for more crime prevention programs in their neighbourhood and community comes from respondents who believe that they are highly likely to be a victim of a violent crime within the next year (68 per cent).

Perceptions of Crime Prevention (b)



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- There is a significant amount of scepticism about the effectiveness and appropriateness of crime prevention. Slightly more Canadians tend to agree (44 per cent) rather than disagree (32 per cent) that prevention is not always the best approach for dealing with social problems. Similarly, Canadians are more inclined to doubt (42 per cent agree, compared to 36 per cent who disagree) that it is possible to implement programs that are truly effective. The results recall the strong call for *proof that crime prevention is effective* that would encourage Canadians to increase the investment in crime prevention programs.
 - The highest levels of scepticism about the effectiveness and appropriateness of crime prevention programs are found among those who believe that the main goal of the criminal justice system should be punishment, rather than deterrence, rehabilitation, or prevention.
- Overall, Canadians would rather think that it is possible to prevent people from committing crimes. As well, there is not much concern that a stronger emphasis crime prevention will lead to a softening of attitudes towards crime.

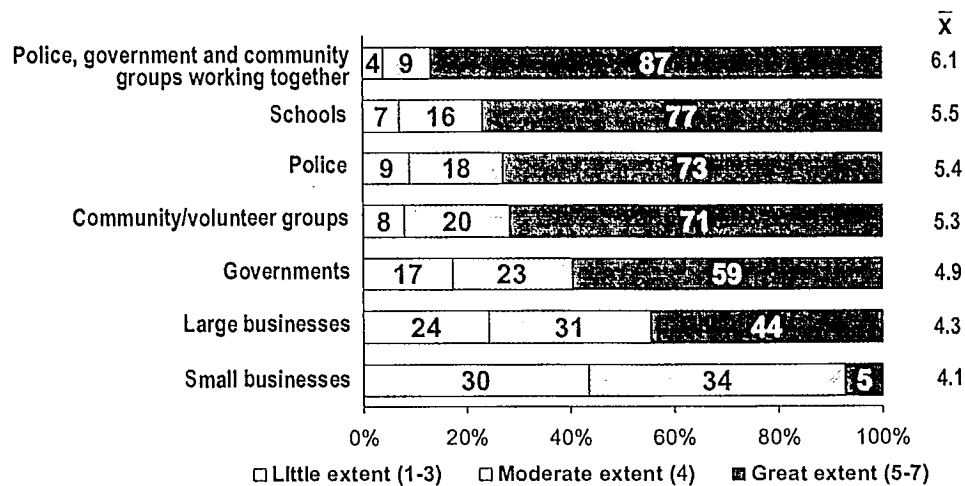
V. →

Crime Prevention Implementation and Roles



Implementation of Crime Prevention Programs

“To what extent would you say each of the following groups is in a position to successfully implement crime prevention programs?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

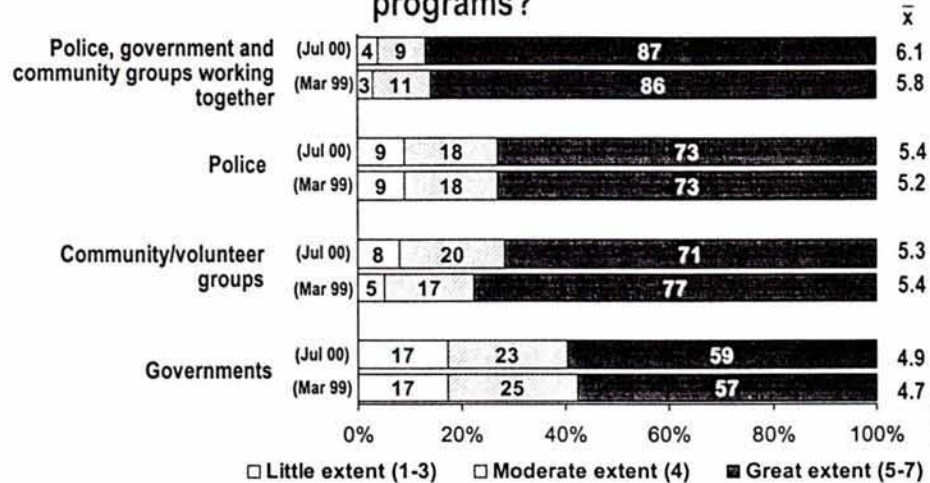
n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- There are overwhelming indications that a partnership of police, government, and community groups working together are in the best position to successfully implement crime prevention programs. Canadians also strongly support the role of schools, police and community/volunteer groups and, to a lesser extent, governments, as independent organizations and structures. Businesses, both large and small, are seen to be somewhat less effective or likely to successfully implement crime prevention programs.
 - The confidence that police can successfully implement crime prevention programs is lowest in Quebec (63 per cent).
 - There is a strong gender bias in the belief that the aforementioned groups can successfully implement crime prevention programs. Women are far more likely than men to believe that the police, government, volunteer groups and large businesses are in a position to successfully implement these programs. Results are fairly balanced with regard to the effectiveness of schools, small businesses, and the cooperation of government, police and community groups working together.

Tracking Implementation of Crime Prevention Programs

“To what extent would you say each of the following groups is in a position to successfully implement crime prevention programs?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Jul-00 n=1520

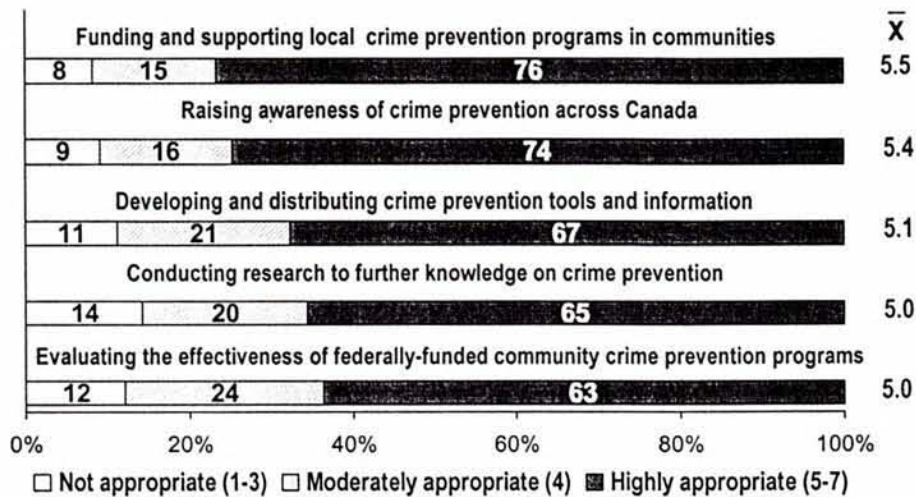
Mar-99 n=1506

Rethinking Government
Crime Prevention Survey

- Tracking these results from the previous sounding in March 1999, there have been virtually no changes in Canadians' perceptions about how different groups and organizations can successfully implement crime prevention programs.

Roles for the Federal Government in Crime Prevention

"How appropriate is (...) as a role for the federal government?"



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

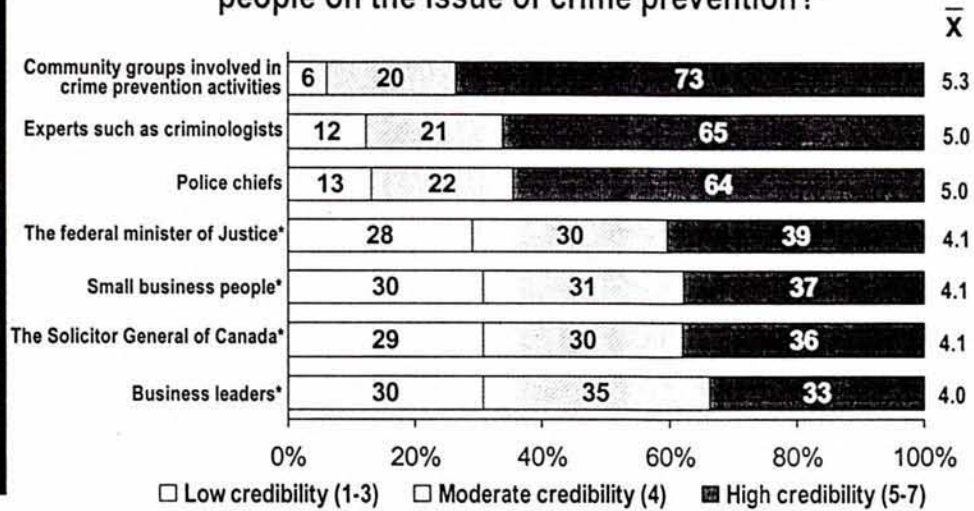
n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- A majority of Canadians strongly endorses a wide and diverse role for the federal government in crime prevention. Three out of four respondents believe that it is very appropriate for the federal government to fund and support local crime prevention programs in Canadian communities as well as to raise awareness of crime prevention across Canada.
- Approximately two out of three respondents strongly support the federal government's participating in research to further knowledge on crime prevention and believe the government should be developing and distributing crime prevention tools and information. A similar level of support is offered to the federal government to evaluate the effectiveness of the community crime prevention programs it funds.
 - Although still representing a strong majority, significantly fewer respondents over the age of 65 find it highly appropriate for the federal government to undertake these diverse roles in crime prevention. This is particularly striking in raising awareness of crime prevention across Canada (66 per cent compared to 75 per cent among all other age groups), as well as developing and distributing crime prevention tools and information (58 per cent compared to 68 per cent among younger respondents).

Credibility in Crime Prevention

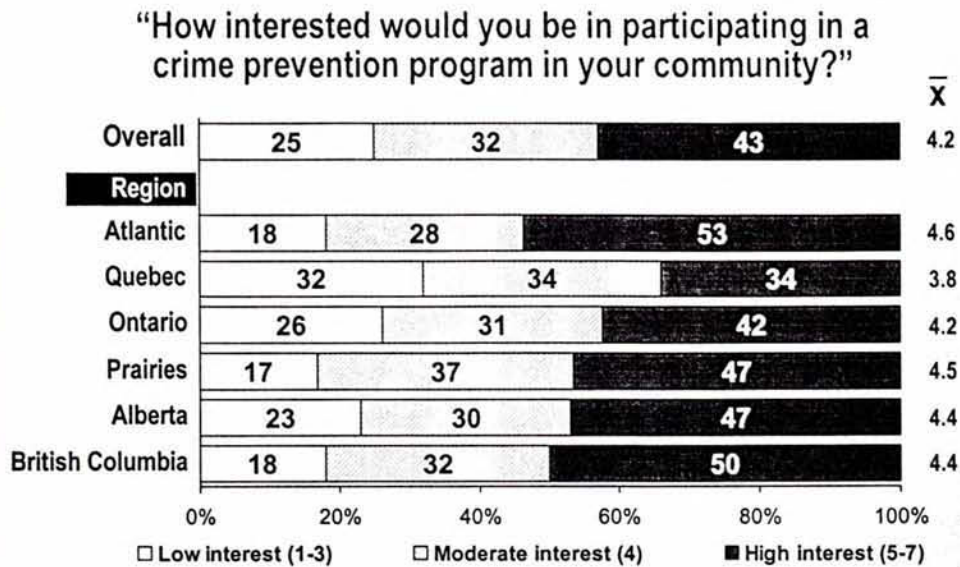
“How credible are each of the following groups or people on the issue of crime prevention?”



Ekos Research Associates Inc. n=1520 * ½ sample Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- On the issue of crime prevention, Canadians assess a fairly high level of credibility to community groups, criminologist and other experts as well as police chiefs. Overall, 73 per cent of Canadians believe community groups are highly credible and just under two out of three think professional experts and police chiefs have high credibility when it comes to crime prevention.
 - A greater proportion of women lend strong credibility to police chiefs, experts in the area of crime prevention as well as community groups.
 - Respondents over the age of 65 are a little more reserved in their estimation of the credibility of community groups involved in crime prevention activities as well as experts such as criminologists.
- The esteem or believability reserved for either the federal minister of justice, the Solicitor General, small business people or business leaders in their community falls off considerably. The results are distributed fairly evenly across the scale, with just under a third giving each of them low credibility, one third assigning moderate credibility and the remaining (slightly more than one third) saying they have reasonably high credibility on the issue of crime prevention.
 - Respondents under the age of 25 give a slightly lower credibility rating to people in the business sector.

Interest in Crime Prevention Programs



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

Overall n=1520

Crime Prevention Survey, July 2000

- While more Canadians show higher (43 per cent) rather than lower (25 per cent) levels of interest in participating in a crime prevention program in their community, the overall result is rather lacklustre. Fewer than half of the respondents indicate they are more than moderately interested in taking part in a prevention program in their community. This may be a reflection, once again, of the disconnect between the perception of crime in the community in which they live and the sense respondents have that crime rates are worse in the country “at large”.
 - Interest in participating in a crime prevention program is lowest in Quebec (strongly supported by 34 per cent) and in Ontario (42 per cent).
 - The target population for participating in a community crime prevention program is clearly among the younger age cohorts. Respondents between the ages of 25 and 44 have the highest level of interest (48 per cent are highly interested), whereas less than a third of those over the age of 65 show the same level of high interest in participating in a crime prevention program.
- Interest for participating in a crime prevention program is not influenced by the desired role of the criminal justice system nor the perceived effectiveness of crime prevention programs. Those who believe that the criminal justice system should focus on punishment or deterrence rather than rehabilitation or prevention are no less inclined to want to participate in a community crime prevention program.



Appendix





Annotated Survey Questionnaire

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Hello, my name is...and I work for Ekos Research Associates. We are conducting a survey on behalf of the Government of Canada concerning the views of Canadians 16 years of age and older, on several important issues in the news today. The interview will take approximately 15 minutes and I think that you will find it interesting. All of your responses will be kept completely confidential. May I begin?

SEX

DO NOT ASK

Record gender of respondent

Male 49%

Female 51%

Unweighted n 1520

PRQ1

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements using a 7-point scale where 1 means you strongly disagree, 7 means you strongly agree and the mid-point 4 means you neither agree nor disagree.

Q1A

The Canada I remember growing up was a safer, more comfortable, more harmonious place to live.

1 Strongly disagree	4%	Mean = 5.25
2	5%	Std deviation = 1.73
3	5%	
4 Neither	17%	
5	15%	
6	18%	
7 Strongly agree	33%	
DK/NR	3%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q1B

Personally, I believe that the problems of low-income Canadians are highly exaggerated.

1 Strongly disagree	25%	Mean = 3.27
2	15%	Std deviation = 1.89
3	16%	
4 Neither	17%	
5	11%	
6	7%	
7 Strongly agree	8%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q1C

All in all, government is a positive force in my life.

1 Strongly disagree	14%	Mean = 3.79
2	9%	Std deviation = 1.70
3	14%	
4 Neither	29%	
5	17%	
6	9%	
7 Strongly agree	7%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

PRQ2

Canada is facing a series of difficult challenges. Thinking not just of today but over the NEXT FIVE YEARS, what priority should the Government of Canada place on each of the following areas? Please rate your response on a 7-point scale where 1 means the lowest priority, 7 means the highest priority and the midpoint 4 means middle priority.

Q2A

Priority the federal government should place on its debt.

1 Lowest priority	1%	Mean = 5.32
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.44
3	5%	
4 Moderate priority	18%	
5	23%	
6	21%	
7 Highest priority	27%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2B

Priority the federal government should place on unemployment.

1 Lowest priority	1%	Mean = 5.37
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.39
3	5%	
4 Moderate priority	17%	
5	24%	
6	24%	
7 Highest priority	26%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2C

Priority the federal government should place on crime and justice.

1 Lowest priority	1%	Mean = 5.67
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.34
3	3%	
4 Moderate priority	13%	
5	22%	
6	25%	
7 Highest priority	35%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2D

Priority the federal government should place on crime prevention.

1 Lowest priority	1%	Mean = 5.70
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.30
3	3%	
4 Moderate priority	13%	
5	22%	
6	24%	
7 Highest priority	36%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2E

Priority the federal government should place on the environment.

1 Lowest priority	1%	Mean = 5.72
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.27
3	3%	
4 Moderate priority	13%	
5	22%	
6	24%	
7 Highest priority	36%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2F

Priority the federal government should place on health care.

1 Lowest priority	1%	Mean = 6.29
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.09
3	2%	
4 Moderate priority	4%	
5	9%	
6	25%	
7 Highest priority	58%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2G

Priority the federal government should place on tax cuts.

1 Lowest priority	4%	Mean = 5.24
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.68
3	7%	
4 Moderate priority	19%	
5	17%	
6	17%	
7 Highest priority	33%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2H

Priority the federal government should place on poverty.

1 Lowest priority	1%	Mean = 5.63
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.34
3	3%	
4 Moderate priority	14%	
5	21%	
6	25%	
7 Highest priority	34%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2J

Priority the federal government should place on national unity.

1 Lowest priority	7%	Mean = 4.73
2	4%	Std deviation = 1.74
3	9%	
4 Moderate priority	22%	
5	21%	
6	15%	
7 Highest priority	20%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2K

Priority the federal government should place on Aboriginal issues.

1 Lowest priority	9%	Mean = 4.21
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.65
3	12%	
4 Moderate priority	28%	
5	22%	
6	12%	
7 Highest priority	9%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q2L

Priority the federal government should place on creating opportunity.

1 Lowest priority	4%	Mean = 5.21
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.55
3	5%	
4 Moderate priority	20%	
5	21%	
6	22%	
7 Highest priority	25%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 1520

PRQ3

If you were to direct the federal government as to which goals or values should be most important in shaping its direction, how important would you say each of the following goals or values should be? Please rate your response on a scale from 0, not at all important, to 100, the highest possible importance, with 50 being moderately important.

Q3A

Importance of equality as a goal/value.

0-24%	2%	Mean = 80.2%
25-49%	3%	Std deviation = 21.0
50-74%	25%	
75-100%	69%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3B

Importance of tolerance as a goal/value.

0-24%	2%	Mean = 74.6%
25-49%	4%	Std deviation = 20.8
50-74%	35%	
75-100%	58%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3C

Importance of security as a goal/value.

0-24%	1%	Mean = 78.6%
25-49%	3%	Std deviation = 19.4
50-74%	29%	
75-100%	66%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3D

Importance of traditional family values as a goal/value.

0-24%	5%	Mean = 75.1%
25-49%	5%	Std deviation = 24.9
50-74%	26%	
75-100%	62%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3E

Importance of freedom as a goal/value.

0-24%	1%	Mean = 84.9%
25-49%	2%	Std deviation = 19.2
50-74%	18%	
75-100%	78%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3F

Importance of respect for authority as a goal/value.

0-24%	3%	Mean = 76.3%
25-49%	4%	Std deviation = 21.3
50-74%	29%	
75-100%	63%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3G

Importance of diversity as a goal/value.

0-24%	4%	Mean = 66.5%
25-49%	6%	Std deviation = 21.6
50-74%	45%	
75-100%	42%	
DK/NR	3%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3H

Importance of compassion as a goal/value.

0-24%	1%	Mean = 74.8%
25-49%	4%	Std deviation = 20.2
50-74%	36%	
75-100%	57%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3I

Importance of prevention as a goal/value.

0-24%	2%	Mean = 73.5%
25-49%	4%	Std deviation = 20.7
50-74%	35%	
75-100%	54%	
DK/NR	5%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q3J

Importance of personal responsibility as a goal/value.

0-24%	1%	Mean = 82.0%
25-49%	2%	Std deviation = 18.7
50-74%	22%	
75-100%	74%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q5

And what about your personal future, how would you describe yourself on a scale from 1 extremely pessimistic to 7 extremely optimistic, with 4 being neither optimistic nor pessimistic?

1 Extremely pessimistic	2%	Mean = 5.50
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.36
3	2%	
4 Neither	15%	
5	19%	
6	35%	
7 Extremely optimistic	24%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q6

Do you consider yourself a (small c) conservative or a (small l) liberal? Please rate yourself on a scale from 1 strongly liberal to 7 strongly conservative, with 4 meaning neither.

1 Strongly liberal	12%	Mean = 3.83
2	9%	Std deviation = 1.61
3	7%	
4 Neither	46%	
5	8%	
6	7%	
7 Strongly conservative	7%	
DK/NR	3%	

Unweighted n 1520

PRQ7

Some people have a stronger sense of belonging to some things than others. Please tell me how strong your own personal sense of belonging is to each of the following, using a 7-point scale where 1 means not at all strong, 7 means extremely strong, and the mid-point 4 means moderately strong.

Q7B

Personal sense of belonging to your community.

1 Not at all strong	2%	Mean = 5.32
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.46
3	4%	
4 Moderately strong	19%	
5	20%	
6	25%	
7 Extremely strong	26%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q7B

Personal sense of belonging to Canada.

1 Not at all strong	3%	Mean = 5.78
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.59
3	4%	
4 Moderately strong	10%	
5	11%	
6	21%	
7 Extremely strong	48%	
DK/NR	0%	
Unweighted n 1520		

Q8

Now, turning to the issue of crime and justice, please tell me how likely it is that you will be the victim of a violent crime within the next year?

1 Not at all likely	35%	Mean = 2.65
2	19%	Std deviation = 1.68
3	12%	
4 Somewhat likely	20%	
5	5%	
6	3%	
7 Extremely likely	4%	
DK/NR	2%	
Unweighted n 1520		

Q9

Using the same scale, how likely it is that you will be the victim of a property crime within the next year?

1 Not at all likely	21%	Mean = 3.37
2	15%	Std deviation = 1.82
3	14%	
4 Somewhat likely	23%	
5	12%	
6	6%	
7 Extremely likely	7%	
DK/NR	2%	
Unweighted n 1520		

Q50

Thinking of your family's exposure to violent crime, how safe is your neighbourhood? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 is not safe at all, 7 is extremely safe and 4 is moderately safe.

1 Not safe at all	2%	Mean = 5.36
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.39
3	3%	
4 Moderately safe	19%	
5	19%	
6	32%	
7 Extremely safe	22%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q60

Now thinking of your family's exposure to property crime, how safe is your neighbourhood? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 is not safe at all, 7 is extremely safe and 4 is moderately safe.

1 Not safe at all	3%	Mean = 5.09
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.44
3	5%	
4 Moderately safe	21%	
5	23%	
6	28%	
7 Extremely safe	16%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q10.1

Would you say that the crime rate in your community is increasing or decreasing? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 means increasing rapidly, 7 means decreasing rapidly and the mid-point 4 means staying about the same.

1 Increasing rapidly	6%	Mean = 3.83
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.25
3	12%	
4 Staying about the same	56%	
5	9%	
6	4%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	4%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 748

Q10.2

Would you say that the crime rate in Canada is increasing or decreasing? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 means increasing rapidly, 7 means decreasing rapidly and the mid-point 4 means staying about the same.

1 Increasing rapidly	18%	Mean = 3.43
2	8%	Std deviation = 1.54
3	18%	
4 Staying about the same	32%	
5	15%	
6	5%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	2%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 772

PRQ11

Now, please tell me the extent to which you think each of the following types of crime is decreasing or increasing in <your community, Canada>. Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 means increasing rapidly, 7 means decreasing rapidly, and the mid-point 4 means staying about the same.

Q11.1A

Extent that violent crime is changing in your community.

1 Increasing rapidly	8%	Mean = 3.80
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.38
3	16%	
4 Staying about the same	45%	
5	11%	
6	5%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	4%	
DK/NR	3%	

Unweighted n 748

Q11.2A

Extent that violent crime is changing in Canada.

1 Increasing rapidly	17%	Mean = 3.17
2	15%	Std deviation = 1.45
3	23%	
4 Staying about the same	26%	
5	12%	
6	5%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	1%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 772

Q11.1B

Extent that family violence is changing in your community.

1 Increasing rapidly	8%	Mean = 3.64
2	9%	Std deviation = 1.33
3	19%	
4 Staying about the same	45%	
5	6%	
6	5%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	4%	
DK/NR	5%	

Unweighted n 748

Q11.2B

Extent that family violence is changing in Canada.

1 Increasing rapidly	16%	Mean = 3.02
2	17%	Std deviation = 1.35
3	28%	
4 Staying about the same	24%	
5	9%	
6	2%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	1%	
DK/NR	3%	
Unweighted n 772		

Q11.1C

Extent that property crime is changing in your community.

1 Increasing rapidly	6%	Mean = 3.61
2	11%	Std deviation = 1.28
3	22%	
4 Staying about the same	42%	
5	10%	
6	3%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	3%	
DK/NR	2%	
Unweighted n 748		

Q11.2C

Extent that property crime is changing in Canada.

1 Increasing rapidly	12%	Mean = 3.23
2	16%	Std deviation = 1.32
3	25%	
4 Staying about the same	32%	
5	9%	
6	3%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	1%	
DK/NR	2%	
Unweighted n 772		

Q11.1D

Extent that fraud is changing in your community.

1 Increasing rapidly	8%	Mean = 3.51
2	13%	Std deviation = 1.35
3	19%	
4 Staying about the same	39%	
5	7%	
6	4%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	3%	
DK/NR	8%	
Unweighted n 748		

Q11.2D

Extent that fraud is changing in Canada.

1 Increasing rapidly	20%	Mean = 2.87
2	21%	Std deviation = 1.43
3	23%	
4 Staying about the same	22%	
5	7%	
6	2%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	2%	
DK/NR	4%	
Unweighted n 772		

Q11.1E

Extent that cyber, Internet and computer crime is changing in your community.

1 Increasing rapidly	14%	Mean = 3.17
2	15%	Std deviation = 1.50
3	18%	
4 Staying about the same	28%	
5	4%	
6	2%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	4%	
DK/NR	15%	
Unweighted n 748		

Q11.2E

Extent that cyber, Internet and computer crime is changing in Canada.

1 Increasing rapidly	29%	Mean = 2.42
2	24%	Std deviation = 1.34
3	20%	
4 Staying about the same	13%	
5	3%	
6	2%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	1%	
DK/NR	9%	

Unweighted n 772

Q11.1F

Extent that youth crime is changing in your community.

1 Increasing rapidly	14%	Mean = 3.15
2	18%	Std deviation = 1.38
3	25%	
4 Staying about the same	29%	
5	7%	
6	3%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	2%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 748

Q11.2F

Extent that youth crime is changing in Canada.

1 Increasing rapidly	26%	Mean = 2.67
2	25%	Std deviation = 1.44
3	20%	
4 Staying about the same	17%	
5	7%	
6	3%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	1%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 772

Q11.1G

Extent that hate crime is changing in your community.

1 Increasing rapidly	5%	Mean = 4.03
2	6%	Std deviation = 1.34
3	14%	
4 Staying about the same	47%	
5	11%	
6	8%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	5%	
DK/NR	5%	
Unweighted n 748		

Q11.2G

Extent that hate crime is changing in Canada.

1 Increasing rapidly	11%	Mean = 3.53
2	13%	Std deviation = 1.45
3	20%	
4 Staying about the same	32%	
5	13%	
6	5%	
7 Decreasing rapidly	3%	
DK/NR	3%	
Unweighted n 772		

PQ12A

Earlier you felt that the overall crime rate in <rot1 > is increasing. Now, please tell me how much you think the following factors have contributed to this increase. Please use a 7-point scale where 1 means contributed nothing, 7 means contributed a great deal, and the mid-point 4 means contributed somewhat.

Q12.1A1

Contribution of immigration to increase in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	22%	Mean = 3.74
2	11%	Std deviation = 2.08
3	8%	
4 Contributed somewhat	23%	
5	9%	
6	10%	
7 Contributed a great deal	14%	
DK/NR	4%	

Unweighted n 189

Q12.2A1

Contribution of immigration to increase in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	7%	Mean = 4.45
2	6%	Std deviation = 1.70
3	11%	
4 Contributed somewhat	27%	
5	18%	
6	16%	
7 Contributed a great deal	13%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 344

Q12.1A2

Contribution of poverty to increase in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	7%	Mean = 4.68
2	9%	Std deviation = 1.92
3	12%	
4 Contributed somewhat	20%	
5	10%	
6	16%	
7 Contributed a great deal	25%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 189

Q12.2A2

Contribution of poverty to increase in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	3%	Mean = 4.97
2	5%	Std deviation = 1.60
3	9%	
4 Contributed somewhat	22%	
5	21%	
6	17%	
7 Contributed a great deal	23%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 344

Q12.1A3

Contribution of deteriorating family values to increase in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	6%	Mean = 5.12
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.67
3	7%	
4 Contributed somewhat	18%	
5	20%	
6	21%	
7 Contributed a great deal	25%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 189

Q12.2A3

Contribution of deteriorating family values to increase in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	4%	Mean = 5.26
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.58
3	7%	
4 Contributed somewhat	19%	
5	20%	
6	18%	
7 Contributed a great deal	30%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 344

Q12.1A4

Contribution of insufficient policing to increase in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	10%	Mean = 4.26
2	10%	Std deviation = 1.81
3	7%	
4 Contributed somewhat	25%	
5	21%	
6	11%	
7 Contributed a great deal	13%	
DK/NR	3%	
Unweighted n 189		

Q12.2A4

Contribution of insufficient policing to increase in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	6%	Mean = 4.45
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.61
3	9%	
4 Contributed somewhat	30%	
5	23%	
6	12%	
7 Contributed a great deal	13%	
DK/NR	1%	
Unweighted n 344		

Q12.1A5

Contribution of lenient courts and sentencing to increase in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	5%	Mean = 5.34
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.71
3	5%	
4 Contributed somewhat	17%	
5	16%	
6	17%	
7 Contributed a great deal	34%	
DK/NR	4%	
Unweighted n 189		

Q12.2A5

Contribution of lenient courts and sentencing to increase in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	3%	Mean = 5.52
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.61
3	7%	
4 Contributed somewhat	11%	
5	15%	
6	23%	
7 Contributed a great deal	37%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 344

Q12.1A6

Contribution of insufficient crime prevention to increase in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	5%	Mean = 4.48
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.50
3	14%	
4 Contributed somewhat	29%	
5	22%	
6	15%	
7 Contributed a great deal	10%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 189

Q12.2A6

Contribution of insufficient crime prevention to increase in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	4%	Mean = 4.67
2	5%	Std deviation = 1.50
3	7%	
4 Contributed somewhat	29%	
5	27%	
6	11%	
7 Contributed a great deal	15%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 344

PQ12B

Earlier you felt that the overall crime rate in <rot1 > is decreasing. Now, please tell me how much you think the following factors have contributed to this decrease. Please use a 7-point scale where 1 means contributed nothing, 7 means contributed a great deal, and the mid-point 4 means contributed somewhat.

Q12.1B1

Contribution of better economy to decrease in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	2%	Mean = 5.01
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.40
3	4%	
4 Contributed somewhat	27%	
5	22%	
6	27%	
7 Contributed a great deal	14%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 125

Q12.2B1

Contribution of better economy to decrease in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	2%	Mean = 4.99
2	4%	Std deviation = 1.38
3	6%	
4 Contributed somewhat	19%	
5	30%	
6	26%	
7 Contributed a great deal	13%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 171

Q12.1B2

Contribution of more effective policing to decrease in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	4%	Mean = 4.89
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.52
3	10%	
4 Contributed somewhat	20%	
5	29%	
6	19%	
7 Contributed a great deal	16%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 125

Q12.2B2

Contribution of more effective policing to decrease in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	4%	Mean = 4.61
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.53
3	11%	
4 Contributed somewhat	21%	
5	26%	
6	21%	
7 Contributed a great deal	9%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 171

Q12.1B3

Contribution of tougher courts and sentencing to decrease in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	17%	Mean = 3.71
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.77
3	18%	
4 Contributed somewhat	27%	
5	14%	
6	8%	
7 Contributed a great deal	8%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 125

Q12.2B3

Contribution of tougher courts and sentencing to decrease in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	14%	Mean = 3.56
2	16%	Std deviation = 1.67
3	20%	
4 Contributed somewhat	20%	
5	18%	
6	8%	
7 Contributed a great deal	4%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 171

Q12.1B4

Contribution of increased emphasis on crime prevention to decrease in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	4%	Mean = 5.09
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.50
3	4%	
4 Contributed somewhat	25%	
5	21%	
6	24%	
7 Contributed a great deal	19%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 125

Q12.2B4

Contribution of increased emphasis on crime prevention to decrease in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	2%	Mean = 4.73
2	4%	Std deviation = 1.33
3	7%	
4 Contributed somewhat	27%	
5	32%	
6	17%	
7 Contributed a great deal	9%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 171

Q12.1B5

Contribution of improving family values to decrease in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	8%	Mean = 4.28
2	6%	Std deviation = 1.66
3	14%	
4 Contributed somewhat	29%	
5	19%	
6	13%	
7 Contributed a great deal	11%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 125

Q12.2B5

Contribution of improving family values to decrease in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	7%	Mean = 4.09
2	11%	Std deviation = 1.58
3	12%	
4 Contributed somewhat	29%	
5	21%	
6	12%	
7 Contributed a great deal	6%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 171

Q12.1B6

Contribution of a growing tolerance and acceptance of others to decrease in crime in your community.

1 Contributed nothing	5%	Mean = 4.73
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.49
3	7%	
4 Contributed somewhat	28%	
5	25%	
6	20%	
7 Contributed a great deal	12%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 125

Q12.2B6

Contribution of a growing tolerance and acceptance of others to decrease in crime in Canada.

1 Contributed nothing	4%	Mean = 4.57
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.39
3	10%	
4 Contributed somewhat	29%	
5	27%	
6	20%	
7 Contributed a great deal	6%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 171

Q13

Which of the following is the most important factor producing crime in Canada?

Difficult family situation	22%
Poverty	27%
Inadequate social programs and services	13%
A lenient criminal justice system	36%
(DO NOT READ) DK/NR	3%

Unweighted n 1520

Q15

Which of the following four possibilities should be the main goal of the criminal justice system?

Punishment	22%
Deterrence	19%
Rehabilitation	14%
Prevention	44%
(DO NOT READ) DK/NR	1%

Unweighted n 1520

Q16

One of the goals of crime prevention and law enforcement is to reduce the economic and social costs of crime to society. Of the following two approaches, which would you say is more cost-effective?

CRIME PREVENTION, which includes community-based early-intervention programs to reduce crime and victimization 71%

LAW ENFORCEMENT, which includes catching criminals and punishing law-breakers 28%

(DO NOT READ) DK/NR 2%

Unweighted n 1520

Q17T

Which of the following two statements comes closest to your own point of view?

The best way to prevent youth crime is by giving young people who are at risk of offending opportunities to get involved in positive activities such as job training programs, drug rehabilitation programs and recreational programs aimed at building their self-esteem.

68%

The best way to prevent youth crime is through increased law enforcement and tougher sentences for youth crimes so that young people who are at risk of offending will think twice about the consequences of committing a crime.

30%

(DO NOT READ) DK/NR 2%

Unweighted n 1520

TRAD1 - TRAD 5

Suppose you were the Prime Minister for a day and you had to choose how to invest an extra \$10 million in order to reduce crime. I am going to read you a list of two alternative choices for spending and ask you to choose the one that you think would be most effective in reducing crime.

Increase community policing	76%
Increase early childhood intervention programs	71%
Expand youth literacy and training programs	70%
Expand youth recreational activities	68%
More Crown Prosecutors	67%
Develop pub. ed programs to avoid being victimized	63%
Expand programs such as Neighbourhood Watch	59%
Hire more police officers	35%
Expand prisons to allow for longer sentences	26%
Unweighted n 1520	

Q18

Are you aware of any crime prevention programs in your community? If yes, can you identify one of these programs? (DO NOT READ LIST)

Yes,specify	42%
Neighbourhood Watch	21%
Block Parent Program	5%
Crime Stoppers	4%
Community Policing Program	4%
Violence Prevention Program	3%
Youth Centres/ Youth Crime Prevention Program	2%
Other	3%
No	55%
DK/NR	4%
Unweighted n 1520	

Q19

In your opinion, which of the following is the best example of crime prevention?

Drug abuse prevention programs	13%
Community policing	20%
Programs that support children and parents	31%
Recreational activities for youth	20%
Programs that educate people how to avoid becoming victims of crime	14%
(DO NOT READ) DK/NR	2%

Unweighted n 1520

Q20.1

Of the following three possibilities, which one would you say is the best reason for having crime prevention activities and programs? Is it because crime prevention activities and programs...

Increase public safety	55%
Reflect your personal values	23%
Reduce the economic costs of crime	21%
(DO NOT READ) DK/NR	2%

Unweighted n 760

Q20.2

Of the following three possibilities, which one would you say is the best reason for having crime prevention activities and programs? Is it because crime prevention activities and programs...

Increase public safety	52%
Reflect Canadian values	22%
Reduce the economic costs of crime	24%
(DO NOT READ) DK/NR	2%

Unweighted n 760

PRQ21

To what extent would you say each of the following groups is in a position to successfully implement crime prevention programs? Please use a 7-point scale where 1 means to no extent whatsoever, 7 means to a great extent, and the mid-point 4 means to a moderate extent.

Q21A

Extent that police can successfully implement crime prevention programs

1 No extent whatsoever	2%	Mean = 5.36
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.43
3	4%	
4 Moderate extent	18%	
5	23%	
6	24%	
7 Great extent	26%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q21B

Extent that governments can successfully implement crime prevention programs

1 No extent whatsoever	5%	Mean = 4.85
2	5%	Std deviation = 1.68
3	7%	
4 Moderate extent	23%	
5	21%	
6	17%	
7 Great extent	21%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q21C

Extent that community and volunteer groups can successfully implement crime prevention programs

1 No extent whatsoever	2%	Mean = 5.25
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.36
3	4%	
4 Moderate extent	20%	
5	25%	
6	26%	
7 Great extent	21%	
DK/NR	1%	
Unweighted n 1520		

Q21D

Extent that schools can successfully implement crime prevention programs

1 No extent whatsoever	2%	Mean = 5.48
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.39
3	4%	
4 Moderate extent	16%	
5	23%	
6	25%	
7 Great extent	29%	
DK/NR	0%	
Unweighted n 1520		

Q21.1F

Extent that small businesses can successfully implement crime prevention programs

1 No extent whatsoever	7%	Mean = 4.07
2	8%	Std deviation = 1.52
3	15%	
4 Moderate extent	34%	
5	19%	
6	8%	
7 Great extent	8%	
DK/NR	2%	
Unweighted n 738		

Q21.2F

Extent that large businesses can successfully implement crime prevention programs

1 No extent whatsoever	7%	Mean = 4.32
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.62
3	10%	
4 Moderate extent	31%	
5	20%	
6	13%	
7 Great extent	10%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 782

Q21E

Extent that police, business, schools, government and community and volunteer groups working together can successfully implement crime prevention programs

1 No extent whatsoever	1%	Mean = 6.05
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.25
3	1%	
4 Moderate extent	9%	
5	12%	
6	26%	
7 Great extent	49%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

PRQ22

Please rate the appropriateness of each of the following roles for the federal government in the area of crime prevention, using a 7-point scale where 1 means not at all appropriate, 7 means highly appropriate, and the mid-point 4 means somewhat appropriate.

Q22A

How appropriate is funding and supporting local crime prevention programs in communities?

1 Not at all appropriate	2%	Mean = 5.46
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.44
3	4%	
4 Moderately appropriate	15%	
5	22%	
6	26%	
7 Highly appropriate	29%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q22B

How appropriate is conducting research to further knowledge on crime prevention?

1 Not at all appropriate	4%	Mean = 5.02
2	4%	Std deviation = 1.58
3	7%	
4 Moderately appropriate	20%	
5	24%	
6	19%	
7 Highly appropriate	22%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q22C

How appropriate is developing and distributing crime prevention tools and information?

1 Not at all appropriate	3%	Mean = 5.12
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.52
3	5%	
4 Moderately appropriate	21%	
5	23%	
6	23%	
7 Highly appropriate	21%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q22D

How appropriate is evaluating the effectiveness of federally-funded community crime prevention programs?

1 Not at all appropriate	4%	Mean = 5.02
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.54
3	5%	
4 Moderately appropriate	24%	
5	25%	
6	18%	
7 Highly appropriate	21%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q22E

How appropriate is raising awareness of crime prevention across Canada?

1 Not at all appropriate	2%	Mean = 5.39
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.45
3	4%	
4 Moderately appropriate	16%	
5	23%	
6	23%	
7 Highly appropriate	28%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q23

How effective would you say crime prevention programs are? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 means not at all effective, 7 means extremely effective, and the mid-point 4 means moderately effective.

1 Not at all effective	3%	Mean = 4.56
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.24
3	8%	
4 Moderately effective	36%	
5	29%	
6	13%	
7 Extremely effective	6%	
DK/NR	2%	
Unweighted n 1520		

PRQ24

Some people say that in addition to lowering crime rates, crime prevention efforts produce benefits in a number of different areas. Others say the opposite, arguing that the benefits of crime prevention do not go beyond lowering crime rates. Now, to what extent, if any, would you say crime prevention also produces benefits in each of the following areas? Please rate your response using a 7-point scale where 1 means to no extent whatsoever, 7 means to a great extent and the mid-point 4 means to a moderate extent.

Q24B

To what extent would crime prevention also produce benefits in improving the health of children and youth?

1 To no extent whatsoever	1%	Mean = 5.26
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.43
3	5%	
4 Moderate extent	20%	
5	22%	
6	24%	
7 To a great extent	24%	
DK/NR	1%	
Unweighted n 1301		

Q24C

To what extent would crime prevention also increase the readiness to learn of children and youth?

1 To no extent whatsoever	2%	Mean = 5.14
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.37
3	4%	
4 Moderate extent	21%	
5	29%	
6	20%	
7 To a great extent	19%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1301

Q24D

To what extent would crime prevention also improve relationships between parents and their children?

1 To no extent whatsoever	3%	Mean = 5.34
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.46
3	4%	
4 Moderate extent	18%	
5	23%	
6	23%	
7 To a great extent	26%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1301

Q24E

To what extent would crime prevention also increase reduce substance abuse?

1 To no extent whatsoever	3%	Mean = 5.20
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.44
3	4%	
4 Moderate extent	22%	
5	24%	
6	23%	
7 To a great extent	22%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1301

Q24F

To what extent would crime prevention also reduce social assistance costs?

1 To no extent whatsoever	5%	Mean = 4.74
2	4%	Std deviation = 1.60
3	6%	
4 Moderate extent	26%	
5	23%	
6	18%	
7 To a great extent	15%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 1301

Q24G

To what extent would crime prevention also reduce health care costs?

1 To no extent whatsoever	7%	Mean = 4.75
2	4%	Std deviation = 1.67
3	7%	
4 Moderate extent	24%	
5	22%	
6	18%	
7 To a great extent	17%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1281

Q24H

To what extent would crime prevention also lower unemployment?

1 To no extent whatsoever	5%	Mean = 4.72
2	6%	Std deviation = 1.65
3	8%	
4 Moderate extent	24%	
5	22%	
6	16%	
7 To a great extent	17%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1281

Q24J

To what extent would crime prevention also improve the economy?

1 To no extent whatsoever	2%	Mean = 5.18
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.44
3	7%	
4 Moderate extent	21%	
5	22%	
6	23%	
7 To a great extent	22%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1281

Q25

Bearing in mind that most crime prevention programs are funded by tax dollars, would you say that governments should place more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same amount of emphasis on crime prevention as they do now? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 means much less emphasis, 7 means much more emphasis, and the mid-point 4 means about the same amount of emphasis.

1 Much less emphasis on crime prevention	1%	Mean = 5.09
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.31
3	2%	
4 About the same amount of emphasis	34%	
5	23%	
6	18%	
7 Much more emphasis on crime prevention	19%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

PRQ28

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements using a 7-point scale where 1 means you strongly disagree, 7 means you strongly agree and the mid-point 4 means you neither agree nor disagree.

Q28A

I really think that my community needs more crime prevention programs

1 Strongly disagree	7%	Mean = 4.54
2	6%	Std deviation = 1.68
3	9%	
4 Neither	27%	
5	22%	
6	14%	
7 Strongly agree	15%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q28C

I really worry that if Canada puts more emphasis on crime prevention, we will get soft on crime

1 Strongly disagree	18%	Mean = 3.54
2	16%	Std deviation = 1.87
3	14%	
4 Neither	21%	
5	12%	
6	9%	
7 Strongly agree	8%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q28D

I don't think it is possible to significantly reduce the crime rate as long as poverty keeps growing in Canada

1 Strongly disagree	6%	Mean = 4.83
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.80
3	10%	
4 Neither	15%	
5	20%	
6	17%	
7 Strongly agree	23%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1520

Q28E

I don't think it is possible to prevent people from committing crimes.

1 Strongly disagree	18%	Mean = 3.72
2	16%	Std deviation = 1.99
3	12%	
4 Neither	16%	
5	14%	
6	11%	
7 Strongly agree	11%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1500

Q28F

While I support the idea of crime prevention, I have strong doubts that it is possible to implement programs that are truly effective.

1 Strongly disagree	10%	Mean = 4.07
2	12%	Std deviation = 1.77
3	14%	
4 Neither	21%	
5	21%	
6	11%	
7 Strongly agree	11%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1500

Q28G

Prevention is not always the best approach for dealing with social problems.

1 Strongly disagree	11%	Mean = 4.22
2	9%	Std deviation = 1.80
3	12%	
4 Neither	20%	
5	21%	
6	15%	
7 Strongly agree	11%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1500

Q28H

Every dollar invested in crime prevention today will reduce the future cost of policing and of administering the courts and prison system.

1 Strongly disagree	5%	Mean = 4.86
2	5%	Std deviation = 1.65
3	8%	
4 Neither	19%	
5	23%	
6	20%	
7 Strongly agree	19%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1500

Q28J

If I saw research evidence that crime prevention works, I would be a lot more likely to support increasing public funding for it.

1 Strongly disagree	2%	Mean = 5.48
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.44
3	3%	
4 Neither	14%	
5	24%	
6	24%	
7 Strongly agree	30%	
DK/NR	1%	

Unweighted n 1500

PRQ29

How credible are each of the following groups or people on the issue of crime prevention? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 means not at all credible, 7 means extremely credible, and the mid-point 4 means somewhat credible.

Q29.1A

Credibility of the federal Minister of Justice

1 Not at all credible	10%	Mean = 4.11
2	8%	Std deviation = 1.67
3	10%	
4 Somewhat credible	30%	
5	20%	
6	11%	
7 Extremely credible	8%	
DK/NR	3%	
Unweighted n 784		

Q29.2A

Credibility of the Solicitor General of Canada

1 Not at all credible	10%	Mean = 4.05
2	7%	Std deviation = 1.63
3	11%	
4 Somewhat credible	30%	
5	18%	
6	11%	
7 Extremely credible	7%	
DK/NR	5%	
Unweighted n 736		

Q29B

Credibility of police chiefs

1 Not at all credible	3%	Mean = 4.97
2	4%	Std deviation = 1.44
3	6%	
4 Somewhat credible	22%	
5	25%	
6	26%	
7 Extremely credible	14%	
DK/NR	1%	
Unweighted n 1520		

Q29C

Experts such as criminologists

1 Not at all credible	3%	Mean = 4.98
2	3%	Std deviation = 1.46
3	6%	
4 Somewhat credible	21%	
5	26%	
6	24%	
7 Extremely credible	15%	
DK/NR	1%	
Unweighted n 1520		

Q29D

Credibility of the community groups involved in crime prevention activities

1 Not at all credible	1%	Mean = 5.29
2	1%	Std deviation = 1.23
3	3%	
4 Somewhat credible	20%	
5	28%	
6	28%	
7 Extremely credible	17%	
DK/NR	1%	
Unweighted n 1520		

Q29.1E

Credibility of business leaders

1 Not at all credible	5%	Mean = 3.98
2	9%	Std deviation = 1.36
3	16%	
4 Somewhat credible	35%	
5	21%	
6	8%	
7 Extremely credible	3%	
DK/NR	2%	
Unweighted n 737		

Q29.2E

Credibility of small business people

1 Not at all credible	7%	Mean = 4.08
2	6%	Std deviation = 1.47
3	17%	
4 Somewhat credible	31%	
5	22%	
6	9%	
7 Extremely credible	5%	
DK/NR	2%	

Unweighted n 783

Q30

How interested would you be in participating in a crime prevention program in your community? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 means not at all interested, 7 means extremely interested, and the mid-point 4 means somewhat interested.

1 Not at all interested	13%	Mean = 4.20
2	6%	Std deviation = 1.74
3	7%	
4 Somewhat interested	32%	
5	20%	
6	12%	
7 Extremely interested	11%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

DEMIN

Now I have a few more questions to be used for statistical purposes only.

INUSE

In the past 3 months, have you used the Internet either at home or elsewhere?

Yes	61%
No	39%
DK/NR	0%

Unweighted n 1520

INTPI

Compared to the average Canadian, how would you rate your personal interest in public issues? Please respond using a 7-point scale where 1 means much less interested, 7 means much more interested, and the mid-point 4 means about the same as the average Canadian.

1 Much less interested	2%	Mean = 4.83
2	2%	Std deviation = 1.34
3	5%	
4 Average	38%	
5	20%	
6	19%	
7 Much more interested	13%	
DK/NR	0%	

Unweighted n 1520

CHART

During the past month, how much time have you devoted to performing volunteer or charity work in your community?

No time at all	44%
1-3 hours per month	23%
4-10 hours per month	20%
More than 10 hours per month	13%
(DO NOT READ) DK/NR	0%

Unweighted n 1520

CRIME

Have you ever been the victim of a crime?

Yes	52%
No	48%
DK/NR	0%

Unweighted n 1520

AGE*READ CATEGORIES IF NECESSARY*

What is your age please?

Under 25	17%
25-34 years	17%
35-44 years	23%
45-54 years	17%
55-64 years	12%
65 years or older	15%
(DO NOT READ) DK/NR	0%

Unweighted n 1520

LAN1

What is the language that you first learned at home in childhood and still understand?

English	65%
French	25%
Other	10%
DK/NR	0%

Unweighted n 1520

HOUSE

Which of the following types best describes your current household?

One person, living alone	18%
One adult with child/children	7%
A married or common-law couple, without children	26%
A married or common-law couple, with children	41%
Two or more unrelated persons	5%
Living with relatives other than parents	2%
More than one adult with child/children	2%
Other (please specify)	0%
DK/NR	0%

Unweighted n 1520

EDUC

What is the highest level of schooling that you have completed?

Public/Elementary school or less (grade 1-8)	3%
Some high school	13%
Graduated from high school (grade 12-13)	27%
Vocational/Technical college or CEGEP	20%
Trade certification	3%
Some university	7%
Bachelor's degree	17%
Professional certification	3%
Graduate degree	6%
DK/NA	0%

Unweighted n 1520

EMPLO

Which of the following categories best describes your CURRENT employment status?

Self-employed	11%
Employed full-time	42%
Employed part-time	8%
Seasonal employment	2%
Term employment	1%
Unemployed	3%
Student	7%
Retired	19%
Homemaker	5%
Disability / sick leave	2%
Maternity / paternal leave	1%
Other (please specify)	0%
DK/NR	0%

Unweighted n 1520

INCM

What is your annual household income from all sources before taxes?

<\$20,000	12%
\$20,000-\$39,999	23%
\$40,000-\$59,999	21%
\$60,000-\$79,999	13%
\$80,000 or more	16%
DK/NA	14%

Unweighted n 1520

FOCUS

We may be conducting a small group discussion in the coming weeks with some people who participated in the survey. The discussion would last less than 2 hours and you would be paid an honorarium of \$50 for your participation. Participants for this discussion would be selected at random. Would you be interested in participating in a discussion in <location>?

THNK

End of Interview

Thank you for your cooperation and time!

ii.



Focus Group Guide

CONTENTS

National Crime Prevention Centre

Focus Group Moderator's Guide

(EKOS Research Associates)

1.0 Introduction

Purpose

Audio-taping, observers, confidentiality

Format of discussion

Role of moderator

Participant introductions

2.0 General Perceptions of Crime

We hear a lot about crime in the media and some politicians also spend quite a bit of time talking about crime. How much do you personally worry about crime in your day-to-day life?

What do you tend to worry about most? For example, are you personally worried about being victimized or are you more concerned about crime in general and its impacts on society and the overall quality of life of Canadians?

Do you think that crime in Canada is increasing or decreasing? How do you know?

What types of crimes are increasing? What types are decreasing?

What about the crime rate in your community/neighbourhood? Would you say it is decreasing or increasing? How do you know?

3.0 Causes of Crime

What has caused crime to increase in Canada?

- Poverty
- Deteriorating values

- Not enough police
- Cuts to social programs (e.g., education, social assistance, recreation)
- Increases stress on families
- Other

What are some of the reasons that crime (or at least, certain types of crimes) has/have decreased?

- Better economy
- Tougher laws/sentencing
- More crime prevention
- Increased efforts by individuals and businesses at protecting themselves against crime

4.0 Crime Prevention

What if the federal government had \$30 million to devote to reduce the crime rate? What would be the best way to invest it? Why do you select this approach?

What comes to mind when you hear the words "crime prevention"? Please write down three words/images that come immediately to mind when you think of the term. [Moderator goes around table to hear participants' associations.]

Can you give me some examples of crime prevention activities you have heard about in the community or in Canada?

Can you come-up with a "dictionary" definition of crime prevention?

I would like to get your views on a number of approaches that could be used to reduce crime. For each one, please tell me the extent to which it corresponds to your understanding of what crime prevention is. Also, I would like to hear your views on how effective each would be in reducing crime in your community.

- Youth literacy programs
- Neighbourhood watch
- Crime Stoppers
- Public education on how to protect oneself from crime
- Youth recreation programs

- Programs to help parents raise their children
- Community policing
- Job training program for youth
- Early intervention programs for at-risk youth
- Increased sentences for repeat and violent offenders
- Drug rehabilitation programs
- Shelters for the homeless

Do you think efforts devoted to crime prevention actually result in reducing crime? Why do you say that? How do you know?

To what extent do you think that crime prevention could work in some of Canada's most impoverished and crime-ridden neighbourhoods?

What type of crime prevention would be most likely to work in these neighbourhoods?

Some people say that if the federal government has some financial resources to devote to reducing crime, it should put that money towards things like better law enforcement. Others say that the money would be more effectively spent on crime prevention efforts. What do you think?

[For those who support crime prevention:] What is the main reason you personally support crime prevention?

- Reduce the chances of you're becoming a victim
- Reduces the chances of other Canadians becoming victims
- Reduces economic costs to society (i.e., reduces criminal justice drain on public funds)

Some of you indicated at the beginning of the discussion that you are not concerned about being victimized. At the same time, you say that you support crime prevention. Why do you support something that is not going to personally benefit you? Remember that public funds that are not spent on crime prevention would go towards something else, such as health care or building better highways that could benefit you directly.

How much of your support is based on the belief that crime prevention reduces the costs of crime, and therefore would result in the saving of public funds? Do you see this as something that might lead to a reduction in your taxes? How important is that?

What type of information or proof would you need to have in order to know for sure that crime prevention efforts actually reduce crime?

If you were in charge of developing a crime prevention program for your community, what type of program would you develop?

- Who would be the target group?
- What would the program be about?
- How would you deliver the program?

5.0 Roles in Preventing Crime

Thinking about the types of crime prevention activities we have discussed this evening, what groups or types of people do you think should be involved in crime prevention?

- Governments
- Police
- Schools
- Business people
- Individuals such as yourself
- Community groups/NGOs
- Others

Do you see a need/benefit for local businesses to get involved in crime prevention?

What specifically, do you think the role(s) of the federal government should be with respect to crime prevention?

- Funding community groups that deliver the programs
- Evaluation
- Research
- Developing and distributing crime prevention tools and information
- Raising awareness about crime prevention across Canada

6.0 Communications

What types or groups of people would you say are most credible to inform you about crime prevention?

- Community groups involved in crime prevention
- Police
- Federal ministers (Justice/Solicitor General)
- Experts
- Business leaders

How interested would you personally be in receiving information about crime prevention?

What type of information would you be the most interested in receiving?

What would be the best way of communicating this information to you?



Ekos Research Associates Inc.

<http://www.ekos.com>

